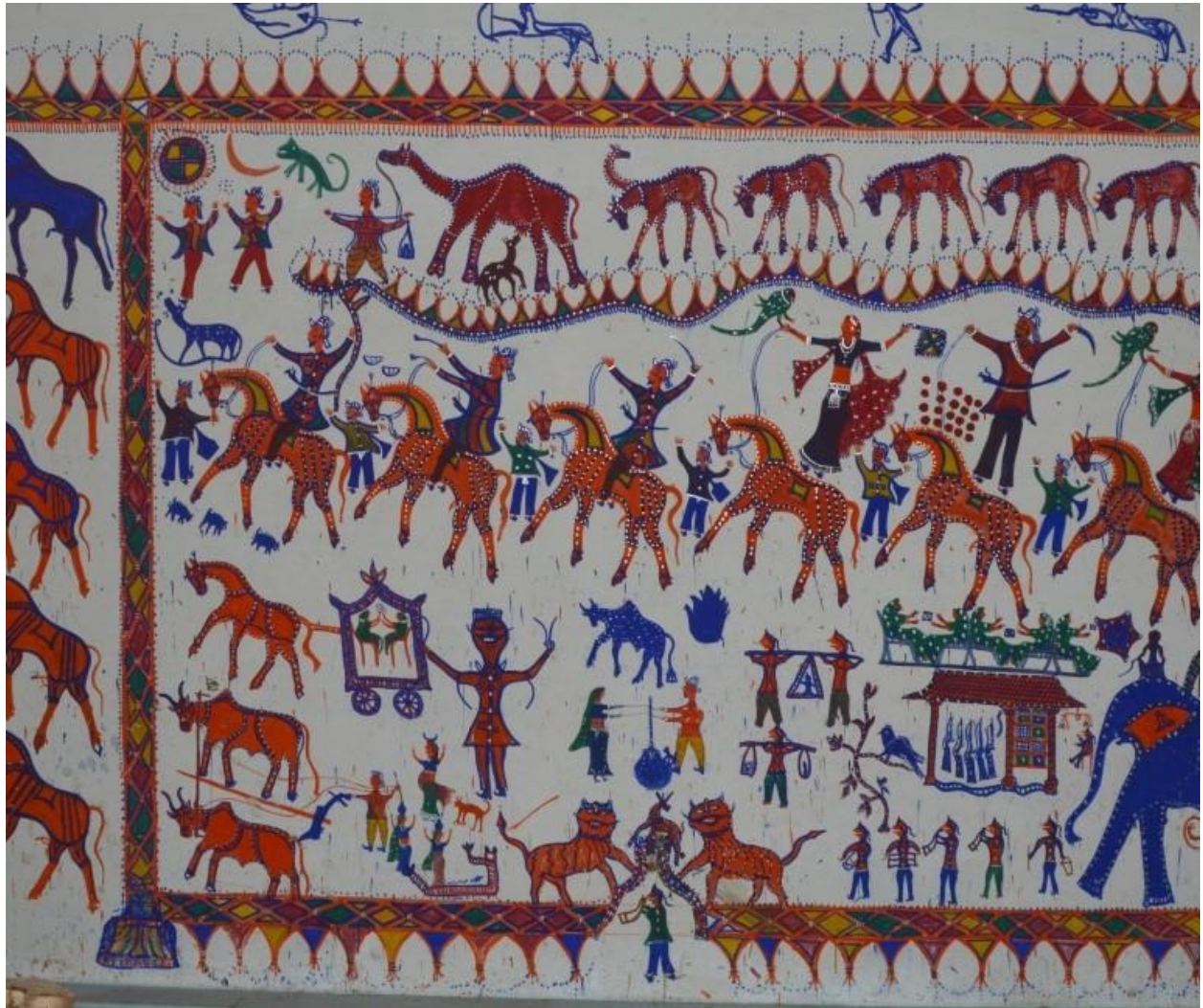


Report on UPR process with children of Chhota Udepur

COP 27 Climate Change Summit in Egypt



Baba Dev Ka Pithora

On Behalf of the children of Fenai Mata Rewakahnd Jaiv Shristi Mandal



Ancestral and Nature worship the hallmark of Adivasi Spirituality and related cultural underpinnings

