

Lands that were assigned to the specified deities and were akin to sacred groves. These lands have since been encroached and are badly degraded. They are not easily identifiable on the ground. Nor their exact status is currently known. This Plan covers only the aforesaid reported 80 R.F.blocks, 86 PRF blocks and 2 RL blocks. Their areas and Range-wise distribution are summarized in Table 1.8. The Koraput District Forest and Waste Land Rules, 1956, are given in Appendix No. VI.

## 1.16 Rights and Concession

1.16.1 Rights and concessions in different legal types of forest have gradually evolved over time. All rights or concessions or privileges are subject to the condition that if a given forest resource is exhausted, all rights, concessions or privileges shall cease to exist.

1.16.2 As per rule 5 of the said rules of 1895, the *bonafide* hill *ryots* (also called "privilege holders" which include 43 prescribed local communities) have been allowed cutting of trees upto 3' girth, free of charge and without permit, in Reserved Lands for their consumption. Other persons, not being *bonafide* hill *ryots*, but inhabiting the estate, are allowed to use specified forest produce under "*Permit System*" and after payment of such fees as are prescribed in the Schedule of Rates for all timber and other produces as well as for grazing of cattle.

1.16.3 As per the Jeypore Forest Rules, 1922, the "*privilege-holders*", were also allowed free of charge, the removal of reserved class trees inclusive of sal, bija and teak upto 3'0" (3 feet) from Unreserved Lands and Protected Lands for their own *bonafide* consumption. Besides this, they were allowed to graze their cattle free and to remove other forest produce. For the non-privilege holders of higher castes, another system was introduced during the year 1923. This was called as "*Annual Royalty System*" or locally called as "*the plough tax*" by virtue of which an annual royalty of one half to one rupee per plough was collected from the tenants of Kotpad and Umerkote Ranges for allowing them to remove reserved class trees upto 3'0" (3 feet) girth for making ploughs and tendas. This practice was discontinued in 1949.

1.16.4 With the vesting of Ex-Jeypore estate with the State of Orissa vide Govt. Notification No.8231/R dt.29.12.1951, the Protected Lands and Unreserved Lands continued to be right burdened as they were earlier. At the same time, a few rights such as right to use specified foot-paths and cart-tracks, the right to worship at the specified shrines inside the Reserved Lands and the right to use water and fishing in hill streams were admitted in the Reserved Lands, as detailed in relevant notifications. These concessions were also allowed in accordance with Rule 6 of the Koraput Forest Rules, 1956. In the wake of an agitation by the local people, who were not "Privilege-holders", the Govt. considered in 1959 the demand of the local people to allow them to meet their firewood requirements for their own consumption from the annual coupes inside reserved lands of the Nabarangpur Forest Division at a concessional rate of Rs.1.25 per cart load. Grazing was also allowed inside reserved lands on payment of a very nominal

1.16.9 In view of the ban on "green felling" in Koraput District, since 1988, some of these rights, such as removal of poles and other timbers for house building materials, have been affected, as per the clarification, issued by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Orissa, *vide* his Memo No.8873 (7) dated 06.04.91, which is given in Appendix No. VII. Timber for house building, for fire affected persons and for agricultural implements are to be supplied through M/s OFDC Ltd from their depots, as envisaged in the Govt. of Orissa, Forest & Environment Department Circular No: 10488 dt.11.05.90. In addition, Government in Forest and Environment Department have been pursuing since 1988, a policy of encouraging peoples participation in local forest management and of devolving greater usufructory rights on people. This is being done under JFM program through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), jointly agreed by the Forest Department. and the interested local people.

