



# Annual Report

2013-14

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Environics means the study of the influence of the environment on human behaviour. In its mission **to evolve innovative solutions to the problems of community development** Environics Trust interprets it more comprehensively as the mutual influences of environment and social behaviour.

The design and of these innovations are channelled through the processes of **Participative Research**, which enables documentation of existing conditions and the changes aspired; **Community Based Action** to demonstrate the possibility of transforming innovations into a physical and social reality; **Enterprise Development and Servicing** to respond to the current reality of the economic world and identify sustainable entrepreneurial and occupational niches and **Communication** to interface with a larger universe to mutually learn and contribute.



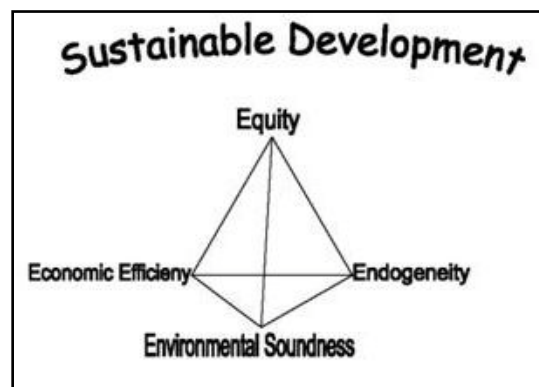
- Participative Research
- Community Based Activities
- Enterprise Development and Servicing
- Communication

*Environics Trust reaches out particularly to mountain, mining, coastal and other marginalized communities.*

Environics Trust defines a **Sustainable Development** as the “set of processes that enables the local and global systems to be in ecological harmony”.

The four non-orthogonal attributes of sustainable development which are crucial to the state of being in ecological harmony can be described in the form of the state of these attributes.

- Equity and Justice
- Environmental Soundness
- Endogeneity or Self Reliance
- Economic Efficiency.



Environics Trust's proposition is that

“Societies should identify, evolve processes and implement programmes that concurrently address these four attributes at whatever levels and scales the intervention takes place”.

**Participatory  
Research**

# 1. Hydropower Projects in the Sutlej River Basin, North Western Himalayas

## ***Background***

A National programme to increase hydro power generation by 50,000MW through Himalayan Rivers was initiated in 2003 by the Central Government. This programme in its urgency considered only the basic parameters for power generation such as the head and flow, but has severely overlooked the seismic and other geological issues apart thus undermining the ecologically fragile existence of the Himalayan communities. People have been protesting across the Himalayas on the impacts and implications of these projects and yet there has been a complete stone-walling by the State.

This programme of Environics Trust and Himalaya Niti Abhiyan, supported by Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust is conceived as a joint effort with local groups in each of the river segments. Him Jan Lok Jagriti Manch, a platform of local community groups in Kinnaur partnered in this segment and a lasting relationship has been built. The effort is enable creation of a sustained partnership among various groups to systematically address issues of natural resources management in the Sutlej Basin.

The programme aims to progressively cover the entire Sutlej Basin and contribute to a rational river basin management system. Kinnaur district in the most vulnerable parts of Himalayas and at the head of the Sutlej River is the epitome of such disastrous projects. Over the past year, this region has been extensively visited and studied and the report focuses on the district and draws up an action plan for further action in Kinnaur and next downstream segment.

Hydropower depends solely on the River, the quantity of flow and the gradient. Nearly 20 large and several small hydro projects have been conceived as a cascade and several of them are in different stages of planning and implementation.

Often its development neglects the carrying capacity as a natural course of water, providing minerals, silt, life forms and fulfilling cultural-social and livelihood needs. Thus the risks posed due to poor understanding and impact of altering the course of the Rivers and facade and structure of the hills is grossly underestimated.

## ***Conclusions***

The fragile Himalayan region being a storehouse of natural resources has also thrown challenges in the form of natural fury like floods, earthquakes and now its most abundant resource i.e. water is being tapped to generate power by building hydroelectric projects. The recent climatic phenomenon in July 2013 reflected upon the unprecedented risks that loom large over the NW Himalayan system, virtually the road alignment was lost to heavy rain and many parts of roads were washed away from Nathpa to Reongpeo and region was accessible till Kapla. The Sangla valley was also inaccessible for more than a month.

1. 198 census villages are located in the 1-4 km buffer (population 74,529 persons) from Rivers and considering 10km radius from project location there would be additional 22 villages, thereby totalling to 220 villages in the project buffer and they are prone to risks of earthquakes, micro-seismic activities, flash floods from numerous streams, fault and thrust systems prominent within this area. Lack of incorporating the impacts on socio-economic and cultural practices and immense dependence on resources has to be remedied without denying these facts.

2. The villages in immediate buffer of the river, upto 2 kms (145 villages, 66,507 persons; 32,699 hectares village area) would be prone to greater risks from construction works, blasting and dumping for diversion and dam site, power house site, HRT alignment, road construction; loss to community resources and forest diversion add to the risks as the process of settlement of forest rights has not been initiated. Almost 46% (2952 Km<sup>2</sup>) of the district area (and even more if projects in Lahaul & Spiti District are included) is under 10km influence of these power projects which are supposed to carry out impact assessments. The denial of forest rights has been clearly held untenable by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
3. The majority of projects proposed, under investigation, construction and consideration are between the Main Central Thrust which passes through Shongtong Bridge and the Himalayan crest, the region which has several active faults like Kaurik Fault, Spiti Valley Fault, Guimal Fault, Syarma Fault and micro seismic events are taking place. Many landslides are induced due to this tectonic activity and also induced by construction activities as noticed in the illustrations. Similarly GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) and LLOF (Landslide Lake Outburst Flood) could also be triggered by seismic activities or increasing hydraulic weight leading to sudden flash floods (Parechu 2005); there are 38 identified moraine dammed lakes in Sutlej basin in Himachal and Tibet region over an area of 2.325 km<sup>2</sup>
4. Loss of rare and endemic species which form community resource in the region is an irreversible impact. For the sake of comparison, consider 1000MW Karcham Wangtoo project where 1287 trees were allowed to fell (additional 3924 for transmission lines as a separate component) but in 100MW Tidong - I, 1261 trees were allowed to fell (751 Chilgoza trees) – almost equivalent to Karcham Wangtoo but for 1/10th of anticipated power - this indicates indiscriminate decision making and lack of intra-ecological evaluation with no conservative approach in sight. The economy of such resources is never calculated and socio-economic assessments are weak.
5. Risks from disaster prone area (Seismic zone IV) and failure to capture cumulative loss of resources and risks from water storage behind diversion sites, dams is thus unable to provide a scenario, preparedness and response given large number of cascade projects. River ecology and climatic factors add to the aspects which require long term investigation but the constraint exists in spite of so much investment– the lack of institutional infrastructure or policy on micro climate monitoring leaves a big gap in understanding spatial and temporal extents and quality of climatic controls in prescribing projects, for instance the study (refer footnote 14) took 5 years to arrive at some limited conclusions. The June 2005 and 2013 events in the Upper and trans Himalayan ranges depict transient environments which are changing forms and the disintegration occurring on account of development activities make it a close call for ‘disasters’.
6. Damages to structures, land and other resources of the community described in the previous section are also due to lack of primacy given during scoping of the projects which is more or less on the preliminary information of straightforward issues but risks arising during and post construction reflect gross failure to capture or provide space to these ‘possible risks’ to be reported in the EIA based on which people can take informed decision during public hearing process. Post facto project wise measures or policy again reflects ad-hoc approach leading to poor monitoring of projects in the absence of clear mandates by State Government / District Authorities to competent agencies like Geological Survey of India for such high risk prone regions.

7. As a result, no one has evaluated the risks that these numerous settlements face and imposing abrupt cost-benefits promoting their dependency over the State and making them devoid of their self-reliance is a huge debt which has kept the process of 'excluded impacts' still functional. The provisions like CAT plan (2.5% of project cost), CA fund & NPV (area & type of forest based), Local Area Development Fund or LADF (1.5% of project cost) indicate alleged promulgation of benefits under the projects but as clearly pointed out by the Shukla Committee appointed by Hon'ble High Court of Himachal Pradesh that various activities of hydro project development are detrimental and there cannot be an environment friendly hydel project in the Himalayas. The report points to the fact that 90% of the damages are due to road construction and dumping sites whereas CAT and CA which meant to achieve restoration have not taken shape due to various reasons.
8. The raw estimate of CAT and LADF amount for 4834 MW (*see table 1*) amounts to Rs. 1160 Crore (assuming @ Rs. 6 Lakhs per MW as capital cost) excluding CA and NPV. When such a large public finance is involved as a proclaimed benefit for the affected and the environment, it has to be proactively brought into the public domain for rightful decisions before spending. This cannot be held back and decisions regarding its implementation should have a greater role of people who are affected.
9. Central Water Commission has brought out guidelines to develop River Morphology studies for different River basins but hardly one finds any mention of these in the Environment Impact Assessment reports which neglect this very important component of probable impacts and impacts over the river system. It has much more relevance for the allocation of dumping sites for the muck generated during the process and also to address the issue of free riverine stretches between the series of projects from the Spiti Valley into the Sutlej Valley.
10. The District Disaster Management Authority of Kinnaur has identified vulnerability more realistically and has indicated the following

Elements at Risk	Degree of Vulnerability to Various Hazard District Kinnaur (H.P.)								
	Earthquake	Land slide	Flash Floods//GLOF	Snow Avalanche	Drought	Forest Fires	Domestic Fires	Dam Failure	Road Accidents
Community	Very High	High	Very High	High	High	High	Very High	High	High
Infrastructure	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	Low
Houses	Very High	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Very High	High	Nil
Social Sector	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low	Very High	Low	High
Livelihood Sector	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very High	High	High	High	High
Environment	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Low
Source: <a href="http://hp.gov.in/ddma-kinnaur/page/Vulnerability-Analysis.aspx">http://hp.gov.in/ddma-kinnaur/page/Vulnerability-Analysis.aspx</a>									

## ***Recommendations***

- 1) As has been pointed out in the study and indicated by the Disaster Management Authority, the risk of an earthquake and dam failure is very high to all aspects considered. Therefore a detailed study on the implications of earthquake and dam failures must be undertaken that has been grossly neglected in all the EIAs by various agencies. Scenario building exercises, such as the worst case scenario of Earthquake – GLOF/LLOF – Flash Floods and specific disasters have to be evolved. Further project development and clearances should be subject to the establishment of adequate infrastructure and mechanisms for dealing with the current range of projects. The ability of the institutions to protect and mitigate was shown in poor light in the last two flood incidents. Ironically institutions which need to protect have themselves claimed damages.
- 2) The assessments should not be at the behest of those who want to promote hydropower. While the Cumulative Assessment was supposed to be independent, but it has been clearly influenced by the Department and the Group of Hydropower Developers. Such assessments tend to obfuscate the facts and crucial aspects are relegated to some sweeping conclusions bereft of the basis for the same. It will be a difficult proposition but in order to reduce the potential conflicts between local communities and the State and Potential developers, the process of assessment has to be laid threadbare in front of the communities and they should be involved in all stages of assessment, from data collection, synthesis and analysis. In the light of the fact that many of the studies are “desk-top”, the High Court has recommended that any assessment should be preceded by a notice to the local communities much in advance, very much like that mandated for a public hearing.
- 3) These projects and the observations of the court clearly indicates that current methodologies adopted for assessment, evaluation of impacts, efficacy of the mitigation measures and decision-making on the project through EIA, EMP and even a broad based CEA are ineffective and are only partial. Issues of equity, endogeneity or self-reliance of communities and the state are not at all addressed in these methodologies.
- 4) The next phase of our project will address the development of a comprehensive framework based on sustainability, incorporating indicators which can be consistently used at various levels so as to lead to more rational decision making based on the four pillars of economic efficiency, equity, endogeneity and environmental soundness.
- 5) The subsequent section of the river from Karcham-Wangtoo to Kol Dam should be studied in detail and the information generated during this phase of study should be recast to look at the overall picture. Communities in the region would need continued support in presenting their concerns in different forum and should be supported while groups in the subsequent segment should be incorporated in the assessment.

## 2. Asbestos and its use India: The Real Picture

### Background



India is the largest importer<sup>1</sup> of asbestos, according to the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database. Asbestos is primarily imported from Russia, Brazil, Canada and Kazakhstan. Over 90% of it goes into making corrugated roofing sheets that sell for as little as INR 300 (USD 7) and water pipes. More than 300,000 people in India are employed by companies producing the material directly or indirectly. In addition millions of construction workers are using asbestos products during construction activities with little or no protection. An estimated 55,000

workers, unmindful of the lethal effects of asbestos-laden material in the ships, slave for long hours and are exposed to its deadly fibres breaking ships at the Alang Ship breaking yard. There is no data available about number of small and medium scale enterprises using asbestos but there are 61 large manufacturing facilities owned by 17 companies.

Despite the fact that Asbestos is dangerous, the Asbestos industry has been on an expansion spree and increasing their capacity and production in India. False information is spread about the safety and controlled use of Asbestos whereas it has been cited by agencies like World Health Organisation (WHO) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) that safe use of Asbestos is not possible and there is no safe exposure limit. The only way to prevent Asbestos related disorders is to stop using Asbestos.

Average year on year growth of Asbestos Cement products has been over 14%. According to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) Yearbook 2011, presently, there are about 75 plants engaged in the production of asbestos products in the country and these are mainly located in Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Besides, about 114 asbestos cement sheet and pipe units are reported from Rajasthan.

There has been a steady increase in the amount of Asbestos Fibre consumption and approximately Four hundred fifteen thousand tonnes of Asbestos fibres was consumed in 2011 and till April 2012 already one hundred and thirty five thousand tonnes has been consumed.

A 15 percent duty is payable on asbestos imports, according to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The tariff, which stood at 78 percent in 1995, has been gradually cut over the past decade.

Year on Year Consumption of Asbestos Fibres in India <sup>2</sup>	
Year	Consumption (Tonnes)
2004	1,85,000
2005	2,30,000
2006	2,58,000
2007	2,83,000
2008	3,00,000
2009	3,60,000
2010	4,00,000
2011	4,15,000 (approx.)
2012	1,35,000(approx.) till April, 2012

<sup>1</sup><http://comtrade.un.org/db/ce/ceSnapshot.aspx?px=HS&cc=2524>

<sup>2</sup> In Response to questions answered on 11-5-2012 in Rajya Sabha



## Imports and Exports

No restrictions have been imposed on exports of asbestos in the amended Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-14. As per the prevailing Foreign Trade Policy, asbestos under heading 2524 can be imported freely with the exception of amosite which is restricted.

However, the imports of crocidolite, actinolite, anthophyllite, amosite and tremolite are restricted in terms of Interim Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure of Rotterdam Convention for Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides.

Surprisingly India is also an exporter of Asbestos fibres. Exports of asbestos were 252 tonnes in 2010-11 as compared to 559 tonnes in the previous year. **Out of the total exports in 2010-11, exports of Chrysotile asbestos were only 43 tonnes while those of other asbestos varieties were 209 tonnes.** Exports were mainly to Nepal. Exports of asbestos-cement products were 46,882 tonnes in 2010-11 as compared to 39,389 tonnes in the preceding year. Exports of asbestos cement products were mainly to UAE (66%), Saudi Arabia (7%), Nepal (6%), and South Africa (3%)

Exports of Asbestos: Total (By Countries)				
	2009-10		2010-11	
Country	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
All Countries	559	1601	252	698
Nepal	533	1209	209	390
Sri Lanka	-	-	36	241
Uganda	-	-	4	50
Libya	-	-	3	10
China	-	-	++	7
Other countries	26	392	-	-

Table 3 – Imports of Asbestos by Countries		
Country	2009-10 Qty (t)	2010-11 Qty (t)
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>331415</b>	<b>365795</b>
Russia	152448	178479
Brazil	57427	55414
Canada	70934	58052
Kazakhstan	45224	51844
Ukraine	202	4588
China	377	2204
Egypt	-	10010
USA	50	928
UAE	-	412
Unspecified	327	1553
Other countries	4426	2311

Imports of asbestos were 365,795 tonnes in 2010-11 against 331,415 tonnes in the previous year. The imports comprised chrysotile asbestos 353,441 tonnes and asbestos (others) 12,354 tonnes. Imports of asbestos were mainly from Russia (49%), Canada (16%), Brazil (15%) and Kazakhstan (14%).

