

SAMVARDHAN SAMAJVIKAS SANSTHA

Annual report 2008 – 09

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Project office

C/O Dr. Nilesh K. Heda,

Near APMC, In front of Sindh Petrol Pump, Washim Road,

Karanja (Lad), Dist. Washim (Maharashtra) 444105

Phone: +917256-224647 (O), +919765270666 (M)

Email: samvardhan2008@gmail.com

Website: www.samvardhan.page.tl

1. Registration and other details

- **Registration Number (Society):** Maha/165/2008 AKL
- **Registration Number (Trust):** F-12473-AKL
- **12 A Registration Number (Income Tax Act 1961):** 83/20/05-06 (1 April 2009)
- **PAN Number:** AAHTS9481J
- **Bank:** State Bank of India, Karanja (Lad)

2. The aims and objectives of the society

Wetlands are important entities provide goods and services to whole biosphere. These vital entities are disappearing from the face of earth rapidly. Immediate effect of this erosion is on wetland dependent people like fishermen. In order to conserve wetland resources people depend on such resources should be sensitized and help should be taken from them.

- **Brief Objectives:**

- 1 To prepare status report of the Adan river and associated water bodies and concerned people.
- 2 To strengthen sustainable livelihood through National Rural Employment Guaranty Scheme (NREGA) and Aquaculture.
- 3 To conserve riverine resources through the establishment of the Fresh Water Protected Areas.
- 4 Creating awareness regarding various issues of the environment.
- 5 To rejuvenate traditional Conflict resolution and Decision making systems

- **Hypothesis**

1. The root cause of the most of the today's social issues and group conflicts lies in the degradation of the natural resources and collapsing traditional village systems.
2. The solutions to local problems would best begin at the local level by the local stakeholders which can be facilitated by empowerment done by external agencies like NGOs.
3. Holistic approach can only be an important approach by which situation can be ameliorated. Holistic approach involves consideration of the as many as components of the wetland while intervention. The movement of the whole basin management is essential where various human, ecological, economic, cultural, human resources, political approaches are essential to save wetlands and to ensure sustainable life.

4. Clarification

In year 2008-2009 Sir Dorabaji Tata Trust (SDTT), Mumbai awarded a small grant to project designed by secretary of the organization, Dr. Nilesh Heda. As per grant policy of the SDTT, SAMVARDHAN was not eligible to host the project as it was new at that time. Thus, SAMVEDANA SAMAJVIKAS SANSTHA, Karanja hosted the project officially. All the project related activities of the SDTT project were carried out by the SAMVARDHAN.

In September 2009, Rufford Small Grant (RSG) foundation, London, awarded small grant to Dr. Nilesh Heda for the conservation of the riverine resources in the Adan river basin. All the project related activities of the RSG project were carried out by the SAMVARDHAN.

5. Program findings

5.1 Summary of information on the key findings

Conditions of people and Ecosystem: Through a yearlong extensive field work, group discussions and on the basis of data collected it can safely conclude that, the condition of the livelihood of local fishermen is extremely bad in Adan river basin due to wide spread deleterious changes in the riverine ecosystem of this area. This situation is becoming worst due to weaknesses of the Peoplescape of the area too. These weaknesses include, lack of organizations among people, lack of education and high rate of alcoholism and gambling.

Reasons: Due to the construction of dam, wide spread destruction of the forest, siltation, and pollution and over use of the resources the wetland ecosystems of the area are eroding. Along with the natural erosion, corruption, non implementation of government rules and policies like NREGA, policies regarding fishermen cooperative societies, making situation worst. Traditional decision making and conflict resolution institutions and mechanisms are also making their escape from the society.

Lesson Learnt: Solutions to local problems would best begin at the local level by the local stakeholders. In this situation the role of NGO or external agencies is just like catalyst.

What should be done? We have understood that, there is need to strengthen the sustainability of the riverine ecosystem to ensure sustainable livelihood of the fishermen. In addition, there is a need to move to systematic fish culture and other ecologically sustainable livelihoods, wherever necessary and feasible. Holistic approach is the key for the effective conservation work. Thus, while dealing with the conservation issues we have to address many issues related to the ecosystem like ecological, economical, and anthropological and so on.

In long run, to get rid of this situation, there is need to do following things:

- 1) **Creation of social institutions:** Creation of social institutions like small saving groups, study groups, cooperative societies and labour's associations.
- 2) **Strengthening local institutions:** Strengthening local institutions like study groups of people, local Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat and fish cooperative societies. There is need to use recent laws and resolutions of the government of India for this purpose (Like Biodiversity Law 2003, NREGA etc).
- 3) **Livelihood Strengthening:** Searching for new Eco-friendly livelihood options is essential to cope with the recent negative social changes. These kinds of new livelihood

options should be coherent with that of their traditional occupations. Thus, aquaculture can be a good option for fishermen as they possess knowledge and interest in the same.

