

SAHJEEVAN

Living together

Annual Report 2017-2018



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FOREWORD

Greetings from sahjeevan!

Sahjeevan is a nationally recognised, 25-year-old organisation, working with rural communities on conserving their natural and cultural ecosystems to create sustainable socio-economic solutions for the future. During the last two decades, Sahjeevan has undertaken pioneering work in developing, documenting and improving the traditional water harvesting systems of the region. Through one of its flagship initiatives called '**Satvik**' the organization has revived the agricultural heritage of traditional seeds and farming systems in this water scarce region. Sahjeevan is also works at national level with pastoral communities on conservation, recognition and development of native livestock breeds of animals and the pastoralist's traditional knowledge of breed and biodiversity conservation. A special pilot was forged to bring peoples cultural and environmental knowledge on their endangered biodiversity (plants and wildlife) to protect and enhance it. Collaboration between Gujarat Biodiversity Board, Government of Gujarat's corporate and civil society has successfully piloted this in Kachchh and is being considered for multiplication.

Sahjeevan has, over the decade, developed a methodology of how pastoral communities need to be supported for their own betterment and their continued contribution to the nation. With this, Centre for Pastoralism: CfP (pastoralism.org.in) is an initiative of Sahjeevan, is proposed. CfP hopes to build on Sahjeevan's work by building collaborations with civil society, government agencies and academic institutions. A range of partnerships are being explored with organizations with long-standing engagement with pastoralist communities.

As President, I am deeply obliged to my colleagues in the Board of Trustees, General Body, collaborating organizations and all the colleagues in Sahjeevan and their able leader, the Executive Secretary and the Executive Director, for the growth of the organization – especially the pastoral programs, water governance and biodiversity conservation, which according to me is the most significant contribution.

With Regards,

Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar
President, Sahjeevan

PREFACE

Sahjeevan is based in Kachchh, Gujarat [6th largest state situated in western India] and is experienced in enabling communities to conserve their indigenous knowledge systems and their intangible heritage of natural resources in order to develop the traditional livelihoods of these indigenous communities.

During the last two decades, Sahjeevan has undertaken pioneering work in developing, documenting and improving the traditional water harvesting systems of the region. Through one of its flagship initiatives called 'Satvik', the organization has revived the agricultural heritage of traditional seeds and farming systems in this water scarce region. Throughout India, Sahjeevan works with pastoral communities for the conservation, recognition and development of native livestock breeds of animals. Sahjeevan as the umbrella organisation, organises traditional knowledge bearers in communities and documents the science as well as the socio-cultural constructs behind their practices. The organization then supports the revival of this intangible heritage by integrating it with modern science and contemporary markets to develop sustainable programmes. The solutions are then taken to Governments for scaling and integration into programs and policy. While Sahjeevan's experience has been in Gujarat, it has shared information and support with other States on similar programs.

Sahjeevan has worked with the State Government of Gujarat and the National Government on some key initiatives and programmes -

- The documentation, dissemination and revitalization of traditional water conservation systems and indigenous geological knowledge of rural communities was developed by Sahjeevan and supported by Government of Gujarat in the period 2000 to 2009. This led to drinking water solutions in more than 100 villages in Abdasa taluka. Sahjeevan designed, trained and implemented the programme with the rural youth. This has since been implemented nationally by ACT, an institutional initiative of Sahjeevan.
- Sahjeevan helped set up 'Satvik' to document, conserve and characterise important varieties of rain-fed crop seeds that will be useful in a climate change regime. Traditional seed varieties have been identified, for which a program is underway with the Government of Gujarat to notify and multiply them for wider distribution.
- The Livestock breeds, especially with pastoral communities have been documented, studied and recognised by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), an ICAR institution. This has become a national program that helps identify indigenous breeds, organise the communities into Breeder Institutions and bring them markets and support. Based on the success of conserving and promoting livestock breeds, a collaboration has been forged with the Ministry of Agriculture, under the direct supervision of Minister of State Shri Purshottambhai Rupala, to bring another 50 to 70 breeds and communities into the national mainstream.

- By promoting the cultural practices and intangible heritage of camel herders, Sahjeevan has forged a collaboration with GCMMF [Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation] and its famous brand AMUL, to collect and market pastoral milk. The success of the Banni Buffalo and Camel Milk marketing pilot project, has paved the way for many other breeds nationally.
- To protect and enhance peoples' cultural and environmental knowledge on endangered biodiversity (plants and wildlife), a special pilot project was initiated. A collaboration between Gujarat Biodiversity Board, Gandhinagar corporate and civil society, has been successfully pilot tested in Kachchh and is being considered for multiplication by IUCN.
- In December 2016 and October 2017, Sahjeevan supported and organized the launch of a cultural exhibition on Pastoralism called 'Living Lightly' in Delhi (partnership with IGNCa) and in Ahmedabad (partnership with Ministry of Culture), respectively.

Dr.Pankaj Joshi
Executive Director
Sahjeevan

Vision

We contribute in the creation of a society which conserves the natural habitat and ecosystem which integrates culture, tradition, humanity and gender equality.

Mission

We exist to help the community to prepare demonstrations at grass root which helps in strengthening their traditional occupation by conserving the natural habitat and ecosystem which comprises gender equality, humanity, traditional knowledge and the use of simple techniques.

Values:

Collective:

- To work with a person or a community in such a way that natural habitat and ecosystem sustain and which affects a major part of the community.
- We believe in building a new strength at organizational level by comprehending the potential of supporting organizations.

Decentralization:

- We believe that instead of single authority of power, ownership, responsibility, decision making and leadership, it should be at community level.

Sustainability:

- We do sustainable work with the leadership of community which balances natural habitat and ecosystem.

Gender equality:

- We believe in equal power of decision making between men and women to conserve the lifestyle based on natural habitat and settlement.

Value the traditional knowledge:

- We believe in promotion of indigenous knowledge based on community's intellection, experience and culture which is balancing the natural habitat and settlement. We also believe in this to be recognized and valued worldwide.

Humanity:

- We believe in promoting the lifestyle which is based on the values which maintain the harmony between nature and humankind, such values are equality between each class and cast, sensitivity, honesty and supporting nature.

INTRODUCTION

Sahjeevan is currently working on environmental conservation with special focus on pastoral communities like Banni breeders' association, camel breeders' association, sheep and goat herders, decentralized biodiversity conservation and management, grassland conservation, PBR and BMC programme. Besides these, Sahjeevan has been working on decentralized drinking water security, urban environmental conservation and solid waste management. Conservation of animal genetic resources, particularly indigenous breeds, is one of the important objectives of Sahjeevan.

Specific elements of Sahjeevan's work includes:

Breed Recognition: This includes a rigorous understanding of the animal breed the pastoralists have nurtured, especially its unique genetic character, which enables the breed to adapt to its habitat and produce a sustainable economic product. Sahjeevan has worked in partnership with the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), local agricultural universities and pastoralist communities to examine whether in fact pastoralist populations are distinct breeds. Officially recognized breeders can legitimately lay claim to financial and technical support from the government, thereby bringing the pastoral community into the mainstream. Thus far, Sahjeevan has helped register three breeds (Kharai Camel, Banni Buffalo and Kachchhi-Sindhi Horse) and another five are in final stages of recognition by NBAGR. These populations have come under the health services of the government, and a special program has begun with Sahjeevan for the conservation of the threatened Kharai Camel breed. NBAGR and Sahjeevan have estimated that there are another 60 breeds in 12 States that are likely to be identified as distinct breeds, should such work be undertaken at scale.

