



**“STRENGTHENING ACTIONS FOR NATURE TO
ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS”**

SUBMITTED BY

**ARASMIN
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www.arasmin.org**

Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

CONTEXT:

Working with the strategy "Community Sector Partnership and Nature-based Solutions" in the context of CORONA Virus (COVID-19) epidemic are the great challenges and the unique contributions for the affected Nations. This tremendous viral infection entered India during the second week of March' 2020 and its rapid growth took the shape of an outbreak. It is absolutely a man-made calamity faced by millions and millions of people all over the Globe. It is also very prominent in our Odisha State of INDIA that caused a severe disaster situation and more than 80% people belonging to poor family are more sufferers of this unprecedented outbreak. More over, the situation aggravated due to a large number of affected migrant people, being affected with CORONA Virus returned back to their homes from time to time may be the vital cause of this adversity. The impacts of the outbreak are observed prominently in the form of scarcity of Foods, Vegetables, communication facility and lack of earning opportunities. Millions and millions of poverty affected people are suffering from fasting and hunger and a large number of lives have passed away. All the Govt. Institutes, non-Govt. institutes and commercial Institutes are in dormant position. The entire area is under lock-down, short-down, discrimination, stigma and self-quarantine although almost of all are maintaining the social distancing to avoid the situation. The people irrespective of Rich and poor, High and low are in equal position. The more tragedy is that, the economy has gone down to 10 years back and the Disaster situation is still hammering the financial backbone of the Nation causing an incomparable and irreparable loss. To overcome this unprecedented disaster situation, Conservation and restoration of Mangrove forest is the appropriate technology and the permanent solution for gradual recovery of the damage as recommended by the Global visionaries and the so called Environmentalists.

Mangroves are the unique partnership-led initiative to promote investment in coastal Ecosystem Conservation for sustainable development and it is the highest gift of the Nature for the Human beings. Especially, the poor Communities residing at Coastal belt take the absolute benefits in comparison to others. Everywhere, the lives of Human beings are intertwined with the Plants and Animals and the relationships between the three Communities are **Ecological and Economical**. Being an **Ecological** organism, we are completely dependent upon Plants and Trees for certain essential services, benefiting from their innumerable values and suffering enormous losses from their injurious activities. Mangrove for Future (MFF) provides a platform for collaboration among many different agencies, sectors and countries which are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues. The goal is to promote an integrated ocean-wide approach to coastal ecosystem management system and to building the resilience of ecosystem-dependent Coastal communities. The most important advantage for the nearby people are that the Mangroves provides vulnerable support for their Livelihoods and save them from different type of Natural Calamities like Cyclones, Hurricanes, Tsunamis and Super Cyclones. Mangrove for future focuses on ecosystem based adaptation to Climate Change. This includes the understanding of the economic value of mangroves for building Coastal resilience, promoting benefit sharing mechanism to ensure rights of the coastal communities over coastal ecosystem, exploring ecosystem based solutions for coastal area protection and assisting the

Coast-Communities to become more resilient. It is also providing shelter for the Wildlife Animals, Birds, Fish, Crabs, Turtles, Oyster shell, Crunch Shell and other Biodiversities to have a better lively-hood and stay safe and sound. The other details of the problems, advantages and opportunities are mentioned hereunder:

- **Action area 1: Nature for Jobs and Economic Prosperity:**

Mangrove Forest provides important social and environmental impacts involved in resource production, distribution, use, disposal and augmenting the local economy. It is also providing Employment opportunity and Food Security for the poor and marginal farmers. Nature has reserved so many opportunities for the Coastal dweller Stakeholder Community as they collect different seeds and Firewood and sale these substances in open market which is their day to day profession and a permanent source of Income, Collection of Fishes from the Ocean and sale it in open market is another opportunity and best source of income for the Coastal Community to face the critical financial constraints. It is a blessing of Nature for the Coastal Community to get so many things from Nature, but they do not take the advantage of the same and being exploited by the Businessmen due to lack of genuine marketing facility. So, the marketing can be done through Cooperative Societies in order to make them free from loans, free from wants, free from Exploitation and reduce their dependency on Banks and Money Lenders. Furthermore, the Mangrove site can be converted into an Eco-tourism site benefitting to the coastal Stakeholder Community to earn a lot, being engaged with different professional activities. The young generations of the Stakeholder Community can also avail the opportunity of being trained as Eco-tourism Guides. Moreover, Bee keeping is another opportunity which provides lucrative incomes can be incorporated to the source of their regular incomes which can compensate to their livelihood management. Hence, the Mangrove Forest is very helpful for the economic Prosperity of the Coastal Dweller Communities and strengthening their Livelihoods.

