

For just



Dollar this land could belong to their family.

India's Tribal people, and other forest dwellers, gain the right to their land

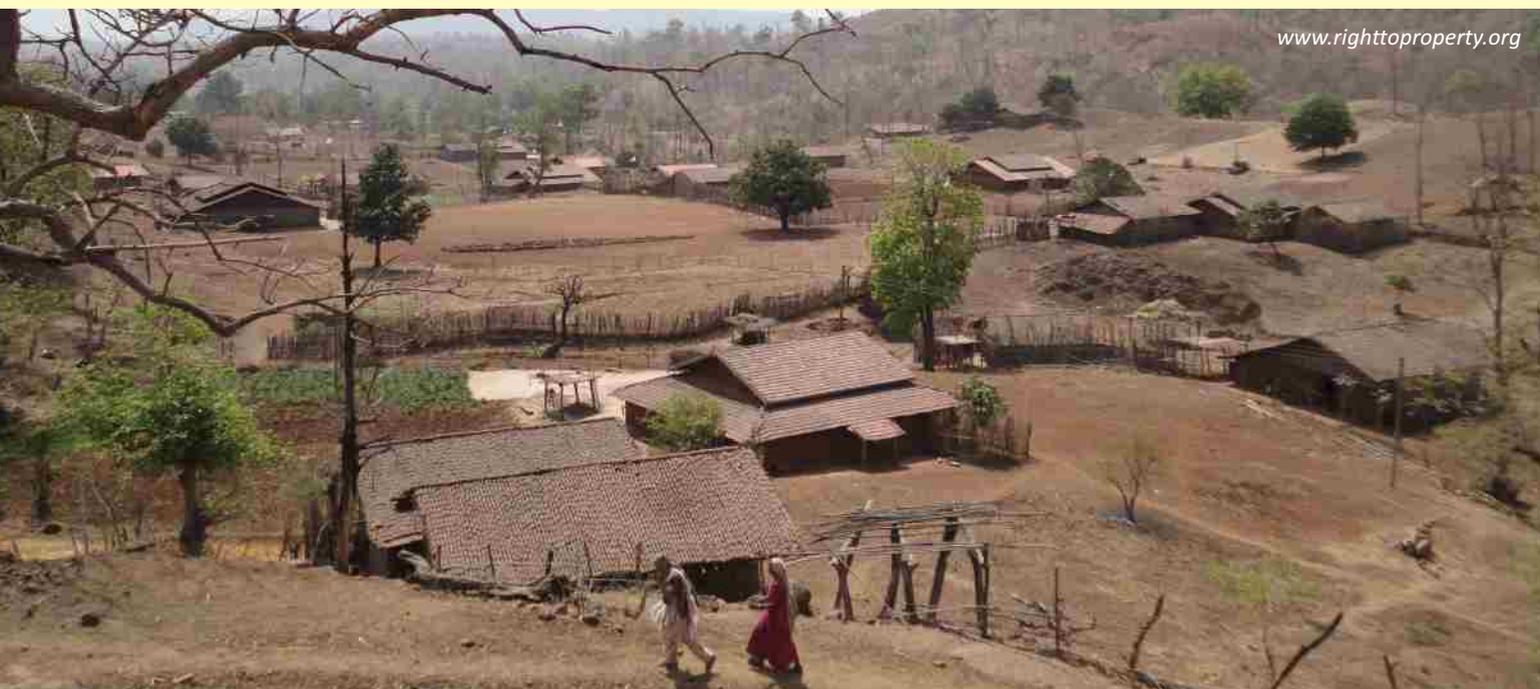
In 2006, tribal villagers across India were granted the right to own the land they had farmed when the Forest Rights Act was passed into law - a right denied to them up until then, and one that required hard legal battles and involved intense social mobilisation and political jockeying. Converting this right into legal title, to be jointly held by an adult couple, required mapping, documentary proof, and several levels of approval – a difficult exercise for communities which are amongst the poorest in India.

But require help to prepare their claims

In India's western state of Gujarat, the NGO, **Action Research in Community Health & Development (ARCH)**, and **Liberty Institute** have been collaborating to help tribal communities prepare and substantiate claims for their traditional land, using simple hand-held GPS instruments to survey their holdings, and map these onto satellite imagery.

This initiative flowed from the grass-roots, and with some training inputs from **ARCH Vahini**, the bulk of the mapping work is carried out by resident villagers. Our work resulted in a total of 12,000 claims being prepared and submitted for approval.

About 90% of the claims submitted were approved on the basis of this evidence.



250 dollars could entitle this whole village to their land rights

250 dollars could help this whole village claim their land rights Without help, their claims are rejected

In the rest of tribal Gujarat, a total of 1,80,000 claims had been filed, but only about 50,000 claims have been approved. More than 128,000 claims were rejected. We believe that all these claims are genuine, and were rejected due to a very narrow definition of what imagery was acceptable. In other states, too, many claims were rejected, or the actual approval given for only a fraction of the area claimed.

High Court directs speedy redressal

ARCH filed Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Gujarat High Court, seeking relief for the tribal claimants in August, 2011. In the judgement dated May 3, 2013 the High Court has directed the State Administration to expedite the clearance of these claims, expressly broadening the scope of acceptable imagery. We believe this will lead to speedy redressal for the 128, 800 families that are reflected in the Court Order.



www.righttoproperty.org

500 dollars could buy us 2 GPS instruments to survey village after village..

We need your help to help them

As a direct consequence, ARCH has been swamped by requests from tribal families across Gujarat, to help prepare their claims. We have our work cut out to prepare and substantiate hundreds of thousands of claims. But the benefits will last generations. Expanding the process will aid millions, across India.

We need funds to **buy more GPS instruments**, to **upgrade the web platform**, to **process the growing volume of data**, and to **strengthen our organisational ability**.

For more details on our work, visit Right to Property: www.righttoproperty.org

Donations may be made by cheque payable to:

1. Friends of ARCH, Kaushika Patel, 223 Nassau Blvd., Garden City Park, NY 11040;
Tel No. (516) 741-4155 ; Fax No. (516) 873-8930
Friends of ARCH, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organisation. (Tax ID: 13-3903010)

2.Liberty Institute**, 4/8 Sahyadri, Plot 5, Sector 12, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078. India
or transferred directly to account no: 905520100 57517
Syndicate Bank, South Block Branch, New Delhi 110 011. India
Swift Code: SYN BIN BB 171 (for international transfer)
IFSC CODE: SYNB0009055 (for domestic Indian transfer)

**Donations to ARCH and Liberty Institute qualify for tax deduction under Section 80G of the Indian Income Tax Act.*

***Website: www.InDefenceofLiberty.org | www.EmpoweringIndia.org | Email: info@LibertyInstitute.org.in*

An initiative of



Action Research in
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