Organizing Pastoralists: Sahjeevan helps the pastoral community to organize themselves and register formal community-based organizations. If their breed has been recognized by NBAGR, the state governments participate in the formation of pastoralist breeder institutions. This brings the community together to articulate their common concerns and identifies the leadership from within the community to work with Sahjeevan and the state governments. Thus far Sahjeevan has organized three pastoral breeder institutions and two producer companies, covering approximately 1500 families.

Livelihood interventions have been premised around (i) meeting technological bottlenecks such as the absence of bulk chillers; (ii) mobilizing communities to deliver milk to these chillers; (iii) building institutional mechanisms to ensure fair and transparent payments for pastoral produce; and (iv) working with mainstream dairies to market milk and milk-derived products.

Resource Rights & Restoration: A key concern for all pastoralists is the shrinking commons, which forms the basis of their breeds, livelihoods and lifestyles. Sahjeevan has developed a documentation tool for participatory mapping of their grazing/browsing resources and developed management systems for their restoration. Sahjeevan has also developed the methods for getting pastoral communities to claim their community resource rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). In partnership with Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Sahjeevan has undertaken socio-ecosystem research that now informs management plans that Banni's pastoralists are working on. Sixteen panchayats (with 47 villages) have filed their claims under FRA. Four panchayats have begun restoring their ecosystems covering 15-20 Hectares of land, and there is active dialogue amongst the Banni pastoralists on the need for individual pastoralist households to give up lands they have enclosed as fodder reserves.

Sahjeevan, ATREE, and the National Centre for Biological Studies has set up a unique participatory research model, RAMBLE (Research and Monitoring in the Banni Landscape; www.bannigrassland.org), hosted by the Breeders Association. RAMBLE invites researchers from across the country to work on research questions developed in collaboration with the community to inform Management Plans mandated under the FRA. RAMBLE has completed three doctoral student research projects, several master desertation and has had a long term monitoring project for the past six years, the only one of its kind in the country.

PROGRAMMES AND THEMATIC AREAS

1. PROGRAMME ON PASTORALISM

1.1 Banni Breeders' Association (*Banni Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan-BPUMS*)

Sahjeevan has been working with pastoral people in Kachchh and other parts of Gujarat for the past 10 years. During these 10 years, Sahjeevan has been successful in helping the pastoralists of Banni form a CBO of pastoral people. Through this CBO, known as BPUMS, the villagers of Banni have managed to come together in a struggle for community forest rights. Their struggle is commendable in two respects: a) the villages of Banni have put forward a common application for rights to Banni grasslands and b) this is the first time a pastoral group had asked for forest rights (till then the common interpretation of FRA was that it was applicable for tribals only). The activities undertaken by BPUMS in 2017-2018 is stated below.

Executive Meetings:

In 2017-18 the Association conducted 6 executive meetings that were attended by 49 executives and other members. Discussions and plans to improve the workings of the association were chalked out. Emphasis was laid on Organisation of Animal Fairs by the association, financial stability, plans to get rights under FRA, increase in members and renewal of old members were discussed.

Joining of New Members and Renewal of Old Members:

862 members have been registered in BPUMS in 2017-18. To undertake this activity, the



association conducted meetings from village to village. The motto was to spread the advantages and, the reach of the work undertaken by the association thereby adding new members and renewing the old ones.



Efforts to secure rights under the Forest Right Act:

To secure the Rights under Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 oral and written presentations have been made to the District Collectorate. To earn the Forest Rights, a presentation was made to Shri Vijaybhai Rupani -Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Ganpatbhai Vasava -Forest Minister & Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama -Revenue and Education Minister. A positive response was given by the government.

Four villages will be selected and treated as model village to initiate development of management plan and governance systems. Detail conservation plans have been developed for each village. The selection tried to be representative in terms of the kind of topography, altitude, soil type, livestock kinds, and pastoral communities. The following four villages were selected:

- a. Nani Dadhdhar
- b. Sargu (Dhediya)
- c. Burkul
- d. Ghadiyado

Sahjeevan consulted experts such as Dr. Arun Mani Dixit, Tushar Dash, Ashish Kothari, and Madhu Sarin during the process of formation and implementation of Community forest management plans.

ACCOUNTS:

Reports such as the accounts of Banni's 11th Animal Fair, routine works of the committee with necessary follow-up from team and respective village/panchayat and the programs conducted in last year also discussed. In addition, with help of account team, UTC of received grants is also submitted to the Animal Husbandry department.

Research Centre...RAMBLE:

We have eight sites i.e Sarghu, Gorewali, Daddhar, Bhirandiyara, Shervo, Sarada, Bhagadia and Berdo across the Banni for PEER project. In addition to that we have Pannavari and Vaghura sites for our Grass productivity experiments. Then we have four bore wells in the plots of Sarghu and Bhirandiyara sites. We have three different treatment plots in each site; they are Protected plots (*Prosopis* trees are protected from cutting), Lopped plots (*Prosopis* trees are lopped down) and Cleared plots (*Prosopis* removed entirely).

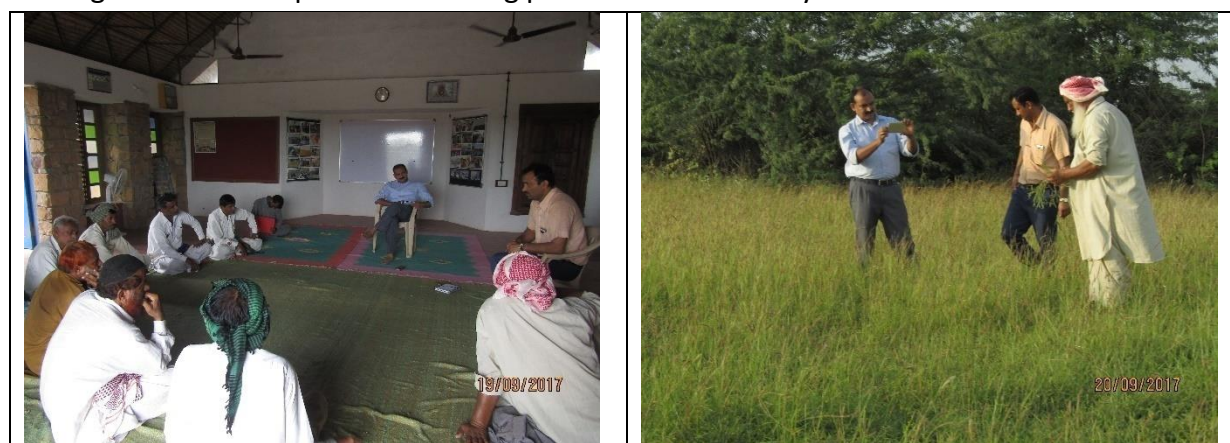
Also see the table for the type of experiments going for the PEER project.

No	Experiment	Status
1.	Biomass (<i>Prosopis</i>)	Completed in Sarghu, Bhirandiyara, Sarada, Shervo. It will be done in Bhagadia and Sarghu
2.	Biomass (Grasses)	This experiment is going in Gorewali and Pannavari vadahs and it will continue till we find grasses growth in the sites. Again started after the first spell of rain in Banni.
3.	N-Mineralisation	This experiment is going in all our eight sites and will go every 6 weeks and install new PVC pipes and collect the soil samples. It will be done for two years.
4.	Litter fall	Litter is collected from all the eight sites and will be done by every two weeks (summer) for one year.
5.	Vegetation regeneration	We have collected the vegetation regeneration data, after the monsoon, in the plots of all the eight sites by last year and will continue to dry and post monsoon season this year.
6.	Water level measurement	We have installed the automatic logger sensors in Sarghu and Bhirandiyara borewells. Even though we have to monitor the water level in Bhirandiyara cleared plot site by every week.
7.	Soil analyses	We have collected the soil samples at three different depths from the plots of all the sites and analyzed the soils for pH and electrical conductivity. It will be done by next year too.
8.	Inventory measurements	We have collected the inventory measurements of <i>Prosopis</i> DBH, Height in the protected and lopped plots of all the sites.