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- 4) **NREGA:** NREGA can be an effective way to increase sustainability of riverine resources, poverty alleviation, to increase confidence of local people and to strengthen the democracy.
- 5) **Sustainability of river:** The sustainability of river should be increase for secure livelihood of the resource dependent people. This sustainability can be increase by creating Fresh Water Protected Areas (FWPAs) and positive interventions in the whole basin area. This can be possible by using NREGA for the water and soil conservation and plantation and by creating awareness among various sections of the society.
- 6) **Involvement of government machinery:** Emphasis should be given on the involvement of the **government machinery, media and educational institutions** in the endeavour of conservation as well as empowerment of the grass root people.

5.2 Project outputs and Dissemination

5.2.1 Workshops, meetings arranged

Table 1 in the annex provides information regarding various meetings, workshops and events arranged during the project period.

5.2.2 Towards the preparation of Status Report

Data collection for the preparation of the status report has been almost completed. The data mainly includes survey of the fishermen community, documentation of the traditional knowledge, fish and habitat identification and threats to riverine ecosystem. The writing work of the status report is underway.

5.2.3 Literature generated:

1. Project Pamphlet:

At beginning of the project a pamphlet has been published in local *Marathi* language. The pamphlet explained details about the project objective and appeal to people to participate in the project.

2. News Letter *JAL-SAMVARDHAN*:

For the advocacy of the various issues immersing and for information dissemination a monthly newsletter (*JAL-SAMVARDHAN*) has been started in MARATHI language. So far, 9 issues have been circulated widely throughout Maharashtra. Mean while a Hindi issue also published. *JAL-SAMVARDHAN* is becoming popular and positive remarks are coming from common people as well as from scientific communities. Along with the printed version, the issue is published as E-Publication also and can be downloaded from: <http://jal.samvad.googlepages.com/home>.

JAL-SAMVARDHAN means water conservation in Marathi language. The main problem in the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and equitable sharing of the benefits is lack of the awareness among common people. There are lot of issues need to be spread among local

people. The JAL-SAMVARDHAN is spreading it with great care. Important soul of news letter is its scientific and holistic approach, grass root information and regularity.

3. Pamphlet for Fishermen community youth:

Participation of the Youths is important in the successful completion of the objectives of the project. Keeping this in mind, a pamphlet has been published and distributed in the basin followed by one day workshop.

4. Data Base of the water bodies:

Information collected from District Fisheries and Irrigation Department by using RTI and inputs from the field survey, has been entered in the data base prepared in the MS Access. Due to the lack of expertise about MS Visual Basic the work is under construction. The database was prepared keeping in mind local people. The data base can be used as a tool to understand water bodies present in the village area so that people can know which water body is available for fish culture.

5. Website:

A website has been developed and can be access at www.samvardhan.page.tl. Since its publication the website clicked about 1000 times from throughout the world.

6. Slide shows and popular lecturers:

Project director is involved with the students of local K.N. College degree students. He has appointed as visiting lecturer for the environmental studies. A slide show and popular speech developed by him was performed at many places in the Vidarbha.

7. News Paper Article:

Regular news and articles in various newspapers has been published during project period.

8. Books:

During project period following two books of project director Dr. Nilesh Heda has been published.

- 1) **Fresh Water Fishes of Central India:** Book of Project director Dr. Nilesh Heda named "*Fresh Water Fishes of Central India*" has been accepted by VIGYAN PRASAR, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for its publication. At any time it will come in the market.
- 2) **Nisarga Niyojan: Loksahabhagane (Management of Natural Resources Through People's Participation):** Gadgil M, Edlabadkar V, Heda N, Rekha N, Tofa D (2008), Published by Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, Vigyan Prasar, Noida and Vrikshamitra, Gadchiroli.

9. Editorial of JAL-SAMVARDHAN

So far 9 editorial articles has been written and published in the JAL-SAMVARDHAN by project director. These editorials are important process documentation tool. The articles are

written in Marathi language and we are translating the same in English. All compiled articles can be downloaded from <http://jal.samvad.googlepages.com/samvedanatatrustproject> this link.

