

# Activity Report of Sahjeevan

Reporting Period: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Submitted to: The General Body Of Sahjeevan



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**Vision**

To craft a society that nurtures value-based eco systems where nature and human beings live in harmony, and embraces gender equality, traditional and cultural value.

**Mission**

We exist for conserving of ecosystems and the integration gender equality, human values, indigenous knowledge and novel technologies to strengthen traditional livelihoods, demonstrated by communities at the grassroots and policy level.

**Values****Collectivism**

Sahjeevan believes in collective efforts that focus on achieving broader objectives of ecological sustainability.

**De-centralisation**

Sahjeevan believes in decentralisation where ownership, authority, responsibility, decision making and leadership are in control of the community.

**Sustainability**

Sahjeevan believes in development/work which sustains ecosystems through community-led efforts.

**Gender Equality**

Sahjeevan believes in gender equality where women and men play equally decisive role in sustaining ecosystem-based livelihoods.

**Ethnicity**

Sahjeevan believes that ethnic values, culture and traditional wisdom create knowledge that helps balance ecosystem. Therefore, the world needs to recognize ethnic ways of life.

**Human Values**

We believe in promoting a lifestyle where nature and human beings live in harmony to uphold values of sensitivity, morality, cooperation and equality amongst all castes and classes.

**Conservation**

We believe in conserving and balancing ecosystem for its sustainability.

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# 1 Drinking Water Unit:-

## Introduction

Create governance model for water management, protection of water resource, setting up pricing standard and advocating with State though Build capacity of PRI to ensure Water Security.

## Objective

- 1) Capacity building in respect of good water governance of Gram Panchayat and for development of local resources and its sustainability.
- 2) Advocacy with the Government for protection of water resources, proper pricing of water and raising standards of water governance.
- 3) Linkage of villages interested in the activities of development of drinking water resources and its sustainability with the Government.

## Activities

- 1) To link demand for development of drinking water resources from the villages with the Government schemes and departments.
- 2) Formation of water committee at Abadasa Taluka Panchayat level and to obtain legal recognition.
- 3) To act with 30 model Panchayats for activities of good water governance.
- 4) To Developing a model of underground water security at Karmata village of Abadasa Taluka.
- 5) Advocacy with State for policy revision in respect of study of water pricing.
- 6) To undertake base line study of villages of Kachchh, Rajkot and Surendranagar Districts falling under the jurisdiction of I.O.C.L.

## Strategy

- 1) To Develop a models of good water governance with Gram Panchayats.
- 2) To give hand holding support and build capacity for various measures to ensure good water governance by Water Committees of Gram Panchayats.
- 3) To form cluster committee to strengthen taluka panchayat level water committee.
- 4) To form water committee at Taluka Panchayat level.
- 5) Capacity building of members of taluka panchayat level water committee.
- 6) To undertake activities with linkage with Taluka Panchayat, Water Supply and Gutter Management Board, WASMO, District Panchayat etc.

### 1.1 Formation of Water Committee at Abadasa Taluka Panchayat level

For sustained engagement, up-scaling in other villages of Abdasa and avoid 'slip backs' of water secure villages the good leadership of the program villages are being brought together to become the Pani Samiti of the Taluka Panchayat. These processes have been strengthening during the interim phase of in last one year. Process of formation of Taluka Panchayat Pani Samities has been initiated. However, since it is part of administration reforms, the process of legitimizing of Taluka Panchayat Pani Samiti (TPPS) is

taking more time than expected. A team of para worker and social worker has been working with Taluka Panchayat for coordination on demand of Gram Panchayata for water related activities. The team also explores convergence of Govt funds to fulfill demand of gram Panchayats.

For establishment of the principles of democratic governance system, local governing body i.e. three tier Panchayati Raj system has been created in our constitution. To ease issues of drinking water at village level, as per Gujarat Panchayat regulation-1993, provision has been made for formation of Water



Committee; the said committees have started to function nicely at village level however, they are still facing teething problems in respect of several issues. For permanent solution of drinking water related problems, there is need to strengthen Panchayati Raj infrastructure. For sustainable results in respect of water issues, capacity building of primary/grass root local organizations and for simultaneous coordination, monitoring and support at taluka level, need of Water Committee at Taluka panchayat level is being felt.

Main functions of Taluka Panchayat Water Committee are to support Panchayat Water Committee, good governance of water supply scheme, coordination and also to evaluate functioning of Gram Panchayats Water Committees, to provide technical and administrative support to them to enable water committees operating at village level to get guidance and support. Since drinking water related activities are being prioritized in various Government schemes, it is essential that there is a proper coordination between Government Departments and taluka level water committees play an important role plays of coordinator to solve water related issues in rural areas. Thus, to mitigate water related difficulties at taluka level, if regular planning, coordination and evaluation is undertaken and shortfalls are attended to by formation of water committees, sustainable activities can be seen in drinking water position.

In coordination with Abadasa Taluka Panchayat, a formal water committee has been formed at taluka level. For official recognition of the committee, process has been initiated at Taluka, District and State level with Taluka Panchayat, District Panchayat and Development Commissioner. Abadasa Taluka has been divided in to three clusters and Cluster Committees have been formed according to clusters. Discussion took place at General body meeting of the Taluka Panchayat for formation of the committee and to make it official Water Committee and Taluka Panchayat has sought cooperation from the District Panchayat for activities-responsibilities and proper administration of the said committee. After guidance from the District Panchayat, a proposal for formation of water committee shall be prepared and forwarded to the Development Commissioner through District Panchayat.

## 1.2 Developing governance model in 30 Panchayats for drinking water security –



Activities for raising drinking water security are being undertaken since long by the Government, Panchayat and local organizations. Because of excellent efforts by Panchayats, local organizations and the Government to raise water resources and to make them sustainable, effective and useful work are visible in rural areas. Own drinking water resources have been raised in many villages and on availability of sufficient water, they have implemented their own schemes and drinking water is being supplied to every house of such village by

means of electric motor or solar pump and thus village itself takes care of its own drinking water scheme. Since long, efforts are being made by the Government, Panchayats and local organisations to ensure that drinking water scheme raised at village level is operated and managed by Panchayats.

Based on the understanding developed on the experience of “ Pani thiye Panjo “ program, those Panchayats which have made this an issue and have managed things well, people are getting drinking water very satisfactorily. Thus capacity building of Panchayats and their water committees in respect of good water governance is very essential. At the time of initiation of the activity of good water governance by Sahjeevan, 30 Panchayats were taken as model to understand them and details as to how they are proceeding ahead on the issue of water governance were collected. Initially, along with the panchayats, norms were decided to understand their water governance and evaluate the same. 30 Panchayats were identified as model to take lead for good water governance in Abadasa Taluka. In concentrated process with the panchayats, it was anticipated that panchayats nicely takes over the water supply schemes and manage in a sustainable manner for longer time.