		It will be done again this year (preferably after the monsoon).
9.	Plant water stress experiment	Water stress potential of <i>Prosopis</i> trees will be measured in the protected plots by Scholander-type pressure chamber during the dry and monsoon season.
10.	Ecohydrology experiment	Dr. Sonali visited during the month of June-July'17 and completed the ecohydrology experiments in RAMBLE station

Organic Milk

Discussions were carried out with members of the association on collection of potential organic milk from Banni. A visit to the region along with Mr. Ajit Kumar was conducted to check the possibility of organic Milk. Discussions were held with various agencies to explore the possibility of Organic Milk with potential funding partners for this study in details.



Pashumela:

A pashumela was conducted on the 30th and 31st of December 2017 at Hodko village, Banni. The Member of Legislative Assembly [MLA] of Bhuj Constituency - Shri Neemaben Acharya was the Chief Guest of this event. Moreover, the Head of Bhuj District Panchayat, Shri Kaushalya Madhapariya also remained present. The Member of Parliament [MP], Kachchh- Morbi Constituency, Shri Vinodbhai Chavdan and Shri Pradyumansinh Jadeja, MLA, Abdasa as well as Political Leader Shri Adambhai Chaaki distributed the prizes to the winners of various competitions of pashumela. Shri Narendrabhai Prajapati and Dr. K.G. Brahmakshatriya from the Dept. of Animal Husbandary visited the pashumela and shared their experiences with BPUMS.



The Competitions included Animal Strength, Milking, Horse Race, Camel Race, Donkey Race, Wrestling and Human Race.

1.2 Kachchh Camel's Breeders' Association (*Kachchh Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan- KUUMS*)

Camels form the identity of Kachchh, an area which is surrounded by extensive deserts. Their relation with Kachchh dates back to primitive times. Camels are an integral part of the multi-coloured land and culturally rich Kachchh. The *Dariyataru Kharai* (Swimming Camels) which have recently been acclaimed is no less than a Wonder of Kachchh. In 1997 the Camel Population in Kachchh was 17,600 but then due to many hardships in the area, the population steadily went on decreasing. In just a decade i.e. by 2007 the population stood at 7,800 camels. Due to the steady decline in population, the Kachchhi camels were declared as a 'Threatened Breed' by the Central Government. To supervise whether appropriate measures were taken for Camel Breeding by the formation of Breeders association, Sahjeevan was assigned this responsibility by the State Government Animal Husbandry department. As a result KUUMS was formed in the year 2011.

After the formation of KUUMS, a change could be seen in the efforts of Camel Breeding. With joint efforts of Sahjeevan and the Animal Husbandry department, efforts were put in to improve the numbers and breeding of camels and the livelihood of breeders.

A novel effort during report period is setting up a Dairy of Camel Milk has been initiated in Kachchh in order to improve the livelihood of Camel Breeders. Due to efforts put in the last 10 years, a lot of information is available about Camel Rearing. Western Kachchh is considered as a hub for Camel Rearing. In Abdasa, Nakhtrana and Lakhpat talukas, *Kutchi* and *Kharai* both types of Camels are found. In order to increase Camel Rearing in Kachchh, improving livelihood of herders, and breeding of Camels, it is necessary that a Camel Breeding and Education Centre is set up in Dayapar, Western Kachchh. A proposal on the same is also prepared for this and under discussion.

- Attempts made in the Camel Breeding Program till date:

1. Establishment of Kachchh Camel Rearing Herders Association in 2011, and its registration under the Trust Society Act.
 2. Recognition of Kharia Camel as a different Camel Breed of the country in 2015 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research
 3. To maintain the health of the Camels, regular vaccination camps were organised by the animal husbandry department, GoG along with KUUMS and Sahjeevan.
 4. Published a Bio-cultural community protocol with Kachchh Camel Herders.
 5. Setting up of 3 Camel Co-operatives on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of District Panchayat, Kachchh.
 6. Camel Milk was accorded as an Edible Product by the Food and Safety Authority of India(FASSAI).
- In October of last year, Amul installed a Bulk Milk Chiller Point(BMC) to collect camel milk in one cluster of 48 camel herders. At the time, Amul indicated it would need about 30,000 litres of camel milk per month to ensure its financial viability. 48 camel herders provide Amul with an average of 1320 litres of camel milk per day. Seeing the response from camel herders and the response to its new brand of camel chocolate, Amul is building a processing plant in Kachchh that will obviate the need to transport camel milk to Anand, several hundred kilometres away. The Government of Gujarat has sanctioned Rs 3 Crore for building this processing facility. Once that is completed, Amul anticipates being able to absorb an” unlimited” amount of camel milk.
 - Keeping in mind the experience of Gujarat, even the Rajasthan government has set aside Rs.5 crore grant for setting up a Camel Milk Dairy in Rajasthan.
 - Recently, a program on ‘Conservation of Kharai Camel Breed and Livelihood Security of Camel Pastoralists in Gujarat’ Under the Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources is sanctioned by NBAGR for three years with following main objectives:
 1. Improvement of Kharai Camel through selective breeding,
 2. Cryopreservation of germplasm of kharai camel,
 3. Organize Promotional Activities for improvement and conservation of pure camel breed,
 4. Ensure healthcare services for Kharai camel in Collaboration with state government,
 5. Building capacities of Breeders by strengthening their institutions, and
 6. Create economic opportunities, particularly through selling of camel milk and milk products

Sadharan Sabha:

Every year, on 22nd June (World Camel’s Day) KUUMS organise a *Sadharan Sabha*, and discussed and resolved several important decisions taken by KUUMS and discuss on new proposed agendas for next year. This year, out of 380 total members, a total of 170 members are presented in this meeting and endorsed several agendas. In addition, several camels

pastoral from Saurashtra also participated in this meeting and shared their views and experienced with Mangrove ecosystem.

In this meeting, Sh.Valamjibhai Humbal, Chairman, Sarhad dairy, Kachchh promised to help to association and shared the process for collection of camel milk from September onwards from Kachchh. In addition, Kaushlyaben Madhpariya, President, District Panchayat, Bhuj; and Dr. K.G. Brahmakshatriya, Deputy Director, AH, District Panchayat, Bhuj also presented and shared their views on KUUMS agendas and contribution of pastoral communities of Kachchh.

KUUMS elected Sh.Bhikhabhai Rabari as a president of association and new *Karobari* is also formed for next three years and discussed on various agendas including, issues relate on grazing resources and illegal encroachment in several habitats, milk marketing, vaccination etc.

Pashumela:

On 11th and 12th March '18, a pashumela organised with *Fakirani Jat* communities with help of KUUMS and Sahjeevan at *Ushen Pir ni Dargah*, Dholera. All the pastoral communities at Dholera areas and adjoin are migrated from Kachchh before more than 400 years and maintained their traditional life style, and camel's rearing. In this pashumela, Sh.Rajubhai Gohil, MLA, Dholera; Sh.Rahis Aghakhan, relegiuos leader of Jat Communities; Sh.Bhikhabhai Rabarai, President, KUUMS; along with panchayat leaders and presidents and members of KUUMS are participated and shared their expereinces with pastoral livelihood and related issues and challenges.

