

Towards Panoramic Perspectives

Sahjeevan Annual Report
2023-2024



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चिड़िया, जंगली जानवर और हम
मालधारी, जन्म जन्म के संगाथी है
जहा हमारे जानवर जाते है चिड़िया
हम पर भरोसा करती है और हमारे
साथ साथ आती है।

— करमखान जत (बन्नी)

Birds, wild animals and we, pastoralists
are companions from birth to birth.
Wherever our animals go, the birds
trust us and
come along with us.

— Karamkhan Jat (Banni)



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

*Sandeep Virmani,
President, Sahjeevan*

As the world struggles to find sustainable ways of living, an invisible community of pastoralists continue to roam beautiful landscapes living with simplicity and contributing generously to the economy and the wilderness. As a Fakirani Jat pastoral leader puts it, “We were there when human beings started and we will be there when climate change destroys this civilization!”

We work with pastoralists to quantify and showcase their many contributions—economic, ecological, genetic—that seem to slip under the radar, but also because it enriches us. They belong to a culture of the commons, and we continue to harbour a colonial legacy that considers the commons as unproductive, grasslands as wastelands and pastoralism as an outmoded way of life.

For close to 200 years, the colonial and post-colonial state has used familiar tropes embedded in notions of productivity and social evolution to settle herders. Yet, despite such hostility, pastoralism survives. It is often in flux as communities respond to state efforts to curtail access to traditionally grazed lands, but also to emerging market opportunities. But the long-predicted demise of pastoralism remains illusive.

Sahjeevan has spent two decades working amongst communities in Gujarat to better understand pastoralism and engage with policymakers and others to improve policy and market environments in which pastoralists function. Sahjeevan’s Centre for Pastoralism, established in 2017, functions as a platform, partnering with civil society, academia, private sector and the government to facilitate national engagement on pastoral issues.

We’ve had some successes over the years, none more so, perhaps, than the recent agreement on the part of the Department of Animal Husbandry to undertake a comprehensive census of pastoral animals in the country. For his nuanced support of pastoralist causes over the past two decades, and this initiative, we would like to recognise the contributions made by our previous Minister for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Shri Parshottam Rupalaji.

This report captures the core activities that we’ve undertaken over the past year. It recounts our biggest strides and many stumbles. But over anything, it undergirds the spirit of engagements with various communities and partners. It’s aims to illuminate the landscape they inhabit, against which they come together and form synergies.



A Wholesome Ride!

Kavita Mehta,
Executive Director,
Sahjeevan

To sum up, the past year has been akin to a rollercoaster ride. We plunged into newer depths, climbed to previously uncharted territories, and looped through turns new and old. A significant part of the last year entailed looking inwards, to create a safer, healthier, and thriving work environment. This overarching aim led to three main pursuits—increasing trust, nurturing young leadership, and reinstating decentralised governance processes in the organisation.

Like the unexpected swirls of a rollercoaster, our realignment efforts surfaced subconsciously in our work to strengthen community institutions, and reciprocally, insights from the on-ground institutions fuelled our work. This mutual loop significantly influenced our shared work, prioritization, and leadership development negotiations with state and market players, and was profoundly encouraging.

Over the last four years, our work with Community Forest Resource Management Committees (CFRMCs) in the Banni Grasslands has vividly demonstrated how empowering communities through

legal provisions can lead to remarkable ecological stewardship. We had to plunge deeper into this momentum. So, we expanded our work with village Panchayats across Kutch and Saurashtra to establish CFRMCs, support local conservation efforts and develop plans for them.

This collaboration with CFRMCs reached its pinnacle in a pilot undertaken with Varha to convert *Prosopis juliflora*, a ubiquitous weed, into carbon-rich biochar. This effort generated \$1,83,000 in carbon credits, restored 11 sq km of grasslands, and provided livelihoods. We're now exploring scaling this model to fund community-led landscape restoration across Kutch.

The third batch of pastoral youths graduated from our UGC-certified Pastoral Ecology course, and a women's batch brought a paradigmatic shift in Banni's traditionally patriarchal landscape. Though the course was discontinued due to new UGC guidelines, we're hopeful to sustain it by expanding to new geographies—and have submitted an affiliation proposal to Shiv Nadar University.

Our work on pastoral livelihoods continues. We've made significant progress in establishing Kutch's first Centralised Processing Centre to meet industry demand for standardized wool and ensure community control over the value chain. The Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation agreed to pilot camel milk procurement, and we're working with Amul and Sursagar Dairy to start bulk goat milk procurement in Surendranagar. However, the chief development is the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, agreeing to conduct nutritional analyses of camel and goat milk. Such data will be crucial in ongoing efforts to market these non-bovine milks.

Amidst these soaring motivations, there are some rough patches. We remain concerned about the poor implementation of the Forest Rights Act in Gujarat. Despite directives from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, several claims from the Kutch and Saurashtra regions await acknowledgement.

The past year has taken all sorts of turns. We may have encountered low points sporadically, but we also found soaring highs and resonances in unexpected niches.

Much like any rollercoaster ride, we haven't been alone on this one. Every partner and stellar team member has been part of this journey of profound co-creation, learning and unlearning. We also have heartfelt gratitude for our funding partners who have believed in our work and supported us throughout our journey.

After these highs, lows, acceleration, deceleration, euphoria and giddiness—we find ourselves in a calm, brought about by the fullness of all our accumulated experiences. We're readying ourselves to go on another ride!



Looking to Broader Horizons

Vasant Saberwal,
Director,
Centre for Pastoralism

Another year gone by, Centre for Pastoralism (CfP) turned seven in July 2023, and, as with all pastoralist lives, the only constant has been change! CfP moved into a larger space to better accommodate a growing staff. Ironically, a number of people moved on, a few months into the move. We are now in the midst of a fresh round of hires. Our programmes have expanded and moved in new directions. We have several new partners and are working in two new geographies (Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh).

Perhaps most importantly, at a recent OD exercise, a major takeaway was the need to slow down and take stock, and ensure our work remains relevant to pastoralism.

So what were the big takeaways this past year? Our four year-long effort to quantify the scale and spread of pastoralism is finally bearing fruit. As anticipated, the magnitude of the economy and the geographic scale of land grazed by pastoralists points to a physical and economic presence that counters the mainstream view of pastoralism as a marginal activity on the decline. We expect this data will play a role in reshaping the way we think about pastoralism in this country.

CfP and its partners continue to work to ensure herders have greater and more assured access to forage. This effort has been focused on facilitating community use of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to assert claims to traditionally grazed lands. Over the past year, we have undertaken an intensive scoping exercise aimed at identifying opportunities to either expand our work into additional states (including Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) or to deepen our work in the five states we already work in. In the coming year, we hope to launch an inquiry towards understanding additional legal frameworks that pastoralists may use in securing access to critical forage.

We have made substantial progress this past year in advancing our agenda on wool. The fifth Desi Oon Festival, now very much a fixture on the Delhi social calendar, was bigger, better and more effective than any we have hosted in the past! Perhaps more importantly, we initiated work on setting up collection and processing centres in Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka, a response to industry demand for a standardised supply of wool. We also initiated collaborations with

designers to identify the range of industrial applications that discarded wool could be used for, including as a substitute for plastics in the worlds of insulation and packaging.

One of the highlights for the year was the first projection of snow leopard numbers in the Gori Valley of Eastern Kumaon, where we have been camera-trapping these iconic mammals over many years. Our numbers point to a higher density of snow leopards than reported from other parts of the western Himalaya, potentially countering mainstream positions that animal numbers are depressed on account of the pastoralists they share their habitat with.

Zooming out, we continue to reach out to diverse audiences, via *Pastoral Times* (Editions 14 and 15), social media and our now-trademark **Living Lightly** exhibition (LL). LL is a long-standing project to curate the material and non-material cultures of pastoralist communities across the country. Following earlier exhibitions focused on pastoralism of Kutch, we have spent much of this past year planning for the next LL, slated for Bangalore, early 2025. We remain deeply grateful for

the continued generous financial support we have received from various partner organisations. Sustained support that is often untied and flexible, has enabled us to both scale work we are confident about, but also try out new ideas. Our work on wool is an example of the latter, allowing our tentative steps from earlier years to come to fruition in 2023-24.

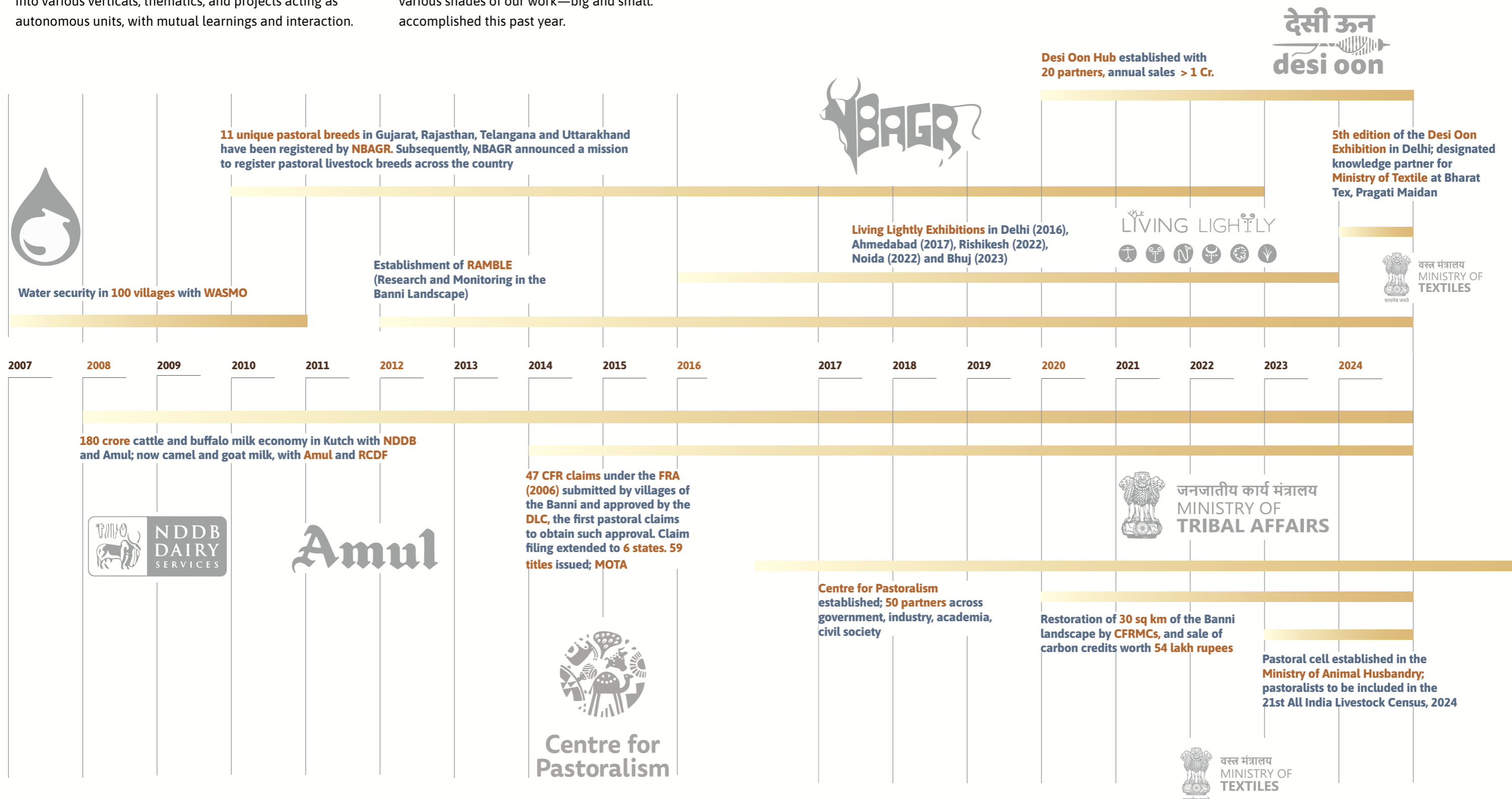
But perhaps what is most heartening is our continued dependence on the goodwill, commitment and integrity of the partners we work with. Our partnerships with academia, civil society, the private sector and government institutions are now spread across the country, and remain the key foundation on which CfP continues to engage on all matters pastoral! As always, we welcome fresh ideas on how we might work together, so drop us a line or stop by for a chat!

Looking forward to a productive year ahead!

A Continuing Journey!

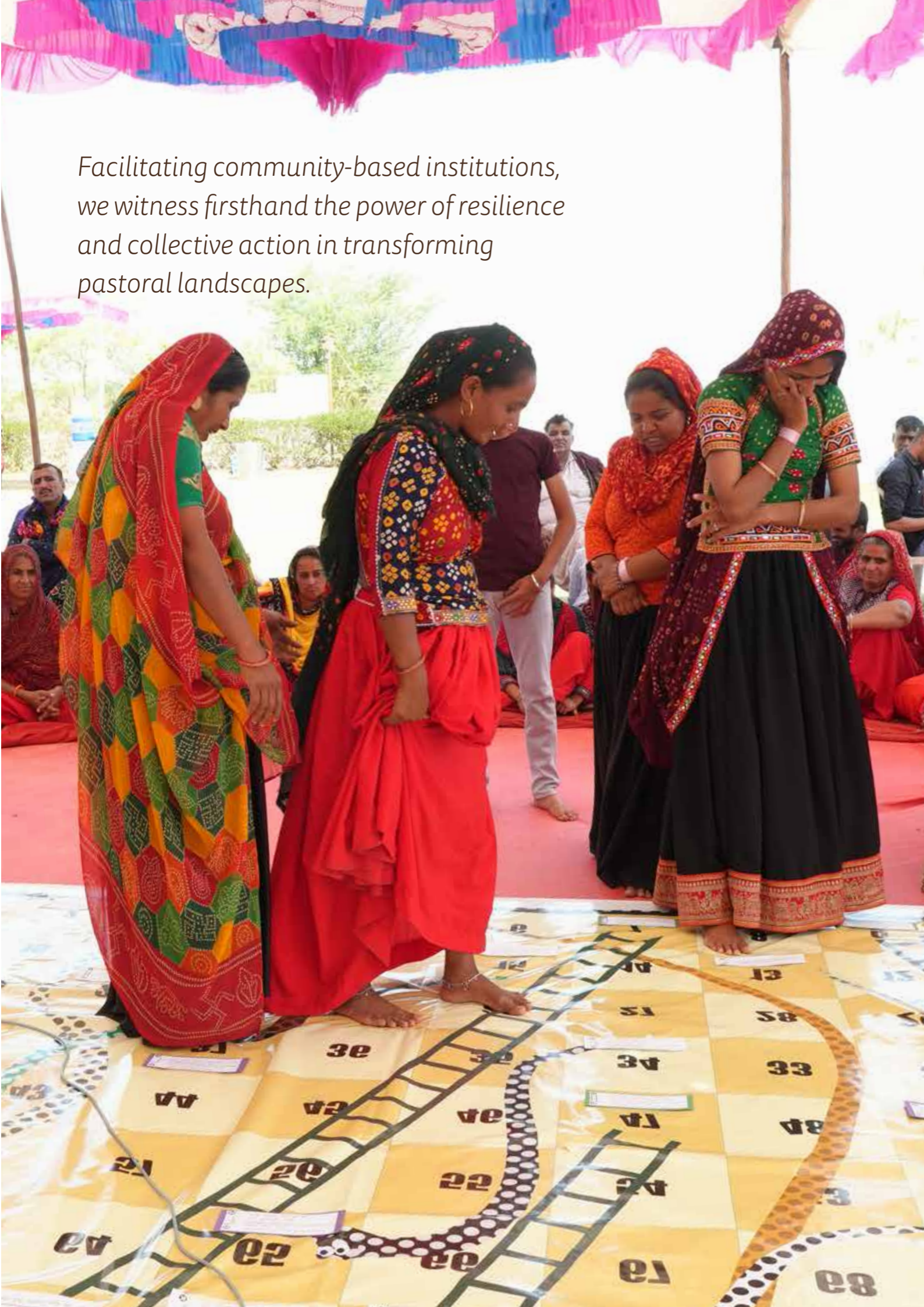
Our decades-long engagement with pastoral communities has many variables—land, law, climate, diverse views of pastoralism, regional differences in dynamics, and more. At the same time, an ethos buttresses the pastoral situation at large. From these dynamics, we branched out into various verticals, thematics, and projects acting as autonomous units, with mutual learnings and interaction.

This timeline charts out some of our biggest milestones, but, it is in the interstices—the in-between, everyday engagement that has made these possible. While that list may be too long for this, we hope for this image to reflect the various shades of our work—big and small. accomplished this past year.