पंचायतको हिसाब नामुनो नं. ४  
 तहसील नं. ५४-शहाय तेवी शहाल पहाड  
 गाम/नगर पंचायतने वेस/नीज नामां मयसानी पहाड  
 लुड नं. घर नं. ५६ नमूना नं. ६६  
 श्री. ... माटे वेस / नीज नामां पेदे रकम मागले.  
 २०१३ -२०१४

५२ वेसको प्रकार वेस सिवायको नीज ज्वजको	पाएली नको		खुलु		कुल सट्याको	
	अ.	पैसा	अ.	पैसा	अ.	पैसा
घरवेस	—	—	१११००	१००००	५२१००	—
आ-पाणी वेस	—	—	—	—	—	—
पाणी वेस	—	—	५००००	५००००	५००००	५००००
भासु वेस	—	—	५००००	५००००	५००००	५००००
सडास वेस	—	—	५००००	५००००	५००००	५००००
सन्ध वेस	—	—	—	—	—	—
ता. पं. विपडर	—	—	—	—	—	—
वेस सिवायको नामां	—	—	—	—	—	—
कोटिस डी	—	—	—	—	—	—
पोरट डी	—	—	—	—	—	—
कुल	—	—	५६१००	५५०००	५२१००	५२१००

रकम मागे उपिया ...  
 तारीख १३/११/२०१३  
 वसुध विचार कोरि विभागाको सली

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## Panchayat deciding below Steps for Governance of Drinking water

- 1) Formation of Water Committee at the Panchayat in the Gramsabha as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 92 (4)
- 2) Any asset created in the village should be registered in the Panchayat Asset Register no-19 as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 108
- 3) Prepare budget of O & M of Water Scheme & Integrate with financial budget of Panchayat as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 116(1)
- 4) Draft Rules and regulations formed by the Water Committee and get it approved in the Gramsabha and write on display board as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 275
- 5) Maintain records of all financial transactions of Water Scheme as per the Panchayati Raj Act as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 200,114
- 6) Co-ordination meeting between the water committee and the Panchayat to be held every month as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 91
- 7) Present Accounts of Water Scheme in Gramsabha on Quarterly Basis, as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 93, 94
- 8) Protection for Surface & Groundwater guideline as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section-108, 275

Working along with Panchayat was a bit different activity than activity management because since Panchayati Raj regulations want Panchayats to handle water supply scheme, this activity was to be taken at every step of Panchayats, such as Gramsabha, General body meeting of Panchayat and for every issue was to be sanctioned with a resolution by panchayats with priority.

### Present position of good water governance is as under:

Steps of Governance for Drinking water	Target	Initial position as on 01/04/2011	Position up to March, 2014.
Formation of Water Committee at the Panchayat in the Gramsabha as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 92 (4)	30	10	30
Any asset created in the village should be registered in the Panchayat Asset Register no-19 as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 108	30	07	29
Prepare budget of O & M of Water Scheme & Integrate with financial budget of Panchayat as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 116(1)	30	01	24
Draft Rules and regulations formed by the Water Committee and get it approved in the Gramsabha and write on display board as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 275	30	04	19
Maintain records of all financial transactions of Water Scheme as per the Panchayati Raj Act as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 200,114	30	08	18

As per Panchayati regulation section number -108, Gram Panchayat has to ensure security/safety of drinking water wells, lake, inflow and infrastructural facilities and as per Panchayati regulation section - 275 policy rules for usage of underground water resources should be formulated.	03	00	01
Co-ordination meeting between the water committee and the Panchayat to be held every month as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 91	15	00	19
Present Accounts of Water Scheme in Gramsabha on Quarterly Basis, as per Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act Section 93, 94	15	00	19

### **1.3 Develop model on protection of ground water in Karmata village of Abadasa taluka –**

As a part of good water governance, protection of drinking water resources in Abadasa Taluka for supply water for a longer period, a technical guideline was prepared. Accordingly, for proper implementation of the guideline by Panchayats, in depth discussions were held and during last year, activity for protection of underground water was implemented at village Karamta in coordination with Akari panchcyat.

Below mentioned activities were carried out at village Karamata for protection of the water resources;

- 1) Discussions were held with community, Panchayat and Water Committee for understanding about protection of underground water.
- 2) Registration of drinking water infrastructure has been done in Asset Register in Akari Panchayat.
- 3) Akri Gram panchayat and leaders of Karmata village visited drinking water source (core zone) – Aquifer area of drinking water Source and buffer zone Catchment area of Pond.
- 4) After tracking of the core and buffer zone area by Gram Panchayat for Protection of Drinking water source, discussion was held in Panchayat meeting.
- 5) Discussions were held at Gramsabha with all the stake holders falling within core zone and buffer zone, and finalized strategy of usage of water andland.
- 6) A resolution was passed at Gramsabha of Karamta village for maintenance and protection of drinking water resources.
- 7) A resolution was adopted at the General body meeting of Panchayat ratifying the resolution of General body meeting of the Gramsabha.
- 8) Discussion was held with concerned Government departments in respect of underground water safety resolution of Gramsabha and copy of resolution of General body meeting and map showing core zone and buffer zone.





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- 9) Board highlighting rules and regulation policy in respect of drinking water source safety was displayed on a wall by Karmata village and Akari Panchayat and core zone and buffer zone were demarcated by fixing pillars.
  - 10) Detailed discussions were held by Karamata village with Gramsabha, Panchayats, Talati, Members of the Panchayat, Farmers etc. as to why safety of resources of drinking water is necessary and rules and policy regulations were formulated for safety of underground water.

#### **1.4 Drinking water Security–**

In Kachchh District, work has commenced to Developing Water resources for drinking water Security. Sahjeevan supported 8 villages Panchayat for developing technical plan, for drinking water security. 3 Panchayas have completed their drinking water plan. Wasmo and GWSSB have been providing financial support for drinking water security projects. Team also providing technical and execution support to creating water security in grassing route for animals in Rapar and Lakhapat Taluka.