A total of 5,561 tonnes asbestos-cement products were also imported in 2010-11 as against 2,653 tonnes in the previous year. Imports were mainly from Thailand (93%)

Reliable data on consumption of amphibole asbestos was not available as the consuming industries were mostly in small-scale sector, producing low-pressure asbestos-cement pipes used in construction industry. These are the most vulnerable group of workers and unfortunately no data is available and there are no attempts by the government agencies to ensure that this data is available.

## Asbestos in Indian Parliament

Issue of ban on use and mining of asbestos has been raised 61 times in Indian Parliament since the year 2000. In a question answered as recently as 11 May 2012 on ban on use of Asbestos, the response was muted and hidden behind a research study being carried out by National Institute of Occupational health. Responses have been the same on this question ever since this study was started in 2005. Total Cost of study was initially INR 59.66 lakhs (USD 115,000) with INR 16 lakhs (USD 31,000) being contributed by the industry. How much influence will the industry have on the report can only be imagined considering that almost one third of the cost is being contributed by them.

NIOH has recently submitted the final version of the report to the Government. The draft report was not placed in public domain for comments even though comments from the industry associations have been received and incorporated. The report was commissioned by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers so that Government of India could take an informed decision on the Implementation of Rotterdam convention on PIC procedures. Although India changed its stance in 2012 and agreed to include asbestos in the PIC list, this study was used to influence the decision of the Indian Government which overturned its decision of 2012 and declined to include Chrysotile Asbestos in the PIC list at the Rotterdam convention this year. The same report is also being used to influence a decision on ban on use and mining of asbestos.

According to the recommendations of the draft report

1. In the present study the fibre levels were found to be much lower than the national permissible levels. However, it requires regular monitoring of the workplace fibres levels to keep it below permissible levels.
2. At the present low fibre levels no subject were found to have radiological finding suggestive of interstitial lung fibrosis. However, it is recommended that these subjects should be periodically monitored medically so as to detect any adverse health effects particularly those having restrictive and combines type of pulmonary function abnormalities.
3. Most of the industries were using protective measures like use of PPEs, pre-placement, periodic and post-retirement medical examination, for the control and prevention of asbestos related health hazards, these measures are to be implemented by all the asbestos using industries to protect the health of the workers



The draft report does not find even 1 case of Asbestos related disorder in about 1000 persons studied. According to the report, the mean age of workers was found to be highest in the sheet workers of Hyderabad ( $42.98 \pm 3.5$  years) while in the sheet industry at Silvassa it was lowest ( $27.4 \pm 6.5$  years). The mean age of community residing in the vicinity was  $37.66 \pm 9.5$  years while that of end user was  $36.9 \pm 9.4$  years. The mean duration of job at Silvassa was  $4.5 \pm 3.2$  years. It is well known that asbestos related disorders have an extremely long latency period which can sometimes be more than 30 years. Instead of studying former workers who might have covered this latency period, the study was conducted on a younger population. **A worker who is at the job for only 5 years would most definitely not show symptoms of any disorder.**

For how long the Government can hide behind such a flawed and fabricated study to take a concrete decision on ban on Asbestos use can only be a guess work.

The White Asbestos (Ban on use and Import) bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha in 2009. The bill seeks to “provide for a total ban on use and import of white asbestos in the country and to promote the use of safer and cheaper alternative to white asbestos and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto”<sup>3</sup>. The bill encourages that “The Cen`tral Government shall promote and encourage the use of safer and cheaper alternative to white asbestos and provide sufficient fund for research and development in the field in such manner as may be prescribed. “

#### Role of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)

MoEF is the nodal Ministry responsible for giving environment clearances to various Factories including **Asbestos product manufacturing facilities**. According to the Ministry “Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an important management tool for ensuring the optimal use of natural resources for sustainable development. The Ministry has issued the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, which makes environmental clearance mandatory for the development activities listed in its schedule.” Asbestos fibre manufacturing units have to mandatorily take permission from MoEF to operate.



#### Some facts on the status of clearances given to Asbestos based products

- ✓ 57 Asbestos based industries of varying capacity given Environmental Clearances (EC) by MoEF from year 2000 to April 2009
- ✓ After April 2009 - 12 ECs have Been awarded
- ✓ After April 2009 - 10 proposals are awaiting EC
- ✓ 22 proposals have been granted terms of references (TORs) - EC is eminent
- ✓ 3 proposals are awaiting grant of TOR
- ✓ No Asbestos Industry project has so far been denied Environmental Clearance
- ✓ As per clearance letter “stack emission of asbestos fibre should not exceed the emission limit of 0.2 fiber/cc. Asbestos fibre in work zone environment shall be maintained within 0.1 fibre/cc.”
- ✓ In the last 12 months 5 factories have been cleared to be set up.
- ✓ No project has so far been denied permission to be set up.

Ministry of Environment and Forest, vide Notification dated 13.10.1998, under Sections 3 (1) and 6 (2) (d) of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rule 13 of Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, also prohibits the imports of waste asbestos (dust and fibre), being a hazardous waste detrimental to human health and environment.

<sup>3</sup> White Asbestos bill – Bill No. XIII of 2009

## Mining of Asbestos in India

The total resources of asbestos in the country as on 1.4.2010 are placed at 22.17 million tonnes. Of these, 2.5 million tonnes are reserves and 19.6 million tonnes are remaining resources. Out of the total resources, Rajasthan accounts for 13.6 million tonnes (61%) and Karnataka 8.28 million tonnes (37%). The remaining two percent resources are estimated in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand.

In June 1986 a ban on expansion of area of existing Asbestos mines was placed in the country. The letter banning the expansion stated - "Asbestos mining has deleterious effects on the health of the workers and exposes them to diseases like Silicosis and Pneumoconiosis etc, no expansion in the mining of Asbestos should henceforth be permitted".<sup>4</sup>

In March 1989 the ban was further extended to mining of those minerals as well where Asbestos as contamination was found in substantial quantities.<sup>5</sup>

Since June 1993 all mining of Asbestos has been banned.<sup>6</sup>

Production of Asbestos, 2008-09 to 2010-11 (Source IBM Yearbook 2011)						
(Qty in tonnes; value in INR '000)						
	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11(P)	
State	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
India	315	14521	243	12268	258	12887
Andhra Pradesh	315	14521	243	12268	258	12887
Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>7</sup> According to the Indian Bureau of Mines yearbook 2011 on Asbestos, the production of asbestos in 2010-11 was 258 tonnes which increased by about 6% as compared to the previous year. In 2010-11, the entire production of 258 tonnes was of Chrysotile variety of asbestos and was produced by three mines in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh. The

average daily employment of labour strength was 63 in 2010-11 as against 71 in the preceding year.

Despite the ban on mining being in place for more than 20 years, these three mines continue production of Chrysotile asbestos. There is no information available on Occupational health and safety of the workers of these mines. These mines are in operation despite the fact that their leases expired on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2005, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2005 and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2005 respectively.

As per Rule 24 A subsection (6) under Mineral Concession Rules (MCR) 1960

- Rule 24A Subsection (6) If an application for the renewal of a mining lease made within the time referred to in sub-rule (1) is not disposed of by the State Government before the date of expiry of the lease, the period of the lease shall be deemed to have been extended by a further period till the State Government passes order thereon.

The owners have been flouting the rules and continuing production under the provisions of this rule and continuing production. Political heavyweights and lack of any concrete action have ensured that the production is going on unabated. These Asbestos mines should have been ordered shut without any problems as the notification of year 1993 was made 12 years before the lease for these mines ran out. But the government agencies are just sitting on the files and not taking any action against the owners of these mines and the owners have been abusing the sections of the law.

<sup>4</sup> Copy of letter is available with the author

<sup>5</sup> Copy of letter is available with the author

<sup>6</sup> Copy of letter is available with the author

<sup>7</sup> Indian Bureau of Mines year book 2011, Mineral Review; Asbestos - [http://ibm.nic.in/IMYB%202011\\_Asbestos.pdf](http://ibm.nic.in/IMYB%202011_Asbestos.pdf)

The Ministry of Mines further does not seem to have information regarding the mines which existed prior to 1993 and their current condition i.e whether the mines have been closed or abandoned. In case of 3 former mines in Rajasthan, the ministry has stated that the mines are now mining quartz and feldspar and asbestos has been removed from the mineral intend to work. However, how they protect the workers from accidental exposure due to Asbestos contamination is not clarified. Mines in this region had large deposits of Amphibole variety of Asbestos.

The IBM year book further states the following regarding Mining and Milling of Asbestos - “The run-of-mine is subjected to **manual** sorting of asbestos-bearing rock (ABR). ABR is **then hand combed** for chipping off the asbestos-bearing portion in small pieces of about 2.5 cm for producing asbestos concentrates. From ABR, the serpentine is removed as a waste. The asbestos concentrate is fed **manually** into hopper of a hammer mill”. A government agency is admitting that the asbestos bearing rock is still worked upon manually which all other government agencies vehemently deny.

### 3. An Overview of the North Western Himalayas Disaster, 2013

Early monsoon rains have caused massive flooding and landslides in northern India's Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh states and Nepal since mid-June 2013, affecting tens of thousands of people. In India, more than 1,056 people are reported to have lost their life and hundreds were still missing as of 24 Jun (UN Country Team, 24 Jun 2013). In Nepal, floods and landslides have been reported in 29 out of 75 districts, with 59 people dead and over 12,000 people displaced as of 18 Jul (IFRC, 19 Jul 2013). <http://reliefweb.int/disaster/floods-2013-000070-ind>

1. A devastating spell of rain and cloud-burst in the Higher Himalayas on June 16-17<sup>th</sup>, even before the monsoon

In mid-June 2013, unusually severe monsoon rain caused devastating flooding in northern India and Nepal. By June 21, news outlets reported at least 600 people dead and tens of thousands stranded or missing in rugged, inaccessible terrain on the edge of the Himalayas. Extremely high waters, particularly in the state of Uttarakhand, undermined roads and houses, while landslides wiped out others.

Landslide researcher David Petley noted on his blog: "Whilst mid-June is monsoon season in this area, the most intense rainfall usually occurs later than this. Unfortunately, this high intensity rainfall event will have saturated the ground in these areas, making them more vulnerable to landslides later in the summer."

The map is based on data from NASA's Multisatellite Precipitation Analysis (MPA), which estimates rainfall by combining measurements from several satellites and calibrating them using measurements from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM). Because it is an estimate of rainfall over a very large area and based on when satellites pass overhead, the MPA may miss pockets of heavy rain in smaller areas, or short periods of more or less intense rain. As a result, local rainfall totals measured from the ground may differ from the estimates shown here.

Source: USGS

period began, has killed hundreds of people and several thousands are still reported missing.

2. The loss of life, missing people and stranded pilgrims and thousands of livestock lost reflected the gravity of fury.

3. Currently most of the information about deaths and damages are coming from the "Char-Dham" route, ie the Alaknanda, Mandakini, Bhagirathi and Yamuna Valleys. The smaller valleys and impact on settlements are still unclear and rapid

assessment has been initiated.

4. The recent catastrophe is an obvious culmination of various factors including
  - Poor governance and absence of hill area planning;
  - Lack of mainstreaming Disaster Management despite legislation;
  - Breaching of carrying capacity in terms of mindless harnessing of energy;
  - Uncontrolled tourism, including pilgrimage in the transitional high Himalayan environments;
  - Heavy rains in upper reaches becoming new triggers for GLOF and LLOF;
  - Livelihoods and settlement patterns forced to be in vulnerable areas;
  - Low State priority for resettling vulnerable settlements.

#### Death, Damages and Despair

5. Official figures state 580 deaths and 5526 missing among those reported. Considering the huge number of migrant population and children assisting their parents in the Kedar Valley this is certainly a gross underestimate of the range and extent of the losses. Losses have also occurred in other parts of Central North Western Himalayas.

6. Around 15-20 blocks (total) in Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi are severely affected.
7. Lives of many children were lost as during the summer break many children accompany their parents who have stalls or shops in the pilgrim centres. One report says over 1200 children are missing in Rudraprayag district alone.
8. Non nationals like workers, labourers, service providers are not in focus, especially Nepalese and other workers.

The loss of life (human, livestock), missing people and stranded pilgrims reflected the gravity of fury but whether this can be limited to the Act of God or manmade disaster still sees division of opinion among the civil society and the government.	
The extent of damage as reported by State Government as on 20.07.2013 is as under:	
No of Districts affected	13
No of villages affected	1603
No of human lives lost	580*
No of body recovered	249
No of injured	4473
No of missing	5526
Lives stock lost	9470
No of houses damaged	4726
Cattle shed damaged	649
Pilgrims stranded at various places	All the pilgrims have been evacuated #
No of persons rescued to safer places as on 02.07.2013	1,08,653
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Including 20 victims of helicopter crash.</li> <li># It must be taken into cognizance that many persons would remain at Badrinath, Gaurikund and Yamunotri till the holy doors of respective dham get closed for winter i.e. till second or third week of November 2013.</li> <li>***Figures are provisional and gathered from various sources. These are likely to change as further information is received from various sources.</li> </ul>	

Nepalese are in thousands of numbers in Kedarnath and other places but nothing has been spoken about the loss to them People from Rolpa, Dolpa and Dotiyal Districts in Nepal usually work during this Yatra period, there is a need to check out from the other side about their status

9. Atleast nine people died while collecting Keerajari or Yarsa Gumbu in the Manpai Bugyal (mid to high altitude pasture land) close to Madhmaheshwar. Several such communities which were in higher reaches for NTFP collection and grazing are yet to be fully identified.

10. Migrant labour in almost all development projects, especially in Hydro projects lost lives but there is no count of these people. The families back home may not even have any information, and compensation is a far cry.

11. Mule owners statistics (registration) are

not available for Kedarnath / Badrinath, the damage to them and their rights are not known. Each mule owner has a team of 2-3 people so the loss may be high. On estimate is that atleast 905 mules were registered in Augustmuni, District Rudraprayag.

12. Several valleys are left out from the current context of relief and stock taking like the Pindar Valley, remote locations of Pitthoragarh district. Multiple landslides between Tharali and Narayanbagad, few villages need complete rehabilitation.
13. There has been extensive damage in the Kali-Sarada and Gori Ganga valleys. Vulnerable villages that needed resettlement after the earlier landslide has not been attempted saying that land is not available. People have no option but to settle near the river.



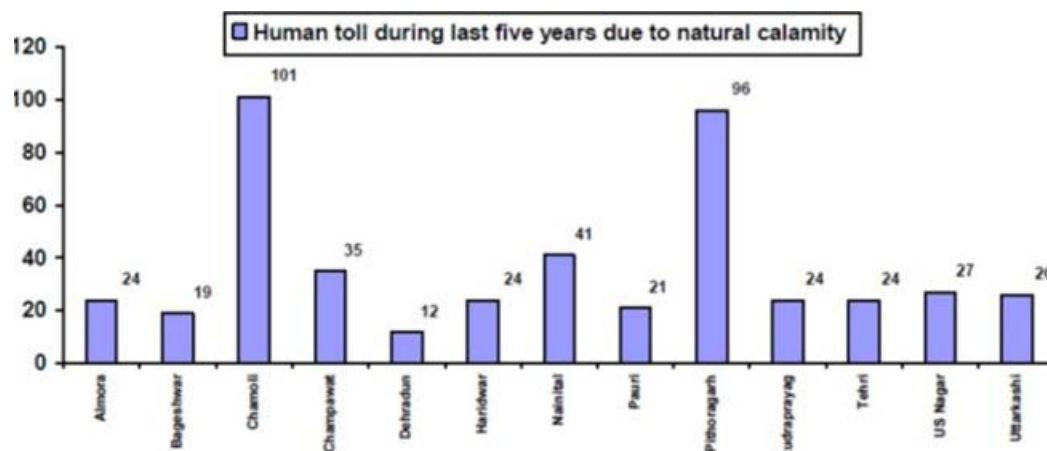
14. Almost 80% crop loss is expected due to this disaster. This trauma of food insecurity and dovetailing of relief would be a greater challenge. Similarly there should be a plan for the sowing season, how to enable timely sowing of crops.
15. Livestock is an important aspect of local livelihoods and there is no focus on this issue.
16. A number of villages have been affected in the foothills, particularly with flash floods and has not been properly assessed till now.
17. Atleast 25 people and thousands of the livestock died (the actual number of human death may be high because in the area the un-registered labour was also working in the Satluj Basin).
18. The Kinnaur is well known for its horticulture (Apple, Apricot, Plum and Grapes) Apple orchards of more than 12000 hectares have been lost due to heavy snow in Pooh and other higher reaches, loss of standing crops and 12600 hectares agricultural land.
19. More than 1700 houses, schools, more than 300 roads and other private and government structures have destroyed due to this calamity.
20. Numerous landslides and massive soil erosion has impacted vast areas which has been aggravated due to muck dumped in river bank by hydro projects and roads construction. Many houses and even villages have become unsafe to live.
21. Inter-agency group has so far received area wise analysis, village wise analysis is still not available. The IAG is also restricted to Uttarakhand and needs to be conceived more widely to reflect the current disaster.DMMC, Red Cross, Universities and NGOs are linked through this IAG but there is a missing link in terms of people's movement, Trade Unions or labour forums in the current context.
22. IAG mentioned that they would like to include advocacy aspects but there is apprehension that without the peoples movements the State may wriggle away without taking major decisions.
23. The ostensible reason for this disaster was GLOF. Cloudbursts, leading to heavy down pour in the upper reaches of the Kedar Valley, overfilled the Chorabari Lake and lead to the unprecedented flows that Mandakini was in fury at Kedarnath and the settlements downstream which were along the river. This phenomenon is not new to this region and the region is known to be complex, diverse

The current disaster in the Western Himalaya from Mahakali-Sarda Valley to Satluj valley should be declared as national calamity with parity in relief and compensation. The disaster in the range similarly affected the families. The affected of both the states are facing same kind of problems and living in trauma and threat. The central government must declare it as a national calamity and put all needed funds and resources to rehabilitate the affected communities.





and multiple risk-prone. The threat of a seismic event of very large magnitude looms large as it is known to be relatively in seismic “quiet” for a long period.