### 1.17 Joint Forest Management and Micro-Plan

1.17.1 As per the resolution of the Govt. of Orissa, Forest and Environment, Deptt. No 10F(Pron)-47/88/17240/FFAH dt 1.8.88, a scheme for protection of peripheral reserved forest areas by participating villages was introduced. This scheme has been gradually popularly called as the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme. The scope of the said resolution was enlarged in December 1990 *vide* Resolution No.10F (Pron)4/90/29825/FFAH dt 11.12.'90 to include protected forests and the Village Forest Protection Committees (V.F.P.C.) were to be constituted by convening meetings of the concerned villagers. Forest areas were to be assigned and earmarked by the Forest Department, and to be protected by particular villages. Villagers were/ have been entitled to get small timber and firewood to meet their *bonafide* requirements free of royalty. Accordingly, 170 Nos. of V.F.P.Cs were formed covering a forest area of 58,408.85 ha.

1.17.2 Subsequently, the Govt. of Orissa, Forest & Environment Department, *vide* their G.O.No.16700 dt.3.7.93, and, G.O No. 22180 dt.30.9.96 have decided to implement a modified scheme of J.F.M. in the State, in which the Forest Department and the villagers of adjacent villages will be equal partners in the task of regeneration and restoration. In pursuance of this resolution, 56 numbers of Vana Samrakshana Samities (V.S.S.) have been formed in this Division covering an area of 607.91 ha. A list of these V.S.S. is given in the Appendix No. VIII for which four (4) micro plans have since been approved.

### 1.18 Grazing and Fodder

1.18.1 Livestock population of the Division is very large. Table 1.11 summarizes the population and annual growth of livestock in the Division from 1982-83 to 1994-95.

1.18.2 Traditionally, people do not spend even meager resources on maintaining cattle and other livestock. Nor do they practise stall-feeding. There is no fodder farm in the Division, except for few plots, of hybrid napier grass, which have been taken up by the Veterinary Department. As a result, most of the cattle, goats and sheep depend entirely

grazing fee of two anna per buffalo, bullock, cow or pony, one anna per calf and sheep and one and half anna per goat, in case of permanent residents of the adjoining villages, and, at twice these rates for outsiders.

**1.16.5 Hunting Concession:** The resident hill tribes were allowed to practise mass-hunting in the reserved lands adjoining their villages for the annual festival popularly known as "*Chaitra-Bento Parba*" during the summer season. This annual mass-hunting of animals has significantly contributed to extermination of a large number of games.

**1.16.6 Pursuant the prescription of the outgoing Plan, the Nabarangpur Forest Division has also pursued a massive program of forest reservation and 80 forest blocks have since been declared as "Reserved Forests" under Section 21 of the Orissa Forest Act, 1972. In these blocks, rights and concessions of the local people have been duly inquired by the Forest Settlement Officers and admitted rights, and concessions and privileges have been listed in the relevant Gazette Notifications u/s 21 of the Act.**

**1.16.7 Some common rights, concessions or privileges, admitted in different reserved forests and reserved lands are as follows:**

- (1) Right to use specified roads, foot-paths and cart-tracks running across the specified reserved forests to adjoining villages subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the competent authorities;
- (2) Right to collect and remove edible roots, fruits, non-timber forest produce such as mahua, kendu, char, siali leaves, natural resins and others, free of cost, for domestic consumption;
- (3) Right to graze their cattle, except goats and pigs inside the Reserved Forests, on payment of royalty and subject to specified restrictions including periodical closure of forest blocks to encourage regeneration and to take up plantation; and,
- (4) Right to enjoy fruits of horticultural plantations, permitted within the boundaries of Reserved Forests, as may be decided by the Collector of the District, in consultation with the Divisional Forest Officer concerned.

**1.16.8 The rights admitted in the Malchama R.F. include collection of timber upto 3'0" (3 feet) girth and fuelwood on payment of usual royalty for their own consumption. The villagers, surrounding the Nuaguda R.F. and the Anchala R.F., are entitled to remove dry and wind fallen trees for fuel and house- building materials, on payment of prescribed royalty. In Baigam R.F., the "*privileged holders*" are allowed to collect non-timber forest produce, free of royalty. In some forest blocks, e.g., Bikrapur R.F., Deola "A" R.F. and Bhejjagam R.F., the villagers are allowed to worship the village deities located inside the R.Fs. However, no rights and concessions have been admitted in the Chikma R.F.**