



SAHYADRI NISARGA MITRA
ANNUAL REPORT
2021-22



About Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra

Our Mission

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Nature conservation through field protection, awareness, education and scientific based action.

Our Slogan

‘ठेवू दूरदृष्टी रक्षू निसर्ग सृष्टी’

(For a better future, we shall protect the nature)

Brief History

Three decades ago, few nature enthusiasts came together and founded Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra (SNM). The SNM successfully completed many conservation projects and secured the survival of many species like Olive ridley sea turtle, White bellied sea eagle, Vultures, Indian Pangolin and many more. Each and every project of SNM got success just because of support from our Well-wishers and Community. We strongly believe that conservation efforts can sustain only if included with active community participation.

SNM is currently working in wildlife conservation, School infrastructure development, Plastic and solid waste management etc;

This year, the flood in Chiplun severely damaged our office and we lost almost all of our equipments, data, documents etc. Thanks to our supporters who raised their helping hands and made us stand again quickly.



Acknowledgement

The 30-year journey of Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra was accompanied by our keen supporters, well-wishers and volunteers from the corners of the world. All of our initiatives were truly supported by our well-wishers and the community. Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra would like to thank all of our supporters for their constant backing to our activities.

This year, we had a major setback by the flood. We lost of our assets, equipments and vehicles to the flood. Mr Rushikesh Chavan, Head, The Habitats Trust, and Mr. Kiran Shelar, Editor, Mumbai Tarun Bharat helped us to get back on our feet. Comeback after July 2022 flood in Chiplun would have been difficult without the help of the Habitats Trust. Vaitarna Properties Pvt. Ltd. and Maharashtra Foundation also generously helped us after the flood. Thanks to Axa Go Business Operations Pvt. Ltd., Mr. P. Sriganesh and his friends, and Mr. Nimesh Bhai who provided help to flood victims. Many thanks to Capt. Dilip Donde for donating his winning amount from the marathi show 'Kon Honar Karodpati'.

Thank you to The Rufford Foundation, and KNCF, Japan for providing us opportunity to save Bats and Pangolin, two fascinating mammals from the Konkan region. Thank you to the Mangrove foundation for providing us opportunity to create mTurtle Application.

SNM is thankful to DOW Chemical International Private Limited. Thank you to The Dharamasi Morarji Chemical Co. Limited. Both of our CSR partners supported our work through the CSR funds.

SNM is Thankful to all government and Law enforcement agencies and its officers for their efforts to save nature. It is our honour to thank our known-unknown supporters.

We would like to assure our supporters that SNM will always give its 100% to fulfil our aims and objectives.

Thank You...

Current Projects

Nature Conservation & Citizen Science

Conservation of Pangolin in Konkan region, Maharashtra, India.

The Indian pangolin is a lesser-known species widely distributed across the Indian Subcontinent. The illegal trade of live pangolin or scale in the Konkan region of Northern Western Ghat has been noticed through repeatedly incidence of the seizure news report. To protect and conserve this unique species, SNM initiated the project "Conservation of Pangolin in Konkan region, Maharashtra, India. The project was funded by KNCF, Japan.

- 6500 individuals educated through leaflets in Marathi language across the 317 villages in the project area. Total 30 awareness boards were installed in the project area.
- Conducted 35 community awareness meetings. "Dashavtar" is a local folk dance which used for awareness within the community.
- Conducted a random trail-based field survey with local guides. 22 camera traps were deployed in January during the field survey for the baseline data.
- World Pangolin Day 2021 hosted in collaboration with the Forest Department on 20th February 2021. On the occasion released book "Pangolins on Coins and Stamps of the World" published by Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra and written by Dr Indraneil Das and Dr Ajit Vartak.

Beach Clean-up, Waste Management to enhance turtle conservation and tourism at coastal village Anjarle and Kolthare beach of Dapoli block

SNM and The Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Company (DMCC) initiated the project in Anjarle and Kolthare villages to increase the hygiene level of the beach of the both villages. SNM

executed activities to educate, and aware the community through various mediums. Mass clean up drives were organized to gain community support.

- Clean-up drive was held at Kolthare beach. 80 students along with local community participated in drive. The Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Company Limited and Volunteers of Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra also participated. Approximately 1000 kg of waste were collected in 200 bags.
- beach clean-up drive was conducted by Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra volunteers and Community members from Anjarle. Appointed 2 people for weekly beach clean-up, and waste segregation. Approximately 1250 kg waste collected from the beach.
- All the collected waste from both villages was brought to Chiplun for segregation and sent to the recycling plant.

