

CONCEPT NOTE

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY FOR A HEALTHY MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Implementing Organization:	“ARASMIN” (Association for Rural Area Social-Modification, Improvement and Nestling). At/Post : G.Udayagiri, Dist : Kandhamal, ORISSA (INDIA), e-mail: arasmin@gmail.com // Website:www.arasmin.org
Recognition:	“ARASMIN” is accredited to United Nations with Special Consultative Status (ECOSOC) on Forest. It is registered under Societies Registration Act'1860 bearing Registration No-19358/77 of 1992-93, FCRA Registration Act' 1976 bearing Registration No-105010021, Income Tax Act' 1961 under Section 12AA bearing No-71/2005-06, Pollution Control Act' 1977 by Pollution Control Board bearing No-CPCB/18-06/0-1/154 and by Planning Commission of India, Ministry of Planning and Coordination bearing the Membership Unique ID-OR/2012/0048557. It has got the permanent Tax Exemption approval under section 80G bearing No-80G-01/2013-14/3309, Dated 28 th June' 2013 and under Section 10(23C)(vi) bearing No-10(23C)/8/2007-08/14764-813, Dated 9 th October'2007. It has also got the PAN Card bearing No-AAAAA4918J and TAN Card bearing No-BBNA00865R provided by the Govt. of India, IT Department.
Title of the Project:	ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY FOR A HEALTHY MARINE ECOSYSTEM.
Duration of the Project:	The duration of the Project is for 3 (three) years starting from the date of commencement and may be altered as per the decision of the Donor Agency.
Description of the Project:	The State of ODISHA lies at the coastal belt of <u>BAY OF BENGAL</u> and the people of Odisha have been directly influenced by the Ocean. The Ocean is one of the most valuable Natural Resources of the Earth. It provides food in the form of Fish and Shellfish caught each year. Ocean water serves as a source of food and valuable minerals and as a vast highway for commerce. Increasingly, people are turning to the Oceans for their food procurement by harvesting fish that is then processed for livestock feed. It has been estimated that as much as 10% of human protein intake comes from the oceans. Nevertheless, the food-producing potential of the oceans is only partly realized. Other biological products of the oceans are also commercially used. For example, pearls taken from oysters are used in jewelry and shells and coral have been widely used as a source of building material. Near about 60 valuable chemical elements have been found dissolved in Ocean water and Ocean water is processed to extract commercially valuable minerals

	<p>such as salt, bromine, and magnesium which is very profitable.</p> <p>The Oceans are also important for recreational use as more people are attracted to the sports of swimming, fishing, scuba diving, boating, and waterskiing. Meantime, Ocean pollution has escalated dramatically as those who use the Oceans for recreational and commercial purposes as well as those who live nearby, have disposed of more and more wastes there.</p> <p>The Ocean is an integral part of Human Society. It has been fished for thousands of years and important to meet the World's economy and the commercial fishing industries are taking the best advantages of the ocean by obtaining the fishes for consumption and extracting fish oil. The fisheries at present provide vulnerable quantities of fishes about 16% of the total World's protein. It is mined for minerals (Salt, Sand, Gravel, Manganese, Copper, Nickel, Iron, Coral reef and Cobalt found in the deep Sea) and drilled for crude oil.</p> <p>The Ocean plays a critical role in removing carbon from the atmosphere and providing oxygen. The importance of the Ocean to life is that, it regulates the Earth's Climate. The Ocean is an increasingly important source of Biomedical Organism with enormous potential for fighting different diseases. Hence, we must explore them in greater details to understand why we must keep the ocean healthy for the future generations and for the existence of the World.</p>
<p>Location and Sites Details:</p>	<p>The Marine Ecosystem Project is contemplated to be launched at the Coastal belt of Bay of Bengal covering 36 marine villages at the Rushikulya River mouth in the District of Ganjam in Orissa State adjacent to <u>Bay of Bengal</u>. The coast area consists up a number of excellent and significant sites like: Olive Ridley Turtle Nesting Centers, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), Important Mammal Areas (IMA), Important Marine Areas (IMA), Important Plant Areas (IPA), Fish arrival centers and important Harbor like Gopalpur which is a rich resource expanding links to global economy. The harbor is the symbol of development, but do not harm the conservation system.</p>
<p>Stakeholder Community:</p>	<p>As regards to the stakeholder community, priority shall be given on the marine dweller Small Farmers, Marginal Farmers and landless Laborers depending upon the Ocean for their Lively-hood management. The coast line of Orissa is 480.40 kilometers in length and a number of 220 maritime villages/habitations are seen near the Sea-beach where the people absolutely depend on the marine fishing. Out of 220 villages 36 villages are there in the proposed Sea-beach. The people of the marine fisher villages do not have the legal title (RoR) over their home-stead lands. More than 80% of fisher families are living in thatched houses which are the prime victims of all types of Natural calamities and Disasters. The artisan fishing community is one of the most vulnerable sections in Orissa. But, the socio-economic condition of this community is very precarious that can't be expressed in words. There are about 3,000 active marine fishers having about 1200 boats</p>