- **Action area 2: Nature for Health:**

The important features of Mangrove Forest is that, it creates and provides Clean Air, Clean Water, Oxygen, Nutritional Foods and Herbal Medicines that keeps the people Healthy and Wealthy. The people will also be acquainted to Nature and natural Environment. So, the relationship of Life and Nature will be strengthened which will create a way to increase the immunity and the preventive power of the people to different Diseases. Moreover, the Mangrove Forest protects the people from different devastating Natural Calamities like Floods, Hurricanes, Cyclones, Super Cyclones, Tsunamis and helps to maintain a good Health. The mangrove site is very purposeful for meditation and yoga, because of the pollution-free Environment and clean Air. Moreover, by providing employment opportunity, the Mangrove Forest checks the Migration and Displacement of the local Community and saves their lives. It is a fact that when the Migrant people are returning home, returning with different contagious Diseases like HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Genital Diseases. So, the employment facility provided by the Mangrove Forest will make them self-sufficient to earn at home and manage the family. Some of the Mangrove trees are very useful for health and possess the medicinal values that assist to increase the immunity of the Body and maintain a subsistence life. Furthermore, the Ocean products are very nutritious that help the Coastal Community to be healthy. Moreover, getting the clean Air and Oxygen the Coastal communities will maintain a Disease-free life. Hence, if

the Life will be incorporated to nature, then the Health Care aspect of the Stakeholder Community will become sustainable.

- **Action area 3: Nature for Climate:**

Mangrove Forest accelerates the Atmospheric Temperature, maintains the Humidity, Controls the Soil erosion and Global warming, protects the ecological imbalance that saves the Nature and Environment by sequestering the Carbon-dioxide from the Atmosphere and checks the Carbon Emissions. So, it is the best platform for maintaining a resilient Climate, Sustainable Ecosystem and promotes the Biodiversity Conservation. It will also maintain the density of Biodiversities, Create a Green World and execute significant actions on the ecosystem on Earth and check the environmental degradation and a physical change where all the living beings, Living World, Animal Kingdom, Vegetation World and the Natural Resources shall be saved and restored. Hence, Mangrove Forest is the only paramount medium to control the Climate Change and generates different ways to improve the Crops of the Stakeholders and support their Food Security Agenda. Hence, the Mangrove Forest can contribute a lot for the Conservation and protection of Nature and Environment.

- **Action area 4: Nature for Sustainable Food Systems:**

Mangrove Forest provides opportunities for the wildlife of the Ocean like Sharks, Whales, Skates, Saw fishes, Rays and Shell fishes, Crabs, Dolphins and other common Sea-Fishes to get enormous foods to grow and the Stakeholder Community will take the opportunity of Sea-food to develop. In view of this phenomenon, we propose the strategy to engage the Migrants with this Sea-food business and develop the marketing facility through Cooperative Societies for maintaining a sustainable food chain and Sustainable Food system to have a better lively-hood and a permanent source of income for the livelihood management. Ocean products are of export quality and preferred by the people all over the Globe, because of its nutritional values. So, it has the enormous demand of sale and plenty of incomes. Hence, the Mangrove Forest can maintain the sustainable Food system as a gift of Nature. Furthermore, some Cross-Cutting programmes on Food Management System like Kitchen Garden and Mushroom cultivation can also be added to their subsistence Food system and livelihood management for availing immediate benefits of the Coastal dweller Communities.

- **Conclusion:**

Hence, in view of recovering and restoring the financial position and ending the financial crisis caused by CORONA Virus (COVID-19) outbreak, creation of Mangrove Forest on priority basis is the appropriate technology to address this challenging situation.



Secretary
ARASMIN
G.Udayagiri, Kandhamal(O)

**Bikash Ranjan Rautray,
Secretary, ARASMIN,**