Facilitating community-based institutions, we witness firsthand the power of resilience and collective action in transforming pastoral landscapes.



Community Institutions, Livestock Health and Breed Conservation

Engaging with the formal economy and legal systems requires recognized organisational structures. A significant component of our work entails building and supporting independent and democratic community-based institutions. We have been able to facilitate the creation of a succession of such institutions in Kutch and Saurashtra, representing a rich diversity of communities and livestock species. We work with them across overlapping issues of breed recognition and conservation, animal health, market interventions, access to commons and restoration of pastoral landscapes. We collaborate with these organisations in identifying the issues they face, as they take the lead in managing them in the long term.

It has been a profound learning experience to witness these organisations grow, embodying resilience and foregrounding the power of collective action. The developments in these regions not only transform them but also serve as a model for broader, contextualised applications in others.

However, while lessons from one pastoral community can inform others, there is no one-size-fits-all blueprint. Sahjeevan understands the larger landscape of the region and is privy to its intricacies and complexities. It is with this unique vantage point that we carry out our work in supporting different pastoralist institutions, while also keeping in mind the larger expanse against which they come together.

The Kutch and Saurashtra regions of Gujarat are home to savanna grasslands, scrub and thorn forests and mangrove forests, all of which have sustained pastoralism over many decades. This range of ecosystems has given rise to differing forms of pastoralism, with goats, sheep, camels, buffaloes, cows and even donkeys managed under extensive grazing systems. A correspondingly large number of pastoralist communities have managed these animals, including Rabari, Bharwad, Jat and Charan. Over time, Sahjeevan has worked with

these communities to build institutions that are managed by community members and represent community interests. The Banni Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (BPUMS), or the Banni Breeders Association was established in 2008 and includes over 1000 animal breeders (from 19 Panchayats and 54 Villages). The Kachchh Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (KUUMS) was registered in 2011. Three additional institutions (Sangathans) have been formed, although these are nascent in comparison to BPUMS and KUUMS.



Halari Breeders Association meeting / Sahjeevan Archives



Camel health camp



Bhagri goat profiling

Over the past decade, BPUMS and KUUMS have made remarkable strides — collaborating with Sahjeevan and the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) to have the Banni Buffalo and Kharai Camel recognized as distinct breeds; working with Amul, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Advik Foods Pvt. Ltd. to formalise camel, buffalo and cow milk collection in Kutch; lobbying state support for *Pashu Melas* (Livestock Fairs) that have helped raise awareness about pastoralism in the administration; assisting with the restoration of the iconic Banni grassland, advocating for land and resource rights, and working with the Gujarat Animal Husbandry Department to improve livestock health through medical camps.

Early last year, we took stock of our work and realised that our interventions were often limited to community leaders and should engage broader segments of pastoral communities. Towards this, we reviewed the standing of the five pastoralist organisations we work with to assess their strengths and limitations. We undertook a series of organisational development exercises and devised a strategy to strengthen these organisations from the ground up. Given varying levels of maturity, we worked with each institution to develop plans aimed at strengthening each institution. Looking ahead, Sahjeevan will facilitate the establishment of new executive bodies for all five *Sangathans*, providing training in visioning, governance,

and management. We aim to increase women's membership and leadership within the *Sangathans* and enhance youth engagement through structured coursework on pastoralism, its communities, and their rights and ecosystems. Sahjeevan will expand its work in supporting these institutions in becoming self-sufficient in fundraising, management, governance, and advocacy.

Halari Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangthan (HPUMS)

For the past five years, Sahjeevan has focused on conserving the Halari Donkey, Kahami Goat, and Panchali Sheep in Upleta, supporting pastoralists from Jamnagar and Devbhumi Dwarka. The Halari Donkey is a critically endangered breed. Several years ago, their population was in the thousands. However, Sahjeevan's data indicates a sharp decline, with the population decreasing from 1112 in 2014 to just 469 last year.

Over the past year, Halari donkey herders collectively organised a breed competition, a *Gadarbh Godhbharai* (a baby shower) and a *Kholka Vadhmani* (welcoming newborn babies) to raise awareness about the significance of the Halari donkey. These efforts culminated in the official formation of the Halari Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangthan in early 2024, with the objective of conserving the Halari Donkey, Kahami goat and Panchali sheep populations while improving the livelihoods of the pastoralists that manage these animals.

Over the next year, we aim to enhance conservation efforts for the Halari donkey through a series of technical activities, in-situ conservation initiatives, health camps and livelihood related interventions. As part of Sahjeevan's overarching goal of improving women's participation in its governance, HPUMS has nominated six women to its executive committee, who have been involved in the registration process as well as in dealings with the charity commissioner.

Kachchh Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (KUUMS)

The United Nations declared 2024 as the International Year of Camelids, highlighting the critical role camelids play in sustaining millions of families in dryland and mountainous ecosystems around the world. KUUMS has worked with camel herders in Kutch and coastal Gujarat for over 15 years, and their protracted commitment has included work on livelihoods, health camps and the conservation of grazing lands.

Over the past year, Sahjeevan has worked closely with KUUMS to build their capacities to operate autonomously, and to undertake key initiatives related to the conservation of the coastal mangroves and the Chhari-Dhandh Conservation Reserve. To celebrate the International Year of Camelids, KUUMS and Sahjeevan, in partnership with the Gujarat Department of Animal Husbandry and other stakeholders, organised the Kachchh Unth Mahotsav on January 16th, 2024 in Bhuj. This featured a mobile camel cart exhibit through

the city of Bhuj. The event brought together over 500 camel herders from the region and was graced by the presence of Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala. The event spurred a significant policy change, with the National Livestock Mission including financial assistance for the conservation of camels, horses, and donkeys.

KUUMS also hosted the *Hu Chu Mahila Maldhari* event to honour and empower women in camel pastoralism, recognizing their crucial role in sustaining traditional practices and fostering community resilience. The event saw participation from 110 female camel herders from various communities, including Daneta Jat, Fakirani Jat, Hajiyani Jat, and others. In February and March, a variety of other cultural programmes were hosted in Bhuj.

Surendranagar Ghenta Bakra Maldhari Sangathan

Sahjeevan has assisted pastoralists in forming the Surendranagar Ghenta Bakra Maldhari Association, supporting them in the formal marketing of goat milk and bolstering their capacities to function independently.

An Executive Committee of the association has been formed, and a membership drive is ongoing. The committee is coordinating with Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF/Amul), Sursagar Cooperative Dairy, and the Gujarat Department of Animal Husbandry towards establishing a goat milk dairy.



Young pastoralists with Sahjeevan team



Banni Breeders Association meeting at RAMBLE

Banni Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan

The BPUMS is the oldest pastoralist Sangathan that Sahjeevan has worked with, and is increasingly at the forefront of a wide range of activities. This includes the hosting of the annual Pashu Mela and an attempt to reduce the magnitude of encroachment in the Banni undertaken by Maldhari pastoralists themselves.

It continues to actively collaborate with Sahjeevan on a variety of programmes, including our efforts to restore the Banni grassland and on the Salim Node Course on Pastoral Ecology, a 300-credit course (certified by the Kutch University) aimed at building awareness amongst pastoralist youth on the region's governance, history, and ecology. This is the fourth year of this course, and for the first time, included a separate set of modules for pastoralist women.

Rashtriya Ghumantu Yuva Pashupalak Sangathan

A national youth conclave was programmed during the Living Lightly exhibition held at LLDC in Bhuj, in early 2023. This led to the formation of a national-level Pastoral Youth Federation. A committee comprising 34 youth members, with two representatives from each state, was formed to govern the federation. In April 2023, a training workshop in New Delhi led to the establishment of regional committees. Subsequently, a meeting in Nagpur in January 2024 discussed the registration process under the Society Act. Efforts are underway to register the federation

in New Delhi. This will not only elevate the concerns of its constituent communities into mainstream consciousness but also function as a conduit between geographically and culturally disparate pastoral communities.

Breeds and health

Uneven veterinary services for pastoral herds remain a challenge across Kutch and Saurashtra and point to a pressing need for medical services tailored to the seasonal needs of various livestock species. It was with this end in mind that the Breeds and Health thematic was launched in 2009, its first project being the registration of Banni buffalo and Kharai camel breeds.

Registering indigenous breeds is crucial for engaging the formal sector in conservation efforts. Without registration, breed characteristics, population, and productivity remain uncertain and undocumented. This process also clarifies different strains and local names, helping in reducing confusion. Registration prompts government investment in both, the breed and the pastoral systems that sustain them, and often leads to a significant increase in breed prices, and consequently, pastoral livelihoods. Therefore, the Breeds and Health thematic undertakes a range of work in its ambit.

Unequivocally, the breed profile completion of the Bhagri goat has been a milestone for us in 2023. The native track of the goat is Jamnagar, Saurashtra. Following guidelines listed by the

NBAGR, a breed profile was created and submitted to the state animal husbandry department for the director's approval. The profile was made by tagging and inspecting 800 goats for various kinds of data—biometric, physical, reproductive, and socioeconomic. This profile is currently under review by NBAGR.

Sahjeevan secured a grant from the NBAGR towards rebuilding the Halari donkey population in the region. Under this grant, 250 female donkeys were identified and registered with microchips. After one and a half years of intervention, the population increased to 510 donkeys, indicating positive progress in conserving this threatened breed.

Last year, Sahjeevan and the sangathans envisaged the creation of a network of para-vets to cater to the minor veterinary needs of pastoralist communities in Gujarat. The long-term objective for this is to enable such para-vets to charge for their services, embedding affordable healthcare within the community. In collaboration with the department of Animal Husbandry in Gujarat, we conducted four para-health worker trainings in Dayapar, Upleta, and Chotila, focusing on nutrition, breeding, vaccination, and improved management practices for sheep and goats.

Recognising the need for better healthcare for the Kharai camel of Jamnagar, Sahjeevan lobbied for government liaisoning and health camps for the camels' well-being. As part of this initiative, Sahjeevan also stepped in to provide necessary medications and manage health camp operations. Additionally, we campaigned for improvements in animal husbandry, conducting health awareness programs for pastoralists. These are now regular programmatic interventions. These initiatives aim to educate the pastoralists on practices to reduce the mortality rate of their camels. The sum of these efforts lead to an advancement in pastoral livelihoods.

Staff composition

We facilitate a range of activities and programs with our partner institutions. Our team, therefore, provides strategic support, ensuring everyone brings diverse experiences and skills to the table for the various contiguous projects. With a Program Director overseeing all projects, our team is dedicated to working with specific institutions or regions. We also have specialists who move in between projects and teams, such as livestock inspectors, data recorders or analysts, and even communications personnel.



Halari Donkey Godhbharai ceremony by HPUMS



Kahami goat breed recognition by Minister of Animal Husbandry



Bhagri goat descriptor submitted to the Director of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat.



The White Revolution sidelined nomadic dairying, so, our efforts focus on sourcing milk from dispersed pastoralist herds and training youth in aggregation and quality control.



Pastoral Milk

While the White Revolution transformed India's dairy sector by uniting farmers into cooperatives and establishing vital milk procurement and processing infrastructure, it had its provenance in a sedentary settlement system. As a result, nomadic ways of dairying were sidelined.

Our journey began by tackling the challenges of sourcing buffalo milk from dispersed pastoralist herds. This involved training youth to aggregate it, ensuring quality control, and connecting it to major labels. We have since broadened this initiative to encompass camel and goat milk, and are now exploring the potential of value-added pastoral dairy products. These efforts have been profound learning experiences, and chart our path forward in supporting pastoralist entrepreneurship in diverse and impactful ways.

All pastoral communities have surplus milk, a straightforward outcome of their isolation from mainstream markets. For the most part, herders tend to be located in forests, grasslands or agricultural fields, invariably distant from milk collection centres. The principal problem is that milk is a perishable commodity, and sales depend on storage, which is contingent on the availability of relevant cold chain infrastructure. Therefore, faced with the lack of access to formal markets, pastoralists either sell milk locally at reduced prices or convert milk into products such as cheese, ghee, or mahwa to extend its shelf life.

These products too, are sold locally or used in barter exchanges.

Local sales fail to capitalize on the unique qualities of pastoral milk, which is largely organic, being produced by a variety of free-ranging animals feeding off natural vegetation, including yaks, goats, sheep, and camels. Non-bovine milk has lower fat content, making it suitable for those who are lactose intolerant and offers various health benefits. The diverse grazing landscapes also impart unique flavours to the milk, akin to the concept of terroir in the wine industry.



Panchal Dairy stall at an event



Amul camel milk symposium in Bhuj, Kutch, in March 2024

Our work in the non-bovine milk value chain focuses on two strategies: (i) partnering with state departments of Animal Husbandry and mainstream dairy players to establish cold chain infrastructure to ensure bulk procurement of milk and (ii) promoting entrepreneurial ecosystems to increase visibility and demand for non-bovine milk products.

Our collaboration with NDDB (National Dairy Development Board) and GCMMF (Amul) has led to the annual procurement of milk worth ₹200 crore from buffaloes and ₹10 crore from camels. We are expanding camel milk collection to Rajasthan and initiating goat milk procurement from the Surendranagar district in Gujarat. We hope our efforts amplify the visibility and demand for non-bovine milk and related products.

Expanding the camel milk market in Rajasthan

This year, camel milk procurement from five collection centres in Kutch has reached 5500 litres per day. This has sustained livelihood security for 250 camel pastoralist households and translates to an average monthly income of ₹25000-30000. While the country witnesses a sharp decline in camel numbers (35% from the previous count), Kutch is the only district where the numbers are on the rise, a direct response to the livelihood gains from the procurement of camel milk. To design a camel milk marketing strategy for Kutch and Gujarat, Sahjeevan collaborated with Sarhad Dairy, a District Milk Cooperative Union, to organise stakeholder consultations with medical professionals and research institutions to highlight

the health benefits of camel milk. Further, Sarhad Dairy obtained Organic Certification for their camel milk processing plant. This will help them fetch premium market prices, directly benefiting pastoralists. Our advocacy efforts with the Rajasthan State Government, have led Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF)—the Rajasthan counterpart to Amul—to commence camel milk procurement from Bikaner district, in Western Rajasthan. RCDF has agreed with Bahula Naturals to initiate pilot project from the Bajju and Chimana clusters of Bikaner District. The State has allocated ₹100 crore for Camel Conservation and Milk Market for FY 2024-25.

Considering the therapeutic value of camel milk in managing diabetes and autism, the demand for camel milk and its products has shown a dramatic increase globally. We aim to understand this demand, and initiate market research towards harnessing the potential for Indian camel milk to participated in Indian and global markets.

Goat milk markets in Gujarat and Rajasthan

Following the successes of NDDB and GCMMF in procuring buffalo and camel milk in Kutch, Sursagar Dairy and Amul have expressed intent to procure and market goat milk. A stakeholder meeting chaired by Cabinet Minister Shri Raghavji Patel resulted in support from the state administration and dairy players including Sursagar Dairy and Amul, who have started developing a feasibility plan for goat milk procurement and processing in Surendranagar.

A detailed project report from Sursagar Dairy and Amul for cold chain infrastructure has been submitted to the Animal Husbandry Department of Gujarat for the FY 2024-25 budget. Further meetings will be required to initiate the procurement of goat milk. Parallely, Sahjeevan and the Saurashtra Ghenta Bakra Ucherak Sangathan will orient pastoralist households towards meeting hygiene standards and milk supply schedules (to be announced by Sursagar Dairy). Additionally, we have engaged with the Central Institute for Research on Goat, Mathura, to develop a kit for detecting milk adulteration, ensuring quality and purity in bulk procurement. The expectation is that such formalised milk procurement will have a major impact on pastoralists' livelihoods.

Exploring the market for goat milk byproducts

To create visibility and demand for non-bovine milk products, and deepen the ecosystem of pastoralist milk entrepreneurs in Gujarat, we trained 21 pastoral youths, forming seven groups. One of these groups established Panchal Dairy with ₹4 lakhs in equity capital and contributions of ₹10,000 per household (as debentures) from 57 community women pastoralists. With technical support from Käse Cheese, Panchal now produces ten varieties of artisanal cheese made of goat and sheep milk. Sales in the year 2023-24 were close to ₹7 lakhs.

