

## Tribal Communities Shaping Their Futures

### ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA 2010 FACT SHEET

#### ARUNACHAL MISSION

To mobilize human energy for community development and conservation statewide

#### APPROACH

Enable communities to see their opportunities and build their capabilities for positive change

Women's groups mobilize communities, improve health and sanitation, and create sustainable local economies. They inspire groups, such as farmers and youth clubs, to join the process.

#### 2009 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Continued village-level activities and outreach through three "Learning and Doing Centers" run by local committees

Extended outreach to 30 villages in three new sites and conducted extensive health training in these sites using new training methods

Transformed a previously government-run Primary Health Care Center into a community-run facility through the Ministry of Health's Public-Private Partnership Program

Trained 732 people in 153 villages in water quality monitoring

Supported numerous youth-led environmental campaigns in schools and communities



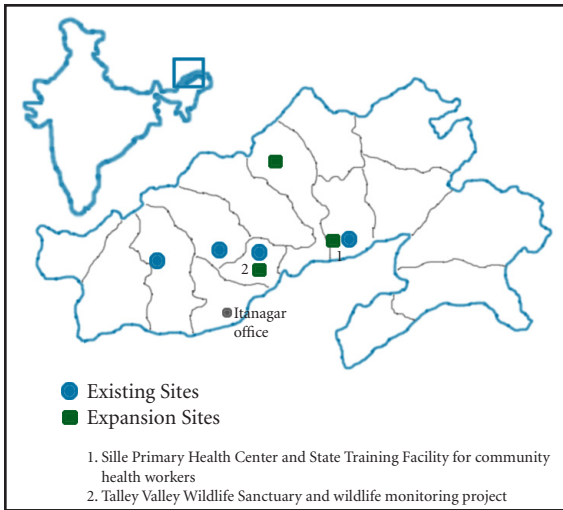
In northeastern India, the tribal communities of Arunachal Pradesh learn skills and create action groups to improve their lives and protect the environment. For 10 years, Future Generations Arunachal has promoted community-led development and conservation. Today more than 92 women's action groups promote health, expand kitchen gardens, improve water quality, and increase household income.

In 2010, these activities are strengthened through: 1) Regional learning centers linking health, livelihoods, and conservation, 2) Applied research to monitor the impact of integrated approaches, and 3) Statewide training in health and governance.

#### REGIONAL LEARNING CENTERS LINKING HEALTH, LIVELIHOODS, AND CONSERVATION

Three "Learning and Doing Centers" or "classrooms without walls" promote action learning in comprehensive development. Each Center implements projects based on local priorities and trains more communities in *how* to:

- Create women's action groups and farmer's clubs
- Improve health by increasing prevention skills in the home
- Create and implement community workplans
- Conduct skits and raise awareness about alcohol addiction and child marriage
- Start kitchen gardens, piggery, fishery, and traditional handicraft businesses
- Start women's micro-credit programs to increase household income
- Monitor progress using local data with a special focus on health indicators
- Monitor biodiversity and promote more sustainable agricultural methods



## 2010 MAJOR INITIATIVES

**Research:** Extend and measure the impact of women's empowerment and health interventions in three new sites and partner with the University of Ottawa and Johns Hopkins University on collaborative evaluation projects.

**Demonstrate:** Continue to support action learning opportunities for communities that meet local priorities linking health, livelihoods, and conservation

**Teach:** Operate a statewide training center for women community health workers and promote the statewide training of *Gram Panchayat* (village council) members.

## PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Future Generations Arunachal is a registered Indian charitable society and a formal partner organization of Future Generations. Future Generations Arunachal is managed from the bottom-up by a statewide network of Local Coordinating Committees working with more than 90 women's groups and 1,000 volunteers.



Dr. Tage Kanno serves as Executive Director of Future Generations Arunachal. He is a pediatrician by training and a graduate of Future Generations Master's Degree program.

In 2010, Future Generations Arunachal supports action learning opportunities in these sites. These include:

- Wildlife surveys using infrared camera traps and the traditional knowledge of tribal hunters (supported by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund)
- A Ford Foundation supported project to promote community-based ecotourism through village home-stay accommodations and the training of local tour guides
- A River Rafting Cooperative, supported by *Travel+Leisure* magazine, in the Siang (Brahmaputra) River Valley
- Youth-led environmental awareness campaigns (supported by the UNDP Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Program)
- Campaigns in solid waste management, with support from the Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of India
- Mothers' training programs in home-based health care
- Water quality monitoring in collaboration with the Department of Public Health Engineering and Water Supply, Arunachal Pradesh

## APPLIED RESEARCH TO MONITOR THE IMPACT OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES IN NEW SITES

Future Generations is reaching out to three new sites with no previous access to social services. The goal is to extend and measure the impact of women's empowerment and health interventions that appear to be successful in other parts of the state. In addition, research in collaboration with the Teasedel Corti Global Health Research Initiative under the aegis of the University of Ottawa is evaluating the interrelationships among gender empowerment, community participation, and comprehensive primary health care in Future Generations program areas. Another research project, supported by the Center for Liveable Futures, John Hopkins University, focuses on the role of kitchen gardening in food security and women's empowerment.

## STATEWIDE TRAINING IN HEALTH AND GOVERNANCE

Future Generations Arunachal manages a primary health clinic as part of a Public-Private Partnership with the Arunachal Ministry of Health. In addition to being a model clinic that is managed with active community participation, this facility serves as a statewide training center for Village Welfare Workers (VWWs). VWWs are local women who volunteer their time to improve health. They also serve as leaders and trainers of Women's Action Groups.

From 2005 to 2008, Future Generations Arunachal trained 1700 of the 6000 village elected members of the *Gram Panchayat* (village council) to prepare and implement workplans based on local priorities. The organization proposes to establish 10 model *Gram Panchayats* in the state as learning centers in how to improve local governance.