In-Situ Conservation of Indian Pangolin through community participation in Konkan region of Maharashtra India.

Indian Pangolin is a nocturnal and fossorial animal. The pangolin is in serious threat of extinction due to illicit poaching and smuggling. The main obstacle in conservation of pangolin is the data scarcity. Very few people know about the pangolin, Hence, when the pangolin disorients and enters in human settlements, it gets killed due to misconceptions.

SNM and DMCC have created and published an animated short film about life of Pangolin. The film educates about importance of the Pangolin and current threats. We have published the film through YouTube premier on the occasion of World Pangolin Day.

E-BIODIVERSITY INDIA - A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

e-Biodiversity is a project designed in collaboration with DMCC to promote scientific understanding among students through the lens of applied scientific research between middle schools in Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra, India. The project will be implemented next year also. Current progress of the project is as follows.

- Students deployed Camera traps around school's villages and captured pictures by camera. Total 850 photographs clicked by camera traps which captured many rare mammals, reptile and avian species.
- Conducted 2 nature trails and birding sessions, 2 wildlife education PPT, and other related activities at all schools.
- Conducted meetings of Stakeholders to increase consciousness towards biodiversity conservation.

Tree Plantation to restore Native biodiversity in Konkan region, Maharashtra,

SNM & DMCC are protecting previously planted native tree saplings in Choravane village in Khed block.

- Additional care support given to saplings planted in previous years.
- Field visits done periodically to execute removal of weed and cleaning near planted saplings.
- Provided wooden stick support and placed spikey branches around the sapling to protect from cattles.
- Visits executed for watering and care of planted saplings according to season.
- Total 250 trees in Choravane village were alive at the end of April.

Indian Pangolin Population estimation through trap camera study survey.

SNM is studying Indian Pangolin in the Konkan region through camera trap surveys. We also have published our previous research work regarding diet of Indian pangolin in Konkan. Now we are studying the occurrence and population estimation of the species. The current progress of the project indicates that the study duration should be increased. Hence, we are going to continue the project next year. Current progress of the project is as follows.

- Conducted field visits to collect data on species indirect sign, burrow count in project area.
- Deployed motion sensor camera traps near the identified resting burrow and trail. Data analysed to estimate species population in study area.
- Total 8 sightings recorded in camera traps.

Assessment & Conservation of Bats in Tillari Bioregion, a threatened wildlife corridor in Northern Western Ghats, India.

- All-important roosting sites and habitat types were surveyed and recorded 17 species of bats in the region.
- We successfully conducted Two Capacity building workshops One for 45 members from all the collaborating organisations and nature enthusiasts in the region. Second workshop was specially organised for 40 students of Bachelor's of Science (B.Sc.) Zoology course.
- we conducted 2 Online open sessions on Bat ecology, organised by Manipal University and B.K. Collage, Belgaum, Karnataka.
- Two awareness programmes for school students were organised in the region.
- One programme for college students and One open session for students in the region.

To develop m-Turtle Android App to collect turtle conservation data in real-time for Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts.

- We had studied thoroughly the details and data required to collect in real-time through the advanced technology in a uniform system.
- Developed m-Turtle a turtle nest monitoring android application that is user-friendly and provides real-time turtle nesting data which can be key for scientific studies and in conservation.
- Organized six education and training sessions across Ratnagiri, Raigad, and Sindhudurg for Turtle friends who monitor the nesting sites and use an application to collect data.
- Approximately 112 turtle friends were trained and currently using the application for the collection of nesting data across the Ratnagiri, Raigad, and Sindhudurg districts.

My Jungle

My Jungle project is based on the purchase of the forest land and let the forest grow itself without any disturbance. SNM will use small part of the jungle to conduct eco-tourism activities so the project will sustain itself. SNM proposes to implement this concept across various sites to in still the sense of conservation among the people at large & to develop such self-motivated pockets of forest. Such forests will be open to all nature lovers. This would attach us back to the forests. Local people will also be engaged in conservation activities through SNM's principle of 'Livelihood Through Nature Conservation'. Currently we are undergoing land search, visits and studying biodiversity at potential sites.