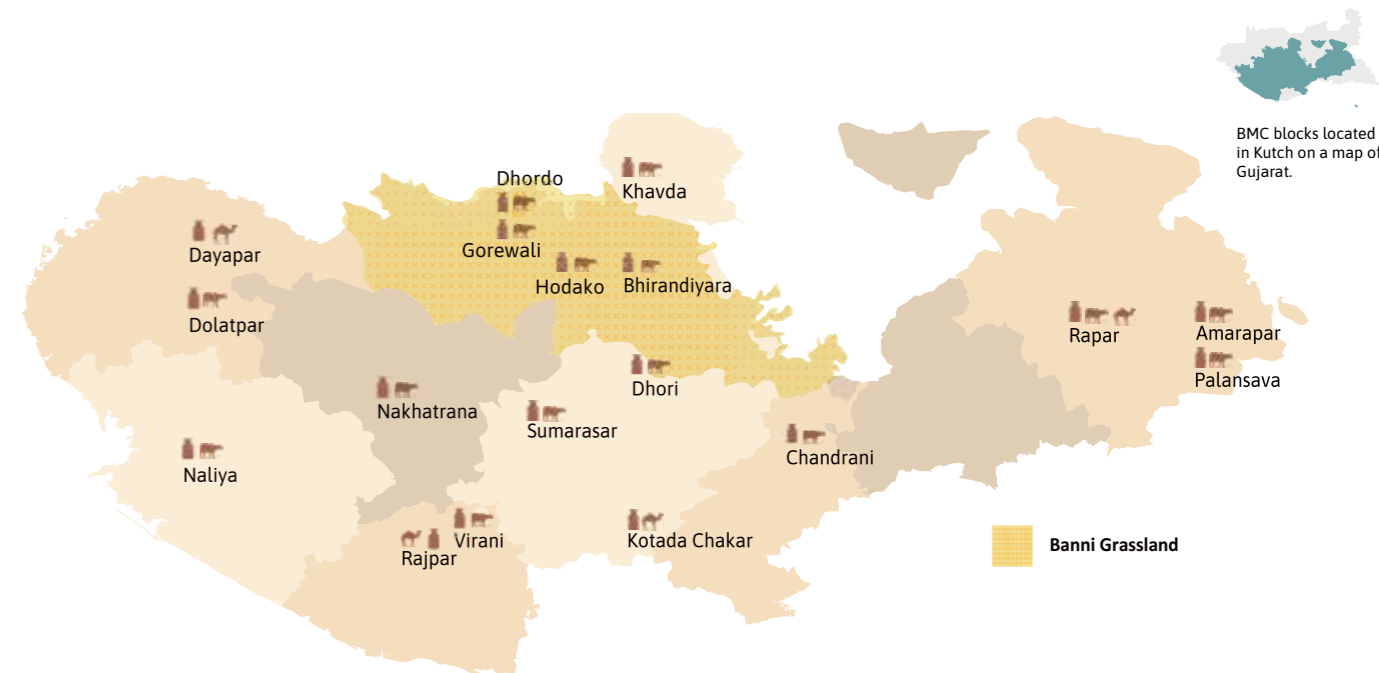
This year, we focused on implementing a Business Information System, creating realistic business plans, and expanding the product range. These efforts suggest a 20% growth in production. Future goals include understanding the market for artisanal cheese, designing marketing campaigns, scaling infrastructure, and broadening the product range for business viability.

Collaboration with ICMR for nutritional analysis

Our consistent efforts with ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) to validate the nutritional and therapeutic value of camel and goat milk have been received positively by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The Hyderabad-based institute is part of the ICMR and has expressed interest in carrying out a detailed nutritional analysis of camel and goat milk. These efforts will result in making the health benefits of these milks official, and aid market players. In the coming years, an official mandate from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India to ICMR will expedite the process of onboarding NIN to further this research.


Staff composition

The Livelihoods Director and Programme Coordinator worked closely towards thematic goals over the last year, with ample help from the team.



BMC blocks located in Kutch on a map of Gujarat.





Our initiatives aim to revive the indigenous wool value chain, preserving traditional skills and knowledge and fostering demand for desi oon.

Wool Livelihoods Programme

The practice of sheep rearing in India is deeply intertwined with the pastoralist way of life, embodying a symbiotic relationship between humans, animals, and the land. This tradition has sustained communities for centuries, preserving a wealth of artisanal skills and ecological knowledge. However, the rapid shift towards industrialisation and globalisation in recent decades has led to a decline in the use of indigenous wool, known as 'desi oon'. As the market for this sustainable fibre dwindles, so too does the cultural heritage and craftsmanship associated with it.

Sahjeevan's wool programme and Centre for Pastoralism's 'Desi Oon' initiative work to address some of these challenges. Our work on wool has focussed on developing initiatives aimed at enhancing industrial and crafts-based demand for this wool and showcasing the versatility and wealth of the wool fibre.

Sheep rearing is a traditional pastoralist occupation that has been practised in India for many centuries. The bulk of sheep in the country are managed and owned by pastoralists. In the years 2019-20, the 20th Livestock Census stated that India had close to 75 million sheep. Much of the wool produced in India is discarded due to limited demand. As a result, despite having the third largest population of sheep in the world, India imports the bulk of its wool. Currently, India spends close to ₹1500 crore a year on

imports of raw wool, yarn and fabric. The pastoral wool economy has begun losing its traditional shepherding skills, artisanal techniques, and intimate knowledge of the fibre. With growing global interest and popularity for indigenous wool as a sustainable fibre—and India's 75 million kgs of pastoral wool—there is tremendous scope to revitalise India's native wool economy. To this, we have launched a series of initiatives. Read in detail about our **Wool programme in Gujarat in Section 1** and **CfP's pan-India Desi Oon Hub in Section 2**.



SECTION 1- WOOL PROGRAMME, GUJRAT

In 2022-23, Gujarat ranked third in India for wool production, contributing 6% to the country's 33.61 million kgs. However, local shepherds struggle in the absence of processing facilities and declining market demand. This forces them to discard wool, and lose out on earning revenue. Transporting wool to the nearest market in Rajasthan is costly, nullifying any profit. GUSHEEL, which once provided shearing services and procured wool at ₹25-30 per kg, has ceased procurement due to significant losses, worsening the situation for shepherds. Now, they pay ₹15-20 per sheep per season for shearing, relying on shearers from Rajasthan.

To revive the wool value chain in Gujarat, we plan to establish a Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Kutch, equipped for washing, shearing, scouring and more. The CFC will support two product lines: insulation and wool in agriculture, with prototypes for wool compost and wool balls developed.

Over the next year, we aim to launch a pilot CFC, to closely understand every stage of the value chain. Collaborations with state and private sectors—CSWRI, GUSHEEL, AHD, CWDB, partner civil society organisations, the forest department, and private nurseries—will be essential to this initiative.

Capacity building of pastoral youth and women

The introduction of machine shearing technology has led to an improvement in wool yields, with 27 shepherd youth recently trained in this method. They now use mechanised shearers, the only group with this capacity in Gujarat. In a separate pilot, 14 pastoralist women were trained to sort wool by staple length, colour and body part. These women processed 3.5 tonnes of wool last year.

Because of these efforts, there is an overall improvement in the quality of wool in the Lakhpat region, where over 2 tonnes of wool were sold for ₹20/kg of wool, the first instance of such wool sales in nine years in the region.

Research and field trials for use of wool in agriculture

Raw wool was assessed for a variety of agricultural parameters, perhaps, most strikingly, wool demonstrated a water-holding capacity of 300% which is far higher than the soil (35-40%) and compost (100-250%). Wool fibres contained 12-14% nitrogen content, the highest for any natural (non-chemical) input used in agriculture. Lab experiments explored wool's physical properties, and compost was successfully created from a wool-cow dung mixture in a 70:30 ratio. A product was developed to harness wool's water-holding capacity in tree plantations. Laboratories were identified for chemical analysis, resulting in detailed nutrient and amino acid profiling reports. Field experiments assessed the feasibility and impact of applying raw wool in agriculture.

Advocacy

Advocacy efforts with the Animal Husbandry Secretariat in Gujarat, Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Wool Research Association and Central Wool Development Board aimed to leverage appropriate schemes and resources to accelerate these interventions. Our advocacy efforts resulted in GUSHEEL signing a non-financial MoU with Sahjeevan to revive the sheep wool value chain in the state. Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan, (An ICAR institute) has agreed to provide technical support in setting up a primary processing centre in Kutch.

Geography

In Gujarat, Sahjeevan focuses its work on three key regions: Kutch, Surendranagar, and Upleta.

Staff composition

Sahjeevan's wool programme is led by the Director of Livelihoods at the organisation. A Program Coordinator oversees and manages its functioning, and overall direction, and is assisted by a fellow placed at Sahjeevan within the India Fellows programme. We receive ample support from the Ghetla Bakra Maldhari Sangathan team, as well as from other teams within Sahjeevan.



SECTION 2 - DESI OON HUB

The hub, led by CfP, is a network of about 25 partner organisations nationwide. It collaborates with shepherds, knitters, felters, spinners, and weavers to revive traditional crafting skills and conducts technology research to enhance the use of indigenous wool in apparel and home furnishings. The Hub raises awareness about *desi oon* and pastoralism, showcasing this versatile fibre through annual events. The fifth exhibition was held last December at Triveni Kala Sangam and is now a staple in Delhi's event calendar!

The exhibition, inaugurated by Minister Parshottam Rupala, showcased traditional and modern uses of *desi oon*, fostering discussions on scaled procurement. Industry interest in procuring at scale is strong, contingent on traceability and certification. Partner sales nearly doubled from the 2022 festival, reaching close to ₹50 lakh.

At the 2023 Desi Oon Exhibition, the Central Sheep and Wool Board hosted a panel with senior bureaucrats, including the Textiles Secretary. Following the event, Desi Oon Hub was invited to partner with the government to showcase India's indigenous wool traditions at the Bharat Tex Expo in New Delhi, which drew over a lakh visitors, 3500 exhibitors, and 3000 buyers.

Several plans lie ahead for the Desi Oon Hub this year. These include finalizing the norms and membership of the hub and strengthening the vision, mission and values that undergird it. We also plan on building and amplifying our work across various communication channels.

We're working towards establishing a traceability toolkit for Indian wool, which will promote sustainable practices, enhance marketability, and increase the profitability of wool by proving its sustainability and provenance. Over the longer term, we aim to create a robust brand identity for *desi oon*, establish certification standards to meet

sourcing requirements, and create a Desi Oon Mark. Procurement of processed wool in response to industry demand for aggregated wool that has been washed, graded, sorted, and packaged, we are embarking upon three projects in Karnataka, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. These projects will come into full operation in 2024, and we anticipate that they will translate into a substantial increase in the price paid for wool from these areas, with benefits to both the shepherds and those involved with the processing. In early 2025, we plan to host a mini B2B pavilion and a Felters Conclave at the Living Lightly (LL) exhibition in Bangalore. These events aim to showcase industrially viable *desi oon* products and share a variety of wool felting techniques.

Prototyping insulation and packaging

We are exploring the large-scale use of indigenous wool in building insulation and packaging, which has garnered interest from architects and builders seeking alternatives to environmentally harmful materials like glass wool and rock wool. Over the past year, we have collaborated with product designer Janak Mistry and the Central Sheep Wool Research Institute to develop and test prototype acoustic and thermal insulation panels. These efforts aim to secure industry-standard certification. For 2024, marketing for these prototypes and expanding engagement with the building industry is envisioned.

Felting and its usage in packaging

Success has been achieved with Ecofelts, which converted significant quantities of indigenous wool into felt for various applications. Similarly, a partner of the hub, Earthen Tunes (Hyderabad) is developing thermally sensitive packaging materials for Käse Cheese, to transport cheese within Chennai and other locations overnight. Another partner, Go Do Good, has created alternative packaging solutions using *desi oon*, attracting significant interest in using this to export fruit. This packaging was showcased at the 2023 Desi Oon Exhibition.

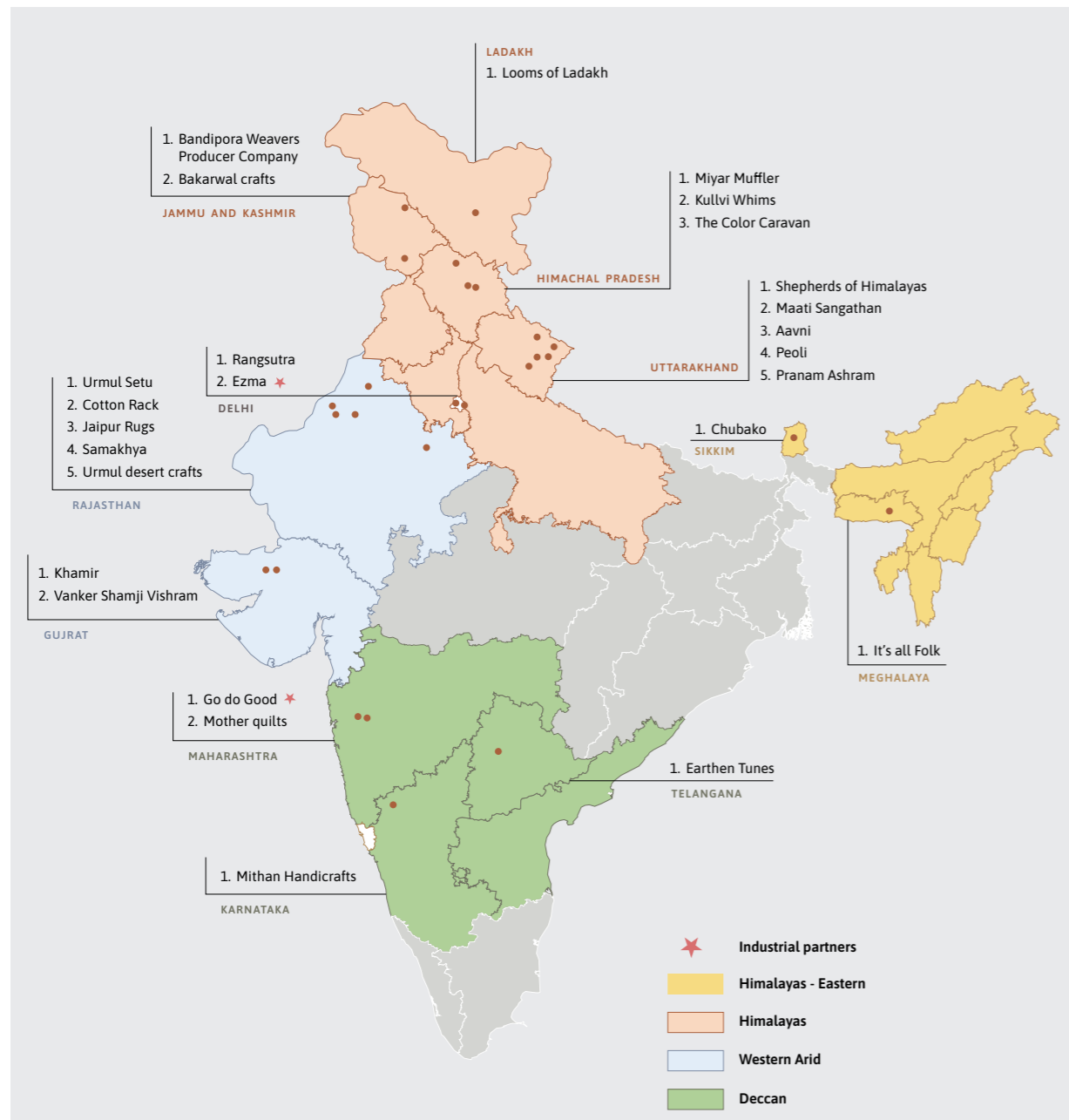
Geography

Desi Oon Hub partners are located across the pastoral regions of India, including in the Western Arid lands of Gujarat and Rajasthan, the Semi-Arid Deccan, including the states of Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, in the Western Himalayan states of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and the North East in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. We continue to collaborate with Kullvi Whims in Himachal Pradesh,

Maathi Sangthan in Kumaon, Uttarakhand, Khamir in Kachchh, Gujarat and Mithaan Handicrafts in Karnataka on value addition and capacity building linked to a variety of craft interventions.

Staff composition

The Desi Oon thematic was overseen by an anchor in the last year. Various collaborators, consultants, freelancers, and designers and hub partners have also contributed to the effort, alongwith the CfP team.