6. Capacity building

Capacity building about rights of various environment dependent people, various environment problems, fish culture and government functioning was key objectives of work. The area is virgin to various positive social interventions thus initially there was a kind of suspicion in the mind of people regarding usefulness of the program. Considering the lot of issues following target groups has been selected for the capacity building programs although there are overlaps among different groups in various capacity building programs. Main events of the capacity building program are shown in the following text.

5.1 Capacity building events

1. *Pani Pariwar Meeting (27-28 April 2008)*

Pani Pariwar (Water Family) is an informal group of People working in the various region of Vidarbha region on issues related to conservation of aquatic resources. A two days workshop has been arranged and concept of SDTT project has been explained. The main objective behind its organization is to present our project in front of experts and to learn from them.

2. **One day Workshop with the Fishermen people of Adan river basin(10 May 2008):**

The fishermen community of the Adan river basin is not organized. The traditional system of decision making and conflict resolution has also broken down. To organize the people for the common cause to establish *Nadi Abhyas Gat* (River Study Group) and Self Help Group (SHG) one day workshop has been arranged at Karanja (Lad). 43 fishermen from the various places of the Adan river basin have been gathered. Following decision has been taken at workshop. 1) As an experiment people will establish *Nadi Abhyas Gat* (River Study Group) at Dhamani village. 2) A SHG will be set up for Dhamani village. 3) Process of the registration of the fishermen's cooperative will be started for one village.

3. **Youth Gathering: (9 August 2008):**

One-day workshop with youths of fishermen community has been arranged at Karanja Lad. About 30 youths from Adan river basin participated in the same. The main objective of this meeting was to understand perception of the youth of the fishermen community regarding development and to join them in the process of study, conservation and sustainable livelihood generation.

4. **Exposure visit of River study group arranged at Mendha village (17 to 18 September 2008)**

Two days workshop has been arranged at Mendha village of the Gadchiroli district regarding NREGA, Biodiversity law and Tribal Rights Act. The workshop has been arranged by Vrikshmitra, Chandrapur. Mr. Mohan Hirabai Hiralal, Devaji Tofa has initiated this process.

4 community members from Dhamani and Injori villages along with project staff present to workshop. Members of the society learned about the self rule and participatory natural resource management from Mendha village.

1. Fish culture capacity building workshop (21 to 23 September 2008)

3 days discussion and field visit arranged with principal consultant of SDTT project. On 21st September 08 one day discussion has been arranged focusing on holistic aquaculture at project office. Through discussion it has been resolved that, there is a need to create resource material on aquaculture. The resource material should focus on all possible components (Social, economical etc) of aquaculture. In this area the farmers are increasingly dependent on outside sources of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. Same thing is happening with aquaculture of this area. Most of the aquarist depending on fish seeds from the outside sources. Due to this dependency people are facing problems like inadequate supply of fingerlings, faulty seeds and contaminated seed by invasive species. Thus, in order to achieve independency people have to move towards natural sources of the fish seeds.

On 22nd September 08, discussion and field visit has been arranged with members of 'Jaldoot Fish Cooperative society', Savali village of Yavatmal district. Many friends from Kapeswar, a village of Yavatmal district, also participated in the same. Mismanagement in the aquaculture is an important factor which makes fish culture less productive. The mismanagement mainly involves, lack of scientific inputs, mismanagement during the introduction of fish seeds, inequitable sharing of the benefits from the profit of the fish culture and so on.

On 23rd September 2008, one day discussion workshop has been arranged with the fishermen of the Dhamani village. Dhamani people do not have their fish cooperative society thus unable to take fish ponds on lease and unable to take benefits from the government departments. Thus, discussion has done on the registration and future planning of fishermen's cooperative society.

2. Awareness rally of students arranged at Dhamani (27 September 2008)

Since many days we are having active dialogue with the students of K.N. College, Karanja through environmental education. The positive outcome of this association was the interest of the students increased in the environmental protection. As a result a rally has been arranged by the students of K.N. College in the Dhamani. In the rally 150 students has been participated.

Village head of the Dhamani Mr. Sunil Ghate has given green signal to the rally. '*River is our mother and we have lifelong relation with her*', '*Save river save life*,' '*make protected areas for sustainable life*' were some of slogan used by the students.

In this rally lot of local people and fishermen has been participated. This rally marches through village reached to Adan River where it has transferred in to a small program.

3. Maharashtra State River Summit (18th and 19th October 2008)

In ancient India there was a system of Kumbh Mela (Gathering along rivers) organized after every 12 years. The main reasons behind this gathering were to discuss about various issue regarding rivers and to devise actions to protect rivers. This system is still going on but the

core objective of this gathering has been vanished completely. We were organized Maharashtra River Conference as *Jal Kumbh* to revive our traditions of river protection.