#### **1.5 Advocacy for Water pricing, water governance and Ground water protection models learning with Community and State-**

During the year, Sahjeevan has taken up activities of good water governance with 30 Panchayats. Now a day, drinking water is considered as a technical issue but its Political, Social issue also. Panchayat is an important structure to ensure equal distribution of water, all household get sufficient and regular supply of water. Advocacy has been made with the Government, Panchayats and people, Water Committees work in coordination and every Panchayat should have its own good water governance.

Karamata is the first village in the State of Gujarat which has taken initiative for long security of drinking water for adopting underground water security measures. Advocacy has been made with the people, Panchayats, Taluka Panchayat and at State level to ensure that the other villages too follow Karmata village implementing permanent solution of drinking water in their village. Karamata village established their governance system through forming rules and regulation and policy for Drinking water Security.

#### **1.6 Water pricing study-**

The Drinking Water Unit has also taken up a study on Water Pricing with the objectives of Understand the policy of Govt of Gujarat on water supply and its mechanism of costing and pricing, to understand the actual cost incurred by communities in operating their own decentralised water supply systems in different ecological and physiographic settings of Kutch, provide the principles for developing a pricing policy and provide recommendations to the state and other development agencies on pricing or investment policies based on the evidence gathered Based on findings of the study, following recommendations can be given for principles to be followed for policy framework.

- 1) Policy should incentivize capital investment for shallow aquifer based water resource schemes rather than deep ground water based schemes. That can be supported through surface water based schemes in scarce resource or poor quality of local source.
- 2) Policy should prioritise use of local source first and distance water should be brought-in for short fall / poor quality.

- 3) Price of water supplied from distance source should be comparatively higher so that village Panchayats gets promoted to set up their own local sources.
- 4) Individual schemes based on shallow aquifer should incentivize such a way that Panchayats take initiatives to own their water scheme.
- 5) Incentives for energy subsidy to be linked with depth and consumption of water to protect deep ground water and energy resources.
- 6) Policy should promote adoption of renewable energy based pumping systems (solar pumps) to draw water from source.
- 7) Tariff for water should be on volumetric basis. Further village Panchayats promoted to develop tariff at household level on volumetric basis.
- 8) Industries should be charged on a profitable basis so that cross subsidy can balance the cost for rural and other users.
- 9) Pricing policy for industries should be designed such a way that Industries get promoted to set up their own desalination plant
- 10) Pricing for social sector, education and health institutions should be subsidized.
- 11) GWSSB which is a primary agency for water supply should run on a financially viable model.
- 12) Method for calculating cost of water should be standardized at all level.
- 13) Policy should have provisions for strengthening of Village/Taluka Panchayats for Water Governance aspects.



Based on the above observations, advocacy has been made with the Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board. As a part of the advocacy, meeting was held with Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board, WASMO and Gujarat Jal Seva Training Institute. A seminar was held at Gandhinagar on 19.01.2014 by Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board, WASMO and Sahjeevan in respect of observations about water pricing study.

## 1.7 Base line study – Indian Oil Corporation Limited (I.O.C.L.)-



To understand condition of water, Sanitation, education and health in 15 villages of Kachchh, Rajkot and Surendranagar Districts, a base line study was undertaken with I.O.C.L. After the completion of baseline study Water team was prepared short term intervention proposal for

project implementation.

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## **1.8 Achievements**

- 1) Could implement and identify Karamata village as a model of underground water safety.
- 2) 19 of 30 model panchayats of Abadasa taluka have formulated rules and policy regulations for good water governance, of which in 14 panchayats, rules and regulations of water scheme management and names of members of Water Committees have been displayed at a public place.
- 3) Issues of drinking water are put on agenda and discussed in Gramsabhas and General body meetings of 19 villages and water supply scheme is run satisfactorily.
- 4) A presentation was made at “Good Rural Governance for Citizen Participation” work shop arranged at national level by IRAD in respect of good governance work carried out in Abadasa taluka.
- 5) Base line study was undertaken in 15 villages of Kachchh, Rajkot and Surendranagar districts in cooperation with I.O.C.L.

## **1.9 Planning for Water Resource Unit for the year 2014-2015**

- 1) To get legal recognition for Water Committee at Abadasa Taluka Panchayat level and to link the same with Government schemes/programs.
- 2) To maintain relationship, so that 20 model Panchayats out of 30 Panchayats of Abadasa taluka continue to implement good water governance.
- 3) To link demands coming in from the villages of Kachchh district with various schemes and programs of the Government.
- 4) Advocacy with the Government on issues of water pricing, good water governance and underground water safety.
- 5) To work for drinking water and welfare in 10 villages under jurisdiction of I.O.C.L.
- 6) To work for drinking water facility for cattle in grazing areas in Kachchh district.
- 7) To strengthen water resources and livelihood in 13 villages of Anjar and Gandhidham Taluka.

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## 2 Centre for Pastoralism

### Introduction

It's been a year full of inspiration for all of us. The communities for which the team is been dedicatedly working is now coming forward and fighting their battle on their own. Sustenance and livelihood issues are of great concern to the community so as to the organisation. This time increasing participation has ignited the hope for a better future and a sustainable development.

Banni Breeders Association is motivating camel breeders to come forward for fighting their battle. Submission of claim files from all 53 villages of Banni as per the FRA requirements is enough in itself to explain the passion of environment conservation in every maldhari. It is an achievement that the maldhari association is growing stronger and healthier. Not only this but selection of Shri Salemamad Fakirmamad Halepotra in the 15 member committee formed by National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources as per the recommendations of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) for developing a road map for breeding and conservation of animal genetic resources.

Further in the report we will see the overall work status and some achievements of the team. Report is also equipped with the supporting documents which are mentioned as annexure for further clarifications.

### 2.1 Banni Pashu Uchchherak Maldhari Sangathan (BPUMS):

#### 2.1.1 Strengthening of BPUMS –

Since, last few years many movements like public rally, written notice were sent to State govt., letters were written to forest department for pushing the Forest Rights Act implementation in Banni region of Kachchh district. Looking at the efforts of few maldharies, many more have actively participated this time and increased the strength of the breeders association. Their voices were no longer unheard. As the theme of 7th Banni Pashu Mela was kept as 'Conservation and management of Banni Grassland through the **Community Forest Rights implementation under Forest Rights Act, 2006**', it was attended by our most esteemed dignitary Collector shri Harshat Patel and state level Minister for Cottage and Salt Industry Shri Vasambhai Ahir. Addressing the demands of Banni maldharies, Collector shri made an announcement- for the implementation of FRA, Banni maldharies has to start working on forming the Community Forest Rights Committee and Banni maldharies will also get their rights on forest as the other tribes in many parts of the nation have received on forest as per the notice released on 7-09-2012 by the state government of Gujarat. Encouraging the maldharies, both of them have promised to have every possible support from them. It was one of the remarkable achievements of BPUMS to take the FRA process further towards its successful implementation.