A total of more than 200 maldhariesalong with their 900 kharai camels are participated and involved in various compitations (i.e. healthy animals, highest milching, best severing, best male camel etc.) for mobilisation and sensitisation of stakeholders towards important of camel's rearing and traditional life style.



1.3 Sheep-Goat Breeders' Association

With 367 members, a Sheep and Goat herder association was formed and Sahjeevan facilitated meetings for each quarter. Sahjeevan's work with the association focused on resource mapping, health services and livelihoods. The wool market has seen a rapid decline in Kachchh and this has hit the breeders who keep the purest of the breeds, the hardest. Sahjeevan has started collaborating with Khamir, a local crafts organization, to facilitate good quality wool collection and sales. Representatives from Khamir attended one of the meetings to start initial discussions with the members of the association.

Sahjeevan has also tied up with local veterinary officials to facilitate healthcare services. Some meetings were also held to understand the animal sale value chain, this was done because the breeders have continually been expressing discontent about the difficulties they face while selling animals.

Sahjeevan has facilitated all stakeholders onto a common platform to create opportunities and streamline the value chain.

Resource Mapping was conducted in 2 clusters with association and pastoral group of respective landscape. Site visits were conducted to get information about the grass and plants of the areas where the herders of Rodaser and Guneri take their sheep and goats for grazing. An attempt was also made to try to understand the situation of water where the animals went for grazing and also to know whether it was possible to have another well or trough of water for their animals. The technical team visited 4 places out of which in 3 places possibility of water was explored. In addition, ecologists also visited this clustered and explored the existing biodiversity and recorded more than 120 plant species from two clusters; and documented important wildlife and birds.

A meeting with 'GUSHEEL' was also organized with associations and decided to conduct a timely vaccination of Lakhpat and Nakhtrana talukas.

The 2nd General Meeting of association was held and a total of more than 100 herders are attended the same. Several issues are also discussed in meeting and suggestions on future direction is also shared and finalized with respective herders and landscape like on healthcare and vaccination programs; encroachment issues etc. In addition, since most of the grazing lands of Lakhpat taluka falls under the forest areas, it was decided to work out on FRA process and submission of claims with respective group of maldharies.

In meeting, all are agreed on to meet with chairperson of GUSHEEL to discuss their prioritized agendas and shared their views for sustainable livelihood. For, issues related with forest department, they are also decided to meet with Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Bhuj-Kachchh and share their views to reduce conflicts between department and maldharies.

During the 1st General Meeting of the Association, 125 herders had paid Rs.100 membership fees and had become members of the association. Thereafter, meetings were conducted with herders who possessed sheep-goat in different villages and another 238 herders became members and hence, currently 363 herders are members of the association.

- The *Karobari* Committee of the Association conducts a meeting thrice a year. Topics like wool sales, treatment of animals, vaccination of animals, questions arising at the time of grazing in Rakhal, difficulties faced at the time of buying-selling their animals and restoration of habitats and removal of *Prosopis juliflora* etc. were discussed. Future plans of action were also discussed in details.
- Meetings of pastoral communities of Rodaser and Guneri landscape were conducted. The objectives of the meetings were to understand the existing biodiversity and status of water at landscape level. Grazing maps were created with the herders and a visit to the respective landscape was also conducted with the herders to check the availability of water and grazing resources.
- A meeting was arranged in Dayapar with the trader's association to understand the problem faced in the buying-selling of animals.
- With the help of GUSHEEL, 80-85% of animals were vaccinated.





Meeting with association at Dayapar

1.4 BHUJ CITY CATTLE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

(Bhuj Saher Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan)

A Karobari Committee's meeting of the association was conducted with *maldharies* of Bhuj city with discussed on major issues relate to urban pastoral system like illegal encroachment in pastoral ecosystems including Gauchar and Govt. revenue lands.

During reporting period, several meetings with resource personals are arranged with association to discuss on several important issues like improvement of their breeds, urban pastoral issues and management of herding size and wild grazing systems to maintain their original blood line of animals In addition, to mobilize and strengthening issues with association, a training capacity building exercise also conducted with help of Mrs. Kavitaaben Mehta.

During the pre-monsoon vaccination a total of 1300 livestock of 32 breeders were vaccinated with the help of the Animal Husbandry Department. In addition, with the help of local donors, 7 trucks of dry fodder were also distributed (during lean period) to all members of association. At time of distribution of fodder, the market price was Rs.85/kg., and was subsidized on rate of Rs.45/kg. to all members of association; and hence, Rs.19,000/truck was benefited by association.

For market arrangement of milk, collection centres were started with Sarhad Dairy. 15-18 breeders collected 300 litres of milk daily and earned well. This has improved their financial situation. Around 10 Breeders have agreed to supply milk so that the people of Bhuj get fresh and good quality milk. To build such a market arrangement, consumer mapping activity is ongoing, that will check the demand of milk consumed by the city people and at what time they need it. After checking all these parameters, the activity will start.

The 2nd General Meeting of association was held with a plan of address to challenges issues raised by pastoral group of Bhuj urban areas. Issues such as removal of encroachment from pastoral lands, regular treatment and vaccination of Bhuj city's livestock, arrangement to get good quality and fresh milk for the people of Bhuj City etc. were discussed. It was also decided to undertake work to increase the membership for association with approach to other areas of Bhuj urban landscape.



1.5 COMMUNITY LED BREED CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Sub activity: Registration of Local Breeds in other States

Sahjeevan shared experiences of breed registration and conservation in Kachchh to other states of the country through partnerships with local civil societies organizations. Sahjeevan was invited by RRAN – Network, to mentor in areas of capacity development for staff members of local NGO's. Sahjeevan has worked with Conare, an organization based in Maheboobnagar of Telangana state for characterization of Nallamalla Cattle breed. In Malkangiri (district of Orissa), Sahjeevan has collaborated Parivartan for registration and recognition of Malkangiri goat breed. Sahjeevan is also the lead agency for breeding program of 'Rainfed Livestock Network and supported Future Greens', an organization based at Bhagalkot district for characterization of Jowari Buffalo and LPPS in Rajasthan for Nari cattle breed.

Sub Activity: Community Led Breed Conservation and Improvement Programme

Sahjeevan has emphasized development of breed descriptors and applications for new breeds of Gujarat state under the state supported project "*Characterization and registration of lesser-known livestock breeds of Gujarat*". As a part of this project, Sahjeevan has completed physical characterization of 5 indigenous livestock breeds of Gujarat - Kachchhi-Sindhi Horse, Dumma Sheep, Kahami goat, Kachchhi Donkey, and Halary Donkey.

Sahjeevan has submitted breed descriptors for these 5 breeds to NBAGR for further consideration. Of these 5, Kachchhi-Sindhhi horse has been recognized as distinct horse breed of India by ICAR in September 2017. The other applications are under consideration by NBAGR.

With regard to conservation of Banni Buffalo, Animal Husbandry department is providing financial support to Banni Breeders association with an aim of creating awareness and developing interest amongst breeders to maintain pure and high quality bred Banni buffaloes. As a part of this support program Sahjeevan has mentored the breeder's association in organizing village level breed competitions. During this reporting period best animal competitions were organized in 25 villages and prizes were distributed to 75 breeders as first, second and third prize winners. An exposure trip was organized by Sahjeevan as a part of this program. 65 breeders had travelled to Amul Dairy to gain an understanding on milk production and productivity enhancement as well learn livestock management practices.

