

INTACH

THE INDIAN NATIONAL TRUST FOR ART AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Date.....16-07-2017

**Workshop on Conservation of the Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)
locally 'Orans/ Charnots'
15-16 July 2017 at Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur**

**JODHPUR DECLARATION:
Recommendation cum Action Plan**

Background:

CCAs are natural or modified ecosystems having immense biodiversity values and ecological services being conserved and protected by indigenous and local communities through customary laws and practices. The CCAs include pasture lands, sacred groves, wetlands, river systems and panchayat and community forests. Orans of Rajasthan are considered CCAs that act as a store house of biological wild gene pool, enable effective water management and serve as community based regeneration systems.

A meeting has been convened by Mehrangarh Museum Trust, INTACH Jodhpur and KRAPAVIS at Mehrangarh Fort on 15th & 16th July 2017 to discuss the status of Orans and other CCAs in Rajasthan. The objective of the meeting was to promote conservation of bicultural diversity of CCA in Rajasthan.

Due to ongoing degradation an irreversible impacts of development on CCAs there is a need to work together for protecting these spaces and restoring culture and practices that have conserved them since time immemorial. A group of stakeholders including researchers, practitioners, community and government have gathered to discuss these issues. The group unanimously suggest following -

Points of Recommendation

1. To obtain Legal Clarity about Ownership and Decision Making - for Long-term people centric management of CCAs
2. To Demarcate CCAs (as referred in Rajasthan State Policy) and prepare geospatial mapping and documentation involving stakeholders, to bring clarity in land records regarding CCAs.
3. To Create Effective System for legislative and legal support – to ensure long-term protection

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- To Form Multidisciplinary Teams at State Level to Interact with CCAs' stakeholders for stock taking and assessing current status of CCAs.
- To consider diverse Agro-climatic Zones and CCAs representing them while creating management plans and to create effective livelihood opportunities through CCAs
- To promote ecological, cultural and social studies to understand current status of CCAs (e.g. Flora, Fauna, watershed etc)
- To raise the public awareness amongst all stakeholders, including the state on the relevance, significance and importance of Orans as provider of ecosystem services.
- To ensure that Oran lands are not diverted for any other purposes than the traditional functions and the land use of Orans is not changed
- To initiate a dialogue for inclusion of CCAs in the school education system
- Oran areas that have been lost may be immediately compensated with alternative equal area, with similar quality in the vicinity.

Points for Consideration for Action Plan:

- A review of all the possible legal categories available to support and protect Orans.
- Sharing of all documentations related to CCAs done by various organizations / people and pooling of the available data at one place
- State ^{District} wise assessment of status of Orans, including for Orans situated within forest land
- State level Atlas of Orans mentioned in land records (support from ISRO – Rajasthan State office, Jodhpur and UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre that support. Entry of demarcated orans in cadastral maps with their geographical boundaries defined in land records

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