

Central Highlands Restoration Project

The Return of the Native

By deploying innovative and scientifically-backed natural climate solutions (NCS), and guided by the 4Returns Principle, Commonland and The Nature Conservancy in India (TNC) with their partners are supporting to regain the lost biodiversity, re-generate forest-dependent livelihoods, create wider economic opportunities, and achieve ecological sustainability in central India through the Central Highlands Restoration Project (CHiRP).

CHiRP Vision & Goal

Integrated closely with the Government of Chhattisgarh’s vision to develop a forest-based economy and improve livelihoods of indigenous forest-dependent communities, CHiRP aims to:

1. Restore landscapes and achieve livelihood security through increased forest produce by promoting native species’-based agroforestry and market linkages.
2. Catalyse natural and social change in the project sites by addressing the drivers of deforestation and land degradation.
3. Design and pilot science-based restoration models for community and individual forest right lands, farmlands and common lands.

CHiRP 20 Year-Vision



PILOT Phase (5 years)

Pilot project area: Chhattisgarh state; Two districts (one block in each district); 10 villages, 2,000 hectares

Two models:

1. Hills (in district Kabirdham) - Assisted Natural Regeneration in community forest resource rights lands; Food forest and Wadi/ Agroforestry in individual forest rights lands and farmlands; and fuelwood and fodder plantations in common lands)
2. Plains: Agroforestry (bamboo-based) and biodiversity management committees

Scope of impact: 10 villages (800 households, majorly comprising scheduled tribes such as *Gond* and *Baigas* (*Baigas* are classified as particularly vulnerable tribal groups).

Next Phase: Potential for replication and scaling in other districts of Chhattisgarh and other neighbouring central Indian states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.



The 4Returns Approach and the India Landscape Restoration Accelerator

Developed by Commonland, 4Returns is an evidence-based, demonstrated framework comprising of four kinds of returns achieved from restoration actions.



RETURN OF INSPIRATION

Giving people hope and a sense of purpose



RETURN OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

Bringing back jobs, business activity, education and security



RETURN OF NATURAL CAPITAL

Restoring biodiversity, soil and water quality



RETURN OF FINANCIAL CAPITAL

Realizing long-term sustainable profit

India Landscape Restoration Accelerator:
Leveraging various opportunities to deploy NCS at scale, the Accelerator enables key stakeholder groups to work together on interventions that can drive large-scale landscape restoration and reforestation.



CHiRP Partners and Collaborators

Project partners

1. The Nature Conservancy Centre (TNC-India)
2. Commonland Foundation (4Returns)
3. Samerth Charitable Trust (grassroot NGO, field partner in Kabirdham)
4. IKEA Foundation (Principal Funder)

Primary partners

Forest and Climate Change Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, and State Planning Commission

Current Collaborators

1. United Designers for landscape designing
 2. Global Business Inroads for low-cost technology for value chains
- Discussions are ongoing with a number of potential collaborators ranging from state government institutions to academic, research, and marketing organizations

Support Us

CHiRP provides adequate opportunities for multi-stakeholder/diverse and innovative partnerships, with extensive scope emerging from the evolving CSR funding platform in India.

CHiRP also encourages other funding mechanisms under the climate agreements to meet the intervention goals.