



ENHANCING COASTAL RESILIENCE

From Innovation to Impact

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Green Climate Fund Reviews ECRICC Interventions in Ganjam



A delegation from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), comprising Ms. Diane Jegam, Regional Manager, East and South Asia and Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin, Principal Climate Investment Specialist, visited Ganjam district to review the progress of the Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC) project.

The mission toured interventions across the Chilika–Ganjam and Bahuda landscapes, observing how ecosystem restoration and climate-resilient livelihoods are strengthening the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change. The delegation visited mangrove and seagrass restoration sites, seaweed farming units, grow-out crab culture, and backyard ornamental fisheries, while also interacting with Climate Champions, the project's grassroots leaders driving climate adaptation within their communities.

The mission also held discussions with Shri Prem Kumar Jha, State Project Director, ECRICC, and Shri Sunny Khokkar, DFO, Ganjam along with officials from the Forest Department, UNDP and the project team.

The GCF delegation commended ECRICC's integrated approach of combining ecosystem restoration with sustainable livelihoods to strengthen long-term resilience among Odisha's coastal communities.



Deputy CM Commends ECRICC at SRI Input Distribution Programme in Puri

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Prabhati Parida commended the ECRICC project's efforts to strengthen climate resilience and livelihood security while attending the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Input Distribution Programme at Kakatpur in Puri district in February 2026.



The programme, organized under ECRICC, brought together stakeholder including beneficiary farmers, community representatives, and officials from the Forest Department, the Directorate of Agriculture and allied departments in the presence of Shri Magar Dhanaji Raoso, Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Division, Puri-cum-Nodal Officer, ECRICC. During the event, SRI inputs were distributed to beneficiary farmers to promote climate-smart agricultural practices that improve productivity, optimize water use and enhance resilience to climate variability.

IIT-led training on seagrass and saltmarsh restoration

ECRICC field staff and forest department officials participated in hands-on technical training on seagrass and saltmarsh ecosystem restoration, conducted by IIT Bhubaneswar, Technical Support Agency. The programme strengthened participants' understanding of restoration techniques, field protocols and ecosystem management practices essential for conserving these critical coastal habitats.

Chilika Bird Festival Amplifies ECRICC's Climate Resilience Efforts



The Chilika Bird Festival 2026, held from 6–8 January in Bhubaneswar, was inaugurated by Prabhati Parida, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, in the presence of Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department and Shri Prem Kumar Jha, State Project Director, ECRICC.

Climate Champions shared first-hand accounts of leading climate action in their villages and demonstrated interventions such as mangrove and seagrass restoration, mud-crab farming and System of Rice Intensification.

ECRICC Showcases Odisha's Climate Resilience Model at Chhattisgarh Workshop



ECRICC Odisha was invited by the Chhattisgarh State Centre for Climate Change to participate in the one-day workshop organized to mark the International Day of Forests 2026. Representing the project, Shri Dilip Kumar Mahapatra, State Ecosystem and Livelihood Associate (SELA), delivered a presentation highlighting ECRICC's work in Odisha.

World Environment Day spotlights ECRICC's coastal restoration initiatives



At the state-level World Environment Day celebration, Climate Champions from Puri district interacted with Shri Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia, Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, while showcasing ECRICC's ecosystem restoration initiatives.



They highlighted community-led efforts under Output 1, including mangrove, seagrass and saltmarsh restoration being implemented across coastal Odisha.

Climate-Resilient Crab Culture Takes Centre Stage at Matsya Prani Samabesh Odisha 2026



The Matsya Prani Samabesh Odisha (MPSO-26), held in January, provided an opportunity for ECRICC Odisha to share its innovations in climate-resilient crab culture. The team presented practical insights from its grow-out crab culture interventions, demonstrating how scientific and community-based approaches are strengthening livelihoods.



ECRICC contributes to state dialogue on Blue and Green Economy



ECRICC, Odisha participated in the state-level workshop, 'Leveraging Blue and Green Economy for a Resilient Future', which brought together senior government officials, national institutions, academia, development partners, community representatives and the private sector to explore pathways for integrating Blue and Green Economy approaches into Odisha's Sustainable Development Goals and long-term development vision. Representing the project, Dr. Spandita Kar, State Project Manager, highlighted ECRICC's community-based interventions strengthened climate resilience among vulnerable coastal communities.

Aggregator unit strengthens Balasore's ornamental fish value chain



A new Ornamental Fish Aggregator Unit in Balasore is strengthening the district's ornamental fish value chain while creating climate-resilient livelihood opportunities for local communities. Supported under the ECRICC Project, the facility serves as a collection and marketing hub for ornamental fish produced by backyard growers. Equipped with rearing tanks and live-feed culture facilities, the unit currently aggregates around 10 ornamental fish species and has already marketed nearly 7,000 fish sourced from producers in Bhograi and Baliapal blocks. Managed by a local entrepreneur Amit Mohanty, the initiative demonstrates how climate-smart livelihood interventions can improve rural incomes, strengthen market linkages and enhance resilience in Odisha's vulnerable coastal communities.

Balasore promotes climate-smart farming through IPM and INM



Farmers across Balasore are adopting climate-smart agricultural practices through the ECRICC Project's promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM). The initiative equips farmers with practical knowledge on biofertilizers, organic manures, bio-pesticides, composting and sustainable soil management through training programmes, field demonstrations and hands-on sessions. This year, over 1,000 farmers from 15 Gram Panchayats received intensive training so far, while trained Climate Champions are helping scale up these practices at the village level. The initiative is improving soil fertility, reducing dependence on chemical inputs, enhancing crop productivity and strengthening the resilience of coastal farming communities to climate change.

PHOTO GALLERY



Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Prabhati Parida visits the ECRICC stall at the Subhadra Shakti Mela.



Climate Champions showcase ECRICC's ornamental fish culture and mangrove saplings at the 'Bikash Dhara Odisha Sara' Programme.