Map showcasing Desi Oon Hub partners



Desi Oon exhibition, 2023 at Triveni Kala Sangam, in Delhi



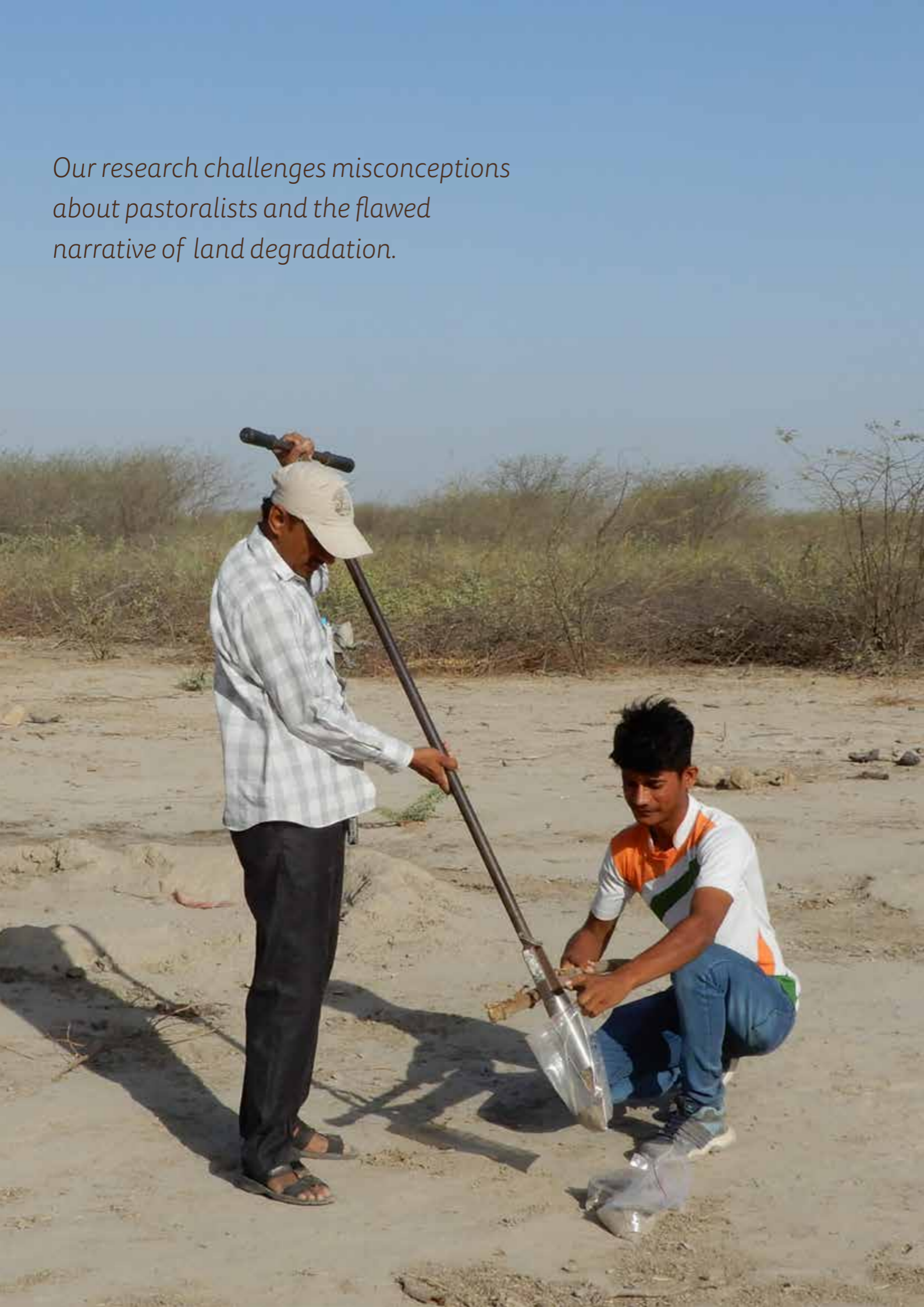
Kuruba women working on carding and felt craft, in Kadoli, Karnataka



Rebranded Desi Oon Hub Logo mark



Our research challenges misconceptions about pastoralists and the flawed narrative of land degradation.



Research at CfP

We undertake extensive research that challenges ingrained views on grassland management and pastoral mobility. The prevailing narrative often misrepresents pastoralists, depicting them as custodians of unproductive animals on marginal lands, inadvertently contributing to land degradation. This perspective perpetuates the flawed notion that pastoralists must abandon their itinerant lifestyles to access services and integrate into mainstream society. Our research seeks to dismantle these misconceptions.

Our applied research serves as a cornerstone for Sahjeevan's and CfP's programmatic interventions. By grounding our initiatives in empirical evidence, we ensure that our efforts are both contextually relevant and impactful. This symbiotic relationship between research and practice not only enhances our programmatic efficacy but also underscores our commitment to effecting tangible change within pastoral communities. Through these efforts, we strive to illuminate the multifaceted dimensions of pastoralism, fostering a deeper appreciation for its enduring significance.

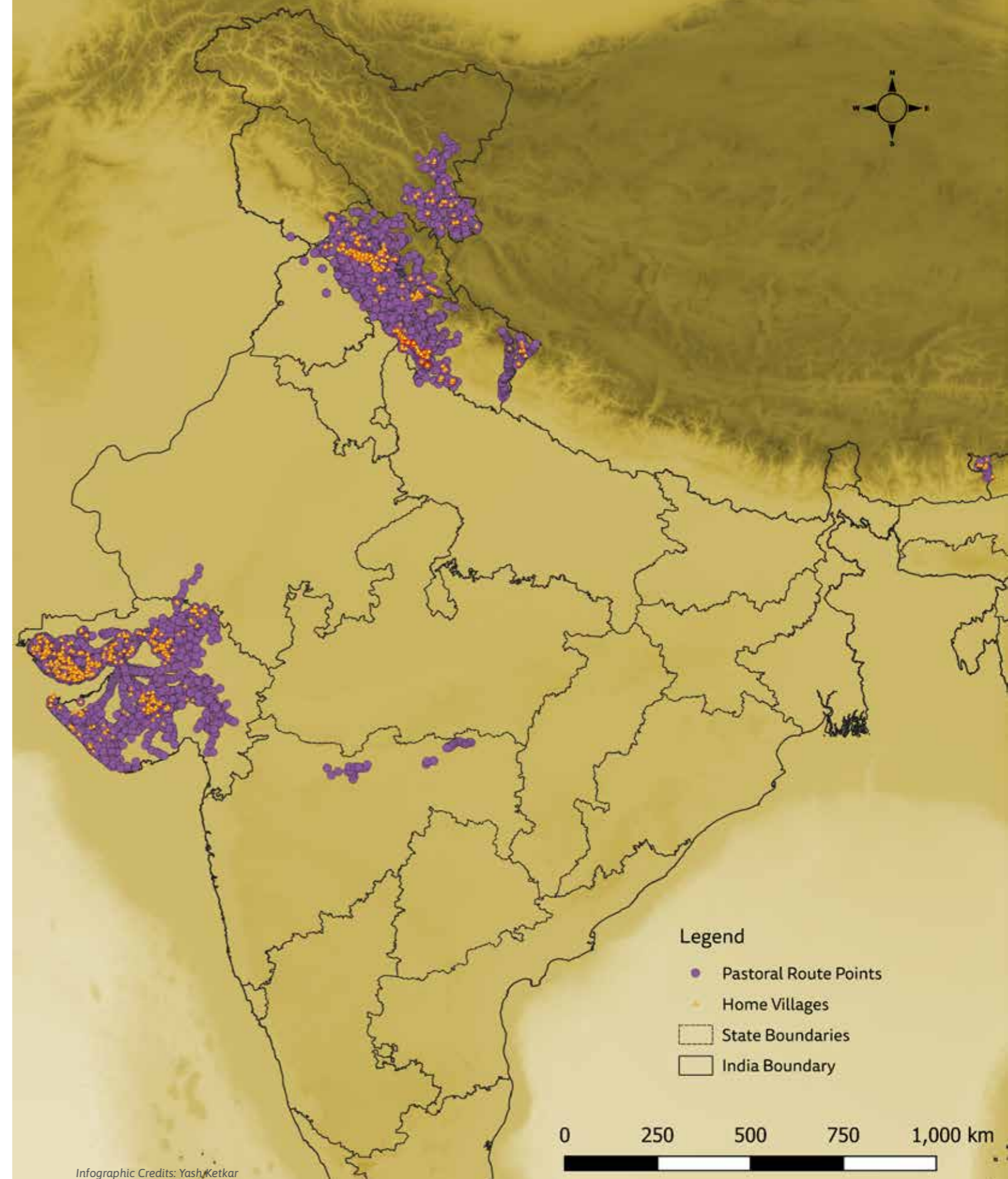
The mainstream perspective on pastoralism often relegates it to the periphery—geographically, socially, and economically. CfP's research work challenges this notion by highlighting the lucrative nature of pastoralism and its significant contributions to household and regional economies, genetic diversity, ecological health, and food security.

Despite its importance, advocacy for pastoralists frequently falters due to a lack of reliable data

regarding their numbers, the extent of their economic contributions, and the scope of their activities. To address this gap, we've dedicated the past three years to quantifying the pastoral economy across various states, mapping pastoral routes, and investigating the drivers and consequences of sedentarisation within these communities—a trend we believe is overstated. We aim to establish the economic and ecological rationale for pastoralism in India and its significance within local, regional and national socio-ecological systems.

Pastoral Migratory Routes

Data Collected by Centre for Pastoralism



Advancing Pastoral Studies

CfP's research team pursues three primary objectives. We aim to deepen the field of pastoral studies in India. Given that pastoralism is an emerging global field, CfP seeks to strengthen research on Indian pastoralism by funding student projects and supporting independent researchers. We encourage the involvement of students and community members in field research, providing training in field-based research methods. Our growing library catalogue, accessible to the public, serves as a repository of work on pastoralism.

Big-picture research

We facilitate big-picture research to challenge mainstream views on grassland management and pastoral mobility. Pastoralists are often mischaracterised as maintaining unproductive animals on marginal lands, contributing to land degradation. This perception supports the erroneous belief that pastoralists must settle to improve their access to services and integrate with the mainstream. Our research interrogates these narratives, highlighting the sustainability and resilience of pastoral practices.

Applied research

We conduct applied research that informs CfP's and Sahjeevan's programmatic interventions. The past year has been a breakthrough for us on many fronts. Our mapping work expanded to Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh and efforts in Himachal Pradesh began to deepen, with the introduction of our work that studies past and current transitions that pastoralists in mountain regions undergo. The quantification of pastoral economies across Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Ladakh has given us a clearer sense of documented complexities that exist at the level of the pastoral household and across value chains for wool and meat. For the very first time, after many iterations, we have produced estimates for the pastoral economy across India. This has been done across 11 major pastoral regions in India i.e.; Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh,

Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Pastoral value chains for sheep and goats have a potential contribution of an estimated \$7.3 billion. Across the country, for all pastoral livestock, the pastoral economy has the potential to contribute \$16.7 billion. This number is likely to be closer to \$20 billion per annum.

These breakthroughs have resulted in a more focused and dedicated effort to study pastoral transitions in the western Himalaya, as well as strengthening our mapping work. This is not only towards presenting the scale and spread of pastoralism, but also documenting narratives of change and pastoralist responses to ongoing social, economic and political trends witnessed across the country.

Expected research outputs

- State-wise Atlases for Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- CfP Working Paper series (papers on the value chains for wool, animal sale and camel milk economies)
- Pastoral Ecology Review Paper
- Mapping Methodology Paper
- Pastoral Transitions in Himachal Pradesh
- Pastoral Economy of Himachal Pradesh
- National Pastoral Value Chains

Staff composition

The research team at CfP is led by a Research Coordinator. Our programme in Munsiyari, Uttarakhand is anchored by the Alpine Conservation Coordinator. The research team in Delhi is composed of a Lead Cartographer, assisted by Associate Cartographers, Research Associates and Project Leads. Our field-based projects have numerous field and community-based researchers.



Our initiatives underscore a deep commitment to not only uphold pastoralists' rights but also integrate their unique needs into the fabric of national policies.



Access to Forage

This effort epitomises the broader struggle to harmonise ecological stewardship with socio-economic development. When the Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs requested insights into pastoral claims, it illuminated the fundamental tension between preserving age-old pastoral traditions and addressing the evolving needs of these communities. From advocating for pastoral claims in Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh to training officials and facilitating legal support—our work underscores a profound commitment to not only uphold the rights of pastoralists but also to integrate their unique needs into the fabric of national policies. The passionate protests in Gujarat, the united advocacy in Kutch, and the cultural celebrations in the Rabari and Fakirani Jat communities reveal a profound recognition of pastoralism’s cultural and environmental significance. This journey reflects an ongoing quest to reconcile the past with the present, ensuring that the wisdom of traditional pastoral practices is preserved and respected within the framework of contemporary legal and administrative systems.

In 2021, CfP launched its Access to Forage vertical with three key objectives to be achieved by 2024. These objectives include facilitating 200 claims across various states, advocating to support and follow up on these claims, and establishing a cadre of para-legal youths.

The following table showcases the work undertaken over three years. It highlights the substantial area over which claims are being filed and the number of households that are affected by the claim-making. It also points to the difficulties of obtaining government approval for claims, with Himachal Pradesh performing the best on that count.

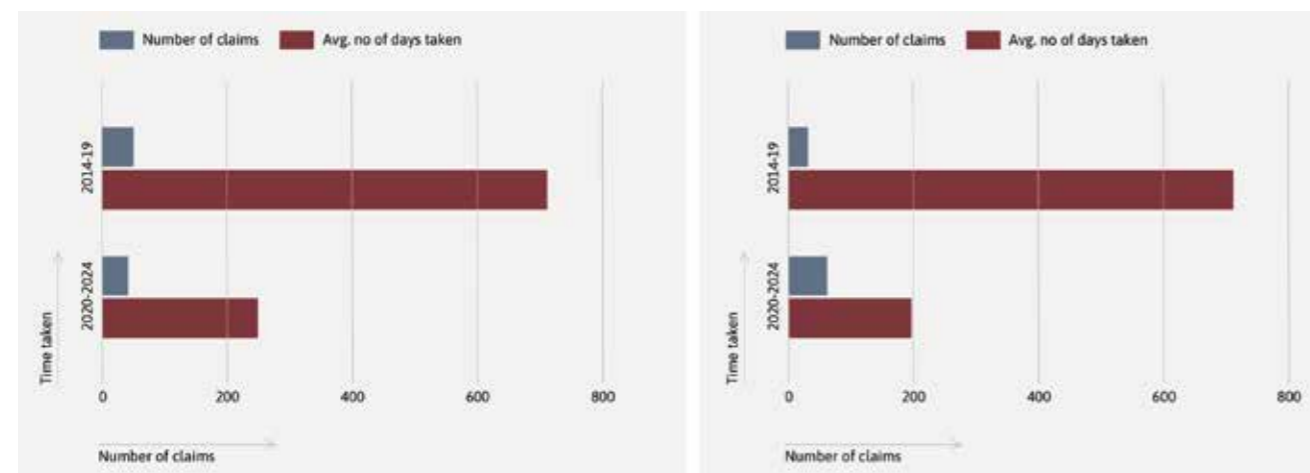
Our achievements so far:

	Himachal Pradesh	Gujarat	Maharashtra	Telangana	Uttarakhand	Total
Constitution of FRC	52	56	22	40	32	
Submission of Claims at SDLC	52	45	14	34	25	
Total Claims Secured	30	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	31
Hectares of Area claimed and secured	4,21,912.72	12,423.46	9035.34	16,740	52,749	
Pastoral households whose claims are submitted	3456	1613	4033	1689	7693	
Paralegals involved in the process	35	30	10	5	20	
Advocacy with government officials to settle/follow up on the claims	153	110	36	102	61	

We continue to function in a mode of wherein we attempt to maximise the number of claims submitted in the various states either we, or our partners work in. We believe that the act of filing a claim is an important means of establishing grazing rights to these lands by itself. We assume that approvals for these claims will improve over time,

especially as current bottlenecks to processing are identified and resolved.

Our work has demonstrated that the provision of human resources in facilitate claim-filing is paramount, as can be seen from this analysis of time series data from Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat:



Time-series data from Himachal Pradesh (left) and Gujarat (right) showcasing the significance of human resources and technical supporting in expediting the claims process



Para-legal youth training in Uttarakhand

Advocacy

Over the course of the year, there has been a considerable amount of time spent in general advocacy, including the following:

In February, Cfp was invited to be part of a discussion hosted by the Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on the status of pastoral claims in India. Several recommendations on the issue of pastoral claims were duly submitted to the Ministry.

Following Cfp's scoping in Jharkhand and initial dialogues with civil society organisations in the region (FES, PHIA, ISB), Cfp contributed significantly to the ongoing *Abua Bir Dishoom* program. The Tribal Welfare Commission of Jharkhand, with assistance from the FRA Cell, invited Cfp as a resource organisation to advocate for the inclusion of pastoral claims in the claim form distributed to Panchayats. As a result of this initiative, each panchayat will now record the total number of pastoral households and the villages from which these communities originate under Section 3(1)(d) of the form. Additionally, Cfp was invited to serve as a trainer for District Level Committee (DLC) and Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) training on pastoral claims in the districts of Palamu, Chatra, and Garwah in Jharkhand.

