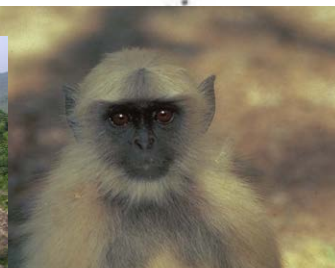
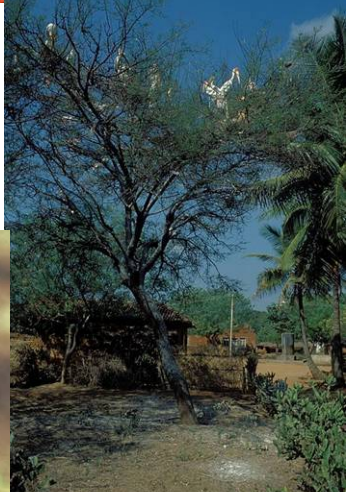
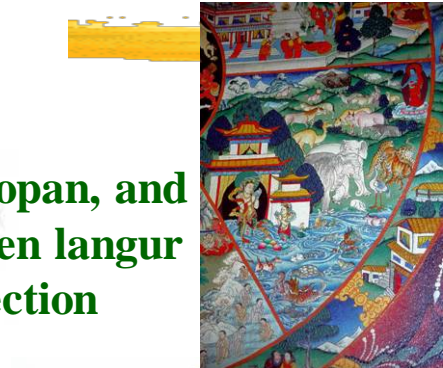


Indigenous Peoples' and Local Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs)

Experiences from India





'Oran', a CCA

Conserves Biodiversity and Protects Livelihoods

'Orans' are community forests/ ICCAs that act as a store of biodiversity, enable effective water management and serve as a community based regeneration system, which also used as grazing grounds by pastoralist communities. In Rajasthan, there are as many as 25,000 Orans. Major 1100 Orans covers about 100,000 ha In Thar Desert alone, over 5,370 sq km is under Orans.

- Area-varied village to village (mostly 1 ha to 400 ha.)
- The biggest is Bhadaria-15000 ha, Kundala- 7500, Bankal - 460 ha, Kanri Mata -200 ha, for rodents
- Sariska Tiger Reserve is collection of about a 12 Orans that together formed a substantial forest tract
- 7.5 millions pastoralists in Raj. who direct indirectly depends o orans
- 54.4 million livestock, out of which 14.3 million sheep



Strengths & Governance of Oran system

- Its importance to livelihood and life (meeting not only economic, social but also cultural and spiritual needs of the community)
- Strong internal social control within the different communities of users which enables effective sanction on the violators
- Village pride in being identified with a good Oran
- Egalitarian, with respect to all users; simple & clear rules to all
- Mechanism for conflict resolution among resource users
- Strong stakeholder ship of resource users (annual contribution, *Melas etc* in maintaining Orans)
- Strong religious belief; respect for Oran stems from strong faith in god; credible & inspirational *Mahatma, Thain/Samiti* (village institution) and elders important
- Well-defined boundary of a Oran