Source: CAG Report on Uttarakhand, 2010

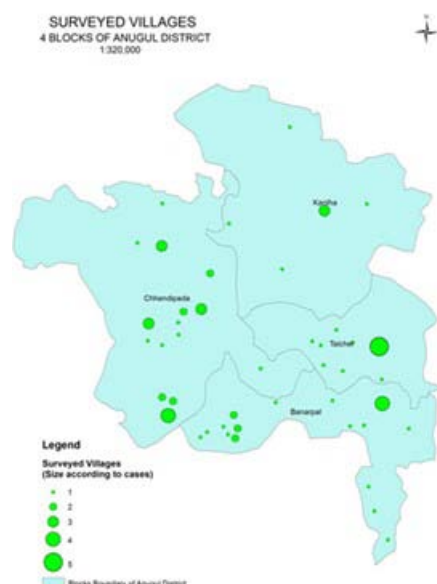
24. This would have called for a Himalaya Specific Development Model, which accounts for the complexity, diversity and the nature of different risks to the community. This indeed is the prime failure of our entire governance process. The little headway Himachal Pradesh made by way of horticulture, dispersed tourism and several mountain sensitive development have all been thrown asunder after the beginning of the era of liberalisation.
25. Town and Country Planning has never been attempted with a good mapping of the risks but with only the land provided for as per the existing land tenures. While landuse changes have been allowed in the name of infrastructure and energy generation, new lands for safe settlements is something every settlement will have to struggle to obtain.
26. Tourism and Pilgrimage, more as an industry catering to mass markets has made several Himalayan locations stretch beyond the resilience and are waiting for the next disaster.
27. With the coming of the new millennium the grand 50,000 MW Himalayan Hydro Plan has led to slew of ill-conceived projects and erratic processes of establishment leading to severe addition to vulnerabilities and accentuation of impact even during the current disaster.
28. Mapping of sensitive areas is essential, valley wise to map risk prone areas, but taking action on the information is more crucial. Immediately after the 1999 Chamoli Earthquake, the GSI had identified 64 extremely vulnerable settlements. By 2005 government released a list of 233 villages which need to be rehabilitated. While some the list may need further revision and specific steps need to be taken to resettle or reduce vulnerability.
29. Encroachments which have come up near roads, rivers are risk prone. These encroachments are an outcome of seeking livelihoods along routes and these have to be dealt with sensitively as it will undermine their economic security. The R&R policy should correspond to the geographic constraints and make land available for people.
30. This calls for atleast mainstreaming of the disaster management tasks as envisaged by law, of incorporating these in every sectoral activity. However the Governments have completely failed in this task as the CAG report points out “*The DM Act envisaged that each department of the State Government which had a role in prevention/mitigation should*

(i) take necessary measures for prevention of disaster, mitigation, preparedness and capacity-building in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the SDMA, (ii) integrate into its development plans and projects the measures for prevention of disaster and mitigation and (iii) allocate funds for prevention of disaster, mitigation, capacity-building and preparedness. Scrutiny revealed that none of the departments had taken any specific measures for prevention, mitigation and preparedness in their development plans and projects. Further, no funds were allocated for the same by any of the State departments and instead, they remained dependent on CRF which was confirmed by all the line departments audited including department of disaster management. Thus, the State Government could not ensure incorporation of disaster prevention measures into the development process.”

31. The entire approach to disaster management is callous and derogatory to the people affected as a number of measures indicate and the very essence that Relief and Rehabilitation of Disaster affected is more of their Human Right is completely missing. Even what is being done is at best seen as charity.
32. If one sees the Situation Report, it is clear how frivolous the reporting is by the States. Uttarakhand claims only those who were evacuated are affected, not those who have been injured, those who are missing or the kith and kin of the dead, while Himachal Pradesh has not even tried to estimate. However the Himachal Government has made up its mind to demand Rs 2575.00 Crores for losses it has still to evaluate.
33. High Altitude areas of Kinnaur, which hardly has rain saw a down pour of over 350 mm and this portends significant danger for the future. The cold desert area is mostly made up of quaternary period materials and prone to denudation. The existing power projects in this region which is making it more vulnerable must be stopped and no new projects should be allowed.
34. The hill areas of Uttarakhand are largely under the control of the Government and private land holding is restricted to 6-8 percent. This is a very crucial consideration that has to be kept in mind in the identification of land for settlements. Since such an exploration was lacking and though since 233 villages were identified as “sensitive”, over 40,000 hectares of forest land and more Revenue lands have been given away for hydropower and mining projects. It is therefore imperative to find suitable sites for resettlement.
35. A total revamp of the policies and processes governing natural resources and the economy of the region is called for urgently. This will require constant dialogue and pressure not just those affected by the recent disaster but by the entire Himalayan communities.
36. Specifically, the Disaster Management Systems need to be overhauled and the sensitivity required for handling such situations must be imbibed by the agencies beginning with the National Disaster Management Authority. These agencies must be atleast tasked of giving actual figures, rather than indulging in speculative numbers. The NDMA must be held responsible if any state provides frivolous figures.

Name of State	Himachal Pradesh	Uttarakhand
Date when updated	22.07.13	20.07.13
Population affected		108653
No. of human lives lost	30	580
No. of districts affected	3	13
No. of villages affected	-	1603
No. of cattle/ Live- stock lost	10000	9470
Cropped area affected (in ha)	100000	-
No. of houses damaged	1500	4726
Estimated value of damage (Rs. In Lakh)	257500	Under Assessment
No. of persons evacuated	1942	108653
Situation Report as uploaded by NDMA as of 23.07.13		

#### 4. SINGLE MOTHERS IN ANGUL



Single mothers bear a social taboo, especially in rural India. One of the factors for such a situation is rapid transformation of micro economy thereby inviting outside population to cater to a particular set of activities to be performed whereas the host population is a passive service provider in an informal manner. Growing urbanization and industrialization as engine of economic growth have not addressed poverty and economic justice for the vulnerable.

Mining or extractive industries worldwide have given rise to satellite occupations but has also carried risks of cultural mismatch, residual economy, tempting changeover as cash economy prevails for few to lure people into false promises. Women are particularly vulnerable to such developments as they depend on family income and have lesser knowledge of cultural gaps owing to low awareness, lack of education and social structures.

In order to understand the problem of single mothers, Angul, an industrial and coal mining area was chosen as a test case to analyze various facets. Three of the contiguous blocks out of eight development blocks were chosen to understand the spread of problem where maximum field coverage was done.

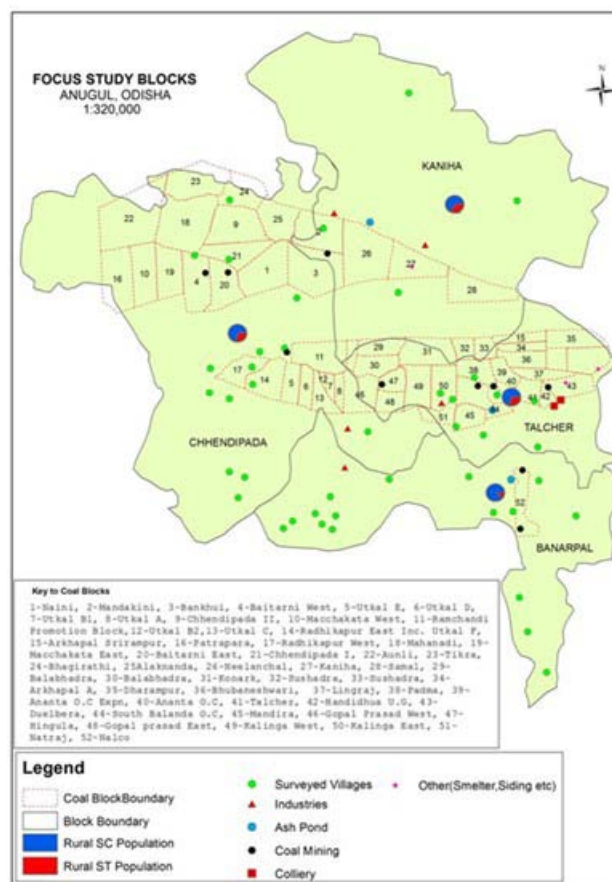
The mode of conduct of survey in field was over a basic structured questionnaire coupled with focused discussion with the victims extensively in 3 blocks (Chhendipada, Banarpal and Talcher) and through references received during the survey in these blocks, few random sites were selected. Overall there were 48 survey villages and in 14 villages more than one such victim was traced. These blocks forms the central part of Angul District and overlaps with the Talcher coalfield spreading over these development blocks. Identification of victims was done while meeting community members and earlier experiences of local organizations in the field on the issue of single mothers.

Distribution of Victims in Development Blocks of District Angul	
Surveyed Blocks	No. of Victims Identified
<i>Better Coverage of Blocks</i>	
Chhendipada	42
Banarpal	23
Talcher	17
<i>Random Survey based on reference</i>	
Kaniha, Pallahar, Angul (included above)	6
Joda, Keonjhar (briefed separately as box )	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>98</b>

The increase in number of urban centres or Census Towns has doubled over a decade (2001-2011) in Banarpal and Talcher blocks. The net increase in 7 of the 2001 census towns' population in these 2 blocks has been only 1283 persons (overall 0.92% growth) and except Angul, Talcher and Nalco the other 4 industrial focal centres have registered decline in population growth. Rural to Urban transformation in 2011 Census (7 towns put together registered 19.27% population growth) has added 6322 urban population.

Age Profile of Interviewed Victims				
Age Range in Years	No. of Respondents		% Victim	% Accused
	VICTIM	ACCUSED		
<=18	8	1	9.09	1.14
19-24	14	2	15.90	2.27
25-30	33	17	37.50	19.32
31-35	17	23	19.32	26.14
36-40	10	15	11.36	17.05
>40	6	16	6.81	18.18
No Information	0	14	0	15.91
Grand Total	88	88	100	100

**Box1 (Victims Brief):** Ms Pradhan (name changed) is a 15 year old mother of an 8 month old girl child. She stays with her parents and makes ends meet by grazing goats in and around the locality. Her child suffers from malnourishment as her small earning is not sufficient to provide adequate nutrition. Annoyed, she says that the accused is now married and runs a shop but police has not taken any action on her FIR.



## The Situation

(82 surveys in Chhendipada, Talcher, Banarpal and 6 in Kanihal, Angul and Pallahar)

It has been found that vulnerability of women increases in the mid age ranges as seen in table above, it has been maximum for age range between 25-30 years, and it peaks up after the age of 18, the age where more family protection is ensured at household level.

In comparison accused are found to be largely above the age of 24 years (85 nos.), 26.14% of accused were from the age group 31-35 years. The age group 24+ reflects upon young and employable age and there is almost equal number of accused in the age group 25-30; 36-40 and above 40. The employability of accused and probable better spending power may also hint upon attitudinal changes among a person. Low educational levels prevail among the victims and 41% of them are illiterates and another 40% reaching below 8<sup>th</sup> standard schooling which reflects upon the low level of education which may have multiple factors revolving around it.

In comparison, accused who are illiterate and below middle schooling constitute 50% of the accused, whereas 33% of them are above middle schooling (11.36% each in middle school and metric, 4.55% and 5.68% accused were reportedly in high school and graduation).

Education Profile of Respondents		
Education Level	No. of Respondents	
	Victim	Accused
Illiterate	41(46.59)	16 (18.18)
Below Middle School	40(45.45)	28 (31.82)
Middle School	5(5.68)	10 (11.36)
Metric	1(1.14)	10 (11.36)
High School	1(1.14)	4 (4.55)
Graduate	0	5 (5.68)
No Information	0	15 (17.05)
Grand Total	88	88 (100)

Occupation Profile (Accused)		
Occupation of Accused	No. of Respondents	%
Daily Wage / Labour	17	19.32
Driver	14	15.91
Factory / Mine worker	9	10.23
Shop	4	4.55
Farming	9	10.23
Other Business	8	9.09
Others	11	12.50
No information	16	18.18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Low educational levels also reflects upon the occupation* in which victims are involved, almost 69% of the victims rely on daily wage work and labour jobs which do not guarantee continuity in employment. The nature of work in which the accused were engaged points to the fact that there is influence of mining and related activities on the abuses. Among the accused 26.14% constituted drivers and factory or mine workers and 19.32% daily wage labour – almost 45% of the accused were involved in mine and other ancillary occupations. Driving and semi-skilled mine workers are majorly men and women are majorly engaged in loading, breaking and other casual labour works. It is because

of this reason the occupation categories of victims and accused are tabulated.

Occupation Profile (Victims)		
Occupation / Work of Victim	No. of Respondents	%
Daily Wages & Labour	61	69.32
Domestic Help	4	4.55
Cook	5	5.68
Anganwadi Worker	2	2.27
Not Working	10	11.36
Work in Ashram	3	3.41
Others	3	3.41
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>88</b>	

*Low education level and less exposure to ‘out of house’ environment* makes women vulnerable to abuses. In the initial stages, assessment by victim on threat or abuse is missing. Many respondents also mention mutual agreement to continue in relationship but the threat of abandonment had never crossed their mind and this was never perceived in the beginning as threat. Almost 81% of the respondents reported ‘false promise<sup>8</sup>’ of marriage as one of the prime reasons they

subjected themselves to believe the accused. With this low level of education and consequent attitudinal change, the urge to venture into experimentation becomes the line of action among the accused.

#### **Brief About Joda**

*As mentioned earlier, random villages selected in Joda (10), out of which 5 victims are from Talak Hating, 2 each from Joda and Hanuman Hating and 1 from Barbil. Except two victims, 8 belong to the Scheduled Tribe (Munda) and all are illiterate. 7 of them are engaged in daily wage or labour work and few work as domestic help. Among the victims, 6 are staying in the village and rest of them i.e. 4 in shelter house (1), Father’s home (2) and rented house (1).*

*With respect to victims children, there are 14 children (6 male and 8 females) and two victims have more than one child. As far as age of children is concerned there are 7 children under the age of 5, 6 children are between the age 6-15 and one above 15 years. Most of the children between the age 6-15 are drop offs.*

*Majority of Accused age between 25-35 and maximum of them are also illiterate. 80% of them were drivers, labour and factory / mine workers.*

<sup>8</sup> Even though false promise to marry is usually the cause behind it and is equally an act of violence as a woman in this situation is cheated and abused, Dr Pragyan Dass, Faculty, Women Studies, Ravehshaw University, Cuttack in her Review “Socio-emotional problems of unwed mothers”

Caste Profile of Victims		
Caste Respondents of	No. of Respondents	%
OBC	23	26.14
ST	5	5.68
SC	28	31.81
General	31	35.23
Others	1	1.14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>

guarantees full awareness or decision making, it's a process which remained incomplete. Joda which is a ST dominated block has maximum ST victims (8 out of 10) and it is found that 9 out of 10 victims and accused are from the same block itself.