Plastic & Solid Waste Management

Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra with support from Dow Chemical International Pvt. Ltd (DOW) is trying to resolve the Waste management issue in Chiplun city of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. DOW India has set multi-decade targets to put us on a path to achieve carbon neutrality and eliminate plastic waste. On this line, SNM and Dow India are working together to reduce the plastic and solid waste problem in Chiplun. We are conducting many activities to educate people and resolve the problem.

Plastic Bhishi

Plastic bhishi is a unique activity designed to gain public participation. Women, shop owners and other participants stores their plastic waste and SNM employee collect it. Participants get 5 Rs per kg plastic waste and lucky draw winners get prizes.

- 9223 kg plastic waste collected.
- 180 prized distributed to winners from 5 online plastic bhishi.
- The online Blastic Bhishi event outreached to 2326 people through Facebook.

Milk Bag Collection

- We execute daily empty milk bag collection from 47 vendors from Chiplun and Kherdi. Collected milk bags go to recycling.
- SNM had collected total 1317 Kg of plastic milk bags from participated stakeholders.

My Sustainability Corner

- 37 Educational institutes educated and sensitized about plastic waste and its management through presentation and lectures.
- We have collected 931 Kg of plastic waste from 21 schools.
- 8125 Students have participated in this activity.

Plastic Bottle Collection

- SNM collected 2203 kg plastic bottles after 22 July floods.
- Installed eight plastic bottle collection cages to collect plastic bottle waste in different public places in Chiplun.

Plastic Recycling

- All plastic waste collected from Bhishi, Schools and other sources get sorted into 7 types.
- Sorted plastic waste gets cleaned; then we sent it to the recyclers.

Plastic Upcycling

- We segregate the plastic wastes in seven types and send the most of it to recycling. But type 7 plastic and few other items are hard to recycle, such things go to Upcycling.
- We upcycle plastic waste into fabric which later turns into purse and handbags. We have also developed a handloom to make the fabric.
- We are trying to make small articles like coasters, Key chains etc. from plastic waste.

Kitchen Waste Management

- 153 household is participated for the Kitchen waste management in Chiplun.
- 247 household participated for the Kitchen waste management in Pachad Gram panchayat.
- SNM had distributed 135 litres, 109 drums and 200 litres, 40 drums with composting bed to the participants in Chiplun.
- SNM distributed 247 composting bins of 135 litre HDPE Drums to participate household in Pachad Gram Panchayat.
- We also provide free of cost compost culture and guidance visits.

Plastic Sunday

- Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra had collaborated with Chiplun Nagar Parishad (Municipal Corporation) to implement the concept of “Plastic Sunday”.
- The concept is that the community should have waste segregation habit at the household level.
- Total 538 kg plastic waste collected within period September 2021 to March 2022.

Society Wet Waste Composting

- Societies have large quantity of daily kitchen waste which cannot be managed by regular compost units; thus, we build compost tanks in society premises.
- Currently we have total three society compost units. We provide regular visits and compost culture.

School Infrastructure Development

The schools from rural areas of our country still lacks of good infrastructure. Roof leakage, weak structure creates obstacles in learning environment. SNM is working with Dow for infrastructure developments of schools in rural areas to provide a better learning environment. This year we have provided support to few schools in Chiplun & Khed block as per details given below.

Model School (Multipurpose Hall renovation and Six classroom renovation)

- Scrapped off old paint, blackboards, electrical fittings and replaced it with the new ones.
- Roof gaps fixed with wired mesh, installed inverter with lock table.
- Replaced old benches and furniture with 171 benches, 9 tables & 13 wooden chairs.
- Installed Projection & audio system in Hall.

Providing necessary machinery and raw materials to vocational training center at Jidda School,

- File machine, cutter machine and paper dish machine repaired. Pedestal fan provided.
- Raw material for livelihood training provided.

ZP School Ghanekhunt No. 1

- New 320 sq. Ft. Powder coated MS sheets roof installed on the toilet block. Fitted welded mesh for ventilation.
- Toilet block painting work completed.

ZP School Dhamnavne No. 1

- Constructed a new washroom facility for students having eight urinals and two toilets.
- Toilet block painting work done.

ZP School Lavel No. 1

- Removed all the roof tiles cleaned and reinstalled.
- Replaced the required wooden roof tiles support material.
- issued two wooden Chairs & one steel office Table.

ZP School Sapirli

- Old washroom renovated.
- 2000 ltr. water storage tank installed.
- Safety ramp, kitchen sink and other necessary things installed.

