



## About Us

MFF, Mangroves for the Future is a partnership-based initiative promoting investment in coastal ecosystems for sustainable development. MFF provides a collaborative platform to help countries; sectors and agencies in the MFF region tackle the growing challenges to coastal sustainability

**Development Alternatives (DA)** is a research and action organization

that has been designing and delivering eco-solutions for the poor and the marginalized for 30 years. With a deep understanding of the rural market and a strong presence in the Indian heartland, its existence has been a credible and visible one nationally and internationally in addressing poverty challenges in a climate-sensitive environment

**BISWA Research and Innovation Center (BRIC)**, Bhubaneswar is the Research, Innovation and Knowledge center set up by leading NGO called Bharat Integrated Social Welfare Agency popularly known as BISWA, Odisha. BRIC, Bhubaneswar is dedicated towards action research and innovations in the field of emerging sustainable development issues.



### Development Alternatives

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## MANGROVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

### ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

*for*

### MANGROVE DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

*in*

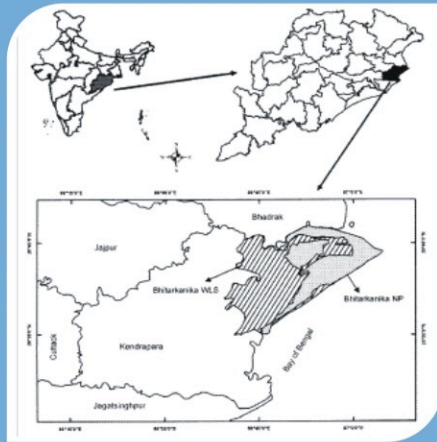
### BHITARKANIKA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

### ODISHA



## Background to the Initiative

In the last few decades the survival of mangroves has been subject to different threats and anthropogenic pressures. The Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary of Orissa is one such area, where the threats include agriculture, shrimp farming, harvesting fuel wood and timber, grazing by domestic animals, harvesting non-wood forest products, sewage discharge, and garbage disposal.



While Mangroves provide essential services that have the potential to enhance livelihoods, the overexploitation of mangrove resources and their destruction for livelihood activities such as agriculture and aquaculture is unsustainable. The current scenario, if left unchecked has the potential to lead to a loss of livelihoods, income and increased vulnerability of mangrove dependent communities

## Vulnerability of Communities

In the panchayats of Bhitarkanika, a traditional way of life prevails with a high reliance on natural resources for the livelihood and energy needs of communities. Since these communities reside in the Wildlife Sanctuary, there are several restrictions on livelihoods and activities that threaten the wildlife and ecosystem of the area. Communities have limited livelihood options and current livelihoods, especially paddy cultivation, are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and change including natural disasters. These communities require solutions and support systems to build resilience enhance livelihood options and regulate the use of resources from the mangrove ecosystem to ensure sustainability.



## Objectives of the Initiative

1. Increasing awareness and capacities of local communities and community based institutions to undertake alternative livelihoods that reduce pressure on mangrove resources
2. Reducing dependence of communities on mangrove resources by enhancing alternative livelihood opportunities and increasing resilience to climate change.
3. Assessment and Monitoring of Mangrove Forest through land-use/land cover mapping and change detection studies using Satellite Remote Sensing and GIS techniques for effective development and management of mangroves.



## Potential Livelihoods

Based on an preliminary evaluation and focus group discussions with the community the following potential livelihood options will be further evaluated and promoted in the villages through awareness generation, training and capacity building and initiating market linkages:

- Fodder and fuel wood species cultivation
- Poultry
- Value addition to rice (Puffed Rice)
- Building Materials
- Medicinal plants cultivation
- Pisciculture based fish processing (Fish Papad & Pickle)
- Honey from bee Keeping
- Handicraft made from 'Kaincha' Golden Grass
- Kitchen Garden