In Himachal Pradesh, a state consultation in Kangra in January focused on Bara Bangahal's claims and resource management, and on increasing awareness among the Tribal Department about the Forest Rights Act (FRA). In February the Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests (PCCF) notified the Tribal Development Department and Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED) about the potential for Community Forest Rights (CFR) management in Chota Bhangal's 28 villages, which were awarded FRA titles in 2020, and called for TRIFED's intervention in livelihood development through Minor Forest Production (MFP). The Forest Department requested regional tribal department support for these villages under the Van Dhan Kendra Cluster. The Kangra DLC also notified the DLCs of Solan, Mandi, Bilaspur, Sirmaur, Hamirpur, and Una to resolve pastoralists' claims across multiple districts.

In Maharashtra, the Wardha Administration requested training for officials on pastoral CFR claims, hosted by our partner CPC, including one DLC-level and two SDLC-level training sessions. In Telangana, MP P Ramalulu expressed support for claims submitted by pastoral communities

In Uttarakhand, the Van Gujjar Yuva Tribal Sangathan held a state advocacy event in September 2023 with MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, where Van Gujjars presented their FRA claims and raised issues relating to their continued struggles against state eviction notices. Pastoral youth received legal training on FRA and other acts from Advocate Shomona Khanna and Tushar Dash.

In Gujarat, the Jatavira Forest Rights Committee (FRC) near Charidandh wetland and bird reserve recently faced an order from the Sub-Divisional



Pastoralists rally against the delay in claim processing in Kutch

Magistrate (SDM) and collector to build an National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) solar plant on 50 acres of land. The wetland serves as a seasonal grazing area for Kharai camels from in Nakhatrana. In response, pastoralists gathered to protest the decision, submitted a petition to the collector, and successfully obtained a stay order on the construction.

In November 2023, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and FRCs from seven blocks in Kutch unanimously protested the delay in adjudicating their FRCs. Over 200 individuals from the Fakirani Jat and Rabari communities, participated in the rally. They presented their CFR claim documentation and engaged in constructive dialogue with the District Collector (DC). The DC committed to thoroughly investigate their concerns and expedite resolution.

Expansion plans

We will begin working in Jharkhand in 2024. We will also begin working in the Shivalik region of Uttar Pradesh, and the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand. Over the next few years, our programme aims to achieve over 350 CFR claims across seven states.

Geography

In 2023-24, Sahjeevan-CfP's Access to Forage programme worked in five states: Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana.

Staff composition

The FRA programme is anchored at CfP by the national National Coordinator for FRA and a State Coordinator for Uttarakhand. Sahjeevan leads the work in Gujarat, having a Project Coordinator and Community Mobilisers. In other states, we work with partners: Himachal Ghumantu Pashu Palak Mahasabha in Himachal Pradesh; Van Gujjar Tribal Yuva Sangathan in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh; Centre for Peoples' Collective in Maharashtra; and CONARE and WASSAN in Telangana.



Pastoralists rally against the delay in claim processing in Kutch



District level training in Wardha, Maharashtra



Claim facilitation in Himachal Pradesh



Claim submission to the SDM office in Himachal Pradesh





Biodiversity and Conservation

Pastoral communities graze their livestock on a wide range of lands, including forests, agricultural lands, village commons, grasslands and so on. It is hard, therefore, to describe a pastoral landscape. Perhaps the simplest definition of a pastoral landscape would be landscapes that are suboptimal from the standpoint of agriculture – the water-stressed regions of western India and the Deccan and the steep slopes of the Western Himalaya.

We currently undertake applied research towards enhancing our understanding of these systems and, where possible, using such understanding to improve conservation outcomes in these landscapes. Our interventions in these landscapes are quite different and are described separately.

In Gujarat, our work has four primary foci:

- Undertaking basic research on landscapes used by pastoralists in Kutch and Surendranagar, aimed at improving our understanding of them.
- Scaling up restoration work in Kutch, and conducting experimental restoration trials in Surendranagar.
- Continuing our Salim Node certificate course on Pastoral Ecology with pastoral youth, including a women's batch in Banni grasslands.
- Conducting outreach programmes aimed at improving the general understanding of biodiversity issues in these regions.

BASIC RESEARCH

Camera trapping with a focus on mammals in Chotila and Thangadh blocks

This year, our camera trapping project aimed to understand and conserve carnivores, particularly wild canids, in the savanna grasslands and thorn forests of Chotila and Thangadh blocks in the Surendranagar district of Gujarat. These landscapes are vital for grassland-specialist species like the Chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*) and the Indian fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*). The grasslands include village gauchar land, privately-owned grasslands or *vidis*, revenue land grasslands, agricultural land, and Reserved Forests. Notably, the private grasslands are crucial habitats managed by pastoralists. Our project systematically assessed mammal presence in these diverse land categories and worked closely with farmers, pastoralists, and the Forest Department to improve conservation outcomes. This effort enhanced our understanding of carnivore occupancy in Surendranagar's grasslands and generated science-based recommendations for carnivore conservation in grazing lands, also adding to the scientific knowledge of lesser-researched mammals like foxes and jackals.

The study was conducted in two phases: Phase 1 in Chotila block, covering 23 villages, and Phase 2 in Thangadh Taluka. We targeted species such as the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*, Near Threatened), golden jackal (*Canis aureus*, Least Concern), and Indian fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*, Least Concern). Our methodology included biannual camera trapping surveys, with the study area divided into 2km x 2km sampling grids representing grasslands and agricultural fields. We created these grids in QGIS, mapped mammal sightings, and placed one camera unit in each grid for ten days. We checked the cameras every two days, recorded mammal signs, and engaged local stakeholders through regular meetings. This approach ensures continuous data collection across seasons and years, generating a long-term mammal dataset for the landscape. By analysing the occupancy of targeted species and correlating presence with environmental variables, we are developing a comprehensive understanding

of the distribution of mammals in Surendranagar's grasslands. This is a work in progress and we hope to see it grow.

Mapping the decline of mangroves in Kutch

Our collaboration with The Geographic Information System Lab (TGIS) has focused on mapping the ecological damage in Hadakiya Creek of Eastern Kutch, which faces serious threats to its mangroves due to salt-pan expansion, dredging, and port activities. TGIS has helped create a time-lapse data series spanning the last thirty years to illustrate the present situation. This partnership is advancing towards more in-depth GIS-based work to support conservation efforts.

Flora of Surendranagar's savannas

We implemented our vegetation monitoring baseline protocol for the Surendranagar grazing commons in the selected landscape of Chotila and Thangadh. We worked in three villages: Gugaliyana (Reserved Forest), Rehamiya (Gauchars), and Chobari (*vidi*). Gugaliyana Reserved Forest exhibited the highest species richness and diversity among the areas studied, with a Shannon index of 3.606.

The vegetation distribution in this region adhered to Raunkiaer's law, indicating a healthy and balanced ecosystem with minimal disturbances. In contrast, Rehamiya and Chobari showed lower diversity compared to Gugaliyana. Notable deviations from Raunkiaer's law were observed in these areas, likely due to several contributing factors:

- Invasive Species: The presence of invasive species such as *Senna uniflora*, *Lantana camara*, and *Prosopis juliflora* has been outcompeting native plants, leading to reduced biodiversity.
- Shrinking Grasslands: The conversion of grasslands to agricultural use and other land use changes have significantly impacted the natural habitat.
- Windmills installation: The installation and operation of windmills in Chobari may be affecting plant distribution, further contributing to the deviations observed.



Photos by Sahjeevan Archives

- Differences in biodiversity and vegetation: The differences underscore the need for targeted conservation efforts to manage invasive species, preserve grasslands, and mitigate the impact of infrastructural developments on the natural ecosystem.

Prosopis juliflora encroachment in the restoration plots. These findings underscore the critical need for enhanced protection and sustained management practices to maximize the long-term benefits of our restoration efforts.

Long-term monitoring of 15 restoration plots in Banni grassland:

Sahjeevan has conducted long-term monitoring of restoration plots. Our efforts in Gorewali, Berdo, Dedhiya, Nani Dadhdhar, and Sherva have long-term impressive results, with vegetation cover and biomass increasing by 3.97 and 4.38 times, respectively, compared to unrestored areas.

Despite that, challenges persist. A majority of our plots (ten plots) have shown reduced or no significant improvement. The primary cause for this is inadequate plot management, particularly the

Biochar application in soil:

Sahjeevan has partnered with Satvik to promote ecological farming, and pilot the application of biochar. This will improve farmland productivity by enhancing soil health and crop yields. Biochar was applied to wheat and barley fields in various villages of Kutch as part of an ongoing experiment. While the first year's results are inconclusive, we will continue monitoring these plots over subsequent seasons to assess the long-term impact of biochar on crop yields.

SCALED RESTORATION OF PASTORAL LANDSCAPES:

Carbon credits and grassland restoration

Resource Management Committees (CFRMCs). In partnership with Varaha Earth Climate Action Group Pvt Ltd. and CFRMCs, Sahjeevan undertook a pilot in the Dedhiya village of the Banni, with the objective of managing invasive species by engaging the CFRMCs in biochar production. Using Kon-Tiki kilns, Prosopis wood was converted into biochar, a material high in carbon, which was then buried in deep pits as a means of permanently sequestering carbon from the atmosphere. This pilot helped generate carbon credits that were sold on the European voluntary market at \$120 per credit, generating approximately ₹2 crore from 2,000 credits produced from 800 tonnes of biochar. This revenue model has empowered CFRMCs to sustainably manage and restore the grasslands, ensuring long-term ecological balance and economic stability for pastoral communities.

It also led to a significant increase in biomass production, with biochar-incorporated plots showing an 1.87 times increase in native herbaceous vegetation biomass compared to untreated plots, based on field experiments in the grassland of Dedhiya. Biochar's high carbon content and moisture-holding capacity make it a valuable soil additive for nourishing both agricultural lands and grasslands.

Experimental methods for invasive species management

To manage the invasive species *Cassia uniflora*, we initially employed hand-weeding methods. However, this approach proved to be cost-intensive. Subsequently, we shifted to using hand sickles for cutting the plant post-monsoon, utilising labour for this task. This method was applied to an area of 400 sq m. The effectiveness of these restoration efforts will be evaluated after the monsoon season in both control and treated plots. Despite the initial high costs, the post-restoration evaluation revealed a significant increase in biomass and herbaceous

cover—approximately three times greater—in the restored plots. These results suggest that with advancements in cutting technologies, the cost-effectiveness of these methods can be improved, making them more viable for large-scale applications.

The experimental methods, though initially expensive, have shown promising results in terms of biomass and herbaceous cover. Future technological improvements are expected to enhance the cost-efficiency further and scale the effectiveness of our restoration efforts.



Salim Node course

The Pastoral Ecology course is designed to help young Banni pastoralists understand the connections between pastoralism and ecosystems and develop skills for grassland regeneration. The course combines traditional knowledge with modern education and is conducted by Sahjeevan in partnership with the Department of Earth and Environment Science at Kutch University (KU), supported by the Banni Breeders Association (BPUMS) and Research and Monitoring in Banni Landscape (RAMBLE).

This year, we successfully completed the third batch of the certificate course, graduating 17 male youth. Additionally, women-specific batches in Kharod and Nani Daddhar villages culminated successfully, with eight Baloch women from Kharod and ten women from Nani Daddhar completing the



Outreach programme in school

course.

The graduates were felicitated at KU by the Dean of the Department of Earth and Environment Science, where they presented their learnings and experiences. This initiative continues to empower the Banni pastoral community, fostering both ecological knowledge and community resilience.

Outreach to build awareness

A flapshell turtle found on a busy highway in Sayla was rescued and released into a nearby lake. Following this, an interaction with the Devsar Primary School resulted in a captive Indian star tortoise being released into the neighboring grassland and to a discussion on wildlife conservation with students of the school. We also observed World Sparrow Day at Devsar Primary School, with several students participating in the programme. An ecological health assessment form for Sayla Lake was submitted to the Gujarat coordinator of the AWC; Utilising the eBird application, a citizen science initiative from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, we conducted reconnaissance surveys through random transect walks to compile a species checklist and determine species abundance in the Surendranagar grasslands.

We organized the *Jungle no Jamavado* environment fair at Chhari-Dhandh conservation reserve on February 20th. 120 students and 30 educators from 14 schools participated in the event. Facilitated by Sahjeevan's Biodiversity Unit staff

and volunteers from Lalan College, groups walked four nature trails to identify birds, insects, plants, and animals. Students and teachers shared their field experiences through poems, plays, street performances, storytelling, and songs, showcasing their appreciation for Kutch's wildlife. Talks were given by a number of resource persons on the region's forest types, rich biodiversity and current conservation issues.

In the Guneri village of Lakhpat in Kutch, we dispersed native seeds of grasses and trees across 123 acres of common grazing lands in the tropical thorn forest before the monsoon season. Additionally, we planted 2000 saplings of native trees on community-owned land in the tropical thorn forest of Bhachau, Kutch. This initiative aims to offset methane emissions generated during biochar production in the Banni landscape. After thorough study of the ecosystem community, tree density, composition, and structure, we carefully selected lands that would benefit most from these plantations. This strategic decision ensures that our efforts enhance biodiversity and ecosystem health without disrupting the delicate balance of native grasslands.

We also conducted comprehensive training and capacity-building sessions for our team, and selected Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the Kutch and Chotila landscapes. The training focused on the Biological Diversity Act (BDA), 2002, including the constitution of BMCs, the creation of People's Biodiversity Registers



(PBRs), and the development of various action and conservation plans. These sessions aimed to enhance understanding and implementation of species conservation, habitat preservation, and community participation in biodiversity management.

2. KUMAON - Alpine rangelands conservation in Munsiri, Uttarakhand

The setting: The declining viability of pastoral livelihoods, and the degradation of their support-base which is the alpine rangelands ecosystems in the Himalaya, and in Kumaon in particular. The perceived major and proximate causes for the downward spiral are (i) an incremental dismantling of the commons management arrangements on alpine rangelands leading to unregulated and over-intensive grazing practices, (ii) government-induced sheep breeding programmes that have led to unsuitable crossbreeds that are susceptible to epidemic disease, to predation by snow leopards, and the collapse of the local wool market due to international wool trade practices, and (iii) increased conflicts with snow leopards which are the apex predators of the ecosystem, leading to the elimination of snow leopards, and in turn, leading to a major disruption of the trophic balance of the alpine ecosystem, the health and productivity of which, among other things, is the mainstay of these shepherd communities.

The objective: The project works to (i) strengthen livelihoods, and make more secure the livelihoods-base of alpine shepherd

communities by livestock herd improvement (breeding back appropriate breeds), working to conserve wool-based handicrafts through market interventions. And (ii) works toward conserving alpine rangelands through community action, and by reducing animal-human conflicts, and mitigating its impacts.

Activities:

- Promotion of the traditional Gharia breed of sheep through assisted purchase and induction by shepherds, to build-in resilience in the herd composition and to re-create a resilient breeding stock. Indigenous breeds often co-evolve traits that make them more adapted to a particular habitat. In this part of the Himalaya, the Gharia are more predator wary, they have a relatively higher resistance to epidemic disease, and are more discerning of the poisonous plants in their rangelands. They make better economic sense because of lower mortality, and they are larger in build, and therefore fetch a better price for meat.
- We are attempting to breed back the traditional Tibetan Mastiff guard sheepdogs. Good guard dogs lead to fewer snow leopard attacks on herds. The progress has been slow due to the Himalaya-wide decimation of Tibetan Mastiffs. Recurrent epidemic disease apart, this breed now fetches a high price amongst breed-enthusiasts and pups from pastoral landscapes have been progressively mopped up.

We have also been propagating the use of predator-deterrent strobe-lights. These are small solar powered devices that are switched on when the guard dogs sound the alarm. The use of these strobe lights has led to a drastic reduction in the incidence of predation by snow leopards in our area.

We have also built eleven community bear-proof caches in the alpine villages where raiding and by bears, has put the pastoralist communities yearlong food availability at peril.