Geographical analysis of the surveyed victims indicates that the issue is contained largely within the administrative divisions of the District. Out of 88 cases, 52 cases are those where victim and the accused are from the same block itself, Chhendipada has the maximum such instances.

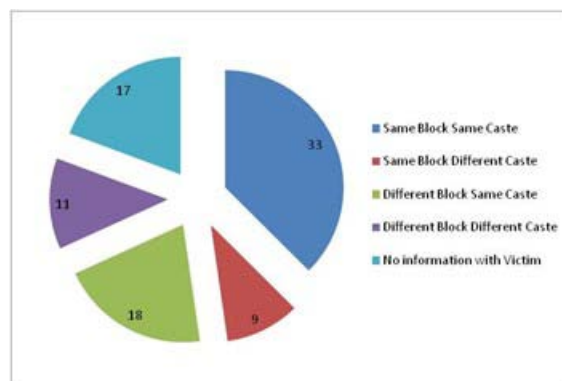
More instances are witnessed of victimization within a same caste, for example we correlated four different sets of criteria to understand the spread and homogeneity of the problem, the interpretation points out to the fact that instances in the same caste outnumber the instances across different castes (see chart) – instances within same caste (51), instances among different caste (20).

- It points to the fact that victim believed in the person hailing from the same block thereby inducing confidence on the pretext of so called promise before entering into relationship with the victim.
- Another interpretation is that despite victims being illiterate (41%) there may be a possibility that initial basic enquiry was done on caste and location as the responses of victims know about the basic domicile characteristics.
- No knowledge of accused caste or location (17 nos.) also reflects upon no necessary enquiry was considered important in the beginning by the victims.

In both the instances drawing the victim into emotional frame of mind may have triggered the belief in accused.

In the similar cultural context (as discussed about geographical context), it is observed that 52 cases are those where the victim and accused belong to the same caste (see table 2.5b), majority (46.15%) belonged to the General caste category followed by OBC and SC. 15 respondents did not have knowledge about the caste of the accused, whereas the remaining 20 reflect cross-caste victimization.

Another aspect which finds attention is almost equal threat in different caste systems, excluding the scheduled tribes where victimization has been less (in the identified set of victims in these first set of blocks) than other reported cases under different caste categories. In comparison to general caste (35.23% respondents) 63.63% respondents were from OBC, ST and SC categories. Almost 47% victims are illiterate and almost an equal proportion have remained largely limited to 2nd to 5th class schooling which in no way



Name of Block	No. of Victims and Accused hailing from same block
Chhendipada	30
Banarpal	13
Talcher	7
Kaniha	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

Caste	No. of Victims & Accused from same caste
General	24 (46.15%)
OBC	13 (25%)
SC	13 (25%)
ST	2 (3.85%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>



Although Indian society has caste systems and there have been violations / abuses but the inference in this particular context also indicate that abuses take place within the same caste system also. With growing urbanization around coalfields, there is an undergoing attitudinal change among youth and workers working in these towns or influenced by the changes in and around their hinterland.

Majority of the victims are staying in their village barring a few who are living with their father or are living in shelter homes or ashrams. The analysis revealed that almost 34% or 30 victims and accused belong to the same village or panchayat, maximum such instances are from Chhendipada block (17 cases).

Victims Currently Residing in Various Places		
Present Stay	No. of Respondents	%
In Village	71	80.68
Brother/Father's House	7	7.95
Shelter home & Ashram	6	6.82
Rented House	4	4.55
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>

When asked about accused remarriage, almost 50% victims responded that the accused has married to someone else (43 respondents out of 88) which also verifies responses as 59% of the accused and victims are from the same development

block within District Angul and information flows within the block is not surprising but demonstrates the impunity.

*Neelam and Shalini (names changed) are from Balipata village of Chhendipada block, they are from General and OBC caste respectively but suffer the same fate of victimization. Both are engaged in bidi making and earn a paltry sum for their children aged 6 years daughter and 15 years son respectively. Both children are studying and challenges of these poor women need no investigation! While Neelam filed an FIR in 2008, no action has been taken on the accused. There is no government assistance to these women, even the basic duty like BPL card is not provided to Shalini for availing benefits.*

Despite social limitations, several victims filed FIR (36.36%) but there is no conviction in such cases due to local pressures and influences. Merely 7.95% of the respondents reported some positive outcomes of their efforts which is limited to availing benefits like loans from banks, whereas majority of the respondents revealed that there is no sensitivity in the Government to even address their basic needs let alone list victimized families to bring them under welfare schemes of the district.

As mentioned earlier, poverty prevails in this district (average 59% rural families in BPL category), even the mandays of employment generated under MGNREGA has dropped drastically (refer section Work, Workers & Migration) due to unspent funds allocated to the Government. This shows lethargy in administrative outreach to the BPL or poor families, many among them who are victimized.

59 victims have children having equal number of male and female children (65 children; 33 males and 32 females). 60% of males and females (children) are studying and almost 37% are in middle school and upto matriculation. The age profile of students indicate continuation of education as most of the middle school to metric students are in the age group 13 – 18 years, drop outs were not specifically enquired. This means a regular cash flow requirement with victims for which they are either work as daily wagers some level of family support and there may be a likelihood of getting trapped to maintain cash flow for matching the requirements.

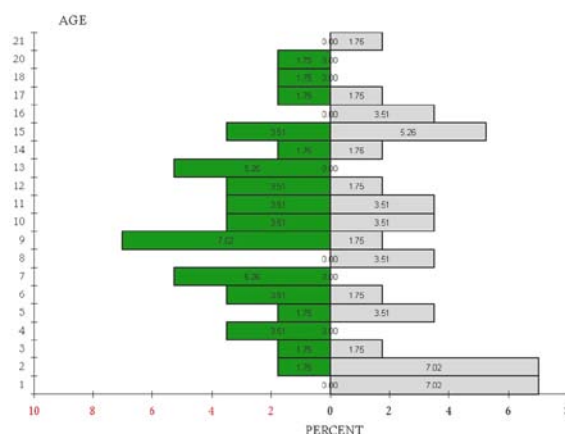
Profile of in-School Children			
Education (Class)	No. of Males	No. of Females	Total
1	3	2	5
2	1	2	3
3	2	0	2
4	2	2	4
5	1	3	4
6	2	0	2
7	3	1	4
8	4	2	6
9	2	1	3
10	2	3	5
Total	22	16	38

This burden on women to raise the child alone is a long term issue and in order to continue education, assistance in terms of decent livelihood activities and support from the government for educational purposes is required in order to relieve them from their dismal financial situation. As most of the victims are engaged in casual labour or daily wage work, it does not ensure fool-proof social security.

With the despondence at individual level and no sight of improvement in their conditions, 64% respondents would like to shift to small enterprises from the casual labour work they are currently engaged in, 16% of which responded to take up household activities like tailoring. 32% of the respondents are associated with self-help groups.

### Conclusions and Way Forward

- With the expansion in coal mining in the region, socio-cultural and environmental challenges are likely to increase and with majority of leases held by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, a Government PSU – the sensitivity towards single mother and framing of welfare programmes under their ‘social responsibility’ becomes an urgent issue to be taken up.
- In terms of host – displaced/resettled population at a particular location, there could be socio-cultural issues and there is nothing in the R&R policy which deals with issues that may probably arise in the aftermath of expansion. There is a need for looking into R&R policy and social responsibility framework and to bring changes for including vulnerable and victim population.
- There is also a need for identification by the Government (Committee of Block Development Officer, Women and Child Care Department, MCL) of such families which have been victimized and also not part of the social security net (atleast in terms of usual benefits like BPL) in order to do a needs assessment of immediate, mid-term and long term needs. The immediate needs would be lessening the burden of educating child, nutrition and access to services whereas long term needs would be to explore avenues to make them self-reliant as many of the victims have also suggested taking up smaller enterprise development as a possible way of engaging themselves and taking care of the family.
- Priority should be granted to periodic assessment of human rights violations in such regions by agencies mandated to review the safeguards like NHRC, NCST, NCSC and NCW<sup>9</sup>. However a mere periodic assessment cannot alone rule out violations, there is a need to review and understand the legal provisions, sensitivity and unbiased interrogation as many cases at the local police stations remain unresolved. NCW has several programmes on legal awareness, the requirement would be to include mining areas as one of the key focus region to promote the programme.



Green bars represent males and Grey bars represent females. 57 children taken up till the age of 21. Age was not mentioned about 7 children and one male excluded aged 32, thereby totaling to 65 children in total. The percentage is male and female population (separately) in proportion to total group population of the children i.e. 57! The gaps or no bars indicate no male or female in that particular age group.

<sup>9</sup>National Human Rights Commission; National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Women are statutory bodies.



**Community Based  
Activities**

## 1. The National Coal and Thermal Power Gatherings

First National Gathering, October 2, 2013 Gare Gaon, Raigarh



October 2<sup>nd</sup> has a great significance in the history of India and World, because it is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. But at the very same day people of Garegaon witnessed historic event which took place in Gare, Raigarh where people from 18 villages came together to showcase their protest against proposed Coal mining in Gare IV/6. Participants from different parts of Coal mining region from all over the countries came forward to join the 'Koyla Raila' protest. More than 5,000 thousands of men, women came forward in solidarity to fight against the Coal mining in their respective states to break the 'Koyla Kanoon' on the eve

of Mahatma's anniversary. It was Organised by mm&P( mine, minerals &PEOPLE).

According to Rajesh Tripathi, member of Jan Chetna "First of all we don't to do mining and give our land mining, we are happy with forest produce and agriculture but if government is not keen to adhere our demands than villagers want to extract coal with their own because land owner have the absolute rights over the land and in return we will pay the royalties to the government".

Affected people from mining shared their problems faced by them due to Coal. Every one echoed the same scenario where lands are vigorously grabbed and people are being displaced. Environmental Violations in coal mining region is obvious; despite of that government is not taking any action against violators.

Koyla Raila was historic for the energy shown by villagers to protect their Water, Forest and Land.

People were filled with joy and eternal satisfaction on their face when they got the first glimpse of Shri.Ramesh Agarwal who came to Garegaon after fourteen months. Shri.Agarwal is still recovering from the deadly attack, he can't walk without support but his presence gave a strong inspiration to all that we are united in this fight. People were very emotional charged; several eyes were full of tears when they got the opportunity to see him after long time. "I am thankful to everyone for their support towards me and I am willing to take another bullet without fearing for life to save our land" said Shri.Agarwal.



Message in the air was very clear that we will do whatever it takes to protect our land. Shri. Ramesh Agarwal regarded as the crucial person to lead this movement against mining but irrespective of poor health he chose to come and motivate the people fighting on ground. In the meeting, lots of shocking revelations made by affected people. Participants from Jharkhand Shri Raju Rana revealed how public sector entities is making the mockery of system in Chatra district, where NTPC (National

Thermal Power Corporation) destroyed all the land documents of the farmers with the help of government officers to avoid protest and make it difficult for the villagers to claim their rights over the land. They are also forcing people not to oppose the project and threatening them with dire consequences. Shri Manoj Kundu from Jharkhand also share the same anguish where he lost his land and now he is running pillar to post to get the compensation of his land from Jindal's. Mr. Kundu compared the atrocities of Jindal's similar to the colonial era. Everyone got shocked when Milan Fidan from Chhattisgarh stated that his brother got killed to protect his land being grabbed by the companies, unfortunately he lost his brother and land both in this struggle.

One thing was very evident in this Koyla Raila that situation in all over the country in coal mine areas are same where thousands of them being displaced in the name of "development". Human rights abuses, ecological degradation, imbalance in biodiversity are also facing the acute pressure from mining. Affected communities experiences in Raila shown that coal mining industry is very gory.

In the meeting everyone unanimously vows to oppose new coal mines in their region. People showcased the potential that they are happy with agricultural produce. Because coal mining has entirely ruined thousands of families and present condition of Coal mine areas is very miserable. Meenakshi from Angul, Orissa said "we have full rights over our land and we will not give single inch land to companies. Indigenous tribes living in 5th schedule have its own culture and we will keep fighting to safeguard our rights, culture and forest." Affected communities also raised their concerned that situation is very volatile in the ground and constant threat from companies cannot be ignored. A detailed assessment of the impact due to coal mining in Tamnar will be very useful.

There were various suggestions made, Shri. Ashok Chowdhary from Gujarat suggested mobilizing the tribal communities all over the country and submitting memorandum to The Honorable President and The Governor to safeguard their rights and land. Shri K.V. Pratap who also came from mining areas of Andhra Pradesh took the example of Brazil where they are focusing more on alternatives like solar energy in compare to Coal whereas in Indian large portion of coal consumption is meant for



power generation. Situation of the people on the ground is terrible and after huge investment in power plant, still more than half of Indian population is forced to live in darkness.



According to R Sreedhar, Chairperson, mm&P “We have to bring youth together to strengthen our fights against the companies, because they are being easily lured .Meanwhile we have to keep fighting and active in our approach to protect our land. ”He further made reference

to recent judgment passed by Supreme Court, where in its judgment says that “Ownerships of Land vest with the land owner”.

Koyla Raila is the outburst of the people resistance who are tirelessly fighting for their rights over the land from crony capitalism. Gare Gaon which comes under the Tamnar tehsil is the focus of several companies for the purpose of the Coal mining. Jindal groups of companies are major stakeholder in the State of Chhattisgarh as well in Tamnar. Among all the companies who are in the race to acquire land from the farmers for the ‘coal’ which is beneath their land, JSPL topple their competitor when it comes to brutality in this region. Forced eviction, land grabbing, provoking the villagers, throwing hazardous material to Kelo River are few of them. Brutal attack on Shri.Agarwal is also shows the inhumane attitude of companies at cost of cost.

Koyla Raila will definitely boost the morale of people fighting for their rights on the ground. People came to Garegaon in solidarity to break the Koyla Kanoon. In coming days more Raila and events like this will take places in other parts of countries too like Jharkhand, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh etc to make the people aware about their rights over the land.

Basically, Koyla Raila gave platform to all the people from different states, affected communities, struggle groups to share their trauma, anger, frustration against coal mining and try to find better alternative to get rid of Coal.

## 2. *Meetings with Parliamentarians on Mining Issues*

The Executive Council of mm&P nominated Mr Ashok Shrimali (SETU, Ahmedabad) and Mr Santosh Upadhyaya (Bandi Adhikar Manch, Bihar) to coordinate the meetings and meet MPs along with local members of mm&P.

Over 40 MPs were met by the mm&P EC members and several of them by the Chairperson. Some of the former MPs and other who were appraised of the alliance and the concerns on the mining bill.

Most of the members were keen to understand the implications of the bill and sought the submissions made by mm&P to the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

A dossier comprising of the document prepared by mm&P, “Mining Matters” on the bill and an authorised reproduction of “Plunder and Profit”, a special issue of Frontline along with the documentary film “Curse of Karna” was given to every member.

Parliamentarians from various political parties attended the discussion on new and important legislations on Land, Forest and Mining on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at Constitution Club. A group of mm&P members also met Tribal Affairs Minister Dr.K C Deo.

Representatives of mm&P from across the country, members of civil society involved in natural resource issues and eminent leaders also attended the meeting and shared their views in front of the Parliamentarians. Issues of mining in 5th scheduled area, in depth interaction on PESA, Role and duties of Governor in the context of the Tribal Advisory Council and the Implications of judgments of Supreme Court were discussed.

The members raised their concerns and also assured that they will certainly take up the suggestions of mm&P and its alliance partners when the bill come up for discussion. They also suggested that we establish a more permanent and continuing mechanism to interact with them. The Key speakers included

Ali Anwar, MP (Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee Coal &Steel)

Kirit Solanki (BJP) MP, Ahmedabad

Arjun Ram Meghwal (BJP) MP, Bikaner

A V Swami, MP, BJD, Odisha

Pradeep Tamta (Congress) MP, Haridwar

Fagansinh Kulaste (President, BJP ST Morcha)

Dileep Singh Bhuria, Eminent Tribal leader, Ex -Chair Person of ST Commission, Government of India

Amarsingh Chaudhary, Ex- MP, Tribal leader, Congress, Gujarat.