Construction of rainwater drainage system in STEM education center at Lote.

- Total 3 new shade sizes of 108, 108, and 240 sq. ft fabricated shades in the Education center.
- Constructed a 100 ft drainage system gutter to drain rainwater effectively.
- Constructed 760 sq. ft. welded mesh fencing at the Backside of STEM center.
- Installed 3000 ltr. Water tank at the ground with 1 HP pump to lift water to the roof top water tank.
- All the rain water drainage gutters were covered with MS frames.

Healthcare Support

The Covid-19 outbreak made us realize that our healthcare system is not adequate to fight with the pandemic. SNM collaborated with Dow and initiated some activities to support hospitals, PHCs and Schools to fight the pandemic.

Provision of Medical equipment to Covid Care Center

SNM in collaboration with Dow India provided the requested 5 ICU beds and required medical equipment to Covid Care Center (CCC) by Aparant Hospitals and Chiplun Municipal Corporation. Below mentioned equipments were given to the hospital.

Total 5 Syringe pump (Plenum Tech) and Patient monitor OS Para (ECG, SPO2, Nibp, Resp, Temp). An ECG machine, Biphasic Defibrillator Adult with Standard Accessories, and Bipap machine, Ventilator (Adult & Paediatric All Standard Accessories with Humidifier) and suction machine (S cure Double bottle).

Covid relief around Lote region

SNM with the support from Dow chemical International Pvt. Ltd. decided to support Primary Health Centre (PHC) and schools in Khed & Chiplun block. SNM had provided medical support to reinforce all 17 PHC (Primary Health Centre) with new equipment as per the PHC requirement in the Khed and Chiplun block. This equipment has been a help to approximately 69322 patients throughout the year.

SNM had distributed Covid-19 disease precautionary material such as masks, thermal gun, sanitizers to 40 Schools in the region. Approximately 10694 students and teachers had been benefited from this.

Donation appeal

Our projects are running smoothly only because of keen supporters and donors. We are doing our best with our limited resources and manpower. We need your support to extend our work. Our Bank Details are as follows:

Name of account: Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra
 Name of Bank: Bank of India,
 Branch: Chiplun
 Account Type: Saving Account
 Account Number: 141110110000077
 IFSC: BKID0001411

(Only for donations within India)

Annexure I



Fig. 1: Monthly Plastic Bhishi



Fig. 2: My Sustainability corner



Fig. 3: Plastic Upcycling



Fig. 4: Empty bottle collection cages



Fig. 5: Plastic Sunday



Fig. 6: Plastic Segregation



Fig. 7: Society Compost



Fig. 8: Support for covid care center



Fig. 9: Donation of covid relief material to PHC and Schools in Chiplun and Khed block



Fig. 10: Supported vocational training center at Jidda School, Chiplun.

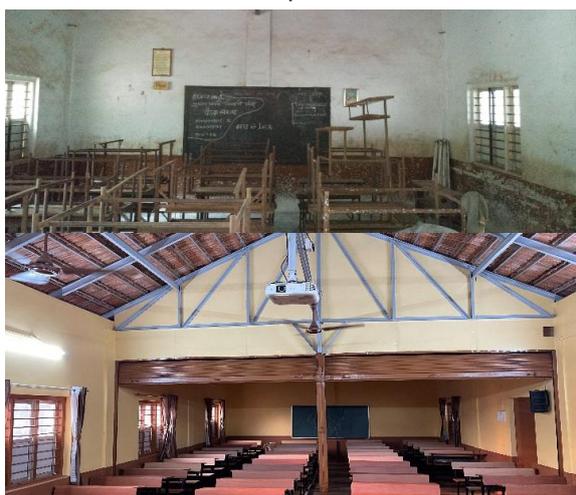


Fig. 11: Old benches replaced, installed Sound System with projector and screen in Model school, Level



Fig. 12: - Renovation work at ZP schools



Fig. 13: 'Dashavtar' Pangolin awareness



Fig. 14: Pangolin study using Trap Camera



Fig. 15: Beach cleanup program



Fig. 16: Pangolin animated film



Fig. 17: Tree Plantation



Fig. 18: e-Biodiversity



Fig. 19: mTurtle application training in Sindhudurg



Fig. 20: Bat conservation, Mixed bat colony in cave roost



Thank You...