1. Strengthening livelihoods: The price of coarse wool has greatly diminished across the Himalaya, because of large imports of softer wool, as well as the decline of the use of wool in the region. This has resulted in most shepherds abandoning sheared wool on the alpine meadows itself, and in turn, to a loss of livelihoods along the wool handicrafts chain, as well as the incremental impoverishment of the craft and associated cultures. The project works to conserve the linkages in the coarser wool chain, from the herds of coarse wool indigenous sheep (being bred for the conservation aspects already described), to traditional weaving techniques, to creating a production and marketing linkage for a higher value line of woollen apparel. We have collaborated with Indigene Crafts, a group of designers in Delhi to design and produce prototypes of various kinds of jackets, made from the local coarser wool, and create a Snow Leopard Line of relatively high end jackets. The response to our first exhibition of our prototypes was very encouraging.

2. Research, or establishing baseline data and monitoring change: The project has been working on building data that could reflect the current status of alpine rangelands in the valley, mapping of domestic livestock ranges, grazing and management regimes, wild prey populations, snow leopard populations, and historical incidences of predation and trends. An interim and partial assessment shows an estimated population of 14 snow leopards in the Gori basin. Our data on Snow Leopard populations in the Gori Basin has contributed to the Uttarakhand Snow Leopard Population Assessment of India, collated by the Government of India.
3. Governance aspects: We also work at strengthening traditional Commons arrangements and building conservation constituencies among communities in the alpine rangelands in the Gori basin. This is undertaken through every one of our activities, as well as through incremental dialogue with communities, taking on board the data and information from the research efforts described.



The Living Lightly exhibition brings the overlooked narratives of Indian pastoralists to the fore, provoking reflection, fostering connections, and catalyzing collective action.

Living Lightly

Experiential, interactive, and artistic spaces can engender new modes of expression and engagement, bring invisible narratives to the fore, and become a means of orientation to the world. In doing so, they can provoke reflections, steer conversations, foster connections among diverse groups, and catalyse collective action. We recognise the potency of such spaces, which is what our unique and impactful outreach endeavour is founded upon.

Living Lightly – Journeys with Pastoralists (LL) is, as its website explains, the first curated exhibition on pastoralism in India, covering the land, lives and livelihoods of Indian pastoralists. It captures their remarkable history of mobility, the ecosystems that nurture their life-worlds, their culture, science, art, music, cuisine, spiritual moorings, and the economics and challenges of herding. The exhibitions hold space for conversations amongst pastoral communities across geographies, between pastoralists and citizens, consultations with the government, and other dialogues about pastoralism in India, each one paving the way for broader possibilities for the next.

The Living Lightly exhibition premiered in IGNC, Delhi in December 2016 to wide acclaim. This first edition highlighted the pastoralists of Kutch, Gujarat. A full-scale exhibition unfolded in Bhuj, with smaller editions of the exhibition travelling to Ahmedabad, Noida, Cochin, and Rishikesh. The Living Lightly Utsav was modified to fit its environs—celebrating the Van Gujjar heritage of the region.

LL will now move to the south and incorporate elements of pastoralism as practised on the Deccan Plateau, scheduled to open in Bangalore, in 2025. Subsequently, the Deccan edition will travel to Hyderabad and Pune. The Himalaya edition is slated to unfold as a series of small exhibitions over the coming years. It will then culminate into a larger exhibition.



Consultation at the Youth Conclave at LLDC



Photo-essay exhibit on Van Gujjars, images by Michael Benanev



Sufi performance by musicians from Banni

Living Lightly LLDC

In January 2023, the LL exhibition found a fitting home at the Living and Learning Design Centre (LLDC), a renowned crafts museum in Kutch. This event was significant as many exhibits from our very first Living Lightly (2016) were inspired by pastoralism in Kutch. Therefore, hosting it in their native place, also the birthplace of Sahjeevan, marked a homecoming. Over five days, the exhibition drew 10,000 visitors who explored the *Sanjha Bazaar* (marketplace of pastoral crafts), sampled authentic pastoral cuisine from Kashmir, Marwar, Uttarakhand, and Saurashtra at Khanabadosh, and enjoyed musical and theatrical performances.

A major highlight of this edition of LL was the 'Homes on the Move' exhibit, where Rabari and Bharwad pastoralists demonstrated their incredible lightness of being by packing and unpacking their *home* onto life-size installations of a camel and a Halari donkey. Rabari women, who are tasked with efficiently packing with balance, in a manner that doesn't hurt the animal, displayed their unique skill in packing animals efficiently and humanely. This truly exemplified what it is to live lightly, in line with the exhibition's eponymous theme.

The event also featured a special exhibit by researchers Natasha Maru and Ian Scoons, and the PASTRES collective, highlighting pastoralism and uncertainty with photographs from India, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tibet, Italy, and Tunisia. Film

screenings offered insights into pastoralism across Bhutan, Mongolia, and various Indian regions, and workshops on Rabari embroidery, wool spinning, ply-split braiding, Himachali knitting, weaving, Lambani embroidery, and macramé were conducted by skilled artisans.

Another highlight of the event was Jaisingh Kaka, a Rabari pastoralist from Kutch, using an illustrated map to showcase India's longest pastoral route spanning nine states. A most notable outcome was the pastoralist youth conclave, which brought together young pastoralists from 17 Indian states and led to the formation of a National Pastoral Youth Federation.

Road to Living Lightly 2025

A substantial share of our efforts has been directed towards the upcoming LL edition slated to open in February 2025. The exhibition serves as a large umbrella, hosting a variety of sub-events such as consultations, seminars, and performances within its ambit. For this edition, the focal exhibition will host a series of photo narratives, immersive multimedia installations, music performances, interactive spatial exhibits, and more. The overarching theme keeps Deccan pastoralists at the forefront while illuminating pastoral life-worlds across the country as well. The past year has involved extensive documentation and programming for the exhibition, in partnership with and support from a wide range of institutions and individuals. The LL team has undertaken field trips to Maharashtra,

Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Tamil Nadu to document pastoral narratives that form the edifice of the exhibition. Under the curatorial guidance of Sushma Iyengar, the Deccan edition has become a collaborative commons, with institutions like Wassan, Anthra, Centre for People's Collective, Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Atree, NCBS, ASAR, Kanike Studio, Quest Alliance, and Living Labs-Bidar contributing their expertise and resources to honour pastoral lives on the Deccan plateau. Our design team, led by multidisciplinary designer and artist Oron Das, collaborated with Srishti students to refine exhibits, with additional contributions from academics, filmmakers, and designers. Unequivocally, the LL exhibitions are a collaborative pursuit, with myriad artistic formats, practices and intents making it a whole sum of its parts.

In addition to the art exhibition, several parallel projects and events have been planned. We engaged with venue partners, collaborators, potential sponsors, and guests to host various consultations, seminars, talks, and performances that will accompany the central exhibition in 2025. We have also been working on programming workshops for both children and adults, along with a set of film screenings alongside the festival. Lastly, a communications and outreach plan has been devised to ensure the upcoming event is a veritable success.

Staff composition

The team for the year included an Anchor, Associate Curator, Design Anchor, and Research Fellow, all under the guidance of the Curatorial Lead.



Through strategic communication efforts like documentation, branding, and information sharing, we broaden the reach of pastoralism to diverse audiences.



Communications and Outreach

Our previous report pointed out that the communications team works as a service provider and independent creator. Over the last year, the communications team has not only grown into both these roles, but has also been able to probe into the foundational essence of 'doing' communications - sharing and exchanging ideas and thoughts.

Communications frequently engages with a diverse array of mediums, towards various audiences and purposes. This naturally positions the team at the intersection of multiple endeavours, formats, and objectives. Through this unique position, the communications team has come to embody the role of a proactive intermediary, seamlessly bridging and integrating existing themes. In doing so, the team not only supports but also grows and evolves alongside different thematic elements.

Our work across documentation, information dissemination, strengthening awareness, practical assistance, empowerment, advocacy, news coverage, public interaction, livelihoods marketing and social branding has coevolved and even, been carried by one another. In this time, we've endeavoured to grasp all these several facets and explore their possibilities more fully, even finding new ones on the way. Let's look at some of these.

Upscaling Camel Milk Markets report

Camel pastoralism has been a distinctive feature of Gujarat and Rajasthan for centuries. However, the decreasing demand for camels as draught animals, a ban on the sale of animals for meat, and shrinking grazing lands has led to a steady decline in camel populations by the late 1990s/early 2000s. It became increasingly evident that creating market initiatives for the camel breeding community was necessary. With financial backing from the Government of Gujarat, Sahjeevan organised camel breeders into the Kachchh Camel Breeders Association (KUUMS) in 2011. KUUMS

aims to conserve camels, boost breeders' incomes through markets for milk and wool, enhance herd health, and register the Kharai camel as an Indian breed. This report was an effort to synthesise learnings from Kutch, showing how market initiatives can revitalise livestock economies, conserve camel breeding, and enhance public health. The report was given to stakeholders at a meeting in Rajasthan, jointly organised by the state's Animal Husbandry department, with support from Sahjeevan. It was also presented at the Symposium for Camel Milk, jointly organised by Sarhad Dairy and Sahjeevan.



A copy of 'Upscaling Camel Milk Markets'



Pastoral Times broadsheet



Informative handouts



2024 camel calendar

Pastoral Times (PT)

This is a broadsheet originally launched at the inaugural Living Lightly exhibition (LL) in Delhi, in 2016, as a publication complementary to the larger vision of the exhibition. Since then, it has moulded into a triannual publication, showcasing the world of pastoralism—its practices, stories, arts, and challenges, to name a few things.

To this end, PT features a range of themes, either commissioned for publication or sourced from other places, with due credits in place. We recently produced our 15th edition, and are planning a special edition aimed at a younger audience.

Google Arts & Culture

The Google Arts and Culture (GAC) platform was introduced to Cfp's communications team in July 2023. It presented an opportunity to showcase visually compelling stories about Indian pastoralism. There is currently a notable scarcity of comprehensive, visually supplemented content that delves into the intricacies of Indian pastoralism on the international stage. Cfp anticipates addressing this gap by cultivating a deeper understanding and appreciation of this vital cultural practice through GAC.

Over the past year, GAC India facilitated a concise training session on data utilisation and uploading for our team. We have since compiled stories, sorted images, and revised our narratives towards publishing our first few stories on the platform, by September 2024.

Support for Desi Oon Hub

The communications team crafted diverse collateral for the 2023 Desi Oon Festival, held at the Triveni Kala Sangam in Delhi in December. This included texts on indigenous wool, displays on India's sheep breeds and wool economy, posters and brochures. The team coordinated and also produced Cfp's first-ever exhibition catalogue, using text and images sourced from the 20-odd network partners of the Desi Oon Hub, and amplified the event on social media.

Informative handouts

Along with the creation of materials, the team also recognises the lacunae in outgoing communications. While we produce a plethora of reports and long-form reads, there is a need for short, easy-to-read material that offers an overview of our work and pastoralism at large, especially handouts for grant agencies and partners. Keeping this in mind, the communications team wrote, edited, and designed a set of leaflets offering an insight into Cfp's various thematics, as well as a primer on Indian pastoralism.

Annual calendar

UN designated 2024 as the International Year of Camelids to highlight their role in ecosystem protection, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation. To commemorate this, Cfp, in collaboration with Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) themed its 2024 calendar 'People of the Camel', weaving a rich tapestry of facts and narratives surrounding camels and their pastoralists.

Pastoralist Manifesto

Pastoralists sustain diverse livestock and contribute significantly to India's economy and biodiversity. Their resilience and adaptive skills are crucial amid climate uncertainties, warranting recognition and support in national planning and policies. Ahead of India's General Elections 2024, this manifesto was written and designed in collaboration with our FRA team to highlight pastoralist voices to contesting parties. This was a significant document in that it squarely placed the importance and the stressful condition of India's pastoralist communities before the nation's legislators.

Himachal Pradesh Atlas

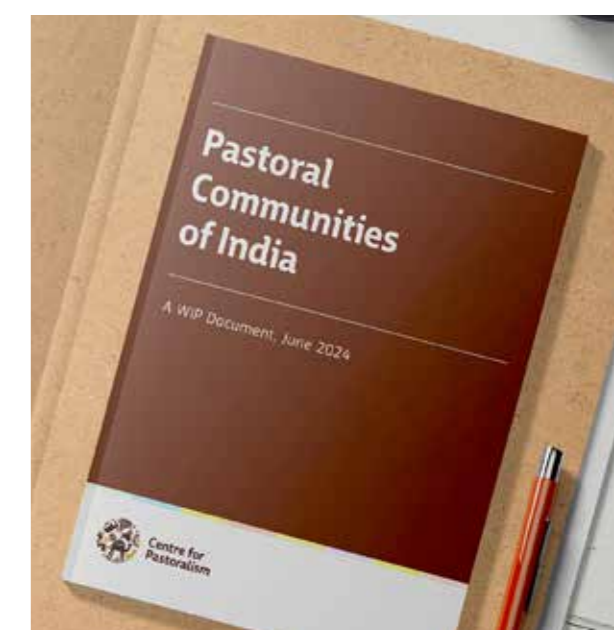
The communications team worked very closely with the research team on this project, which offers detailed cartographic representations of pastoralist communities across India. Based on data collected over the past three years, this initiative utilises visually compelling infographics and maps to illustrate the extensive presence of pastoralism across the state of Himachal Pradesh. The larger objective of the project has been to counter a mainstream perception that pastoralism represents a marginal way of life, very much on the margins of Himachal's landscape.

Pastoral Communities of India

The Pastoral Communities Project, envisioned as a book and in the future, also a website, aims to be a single, panoramic database on Indian pastoralism. This project has involved extensive research, compilation, and categorisation. Contributions

have been sourced from individuals in various parts of the country. This has included rich responses to a request for crowd-sourced information. This is a multi-layered project with truly wide ranging ownership.

It serves several ends and purposes. To illustrate just two of them: First, it will provide the general public with a nuanced and visually captivating exploration of pastoralism through a coffee table book. Second, the mini version will furnish government officials and enumerators with critical insights into the pastoral environment, ensuring thorough preparedness for the imminent livestock census, which includes a first ever effort at counting pastoral livestock.



'Pastoral Communities of India' project workbook



Desi Oon festival 2023



Desi Oon logo (above) and mark (below)

Outreach through social media

We strategically took stock of our social media presence this year, exploring its possibilities as a medium to disseminate information, foster communities, and in some manner, act as a democratic space itself. We've worked on creating strategies and content to reach more people and engage them with several facets of pastoralism. Our following on our foremost medium, Instagram, has doubled, while the reach has tripled at various times. We also started to repurpose content to create threads on X (formerly Twitter).

Organisational materials

In addition to the above, we brought out a variety of other reports, brochures, and documents. We also provided regular support to various teams in their needs for emailers, social media posts, hiring call-outs, printing and shipping support and much more!

Rebranding

This year started out with a drive to synergise our identity across our various platforms. We hired an external consultant, GPaul to work with us. They provided revised identity marks for CFP and Desi Oon that work to create a familial look and feel.

Templates have been developed and have proved useful to action the communication collateral more efficiently. For instance, the redesigned Desi Oon logo builds upon the earlier mark, retaining the typographical language while enhancing the overall compactness for usability across various print media sizes and formats. Both, the CFP and Desi Oon identity come together and supplement one another.

We developed a certification mark for *desi oon* products through a co-creation process with Desi Oon Hub partners. This mark will distinguish indigenous wool products in the market and highlight their heritage and values. It is a work in progress, and registration is currently underway.



CFP logo as a sticker



CFP logo embroidered



Staff composition

We welcomed a Communications Anchor and a Graphic Designer on board this year! Two interns completed their CFP internships, with one also finishing her graduation thesis with us. Post this, we got two new interns on board, working on their graduation projects, supporting our team and planning to engage further with CFP after their internships conclude. Regrettably, we bid farewell to our Communications Coordinator after nearly two years of dedicated work and mutual learning, as she set out to pursue new opportunities. Additionally, we benefited from the expertise of a part-time social media consultant who developed a comprehensive strategy during their three-month tenure with our team. Looking ahead, we remain committed to engaging with individuals of diverse talents and backgrounds. Our internship programme has proven to be rewarding for all concerned, and we hope to grow this in the coming years.





Organisational Governance

The Governance and Finance Department of Sahjeevan is run by a unit called the Central Coordination Unit. This unit provides a range of governance and finance-related services to Sahjeevan.

During the year 2023-24, CCU organized two meetings of the Sahjeevan Board of Trustees, 1 meeting of the Annual General Body of society members, and 2 meetings of its Finance Committee. Apart from this, one meeting of the steering committee of biodiversity thematic and 2 meetings of Steering committee of CFP has been organized.

Organisation Development process

This year, Sahjeevan carried out organisational development processes covering and focusing on the following areas.

