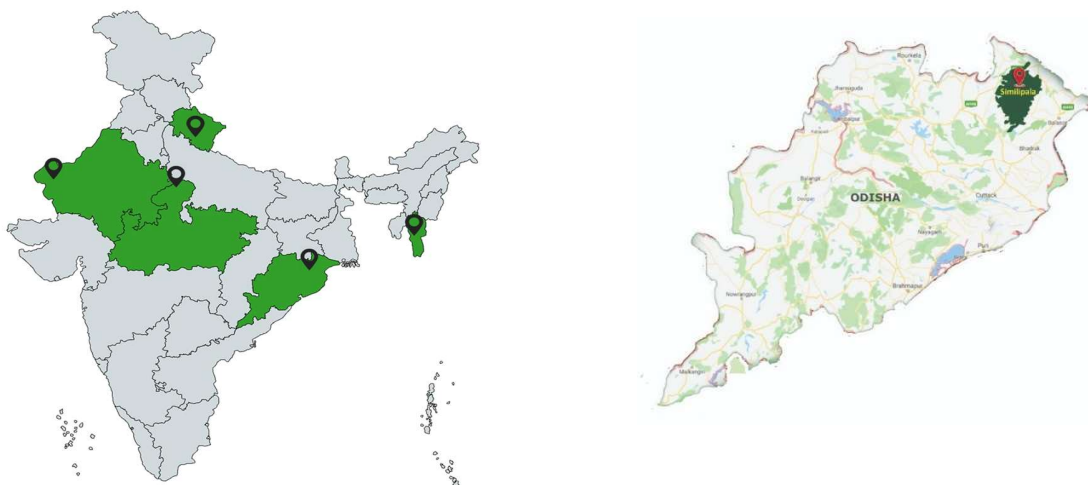


Green- Ag : Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global benefits and Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes

The Green-Ag Project aims to catalyze the sustainable transformation of India's agriculture, without compromising the country's food security and farmers' income. The project seeks to mainstream biodiversity conservation, climate change, and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture to enhance multiple global environment benefits. The project supports harmonization between India's agricultural and environmental sector priorities and investments so that the achievement of National and GEBs can be fully realized without compromising India's ability to strengthen rural livelihoods and meet its food and nutrition security requirements. The project also aims to bring greater coherence between the Government's policies, investments and institutions concerned with conservation and agricultural production at landscape level, so that they become mutually compatible.

The Green-Ag Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through its sixth funding cycle. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is the National Executing Agency and FAO is the Implementing Agency. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the GEF Operational Focal Point and coordinates all GEF Projects in the country.

The Project adopts a landscape approach by incorporating participatory governance and community based natural resource management at grassroots levels, for sustainable management of natural resources, land-use systems, and improved livelihood options. More specifically, it is being implemented in five high-conservation-value landscapes, wherein each landscape includes a mix of conservation and production areas. The Project States include Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.



FACT FILE

- ✓ **Focal Areas** : Biodiversity(BD), Land degradation (LD), Climate Change Mitigation(CCM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
- ✓ **Implementing Agency**: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India
- ✓ **Funding Support**: Global Environment Facility (GEF) in its 6th Cycle of funding. It is a Grant to partner states.
- ✓ **Total Grant budget**: USD 7918402 (Rs 55.45 Crore)
- ✓ **Project Duration**: 6 years (July-2019 to 2026)
- ✓ **Project Area in Odisha**: Similipal Biosphere Area in Mayurbhanj district. The total landscape area is 556,900 hectares with approximate 1650 villages.
- ✓ **Nodal Department in Odisha**: Department of Agriculture & FE
- ✓ **State Nodal Officer**: Director, Soil Conservation & Watershed Development
- ✓ **Operational Partner in the State**: Director, IMAGE. The Operational Partner Agreement between IMAGE and FAO has been signed between IMAGE and FAO in October 2019.

Summary of Landscape in Odisha

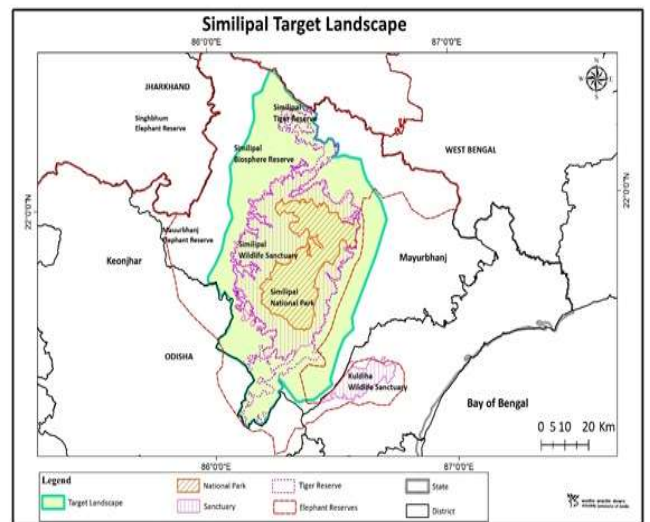
Landscape: Similipal Landscape

District : Mayurbhanj

Odisha, on the eastern coast of India, is a state rich in mineral resources and culture. The Green-Ag project is being implemented in Similipal Landscape of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha which has around 1,650 villages. The landscape covering 556 900 ha., is contiguous with the UNESCO recognized Similipal Biosphere Reserve, and comprises of the Similipal Tiger Reserve, the Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Noto and Satkoshia Reserve Forests.

Global Environmental values:

- 94 species of orchids, two endemic to Similipal
- 1 286 species of flowering plants
- 21 species of amphibians
- 62 species of reptiles
- 362 species of birds
- 55 species of mammals
- Robust habitat for the Asian elephant and the Royal Bengal tiger
- Significant agrobiodiversity and cultural diversity



Key ethnic groups :

Birhors, Hill Khadias and Lodhas as primitive tribes amongst the indigenous people are present in this landscape. Other indigenous ethnic groups such as Santhal, Kolha, Bhomji, Bhuiyan, Bathudi, Kharia, Gond etc. are also present..

Livelihoods

The main sources of livelihoods in the landscape are agriculture, fisheries, mineral resources, small scale business, and manual labour. Most of the families here are smallholder farmers who practice crop farming, livestock raising and agroforestry. Collection and sale of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) is also important for local

communities. Rearing of tussar silkworms is an important source of income for many tribal and other disadvantaged communities here.

Key Issues and Threats in the Landscape

- Loss of agricultural biodiversity, viz. local 'indigenous' varieties, especially of rice, are being replaced by high yielding varieties
- Deforestation due to human-induced activities like conversion of forestland for agriculture, construction of dams and mining activities
- Forest fires by non-timber forest product (NTFP) collectors, smugglers, poachers and grazers are a major cause of soil erosion and degraded ground flora and fauna.
- Grazing by livestock in the protected area of Similipal Tiger Reserve has the potential to spread communicable livestock diseases to wildlife
- Unsustainable use of natural resources by local communities, such as chopping of trees, hunting, poaching, overharvesting of medicinal plants and firewood from forests
- Increasing human wildlife conflict, especially between elephants and local communities

In Odisha, the project is being implemented by the Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development, through the Operational Partner, IMAGE (Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension), Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment. To carry out the project interventions, at the state level, a State Project Management Unit (SPMU) and at the district level, a Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU) have been established with sectoral experts.