

Report of the meeting on the contradiction between CAMPA and FRA organised by AIFF-RS at Delhi on 20th and 21st September

Session 1, day 1.

Inaugurating the meeting Sanjay Basu Mallick pointed out that the discussion was to explore the views of civil society on the contradiction between FRA and CAMPA and understand how the use of CAMPA money was affecting the lives and livelihoods of local communities.

In the presentation made by Souparna Lahiri, he pointed out that CAMPA was an adhoc creature of the Supreme Court in 2002, at the behest of the CEC. Instead of working on the real concerns related to deforestation, this was followed by the Report of the expert committee on NPV in 2005, which was given the task of outlining an architecture to integrate this with the CAMPA and then CAF in 2016.

He further clarified that the CAMPA fund legitimises forest diversion and provides a monetary excuse for Forest and biodiversity loss caring a whit for the loss of livelihood opportunities of the local community. There is no credible information about what has been planted up under CAMPA and where.

The proposition that forest cover is increasing is a hoax. The State of Forest reports a forest cover of 21.34% including tea, coffee and rubber plantations (green cover of more than 10% on an area of .5 has is recorded). Forest Land on the other hand is 23.41%. Plantations are not forests. There is an International movement against monocultures.

CAMPA is meant to compensate for loss of forests but it is also being shown as a mechanism to increase the forest cover of this country. The fund of \$6 b is being used by the Government to show its financial commitment for GIM and RED + as well. CAF is a violation of FRA. CAMPA money will be used for relocation of people from Tiger Reserves. VSS under JFM is being equated with gram sabha and FD muscle power and money power is being used against the people (arms and ammunition are being procured in the name of WPA). In the whole process Natural Capital is sought to be taken over and goods and services from the forest traded on the International market. The Kanchan Chopra report for transferring funds to the village communities has been ignored. Diversion of forest is against Section 39 B. The related compensatory activity has not taken place, it is game to deal with the 'politics of sustainability'.

Session 2 day 2

The presentation by Eva Davidsdottir from Norway on her study of Political economy of Global ecology in the Global South. The study is being done simultaneously in India and Africa and her study in particular is about Jharkhand.

The idea of green economy is 30 years. CAMPA provides legitimacy for forest diversion. It gives the appearance of action. In Tanzania, Norway government supported for carbon offsets under RED+. In the first evaluation study the team did not interact with the people and hence portrayed it as a success story. The second evaluation too was just a copy paste of the first. After five years researchers found no success story but due to critical voices on the

ground, the work was discontinued. The researchers were however not allowed to present their findings as it broke the myth that was being propagated.

Suparna Lahiri pointed out that even though India was a signatory to UNRIP (United Nations Rights of Indigenous people's) and FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent), the accountability for implementation is at the Nation level due to sovereignty issues. Sub Nationality questions are not addressed.

Session 3 day 1

In the presentation made by Tushar Das and Sanghmitra of Vasundhara, case studies with maps and other details of land used by CAMPA in Odisha were shown, the case studies highlighted the atrocities being unleashed on the forest dwellers as a result of CAMPA(in one case a pregnant women lost her child as a result of the shock of being dragged out of the forest). Vasundhara has offered to provide such details for the specific locations where people are working. They are also working on how to present this information constituency wise so that MPs and MLAs can be made aware of the extent of damage being done to the livelihoods and life support systems of the local communities. Participants from eight States of the country have asked for the information.

Session 4 Day 1 and 2

Presentation by the States

There were presentations from the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Utrkhand and Goa the common refrain being the deliberate distortion of FRA by the government and the need for self assertion. Examples of this were given very sharply in the presentations from Jharkhand and Gujarat. An action plan to involve forest dwellers at the grass roots was chalked out with the idea of exposing this facade.

Session 5 Day 2

The presentation made by Leena Gupta exposed how Surat is facing floods every year due to the destruction of the mangroves, choking of the estuary at the mouth of the Tapi and the resultant ingress of seawater into Surat. The barrage on Tapi on the other hand prevents the flood waters reaching the sea and bathes Surat instead! Compensatory forest land asked for the cutting of the mangrove forests to make way for Hazira SEZ expansion was given in Porbandar. Since there were no mud flats there to hold the plants, every year plantation gets washed into the sea. The Forest officer who resisted the giving of forest land to Mundra port was transferred. The process was then expedited and land given in Sir creek for which the plantation was then done by the BSF.

The presentation then went on to show the wealth of the Aravali mountain system and its relation to the life support systems of people living in and around it. Allocation of land for 'development' is destroying these systems.

Session 6 Day 2

In the legal session presentations were made by Sanjay Upadhyay and Colin Gonsalves. The following were the main issues highlighted

- a. Need to expose the contradictions within CAMPA which is eminently doable.
- b. Need to study the State wise CAG reports and come up with an action plan for sharing this with the general public.

Session 7 Day 2

The way forward unfolded the following

- A. Joint programme across the country to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of CAMPA and force government to withdraw this anti people law.
- B. Joint strategy to ensure that forest dependent communities in Sundarbans, get their rights.

To ensure success of the programme a. 'model action plan' will be developed for Rajasthan between ICAN, RMKU and AIFF-RS coordinating efforts on DMIC as well. Kundan has sent data on CAMPA for Rajasthan will work out programme accordingly. Sanghmitra will send to participants in other states as well.

On b. Pradipda will facilitate dialogue at ground level . ICAN (Viren), AIFF-RS (Sanjay) and CFR- LA (Tushar) to participate. This will provide road map for strategy against NTCA for which legal assistance has been promised. Sariska, Kanha and Nagarhole (?) Tiger sanctuary in Karnataka will be taken up covering Pastoralists, Fishers and. Tribals.