Study on Community Conservation resilience Initiative

Sahjeevan's long years of work in Banni and its experiences has been a repository of knowledge that has frequently been drawn to program design activities within Sahjeevan and in other organizations. Why now, did Sahjeevan need to start work to understand the community of pastoralists in Banni? The senior staff members and other external experts brainstormed on this question and realised that due to certain practicalities, Sahjeevan until now, had worked closely with the elders in the community only. Banni is known for its patriarchal culture and this has meant that the singular major source of knowledge and perspective that had public attention and recognition has been that of the male elders of the community; the women and youngsters have hardly had an opportunity to influence Sahjeevan's perspective. It was decided that this project would work to establish new lines of communication and focus on discussions with the younger generation and the women in the community. This CCRi study listed below, highlights major findings and strategies for the Banni Region

2. PROGRAMME ON BIODIVERSITY

2.1 Background

Kachchh is an arid ecosystem with a wealth of biodiversity that has been declared Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET). This region has historically been a meeting point for cultures, ecosystems, and geological formations, all of which have contributed to its rich biodiversity. This is the only arid ecosystem in the world that is accompanied by a marine mangrove ecosystem along its coast. The Gulf of Kachchh and its creeks and mangroves are the home to some of the rare marine biodiversity of the world, including Dolphin, Sea Cow/Dugong, Green Turtle, Olive Ridley Turtle, etc. Similarly the Ranns have a unique ecosystem of their own, with the only site for flamingo breeding and the wild ass in the country. The Bhuj Ridge features thorn forest. It straddles the district from the East to the West, and has the densest human populations in the district. It is home to the Caracal, Wolf, Chinkara, Spiny-tailed Lizard, Desert Cat, Ratel, Desert Fox, etc. The rich grasslands of Banni in the North, once the largest tropical grassland in Asia, and the Naliya Grasslands are homes to unique germ-plasm like Banni buffalo, Kankrej cattle and horses. These grasslands and many small other patches also host rich wildlife and are the breeding and roosting ground for many migratory birds. Further, grasslands of Abdasa taluka are important breeding sites for three globally threatened bustards viz. Great Indian Bustard, Houbara Bustard and Lesser Floricorn. Despite its unique biodiversity and ecosystems, Kachchh District has been facing several challenges due to increasing population growth and industrialization. Prominent among them are encroachment for expansion of agriculture; unplanned and rapid industrial development through habitat modification and habitat fragmentation; exploitation of waterscape; invasion of *Prosopis juliflora*; and resultant changes in land use and land capability threatening the flora and fauna. Furthermore, increasing extraction of ground water for ever increasing agricultural and industrial needs has in some places made the groundwater saline due to sea water ingress from the long coast line.

The Biological Diversity Act (BDA), 2002 is designed to legally empower people to play a role in conservation, sustainable use and ensuring equitable benefit sharing from the utilization of bio-resources. The provisions of this Act require Panchayats to form a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) made up of individuals who are concerned about biodiversity of their region. Sahjeevan, in collaboration with the Gujarat Biodiversity Board (GBB), has initiated mobilisation of Gram Panchayats to form BMCs and is helping them to map local biodiversity and prepare Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBR). For this, detailed participatory surveys and documentation of floral and faunal diversity of the panchayats is being carried out. This has been initiated in 35 Panchayats in Abdasa, Lakhpat and Nakhtrana Talukas.

After the completion of PBRs, Sahjeevan encouraged the BMCs to prepare their conservation Action Plans, several of which have also been submitted to the State Government. More than 25 proposals have been developed on species and habitat-based conservation. These proposals of BMCs include programs to conserve animals such as - two Critically Endangered (White Rumped Vulture and Great Indian Bustard), one Near Threatened (Painted Stork) and three Vulnerable (Houbara bustard, Pied Tit and Stoliczka's bushchat) species of Birds, one Vulnerable (Chinkara) and one Near Threatened (Leopard) species of Mammals and once Vulnerable reptile (Marsh Crocodile). These proposals also target to conserve flora like – *Commiphora stocksiana* (Sweet Gugul), *Olax nana*, *Ephedra foliata*, *Helichrysum cutchicum* and *Leptadenia reticulata*. Fifteen out of 35 BMCs have made their plans to conserve grasslands both for fodder and also for wildlife conservation. Fifteen BMCs have their action plans to conserve and improve thorn forest habitat and all the BMCs have their wetland conservation action plans for wildlife conservation as well as providing water source for livestock.

Selected BMCs have initiated several resolutions to conserve their wilderness habitats and significant biodiversity hotspots. More than 15 proposals have been developed with the participation of BMCs on species and habitat-based conservation. Along with Sahjeevan, BMCs approached CGPL-TATA Power to support their action plans and seeking a long-term association and partnership to conserve their significant flora and fauna with habitats. In this connection CGPL-TATA Power also sanctioned seed money (in two phases: 2015-16 and 2016-17) to respective BMC and started implementation of proposed plans with technical help rendered by Sahjeevan team. Sahjeevan also propose to create an Environment Action Plan Fund (EAPF), with CSR support from CGPL-TATA Power, later this will attain convergence of different government programs and gain support from other funding sources. This will be an untied fund, intended exclusively for the implementation of the conservation action plans prepared by the BMCs in Kachchh.

2.2 Outcomes:

- Awareness on biodiversity and its significance among 3000 people (200 individual from each BMC and with 15 BMCs) and 1500 students (100 numbers from each BMC and with 15 BMCs) of the project area and several articles on BMC, PBR and initiatives of schools on environmental education also published in local news paper for wider dissemination of project activities. In addition, key member or youth who are interesting in biodiversity conservation also been identified. With support from naturalists and local resource personal, educational materials (10 brochures, 10 Posters, two booklets, 8 activities/games etc.) are developed on local ecosystem and key RET species and flagship species.

- Demarcation of more than 12 sites for participatory conservation of biodiversity and ecologically sensitive areas or landscape with restoration of more than 100 acre land for wildlife and domestic animals.
- Seasonal data on flora and fauna collected for two seasons and for post and pre implementation stage to know the positive or negative intervention effect on biodiversity and overall habitats. Interestingly, few implemented sites are recorded with more sighting of biodiversity with increasing biomass and recruitment of native vegetation species. Several threatened species like Chinkara and White-naped Tit are started to use this restored sites and recorded first time from landscape. In addition, due to increasing biomass (almost double than first year, and continue to collection of data this year) and native vegetation cover, several other birds and mammalian species are also being used this landscape very frequently.
- This project also documents communities' knowledge system as part of preparation of PBRs with each BMC and integrated those with scientific knowledge. A system of knowledge management also established at Panchayat level where besides PBR, monitoring of RET species, flagship species; are recorded, updated by local youth who trained as para ecologist by Sahjeevan. Sahjeevan initiated to compile data and information on flora and fauna collected by the local youth and interns from academic institutions and transformed into knowledge system by documenting case studies, articles, papers, success stories based on learning from the field.
- Being a demonstration project, focus will be on creating good examples and best practices which will be then advocated with policy makers to scale up the concept with other BMCs in the state or in the country.

2.3 Ecosystem Services Review (ESR) with IUCN:

ESR is a tool developed by WBCSD for corporate to develop a better understanding of Ecosystem Services. One of the important sources of information for ESR study is survey / interviews with local communities. The ESR is a structured methodology that helps managers proactively develop strategies to manage business risks and opportunities arising from their company's dependence and impact on ecosystems.

The ESR website (www.wri.org/ecosystems/esr) provides a number of tools and resources to help business managers, analysts, and consultants conduct a Corporate Ecosystem Services Review.

During reporting period, sahjeevan along with IUCN team conducted a ESR survey with developed questionnaire in and around the TATA-CGPL, Mundra landscape and Ultratech Cement, Lakhpat landscape. Analysis on various aspects includes changes in biodiversity before and after development, threats and challenges on landscape and wilderness etc. areas also

been shared with communities and representatives of both companies. In addition, both the companies are developed their Biodiversity Management Plan(BMP) with help of this survey and after consultation with IUCN team.

