



Management Practices for Biodiversity Conservation through Community Conserved Areas in Meghalaya, India

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Abstract: Community Conserved Areas are described as natural or modified ecosystems which contain significantly high levels of biodiversity, provide ecological services, and preserve local cultural values (Upadhaya et al 2003). The purpose of this study is to document the traditional management practices for preserving biodiversity in their community conserved areas. Four villages in Khasi Hills District have been studied to understand the strategies used for managing their Community Conserved Areas. The study is based on observations of the ecological values of the groves, questionnaires and open ended interviews with key informants of the traditional management practices related to sacred groves and Other Effective (area based) Conservation Measures in these villages. Data are store and analysed in Excel and represented as graphs. The conservation efforts by communities include continuation of traditional management methods that lead to sustainable use practices, or where these traditions have been recently revived. The local people have been developed through long-term trial and experiments, an elaborate, functional and generally democratic system of conservation and management of forests and associated natural ecosystems.

Keywords: Management of community conserved areas, Traditional practices, Sacred groves, Meghalaya