Initial months of this year were spent in organizing orientation meeting on the FRA and how is it going to be helpful for the attainment of their traditional rights over forest. Out of the 53 villages only 12 villages joined the campaign. As soon as the Pashu Mela got over in September collector shri sent a written

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notice for the formation of CFRCs of every village and work on the claim process as part of the major agendas of the gram sabha to be held on January 26. Within two months time representatives from all 53 villages have showed their active participation and prepared their file. All these files of the claim were sent to the Sub-divisional Level committee by the end of February. SDLC have also organized a training session for the claiming process on 29 January, 2014.

One of the noticeable contributions in the entire process of FRA was of an expert from Vasundhara Odisha, Mr. Tushar Dash was invited to conduct trainings on FRA for maldharies as and when required. Step-by-step the FRA campaign moved further and in every level Mr. Dash was invited to help people understand the entire process better. This was to further equip them with the technical know-how of the Act.

Few members were selected by the sangathan itself for the visit to Lekha Mendha village in Maharashtra. It is one of the villages who've won their fight on forest rights. The video documentation of the village was very inspiring for the villagers of Banni region.

Biodiversity Department of the organization initiated a research centre in Banni having their office in Hodka village of Banni, namely, RAMBLE. Before reaching to this level an advisory committee was formed within the BPUMS to decide on research topics and facilitations required for the same. Every decision related to the research conducted on the Banni grasslands through RAMBLE are scrutinized by these members of the advisory committee.

### **2.1.2 Forest Rights Act**

Maldharies, indigenous livestock keeping communities, is been managing, conserving and protecting the animal genetic resources and eco-system. Their Rights under the national and international Laws and Policies are not been given to them yet. Though the Forest Rights Act amendment is come in 2006, still the community is deprived of it. It's been more than two years now that the community is fighting constantly and strategically for the attainment of their traditional rights over forest. In the month of March, 2013 and April, 2013 maldharies from Banni started their dialogue with the district and state level authoritarians regarding the implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006 in Banni region of Kachchh. The process of forming Biodiversity Management Committees and Community Forest Rights Committees with the consent of every voter of the respective village in the Gram Sabha was in progress. Collector of the district in his support appointed an officer for regular follow-ups and for local assistance in Kachchh. On the May 7, 2013, FRA officer at the district level, Shri Shah visited the Banni region in person and his understanding on various aspects related to conservation and protection was enriched after the visit.

Soon after the visit, members of both BMC and CFRC were called for a meeting at the district levels and reading material in Gujarati language was given to them. These members then conducted several meeting with the members of the breeders association for mobilizing them on the FRA process. On October 10, 2013 a workshop on FRA was organized in Kachchh university hall. It was facilitated by Sahjeevan with the technical support from Vasundhara organization, Orissa, an expert; Mr. Tushar Dash was invited for the same. The agenda of this workshop was to involve other NGOs active in Kachchh working with many other communities who are also dependent on forest. Collectively, the process was

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understood and FRA implementation for other dependent communities was planned. Total 7 institutions and Deputy Forest Officer from Forest Department have participated in the workshop.



In order to channelize the claiming process and take unanimous decision, a Maha Sabha was conducted on Republic Day (2014). The Maha Sabha was attended by around 582 maldharies from 53 villages. The outcome of the Maha Sabha was surprising and breath taking, all the maldharies present supported to release their vada (illegal encroachment) and demand for a common goal to have a community rights over land and not individual rights. This decision was taken in order to convert the entire Banni land to Revenue land.

### **2.1.3 Research and studies conducted in Banni:**

Apart from building capacities and strengthening the sangathan, collection of all the required data for the claim process (FRA) was started slowly. A study was conducted on the ancient and present day Water body location of Banni grassland and it revealed amazing information like there are 256 various water bodies present out of which only 100 in use. The study was executed by the two interns of Master in Rural Management from Gujarat Vidyapeeth.

A Second study was conducted on the Banni grassland with technical support from **Kaajri Research centre**. The study was conducted to see potential change in the existing methods and techniques for the better or improved growth of the Banni Grasses.

### **2.1.4 Seventh Banni Pashu Mela:**

It was organized this year on November 23, 2013 –November 24, 2013. This year the theme of the mela was **‘Community Forest Rights implementation under Forest Rights Act, 2006’**. The theme was suggested by the new Pashu Mela team formed within the BPUMS (comprising of 11 members).

Hon. Minister Shri Vasanbhai Ahir (State Minister of Cottage and salt Industries), District Collector, Mr. Harshad Patel and District Development Officer Shri Bhalar, Mr. I.K. Chhabra, Deputy Director (FRA Cell), Mr. Khanna, Officer from Tribal Department, Dr. Panchal, Joint Director Animal Husbandry Department, and Dr. Vankar, Deputy Director, (District Animal Husbandry Department) marked their presence. Mela was a blend of entertainment as well as major decisions were taken on FRA campaign. Mention of the same is part of ‘strengthening institution’. Following are the details of the different races happened in Mela: Horse races excite everyone and also give a kick start to the Pashu Mela every year. Ram Raheem Ashwa co-operative troop have always organized horse races. In total there were 565 animals got registered for both competitions and also for purchasing (buying and selling). Animals like Buffaloes, Cows, Ox, Camels, Horses were registered and competitions like Health contests, Race, Milking competition were held for them. In the cow milking competition, cow that won gave 13 litres in 24 hours and the buffalo gave 19 litres of milk. Camel Race was the beginning event of the Day 2.

Annual General Body meeting was held on the day II. Connection with day first AGB discussed on smooth implementation of FRA-2006 in Banni. Members of Association have collectively decided to claim the community rights only under FRA. It was resolved in the meeting that 33% quorum will be considered sufficient for decision making. Majority agreed to let the present auditor to continue for next year. Financial report was read for further improvement if there is any.



Theatre Group, namely, Subi Creation group presented a play for the Banni people, namely, **Beti Bachao**. With two mediators and four artists the theatre troop conveyed a very beautiful message, Girl child is not a burden instead it is a boon. There were amazing responses from the audience also. Few of the older people promised then and there that their girls will continue to study further. All thanks goes to the artists as they acted really very well.