The main objectives of this summit was, to share experiences of people working for river conservation, to devise collaborative studies of rivers for Maharashtra, to devise effective strategy to work with the fishermen of various part of state for livelihood and river conservation issues, to create some examples of fresh water protected areas on various rivers and other water bodies and to create awareness in the main stream society and government departments about issues.

Raman Megesese winner Mr. Rajendrasingh from *Tarun Bharat Sangh*, Jaipur has chaired the summit along with notable social activist Mr. Mohan Hirabai Hiralal. Lot of people from throughout Maharashtra has participated in this mega event. The program has been arranged in collaboration with National Jal Biradari, Samvardhan, Samvedana and local K.N. College. Before inauguration of the Jal Kumbha, a water rally has been arranged from the Karanja city in which lot of people from the Karanja along with hundreds of students from the schools and colleges has participated. The rally begin from local *Guru Mandir*, and ends at conference venue.

The first session of the river summit was about the *past, present and future of the National river* which was initiated by Mr. Rajendrasingh, Ms. Sumira Rasool from Kashmir University and Mr. Vikrant Aher from Agharkar Research Institute, Pune. From the discussion it was clear that all the river basins of the India are under severe threats. According to Sumira Rasool the vital water resources of the Kashmir are under severe threat due to development activities and tourism. Mr. Aher is working on the fish kill issue, according to him the massive fish kill event increased in last decade in all the rivers of the Maharashtra state.

Second session was about river problems of Maharashtra state and Vidarbha region. The discussion has been initiated by Mr. Janak Daftari, Mumbai, who is working on the west water treatment for urban areas. He argued that, the industrialization has played an important role in the deterioration of rivers. Important problems our rivers facing are pollution due to industrial effluents and sewage. New biotechnology tools can play effective role in the sewage treatment, added Mr. Daftari. Mr. Pradumna Sahastrabhojani and Mr. Ramesh Ladhkar from the Vidarbha Nature and Human Science Centre (VNHS) Nagpur presented their work on the renovation of the Nag River from the Nagpur. Nag River is best example of the rivers of the city. VNHS is developing a model of Ecocity for Nagpur area.

Third session was about the People's participation in the conservation of the wetland resources. The session has been chaired by the notable social activist Mr. Mohan Hirabai Hiralal, Mr. Kaustubh Pandharipande and a member of fishermen community Mr. Vilas Malte. Local people are most important actors in the conservation endeavour. Local Gramsabha (Village council) must be empowered to conserve the local resources. Main problem of the current management paradigm is control of the local resources from the other levels (other than village). Study groups at the local level can play an important role in the management of the local resources.

Second day of summit was started from the river march and visit to a fishermen village Dhamani. A meeting with the fishermen of the Dhamani village has been arranged and Rajendrasingh discussed various issue of problems of the fishermen.

After returning from the village a session has been arranged about the wet land problems of the Karanja city and around. The session has been initiated by Dr. Nilesh Heda and Mr. Subhash Sabu. Many people from the Karanja city have been participated in the discussion. Karanja city has 3 traditional tanks viz. *Rishi Talaw*, *Sarang Talaw* and *Chandra Talaw*. All these 3 tanks are deteriorating due to siltation, sewage and encroachment. There is need to renovate these traditional water bodies for the future of the Karanja city. Last session was about final future planning. A network of the water conservationist has been created for the Maharashtra level.

4. Meeting of the local people regarding renovations of the traditional tanks has been arranged at K.N. College, Karanja (25 October 2008).

First discussion meeting of local people of Karanja and students of various schools has been arranged at K.N. College. Project director has presented present state of the traditional tanks in this meeting. Karanja city endowed with many traditional tanks viz. Rishi Talaw, Sarang Talaw and Chandra Talaw. Due to encroachment, use of these water bodies for dumping city waste, destruction of the catchment, these water bodies were deteriorated. To review these water bodies there is need to unite all interested people of the city. All the angles of the revival of these water bodies have been discussed in the meeting and for direct intervention Sarang Talaw has been chosen.

5. Shodh Study Group Meeting (20-21-22 December 2008)

Shodh Study Group is an informal group of the people working in social sector in Maharashtra (*Shodh* means Search in Marathi language). The main mandate of the group is to share the experiences of the social work and other socially relevant studies. After every six months people from the all over Maharashtra unite and discuss for this cause. This time *Shodh* Study Group meeting has been arranged at Karanja.

