



Safeguarding Commons

FOR NEXT GENERATION

A Study of Common Property Resources in District Alwar



SEVA MANDIR

Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS) means "organization for the development of ecology and agriculture/livestock". Its mission is the betterment of ecological, agricultural and livestock practices with a view to ensuring sustainable livelihoods for rural pastoral communities in Rajasthan. It has been working since 1992, and so far succeeded in conserving biodiversity and protecting rural livelihoods in hundreds of villages in eastern Rajasthan. KRAPAVIS has been working on different aspects of biodiversity conservation, ethno-veterinary practices, sustainable agriculture, water management, plant nurseries and planting trees, climate change, with particular emphasis to *Orans* (sacred forests) conservation and CPRs (Common Property Resources) management and development of people friendly policies. The approaches adopted include cataloguing, reviving, campaigning and training.

KRAPAVIS has been working to save endemic and endangered species of trees, thus bringing about greater livelihood security for the rural poor, who depend on such trees for livestock feed, traditional medicine, marketable commodities and timber. KRAPAVIS also takes into account the changing nature of pastoralism in these areas and the recent shift towards preference of water buffalo and goats as livestock over cattle, working to ensure that the flora in the *Orans* is better able to meet the needs of the new livestock. Part of the work done

by KRAPAVIS is focused on water conservation within the *Orans*.

KRAPAVIS discovered, through adaptive management approaches and by visiting community conservation projects in other areas, that ecological conservation of the *Orans* was not possible unless the needs of the local communities were also met. KRAPAVIS strongly emphasizes a people-led development process, and has stayed true to this ethos in its approach to *Oran* management, which requires direct involvement of the communities that would be the eventual beneficiaries of its projects.

Strengthening co-existence in wildlife sanctuaries and national park has been another thrust area of KRAPAVIS working. A vital element of KRAPAVIS' work is institution-building. KRAPAVIS also politically promotes the plight of *Orans* in India's civil society. Another important element of KRAPAVIS' work is conducting research and survey on *Orans* and commons in Rajasthan, and developed a database of about 800 *Orans*, so far.

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Seva Mandir

Seva Mandir is based in Udaipur and works in the southern part of Rajasthan. Our work area encompasses 626 villages and 56 urban settlements of which majority are located in Udaipur district. In total the organization reaches out to around 70,000 households, influencing the lives of approximately 3,60,000 persons. It works in the areas of Natural Resources Development, Education, Health, Women Empowerment and Village Institution Building.

Seva Mandir's mission is to make real the idea of society consisting of free and equal citizens who are able to come together and solve the problems that affect them in their particular contexts. The commitment is to work for a paradigm of development and governance that is democratic and polyarchic. Seva Mandir seeks to institutionalize the idea that development and governance is not only to be left to the State and its formal bodies like the legislature and the bureaucracy, but that citizens and their associations should engage separately and jointly with the State.

The mission briefly, is to construct the conditions in which citizens of plural backgrounds and perspectives can come together and deliberate on how they can work to benefit and empower the least advantaged in society.

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