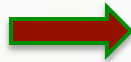


THE VAN GUJJARS

Traditionally the Van Gujjars are nomadic buffalo herdsman who reside within the forests of the N. Indian, Himalayan states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Van Gujjars' livelihoods revolve around buffalo husbandry and depend upon the use of and access to the forests. Using sustainable forestry practices, the buffalo are fed upon lopped tree leaves and grasses; buffalo milk provides the community with their income.

LIVELIHOOD CHALLENGES *(Past & Present)*



- ❖ **UNRECOGNISED FOREST RIGHTS:** The Van Gujjars' inhibited and highly regulated access and use of the forests, by the state Forest Departments, threaten the foundation of their livelihoods.
- ❖ **DOMICILE RIGHTS:** Due to unrecognised citizenship, the Van Gujjars were denied voting power and welfare service, which could support their livelihoods.
- ❖ **POVERTY:** middlemen who bought the buffalo milk for pittance and offered high interest loans drove the Van Gujjars into poverty.

FIND OUT MORE &
CAMPAIGN @
www.sophiaindia.org

Designed by Eleanor
Williams © SOPHIA



Fakira, Kahatta Khol



Maria, Sahra Khol



©Michael Benanav