

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details:

Name: Ashis Kumar Gharai

Father's Name: (Late) Dr. Krutibash Ghadei

DoB/ Age/ Gender: 21.05.1980/42/Male

Native of: Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha

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Professional Education & Academics:

M Sc. Forestry (Economics & Management) from **Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)- Forest Research Institute University (FRI)-Dehradun** (2001-03), A Certificate Course on **Wildlife & Eco-tourism** from **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Kharagpur** (2004) and **National Tiger Conservation Authority (Govt. of India) Fellowship** from **Wildlife Institute of India- Dehradun** (2006-07). Graduated in Zoology (Hons.) from **North Odisha University** (2000).

Key Expertise:

Experience of Strategic Program Planning and handling large scale Techno-Social Development projects under State Govt. / INGOs including CSR in various progressively responsible capacities in a multi-stakeholder environment

Techno-Social/ NRM/ Rural Development Sector Experience: -19 years (Mid 2003- till date)

History of Professional Associations:

Chief Program Officer & Head, of the **Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission (RGSTC)**, Mumbai, Govt. of Maharashtra, supported **Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC)**, Gadchiroli, (Maharashtra), **State Project Manager** for Community Conserved Areas project at **UNDP India (Odisha)**, **Area Manager/ State Representative** at **CHILD FUND India (Rajasthan)**, **Program Officer-Sustainable Forestry & NTFP based Livelihoods** at **Centre for People's Forestry, Hyderabad** (Andhra Pradesh, Odisha & Jharkhand), **Project Director CSR** at **Shamayita Math-National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)-Chhattisgarh**, **Project Coordinator** at **UNICEF (Odisha)** and **Natural Resource Manager** at **PRAGYA (Arunachal Pradesh)**, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), GoI. State Headquarters, Department of Forests, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

UN Observer at **Conference of Parties (CoP) to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, representative at **International Workshops on Resource Mobilization (IWRM)**, and **Management Development Trainee** in **Criteria & Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management** at **IIFM, Bhopal**.

Community Engagement:

Through the whole gamut of experiences, I am privileged to have worked with various urban & primitive tribal/ rural communities, especially with youths for their **economic empowerment** through **natural resource management, sustainable resource utilization, skill enhancement and entrepreneurship development** in some of the major tribal pockets of our country, such as Dongoria Kondho of southern Odisha and Chhattisgarh, Chenchu tribes of Nallamalla forests in Andhra Pradesh, Apatanni/Monpa tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujjars of Uttarakhand, Bheel communities of southern Rajasthan and Burud community of south-eastern Vidharbha.

Consolidation of Relevant Work Experience since 2003:

Along with the experience of leading, managing various large-scale projects across many states, I have hands on experience in the sphere of wildlife & natural resource conservation, environment and sustainable forest resource management & utilization, youth leadership & skill development, education and women empowerment for socio-economic wellbeing of many tribal & forest dwelling/ dependent communities.