	<p>out of which non-motorized/traditional boats are more than 800. They are very poor, deprived, marginalized and voiceless and being exploited by the fish merchants. Though, they strive hard from morning to night in the Sea, the entire benefit goes to the merchants who become millionaires at the cost of these poor people.</p> <p>Hence, it is apt prioritizing to strengthen the lively-hoods of these Marine dweller Landless Laborers, Small Farmers, Marginal Farmers engaged in fishing profession by working in conjunction with the local community for their lively-hood development. They are also very supportive and very accommodative. On a preliminary contact, a number of families from different villages have given their consent to participate in the implementation of the project as Co-Partners.</p>
<p>Justification:</p>	<p>The Ocean, being an integral part of Human life and life of all creatures has been providing vulnerable services from the inception and contributing a lot for their being and becoming. Millions and millions of poor marine dwellers have been benefited and their present generations are also availing the same benefits. It is beyond the imagination to calculate the gift of the ocean for the Human Society. It is the most valuable gift of the God. It provides Food, Oxygen, Minerals, Salt, Sand, Gravel, Manganese, Copper, Nickel, Iron, Coral reef and Cobalt etc. But, in course of time, the coast area being deserted by the local community has lost its natural shape for which it is under severe threats and the man-made calamities have become a barrier for its healthy survival and contribution. Due to lack of proper supervision, patrolling and management, the wild lives are under extinction. The marine mammals like Sharks, Shell fish, Whales and Dolphins are being poached by Trawler owners for commercial purpose. Over fishing, over hunting, over harvesting and hunting by petrol Bomb is spoiling the marine environment and Marine Ecosystem. Death of Turtles is caused by Boats and Turtle eggs are often being stolen by the people. Pollution is being created by the tourists throwing wastes to the Ocean. Moreover, the Epidemics are affecting wildlife. But, due to lack of educative awareness programmes, the people do not have the knowledge on marine ecosystem and environment.</p> <p>Hence, the impacts of the Sea are observed in the form of Sea level rise, increase in Temperature, Soil erosion, increased Salinity, Tidal inundations and increase in frequent Natural calamities like Floods, Cyclones, super cyclones and Tsunamis.</p>

<p>Objectives of the Project:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Conservation of Marine Ecosystem meant for the sustainable ecosystem and promotion of the socio-economic standard of the small farmers, marginal farmers and landless labourer with 40 % increase in their regular income. ❖ Conservation of Marine Eco-system to increase the density of Marine fishes and shellfishes, to save the environment and to make the Marine Eco-system ecologically sensitive. ❖ Restoration and sustainability of the degraded Marine Eco-system and to make it potential for sequestering Carbon. ❖ Creation of opportunities for the wildlife of the Ocean like Fishes, Crabs, Sea-Turtles, Oyster shell and Crunch shell to have a better lively-hood so as to prove that, boosting the Biodiversity is boosting the global economy. ❖ To highlight the impacts, issues and dimensions of Marine Eco-system and mapping to what extent it is sustainable for Climate Change. ❖ Restoring the Marine Ecosystem for reducing the Ocean warming, to check the soil erosion and to make the Climate “Green”. ❖ Promoting the Biodiversity Conservation by developing the Marine Eco-system landscape and empowering the Community members. ❖ Forming a strong stakeholder based network by means of raising awareness and providing lively-hood support opportunities to local people depending upon the diverse range of Natural Resources. ❖ It will check dangerous Natural Calamities like Floods, Cyclones and super Cyclones and sea surges. ❖ To set up a small Eco-system Club to encourage the local community and to attract the attention of the visitors. ❖ Creation of important social and environmental impacts involved in resource production, distribution, use, and disposal and augmenting the local economy. ❖ Over all, to check the ecological imbalance and to prove that the project is environmentally sustainable as a token of Global priority.
<p>Process and Innovation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Creation of Educative Community Organizations at all nearby villages and involving the people with the Project activity to avail Food Security, Health Security, Human Rights and creation of local Leaders. ❖ Engaging the local Community in Marine Eco-system activities like Plantation and conservation of Mangroves. ❖ Connecting the People through Networks and Culture. ❖ Staff development capacity building through training interventions. ❖ Establishment of Marine Eco-system clubs to encourage the community. ❖ Providing employment opportunity to young and energetic young persons, so as to obtain the Community support. ❖ Providing specialized trainings on skill development and management