

What is OMRCC?

To protect & conserve the threatened marine resources and to raise the alternate livelihood for the fisher folk, a common platform is highly essential. To fill this need, in 2004, an informal body was created called the Orissa Marine Resource Conservation Consortium (OMRCC). Its members include Fish Workers' Unions of Orissa, Conservation Organization, Development NGOs, Turtle Biologists and individuals interested in Sea turtle conservations measures and/ or sustainable fisheries in Orissa. As a collective the OMRCC can boast of various resources, skills and expertise among a multitude of other diverse strengths in recognition of the diversity of its members and their independent positions and approaches to ensure that Marine conservation action in Orissa is a coordinated, collective, consensual and cooperative effort.

Objectives of OMRCC:

- ⇒ To reduce and prevent the over exploitation of marine resources of Orissa.
- ⇒ To work towards sustainable livelihoods for traditional fisher folk in Orissa.
- ⇒ To promote and facilitate collaborative sea turtle and fishery resource conservation actions in Orissa.
- ⇒ To develop conflict management mechanism to address fisheries and conservation related issues in Orissa.
- ⇒ To advocate against polluting activities and environmentally unsustainable development practices in the coastal areas of Orissa.

Objectives of CELL project by OMRCC:

According to the proposal submitted by OMRCC, the objectives will be achieved by the collaborative efforts of the various members of the OMRCC. United Artists' Association will be responsible for coordinating the project, executing certain components and will play an overall facilitative role in the project. The objectives are

- * To develop collaborative programmes for community-based fisheries management in coastal Orissa through the OMRCC.
- * To advocate for socially and ecologically appropriate coastal development in Orissa through the OMRCC.
- * To create awareness on marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management practices among the fishing communities.
- * To facilitate an attitudinal change towards conservation among traditional marine fishers by community organization around supplementary livelihood mechanisms through micro-enterprise activities in demonstration villages.

Activities:

With the help from Fish workers' Unions, Conservation groups, NGOs and Scientists, the OMRCC aims at synthesizing and upgrading conservation efforts, socio-ecological monitoring programs and policy advocacy towards appropriate marine conservation approaches in Orissa.

On going project activities:

- Carrying out training programmes and developing materials for community based sea turtle monitoring and conservation at specific sites at Orissa.
- CCD officials were visited to different operational sites and interacted with the fisher folk to study their socio-economic conditions and how to generate alternate livelihood for them and a concrete steps for conservation of marine resources.
- Development of communication systems among partners of OMRCC and Community groups and expediting CCD approved activities. "Upakulare..", a newsletter is going to publish by OMRCC for giving information about the pros & cons and achievement of different partner organizations towards socio-economic development of fisher folk and conservation of marine resources.
- Training and orientation workshop for field volunteers (PRA methods) for collecting information about Socio-Economic, Prawn Seed collection, house enterprise and preparation of Social map, resource map, timeline, seasonality and market survey etc.
- Printing & distribution of survey formats in thematic area wise are given to all CBO partners to implement community programmes.

- Officials of CELL project from UAA attended two workshops about PRA techniques and SCM of CELL partners at Mangalore & Madurai respectively.
- For preparation of VAPs, training generally imparted by OUAT, College of Fisheries, Rangailunda, Orissa and other institutions.

Area of operation:

Coastal fishing communities (Bengali, Oriya and Telugu speaking) from the traditional (artisanal) fishing sector in Orissa, India. In Kendrapara district, these include the villages of Kharanasi, RamNagar, Badatubi, Kajalpatia, Hariabanka and Barajbahakuda. In Puri district, these include Gundalaba, Sahana, Daluakani, Anakana, Ainsinia and Sudhikeshwar. In Ganjam it includes Podampeta, Gokhurkuda and Nolia Nuagaon. Each of these villages will be assessed to identify suitable demonstration sites for the micro-enterprises activities. And ecotourism and other alternate livelihood activities.



Management:

Partners: The members of the OMRCC who will be partners in this project consist of the following groups:

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore.

Greenpeace, Bangalore.

Green Life Rural India, Puri

Orissa Traditional Fish Worker's Union (OTFWU)

Project Swarajya, Kendrapara

Rushikulya Sea Turtle Protection Committee, Ganjam

Sea Turtle Action Programme, Puri

World Wide Fund for Nature, Bhubaneswar

Maa Gangadevi Santi Maitree Yuvak Sangh, Ganjam.

Samudram- a women federation is also associated with us to promote market strategy for both fresh fish & VAPs.

Project monitoring and Evaluation

UAA is responsible for the coordinating and monitoring of the various proposed activities. A copy of all reports and communication material produced shall be sent to the concerned funding organization. The OMRCC already has an executive body comprising of a coordinator and assistant coordinators. They will be involved in evaluating the proposed activities of the OMRCC. The UAA will also coordinate and organize site visits for donor agencies in order to facilitate external monitoring and evaluation. UAA is also responsible to coordinate and implementation of funds the CELL project.



Community interaction along with the Fishers Women & Samudram leaders at Asterang, Puri.



Discussion with OIFWU & Puri district Fish Workers' Union.



Interaction with the community about the turtle excluding device at Kharinasi Jetty.



CCD members along with VAA & RSTPC members at the turtle interpretation centre, Purunabandha. Mr. Uttu advised RSTPC President Mr. Rabindra Nath Sahu how to raise Funds for the improvement of turtle interpretation centre.