- “Nesting Ecology of Saltwater Crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) of Bhitarkanika NP, Odisha” to understand the status of breeding population and ecology- **A. K. Gharai**, as part of Masters dissertation at **Forest Research Institute- Dehradun- 2003**
- **Ex-situ conservation/ marketing/ ethno-botany of important medicinal & aromatic plants** with Apatani/ Monpa communities of **Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, at PRAGYA- 2004**
- **“Monitoring Tigers, co-predators, it’s prey-base and habitation”**- in six TRs/ WLSs of central Indian landscape as a Research Fellow/ Biologist at **WII, Dehradun under the NTCA Fellowship- 2006-07**
- **Sustainable and scientific methods of honey harvesting and marketing** with Chenchu tribes of Nallamalla forests in Andhra Pradesh- CHELE project funded by **SDTT at CPF, Hyderabad- 2008**
- **Action research on availability, seasonality and market potential of major NTFPs of Jharkhand** at CPF, **A. K. Gharai**, funded by **Oxfam at CPF, Hyderabad-2008-09**
- **People’s Biodiversity Registers: Comparative analysis of changes in species richness in the VSS managed forests in the last decade in Andhra Pradesh- A. K. Gharai, CPF, Hyderabad 2009**
- **“Community Enterprise on community level Sal & Karanj Seed Oil Extraction”** in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand- Funded by **Oxfam at CPF, Hyderabad- 2010 (Published by CPF)**
- **Ethno-botanical Knowledge of Medicinal Plants among Tribal Communities in Orissa, India LS Kandari, A. K. Gharai, Tripti Negi and PC Phondani- Forest Research/ Open Access- 2012**
- Participated in many nature education & awareness, scientific enumeration, human-elephant conflicts and elephant corridor projects under Odisha Forest Dept. as **UNDP state representative- 2011-13**
- Managed a **‘Paddy Productivity Enhancement Through Improved Agronomy Practices’** project for 1200 farmers of Dantewada, Chhattisgarh; a collaborative project with Dr. Reddy’s Foundation- **at NMDC (CSR)- 2013**
- Worked to **resurrect 46 defunct WSHGs** for bank linkages and inter-loaning in **Dantewada, Chhattisgarh, under a NABARD funded project at NMDC (CSR)-Shamayita Math, 2013**
- Worked for Youth Skilling Program to provide need-based skill enhancement training (Residential/ Non-residential) and placement to local youths (including women) of southern Rajasthan, in trades such as **Stitching/ Tailoring/ Masonry/ Electrician/ Mobile Repair/ Driving etc.- Funded by ChildFund-Germany at ChildFund India-2014-15**
- Initiated the **Sustainable Livelihood Development Project (SLDP) for agriculture/ skill based capacity building**, training and entrepreneurship development for tribal youths/ marginal farmers and setting up of Youth Resource Centre (YRC) in south Rajasthan- Funded by **ChildFund-Germany at ChildFund India- 2015-16**
- To remove barriers in education, under the three phases of **‘Reading Improvement Program’**, established **11 Solar Schools and provided Solar Lanterns to over 1500 school going children** of deprived, vulnerable communities in southern **Rajasthan at ChildFund India- 2015-16**
- Science & Technology as an aid to the traditional technology to ensure local livelihood enhancement and human resource development and to develop STRC as a **center of excellence for sustainable value creation in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, 2016-2019**
- Leading a Department of Science & Technology (DST) supported project as **Principal Investigator** on Scientific cultivation practices of selected medicinal plants in Gadchiroli, **2018-2021**

Detailed List of Relevant Work Experiences (Current employment first):

Organization/ Designation/ Location/ Period	Responsibilities/ Achievements
<p>1. Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission- Govt of Maharashtra-</p> <p>Chief Program Officer & Head STRC (Gadchiroli- Maharashtra)</p> <p>June 2016- onwards</p>	<p>Chief of Programs & Head of institute: Working to develop STRC as a center for excellence in Sustainable Value Creation (Aquaculture & Livelihoods/ Bamboo Craft & Livelihoods, NTFP/Med plants & Other Livelihoods/ Applicable R & D and Academic Program Development etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible to identify program specific needs across all projects being implemented in the region and to lead (a team of Scientific Officers) Strategy Development & Program Implementation and project teams to ensure smooth execution of various projects• To work towards strengthening the capacity of the team and build a good working culture within the organization. Taking up periodic mentoring/ one on one session to prepare productive professionals• To liaise and develop close collaboration with IIT Bombay, MAFSU, VNIT and state/ district level Govt. agencies to implement various relevant schemes as a Nodal/ Technical Agency• To create and engage with a pool of faculties and knowledge group for developing integrated livelihood plan for the communities of the region• To conceive and implement relevant projects in collaboration with Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of AYUSH, National Academy of Sciences India (NASI), Govt. of India. In close collaboration with the local Forest Dept. to implement forest-based livelihood initiatives• To ensure of farm productivity enhancement, advance aquaculture, medicinal plant cultivation through Demonstration & Technology Transfer and ensure Access and Benefit Sharing of NTFPs by the local communities• To oversee budgetary provisions, financial compliance, budget v/s expenditure, project timelines etc.
<p>2. ChildFund India</p> <p>Area Manager/ State Representative - Rajasthan</p> <p>July 2014- Dec 2015</p>	<p>Head of Operations at State Level: Team management, setting direction, supporting, implementing and decision-making. Proactively involved with the national coordination team to develop Country Strategic Plan aligned with regional priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implemented Reading Improvement Programs for primary schools• Implemented Sustainable Livelihood Development Projects (SLDP)- Youth centric, Capacity building & training on economically viable models for Agriculture/ Forest based Entrepreneurship Development,• Established Model Youth Resource Center for Skill Based Livelihood Training.• Stakeholder Engagement, Institutional networks, Coalitions and Building Strategic Alliance, Community level institution building to nurture them to become change agents for their society

