

# Participatory conservation of grassland biodiversity outside the PA network





Who they are?

Pardhi a well known traditional hunting nomads highly dependent on typical Indian savannah grasslands

They are categorized as a scheduled tribe by GoI

They hunt grassland birds and antelopes for livelihood, they do this in sustainable manner

They have their own traditional rules and methods of hunting which they still follow

What are the main issues?



Grasslands are the most neglected habitat type in conservation initiatives which negatively impacting on the traditionally dependent communities on hunting nomads, pastorals, livestock holders and cultivators

Pardhis are also known as “ex-criminal tribe” as they were notified as a “criminal tribe” under criminal tribe act 1872”

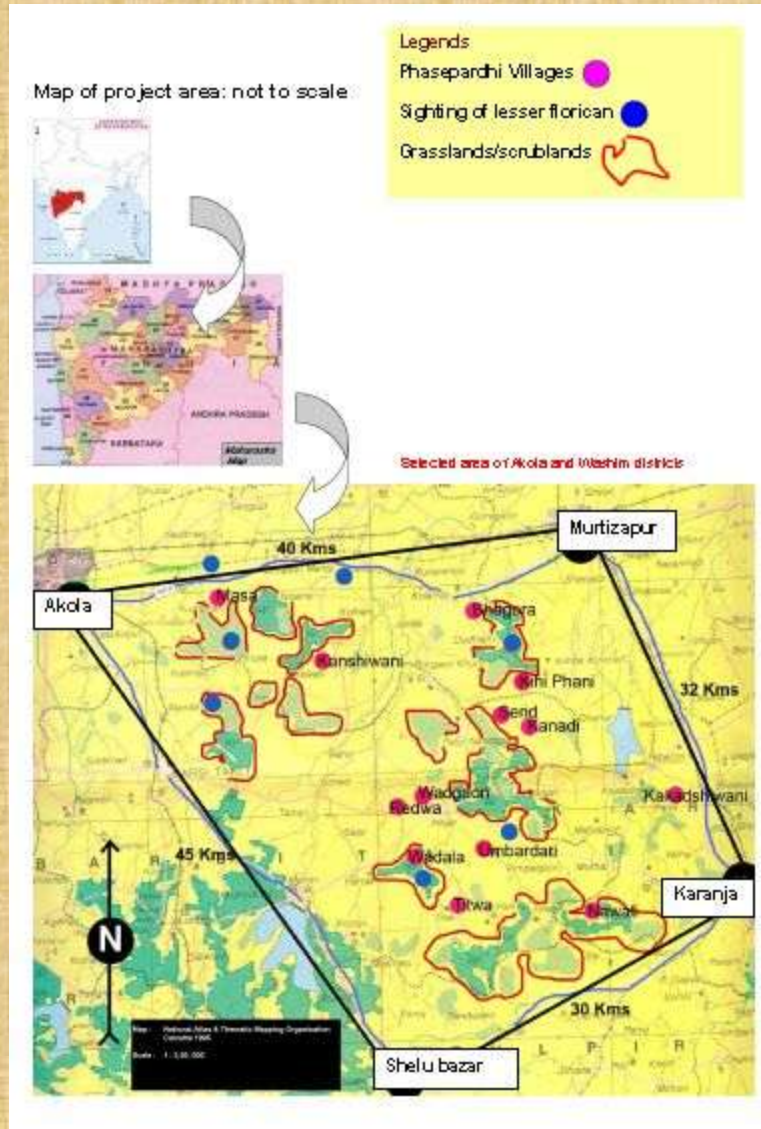
They are termed as the “biggest threat” for wild life

Hunting is legally banned under the wildlife (protection) act 1972 unfortunately without providing any proper assistance mechanism for livelihood shift

# What they are conserving?



Endangered grassland bird species “lesser florican” (Sypheotides indicus) and traditional grass varieties through “Tandapanchayat” and Biodiversity management committee formed under the BD act 2002



# Why they are conserving grasslands biodiversity?





They wish to explore optional livelihood because hunting is not economically and socially viable, wildlife population is in decline because of external factors like habitat degradation, hunting by non-tradition communities

They are the only who have traditional knowledge for the in-situ conservation of endangered species like “lesser florican” (*Sypheotides indicus*) as they used to hunt on them

Conservation will help them to erase the process of stigmatization and bring assistance for optional livelihoods

Conservation of traditional grass varieties and habitats provide them fodder and foliage for optional livelihood of goat rearing. This also generate monetary gains by selling excess production

What will be the way ahead?



Establishment of legal assistance mechanism for the strengthening of optional livelihoods identified by tribe

Issues regarding the proper participation in the biodiversity management committees and FRC needs to be solve

Pardhi use large area for livelihood resources, there is no proper provision to recognize their rights and insure participation in every BMC and FRC in the resource area. They use 900 square kms area for hunting, medicinal plant collection, grassing etc. in our field which contains around 600+ villages

Incorporation of their skills and traditional knowledge for the legal participatory conservation initiatives of grassland biodiversity with proper recognition