6. Katepurna Study Group Meeting (14-15 January 2009)

Katepurna Abhyas Gat Meeting (*Katepurna* Study Group Meeting) has been arranged at Dhamani Village. Social activist Mr. Mohan Hirabai Hiralal was chief guest for the same. The main objective of this gathering was to do capacity building of local people regarding NREGA and conservation of riverine resources.

7. Capacity building through the implementation of NREGA

Our movement of the proper implementation of the NREGA has been a breakthrough in the organizing people and their practical capacity building.

8. Formation and regular interactions with village level study groups

Regular meetings with the villagers in the form of *Abhyas Gat* (study groups) were effective and informal way of the capacity building.

7. Linkages with the other levels:

Close contacts has been maintained with following groups and networks.

- 1) **Vidarbha Pani Pariwar (Vidarbha Water Family):** Informal group of people working for the issues of water conservation.
- 2) **Maharashtra PBR group:** E-group of people working for environmental issues.
- 3) **NGOs:** Lot of NGOs throughout Maharashtra (e.g. Vidarbha Nature and Human Science Centre, Nagpur, Vrikshmitra, Chandrapur, Bhandara Nature Club, Bhandara, Aamhi Aamachya Aarogyasathi, Kurkheda etc).
- 4) **National level:** Jal Biradari, Tarun Bharat Sangh.
- 5) Association with Lower Painganga Dam Opposition Committee.
- 6) College: K.N. College, Karanja.

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Association with above linkages is two way process of learning for us as well as for them. Thus, 'Vidarbha Pani Pariwar' constitutes a group of various NGO doing substantial work related to water body conservation, sustainable livelihood of fishermen. Joint process of water body study and conservation is started with *Pani Pariwar*.

8. Reporting and interacting mechanism

Regular Monthly meetings has been arranged to take review of the process. After every important project event project director, project assistant and one village coordinator wrote a project report and submitted to Project director. *Jal-Samvardhan*, monthly news letter has been very good tool used for process documentation. Every month, project news has been published in *Jal-Samvardhan* which is used to write final project report and provide direction to other people too. Editorial section of the *Jal-Samvardhan* was written by project director provide first hand analysis of the gathered information. Principal consultant *Mr. Manoharrao Bhrushundi* also submitted their project report. Most of the reporting is in local Marathi language and as per need its English translation has been done. We built very good rapport with editor and journalist of local news papers. The regularly appearing news in the local paper about project was used for reporting as well as created awareness among other sections of the society.

9. Impact

9.1 Outcome of the project

Initially the project has been started considering the livelihood of local fishermen through scientific fish culture and data generation about the various components of the wetland ecosystems. This year due to severe drought in the study area, in the latter part of the project, we have shifted our attention on the livelihood of the local people through NREGA. There are 2 important impact geographical areas of our project viz. one where the drought intensity is low (*Savali*) where scientific fish culture was possible while in other area where the drought intensity was high thus all the water bodies were dry and fish culture was not possible (*Dhamani*).

9.1.1 Poverty alleviation:

Considering the short span of the project visual effects on poverty elimination can be seen after some time. However, in this direction following important advances have been made.

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A) Registration of fisheries cooperative society: Registration process of the fishermen's cooperative society has been initiated at *Dhamani* village so that in near future local people can lease water bodies for fish culture and can lower poverty.

B) Fish culture: In *Savali* impact area direct fish culture has been initiated thus definitely impacted on the alleviation of the poverty. Detail report of this initiative is awaiting.

C) Small saving Groups (SHGs): SHGs can play an important role in the safe guarding of the financial security of the local people by not only providing them secure source of the money in their hard time but also escape from the money lenders. In this direction a SHG has been established at *Dhamani*.

D) Implementation of NREGA:

This year, there is a severe drought in the whole project area. In Adan river valley, due to severe drought the river becomes substantially dry. Due to these climatic changes, there is a shortage of the livelihood options in the area. Government of India has formulated NREGA to ensure secure employment of 100 days to unskilled labours. In addition, Government of Maharashtra formulated Maharashtra Rural Employment Guaranty Act (MREGA) which gives guaranty of 365 days employment in one financial year.

The procedure to secure employment through this scheme includes registration for work by labourer. Once registered, people should get JOB CARDS within 15 days. After receiving job cards labourer can apply for job. As per law, after registration, people should get employment within 15 days; otherwise they can be eligible for the unemployment allowance. 307 people of *Dhamani* village registered for job cards on 22 Jun 2007. Even after one and half years, they have not received their job cards.