<p>3. Shamayita Math - National Development Corporation (NMDC)- CSR</p> <p>Project Director- CSR Dantewada- CG.</p> <p>April 2013- June 2014</p>	<p>Project Director for CSR Initiatives: Planning and management of large scale projects and strategic inputs on Supportive Education & Nutrition, Agriculture/ Forest based livelihood enhancement and Hospital on Wheels projects. Integrated Village Development approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led a team of over 200 community workers and young professionals to implement the projects. Mentoring & technical support to team members • Engagement with District & State govt. counterparts and create community platforms • Women empowerment through SHGs/ enterprise development with efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming and creating enabling environment for decision making • Annual project layout of about 7.0 Cr. for 100 villages around Dantewada
<p>4. United Nations' Development Program (UNDP)- India</p> <p>State Project Manager- Odisha</p> <p>Nov 2010- Mar 2013</p>	<p>Head of Operations at State Level: Led the project through effective daily project management, including administrative, budgeting, planning and general monitoring, strategic inputs on effective fund utilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured adequate information flow, discussions and feedback among the various stakeholders • Deliberated with Dept. of Forests, State/ District Biodiversity Board Odisha to ensure effective implementation of the project-Natural Resource Conservation outside Protected Areas • Led periodic community consultations on Olive Ridley/ Blackbuck conservation, awareness and participation of all stakeholders • Ensured that participatory methodologies employed by the project are particularly sensitive to women's participation
<p>5. Centre for People's Forestry (CPF), Hyderabad</p> <p>Program Officer- Sustainable Forestry (Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand)</p> <p>Dec 2007- Oct 2010</p>	<p>Coordination with NGO partners and Govt. agencies -Sustainable Forestry Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a database of forest resources present, resource harvesting and utilization patterns in the VSS managed forest through Biodiversity register review/ Resource mapping, Micro planning exercises • Collaborated with various forest based research institutions to develop, document, disseminate and demonstrate sustainable (optimum yield) harvesting practices for various NTFPs at the community level • Conducted need-based action research studies and developed proposals on forest-based livelihood initiatives in project locations for future interventions • Worked closely with district level authorities for alienation of land rights (Individual and community forest rights) under Forest Rights Act in selected districts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand

<p>6. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun Research Biologist (Central Indian Landscape)</p> <p>Jan 2003 – Aug 2003 July 2006 – Nov 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters dissertation on “Nesting Ecology of saltwater crocodiles (<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>) in Bhitarkanika NP, Odisha” as part of my Masters to understand the status of breeding population, behavioral & nesting ecology & effect of biotic interference on nesting pattern • Part of the elite national research team of the NTCA (GoI) collaborative project titled “Monitoring Tigers, its Co-predators, Prey base and their Habitats” across 06 TRs/ WLSs of central Indian landscape • Vegetation Mapping, Carnivore Sign Surveys, Camera Trapping, Radio Collaring, cat movement monitoring
<p>7. PRAGYA Natural Resource Manager- Arunachal Pradesh</p> <p>May 2004 – Dec 2004</p>	<p>Supervision and technical inputs to raise medicinal and aromatic plant nurseries and plantation sites in various parts of Tawang & East Kamang Districts of Arunachal Pradesh</p>
<p>8. Forest Development Agency (Rayagada, Odisha)- ICFRE</p> <p>July 2003- Feb 2004</p>	<p>Scientific inventory and ethno-botany of the medicinal and aromatic plants of Niyamgiri Hill Ranges of Eastern Ghats</p>

Declaration:

I hereby declare that, the information furnished above are true to the best of my knowledge.

(Ashis Gharai)