Most exciting and awaited moment of Mela every year is Bakmallakdo. A huge crowd gathered around the ring constructed an hour before the match was to begin. People climbed upon the chakkadas, trucks and cars in order to get a better view. Dholies and the shahenai player gathered before the ring and started playing; the music accelerated the excitement in the crowd. Their drums would pound harder and louder right before an opponent would be defeated, making it seems like they had the sixth sense. Every time a match was over the winner would go around the audience and people will praise him for his ability by handing him some cash amount. Three matches are been played between each members of both the teams. After the matches got over within no time people dispersed. But the joy doesn't end there; winners of all the competitions are awarded by the elders of the village. It is a very proud moment

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for every winner as the appreciation happens in front of the villagers. Each time the ending says, 'there is yet another year waiting for yet another Pashu Mela to happen on the same land of Banni.

### **2.1.5 Conservation and health:**

Under a joint programme with the Gujarat Livestock Development Board (working for quality breeding of Banni Buffaloes and Kankrej Cows), the male offspring's of high milk-producing cows and buffaloes were tagged and listed separately. From 25 villages of Banni region, 744 Banni buffaloes of 359 maldharies and from 10 villages of Banni, 130 Kankrej cow of 48 maldharies were selected and tagged for the Bull Production Programme sponsored by GLDB. The production and reproduction parameters of selected animals were measured with the help of 3 Supervisor and 23 Enumerator at field level. From these selected Banni buffaloes, animal with high Lactation yeild were listed out and after parturition of these animals, bulls of these buffaloes were tagged. Similarly, for Kankrej cow, cow with high Lactation yeild were listed out and bulls of these cows were also tagged. As per programme 10% of bulls from the total selected animals was the target, which means 75 Banni buffalo bull and 13 Kankrej cow bulls to be selected and tagged, out of which 55 Banni buffalo bull and 11 Kankrej cow bull have selected and tagged. Cheques were distributed to 49 maldhari of the 66 selected bulls as maintainance cost for bull rearing during the 7th Banni Pashumela which was inaugurated by Chief guests, Shri Vasanhbai Ahir (MLA-Anjar) and in presence of guest like Mr. Harshad Patel (Collector- Kachchh), Mr. R G Bhalara (DDO-Bhuj), Mr. Manubha Jadeja (APMC Chairman, Bhuj) and Mr. I K Chabda (Joint Director FRA). By the end of the financial year, Bull Production Project was completed successfully.

## **2.2 Kachchh Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan**

### **2.2.1 Strengthening institute:**



Registration of Kharai camel breed, camel milk marketing, camel wool products marketing, conservation and protection of the endangered breed of camel (Kharai camel), camel fair, Annual General Body meeting, are the major issues on which this year the focus was revolving. For the same the breeders association needs to be strong enough to take all these towards a sustainable change. Time and again members of the breeders association were asked to participate in various events of BPUMS. This strategy has helped them to

be motive enough for coming together and strengthen their institute. A food security issue is one of the major problems faced by the camel maldharies and their family. Considering that as a strong weapon, team working with KUUMS from Sahjeevan studied the actual scenario of the households on food security issue. The report was then shared with the maldharies aren't members of the association yet. This moved many maldharies and results were increase in number of members in KUUMS.



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### 2.2.2 Annual General Body Meeting:

Kachchh Unt Uchechhrak Maldhari Sangathan's Annual General Body Meeting was organized on June 22, 2013. In the meeting "Bio-cultural Community Protocol" was launched and Registration and conservation of Kharai Camel project was also launched which is sponsored by FAO.



### 2.2.3 FRA training:

FRA training was organized for Camel maldhari members of Kachchh Unt Uchchheral Maldhari Sangathan. Understanding on the FRA in context to maldharies was discussed in detail and how these rights can be achieved was also part of the training program.

### 2.2.4 Research Studies:

A study was conducted to understand the problem of water resources and how best the problem can be met with an appropriate solution. The research was held by the mapping exercise team of Sahjeevan. And it was found out that wherever the grazing land is available the water resources are not around.

### 2.2.5 Religious and cultural fairs:

Fairs or in colloquial language mela is the mode of exchange of their knowledge, talent, cattle's and art. Without leaving the opportunity, team of CP unit attended one of the much known Fakirani Jat's mela, Savla peer no melo, in the month of April. This mela was one of the sources of information for completing the work of BCP with much authenticity in it.



### 2.2.6 Conservation:

Kachchh Unt Uchechhrak Maldhari Sangathan's Annual General Body Meeting was organized on June 22, 2013. Registration and conservation of Kharai Camel project was also launched which is collaboration with FAO.

Production Data collection for Breed Descriptor: For preparation of Breed descriptor, Milk Production data is required, so it was decided to select around 110 pregnant Kharai camels to measure the birth weight of camel calf and to record the milk production data of whole lactation of Kharai camel.



During these period from 5 taluka of Kutch like Lakhpat, Abdasa, Anjar, Bhachau and Mundra, 123 pregnant Kharai camel of 21 Kharai camel Breeder were selected and tagged with specific serial tag to record milk recording and calving details.

As per the requirement of FAO, it was targeted to compile the profile by the end of March. Due to certain formalities the submission was not done but the profile was complete by the stipulated time.

### **2.3 Outcome/Achievements:**

Impressed by Sahjeevan's endeavors to preserve and conserve the genus of Kutchi and Kharai camels, their pastures and the culture of the camel breeders through unifying and organizing them, the State Government has decided to form co-operative committees to improve the pastures and to enhance the means of livelihood of these pastures by providing them proper marketing system. This activity was included in the State level celebration of 67th Independence Day in Kutch. Jilla Panchayat (The District Panchayat) wanted Sahjeevan to carry out the responsibility and hence assigned it to the organization.

Kutch has initiated the implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the non-tribal district of Gujarat. During the three month long period of constant push on the implementation of FRA in Kachchh region, discussions and negotiations were made with the District Collector and District Panchayat for in-time formation of District and Sub-district level committees and the inclusion of the elected representatives of the Maldhari (Pasture) Community there-in. Also, the issue of availing collective rights not only for Banni but for all the Talukas inhabited by the Maldharis (pastures) was revised. As a result of this, the District Panchayat co-ordinated with the Taluka Panchayats to suggest and decide on the names for local, district and zonal level committees that were to be formed of the representatives who had got elected at the Taluka and District Panchayats. Thus the district and sub-district level committees came into being.

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The Rainfed Livestock Network, in co-ordination with Lok-hit Pashupalan Sansthan (Rajasthan), and Water Sanstha (Darewadi, Maharashtra), conducted a three day training (4/5/6 July'13) at Water Darewadi, on bio-cultural protocol for the organizations connected with the Network. Senior members of about 12 to 15 organizations from all over the country attended the training.