### ***3. Child Focused Activities post Cloudbursts and Flood Disaster***

#### **Rudraprayag District**

In a disarrayed situation, the focus on child has been limited and is slowly developing. A preliminary dialogue was initiated with Space for Nurturing Creativity (SNC) based in Guptkashi, the preliminary aim of SNC being a centre which promotes self-learning and exploring the purpose of life of each individual. Currently, SNC is working with a number of aid organisations and helping in reaching out to the most vulnerable to provide aid. The centre currently supports some 30 children, aged from 6 to 18 years. A team of two persons mobilised by Environics was sent to Guptkashi to explore accompaniment and whether a message can be given in the form of prevalent media. This team consisted of multi skilled theatre activists using different forms of media like plays, puppetry, inspirational songs & music and important of all, engaging in a informal dialogue with children to assess the needs and how this interaction of 4-5 days can help them. To start with the following actions were done;

1. Introduction of each child with expressions that depict the behaviour like anger, laughter, smile, happiness. This was a phase to strike a chord with children and they enjoyed doing this
2. Another activity was to point their attention towards group participation, dramatics, reasoned & deep thinking. Each child was asked to perform any activity that comes to mind and the other children can ask questions, the continuity was maintained as a chain by asking questions and performing the actions on the answer.
3. Activity of body movement was introduced to allow children to freely select items from the natural surrounding and name them.

Based on the learning of these activities, a play was prepared by the children and directed by the two resource persons, the basic theme being about the issues of youth in the region focusing on migration, employment and psychological issues with the elderly back home.

The audience for the first screening was the 35 van panchayats (community foresters) of the Kedar and Kalimath valleys. Specific target on disaster was held for later stage as the children themselves thought it will require a careful start in such a situation. Many among them are working with other school children and youth in the region.

Currently, identification of those school children and youth is being done who require counseling or engagement in terms of addressing their & their family's sensitive issues. This will be transformed into residential or as is where is basis camps.

#### **Uttarkashi District**

The road between Maneri and Bhatwari is yet to be restored completely. The village of Aungi has been identified for establishing a study centre for children. The villagers are identifying a suitable location and responsibility for long term management.

## Dehradun District

The foothill village of Haripur Taungiya was badly affected there has been severe destruction of houses. One children's accompaniment and study centre is planned to be established this month and a long term action plan for resettlement and rehabilitation being worked out.

A survey was conducted to see the extent of damage and the support provided by the state. These communities on the edge of forests require support. Thirty one families have lost standing crops in the small holdings that they have, the maximum being six bighas (roughly 1.5 acres). The state support to this community has been minimal to non-existent as they are forest dwelling communities and their rights have still not been settled. Fifty-five families, who have suffered from damages to their houses, have not been given any support from the Government. Fifty eight families who also suffered damages, have been given a paltry assistance of Rs 1900.00

#### 4. Identification of Migrant workers from Nepal Affected by Uttarakhand Disaster

When it comes to the Char Dham Yatra, especially Kedarnath where the trek is some 14 kms, Nepalese porters, hoteliers, labour provide immense service to the pilgrims. None of the news covered the issue of missing / dead non-nationals. We initiated this task from Guptkashi itself, while doing so contacts with Nepal Embassy in Delhi were also established.

Verified List of Missing Persons Affected By Disaster In Uttarakhand (Source: Missing Cell, Govt of Uttarakhand)						
Sr No	State	Male	Female	Children	Total	Authenticated
1	Gujarat	50	75	4	129	Yes
2	Haryana	59	37	16	112	Yes
3	Andhra Pradesh	24	59	3	86	Yes
4	Bihar	34	24	0	58	Yes
5	Jharkhand	20	16	2	38	Yes
6	West Bengal	15	21	0	36	Yes
7	Orissa	11	10	4	25	Yes
8	Punjab	21	7	5	33	Yes
9	Chhattisgarh	15	12	1	28	Yes
10	Tamil Nadu	5	9	0	14	Yes
11	Karnataka	5	6	3	14	Yes
12	Jammu & Kashmir	2	1	0	3	Yes
13	Puducherry	1	0	0	1	Yes
14	Uttar Pradesh	1024	771	130	1925	Yes
15	Madhya Pradesh	551	431	50	1032	-
16	Rajasthan	249	220	34	503	-
17	Delhi	103	79	31	213	-
18	Maharashtra	70	76	22	168	-
19	Meghalaya	4	2	0	6	-
20	Chandigarh	2	1	1	4	-
21	Assam	0	1	0	1	-
22	Uttarakhand	646	37	168	851	Yes
	Total	2911	1895	474	5280	

The aspect of Portering in the Himalayas was explored by Environics in the year 1995, where it established through its survey about 6500 such porters and workers. The number now has definitely increased owing to the increased number of pilgrims after the formation of separate state of Uttarakhand. The Zilla Panchayat office of Rudraprayag which registers the mules and migrant workers was damaged during the June floods and all records have been swept away. However, we were able to establish contacts with road side eateries where these nepalese used to have food on credit and a register maintained for this purpose provided crucial leads. One of the members involved in this initiative is based locally whereas another member is working across

the border of Uttarakhand and Nepal.

Several CDOs equivalent to District Commissioner in our terminology have been contacted and they have upfront acknowledged this initiative and have deputed officers to cross check from villages in Nepal and prepare a list. We are hopeful that this missing element (porters - backbone of pilgrimage) will sensitise the governments on both sides and take corrective, remunerative and humanitarian steps to address the issue.

Official figures do not mention of any Nepalese as can be seen by the Government document.



## The Context

Uttarakhand witnessed unprecedented tragedy in June this year. Thousands of human lives were lost along with immense damage to property, livestock and livelihoods. Though the people and the state of Uttarakhand received sympathy and support for relief from across the world, the situation still remains complex. One report says that over 1200 children are missing in Rudraprayag district alone. Non -nationals, especially, those of Nepali origin, like workers, labourers, service providers (porters) are not in focus. There are thousands of Nepalis in Kedarnath and other places but nothing has been said about the loss to them. People from Rolpa, Dolpa and Dotiyal Districts in Nepal usually work during the Yatra period. There is a need to check out from the other side of the border about their status. Migrant labour in almost all development projects, especially in Hydro projects, lost lives but there is no count of these people. Their families back home may not even have any information about them and compensation is a far cry.

In this huge tragedy more than 5000 Nepali migrants who were there on the night of 15-16 June are believed to have either perished, or are missing ever since then, from the area of Gauri Kund/Guptakashi and Kedarnath of Garhwal region of the State. In order to get a first-hand account of the situation, it was decided to visit the area and meet the people concerned to get the fresh details of the happenings.

After a detailed discussion with R. Sreedhar, Managing Trustee, Environics Trust, who already had a fairly good idea about the plight of the migrants, their origins and destination etc., I left for Guptakashi to participate in a one day consultation on 'Van Panchayats' and after that planned to meet some Nepali migrants who had come down from Gourikund leaving all their belongings behind. Before leaving Delhi, I was also briefed by Mr Yadoo Kharel, counsellor serving at the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi who had already visited the area immediately after the incident and gave me some addresses of Nepali migrants at Guptakashi and Gourikund area. I took a break from the consultation and went to meet Mr Lakhpat Rana, Principal of Jackwin International Public school at Guptakashi. He had organized a meeting of Nepali migrants who had taken a shelter there after they were uprooted from Gaurikund. In fact, there was rumor that some Nepali migrants were caught red handed looting the ornaments of dead pilgrims at Gaurikund and Kedarnath region so they were very reluctant to meet me. However the Principal Mr Lakhpat Rana allayed their fears and then only they came forward to participate in the meeting. About 20 Nepali migrants turned up who informed us that some of their colleagues were perished at Gaurikund in front of their eyes on June 15-16, but as they belonged to different places back in Nepal, their exact addresses were not known to them. Next morning with the help of Semwal ji, we met some more Nepalis who were staying on the road side at Narayankoti near Guptakashi. Here also we faced the same problem as they knew perished migrants by faces but their exact addresses and family status were not known to them. However, the following names were mentioned in the meeting and it was decided to check their identities back in Nepal. The names came up are listed as below:

S.NO.	Name	Father's Name	Age	Address
1.	Inder Bahadur	Man Bahadur	18	Vill. Dogri, Distt. Bajura, Anchal Seti
2.	Bharat Bahadur	Inder Bahadur	18	Vill. Dogri, Distt. Bajura, Seti
3.	Mahesh Singh	Not known	28	Vill. Shukhad, Distt Kailali, Seti
4.	Pradeep	Not known	50	Vill. Dogri, Distt. Bajura, Seti
5.	Bir Bahadur Singh	Not known	25	Nepalganj, Bheri Anchal.
6.	Kal Bahadur Malla	Not known	23	Jazalpur
7.	Abhisai	Not known	25	Vill. Talegauon, Bheri Anchal
8.	Tul Singh	Not known	25	Vill. Shera, Bheri Anchal
9.	Kishor Nepali	Not known	32	Vill. Agra Bheria, Distt. Delhi
11.	Devi Prasad Gusain	Not known	45	Ran a hotel at Gaurikund
12.	Kesh Bahadu	Not known	40	Vill. Delekdhadhi, Bheri Anchal
13.	Dil Bahadur Thapa	Not known	35	Killed in Ukhimath area, address not known in Nepal.
14.	Rashmi Kemeta	Not known	32	Vill. Jharkanda, Ditt. Puthan, Rapti Anchal.
15.	Amar Bahadur	Rudra Bahadu	35	Vill. Guddukhata, Distt. Bajura
16.	Inder Bahadur	Man Bahadur	24	Bajura Distt. Seti

Apart from this they informed that as many as 60 Nepalese were perished in the area of Ukhimath hailing from Kalikot district in Nepal.

## Movement Across Border

Banbasa-Tanakpur is situated at tri-junction of the states of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in India and South-western region of Nepal. India serves as the bridge point between the two neighboring countries and not in the physical sense alone. The human settlements on either side are bridge communities in an anthropological sense.

Most of the people belong to the same local ethnic groups, the villages situated on either side of the border, are similar and belong to the same cultural pattern. There is a great deal of economic interaction between them. It used to be said before the onset of new economic policy of open market etc. that some Indians sneak into Nepal to buy some imported goods, and the Nepalese come to Banbasa/Tanakpur and other markets on the Indian side for buying essential goods, like salt, sugar, food grains, quilts and other winter clothing, medicines and health services etc.

Secondly, as the agriculture on the Indian side is dominated by large farms owned by 'gentlemen' farmers, they require a large amount of migrant labor at peak agricultural seasons especially and a large part of this demand is filled by the Nepali labor from the other side, generally female labour, including child labour, forming a large component. This is true of whole tarai (foot hill plains).

Thirdly, besides the agriculture, there is a large number of Nepalese labor, both juvenile and adult, male and female, working as porters, coolies, construction workers, domestic helps on this side. Indeed, the Dotial( referring to the Nepali district of Doti) and used as a generic term for the Nepali migrants into the border districts of Uttarakhand was a familiar figure in all towns e.g motor depots, passenger transit points etc. The present trend is that as the sons of the hill peasants in Uttarakhand leave agriculture and migrate to the plains for jobs, the Nepalese are seeping into the interior villages as contract farmers.

Fourthly, and no less importantly, **Banbasa-Tanakpur** serves as an important migration route from the Far Western Region of Nepal. The Far western region is poorly integrated with the capital region of the country, and is recognized as most backward, excepting a narrow elongated strip towards the south. It is mountainous and is highly migration prone. The labor class especially migrate not only to the immediate tarai or other parts of region of Uttarakhand but far beyond to Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh etc.

It is this stream of Nepalese population and bridge communities living on the Indian side that we feel concerned about.

### **Magnitude and Nature of Migration**

There are multiple, major and transit points between Far and Mid-Western Nepal and Uttarakhand of which the Mahendranagar-Banbasa route connected with highways on both sides, is most popular. There are two seasonal waves of migration of the labor, the summer and winter-however not the same set of people. It is estimated that approximately 60,000 people transited through Banbasa alone. Taking the other transit points into account it can be safely estimated that 1.5 lakh Nepali migrants maybe transiting through Banbasa border itself.

The summer season migration is reported to be as large, if not larger and it would add up to about 200000 people.

#### **Characteristics of the Migration**

- (i) Gender Composition: Men 90.48%, Women 09.52% predominantly male migration.
- (ii) Age: 15-35 years, 92.27%, 36-50 years 07.44 %, 50 years above 0.27%
- (iii) Social Sc. Incl. Tribal, 81.32%, upper castes 18.68%
- (iv) Type of work: Labour 96.53% , services and others 3.4%
- (v) Agency: Contractor 20.21%, Relatives 38.07% ,Self 41.72%

#### **Migration as process**

Migration is increasingly being seen as a process comprising 4 distinct stages: (i) Origin (including the socio-economic causes of migration), (ii) transit (iii) destination, the work environment/conditions of living and (iv) Return. Whereas mobility/migration maybe more of a coping up mechanism for the poor, it is an important dynamic of change also. It is the unsafe migration process that creates conditions of vulnerability.

It is the greatest challenge. It needs building bridges between the origin and the destination, coordinated working and walking on both legs. That is what will be attempted in the coming phase. On the optimistic side, the relevance of such an initiative is to be recognized on both sides.

On the basis of information collected at Guptakashi, and in order to confirm their identity and family status it was decided to visit Nepal especially Far Mid-Western Region from where mostly the labourers enter India through Babasa border of Uttarakhand.

### **In Nepal**

After getting back at Banbasa (Indo-Nepal Border) from Guptakashi, where Uttaranchal Development Institute(UDI) 's field center is located and very next day, we crossed the border to have a detailed discussion with the Chief District Officer (CDO) of Kanchanpur district of Mahakali Anchal. Though CDO Mr Parshu Ram Aryal, appreciated the efforts, could give only 6 names of the following migrants who had been killed in the tragedy and also promised to be in contact and would inform as soon as the district administration gets more names and information. The names recorded in the official list are as follows:

S.NO	Name of the deceased	Age	Place
1.	Sh. Tula Ram Bhatt	37	Haldukhali
2.	Sh. Suresh Kumar	18	Laxmipur
3.	Sh. Min Bahadur Singh	46	Derkatbhuli
4.	Sh. Sher Bahadur Khadka	32	Laxmipur
5.	Sh. Kala Ram Thugna	21	Laxmipur
6.	Sh. Deepak Singh Bhandari	29	Jhalari

But yet the decision has not been taken about the compensation to the families of the deceased and also FIR has not been lodged so far. May be lack of clarity or where the money is going to come from, could be the reason. The list drawn at Guptakashi, mostly the names appeared were from Bajura district of Seti Anchal. We planned our next visit to this district. Fortunately, CDO Kanchanpur sent his SP, intelligence Mr Om Joshi to accompany me to Bajura being a very interior and difficult area to visit. Mr Ashok Bikram Jaiu, President of NNSWA(Nepal National Social welfare Association) a prominent network at Kanchanpur also accompanied us. On the way, we met Mr B.P.

Lekhakh, CDO Kailali (Dhangarhi). Thanks to Mr Umid Bagchand, Chairman of Farwest Media Development Centre who already had arranged an appointment with Mr Lekhakh. He also said that the district has yet to receive any information about the migrants who had been killed in the tragedy. He expressed his willingness to fully cooperate with us and promised to send any information or updates his office received he would pass on to us. One name (Mahesh Singh) was on the list belonged to Kailali, but the address being incomplete, it was difficult to locate. Also, CDO told us that Nepali labourers change their real names, when they record at the work place ( as their village names do not sound that fashionable)

**At Bajura: Seti Anchal** The CDO was not available as he had gone to Kathmandu in connection with some work, with the help of his Deputy we went to Dogri village from where 6 victims were shown in the list. On checking in the village, it was found that 4 of them had safely joined their families, one was still missing and one was dead. But the FIR was still to be lodged. The four who returned, were not able to narrate this horrible experience. Every time, I asked them, they started crying.

**At Rukum: Rapti Anchal:** The CDO was very cooperative and gave a list of 13 labourers who either perished or are still missing in the Gaurikund and Kedarnath area. Chief District Officer promised to be in contact with us for further update in this regard:

S.No.	Name of the deceased	Next to kin (relative)	Status
1.	Lal Bahadur Bohra	Mr Chhavi Lal Bohra	dead
2.	Bhuparlas Oli	Mr Shansila Oli	dead
3.	Dinesh Binch	Mr Durga Bahadur Binch	dead
4.	Arjun V.K	Mr Tilsari V.K	missing
5.	Chander Bahadur	Mr Bir Bahadur Pun	missing
6.	Shashi Ram Khatri	Mr Shashila Khatri	dead
7.	Keshab Khadka	Mr Akkal Bahadur Khadka	dead
8.	Mishri Lal Khadka	Mr Akkal Bahadur Khadka	dead
9.	Rangvir Oli	Mr Bhadrakal Oli	dead
10.	Dhane Dangi	Ms. Bimla Dangi	dead
11.	Hira Bahadur Khadka	Ms. Kamala Bahadur khadka	dead
12.	Shashi Ram Pun	Ms. Belmati Pun	dead
13.	Ram Bahadur Bitalu	Ms. Bimala Bitalu	dead

But the CDO was not clear whether the families of the victims would get any compensation or not? It is true they were killed in the Indian territory, but to prove that, is not that easy!