3. PROGRAMME ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

JALPRABANDHA PROJECT with Selected Villages of Anjar Taluka:

Water is vital for sustenance of ecosystems and life. The world is fighting to resolve the issue of escalating demand and shortage for potable water. Conservation of surface, subsurface and groundwater is a major challenge in arid and semi-arid zones while ensuring livelihoods of the communities and preserving or sustaining the ecosystems.

In today's global environment allocation and use of available water resources are guided by immediate financial gains or access to technological aids. There is an increasing inequality with regard to access of water while the quality of water is deteriorating. This has an adverse impact on the availability of water for domestic, livestock and livelihood needs of communities, especially the disadvantaged sections of the society.

In order to address this situation, it is necessary to conserve water, promote equity in distribution and/or allocation and ensure security and sustainability. This is possible through asserting collective ownership of water resources and judicious regulation of its use. Thus, there is an urgent need to contain the depletion and deterioration of water resources. Communities need to be made self-reliant in management, allocation and application of their water resources. Local self-governance institutions like Gram Panchayats and civic bodies are ideally suited to play this regulatory role and undertake this responsibility.

In view of the prevailing scenario as described above, Sahjeevan envisions the following; "Local communities develop and conserve water in all its forms such as rain, surface water, sub-surface water, and groundwater. Irrespective of the water resources' origin (endogenous or exogenous), communities should distribute, allocate and apply it in a judicious, equitable and non-violent manner for meeting the needs of humans, animals, livelihoods, development without damaging ecological ecosystems."

Sahjeevan's efforts have also been directed towards building and strengthening local elected bodies and establishing systems of checks and balances to ensure that power is truly distributed and not concentrated in the hands of a select few. Sahjeevan has adopted this model in this Jalprabandhan project too, and it has been our goal to bring as many community members as possible to Gram Sabhas. Sahjeevan has worked to ensure that Gram Sabhas are platforms where everyone's voice is respected and everyone has the opportunity to raise their voice.

The Jalprabandhan project has been successful in creating a long lasting and positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of people residing in the project area. Qualitatively we have seen the following impacts:

- a) Governance – Sahjeevan has been successful in making the Panchayats take responsibility for the water in the region. Sahjeevan along with SETU-Abhiyan has also shifted the peoples focus to the panchayat as being responsible for the project. This is done to allow for the self governance of the panchayat. As an example (post elections) new Panchayats are still to be formed in most of the villages in the project area and hence there is a brief lull in the project activities. Community members are patiently waiting for the new Panchayats to be formed for project activities to be resumed, and have not been asking Sahjeevan to (as is the case often) speed up processes. It is also worth mentioning that Panchayat members and the government officials together have taken up responsibilities related to the Jalprabandhan program even though these are not part of their formal responsibilities as mandated by the state or central government.
- b) Sustainability – Since the onus of the program is on local government bodies such as the Panchayats, community members and local organisations like Bhimsar SETU and UPAJ Producer Company limited, the programme longevity and its positive impact is assured. An Agri-communication and Animal husbandry support center has been set-up. Discussions are underway to replicate this center in other villages though its community members. Such initiatives will also ensure that the program keeps on delivering benefits to the community even when the project holders / mentors exit the project area.
- c) New crops and Businesses introduced - The program has worked with local institutions to start new businesses, form market linkages, and introduce crops that are recommended by experts to be grown in such soils and climes. This along with animal health services, is expected to lead to increased incomes for the community (which can be invested to generate additional income and form a positive feedback loop).
- d) Soil health - Soil testing services coupled with explanations about soil health, its importance, and remediation of poor soil health has inculcated a general awareness and concern about soil among the community. Improved soil health and simple practices such as composting and mulching can drastically improve yields.
- e) Introduction of new low-input practices – The program has pushed low-input and low-conflict measures such as farm bunding and composting. This year the rains have been scant and farmers have been able to grow a good crop due to bunding. There is increased acceptance and demand for such practices.
- f) Renewed interest in Agriculture – The project has been able to enhance interest in agriculture, especially among the younger generation who are willing to take risks and try new and more efficient methods of farming.
- g) Learning – The project has been a learning experience for Sahjeevan, and its staff members have learnt from field experiences, experimental innovations, exposure visits,

and partners. Techno-managerial capabilities in the field of water, agriculture, and animal husbandry have also been enhanced. This will help Sahjeevan work with greater efficiency on projects in future.

h) In quantitative terms, the following are the major outcomes:

- a. On the supply side, water harvesting or conservation potential was upped by 0.59 billion litres this year and total potential creation 3.23 billion litres. This has been a major upgrade over last year and has been possible due to a large number of farm bunds, farm ponds, and village ponds that have been created/restored through this project.
- b. In this reporting year the rainfall has been very poor. We have observed many farmers who do not have bunds or farm ponds, leave their land fallow for this season since the rains were not enough to grow any crop at all. Our project initiatives have been useful and led to loss mitigation of 256 tonnes of produce.
- c. This year's project activities generated 9648 additional person-days of employment, this being more than three times the last year's achievement.
- d. This year an addition of 335 farmers adopted better agricultural practices due to the efforts of this project.
- e. 17 new village level groups have been formed to help farmers and livestock keepers share knowledge, resources equitably, and pool resources for interventions at the group level.
- f. An additional 352 livestock keepers have adopted improved animal husbandry practices.
- g. This year 310 new households have benefitted from the project, the cumulative figure stands at 1962 and we have already met the project target of 815 households.

4. URBAN INITIATIVES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship programmes are being promoted in the third phase of the HIC programme in order to create models in the Bhuj city. These fellowships will be executed along with citizens as well as individuals who are working within partner organizations to achieve various HIC objectives since a long time.

A Citizens' Council identifies suitable citizens for fellowship, evaluation of their work, and support them in execution of activities listed in proposals so that models can be created efficiently. *Sahar pade Saad* (City Calls) is a city level event organized for HIC colleagues to present their work to citizens in order to get their views and suggestions on ongoing and completed activities by various participants. The philosophy of Citizens' Council is shared with citizens in the event.

Participants from various organizations have been encouraged to submit proposals as per their aspirations and to create models in the city. This strategy gave freedom to individuals to identify areas of work as per their interest. This allows the participants to become more responsible towards achieving objectives of fellowship within the stipulated time period.

Saharpade Saad is one of the major HIC events organized to showcase HIC's ongoing activities before citizens, in the city. This event created a space for getting their views and feedback to improve HIC activities and engage citizens in the entire process.

4.1 Homes in The City – program on Solid Waste Management

Meeting with different groups has created a demand to holistically manage the city's waste through peoples' participation. Citizens are now providing old newspapers, plastic bags and other used/waste material to achieve the vision of a zero-waste city.

Local MLA has written to the CEO of Bhuj Nagar Palika (BNP) to support Sahjeevan for setting-up a waste segregation centre for proper waste management.

Indrabai school children collected over 2 Kg plastic bags and ensured to resume this activity every month.

To support this initiative, a Waste picker's association was formed.

Meetings at various levels built a strong relationship with waste pickers. However, their primary needs were also identified in this process and an idea to develop a joint venture was shared with them to strengthen their income.

Exposure visits motivated waste-pickers to organize themselves and actively participate in meetings and other activities.

About 36 families were linked with Public Distribution System (PDS).

12,000 plastic bags were replaced with paper bags during the reporting period.