## **2.4 Sheep and Goat Maldhari Sangathan:**

Mobilising sheep and goat breeders of Kachchh: Lakpat, Abdasa and Nakhatrana talukas were in the agenda this year for tracking the number of maldharies depending on the grazing land, reserve forest land and protected land. All these years the focus was on KUUMS and BPUMS as there were few urgent needs to be fulfilled for establishment as a breeders association.

The ultimate goal is to form a federation of breeders association in Kachchh comprises of Camel, Sheep and Goat and Banni buffalo maldhari sangathan. So to initiate Sheep and Goat maldhari sangathan's work, primary surveys were conducted to identify the grazing patterns, grazing route and block level meetings were held for acquiring the data. Work was in progress for quite some time and also allowed us to organize two health camps successfully with GUSHEEL (?). This encourages us to approach Gujarat Animal Husbandry department for financial support to take the work further in the direction to achieve the desired goal.

## **2.5 Maldhari Exhibition project**

### **Purpose**

To develop a curated travelling exhibition that will map the practices, history and cultural identity of the pastoralist communities of Kachchh.

This exhibition will investigate the changing narratives around pastoralism in India, explore the relevance of herding for environmental conservation, and engage in cultural mapping to unfold the various aspects of these communities' cultural identities. This will develop conversations with the wider public, as well as with pastoralist communities in other regions of India.

### **Activities**

- Fourteen workshops were held between August 2013 and July 2014. These fell under several categories:
- Introductory meetings with maldharies in three distinct regions of Kachchh
- Workshops with artisans exploring the relationship between maldharies and artisans, as well as the traditional crafts that were made for them.
- Youth workshops and engagement. Facilitated workshops discussing what the herding youth see in their own futures, and exposure visits to different parts of Kachchh.
- Discussions with maldharies on the traditional governance of their natural resources.
- In addition, the field team is documenting each community's material culture, as well as attending important local festivals and events. There is also research underway on the local language, poetry and music.

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## **Outcomes**

- Greater engagement with maldhari youth. The exhibition processes are building connections between youth from different parts of Kachchh, and providing space for the younger generation to discuss their futures. The youth workshops will continue, and include a photography project through which their voices will enter the exhibition.
- Revival of the bonds between handicraft artisans, musicians and maldharis.
- Evolving understanding of the Commons, especially in terms of understanding traditional governance systems, and how they can be applied to current ways of working.
- Development of a more holistic understanding of the ecology of culture among pastoralist communities – integrating cultural understanding with the work already underway in the district.

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## 3 Biodiversity Conservation Unit

### 3.1 Research and Monitoring in the Banni Landscape (RAMBLE)

RAMBLE signed MoU with KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj to start collaboration research works in Banni on various thematic areas. Started collecting pre-monsoon data for more than 50 monitoring plots from western Banni with help of JRFs from KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj. We collected biomass data, soil samples, status of woody vegetation and habitat characteristics for long-term vegetation monitoring. For this, we had also given a training and orientation to JRFs.



During reporting periods, several JITF fellowship researchers (i.e. Ovee, Priyanka, Anushree, Chetan and Deepa) visited and started their works in Banni on various aspects. Findings and approaches also shared with research committee of BPUMS.



Dr. Ankila and Dr. Abi also visited and interacted with BPUMs, Sahjeevan, Hunnarshala, K-Link, KSKV Kachchh University etc. All the progress in research and other related activities with Banni Research Centre (BRC) also sharing time to time with RAMBLE team through SKYPE meeting.

In addition, a committee from Gujarat Biodiversity Board, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar also visited our BRC and interacted with our research fellows and representatives of BPUMS. They directed us to join with GBB programme on PBR and constitute BMCs at each panchayats of Banni. They also show interest to work with RAMBLE group in Banni.



### 3.2 Natural Resource Mapping exercise with KUUMS

During reporting periods, we surveyed and completed two clusters mapping exercise and overall we published total 6 clusters reports on 22nd June 2014 (during celebration of World Camel's Day).



As part of action plan implementation, we had also started construction and renovation of water points for camel pastoralist. In addition, we initiated advocacy with Govt. line departments on conservation of traditional grazing resource, their routes and livelihood through implementation of participatory conservation plan proposed in cluster report.



In addition, construction of several water harvesting points been initiated and completed through conversion with DWDU and also sanctioned seed money from ICCO programme.

Discussion been initiated with Forest department, revenue and other line departments on our mapping and traditional grazing routes with various site specific threats and also try to convince our proposed participatory conservation plan for each cluster.

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### **3.3 People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) and Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)**

During reporting periods, a total of 6 PBRs are prepared with constitution of 7 BMCs in three selected talukas i.e. Abdasa, Lakhpat and Nakhtrana and same progress been discussed and shared with GBB, Gandhinagar.

Implementation on action plan proposed by old 10 BMCs been initiated with help of conversion with various forum on grassland development and watershed management through BMCs.

Drafting of more than 10 PBRs are under progress and constitution of all left BMCs will be completed soon.

In addition, a higher level committee from GBB, Gandhinagar also visited Guneri, Navinal, Banni and other BMCs areas, and interacted with members of BMCs and leaders and shared experiences with this programme since last couple of months.



As part of strategic planning to conserve Navinal Island, Sahjeevan with BMC, proposed this areas as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) and also celebrated world environment day at village level.