Due to unavailability of the employment in the area large number of people migrating to mega cities for the employment. Fishermen communities of the *Dhamani* are land-less people, completely depends on Adan River for their livelihood. Due to present drought fishermen community lost their livelihood and there is a wide spread hunger in the area. Agriculture labour is another alternative livelihood option for the fishermen of this area but this year, agriculture also severely affected and there is no employment in the agriculture fields.

Considering this situation, we have made informal union of the 400 labourers from the *Dhamani* village. Through this informal union we have sent a letter on 26 November 2008 to *Sarpanch* (village head), *Gramsevak* (representative of government in the village) and collector of the district, stating the present scenario. The letter has been sent by post but there was absolutely no action has been taken from the concerning authority.

Considering the inactivity of the concerned officials behalf of *Samvardhan* we have sent a letter to member of Parliament, member of state assembly, collector of the district, chief executive officer (CEO) of the Zila Parishad, Tahasildar and Block Development Officer

(BDO) of the Karanja Taluk, Gramsevak and Sarpanch of the Dhamani village on 5 December 08. Interestingly no action has been taken by these people.

Using website of the Central Government regarding NREGA (<http://nrega.nic.in/>) we have downloaded list and Job Cards of registered people for scheme.

On 10 December 2008 we have personally met BDO and Gramsevak and enquire about the issue. As people got their Job Cards from website we have asked for the form number 1 (essential for the registration under NREGA) and form number 4 (essential to ask for work). Interestingly there were absolutely no such forms available in the Panchayat Samiti. Thus, people printed the forms from website. Response to people's query about Job Cards from concerning officers was many and contradictory. Initially they told that, the Job Cards has not issued from collector office, when people told them about the date of issue of job cards, they told that, job cards issued but those are in Panchayat Samiti. Another answer was considering the large number of Job Cards they have no time to prepare those Job Cards.

Using downloaded forms people tried to submit the forms to Gram Panchayat. But concerning authority has not ready to receive the forms from the labourers. Thus on 5th January 2009 people sent a letter to DBO and Tahasildar for this injustice. Along with this an enquiry application has been submitted under the RTI.

At last, team has contacted news papers and on front page of popular news paper (DAILY LOKMAT) news has been appear on 07 January 2009. In response to this on 7th January 2009 BDO along with Gramsevak visited Dhamani and issued Job Cards of people.

On 19 January about 400 labours got their employment on the sanctioned 11 tanks along river side.

9.1.2 Gender Equity:

In the latter part of project, work with women of the fishermen community has been started at *Dhamani*. We have male dominated society and women's role in the decision making is limited. At *Dhamani* women of the fishermen society has gathered and took direct part in the NREGA related work. Also, liquor consumption by male members of society is an important problem women are facing in our area. Thus, we have started our work considering this problem as a focal point. Soon, along with this problem women participated in the river conservation and livelihood issue. Although women's participation is needs to be strengthen in the future.

9.1.3 Human Rights:

Conceptually we have decided that, the employment is fundamental right of the local people and equitable sharing of the wetlands for fishermen and employment through NREGA can substantially change the situation. But the wide spread corruption and careless attitude of government officials is basic cause of the violation of the human right in this area. Thus, local people have registered for NREGA before 18 months but until we have demonstrated they have not received their job cards and employment. Also, many times people went to submit the application for the job, local authorities refused to take the same. Through the capacity building done by our project, now people are pursuing for their rights.

Registration of the fishermen's cooperative society is mammoth's tasks for the local poor people due to wide spread corruption. However local people without giving any bribe trying to register the same. The positive effects of this intervention will be seen in near future.

9.1.4 Democratic functioning:

Right to information act is an important tool by which local people can get information from government departments through democratic way. Lack of knowledge about the availability of the water bodies for the aquaculture is an important factor which prevents local people to take water bodies on lease. Only those people who have access to information get the water bodies. In this direction using RTI we got information from fisheries departments, irrigation departments of the two districts viz. Yavatmal and Washim.

9.1.5 Environment:

Sustainability of the environment, especially river, is essential for the sustainable livelihood of the local people. Still large population of the fishermen depended on the natural water courses. Environmental impacts of the project can be summarise into following points-

a. Awareness generation –

Awareness generation regarding various environmental issues and their impact on the Peoplescape of the area is an important activity of the project which effectively addressed during project period. In this regard, local people, students, government officials and members of the main stream society has been sensitized through news letter, news paper articles, workshops, popular lectures, village meetings and group discussions. In long run this will create positive impact on safe guarding of ecosystem goods and services.

b. Data generation:

Data has been generated regarding wetland ecosystem Adan River and associated water bodies and biodiversity. This generated data will be utilized in the future for the effective management of this ecosystem.

c. People's Freshwater Protected Area (PFWPA):

This concept has been evolved during the middle phase of the project. FWPA declared by the local people are the area where minimum intervention has allowed and some positive intervention performed. In this direction a pool along Adan river called *BHAN DOH* has been selected and process of the creation of the PFWPA has been started. It is expected that in coming six months the area will be declared as PFWPA.

d. Renovation of the traditional Water bodies through Student's Participation:

This area is famous for the traditional water bodies. In past, these water bodies were an important source of domestic and irrigation water. But due to catchment disturbances, siltation, encroachment and use of such water bodies for dumping domestic wastes deteriorated these traditional systems. As a case study during this project period we have chosen *Sarang Talaw*, a traditional water body of the Karanja city for its renovation. Student of the local K.N. College has participating in this process. The positive effects will be seen in the near future.

e. Creation of the tanks in Adan river basin:

Through the implementation of NREGA construction of 11 tanks (Up to 1 February 2009) has been started in Adan river basin. This will help in halting siltation and to increase water table of the area.

10. Annex

Sr. No.	Date	Name of meeting	Brief objectives
1.	02-Feb-08	Injori Meeting	A meeting has been arranged at Injori village of Manora Taluk regarding the objectives of project.
2.	13-Mar-08	Right to Information	Using Right to Information Act, information regarding water bodies of the Yeotmal district has been invited from Z.P. irrigation and State Fisheries department from Yeotmal.
3.	14-Mar-08	Right to Information	Using Right to Information Act, information regarding water bodies of the Washim district has been invited from Z.P. irrigation and State Fisheries department from Akola.
4.	26-Mar-08	Meeting at Injori	A discussion meeting arranged at the Injori Village of Manora Taluk, regarding issues of the local people.
5.	30-Mar-08	Meeting at Mhasani	A discussion meeting arranged at the Mhasani Village of Manora Taluk, regarding issues of the local people.
6.	31-Mar-08	Meeting at Mhasani	A discussion meeting arranged in the Mhasani Village regarding issues of the local people. The village is situated near Adan dam and has been relocated in the past during dam construction.
7.	4-Apr-08	Meeting at Ramgaon	A discussion meeting arranged at the Ramgaon Village of Darwah Taluk, regarding issues of the local people.
8.	29-Apr-08	PANI PARIWAR Meeting (28 and 29 April 2008)	A 2 day's workshop of VIDARBHA PANI PARIWAR (VIDARBHA WATER FAMILY) has been arranged at Karanja.
9.	4-May-08	Meeting at Lohi	A discussion meeting arranged at the Lohi Village of Darwah Taluk, regarding issues of the local people.
10.	10-May-08	Nadi Abhyas Gat (River Study Group) and Self Help Group (SHG)	Nadi Abhyas Gat (River Study Group) and Self Help Group (SHG) established for Dhamani (Khadi) village. The group is expected to work for sustainable livelihood, river conservation and other issues of the fishermen.

11.	15-May-08	Fish consultant	Retired fisheries officer Mr. Manoharrao Bhrushundi, Nagpur, has been agreed to be principal consultant of the project.
12.	30-May-08	Meeting at Mankopra	A discussion meeting arranged at the Mankopra Village of Darwah Taluk, regarding issues of the local people.
13.	31-May-08	JAL SAMVARDHAN Inauguration	A monthly news letter 'JAL SAMVARDHAN' (WATER CONSERVATION) has been started from May 2008. The first issue has been inaugurated at fishermen's village Injori.
14.	14-Jun-08	Meeting at Manki	A discussion meeting arranged in the Manaki Village regarding issues of the local people.
15.	20-Jun-08	Meeting at Shivani	A discussion meeting arranged in the Shivani Village regarding issues of the local people.
16.	21-Jun-08	Meeting at Pimpri (Kharabi)	A discussion meeting arranged in the Pimpri (Kharabi) Village regarding issues of the local people.
17.	27-Jun-08	Association with LOWER PAINGANGA DAM OPPOSITION COMMITTEE	A dam is proposed at the confluence of Adan and Penganga river in Yeotmal district. One-day fieldwork and meeting with LOWER PAINGANGA DAM OPPOSITION COMMITTEE has been arranged. We are providing technical help to anti dam movement.
18.	13-Jul-08	Discussion about fish kill	Mr. Vikrant Aher is working with Prof. Madhav Gadgil in Agharkar Research Institute, Pune on Fish Kill phenomenon. A discussion with Mr. Aher about fish kill has been arranged at project office.
19.	15-Jul-08	Advocacy	A fax has been sent to Chief Minister, vice CM and animal husbandry and fisheries minister regarding discrimination with the fishermen of Upper Wardha dam.
20.	20-Jul-08	Survey of pond	A pond survey has been carried out to take on lease for future fish culture. The pond is located near Dhamani village and under the management of the Z.P. Irrigation department.
21.	25-Jul-08	Meeting at Haru	A discussion meeting arranged at the Haru Village of Darwah Taluk, regarding issues of the local people.
22.	26-Jul-08	Registration of the Society	The registration process of the Fisheries cooperative society has been started at the Dhamani village.
23.	26-Jul-08	Meeting at Bori Arab	A discussion meeting arranged at the Bori Arab Village of Darwah Taluk, regarding issues of the local people.

