Pursuing indigenous community of District Tharparkar, to protect wildlife
(APFED Showcase project)
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Background
• Tharparkar District is an arid and semi-arid sandy area spread over 22,000 sq. Km.
• Population about 1.2 million,
• The majority of people are poor, 40% belongs to non-Muslim minority
• About 10% of the population belongs to indigenous people (Kolhi and Bheel).

Biodiversity
• The district is rich in biodiversity including wild fauna and flora.
• It is declared as a wildlife sanctuary.
• Species of deer, antelopes, partridges, Siberian Crane, blue bull, foxes, bustards, wild ass and peacocks.
• Wild ass, Siberian Crane and Houbara Bustard are globally significant species.
Pressure on biodiversity

• Hunting of animals is considered as a source of leisure by rich and influential.
• Tharparkar is a wildlife sanctuary, but wildlife department is ineffective in checking hunters.
• Hunting permits are issued by the department.

Houbara hunting by falcons

• Houbara Bustard (Chalamydotis undulata) hunting by falcons, mainly by Arab dignitaries in Pakistan including Tharparkar.

Role of indigenous people

Kolhi / Bheel are hired to assist hunters to locate animals. In this way they become a link in the process of threatening biodiversity.

SCOPE’s intervention

• Analyzed the situation.
• Mobilized indigenous people to give up hunting and assisting hunters.
• Efforts to mobilize other stake holders.
• Advocacy and litigation.
• Offered training in alternate livelihood trades.
Social mobilization

- Capacity development of these indigenous organizations
- Participatory learning on alternate livelihood trades

Advocacy and awareness raising

- Seminars
- Walks
- Rallies
- Litigations
- Demonstration
- Media campaigns

Development assistance

- Small revolving fund for loans.
- Sensitize society about the plight of indigenous people
- Creating a social and political space for indigenous communities
- Develop water sanitation, agriculture projects for the development of indigenous people and

Alternate occupations
Lessons learned

- Effective social mobilization is the key
- Communicate to people with passion and understand their pains in human way
- Trust them
- They will work for well being of all

Output

Indigenous communities protect wildlife and help to sustain local ecology

Thank you for your kind attention