Report prepared by

Adivasi Jan Utthan Trust Bhekadiya

HABITAT

Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action

Fenaimata Rewakhand Jaiv Shristhi Mandal Pledge



Fenai Mata Region

We, the tribal people of Fenai-Rewakhand region, culturally living with our forests, water, land and biodiversity for centuries. Our agriculture, animal rearing, health-medicines, culture, traditions, customs and all socio-economic practices are dependent on our forests. Due to the Sacred Circumbulation of Mother Narmada, this region is ecologically-culturally and socially very important. We have always been protecting our natural & cultural heritage and will continue to do so. Jungle-water-land and biodiversity are the basis of life for Adivasi. That is why we will use all the provisions of law to elicit cooperation from the government and society in order to withstand all challenges and threats. Today we, the residents of Fenai-Rewakhand Jaiv Shrishti Mandal pledge to protect and preserve our natural heritage and in order to do so we will imbibe all necessary values and culture. We very well understand that rights emerge from responsibility therefore, we will use the FRA 2006 and constitute environmental committees in all villages and through community forest responsibility and community forest rights, we will protect the forests of Fenaimata, Ronjiyadeo, Bhandandeo and Ranikajalmata.

Signed by
villages of Fenai-Rewakhand Jaiv Shrishti Mandal

Following up on the work done post the 2020 Mahayatra in Chhota Udepur an exercise was attempted with the children of Chhota Udepur to understand what this means for them. Given the Diwali holidays, this exercise could only be done in an indicative manner providing a direction of action for the future. Children of two villages Kanalva and Bhekadiya participated in the exercise in their respective villages.

To start with the exercise done by children across the country reflected in the ADvocal report facilitated by PRATYeK was explained while simultaneously explaining to them the need for them to develop their own report articulating their own aspirations, dreams and concerns.



Ratan Bhagat explaining the UPA process to the children of Bhekadiya and its relation to Fenai Mata Rewakhand region



Children of Bamniya Phala Kanalva holding up leaves of different plants to express the biodiversity available in their village

In a meeting organised for the children of Bamniya Phala in Kanalva village (many of whom are studying in the Ashram at Bhokadiya), Nandubhai Rathva explained the UPR process for the Climate Change Summit in Egypt. Of significance was the loss of the world's biodiversity which the Adivasi children of Bamniya phala took for granted. The children were then encouraged to explore the surroundings and collect leaves of different species of trees, shrubs and grasses that represented the biodiversity of the region. The photo taken shows them holding some of the leaves collected by them as an assertion of the life within the village. One by one the children of the village spoke of different facets of village life. Akshay Bhai Kamlesh Bhai Rathva standing to the extreme left spoke about the Cowherd God (*Guy Gadi* behind him) who protects the cattle of the village.



Kajalben Ishwarbhai Rathva speaking on Heran River: Guy Gadi (The Cowherd God in the background)

In the photo above Kajalben Ishwarbhai Rathva talks of the Heran River (located just behind) which flows through the village. She talked of the birds that came there for food and water and also how the river helped to provide water (for irrigation, drinking, washing) and recreation for the village. Chankuben Kisanbhai Rathva talked of Bamniya phala, the people, crops, birds and other biodiversity that resided there.



Nandubhai explaining about the value of the local ecology

Nishaben Mankarbhai Rathva on the leaf she is holding up



Children of Bhekadiya

At Bhekadiya Bhavisa, Dharmisa, Hemlata, Dharmista, Anita and Pinu gave narratives of their visit to Fenai Mata temple and what they saw from there. The fields, Heran river, Fenai Mata temple, people, cattle, birds and other biodiversity of the region. Ratan Bhagat while explaining the value of the local biodiversity in general and the trees in particular talked of the exercise being planned, where the children would get a more detailed exposure of Fenai Mata region, Gujarat and other parts of India so that they could relate with Adivasis and other communities of the country.



Fenai Mata Rewakahnd