- Strengthening Sangha and Sangthan as a support organization (Mission led Sangha and sangthans with equal participation of men, women, youth and leaders)

- Value aligned culture and programme designs
- Efficient structures and processes (Decentralisation, system digitalisation, participatory governance)
- Gender Equity
- Sustainability (sustainable programme outcomes, financial sustainability, knowledge bank/ repository)
- Team Building (Empowered Team, Strong interpersonal Relations)
- Capacity Building

Staff Capacity Building

A three-day gender training session was organized for the staff, with Anuradha Prasad serving as the resource person. The training took place from September 11th to 13th, 2023.

Two of our team members Dipika Thacker and Dhara Pithadia attended the training of FCRA compliances by Navjeevan center for Development.

Governing Board meetings	2 times - in Sep 2023 & Feb 2024
Annual General Body Meeting	1 time - in Sep 2023
Finance committee meetings	2 times - in Sep 2023 & January 2024
Steering committee meeting of Biodiversity	1 time - in August 2023
Steering committee meeting of Centre for Pastoralism	2 Times- in June 2023 & January 2024

The following legal compliances were fulfilled:

Changes in of Trustees	Reported in Charity Commissioner office, FCRA MHA site and on NGO Darpan site
Returns	Income Tax and FCRA Returns for the previous Financial Year were filed on or before the due dates.
Taxes	Income Tax (TDS) and Professional Tax was deducted, as per rules, and deposited with the respective authorities.
Audits	Statutory Audit was completed on time and all queries answered to the satisfaction of the Auditors.
Provident Funds	Provident Fund Contributions were deposited with the Office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner and all necessary Returns filed before due dates.
Gratuity	Employees Group Gratuity Scheme was renewed.
Insurances	Staff Personal Accident Insurance, Asset Insurance and Money Insurance Policies were renewed and updated from time to time, as required.
POSH	No POSH case was filed during this period.

Diversity profile of Staff as on 31st March 2024:

	Male	Female
Privileged	22	19
Under Privileged	9	9
	31	28
Steering committee meeting of Centre for Pastoralism	2 Times- in June 2023 & January 2024	

Financials

SCHEDULE VIII (see rule 17(1))

Sahjeevan, Bhuj (Kutch)

175 - Jalaram Society, B/h. Vishwamangal Apartment, Vijaynagar, Bhuj, Kachchh, Gujarat,- 370001 India
Trust Regd. No. F- 421 (Kutch)

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024

Funds & Liabilities	Amount	Property and Assets	Amount
Trust Fund or corpus		Immovable Properties	
As per Annexure I	1,49,53,059	As per Annexure VI	1,01,69,182
Other Earmarked Funds		Movables Properties	
As per Annexure II	10,67,703	As per Annexure VII	47,83,877
Project Fund-As per Annexure III	2,35,50,370	2,46,18,073	
Loans (Secured or unsecured)		Investments	
From Trustees	-	As per Annexure VIII	2,24,34,464
From Others	-	Loans (Secured or unsecured)	
Liabilities		Good / doubtful	-
For Expenses-As per Annexure IV	5,36,408	Loans scholarship	-
For Advances	-	Other Loan	-
For Rent & other Deposit	-	Advances	
For sundry credit balances	-	To Trustee	-
	5,36,408	To Employee- As per Annexure IX	2,72,482
Income & Expenditure Account		To Contractors	-
As per Annexure V	3,82,45,157	To Lawyers	-
		To Others- As per Annexure X	21,22,987
		23,95,469	
		Income Outstanding	
		Rent	-
		Interest	-
		Grant Receivables- As per Annexure XI	8,94,503
		TDS Receivables- As per Annexure XII	3,13,988
		Other Income	-
		12,08,491	
		Cash & Bank Balance- As per Annexure XIII	
		a) Balance with Banks	3,73,58,879
		b) Cash in Hand	2,335
		3,73,61,214	
Total Rs.	7,83,52,697	Total Rs.	7,83,52,697

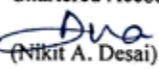
Place : Bhuj - Kutch
Date : 09/09/2024


Chief Finance Officer



Executive Secretary



As per our report of even date
For I. H. Desai & Co.
FRN No.102309W
Chartered Accountants

(Nikit A. Desai)
Partner
M. No. 164027

SCHEDULE IX (see rule 17(1))

Sahjeevan, Bhuj (Kutch)

175 - Jalaram Society, B/h. Vishwamangal Apartment, Vijaynagar, Bhuj, Kachchh, Gujarat,- 370001 India
Trust Regd. No. F- 421 (Kutch)

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending on 31st March, 2024.


Expenditure	Amount	Income	Amount
Expenditure in respect of property		Rent	-
Rates, Taxes, Cesses	-	Interest- As per Annexure XXII	
Repairs & Maintenance	-	On Security	14,93,283
Salary	-	On Loan	-
Insurance	-	On Bank Account	12,68,075
Depreciation	-	27,61,358	
Other Expenses	-	Dividend	-
Establishment Expenses- As per Annexure XIV	92,87,519	Donation	
Remuneration to Trustee- As per Annexure XV	75,000	As per Annexure XXIII	
Rent Expenses- As per Annexure XVI	13,19,634	Domestic	30,000
Legal Expenses	-	International	-
Audit Fees- As per Annexure XVII	2,81,600	30,000	
Professional Fees	-	Grants	
P.T.Contribution- As per Annexure XVIII	50,000	As per Annexure XXIV	
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	Domestic	5,52,57,485
Depreciation- As per Annexure XIX	10,56,813	International	2,99,52,451
8,52,09,936			
Amount Written-off	-	Income from other sources	-
Loss on Sale of Assets- As per Annexure XX	27,04,906	27,04,906	
Amount transferred to Reserve or Specified Funds	-	Transfer from Reserve	-
Expenditure on objects of the trust			
As per Annexure XXI			
Religious	-		
Education	-		
Medical Relief	-		
Relief of Poverty	-		
Other Charitable Objects	7,06,14,106		
7,06,14,106			
Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet			
	26,11,716		
Total Rs.	8,80,01,294	Total Rs.	8,80,01,294

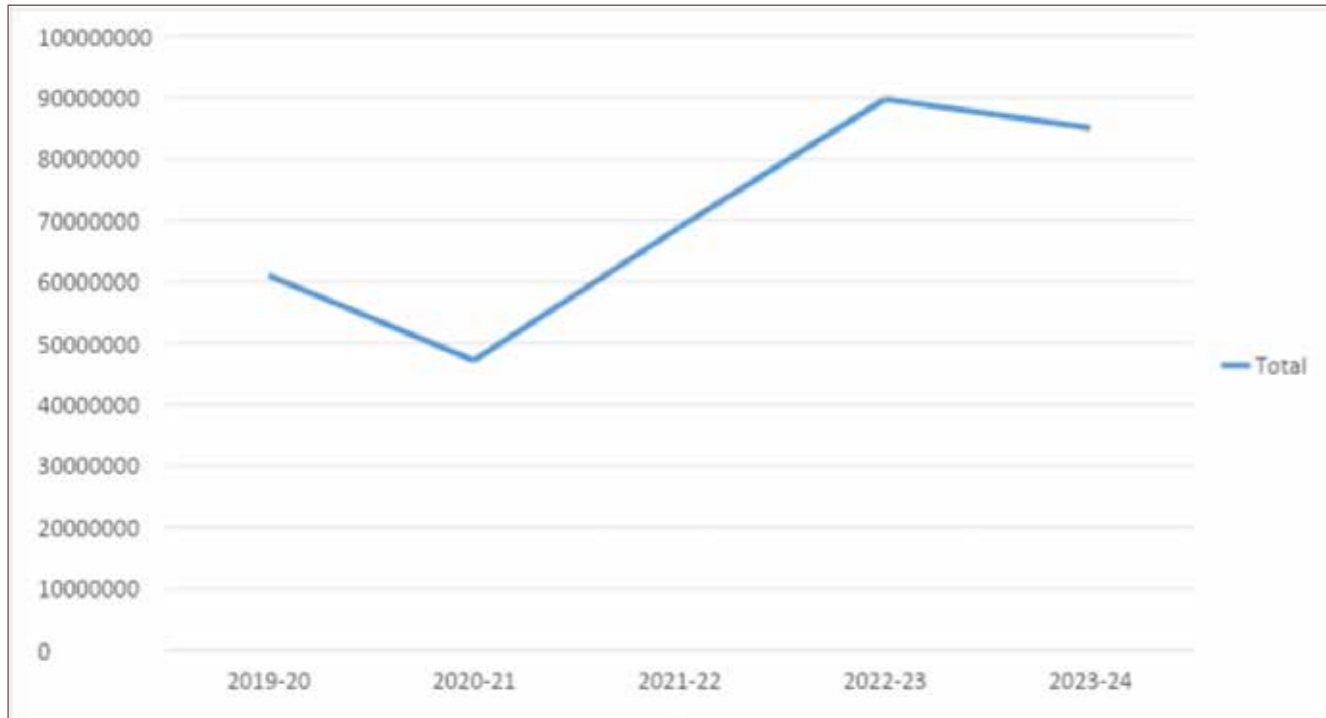
Place : Bhuj - Kutch
Date : 09/09/2024


Chief Finance Officer

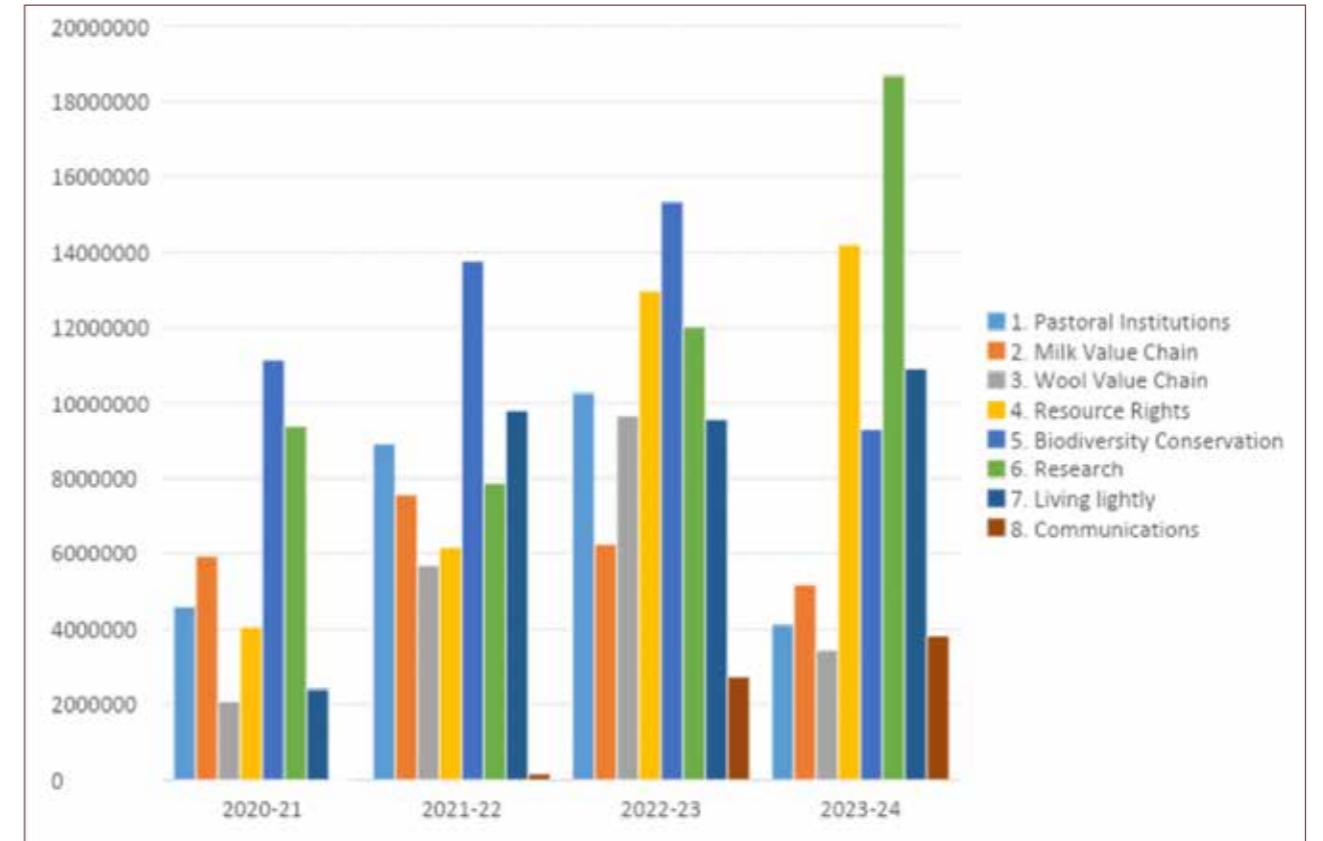

Executive Secretary



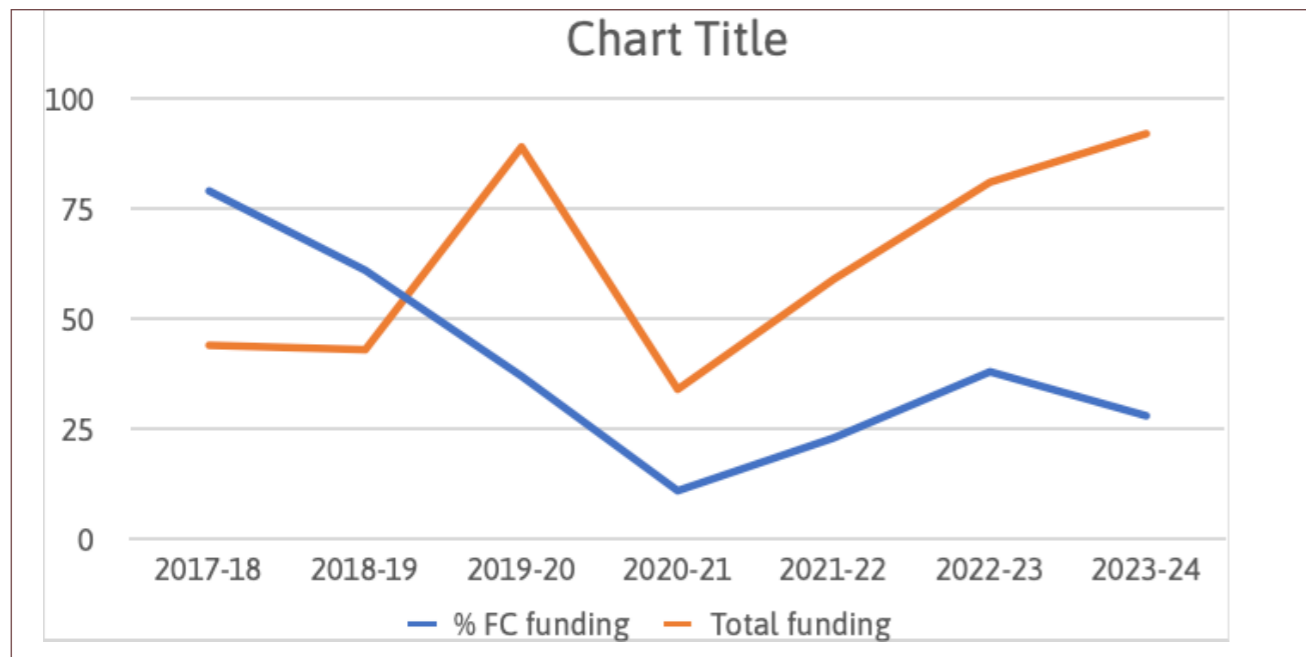
As per our report of even date
For I. H. Desai & Co.
FRN No.102309W
Chartered Accountants

(Nikit A. Desai)
Partner
M. No. 164027



Financial growth through the years



Thematic-wise financial outlay



Funding from foreign and domestic sources over the years. The graph showcases our decreasing reliance on foreign funding sources.

Donors and Partners

We are grateful to our supporters for enabling us to achieve all that we have in the past three years and for their continued support. We are fortunate on many counts, for our donors have provided us flexibility in the use of funds, while also engaging

with us on the specifics of our work. These have been partnerships in the widest possible sense of the term, and we are grateful for the faith shown in us.

Foundations - CSRs and others



Azim Premji Foundation



Axis Bank Foundation



Dasra Foundation



Ford Foundation



Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation



The Bajaj Finserv Group



Bajaj Allian General Insurance Co. Lt.



Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies



The Nudge Institute



WWF-UK



Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying



Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute



Central Wool Development Board

Gujarat Sheep And Wool Development Corporation

Partners : Research and Academic Institutions



Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment - ATREE



Kamdhenu University



Anand Agriculture University (AAU)



Kranti Guru Shyamji Krishna Kachchh University



NCBS - National Centre for Biological Sciences

Partners : Government agencies



Department of Animal Husbandry, Gandhinagar



Gujarat Forest Department, Kachchh Circle, Bhuj



NBAGR

Partners : Research and Academic Institutions



Urmul Seemant Samiti



Access Livelihoods Consulting India Ltd.



Hunnarshala Foundation



Setu Abhiyan



Satvik : Promoting Ecology



Amul Dairy



KHAMIR



Sarhad Dairy



Parvah Dairy

K-link

Network Partners: International



IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature



Institute of Development Studies



University of Kyoto

Network Partners: CBOS



BPUMS - Banni Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan



Kachchh Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan - KUUMS

Sheep and Goat Breeders Association - Lakhpatt

Sheep and Goat Breeders Association - Surendranagar

Halari Breeders Association

Sahiyaren Jo Sangathan

Network Partners: Regional and National



Arid Communities and Technologies(ACT)



Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS)



Kachchh Navnirman Abhiyan



Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network



Watershed Support Services and Network (WASSAN)



RAMBLE

Accreditation and Network



Sahjeevan received the GuideStar India Gold (Advanced Level) award from the GuideStar India team. This recognition was granted after a comprehensive review of our financial and legal compliance, which included an examination of registration documents, tax returns, FCRA returns, audited financial statements, and auditor's reports.

Network

IUCN

Sahjeevan has a membership of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) that works to advance sustainable development and create a just world that values and conserves nature.

KNNA

Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan, better known as Abhiyan, is a collective of Kachchh based development organizations with a strong local presence. The objective of the network is to synergize human knowledge, physical & financial resources to collaborate towards a Kachchh which is governed by community initiatives.



Sahjeevan's Board



Sandeep Virmani
President

He is an architect by training and has worked on issues relating to biodiversity, organic farming, renewable energy, nomads and their habitats, conservation ecology, disaster management and locally-relevant housing for the past few decades. He is a founding member of many organisations, including Hunnarshala Foundation, Satvik, Arid Communities and Technologies (ACT) and Kachchh Nav Nirman Abhiyan. He is an ex-trustee of Gujarat Desert Ecology (GUIDE), president of Consortium for DEWATS Discrimination (CDD), promoter and vice president of ACT, and founder trustee and governing board member of Kachchh Nav Nirman Abhiyan.



Gagan Sethi
Vice President

He is the founder of Janvikas, an NGO whose programmes led to the establishment of Sahjeevan. He is an institution development expert and human rights activist and has played a crucial role in setting up many organisations, including Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Drishti Media Arts and Culture, Centre for Social Justice and ECONET. He is a highly respected trainer on organisational development, project planning and evaluation and has co-authored two books, 'Reconstructing Gender towards Collaboration' and 'Right to Free Legal Aid'. Gagan has a bachelor's degree in economics and statistics from St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad and a master's degree in social work from MSU Baroda.



Yugandhar Mandvekar
Executive Secretary

He has over 35 years of experience working on rural livelihoods and community-based natural resource management. He has worked on several watershed developments, climate-resilient agriculture and livelihoods programmes, and has supported over a hundred CSOs and FPOs on strategies, implementation systems and managed result chains, including capacity-building in those areas. He is on many governing boards, including Grass Roots Action for Social Participation, Aurangabad (GRASP), Marathwada Sheti Sahayya Mandal, Jalna (MSSM) and Society for Action in Community Health, New Delhi (SACH). Yugandhar holds a master's degree in management from the Indian Institute of Management and a B.Tech from Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola.



Kirti Khatri
Member

He is a well-known journalist and author. He was the long term editor of Kachchhmitra, a popular daily. He has been honoured with several awards, including the Kachchh Shakti Award in 1990 and the Harindra Dave Smriti Partitoshik in 2011. He also received the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award from Gujarat Media Club and is the second recipient of the Tushar Bhatt Journalism Award. With his clear vision for the future, Kirtibhai has been described as the mobile encyclopaedia of Kachchh.



Krupa Dholakia
Member

A strong community mobiliser, organiser and trainer, Krupa has 23 years of experience in strengthening local communities on gender perspectives and building community-based organisations to manage natural resources and traditional livelihoods. She has made significant contributions to resolving issues of water scarcity. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Gujarat University, a bachelor's in education and a post graduate diploma in ecology and environment from the Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment, New Delhi.



Dr. Sabyasachi Das
Member

He served as Sahjeevan's CEO for many years where he was instrumental in conceptualising and developing much of its current work. He is the director of Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN), where he oversees the RRA Network hub and the livestock programme. He has extensive experience as a researcher and a development professional. His areas of interest include sustainable agriculture, pastoralism, water and natural resource management, livelihood promotion, institution building, and policy advocacy.



Dr. Rajeshwari Raina
Member

She is a professor at Shiv Nadar University with research and teaching experience of close to 30 years. Her research interests are centred on the relationship between knowledge and economic development, specifically in agricultural and rural contexts. Equipped with a multidisciplinary education and social commitment to equitable and sustainable development, she undertakes individual and collaborative research projects and is part of various strategic knowledge alliances with partners in academia, civil society, industry and the state.



Dr. Devinder Kumar Sadana
Member

Dr. Devinder Kumar Sadana is an eminent scientist who has an extensive research and teaching experience of 31 years. His work includes some of the most significant contributions to the arena of Characterization of defined and lesser known livestock breeds and populations of India. He has worked as principal scientist with renowned organization such as NDRI and NBAGR. He has been guiding several PhD and MSc Scholars and been a trainer at several international organizations. He is also a respected author and has several publications to his credit.

Sahjeevan team

Administration

Kavita Mehta (Executive Director & Director - Livelihoods CfP)
 Nimish Gor (HR & Administration)
 Dhara Pithadiya (HR & Governance)
 Vishnu Gor (Administrative Officer)
 Valji Jepsal (Office assistant)

Community Institutions, Livestock Health and Breed Conservation

Ramesh Bhatti (Programme Director)
 Bharati Sanjot (Programme Coordinator)
 Kiran Patel (Programme Coordinator)
 Sandeep Kanojiya (Project Coordinator)
 Narendra Nandaniya (Project Coordinator)
 Mahesh Garva (Project Coordinator)
 Jabbar Sama (Project Coordinator)
 Jayesh Paraliya (Project Coordinator)
 Suresh Kuvadiya (Project Coordinator)
 Parbat Parmar (Project Coordinator)
 Sharifa Pathan (Project Coordinator)
 Savita Batta (Assistant Project Coordinator)
 Ankita Kathecha (Assistant Project Coordinator)
 Saraswati Parmar (Assistant Project Coordinator)
 Mittal Pargi (Assistant Project Coordinator)

Biodiversity

Manya Singh (Programme Coordinator)
 Ritesh Pokar (Programme Coordinator)
 Khyati Thacker (Project Coordinator)
 Malaika Chawla (Project Coordinator)
 Abdul Sattar Sharma (Project Coordinator)
 Kujan Kalotara (Assistant Project Coordinator)

Resource Rights

Vishwa Thacker (Project Coordinator)
 Vikas Thumar (Project Coordinator till May'23)
 Pratap Chavda (Project Coordinator from July'23)
 Hiren Dabhi (Community Mobiliser)
 Gova Bhai Rabari (Community Mobiliser)

Livelihoods

Anurag Khushwaha (Programme Coordinator, Milk)
 Aslam Palani (Programme Coordinator, Wool)

MIS Documentation and Communication

Krutika Haraniya (Coordinator Monitoring)

Finance

Aditi N Thacker (Chief Finance Officer till Dec'23)
 Bishwash Tiwari (Chief Finance Officer from Dec'23)
 Dipika Thacker (Accountant)
 Trijal Chhaya (Accounts Assistant)
 Muneerahemad Sultan Memon (Accounts Assistant)

RAMBLE

Habhu Bijal Harijan (Field Assistant)
 Khyara Kharet (Field Assistant)
 Rasul Jat (Field Assistant & Driver)
 Kabul Halepotra (Cook)

Support staff

Navin Bhanushali (Driver)
 Narendra Sinh Sodha (Driver)
 Kaushik Thakar (Driver)
 Bhavnaben Barot (Pantry Staff)

CfP's Steering Committee

CfP has a Steering Committee that is charged with providing programmatic and financial oversight of this unit within Sahjeevan. It is a five member body, with a three year term, that meets every four months.



Dr. Amrita Patel

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Padmabhushan for her contribution to India's dairy sector. She headed the National Dairy Development Board, which led the world's biggest dairy development program - Operation Flood, from 1998 to 2014. She is the founder of the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) and is currently a member of its Governing Board. She is also the Former Chairperson of Shree Krishna Hospital, Anand.



Dr. Jayashree Ratnam

She is currently at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research where she serves as Director of the Wildlife Biology and Conservation Program. She is particularly interested in the history, ecology, function and conservation of tropical savannas, forests and grasslands. Current work includes paleo-history and functional ecology of Asian savannas and grasslands and long-term monitoring of Asian tropical forests and savannas.



Sunil Parekh

He is an author, an empanelled arbiter, and senior strategy advisor with Zydus Life Sciences Group and Jubilant Bhartia Group. He has 45 years of work experience with corporates in India, Africa and the USA. He is a Member of the National Executive Committee FICCI, and Chair, FICCI Gujarat since 2010. He currently Chairs FICCI Gujarat's Social Compact Committee (2021-22) for improving labour standards. He is also involved with two global organisations- WEF Geneva's Shapers Initiative and The Value Web and serves on the board of several organisations within and outside India. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Outstanding Contribution to National Development in 2014.

CfP team



Jaya Jaitly

She is the Founder of Dastkari Haat Samiti, the remarkable space in Central Delhi that hosts and showcases the work of craftspeople from across the country. She is a passionate advocate for crafts people and has spent decades working to enhance their visibility and identify means by which they might have improved access to mainstream markets. She has authored numerous books on Indian crafts and has curated shows all over the world. Jayaji was the former President of the Samata Party.



Sandeep Virmani
President

He is an architect, conservationist and institution builder who has spent the last 3 decades in Kachchh, Gujarat, working with communities to enhance their livelihoods and improve the quality of their environments. Over the years he has helped set up four organisations in the region, including Sahjeevan; Arid Communities and Technologies, which focuses on water in all its dimensions; Satvik, for ecological farming; and the Hunnarshala Foundation, a non-profit working towards sustainable human habitation. Sandeep is on the board of a large number of organisations; he is CfP's founder mentor and is actively involved in all of the organisation's work.

Administration

Vasant Saberwal (Director)
Rosy Noronha (Administrator)

Forest rights act

Rituja Mitra (National Coordinator)
Amit Rathi (Uttarakhand Coordinator)
Raghav Srivastava (Research Associate)
Ramesh Bhatti (Advisor)
Meer Hamja (Fellow)
Amanat Ali (Fellow)
Mohammad Shamshad (Fellow)

Livelihoods

Riya Sequeira Shetty (Wool Anchor)
Emmanuel Theophilus (Project Anchor)
Anurag Kushwaha (Milk Coordinator)
Srikant Sanjay (India Fellow)
Munna Nitwal (Field Staff)
Narain Nitwal (Field Staff)
Mahendar Singh (Field Staff)
Prem Rana (Field Staff)
Trilok Rana (Field Staff)

Support Staff

Ramashankar

Accounts

Aditi Thacker (Chartered Accountant till Dec'23)
Syed Kashif Raza (Accounts Associate)

Research

Aniruddh Sheth (Thematic Anchor)
Chamba Tsetan (Project Coordinator)
Amiya Walia (Research Associate)
Abhinanda Lahiri (Field Researcher)
Vidur Datt (Field Researcher)
Yash Ketkar (Lead Cartographer)
Dhanush Ramasubramaniam (Cartographer)
Anita Kusum Purty (GIS Analyst)
Yashita Bajaj (Cartography Intern)
Aftab (Fellow)

Living Lightly

Sushma Iyengar (Lead Curator)
Malini Hariharan (Coordinator)
Khyati Vinod (Designer)
Komal Jain (Associate Curator)
Nikita Naik (India Fellow)

Communications

Sarita Sundar (Thematic Strategist)
Mādhu Ramaswamy (Thematic Consultant)
Dhanya (Communications Coordinator)
Sayali Kute (Graphic Designer)
Lavannya Balakrishnan (Graphic Designer)
Ninad Dange (Social Media Consultant)
Sayan Biswas (Intern)
Dharini Padh (Intern)

Registering our voice by presenting our work in outer world

Malaika Mathew

Malaika presented in the Student Conference on Conservation Science, Bangalore on Challenges Faced by Researchers in Making Women's Knowledge of Grasslands Visible. Malaika also co-authored a chapter on jackals in a book called 'Fish Curry and Rice: A Source Book on Goa, Its Ecology, and Lifestyle by the Goa Foundation.

Khyati Thacker

In November 2023, our team member Khyati participated in the XLVI All India Botanical Conference of the Indian Botanical Society and was honored with the prestigious Prof. Y.S. Murty Medal. Her research paper, titled "Comparative Account on the Impact of Local Climate on the Secondary Xylem and Growth Patterns in Ipomoea eriocarpa R.Br. (Convolvulaceae) Growing in Arid and Tropical Deciduous Forests,"

In February 2024, she participated in the 35th Gujarat Science Congress and secured the 1st Rank in the GSA Poster Presentation. Our poster, titled "Comparative Stem Anatomy of Ipomoea aquatica Forsskal (Convolvulaceae) Growing in Aquatic and Terrestrial Conditions,"

Ritesh Pokar and Vishwa Thacker

In collaboration with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), IGFR Jhansi hosted a joint workshop on Rangeland and Pastoralism. Ritesh and Vishwa from Sahjeevan Participated in the event where, Ritesh presented our experiences from Kutch and Surendranagar, emphasizing the importance of implementing context-based solutions in grassland and rangeland management practices.

Vishwa also presented Sahjeevan's work on resource rights at the department of social work, KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj.

Manya Singh

Manya presented on Biochar in a workshop, organized by Abhiyan and the Centre for Grower-centric Eco-value Mechanisms (C-GEM) in Kutch, brought together grassroots practitioners and village heads of panchayats.

Ramesh Bhatti

Ramesh participated in 4th Conference on Alternatives in Southeast Asia with the theme: "Advancing Alternative Regionalism from Below: People and Planet First" on 30-31 October 2023, in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines organised by The Movement for Alternatives and Solidarity in Southeast Asia (MASSA)

Mahesh Garva and Jabbar Sama

Mahesh and Jabbar participated in the 3rd edition of Maru Manthan organized by Desert Resource Centre and Selco Foundation along with the desert communities in February 2024 in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan as part of celebration of the International year of Camelids 2024.

Suresh Kuvadiya and Kujan Kalotara

In December 2023, Community Conference on Commons organised by FES and its partners, where Suresh gave a presentation on "Upholding community knowledge of ethno medicine as an alternative to state-mediated knowledge systems" and Kujan presented our experiences on "Engaging Women in Grassland Conservation in Surendranagar, Gujarat".

Jayesh Paraliya and Narendra Nandaniya

In November, a workshop was organised by NRCE Hissar on Conservation of Donkey and Horse. Our team members Narendra and Jayesh has participated in the workshop where Narendra gave a presentation on our work on Halary Donkey Conservation.

Interns/ Fellows knowledge building and contribution

Sr.no.	Name	University / College	Project they worked on
1	Sreekanth Sanjay	India Fellowship Program	Wool as an Agree Input
2	Rohan Shinde	India Fellowship Program	Biochar Project
3	Divyajyoti Ganguly	Jaikrishna Indrajai Thaker Fellowship	Understanding the socio-economic status and socio-ecological interactions of the Vada Koli community of the Banni grasslands, Kutch, Gujarat"
4	Nikita Naik	India Fellowship Program	Living Lightly
1	Praticksha Chik Barik	Azim Premji University	
2	Soumitra Saha	Azim Premji University	
3	Anushka Verma	ATREE, Bangalore	
4	Amulya M	ATREE, Bangalore	
5	Nivedita Balachandran	ATREE, Bangalore	
6	Shivangi Thakkar	ATREE, Bangalore	
7	Dharini Padh	National Institute of Design	
8	Jinoodhaya SS	Woxsen University	
9	Sayan Biswas	National Institute of Design	
10	Lavannya Balakrishnan	National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad	
11	Sneha Kumar	Shiv Nadar University	
12	Saachi Shah	Institute of Design, Nirma University, Ahmedabad	
13	Yashita Bajaj	TERI School of Advanced Study, Delhi	



Photo by Ishaan Raghunandan

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