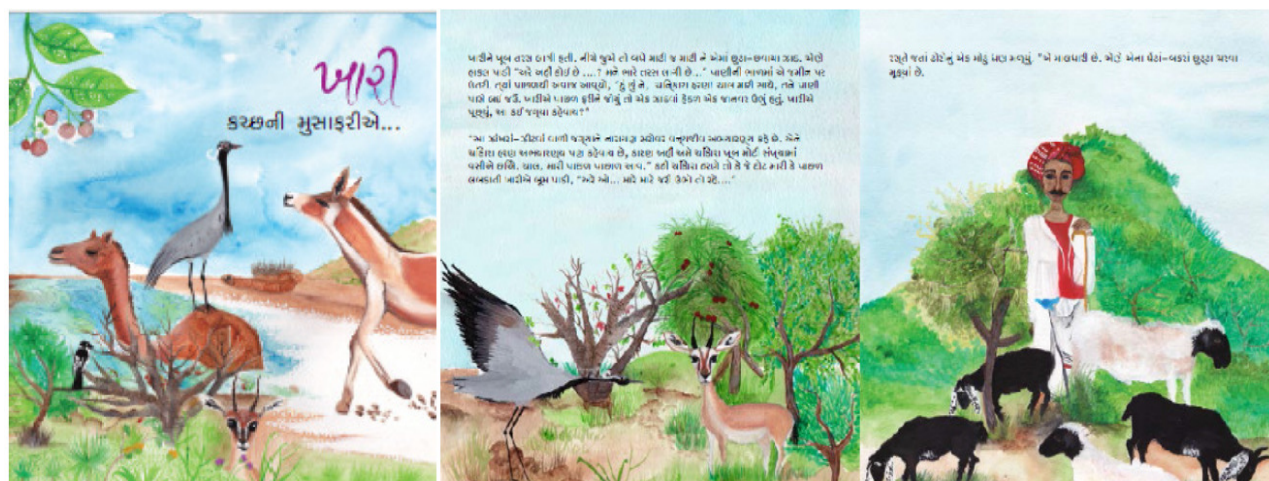


NGOs like SETU, Kachchh and VRTI, Bhavnagar and their PBR Team with respective BMCs been orientated on BDA, 2002, PBRs and BMC with action plan formation.

As part of implementation on action plan proposed by various BMCs in Kachchh, we are being worked on proposal of native SEED promotion (with GBB) and establishment of medicinal plant garden (with Gujarat Medicinal Plan Board).

### 3.4 Development of Environment Education Modules i.e. Introduction of Ecosystems and Flora & Fauna of Kachchh District

We completed our first module/booklet on introduction of ecosystems with various proposed activities and posters with help of Sujathaji (Kalpvriksha, Pune), Shruti (Khamir, Bhuj), Sushma Durve, Kalyani, Tanya and Rekha (Illustrators and translators). In addition, we also started working on second modules of flora and fauna with SETU and Reach to Teach.



### 3.5 Educating local community about the threat of chemical farming on the Great India Bustard habitat and Participatory Planning for its Conservation

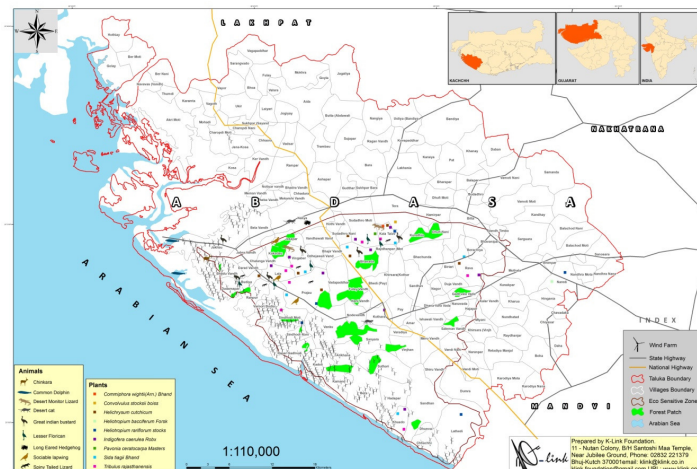
The proposed study (funded by Forest Department with collaboration with KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj-Kachchh) will be carried out for the duration of 12 months in selected important habitats of GIB, in Abdasta Taluka of Kachchh which covers an area of 2398.3 sq. km. and comprises of 165 villages. Out of these eight villages (8) have been identified as significant habitats of GIB by Gadhavi et al., (2012) and also selected for this programme.

Various maps been prepared with help of K-Link for further interpretation of available data and to be prioritized areas significance for long-term monitoring.

Proposed Eco-sensitive Zone of Kachchh Bustard Sanctuary overlaid on existing ditribution of windmills, other developmental and village areas to learn potential area/villages/farmers to collect soil



and water sample for further analysis of contamination of pesticides etc. In addition, existing account of significance biodiversity in Abdasa taluka also lay on developmental map.



A rapid survey was planned mainly to assess the status of grassland, issues related to biodiversity- special emphasis to GIB, stakeholder perception etc. We went to several villages i.e. Kara Talav, Dhufi areas, Laiyari, Prajau & Suthari and interacted with villagers. After consultation with various stakeholders, we finalized our site specific and area and issues specific strategies for long-term planning process.

### 3.6 Natural Resource Mapping exercise with Pastoralist communities of Bhuj Urban areas

As part of Animal Hostel programme with pastoralist group of GIDC, Sahjeevan started piloting study to map natural resources available in and around the GIDC to know traditional grazing practices, available wildlife, existing vegetation, threats etc. and for conducting and initiating this study, urban team lead by Nitaben, oriented on mapping exercise with in-house and field based training.



Same also shared with Sh. Sandeepbhai and after his comments; we also being initiated clustermapping exercise with other group of pastoralist in Bhuj.

After conducting proper site survey at GIDC, we have also plan to start our intervention to develop grazing resources and water points for pastoralist communities with holistic conservation plan.

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## 4 Urban Environmental Initiatives

Sahjeevan works in the fields of solid waste management in Bhuj city, providing decentralized drinking water facilities and sanitation in marginalized areas of the city, and undertaking environmental education with school students in Bhuj. The following details of activities carried out during the reporting period: april'13 to mar'14.

### 4.1 Solid Waste Management –

Under the solid waste management programme, Sahjeevan attempts to provide SWM services in the city through door to door waste collection, and linking cattle owners with households for utilizing wet waste as cattle feed. Presently, the areas that have been covered are mainly those where the common services from the Municipality are not available.

#### 4.1.1 Demand Driven Door to Door Waste Collection Programme –

Meetings were conducted in areas of Wards 13 and 14 to approve a pay scale and understand the need. Door to door collection is to be performed by a mobile van/chakda every other day and weekly street cleaning, reaching 300 HH who will pay 30 INR monthly for the service.



Based on the people's reaction to the plan a proposal for the entirety of wards 13 and 14 was accepted by the Bhuj Nagarpalika for a full year. The contract covers 10,000 properties, with 44 sweepers, 4 chakdas and 2 tractors. There also has been a feedback and monitoring system set up with the community, councilors, sanitation inspector, chief officer, and sahjeevan.

#### 4.1.2 Ward 13 and 14 SWM program

Met with president, deputy collector, and chief officer of bnp about ward 13 and 14 proposal. The chief officer arranged for meeting with councilors of ward 13 and 14 for approval of proposal. Sahjeevan mobilized sweepers, tractors and chakda for sweeping and door to door waste collection. A micro planning and monitoring systems setup. Community meetings to orient citizens to the scheme and address their concerns have been carried throughout the wards. On 1st may ward no.13 and 14th street sweeping and door-to-door waste collection by



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chakda program started. Feedback systems are set up with the community, councilors, sanitation inspector and chief officer.