In fact, our aim was to visit particularly the Far Mid-western Region where most of the migrants come from and cross over to Banbasa and get distributed to various places in India but mostly either to Uttarakhand or Himachal Pradesh. In the process, we contacted CDOs of nine districts of three Anchals, i.e. Mahakali, Seti and Bheri. All the CDOs i.e. **Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bajura, Rukum, Achham, Doti, Nepalganj, Bajhang and Betadi** told us that they have yet to receive the exact information about the killed migrants in the tragedy. Also due to multiple major and minor transit points, it is very difficult to estimate the exact numbers of migrants entering India. They will let us know immediately after Deepavali, when the exact numbers of migrants perished in the tragedy would be known to them.

#### Role of Civil Society Organizations

We are working very closely with some of the Civil Society organizations in Nepal. There are very few that are working exclusively on the issue of migration i.e. International Nepal Fellowship (INF), based at Nepalganj, Maiti Nepal based at Kathmandu, but have their centers in each districts and Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA), Kanchanpur and Farwest Media Development Center at Kailali (Dhangarhi). These organizations monitor outgoing migrants at the border, but unfortunately the way records are kept not sufficient to give the correct information about their origin and destination, even their names are not mentioned. The INF coordinator at Gaddha Chowki i.e. one of the transit points, pleaded with us that they come in a large groups under the instructions of their mates and always in a great hurry to catch the buses for their next destinations, so there is hardly any time to record their names, origin and destinations, so we are satisfied recording the numbers only and during the past three months, i.e. May, June, and July, 10371 people crossed over to Banbasa and all of them might have gone to Garhwal region of Uttarakhand. So this is the situation with all the screening agencies working at the Indo-Nepal border.

#### The Way Forward

Given the nature of relations between two countries, it brings out the need to focus on Safe Migration and the necessity of cooperation between Nepali and Indian civil society groups. It also points to some advocacy issues such as prejudice i.e. blaming each other between Nepal and Uttarakhand should be stopped and some joint events related to cross-border issues are to be organized.

2. We need to be in constant touch with CDOs of respective districts as (they have promised) for exact information about the migrants killed in this unprecedented tragedy.
3. The recently established Far Western University is also interested in developing close relations with us on this issue, as the 'migration' is going to remain forever. Probably, in the month of November, the University is organizing a two day workshop at Mahendranagar, for which we are likely to be invited.
4. To discuss the problems facing this exercise, and policy matters, we have sought an appointment with the Honorable Ambassador of Nepal in Delhi. Hopefully, some more issues and solutions would emerge from the discussion.
5. This is not the end, rather a beginning and let us hope to involve other actors too. The Indo-Nepal Joint Action Forum has been reactivated and a website [www.indonepal.net](http://www.indonepal.net) has been launched.

## ***5. Institutional Strengthening of Van Panchayats***

Van Panchayats in this region are more than a Century old community forestry institutions, almost 10,000 such panchayats exist. Despite the dedicate cadre of panchayat members, their role has been kept subdued by the overpowering forest department. The damage in the foothills where the forests and agricultural land of these Panchayats spread has gone unnoticed in the Kedar, Kalimath valleys. An initial dialogue was initiated with these Van Panchayats and many of them have been instrumental in rescuing and providing shelter to stranded pilgrims during June, like the Trijuginarayan Van Panchayat, which is across Sonprayag. These could become nodal centres of communication hubs from where the information is generated as a long term service to the region. It is beyond doubt that in the legislative business of the state, these institutions need strengthening to know the powers and functions delegated to them by which they can better protect, communicate and emerge as immediate response force.

On 5th September a meeting was held with all the Sarpanches of Van Panchayats from Kedar Valley participating in the dialogue and sharing experiences. They have also initiated efforts to identify local opportunities for livelihoods for the families who have lost their bread-winner. T

Currently, the voices are raised by individual Van Panchayats and during this meeting a proposal has been floated by them to get federated under the legal system and debate, discuss and decide about the future programme.

## ***6. Empowering Local Communities and CSO's in the Western Ghats in Using EIA Process as a Conservation Tool***

Greater awareness about the Environment Impact Assessment process among local communities and Civil Society Organizations to enable effective participation in environmental clearance processes for specific cases where biodiversity values and ecosystem services are compromised by proposed development projects. The value of 'Citizens Environment Impact Assessment' demonstrated as a practical tool for challenging currently planned destructive projects by regular of improper Environment Impact Assessment report on Scientific and Legal grounds. Increased capacity and confidence among local and grassroots Civil Society Organizations, to raise critical questions, obtain information under the Right to Information Act, and critique environmental clearance processes and Environment Impact Assessment reports.

Establishment of a new channel of communication between affected communities and the Government, in the form of a 'Western Ghats Environment Impact Assessment Cell', which will ensure that the issues related to Environment Impact Assessment's and concerns of the local communities are communicated to the relevant agencies (e.g. the Expert Advisory Committee and Forest Advisory Committees of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and the National Green Tribunal). Strengthened networks among local communities and Civil Society Organizations working to safeguard critical biodiversity against incompatible development projects. Observed shift in the paradigm of relevant government agencies of the necessity of Comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment (i.e. based on studies covering Four Seasons not only One as at present) for all mega projects. Regular dissemination of information about Environment Impact Assessment and other issues through the Western Ghats Environment Impact Assessment Cell's website and through electronic updates.

Greater coverage in local and national media of environmental clearance issues related to development projects in the Western Ghats. Appropriate mitigation strategies devised for selected development projects with existing environmental clearance through environmental audits.

1. Increase in number of groups raising concern about EIA related issues and specifically in raising concerns with respect to EIA report, public hearing proceedings and other related issues.
2. Greater collaboration among environmental, wildlife and social action groups on EIA issues.
3. Regular representations before Expert Appraisal Committee and State Level Expert Appraisal Authority with respect to proposed projects and its implication on people and the environment. The representation are based on critiques of EIA done by ERC.
4. Better information dissemination through electronic updates including analysis of forest land diversion and environment clearance.
5. Increased coverage of EIA issues in national and local media as a result of regular updates given by ERC field units.
6. Rapid response through field visit and photo documentation of violations of environment laws by the field units thereby preventing diversion of forest land.
7. Greater vigil on various authorities at the state and national level through use of RTI so as to ensure accountability and transparency.

Bringing about systematic reform in policy, law and practice is time consuming and the results are really visible in short time span. However, what is significant of ERC work is the fact that issues concerning environmental governance especially with respect to EIA and forest clearance were to a significant extent mainstreamed within the larger governance framework. Prior

to the work of ERC, the EIA and Forest Clearance related issues were rarely understood by local groups and individuals. The EIA process and the forest clearance process were too legalistic and technical for an average activist or NGO to be familiar about.

ERC plays the role to bridge the gap between the complex world of EIA and forest clearance and the concerns of the local affected people. The first task undertaken by ERC was effective collection followed by analysis of data and information. This was followed by an elaborate and detailed process of mapping areas which were mined and areas where industries and other projects had either been setup and proposed, further the time. These documents were the basis for seeking mandatory accumulative impact assessment before new projects are allowed to come up. The various capacity building programs greatly enhanced public knowledge with regard to the damaging consequences of such mindless developmental activities. The training programs as well as enhanced information dissemination coupled with legal understanding led to increased number of petitions / applications before the newly established National Green Tribunal. As a result of this intervention at multiple level, large scale destructive projects were not approved and long term studies initiated for other proposed projects. One of the most significant success of ERC's work has been the fact that groups in Western Ghats now know where to approach for EIA and Forest clearance related issues. Further, various civil society groups irrespective of their focus of work are now involved in some way or the other in environmental governance related issues.

## 7. *Providing medical, awareness and transport facility for Occupational disease affected workers.*

### **Background**

- *NCT Delhi is spread over an area of 1483 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population density of 11,297 persons per sq. km and its GDP (advanced estimates) for 2011-12 was estimated at Rs. 313933 Crores or Rs. 3139 billion.*
- *Less than 1 percent is contributed to the GDP by the primary sector whereas the majority contribution is from the tertiary sector (81.77%) followed by secondary sector (17.36%) which is largely manufacturing and finished products.*
- *As per economic census 2005, there were 100740 unorganised enterprises in Delhi (20 categories) out of which almost 15 can have impacts on occupational health given the fact that absence of good house-keeping, poor ventilation add to vulnerability from the manufacturing processes. These unorganized units provided employment to 4.81 lakh workers, of which females were merely 3.91%. The graph in annexure I gives manufacturing category wise employment figures. The largest employment was apparel, dying and dressing material (industry code 18, NIC two digit level)*
- *Out of total worker population of 55.87 lakhs, 34.78 lakh workers are engaged in non-agricultural activities in the state of Delhi.*
- *The two sectors i.e. manufacturing and construction have a total workforce of 14.62 lakh workers, 14.40 lakh and 0.22 lakh respectively (Labour Department, Delhi, these may be those registered with the board). In a reply to question no. 1480 on 2.12.2009 (Rajya Sabha), the number of construction workers in Delhi were 3,51,249.*
- *As of end of year 2008, there were 7921 factories working whereas the inspection rate has been minimal (134 factories inspected in 2006, examining 1638 workers).*
- *While construction is an ongoing activity in almost every city, the major impetus of real estate has been in the satellite towns of Gurgaon, Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad, Sonipat, Ghaziabad where migrant workers from several states also work for whom the sole motive is to earn wages for their families survival and they become a part of the money order economy.*
- *Though highly toxic, silica dust has no smell and offers no warning to the worker. It persists, in the workers of construction, stone crushing, mining, glass manufacturing etc by the long-term inhalation of invisible dust containing silica particles. They suffer disproportionately from undiagnosed and/or unattended chronic medical conditions due to a lack of continuity of care resulting from an unsafe working environment like presence of silica dust etc.*
- *While finished products find their market but workers are at the core of facing the brunt of inadequate or missing general and specific occupational health regime, the fact that majority of workers work in the informal sector, the issues of sustained livelihoods, healthcare, nutrition, medical aid, social security, education and awareness remain important elements for policy dialogue.*
- *While the industrial activities are expanding, the institutions involved in environment protection, workers welfare, factory registration, ensuring safety have a limited outreach and each one works for a particular aspect thereby creating a web of roles and responsibilities but a uniform policy keeping an informal vulnerable worker in focus is not comprehensively addressed.*

## *Programme Update*

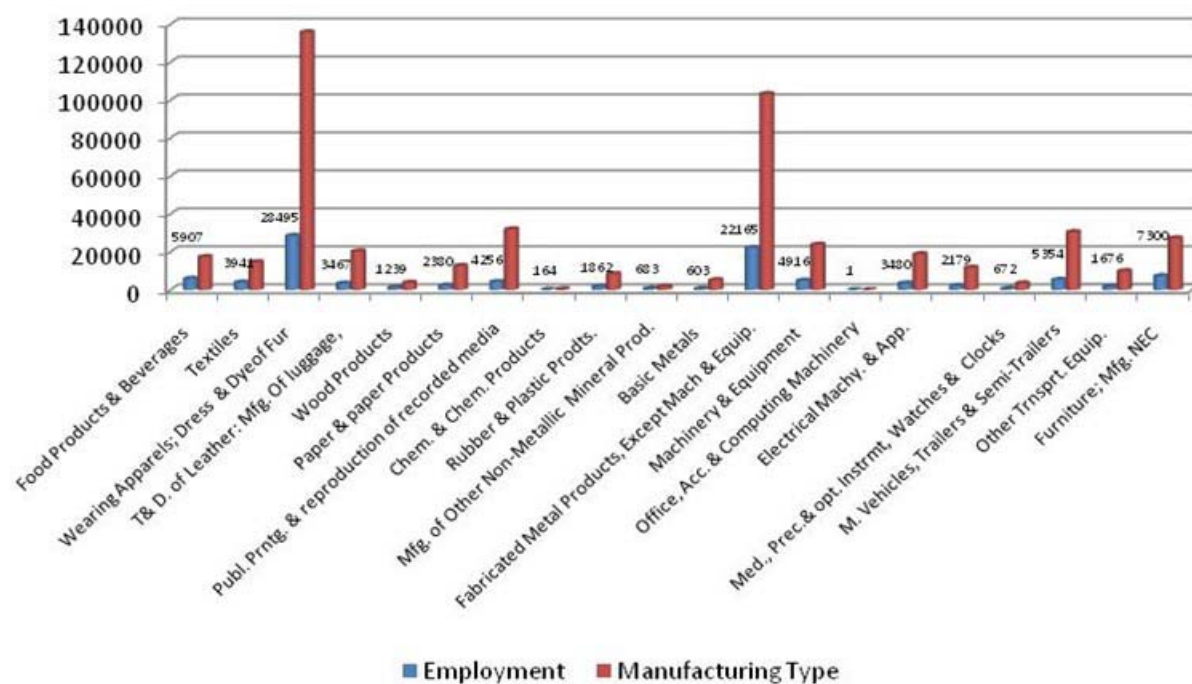
- That PRASAR through Environics Trust applied for GIA in 2007 regarding providing medical, awareness and transport facility for Occupational disease affected workers. That in 2013 (letter no. 660, dated 19.06.2013) DKS approved GIA amounting to Rs. 3,00,000 for Maruti Omni. Subsequent to the purchase of vehicle, areas were identified in Delhi region from the Master Plan 2021 as well as the areas where problems are known and to meet these communities of workers to share and interact with them on the issues of occupational health at work and other relatively correlated issues of workers' welfare.
- As part of the programme, the design was based on the premise that workers across the spectrum are covered and not limiting to Silicosis as occupational health and safety is a common factor. Few specific pockets (see table) of Construction Workers, Garment Workers, Solid Waste Workers and waste pickers were identified and visits were made to their localities.
- Due to limited GIA by DKS, Environics has enabled use of the vehicle for the time being and is trying for support from other networks and organizations as costs towards fuel, printing, film screening, driver, maintenance becomes an essential component for such kind of a programme. The presence of Silicosis Control Cell and foreseeing further programmatic support would enable specific tasks which meet the objectives of the cell.
- In the interim period, meetings were held with institutions (viz. Centre for Occupational and environmental health and St. Stephens Hospital were contacted) who are inclined towards occupational health and medical services and the focus of discussion was to work collectively to address the problem of occupational health. While the discussions were held, the process of working in common areas may take time due to workload of already designed activities of these institutions but regular interaction would be attempted.
- Environics Trust has produced a film called "Ghutan" through "Occupational and Environment Health Network of India (OEHNI)" and is also being screened at different localities alongwith other short films on Silicosis and occupational health and safety compiled by PRASAR. A bilingual leaflet is also being distributed among the workers in localities to know about the programme with brief overview of the occupational health sector.
- A bilingual pamphlet asking for attention of workers on occupational health, safety and provisions is prepared and being distributed among the workers and the initiative has been named as 'Workers Occupational, Environmental Mobile Health and Safety Centre'.
- PRASAR has successfully engaged the National Human Rights Commission in favor of setting up a national task force on silicosis besides deliberating on issues whether existing laws are adequate enough to address the issue of silicosis or a separate legislation to be framed to deal with the issue. The commission also emphasized on setting up of a national task force on silicosis, which can make recommendations on the issue to the Central/ State Government as the case may be.