Decentralized waste management:

After having dialogues and meetings at different levels over the years, now Sahjeevan is able to draw the attention of various residential societies, institutions, ward/area level groups and NGOs. Often visitors from different sectors come to observe and learn from the initiatives taken by Sahjeevan in order to manage waste in their own city.

An earning of Rs.10,000/- has begun from technology set-up at Lalan College for compost making. This ensures the sustainability if it is managed professionally.

Sahjeevan has started implementing the DPR (Detailed Project Report) for SWM (Solid Waste Management) in the city after its approval by the Directorate of Municipalities, Government of Gujarat and Bhuj Nagar Palika (BNP).

Sahjeevan has organised four meetings with women across the city to create awareness amongst them about hazardous waste, its nature and disposal methods. The waste reduction methods/techniques were also shared with them.

A number of meetings were organised with citizens, students and elected representatives where DPR of SWM was shared with them. The role of citizens in the successful implementation of DPR was discussed with them.

-Sahjeevan has conducted monitoring survey for door-to-door waste collection service provided by BNP. This survey of 110 households across different wards reveal that 80 per cent citizens are satisfied with sanitation services.

An event was organised at the Hamirsar Lake with citizens in presence of the City Mayor. Conservation of environment, cultivate habit to minimise use of plastic bags and use bins for trashes were main points of discussion in the meetings.

Formation and support to waste picker's association:

Over 30 meetings were organised with waste pickers in three poverty pockets – Vansfoda, Ashapura and Acord Hospital area , where waste pickers are concentrated.

Four city level meetings were organised on how to link them with various social security schemes, formation of area level federations, their savings and few other issues discussed with them.

During the reporting period, two medical camps were organised in two localities where waste pickers are concentrated. About 215 waste pickers received treatment and health check-up facilities.

Achievement of the Project objectives (Outcomes)

In its Executive Committee's meeting in March 2017, the Bhuj Municipality allocated land measuring 30 x 30 feet and permission to set-up a Zero Waste Centre at dumping site. Construction of ZWC and mobilization of water pickers to link with this centre has also begun just after getting permission.

- 36 families were linked with a food security scheme under this program. Now these families are getting sufficient amount of food grains to feed their families.
- 23 families were linked with 'Maa Amritam Yojna' under which now each family can get assistance for up to Rs 2,00,000/- per annum for medical purposes.
- 5 families were assisted to receive birth certificate from the Municipality. On the basis of these birth certificates five children got admission in school.
- 22-woman waste pickers were trained to make paper bags and they were linked with medical shops for their produce. Initially Sahjeevan was providing them discarded newspapers but later they started collecting discarded newspapers from few offices and continued supplying paper bags to medical shops.

In coordination with the Rotary club, four waste-picker youths were facilities to work at a camp run by the Rotary club during Navratri for devotees. In this way the youth got an additional income during these festival days.

Non-smoking stoves were built in 11 households of waste pickers in Bhuj. This was a small but significant step towards prevention of health hazard due to smog while cooking by women in these 11 households. On the other hand, it also helped to reduce carbon emissions as well as tree cutting since the amount of wood used by these 80 families was reduced to about 50% through these non-smoking cooking stoves.

Sahjeevan was doing advocacy since long time for issuing ID Cards to waste pickers by Bhuj Municipality. The Executive Committee of Bhuj Municipality has approved this demand in its meeting and consequently an event was organized by Sahjeevan in collaboration with Bhuj Municipality under banner of Alliance of Indian Waste Pickers (AIW) where Municipality issued ID Cards to 80 waste pickers. This programme was headed by Chief Executive Officer and President of Bhuj Municipality in the presence of Ward Councilors. Both dignitaries spoke about importance and contribution of this community in making our cities neat and clean.

The Municipality organized an event on World Women's Day on the 8th of March 2017 to honor women waste pickers in Bhuj. Women waste pickers were given a kit having essential tools that they can use while working to keep them safe from pollutants.

Coordination with two hospitals was made for medical check-up of members of Waste Picker's Organization. Coordination with banks was also made for opening of Jan Dhan accounts for members of waste picker's organization in Bhuj.

4.2. Participatory mapping and conservation of Urban Biodiversity and important Ecological Landscape

- A detailed surveyed was completed in ward no. 3, 6 and 8 on the status assessment of plants, birds and mammals.
- A meeting was conducted with the group of senior citizens of Bhuj - called 'Himayati Juth' of Bhuj City. In this meeting, a detail presentation on the existing ecosystems and biodiversity in Bhuj Urban Areas were presented. In addition, the ecologically important areas of Bhuj for future participatory conservation and development of management plan for respective landscapes were also shared.
- Researchers visited several common areas (i.e. Ward No. 8 and 4 localities) which are important for biodiversity conservation. They were encouraged to try and develop future strategies for piloting or demonstration models with local residents and respective Government departments, like Forest, and Revenue, etc.

- Several meetings were also organized with the 'K-Link' team to produce several maps on important biodiversity areas along with a future recommendation on action plans proposed for each area or landscape.

Surveyed and meeting for demonstration plots:

- Several meetings (formal and informal) were conducted with Dr. Paresh Raval, Principal of Lalan College, Bhuj-Kachchh, to initiate and demonstrate projects on medicinal and rare plants to create awareness amongst youth, students and other stakeholders about the importance of medicinal and rare plants.
- Also completed a technical visit with civil engineers and landscaping designers from 'Hunnarshala' and developed a plan for demonstration plots in Lalan college.
- Coordinated with the forest department for providing selected medicinal plants to Lalan college for demonstration within their college premises.
- Seeds of native species like *Salvadora oleoides* (Mithi ZAR), *Acacia nilotica* (DESHI Baval), *Grewia tenax* (Gangani), and *Caesalpinia crista* (Kachka) were dispersed in and around the Bhujio Fort Landscape to increase the vegetation cover and biodiversity.

Coordination with Gujarat Biodiversity Board (GBB), Gandhinagar and Bhuj Nagarplaika, Bhuj:

- Several meetings were conducted with Shri G.K. Chandappa, Former Chief Officer, Bhuj Nagarpalika. The Biological Diversity Act 2002 with provision of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) and the formation of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) at Nagarplaika level were presented. He also agreed to make biodiversity conservation as an agenda in the next meeting of councilors and demanded to submit a resolution for constitution of BMC from the GBB, Gandhinagar.
- With regards to Biodiversity conservation, Sahjeevan wrote a letter to the GBB and organized a personal visit, we shared our experiences with Bhuj Nagarplaika on the environment agenda and agreed on possibilities to work on PBR and BMC in Bhuj Urban areas with Bhuj Nagarpalika.
- GBB and Nagarpalika are constantly approached by us on the environment agenda. With our constant efforts, a road map for further action has been created.

Obstacles in achieving our Objectives:

- Officials from Bhuj Nagarpalika, GBB-Gandhinagar and Forest Department are constantly transferred and the project details have to be represented to the new officials.
- There were various issues on the legal aspects of land allocation etc. for finalizing the demonstration plots at Lalan College and the Forest Area of ward No. 8.

Events and Celebration

World Sparrow Day

The celebration of “World Sparrow Day” has provided a platform for environment lovers, where urban citizens, children and researchers come together and share their experiences about community awareness for the conservation of a species and develop proper strategies for the conservation of their ecology. This day is celebrated on a National and International level, which highlights its importance! The volunteers who work for the conservation of species are awarded.

It is observed that there is a remarkable decline in the species of sparrows. This gives us a warning of big changes in the environment. It also suggests the proportionally increase in environmental pollution. The current state of the environment is really a serious matter for good health of the coming generations of all species, in this case the vulnerable Sparrow. Therefore “World Sparrow Day” is not just celebration but it is a great effort to sensitize the masses about the environment and bio diversity.

This year, “World Sparrow Day” was celebrated where environment lovers, urban citizens and children were provided a common platform to share their experiences in coordination and support of different organization like Sahjeevan, Man Jyot, Pelican Nature Club and Lok Vigyan Kendra under “Home in the city” program at Khegar Park, Balbhavan. The honorable distinguished guests and friends from different organizations who are currently working on various issues in areas of environmental conversation, had shared their valuable experiences during the celebration of the event. A drawing competition on the sparrow was also kept on this day. Environment lovers who are working on conservation of sparrows were awarded as “Chakli Mitra”. Manav Jyot organization distributed a sparrow house and water bud to each person present at the event. At the end of the program, a strategy was worked out on how to proceed further on the environment issue ward-wise of Bhuj city, based on a geographical map.

Sahjeevan organized a 'Tree Race' competition and a costume competition as the part of “World Environment Day” in which children participated. The children were introduced to the different types of trees and plants by 'Tree Race' competition.

World environment day

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Pastoral Exhibition- Living Lightly: Journeys with Pastoralists

After the success of the first edition of Living Lightly: Journeys with Pastoralists the exhibition travelled to Ahmedabad. The first edition of the exhibition had its spotlight on pastoralism in Kachchh, and had attempted to speak about pastoralism through the microcosm of pastoralism in Kachchh. Two of the major outcomes of the first edition of the exhibition was 1) a demand that was put forth by leaders of pastoral communities that such events be organized much more frequently and 2) Sahjeevan success in getting the government attention towards the need to work on conservation of breeds; which led to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare requesting Sahjeevan to hold a workshop on breed conservation.

Since the first edition of the exhibition had focused on pastoralism in Kachchh, many amongst us and the representatives of civil society institutions felt that the second edition of the exhibition should be held on home-ground i.e. in Gujarat. Gujarat government's remarkable work on breed conservation also made it imperative that the breed workshop be held in Ahmedabad and hence a decision was taken to hold the second edition of the exhibition in Ahmedabad along with the breed workshop.

The second edition of the exhibition was held from 5th to 8th of October 2017 and was organized by Center for Pastoralism, an initiative of Sahjeevan which again was incubated to meet the need for a national level initiative that could pool the expertise of practitioners and local institutions which are working on pastoralism across India.

Just like the first edition of the exhibition, the second edition brought together pastoralists from Ladakh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Telengana, North Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Kashmir. Jaya Jaitly, an eminent citizen of India and someone who have been at the forefront of the craft movement in this country inaugurated the exhibition. Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Shrimati Krishna Raj inaugurated the breed workshop which was held on 6th and 7th of October.

The central context for the exhibition through story telling performances, crafts, artworks, and music installations, was created by presenting a map of movements. The map was presented as a touch screen display projected on a surface, visitors could touch on different pastoral regions of India and the system responded by displaying the seasonal routes taken by pastoralists of the selected region.

An exhibit on the unique form of spiritualism amongst pastoralists that finds expressions in their poetry and music, titled Rooh Ji Rehaan, accompanied the exhibition. Young, yet very well-known Dastangoi Artiste Let. Ankit Chadha performed on the 3rd at Kanoria Center for the Arts, which was meant to be a promotional event for the LL exhibition. He performed again on the

6th at ATMA to a packed house. Ankit had woven his experiences of spending time with pastoral people into a dastan that deliberated the concept of on life, livelihood, home, mobility, and worldly possessions.

The craft section at the exhibition showcased the interrelationships between the craftsmen and the pastoral herders, and how the practical needs and the resources that found their origin in pastoral production systems gave birth and nourished an exquisite craft culture. This edition of the exhibition had additional exhibits that presented the core values of human ecology in pastoral systems. These included live exhibits, photo essays and film on the grasslands of Kachchh as well as the the amazing paggis of Kachchh, a legion of men whose ability to recognize footsteps and deduce based on patterns will perhaps even put Sherlock Holmes to shame!

In addition, on above, several discussions/parallel site events also have been organized like-Livelihood Consultation, Cheese Workshop, FRA Consultation, and Breed Consultation (for more details please visit: <http://www.livinglightly.in>)

Organisational Management

By virtue of constitution, Management of Sahjeevan-society is entrusted to Governing Body. Governing Body mainly exercises its powers through Executive Secretary. In order to take major policy decisions, to oversee overall governance of the organization, to provide inputs and directions the Governing Body meets at least twice a year. The Executive Director has been appointed to help Executive Secretary to manage day to day activities of the society. Executive Director, with support from senior members, oversees day-to-day management of the organisation. Programme Team Leaders are getting support from senior members for their respective Programmes. In order to strengthen internal governance of the organisation, Board has also set up a Governance and Administration Committee who provides inputs on regular basis.

In order to bring participatory approach to strengthen Human Resource Management, various sub committees of staff members have been formed to help management team like loan committee to manage employee's welfare fund to assist staff members for their financial needs; Review facilitation team to conduct staff performance appraisal and Internal Complaint Committee (IIC) as per the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

In order to develop and increase the individual level capacities on subject and personal growth, several exposure visits and trainings & capacity building are being conducted on regular basis. During reporting year 2017-2018, Sahjeevan has organized Board meeting (Two numbers), Finance committee meeting (Two numbers) and General body meeting (One number). Along with all these meetings, the following legal compliances were also fulfilled:

- The Audit report was Filed with the office of The Deputy Charity Commissioner, Kachchh Pradesh;
- Internal and Statutory Audits were completed on time and all queries were answered at the satisfaction level to the Auditors;
- Income Tax and FCRA Returns for the previous Financial Year were filed on time;
- Provident Fund Contributions were deposited with the Office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner and all necessary Returns filed before the due dates;
- Income Tax (TDS) and Professional Tax was deducted, as per rules, and deposited with the respective authorities on time;
- Staff Medi-claim and Personal Accident Insurance Policies were renewed and updated from time to time, as required;
- Employees Group Gratuity Scheme was renewed.

Organisation have below Policies approved from BoG:

1. Staff Service Regulation,
2. Delegation of Authority,
3. Procurement Policy,
4. Investment Policy, and
5. Sahjeevan Staff Welfare- Personal Loan Policy.

We are also working on following policies, which are also practices in daily culture of organisation, going for formal approval from BoG Meeting in writing form:

1. Conflict of Interest,
2. Corruption and Anti –Bribery,
3. Sexual Harassment-we have Internal Complain Committee (ICC) and
4. Child Protection.

Our Partners & Membership with Networks

Partners(Govt, NGOs, CSRs, CBOs)

- National Bureau of Animal Genetic Research (NBAGR)
- Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF)
- Ministry of Culture (MoC)
- Indian School of Business (ISB)
- Department of Animal Husbandry (AH)
- Gujarat Livestock Development Board (GLDB)
- Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell (CSPC)
- Central University of Gujarat
- Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)
- Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)
- Seva Foundation
- HUNNARSHALA FOUNDATION
- Ford Foundation
- MISEREOR
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Heinrich Böll Foundation
- Curry Stone Foundation
- Global Forest Coalition
- Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)
- HINDUSTAN UNILEVER FOUNDATION (HUF)
- Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd. (CGPL)
- Axis Foundation
- Shroff Foundation
- Adani Foundation
- KESAR TERMINALS & INFRACTURE LTD.
- Banni Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (BPUMS)
- Kachchh Unt Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan (KUUMS)
- Saheri Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan
- Ghetā – Bakra Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan

Membership with Networks

- IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRA)
- Lokhip Pashupalak Sansthan (LPPS)
- I Pravah
- I Kachchh Nav Nirman Abhiyan