Wards 13 and 14 – segregation of waste awareness has begun. And every other day pickup of waste through chakda is happening. We have realized that the blue bins are not feasible and as such we are now employing an outside contractor to pick up the wet waste daily. This project is going to start in a cluster group in Ward 13.

## **4.2 Zero Waste Centre & Animal Hostel/ Fodder Plot:**

Plans for zone wise Zero Waste Centers have been developed. As a space for waste pickers to segregate dry waste in to recyclable/reusable and non-recyclable. The recyclable to then be sold to certified centers and the non-recyclable to be compacted and then taken to the landfill site. This is to drastically reduce the waste that is currently going to the landfill site.



In planning for the Zero Waste Center in the GIDC area we had conversations with the local cattle owners, to use the organic waste collected as feed for their cattle. During these discussions thoughts of an Urban Animal Hostel came about, as we learned more about their difficulties in keeping their cattle. The project will be comprehensive, tying in an animal shed, fodder development, the health of the local cattle, and the biodiversity of the region.

## **4.3 Blue Bins & Linkages with Cattle Owners –**

Monitoring of blue bins that are already installed is happening in:

- Vajjnath Sheri
- Uplipal
- Kayastha Sheri
- Punjabhai tower.

Theft of the Blue Bins by bhangarwala is still a prevalent problem, to address the problem new prototypes are being designed and constructed by Hunnarshala. The new designs so far have been small and light weight. Four Prototypes have been installed in:

- Sahjanad Bungalow
- Valramnagar
- Santosh Society

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#### **4.4 Formation of a Pressure Group at City Level for SWM –**

Citizen's Pressure group: The group had been formally brought together, with members from all over the city. The group has met twice now and has defined their objectives for the coming year. They meet every month on the 4th Saturday.

The group will work for the acceptance of the SWM by BNP: our plan is still in the process, as soon as it's compiled. The plan will be explained to the pressure group and then the group and us will go to BNP to submit and advocate the plan.



The Citizens Advocacy Group submitted a letter detailing open plots in 8 areas to the Chief Officer. The letter implores the city to take action on the open plots identified in the area. These open plots collect lots of debris and garbage. By the laws of Bhuj if construction has not begun, or a boundary wall has not been put up, within 3 years time then the plot is supposed to revert back to BhADA. The citizens are pushing for notices to go out and for BhADA to take over ownership on those plots that have not been claimed..

#### **4.5 Plastic Recycling and Ban –**

Sahjeevan has been advocating for recycling and banning of plastic bags below 20 microns in collaboration with schools and citizen groups of the city. The Urban Environmental Initiatives Unit has established plastic collection centres in various parts of the city. 7 areas and 2 schools held regular plastic collection centers. . About 85 kg has been collected and given to Khamir.

#### **4.6 Environment Education –**

Sahjeevan's Urban Environmental Unit has initiated environmental education classes in three schools of the city, namely, Matruchhaya, Ashapura School, R D Varsani School and Rotary High School. The programme covers students from classes 8th, 9th and 11th in each school and a total of 2600 students have enrolled in the programme. These classes are held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday in each school. The subjects that are covered in these classes range from general knowledge, history of Kachchh, flora and fauna, medicinal plants in Kachchh, and awareness film on swm. etc. The team has identified resource persons for each subject.

#### **4.7 Activity plan for year 2014-2015:**

- prepare DPR of SWM for Bhuj city.
- Submit DPR to state through nagarpalika.
- Actively run zwc .Awareness on waste segregation in house hold level.
- Capacity building process of wast pickers.
- Strong awareness on generate less waste from household level in the city.
- Develop fodder plot for cattel, and establish animal hostel.

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- PBR prepare for bhuj city with nagarpalika.
  - Built capacity to advocacy group.

## 5 Central Coordination Unit

This unit of Sahjeevan includes HR & Administration, Finance Management and Documentation of various programmes in different units. The major activities carried out in this reporting period are mentioned below –

- i) Five new staff members were included in Sahjeevan during the reporting period-
  - a. Mr. Jayesh Paraliya, Mr. Paresh Bavaliya, Ms. Kanchan Bharda, Ms.Sarika Vaghela, Ms.Punita Patel, Ms.Sangita Chaudhry, Ms.Sonal Patel, Ms.Aarti Halbe, Dr. Shersinh Chauhan, Mr. Harun Node in Center for Pastoralism
  - b. Mr. Prajesh Maheshwari and Mr. Sandip Kanojiya in Urban Environment Initiative Unit
  - c. Mr. Ritesh Pokar and Mr. Anil Gohil in Biodiversity Conservation Unit
  - d. Ms. Rekha Rajgor, Mr. Ramesh Sundha, Mr. Rajesh Koli, Ms. Pooja Tanna in Central Coordination Unit
- ii) Two staff members left the organization in the reporting period-
  - a. Ms. Binal Poma, Mr. Ramesh Sundha, Mr. Rajesh Koli and Ms. Pooja tanna, Ms. Dhara Solanki from Central Coordination Unit.
  - b. Dr. Nuruddin Nathani, Ms. Kanchan Bharda, Ms. Sarika Vaghela, Ms. Heena Parmar, Ms. Bhavna Desai, Dr. Haresh Bhoraniya from Center for Pastoralism.
  - e. Mr. Chetansinh Gohil from in Urban Environment Initiative Unit.
- iii) Staff Capacity building:
  - a. Training organised by Unnati Jodhpur on Decentralised Governance and Social Accountability was attended by Ms. Krupa dholakia and Mr. Pravin Muchhadiya.
  - b. Learning workshop on Use of Technology of GPS organized by Vasundhra, Oudisa was attended by Mr. Mahendra Bhanai and Mr. Rasul Sodha jat.
  - c. Water Education Training organised by Vikas, Ahmedaba it was attended by Mr. Ankit Patel.
  - d. Ms. Pooja Tann Attended Training on young Compainers & Activits in India UDAAN, Bangalore.
  - e. Gender Training organized in Sahjeevan fo New staff member’s training organized in Sahjeevan on Gender.
  - f. Education &study tour organized at Jambugoda sanctuary, Vadodara.
- iv) New proposal submitted to :
  - a. Gujarat Biodiversity Board
  - b. Vikasat
  - c. Suzlon Foundation
- v) Documentation and Publication:
  - a. Ground Water Protection Guideline
  - b. Biocultural Community Protocol-Camel
  - c. Chhari Dhandh PBR