Socio-ecological Systems and Commons- A case of Community Conserved Areas in Manipur.

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Abstract

- Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) are important socio-ecological systems of tribals of Manipur.
- The management and governance of these areas are under the local government called the Village Authority (VA) of each village.
- It falls under common pool resource hence is a complex system.
- A network based co-management approach within the state and non-state actors is crucial.
- A system framework is presented recognizing the need of multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance for the development of these systems.
Methods

1. Identification of Community Conserved Areas in Manipur (5 Villages)
2. Literature review on Common Governance and local institutions
3. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Village Authority (VAs) of the 5 selected villages
4. In depth interview with practitioners, community organizations and forest government officials
5. Analysis of qualitative data and formulation of framework as the result.
Figure 1 Study Area
System Framework for Governance of Community Conserved Areas

- State/Central government (Line Departments)
- Commons Resource Regime (Community Conserved Areas)
- Autonomous District Council (ADCs)
- Local Government (Village Authority)
- Community organisations:
  1. Tangkhul Naga Long (Apex CSO body)
  2. Wungnao Long (Village Headman Organisation)
  3. Shanao Long (Women organisation)

Co-Management Network
## Role of local actors in co-management of CCAs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Data base creation</th>
<th>Logistic provision and implementation of traditional rules and regulation</th>
<th>Conflict resolution at local level</th>
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<td>• Resource and Knowledge exchange</td>
<td>• Boundary demarcation</td>
<td>• Traditional justice system under traditional land law system</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Locals as knowledge holder and state as enabler of knowledge dissemination</td>
<td>• Task and responsibility allocation</td>
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How can co-management be enabled?

1. Acknowledge the complex socio-political status of the state.

2. Map the systems under focus.

3. Evaluate the degree of capacity building needed for the mapped system for further state intervention.
Conclusion

• Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) are mosaic where ecosystems overlap requiring multi-level governance through network-based co-management system.
• CCAs part of the agricultural system (shifting cultivation) of the community which is often overlooked.
• Agricultural stakeholders of the state must recognize significance of CCAs for development of agricultural sector.
• Understanding complex land holding system of the community crucial for management of CCAs
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