Sector or Work Category	Localities identified	Localities Visited
Construction Workers	Snagam Vihar, Bhatti Mine, Bavan, Jaitpur, Harkesh Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Jhilmil, Seelampur, Mustafabad, Bhajanpura, Shastri Park, Shabaddairy, Rithala, Okhla, Lal Kuan, Nangloi, Kapashera, Karampura, Hari nagar, Metro and other major construction sites	Sangam Vihar, Harkesh Nagar, Mustafabad, Bhajanpura, Shastri Park, Shabad dairy, Rithala, Okhla, Lal Kuan
Safai Mazdoor (SWM workers including waste pickers)	Bhalswa, Ghazipur, Okhla, Shastri Park, Sangam Vihar, Shabad, Daultpur, Jagirpuri, Bawana, Badali, Bajanpura, Sadra, Seelampur, Bihari Colony, Haiderpur, Karampura, Hari nagar etc.	Ghazipur, Okhla, Shastri Park, Sangam Vihar, Shabad, Daultpur, Jagirpuri, Bawana, Badali,, Sadra, Seelampur, , Karampura, Hari nagar
Garment Workers	Okhla, Narayana, Badali, Jhilmil, Bawana, Lawrence Road Indl. Area, Wazirpur, Patparganj Indl. Area, Area near Rana Pratap Bagh, Govind Puri, kalka ji, Sangam Vihar, Badarpur, Khanpur, Mehroli, Kapashera, Bijwasan, Mahipalpur	Okhla, Badali, Jhilmil, Bawana, Lawrence Road Indl. Area, Wazirpur, Patparganj Indl. Area, Govind Puri, kalka ji, Sangam Vihar, Badarpur, Khanpur, Kapashera
Silicosis Affected Workers	Lal Kuan, Bhatti Mines and Metro and other major construction sites.	Lal Kuan, Bhatti Mines and Metro and other major construction sites.

### Suggestions:

- The next phase of the programme can involve more intense issue based benchmarking of workers in their respective localities as far as the activities are concerned but it is intrinsically linked to the financial resources we would be able to raise and certain moderations may take place.
- Workers do understand the risks of working in unsafe environment but have no other option to make a choice, unless they are federated and there are policies promoting welfare measures jointly worked out by the workers and establishments.
- While there are efforts to increase awareness among workers, it is to be supplemented by enabling grievance redressal and policy changes for which the Health and Labour department jointly prepare programmes to bring worker population in the service network.
- Due to limited GIA by DKS, Environics has enabled use of the vehicle for the time being and is trying for support from other networks and organizations as costs towards fuel, printing, film screening, driver, maintenance becomes an essential component for such kind of a programme. The presence of Silicosis Control Cell and foreseeing further programmatic support would enable specific tasks which meet the objectives of the cell.



Manufacturing Category Wise Employment (Figures indicate number of workers employed)



## 8. Occupational Health in Thermal Power Plants

A petition (Writ Petition (Civil) NO.79 OF 2005, filed by Occupational Safety and Health Association came up for final hearing in January 2014. The court observed, “Right to health i.e. right to live in a clean, hygienic and safe environment is a right flowing from Article 21. Clean surroundings lead to healthy body and healthy mind. But, unfortunately, for eking a livelihood and for national interest, many employees work in dangerous, risky and unhygienic environment. Right to live with human dignity enshrined in Article 21 derives its life breath from the Directive Principles of State Policy, particularly clauses (e) and (f) of Articles 39, 41 and 42. Those Articles include protection of health and strength of workers and just and humane conditions of work. Those are minimum requirements which must exist to enable a person to live with human dignity. Every State has an obligation and duty to provide at least the minimum condition ensuring human dignity. But when workers are engaged in such hazardous and risky jobs, then the responsibility and duty on the State is double-fold.

Occupational health and safety issues of CFTPPs are associated with thermal discharge, air and coal emission, fire hazards, explosion hazards etc. Dust emanates also contain free silica associated with silicosis, arsenic leading to skin and lung cancer, coal dust leading to black lung and the potential harmful substances. Necessity for constant supervision and to the drive to mitigate the harmful effects on the workers is of extreme importance.” Further, the court recorded, “We notice that CFTPPs are spread over various States in the country like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and so on, and it would not be practicable for this Court to examine whether CFTPPs are complying with safety standards and the rules and regulations relating to the health of the employees working in various CFTPPs throughout the country. We feel that these aspects could be better examined by the respective High Courts in whose jurisdiction these power plants are situated. The High Court should examine whether there is adequate and effective health delivery system in place and whether there is any evaluation of occupational health status of the workers. The High Court should also examine whether any effective medical treatment is meted out to them.” The court ordered:

“We, therefore, feel that it is appropriate to relegate it to the various High Courts to examine these issues with the assistance of the State Governments after calling for necessary Reports from the CFTPPs situated in their respective States.

For the said purpose, we are sending a copy of this Judgment to the Chief Secretaries of the respective States as well as Registrar Generals of the High Courts of the following States:

(a)	Uttar Pradesh	(b)	Chhattisgarh
(c)	Maharashtra	(d)	Andhra Pradesh
(e)	West Bengal	(f)	Madhya Pradesh
(g)	Bihar	(h)	Orissa
(i)	Haryana	(j)	Rajasthan
(k)	Punjab	(l)	Delhi/NCT Delhi
(m)	Gujarat	(n)	Karnataka
(o)	Kerala	(p)	Tamil Nadu
(q)	Jharkhand	(r)	Assam

Report of National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) titled Environment, Health and Safety Issues in Coal Fired Thermal Power Plants of the year 2011 may also be made available by the Secretary General of the Supreme Court to the Registrar Generals of the High Courts of the aforesaid States. **We make it clear that the Report is not at all comprehensive in certain aspects and the respective High Courts can examine the issues projected in this Judgment independently after calling for the reports about the CFTPPs functioning in their respective States. The Registrar Generals of High Courts of the aforesaid States should place this Judgment before the Chief Justices of the respective States so as to initiate suo moto proceedings in the larger interest of the workers working in CFTPPs in the respective States.”**

This judgement which relegates the issue to these High Courts demands presence in these courts and provide evidence for the Occupational Health and Environmental Compliance of these over 130 Thermal Power Projects. A strict enforcement of the rules and oversight can make it very difficult for the projects to continue in the current irresponsible manner.



## Enterprise Development and Servicing

### Mushroom Cultivation in Panna

Environics has introduced oyster mushroom cultivation in Panna and Chhatarpur Districts of Madhya Pradesh and in the initial phase the effort is to create a body of growers while enabling greater consumption at the household level itself. Some women have been able to raise some income and the maximum in a month so far earned by a single lady is Rs 2300.



In Village Umrahan on the periphery of the Panna Tiger Reserve

# Biodiversity Conservation India

Biodiversity Conservation India Pvt. Ltd. (BCIL) is an organisation that provides lifestyle solutions that focus on sustainable methods of creating zero energy homes that will not be a burden for the environment. Environics has been associated with the founding and mentoring of this flagship company.

BCIL recognises that every single project has to demonstrate possibilities of construction as well as management of energy, water and waste, in a way that regular builders can see the practical 'do-ability' of these sustainable methods, while at once being profitable.

## Mission & beliefs

### Mission

ZED makes homes that don't depend on the city for fresh water, managing waste and energy

ZED, as a group, goes beyond making homes – from providing solutions that inspire farmers, to products that make for game changing energy-saving in regular homes.

### Our Core Beliefs

We are Gandhian in our passion and pursuit. He said Aparigraha, or non-possession, had to be practiced by every employee, professional and businessperson. The creation of economic wealth is important, but the promoters of the business “should not take more than what is needed for a comfortable, but not extravagant, life”. At ZED, our purpose is to create social wealth with money being an instrument for bringing such change.

## SIX STRANDS

The Six Strands of Sustainability that weave through every project of ours.

**EARTH** - We avoid bricks, as they employ precious topsoil and use 400 degree Celsius energy. Instead, we use our approach to choice of materials for making homes that endure, that last, and bring comfort and aesthetic appeal.

**ENERGY** - ZED's zero energy work strategies are sensitive to 'embodied energy' and 'active energy' use on consumption.

**WATER** - ZED homes help residents manage their own water and waste water, with zero maintenance hassles. It reduces fresh water demand by a whopping 70 %, unparalleled in Indian homes.

**WASTE** - Every Zed campus ensures that Zed maintenance assumes responsibility for managing solid waste, wet waste, chemical waste, recyclable waste and every type of waste generated by homes and families.

**AIR** - We focus on passive and active cooling systems that are energy-efficient and ozone-friendly. Our Air-conditioners save 70 % energy, work on 5 amp, 2-pin plugs and cut energy bills sharply. ZED is working on ACs that will consume less energy than a ceiling fan! That's the future.

BIOMASS - We plant densely. It will help if you talk to them. They are living, breathing, just as you and I do. They cool the air around you. They absorb toxic emissions. They add calm and quiet to the neighbourhood. They add to the sweet scent of air.

#### SIX PRINCIPLES

Our Six Principles of Sustainability (CAFEET) – Cost, Aesthetics, Function, Ease of Execution, Environmental Health, and Time - are the foundations on which our activities rest.

COST - Always relative to what you are 'buying'.

AESTHETICS - Should gain acceptance among customers.

FUNCTION - Must serve the basic purpose and not be there for its own sake.

EASE OF EXECUTION - Skills and material resources must be available within a reasonable distance and time.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - Has to be resource-sensitive and/or bring social value. Architecture at Zed HOMES must adhere to its Six Strands approach, entailing management of all aspects that relate to them.

TIME - Else, the organisation fails as a delivery company.

What we do

Sustainable Communities - ZED Habitats

Over the last 17 years, we have pitted and proved ourselves against the highest green building standards in the world, campus after campus.

Nearly a thousand home-owners swear by the investment they made in our homes that are vibrant, architecturally unmatched and truly alive. There is a single game-changer that is common to all ZED Habitats: freedom from the city grid for water, waste and energy. The benefits these bring are incalculable - to you and to our cities.

Energy-efficient Appliances or Durables – Forest free Furniture – Solar Power

ZED's revolutionary range of appliances, durables and furniture transform the face of urban living.

ZED Air Conditioner - A product that is designed not just to give you phenomenal savings but also to redefine luxury and comfort.

Forestfree furniture - A luxury line of sustainable furniture to adorn your home, hotel and office with elegance. Every product is made of certified and sustainably harvested timber, with no nails and brads. Every joint is engineered to bond with wooden dowels and chemical-free bonding adhesives. The best part? Each piece of furniture we make is fully recyclable and will see a tree saved in a natural forest. The product line is just right for home furniture, office interiors, service apartments, hotels and hospitals.

ZED Sun - Solar energy solutions for homes and offices that's good for the planet and great for your pocket.

Excellence



Being a leader is daunting, for you have no precedence to follow. You have to reinvent design forms and plans. Awards, however, do count—in that they endorse the collective effort, and further inspire us to achieve more in our journey. . ZED is the holy grail of green in India – with 33 awards from 10 countries, 3 continents over 9 years. Here's a list of awards and recognitions that have come ZED's way over the year 2013

- 'Environment Friendly Project of The Year', North Bangalore.
- 'Most Environment Friendly Residential Project Award' at First NDTV Property Awards, New Delhi.
- 'CMO Asia Award', Singapore.
- 'World CSR Award'
- The distinguished 'Social Responsibility Award' conferred upon BCIL Chairman Dr. Hariharan at World CSR Congress Excellence & Leadership Awards, Mumbai.

# Communications

# 1. Voice of the Verbal: Steps towards Enabling technology

## Appropriation by Adivasis

Our long term goal was to create a vibrant, community owned and managed information network, accessible by even the poorest of the poor. We are making very good progress towards this end. We get more than 50 messages a day now mainly from the poorest areas of the country, raising their concerns and we release around 10 messages a day in 3 Swara platforms (up from 1) up from 2-3 a day a year before. More people are joining the platform and contributing, taking ownership. With their participation we now get one Impact story a week. This was one story a month when we started in Oct 2012.

Impact is possible when rural and urban activists join hand. Swara is working as a bridge between these two very important communities which is bringing hope in lower strata of society like adivasis by solving some of the problems.

In the medium term, this translates to the following:

- Introduce the concept of people's media being a powerful support for grassroots democracy across the different layers in society, especially the adivasis.

We have been successful in showing CGnet Swara as a model as there are many who are following us. We have trained organizations like Greenpeace on how to start their own platform based on Swara technology and same to various other communities like one in North East India. We have helped an organization working with Leprosy patients to start their own voice based platform.

- To operationalize and refine the tools and practices that facilitate grassroots media communication through field experimentation and engagement with the community through trainings and workshops at different levels.

Our technology team has developed a crowd source model of moderation where moderators sitting anywhere can edit Swara stories using their e mail. This is a democratic version of newsroom discovered many years ago. We are defining the newsroom by taking it to community using simple tools.

We have brought the cost of our server down from \$2000 to \$200. This way more communities will be able to use and own the platform. We are constantly working on bringing the costs further down and making the processes simpler.

Our short term goals are:

- Form alliances with tribal mass organizations and NGOs working in adivasi areas to understand their communication needs in bringing about socio-economic change and adapt Swara to meet them.

We are now doing joint workshops with like organizations like Ekta Parishad, mines minerals and People, Adivasi Sankshema Parishad and many more who work with adivasis.

- Create a group of dedicated moderators who will regularly engage with communities as well as the administration to act on the problems reported on Swara and so increase the visibility and effectiveness of the medium in supporting the grassroots struggles for socio-economic change.

We have trained more than 60 moderators who not only help us moderate the messages but they also follow up on stories and they are the main force behind increasing Impact stories.

We also need to look for sustainability for which linking our experiment to radio is very important. We also need to diversify in other thematic and language areas.

We are not seeing much scope for revenue generation in the field of news from remote areas, which we collect on Swara as we concentrate in media dark zones or the poorest of poor areas of the country. So diversion to thematic areas like health, education and agriculture is a very important extension which we would like to do in next six months.

#### A Swara workshop in progress



We are just embarking on those extensions. We have started Swasthya Swara. This platform is primarily to discuss the traditional health knowledge from forests in Central India. This way we will be able to connect tribal communities living in remote areas and their knowledge to mainstream India. This connectivity may also generate revenue for platforms like us who will work as a bridge.

There was a story in New York Times who also witnessed the start of Swasthya Swara.

[http://india.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/02/citizen-journalism-grows-in-indias-war-torn-tribal-belt/?\\_r=2](http://india.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/02/citizen-journalism-grows-in-indias-war-torn-tribal-belt/?_r=2)

Our past growth can also be measured by the number of calls we now receive. When we started in Oct 2013, we were getting 200-300 calls a day. Today we are getting more than 500 calls a day. In this year we have also diversified language wise.

## 2. HANDBOOK: HOW TO CLAIM RIGHT TO LAND AND RELATED RIGHTS?

A Handbook on how to claim rights with respect to land and other common resources has been evolved based on the pilot training programmes. The contents are given below:

### 1. Introduction

### 2. Important Terms

### 3. Understanding Land Rights

- What is Land and what are land rights?
- Formation of land laws: Historical perspective
- Sources of land rights
  - The Indian Constitution
  - Indian Statutes
  - Judicial Precedents

### 4. Central Legislations

- The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013
- Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
- The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
- Forest Conservation Act, 1988

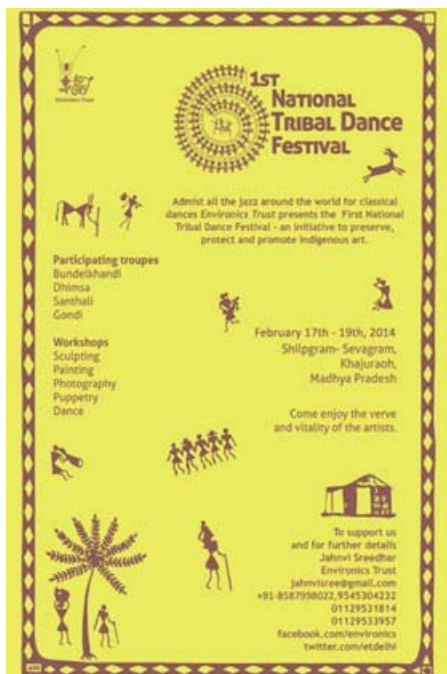
### 5. Legal Recourse

- Public Interest Litigation
- Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Authority
- National Green Tribunal

### 6. Who can you approach in case of violation of land rights?

### 3. First National Tribal Dance and Cultural Festival, Khajuraoh, Madhya Pradesh, India

#### Background



The National Tribal Dance and Cultural Festival is an initiative to preserve, protect and promote indigenous art forms across India. This event was conceived with the aim to support and provide exposure to ethnic groups spread across the mining belt of India.

#### Procedure

Environics Trust through its network of partner organisations called for participation of troupes from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Having got an overwhelming response we shortlisted the troupes based on team size, art form and level of exposure. We concentrated on groups, which had little or no exposure in terms of a stage and outside audience.