24.	30-Jul-08	Participation in JAL BIRADARI Workshop (28 to 30 July 2008)	Project director Dr. Nilesh Heda, has visited 3 days workshop at Delhi arranged by National JAL BIRADARI, Tarun Bharat Sangh.
25.	9-Aug-08	Youth Gathering	One day Fishermen Youth gathering has been arranged to discuss the issues related to youths of fishermen community.
26.	29-Aug-08	Fish Culture Started	Fish culture has been started with the fishermen of the SAVALI village. Through project grant 10000 Rs has been provided as a revolving fund to local people.
27.	1-Sep-08	Discussion with SARPANCH	A field work and discussion with Dhamani village head has been arranged regarding identification of the suitable site for future protected area and role of the NREGA in the river conservation.
28.	1-Sep-08	Habitat Inventory	Habitat inventory carried out for future FWPA. In this expedition BHAN DOH (Local name of a pool along Adan River) has been suggested by local people for future FWPA.
29.	14-Sep-08	Discussion at MANGRULPIR	One day discussion has been arranged with the local people of the Mangrulpir regarding river conservation.
30.	18-Sep-08	17 to 18 September 2008	Exposure visit of River study group arranged at Mendha village.
31.	23-Sep-08	21 to 23 September 2008	3 days field work has been carried out with Retired fisheries officer Mr. Bhrushundi.
32.	27-Sep-08	Awareness rally of students	Awareness rally of students arranged at Dhamani.
33.	2-Oct-08	community Meeting hall	Through voluntary labour and financial support from the project, fishermen of the Dhamani village constructed a community Meeting hall for discussion meetings.
34.	19-Oct-08	NADI SAMMELAN (MAHARSHTRA STATE RIVER SUMMIT) (18 and 19 October 2008)	Maharashtra State River Summit has been arranged on 18 th and 19 th October 2008.
35.	19-Oct-08	Adan river visit with Rajendra Singh.	Raman Megesese Award winner Mr. Rajendra Singh, along with many volunteer visited Adan River and participated in the field work.
36.	25-Oct-08	Renovation of traditional water bodies.	Meeting of the local people regarding renovations of the traditional tanks has been arranged at K.N. College, Karanja.
37.	16-Nov-08	Voluntary labour	Voluntary labour arranged at SARANG TALAW, Karanja (Lad).

38.	1-Dec-08	Meeting with proposed Fish society members	A discussion meeting has been arranged at Dhamani with Members of the proposed fishermen co society.
39.	4-Dec-08	Involvement of Women of the fishermen community	A discussion meeting has been arranged at Dhamani with women of fishermen community. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss about the problem of the liquor and employment.
40.	7-Dec-08	Participation in the SINCHAN SAMMELAN at Sindhkhed Raja	A SINCHAN SAMMELAN (Irrigation Summit) has been arranged at Sindakhed Raja, dist. Buldhana.
41.	14-Dec-08	Popular Lecture	A lecture has been given by Dr. Nilesh Heda at "Late Mrs. Tidke Vykhyan Mala (A lecture series)" on environmental issues.
42.	22-Dec-08	20-21-22 December 2008. SHODH ABHYAS GAT meeting.	Two day's discussion meeting of SHODH ABHYAS GAT has been arranged at Karanja.
43.	6 January 2009	Popular Lecture	A lecture has been given by Dr. Nilesh Heda at Yeshwantrao Chawan college, Mangrulpir on environmental issues.
44.	14- January- 2009	Katepurna Abhyas Gat Meeting (14-15 January 2009)	Two day's discussion meeting of KATEPURNA ABHYAS GAT has been arranged at Dhamani village.

Table 1: Activities