

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	Women and Community Forests in Orissa: Rights and Management		
Authors:	Singh, N.M.		
Document Type:	Paper in a scientific journal		
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Language:	English		
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Region:	South Asia		
Country:	Orissa		
Ecosystem Type:	Mountain ecosystem, coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:	Community inside protected area, indigenous community, women		
Scale of Study:	Community, regional		
Resource Type:	forestry, protected areas, conservation		

Type of Initiative:	Research driven-project
Community- Based Work:	Resource management
Keywords:	Community forests, Orissa, management, women's concern and priorities
Summary:	<p>In Orissa a large number of villages have been protecting and managing state forests lands as a common resource through elaborate community arrangements. Rural communities involved in forest management have also been demanding secure rights over these forests. Vashundhara and Sanhati, an alliance of NGOs in Orissa, recently facilitated a broad-based consultation process with village people and NGO on the issue of community rights over forests. This discussion brought forth the intricacies involved in operational details relating to community rights over forests, and how women's concerns and priorities tend to get marginalized in these debates. This paper tries to capture the discussion and debate on community rights over forests, how this is in contradiction with the rights regime and the property-based view of forests from which it emanates, and how this could lead to conflicts over non-timber forest produce.</p>