

## **STATUS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS CONSERVATION AREA (MPCA) IN TAMANA RESERVE FORESTS OF KHURDA FOREST DIVISION, ORISSA.**

SMITHA G. NAIR<sup>1</sup> AND G. RAJESH<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nayagarh*

*Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT)*

<sup>2</sup>*Deputy Conservator of Forests, Khurda Forest Division, Khurda -752055, Orissa, India*

*Corresponding author: grajeshifs@gmail.com*

**ABSTRACT:** Medicinal Plant Conservation Area (MPCA) in Tamana reserve forests of Khurda forest division, is one of the six MPCAs in the state of Orissa designated for in-situ conservation of medicinal plants. The floristic survey of MPCA has recorded 375 species of plants in the conservation area, which includes 161 tree species, 51 species of shrubs, 83 species of herbs and 80 species of climbers. MPCA harbours 17 species out of 41 prioritized species identified for Orissa, by the CAMP process and also includes the two critically endangered species viz., *Saraca asoca* and *Symplocos racemosa*. The experience gained in MPCA programme, proved to be a handy tool in framing conservation and species recovery approaches in Khurda division. Species recovery interventions for *Saraca asoca* is already in place in the division, while other prioritized species viz., *Calamus* spp are under consideration. MPCAs are potential study sites for recovery research of threatened species. The conservation and management of medicinal plant is possible through suitably designed area specific participatory models.

**Key words:** *Critically endangered, in-situ, MPCA, Orissa, Saraca asoca*

### **Abbreviations**

**CCF-II** - Country Cooperation Framework for years 2003-2007

**CAMP** - Conservation Assessment and Management Prioritization

**IUCN** - International Union for Conservation of Nature

**MPCA** - Medicinal Plants Conservation Area

**UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme