

# SAHJEEVAN

Living with Nature



# Annual Report

## 2018-2019



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Bhuj 370001 Kachchh, Gujarat, INDIA

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## PREFACE

Sahjeevan, the organization based in western edge of Kutch in Gujarat works for environment, conservation of natural resources and the communities who are dependent on it. This defines that this organization has broader perspective towards environment. Even with the diversity of the work, their understanding is also deepening with the years of experiences. Sahjeevan also works with IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) on conservation of biodiversity with new approach to the community. Besides on environment, it has started working with pastoralists as well from this year. Registration of new breed, associating them with the government, new ideas for their livelihood and other activities has been carried out nicely during the whole year.

The involvement of villagers at every level has been taken care, so that the work does not restrict till the organization. The work has been organized in specific manner, especially for women and youth to be part of it.

This year, coordination with government took place on various matters. Pastoralists association and villagers were benefited by integrating with different government plans successfully.

There were some research and studies which carried out under the scope of the organization in various subjects. For example: the matters on biodiversity and 'ganda baval' got more clarity by working with RAMBLE (Research and Monitoring in Banni Landscape) in Banni. This has started being implemented and got a new direction with the support of 'Banni breeders association'.



## Director's thoughts

Namaskar!

I am glad presenting the Annual Report of 'Sahjeevan' for the year 2018-2019.

As every year, this year was also full of experiences and hopes. This year was alive with the various matters such as new work, active and young leadership, various collaborations, involvement of women, new topics for work, increasing diversity in geology etc... Two new associations were created under the leadership of organization. New breeds got recognized. Two new cluster offices started at Surendranagar and Upleta to conduct the programs on the development of Banni grassland and conservation of bio diversity, Marketing of Camel milk and to work with pastoralists. This is the new initiative for the organization in Kutch region.

Partnership with the executive of organization and their appropriate suggestions has encouraged the whole team. The support of employees, their time and dedication towards work has brought this organization till this level undoubtedly. Designators of the associations, various Panchayats, Panchayat committee, villagers, young activists and supporting organizations have played major role in this. There were some visits took place this year which includes Ethiopian Delegation's visit to understand pastoralism and our program. The senior team of Azim Premji philanthropical initiative visited Banni and their work with 'Banni Breedres Association (BPUMS)' which was worth appreciating and motivating to the team.

We cannot forget our friends who supported us financially. Only because of their support, the organization's dreams have fulfilled.

I hope for the excitement for next year with the experience, learning and success of this year.

Thank you.

Dr. Pankaj Joshi  
Executive Director

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# 1 Sahjeevan and Center for Pastoralism

Center for Pastoralism was established in the starting of 2017. This center was established to bring recognition of pastoralist community's contribution and work in front of the society and to value their art, handicraft, business skills and other achievements by always staying connected with them. To identify the appropriate opportunities in the market for pastoralists and to connect them with it is one of the major objectives of this centre.



The nomadic lifestyle and livelihood system of these pastoralist communities have raised many queries and reactions in different level of people. In past, people have tried settling them at a place as they thought pastoralists as criminal because of such lifestyle and livelihood system. Even forest department and conservationist had many doubts on this.

In other side, these communities and their systems were documented. They are also identified as protectors of the natural resources on which they are dependant. Unfortunately, Indian animal-husbandry does not attract more researchers to study

them. Still there are not enough discussions happening on this topic. It is a fact that these pastoralist communities have contributed to many regions in terms of economic, environment and culture.

But the young generation of this community does not want to accept pastoralism as a part of their lifestyle. The environment is definitely an issue here. They have to travel for herding till another state during drought and they have to deal with the settled people over there, which is one of the biggest issues.

Sahjeevan- Center for Pastoralism has organized an exhibition named as 'Living Lightly' which included this topic and other topics related to these pastoralists. Discussions between them and other people who are associated in this were conducted. Life of these communities, land and their income were the topics of these discussions. This exhibition was held in Ahmedabad and Delhi.

Center for Pastoralism has come up with the solutions regarding the need of pastoralist communities, which were identified by this exhibition. Livelihood of pastoralists, breed recognition, land management, research on them; are the main focused topics for this centre and the centre would also work on the new policies which promote them.

This center is the initiative of 'Sahjeevan' which has a wide experience, due to the work done on this topic since long time. The contribution of 'Sahjeevan' in this includes: creating associations, building their capacity, recognition and technical recording of local breed, livelihood, preparing the maps of natural resources and implementation of action plan. This centre also aims to work associating with government sectors of various states, NGOs and local communities.

CFP would also provide necessary suggestions and training to NGOs. It would also work in building the capacity of them.

(Please visit our website for further details: [www.pastoralism.org.in](http://www.pastoralism.org.in))

## 2 Breeders' association

### 2.1 Banni Breeders association

Since a decade, Sahjeevan is actively working with Banni Breeders Association (BPUMS).



To entitle Banni region for collective rights, we have approached at different levels. The association sent an application to the honorable 'National Green Tribunal' for prohibition of non-forest activities and removal of private farmlands. Parallely with the help of local forest management committee, management planning was done for individual's villages and the implementation of it has also started with the consent of 'Gram Sabha'.

In the year 2018-2019 many activities took place by Banni breeders Association, forest management committees and Panchayats in Banni. We know that pastoralists tend to migrate outside Kutch with their animals to upkeep them during the difficult times of drought and this is one of the natural solutions to save big herd of animals. Banni region had faced a drought and government helped pastoralist during such tough times. In

spite of this, some of the pastoralists from villages had to migrate to Bhuj, Mandavi, Bhachau, Anjar, Mudra and even till Surendranagar and Ahmedabad.

Government provided fodder from local DHORVADO and water through pipeline service. Pastoralists have also dug small ponds (Virda) of drinking water for animals so that they don't have to be dependent on pipeline service. According to Sahjeevan's survey for the year 2018-2019, 336 families from 11 villages of Banni have migrated although there were such facilities available.

### **2.1.1 Association's executive meeting**



Total 13 meetings were organized during the whole year in association. The topics for discussion were as following: Non-forest activities and increasing farmland in Banni, Law of forest rights and training for the same, collective forest management and creating plan for it, joining of new members in association, financial management of the previous year etc... Decisions were taken on new proposals such as working with Azim Premji Funding Agency on strengthening the management of Banni Breeders Association. Other than that, work on the improvement of grass land, conservation of biodiversity and other programs associating with Axis Bank Foundation were discussed.

### **2.1.2 Capacity Building of the Association**

Capacity of the Association was built to strengthen the system of management and governance of Banni Breeders Association and to integrate with Azim Premji philanthropical initiative for preparing application and communication.



During the visit of Azim Premji Philanthropical initiative, discussions were held with all the members of executive on strengthening of association and its governance system.

### **2.1.3 Collaboration and dialogue with the Government**

Different collaborations and affiliations took place under various topics through the Association. For the approval of 47 claims about giving collective rights to Pastoralist in Banni reserved forest under the Forest Rights Act – 2006, written application was presented to Chief Minister Vijaybhai Rupani, Revenue Minister Kaushikbhai Patel, Gandhinagar Chief Secretary and Chairman (State level monitoring committee under forest rights act -2006), Ganpatbhai Vasava, Minister of Tribal affairs, MLA of Bhuj Nimaben Acharya, Collector of Kutch and other government officials.

Association has sent an application to National Green Tribune regarding non-forest activities done by individuals and forest department. Panchayats of Banni has also supported in this. Community forest management committees have provided information regarding this, by organizing the separate meetings with women with the permission of various Gram-Sabha of villages. The court has ordered to prevent such activities due to this collective and comprehensive approach and has also informed related departments to mark the territory of Banni.

### **2.1.4 Implementation of work regarding Conservation and Management of Community Resources**



Under water management work, 4860 cubic meter digging of lake near village has been done by Vagura community forest management committee for conservation and management of natural resources. So that water can be arranged even during drought.



Initiation of land reclamation of 20 hectares grassland and process of revivification of natural grass has started by Dedhiya community Forest management committee. Pastoralists also have contributed in above all mentioned works

### **2.1.5 Animal Population survey**

Banni breeders association (Banni Pashu Uchherak Maldhari Sangathan - BPUMS) and Sahjeevan have started surveying animal population of 49 villages of Banni region. Survey of animal population is done to a large extent, besides the pastoralist families migrated with their animals out of Banni region due to drought.



## 2.2 Kutch Camel Breeders Association (KUUMS)

Last year, Sahjeevan and Kutch camel breeding association along with camel pastoralists has organized various activities like protection of livelihoods, especially organizing markets for milk trading, conservation of grazing lands, and various other activities in relation to cattle health and strengthening of the pastoralist's organization has been conducted.

### 2.2.1 Survey



Survey was conducted for knowing the population of camels in kutch, along with the population of kutchi and kharai camel breeders were conducted In association with camel breeders of the region. Members from all the three bodies of Kutch and Kutch camel breeding pastoralist's organization were inculcated for the survey. For which meetings at Taluka level and required physical visit to the place were also done. A total of 1760 Kharai camel and 37 camel breeders were reported in areas of Bhachau, Mundra, Lakhpat, Abdasa, Nakhatrana, and Anjaar Taluka of Kutch District. Accordingly, 11,314 Kutchi camel and 341 Camel breeders were also reported in the district.

## 2.2.2 Kharai camel breeding Programme



A Project has been devised by National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources-NBAGR in association with Sahjeevan and Kutch camel breeders association for protection of Kharai camels and its breeders of Tuntavaandh (Mundra), Daryapar(Lakhpat), Mohaadi(Abdaasa), Jangi(Bhachau), Rapar and Nakhatrana regions of Kutch district. Meetings were conducted for acknowledging various activities conducted during this project and for the exchange of information related to this project. Planning for Selection and Monitoring of camels for three years were conducted under NBAGR program. Under this Planning, Traditional and scientific methods would be adopted for the conservation of male and female camels. Information regarding future scope of work of the association and arrangements of markets for milk production was also given.



As per the planning and guidelines decided for the research, Tagging of camels were done. A total of 111 Kharai camels were tagged (39 male camels and 72 female camels). They would be further monitored for a period of three years.





Blood samples of 50 Kharai camels were collected from 10 camel breeders for knowing genetic traits, molecular characterization, breed, DNA and other prevalent diseases among the camels. This samples collected were sent to NBAGR.



Collection of Ear samples of three male and three female for genetic conservation of Kharai camels were also conducted by NBAGR.

Rumen test was conducted to check bacteria and acids present in camel stomach. Through this test important bacteria present in pancreas of camels are known. With the

help of team of experts from National Research Centre on Camel-NRCC Bikaner, Rumen liquid samples were collected from 6 camels.

After recognition of Kharai camel species and considering its declining population, Kharai camels are included under network project by national animal genetic research bureau for protection and conservation of this species. Special programme were then implemented for health, improvement and conservation of camel breeds of kutch.

### 2.2.3 Conservation of Kharai Camels



A detailed brochure was prepared for this program which included details related to Aim and other activities to be conducted. Shree Vinodbhai chawda (MP. Kutch, Morbi) Distributed the brochures during general meeting of the organization.







Under this program, in association with dr. Shersinh Chauhan and pastoralists community medical kits were prepared through which the camels could be provided with regular and appropriate medical facilities. Along with this, one kilo of Ghee (for female camels who gave recent birth and male camels) was also distributed.

In addition, Information was collected through Mapping of pastoral grounds of Kharai camels for conservation of traditional pastoral grounds under forest rights act 2006. This would be further helpful for claims over these grounds.

#### **2.2.4 Strengthening of livelihoods**



For smooth working and milk collection from camel breeders of Abdaasa, Lakhpat, and Mundra taluka, camel breeders have been integrated with Sarhad dairy in which from April, 2018 to March 2019, a total of 1,12,648 liters of camel milk were collected.

### 2.2.5 Training for wool shredding

Apart from milk production, for generating prospects of other means of livelihood, camel breeders have formed integration with “Khamir” organization. In association to this training in wool shredding of 20 women were conducted at the village itself.

### 2.2.6 Camel Vaccination Camp



In collaboration with district Animal husbandry department and district Panchayat-Kutch, camel vaccination camps were organized such that camel are provided with appropriate and regular health care facilities for prevalent diseases like khaji and fitoda. Head of the organization Mr.Bhikhabhai Rabari and members of district committee were present during the camp. Treatment of all the Kharai camels was done during this camp. Under NBAGR program, a special camp was also organized at Mohadi village of Abdaasa taluka for treating Khaji disease among camels.

- A total of 8 health check-up camps were organized this year.
- Treatment of a total of 3833 camels owned by 92 camel breeders were conducted which included 3638 kutchi camels and 220 kharai camels respectively.



## 2.2.7 Camel Fair



Every year camel fairs are organized with a view of spreading awareness for camel conservation among the local communities and bodies. This would also provide encouragement to camel breeders to further pursue and continue their profession. This year, in association with Sahjeevan and kutch camel breeders association camel fair was organized at Samakhyaali, Kutch. Camel breeders from Bhachau, Kutch and Kharai camel breeders of Saurashtra participated in the fair. Milk, pure breed camels and various other competitions and camel contests were organized to encourage the profession of camel breeders. During the program, Local leaders also consented to provide their support and assurance for works related to conservation of pasture lands for the camel breeders.

## 2.2.8 Animal Doctor Visit



Under NBAGR scheme provision for various treatments were provided for sustenance of proper health among the Kharai camels. Treatment of 60 camels of 5 camel breeders from Bhachau and Mundra taluka having Khaji and Fitodo diseases were conducted. Also, treatment for Non-Estrus Female or females who does not undergo heat cycle for mating, along were also conducted.

### **2.2.9 Conservation of pasture Lands**

A committee which included 4 forest officers from Bhachau, six from Lakhpat and four from Abdaasa is created for this work. Further the process includes presenting a proposal for formation of this committee during the joint meeting among these elected members and there after submission of proposal in written at the regional office. 6 cluster level maps have been prepared for identification of grazing lands of Kharai camel breeds. Mohadi cluster, pipar cluster, aasariyavaandh cluster, jangi cluster, bhadreshwar cluster, Tundavaandh cluster were included. These maps would be further helpful for joint claims for forest rights over these lands.

### **2.2.10 Cluster Map**

After conducting a meeting with camel breeders and village Panchayat, Maps of three areas, for understanding works conducted with regards to claims of forest rights for Jodiya of Jodiya Taluka, Baed of Jamnagar Taluka and chudesar village of Salayataluka were prepared.

### **2.2.11 Identity cards for Kharai camel breeders**



In collaboration with village Panchayat and police department, legal resident documents and certificates of all the Kharai camel breeders were submitted to the district collector officer. Based on this Kharai camel breeders would be provided a distinct identity card, which would ease their permission to access of otherwise restrictive grazing lands under forest authority.

## 3 Biodiversity

Organization works in 6 domains so the community can work independently on this topic.

1. To make people more aware about legal information of biodiversity
2. To collect information and do research on biodiversity
3. Conservation through piloting and demonstrating the conservation action
4. Active participation in preventing the damage of biodiversity and forest area
5. Education, Awareness and Communication
6. Encourage youth to conserve biodiversity

### 3.1 To make people more aware about legal information of biodiversity

Breeders' associations (Banni breeders association- BPUMS and Kutch camel breeder's association- KUUMS) are actively working on conservation of biodiversity and environmental sensitive areas, under Forest Rights Act- 2006 and biological diversity Act-2002.

Information on traditional grasslands and biodiversity were collected through collective exercise of Natural resource mapping.



Mapping of seasonal traditional route for grasslands and identification of different layers and major challenges were done. So that Breeders associations can work further on conservation though implementation of it.



### 3.1.1 The Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) and the Biological Diversity Act- 2002 (BDA)

For the Implementation of action plan made by collective biodiversity mapping with the help of Bio diversity management committee (BMC), in depth work has started with financial management and association with various experts. The planning of future work with BMC regarding biodiversity conservation and requirement of a team for the same has been discussed. We have also started giving efforts to make BMC with Bhuj Municipality for the conservation of urban biodiversity.



This is how the work is encouraging local people to take the responsibilities of identifying the problems and solving them by keeping the balance between tradition and necessary changes. Information, suggestion and training related necessary legal action for this has been provided.



### **3.2 To collect information and do research on biodiversity**

To bring the change in anything, one has to understand its past and identify an appropriate part of it which needs to be conserved. Sahjeevan also work in the same manner. There are many researches are taking place at the organization on the topic of biodiversity. Even the proper documentation of information collected by different mediums is being done. So this documentation can be used as a reference for future studies. We also made different cadre of pastoralists and youngsters of the village. With the help of these cadres, mapping of natural resources, understanding the seasonal traditional routes of grazing lands, identifying the problems and working on solutions are being done.



In addition, we are collecting the information regarding extinction of biodiversity and working with associated villages on long term strategies for the same with the help of RAMBLE and different universities.

### **3.3 Conservation through piloting and demonstrating the conservation action**

Activities were organized with community on how to use natural resources such as water, grass, forest and land with thrift. Pastoralists and grazing lands are deeply connected. So the issues regarding use of grazing lands should be solved in a manner that it does not harm anyone. Identification of solutions with the medium of survey, study, mapping and discussions are being done. These solutions are based on the study of traditional systems, reasoning of changes in them and need of the up gradation.

### 3.4 Active participation in preventing the damage of biodiversity and forest area

Organization has worked on this topic too. Different work has been carried out with the support of employees of organization, researcher and local people. Organization is also working on conservation of endangered flora and fauna. Bringing awareness within people, planting trees, arranging manmade nest for birds and following up on the same and documenting all these activities properly are the task which have been followed this year.



### 3.5 Education, Awareness and Communication

Different types of surveys and studies have been carried out during the whole year. Visual presentations have been prepared which explains the topic of biodiversity clearly and interestingly. Through this medium of presentation, we have tried encouraging school students to be more aware and interested on this topic. If the kids study the biodiversity from early age and protect them, damage of natural resources can be prevented and even spread more awareness. So the next generation can live in healthy environment.



### 3.6 Encourage youth to conserve biodiversity



Biodiversity is the subject which affects all living being. Thus, organization has expanded its team to work on this subject. The work in this field has been arranged in a way that villagers become responsible towards biodiversity. This work has been done collectively which sped up the process. The people whom this damage of biodiversity affects the most should take responsibilities of preventing the damage and work on it. So the seriousness of this matter can be maintained. This is why the complete involvement of villagers is important here.

Hence, the organization has involved villagers in Panchayat and its various departments. This has included men, women and children. We have created cadre of youngsters and children and gave them different responsibilities. These cadres are responsible to deliver this information to each villager. These cadres are involved in all the activities such as survey, mapping and research, so their capacity builds. Organization is also separately working on their training and capacity building.

The subject of biodiversity is associated with our life. Forest, land and living being are interdependent. Thus, it is our responsibility to save them. These collective efforts would create healthy human and healthy environment in a long run.

## 4 Banni Research Center – RAMBLE



Following tasks have been carried out by research center, during the year 2018-2019:

Since last four years, the research has been undergoing on the subjects: changes in species of vegetation in Banni region, the spread of 'Gando Baval', land samples, information regarding biodiversity etc. To record the species of vegetation, trees and grass, 160 monitoring plots had been established in this area.

- There is detailed research happening on 'Ganda baval' in 8 villages of Banni. In which, 3 types of plots have been established at each place. Various types of research are taking place on different parameters. Hence the strategy of reviving grassland and removal of 'Ganda baval' can be planned for the future.
- Coal and wild animals are also part of the different research which is going on. Through which we can get the information of areas which should be included in the conservation of Banni biodiversity.



- Workshop on Banni System Dynamic Model was organized with members of Banni association executive, leaders and youngsters. We would be able to project the different conditions of Banni after 30 years on a mobile app. necessary planning of actions on this were discussed. For example: If there will be drought next year, planning of the actions should be done this year to prevent the major damage. Such mobile apps are also being developed.

## 5 Success and Achievements

### 5.1 Recognition of three new breeds in animal husbandry of Gujarat

Information on lesser-known breeds of Gujarat was submitted to NBAGR. Kutchi-Sindhi horses were recognized from this in the year of 2016. 'Kahmi' goat, 'panchali' sheep and 'halari' donkey were registered through Indian council of Agricultural research (ICAR). Pastoralist/breeder of each breed was invited with Sahjeevan on breed recognition certificate distribution ceremony held in New Delhi.



## 6 Management of the Organization

Sahjeevan is registered as a trust and society. The trust registration of organization is done under 'The Bombay Public Trust Act - 1950' and society registration is done under 'The Society Registration Act - 1860. Authority of managing the organization is under the board of trustee, according to the regulations of Organization. This is being managed by Executive secretary. Executive director(ED) is appointed to help executive secretary and manage day to day work and administration of the organization. There is a program director and program team for the programs run under ED. There is a central coordination unit for administration of organization, governance and financial matters. Formation of the finance committee took place to strengthen financial matter and governance of the organization. This takes care of the financial management, financial progress and balance sheet by providing suggestions with legal perspective. This also helps in providing appropriate recommendation to the board of trustee, regarding coalition of various policies. The organization's board of trustee arranges meeting at least twice a year, in which they assess the work/program respective of objectives and financial management of the organization decided earlier. They also cross check whether the work is following objectives and values of the organization or not. Besides this, they also take decision on approval of different policies on governance of the organization and Executive director makes sure that these policies are being followed for day to day management of the organization.

## 7 Policies implemented in the organization

- Delegation of Authority  
Authority of approving the cost at different stages.
- Staff service regulation  
Rules regarding appointment of human resources, salary structure, transfer, social security, working hours, holidays, etc.
- Investment Policy  
Rules regarding fund investment of the organization
- Procurement Policy  
Rules regarding the purchase and sell of necessary things or help.
- Conflict of interest  
Rules regarding security of organizational interest
- Policy on Prevention of Sexual harassment of women at workplace  
Rules preventing sexual harassment at workplace



## 8 Financial Statements

**Sahjeevan, Bhuj (Kutch)**  
Trust Regd. No. F- 421 (Kutch)  
**Balance sheet as at 31st March 2018**

| Particulars                    | Annexure | As at              |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
|                                |          | 31/03/2018         |
| <b>Funds &amp; Liabilities</b> |          |                    |
| Trust Funds                    | A        | 92,84,661          |
| Earmarked Fund                 | B        | 9,76,557           |
| Income & Expenditure Account   | C        | 2,17,05,847        |
| Unspent Grant                  | D        | 1,18,16,634        |
| Current Liabilities            | E        | 73,121             |
| <b>Total</b>                   |          | <b>4,38,56,820</b> |
| <b>Assets &amp; Properties</b> |          |                    |
| Gross Block of Fixed Assets    | F        | 87,22,905          |
| Investments                    | G        | 1,30,31,603        |
| Current Assets                 | H        | 2,21,02,312        |
| <b>Total</b>                   |          | <b>4,38,56,820</b> |

Place : Bhuj - Kutch

Date: 28-09-2018



Chief Finance Officer



  
(Nikit A. Desai)  
Partner

Executive Secretary

As per our report of even date

For I. H. Desai & Co.

FRN No. 102309W

Chartered Accountants



Membership No. 164027