A team of creative individuals inclined towards larger social change, volunteered as curators who conducted workshops on their area of expertise.

#### The Event

This two and a half day event revolved around twin tasks, performance by each team in the evening while mornings and day-time were about workshops, practice and discussions with the participants.

#### Why did we take this route?

Environics Trust has been working in the Tribal belt for over a decade, with people affected by mining through 'mines minerals and People' (mm&P) alliance. The alliance has focused on the hardships and fatalities resulting from mining and related activity. It has been noted, along with grave environmental and human rights violations, mining and related activities slowly erode cultural existence. Thus came the idea of working towards preserving the indigenous cultures through this manner of celebrating the roots. Dance and music trace their origin into oral tradition, therefore the ideal way to carry them forward is through celebration of the art form itself.

Through this initiative we hope to create an annual event supporting the campaigns to protect and promote Indigenous cultures and rights in India and internationally.

Participating Teams	
Residence	Dance Form
Sukma District, Chhattisgarh	Rano Bela re
Kondagaon, Chattisgarh	Karma, Dadriya, Jhrpat, Paargi
Kondagoan, Chattisgarh	Mandri and Danda
Dindori District, Madhya Pradesh -	Gudum Baja
Dindori District, Madhya Pradesh	Gondi and Sela Karma
Bundelkhand, Madhya Pradesh	Dance form Divari
Malkangiri District, Odisha	Bonda and Dhimsa

Curators:

Fern York is an artist cum activist from Newcastle, Australia. She extended her selfless support towards the festival by conducting a colour mixing and painting workshop and helping in documentation of the event. She also held an exclusive workshop for children in a local 'adivasi' school which involved cartoon making and sketching. Selected works by the participants found place in her following exhibition in the Nepal- the Pattan Art Gallery. Currently a resident artist at Newcastle Community Arts Center she has been instrumental in advocating various social and environmental justice movements in her hometown. Fern encourages and uses sustainable materials in her work, includes handmade mulberry bark paper.

Ramlal Bhatt, a fourth generation puppeteer from Rajasthan. Over the last two decades he and his wife have been working on social issues and rising awareness through puppets and their one act plays. Water, Soil and Air have been their key focus areas. Their organisation, Sanchar Jan Chetna has been a close associate of Environics since inception. He held a captivating puppet making workshop in which he spoke about the nuances of the five different kinds of puppets and their making- String puppet, Hand- Puppet, Stick- Puppet, Finger- Puppet and Shadow Puppet. Bhatt also extended his support not just as a curator but also as a mentor to various teams.

P Madhavan, Photographer, Founder of Goa – Centre for Alternative Photography (Goa-CAP) volunteered to be part of this maiden venture almost instantly. A teacher, mentor and a passionate social activist shared his documentary work (photos) on mining and the coverage of Tamil Nadu elections through the Pin-hole camera. During which he spoke about the importance of pictures as evergreen and low cost way of documentation of one's work. Madhavan held a workshop on making of the Pin-Hole camera with the waste material, which intensely engaged all the participants.

During the course of discussion various avenues of working together with painting, puppets and photography emerged, on how these elements could be used as props in dances and how dance could act as muse to each one.

CGnet Swara: The festival also witnessed the launch of Cultural Sawra, which would be an exclusive channel for tribal songs and cultural discourses across. There were live recordings and airing of Gond songs during the day. Shubrashnu Chaudhary, Founder of the mobile radio portal, CGnet Swara was one of our well-wishers.

Gudum Baja:

Is among the most popular Tribal dance form of Madhya Pradesh in urban centers. However, these performers who had come from Dindori District of the Dhula community told us during discussions that how this dance form is being exploited and the aesthetics of it is getting lost. The district along with Mandla, Anupur, Umariya lies in the Narmada river basin belt, which has been gravely affected by environmental degradation.

This dance form is highly energetic where men play the gudum Drum is a fast paced rhythmic routine along with gymnastic like acts. They have an elaborate and bright costume adorned with bells and shells. The origin of the dance form goes at least a thousand years during the rein of Gond Kings. During that period this practice played a significant role at time of war, however as the rein came to an end these practices got absorbed into ritualistic practices of Baiga and Gond Tribes.

Sela- Karma:



This practice took form of a dance as the society began to evolve from being a hunter-gather. This practice of the Gond and Baiga tribes has a chain of dancers together striking sticks in the air and ground. This was a ritualistic practice undertaken prior to communal hunting which later got absorbed as a form dance form in the community.

Divari:

Is a popular folk form of dance of the Bundelkhand District was also a part of day one's showcase.

Rano Bela re:

Is a theatrical presentation of the various tribal practices of the Sukma Tribe. Sukma, over the last few years has been nucleus of various Naxal and Government brawls in the state of Chattisgarh. Despite various hardships this team of 19 participants took all possible modes of transport to be a part of this festival

Bonda:

Among the oldest Tribes in the world, they speak an Austro-Asiatic language and come across as fiercely independent people. They have changed very little from their existence, which dates back atleast a thousand years. There is a very thin line between audience and participants in their particular dance form. A great amount of detail goes into their costume and dressing- pure silver jewelry with heavy anklets. They sing and hum their beats while dancing. Mostly dance celebrations go on for the entire night as the tempo and rhythm picks up, however for the festival they kept a 45min act, which is just a glimpse of the entire show.

Dhimsa:

Dhimsa dance is a dance of young and old, men and women of Valmiki, Bagata, Khond and Kotia tribes living in the enchanting Araku Valley in the hilly tracts of Vishakhapatam district. During the festivals dancers of one village visit the other to participate in the dance and join the community feast. Such dances are known as "Sankidi Kelbar". The unique feature of Dhimsa dance is that it channelises friendship and fraternity between the people of different villages. This being traditionally a tribal dance, the women folk attired in typical tribal dress and ornaments dance in group to the tune of Mori, Kiridi, Tudumu, Dappu and Jodukommulu.

Other dance forms that were presented were Dadriya, Mandari, Paargi, Danda and Jharpat. These dances are particularly long and most festive activities carry on for a few days non-stop, thus the way in which they are performed are extremely intimate and close knit rather than a public performance scale. Also we were told that how in these practices there is hardly any difference between the performers and audience however with changing times only a certain number of people in the tribe seem to continue the art forms while the younger generations are moving away from it.

Way Forward:

Promotion of art and culture has been Environics Trust's oldest objective, thus through this event and gradually series of such events we aim to help create a guild of artists.

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without cultural inclusion. Community development through empowering people at grass root level has been our way of working since inception and we relentlessly follow.

We aim to travel the length and breadth of the country with this festival so as to make it as inclusive as possible, identify endangered ethnic groups and evolve ways in which their cultural identity can be conserved.

#### Challenges:

Our major challenge was to garner financial support for the venture.

Also being a cultural event technical support in terms of light sound and set design were the areas we lacked expertise.

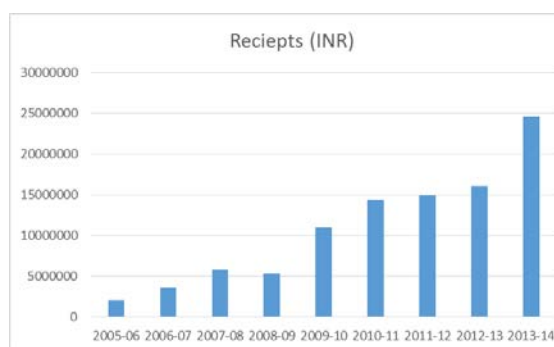
#### Our Learnings

Being a land of rich cultural heritage there are various art forms that India encapsulates. However, it is sad to note that like various regional dialects and literature- art forms too are experiencing a slow painful death. Dance is an all-inclusive form of story-telling, which engages both visual and performing arts. Stories from folklore are represented set to traditional music and thereby lending itself to sculpting and painting thus it would be appropriate to address to such an audience.

There is a lot of enthusiasm among the community and people at large. We at Environics Trust believe that it is extremely essential keep up with this festival in order to continue to promote the lesser known art forms to save them from extinction. We also aspire to facilitate the creation of an artist forum within the tribal community, which would further help the art forms to stay intact and grow.

## Organisational Information

*Environics anchors several networks and partnerships. Environics is a co-founder and promoter of the mines minerals and PEOPLE alliance (mm&P), the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), the EIA Resource and Response Centre (eRc) and the Occupational and Environmental Health Network of India (OEHNI). Environics promotes and mentors environmentally sound enterprises and among these is the Biodiversity Conservation India Limited (BCIL), the largest Sustainable Built environment enterprise in India. Environics provides research and evaluatory services to International, National, State and Local Institutions. Environics works directly with marginalised communities such as those in the mountain regions, tribals and communities adversely affected by mining and industrialisation. Environics utilizes various forums and platforms including the CGNet platform to reach out to communities. Environics is an observer member of UNFCCC; Founder Members of the Editorial Board of the world's largest community and mining portal [www.minesandcommunities.org](http://www.minesandcommunities.org) and a member of the Asian TNC Research Network. Environics is currently co-hosts the Secretariat for The Access Initiative Coalition (TAI), mm&P, and coordinates the work of OEHNI. All Statutory Documents of Environics are available at <http://www.environicsindia.in/en/about/statutory.html>.*



*Environics Trust has over the past decade cumulatively invested nearly 100 million INR in the pursuit of these objectives. These resources have been made available by a number of agencies within the country and abroad. The ability to work with a variety of organisations and marginalised communities and core skills in several areas provide a diversity of opportunities to explore and innovate.*

These opportunities and the relationships with a vast community of people across the nation and with marginalised communities in other parts of the world need to be fostered and several new innovations need to be tested on ground. Further as we go forward in our second decade a numerous efforts are required to meet the challenges of a growing population and unmet needs.

This calls for greater inputs of skills, techniques and technologies and financial resources in an exponential manner to scale up the learnings over the decade. Over this period we have established relationships with several donors and partners whose contribution we acknowledge with gratitude as we could not have reached this healthy situation.

ENVIRONICS TRUST			
Receipt & Payment Account for the period 01st April 2013 to 31 st March 2014 for the year ended 31st March 2014			
RECEIPT	Amount	PAYMENT	Amount
<b>Opening Balance:-</b>		<b>Administration &amp; Office Expenses:-</b>	
Cash In Hand	223.00	Documentation	90000.00
<b>Cash at bank</b>		Meeting and Events	262563.00
ICICI Bank A/C 017101006263	184166.43	Travel & Perdiems	65771.85
ICICI Bank A/C 017101006864	2765609.69	Insurance	16390.00
Project Advance	102764.97	Audit Fees	58427.00
IBAS	739924.95	Assets	42725.00
<b>Grants</b>		Vehicle Cost	300000.00
The Duleep Maitthai Foudation	1200000.00	Bank Charges	224.72
Delhi Kalyan Samiti	300000.00	<b>FCRA PAYMENTS</b>	
Membership/Subscriptions	13649.00	Asia Monitoring Resource Centre	460496.85
Bank Interest	256940.00	Centre for Study of Public (POI)	1128694.38
<b>FCRA RECEIPTS</b>		Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund-	1034251.28
Asia Monitoring Resource Centre	503950.43	Conservation International	
Centre for Study of Public (POI)- IBAS	390217.10	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	1180979.00
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund-	1032733.36	Oxfam India	1921053.00
Conservation International		HIVOS	5375315.48
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	5373000.00	Global Green Grants	530138.10
Oxfam India	2504000.00	Laya Resource Centre	182000.00
HIVOS	2890870.38	Integrated Development for Weaker	1450000.00
Global Green Grants	656030.00	Sections of India-IRDWSI	
Laya Resource Centre	182000.00	Foundation for Ecological Security	175000.00
Integrated Rural Development for Weaker	1450000.00	European Climate Fund	3538000.00
European Climate Fund	3538000.00	Cash in Hand	
Foundation for Ecological security	456400.00	Cash at Bank	
		ICICI Bank A/c 017101006263	1044920.86
		ICICI Bank A/c 017101006864	5683528.79
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24540479.31</b>		<b>24540479.31</b>

Place: New Delhi  
29.09.2014

For ENVIRONICS TRUST  
- Sd -  
R.Sreedhar  
(Managing Trustee)

For B. RATTAN & ASSOCIATES  
- Sd -  
B.K. Karn  
Chartered Accountant , Partner  
Membership No. 094790

Note: The FORM FC-6 and Balance Sheet for the Year 2013-2014 is available at the link.  
<http://www.environicsindia.in/en/about/statutory.html>

## Partners and Donors

1. Aga Khan Planning and Building Services
2. Amnesty International
3. Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environmental Victims (ANROEV)
4. Asia Monitor Resource Centre
5. Asian Transnational Corporation Monitoring Network (ATNC)
6. BeSharp
7. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
8. Biodiversity Conservation India Ltd. (BCIL)
9. Centre for Workers Education
10. Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
11. Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)
12. Cohesion Foundation
13. Cgnet Swara
14. CIRCA
15. Duleep Matthai Foundation
16. Delhi Kalyan Samithi
17. EIA Resource and Response centre (eRc)
18. Equations
19. European Climate Foundation
20. Evidence and Lessons from Latin America (ELLA)
21. Foundation for Ecological Security
22. Global Greengrants Fund
23. Goa-CAP (Goa Center for Alternative Photography)
24. Greenpeace India
25. HCFC
26. Himalaya Andolan
27. Himalayan Information and Knowledge Exchange (HIKE)
28. Himalaya Niti Abhiyan (HNA)
29. Hivos
30. Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC)
31. Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS)
32. Indo-Nepal Joint Action Forum
33. Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation
34. Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement for Debt and Development
35. Keystone
36. Legal Initiatives for Forests and Environment (LIFE)
37. MAC: Mines and Communities
38. mines, minerals and PEOPLE (mm&P)
39. Mine Labour Protection Campaign (MLPC)
40. Ministry of Water Resources
41. National Tiger Conservation Authority
42. Occupational and Environmental Health Network of India (OEHNI)
43. Oxfam India
44. PEACE
45. INSAF
46. Peace Trust - Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan
47. Prakriti
48. SAMATA
49. Setu - Centre for Social Knowledge and Action
51. Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD)
52. Terre des hommes (TDH)
53. [www.childrensrightsindia.org](http://www.childrensrightsindia.org)
54. The Access Initiative (TAI)
55. The Asia Foundation
56. Uttaranchal Development Institute (UDI)
57. Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board
58. Water Beyond Borders
59. World Bank - Non-Lending Technical Assistance

## Tracking tool for systematically monitoring the impact of Environics Trust on civil society development

### TRACKING TOOL

This tracking tool is an adaptation tool is designed to enable use by all types of civil society organisation that Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) makes grants to and was intended to be applied on a periodic basis by organisations receiving CEPF funding such as NGOs, community-based organisations, academic institutions, etc. Environics Trust found the tool non-invasive and informative and has been using the tool to periodically evaluate itself.

*What are the limitations to the tracking tool?*

The tracking tool is designed to provide a robust means of monitoring changes in the organisational capacity of individual civil society organisations over time. A caveat must be placed on any inter-organisational comparisons made using the tool, however, because the scores for all indicators are given equal weight, while they are not necessarily of equivalent significance. In addition, scores are not necessarily applied consistently by individuals at different organisations. Another limitation to the tracking tool is that it uses a relatively short list of indicators, selected because of the insights they provide to CEPF management, Regional Implementation Teams and donor partners. As a result, while using the tool can be expected to provide civil society organisations with insights into which broad areas of capacity should be prioritised for strengthening, it is not a substitute for the more detailed organisational capacity assessment tools developed by other organisations.

*How should the tracking tool be used?*

The tracking tool is designed to enable self-assessment by a small group of the organisation's staff and/or board members, selected to represent the variation in roles and responsibilities that exists within the organisation. In order to enhance standardisation among organisations using the tool, it may be advisable to use a facilitator the first time that the tool is used by an organisation. In addition, it may be necessary to translate the tool into local languages.

The tracking tool consists of two forms: (i) a datasheet, which records basic information on the organisation and the assessment; and (ii) an assessment form, which records the results of the assessment. The assessment form comprises five sets of five indicators, each scored from 0 to 4. Combined, these indicators give a score between 0 and 20 for each of the five factors, and an overall score between 0 and 100 for the capacity of the organisation to effectively plan, implement and evaluate conservation actions.

It is important that the group gives a score for all indicators. For most indicators, the group conducting the assessment is asked to select, from five options, the statement that best describes the situation within the organisation in a particular regard (e.g. governance, diversity of funding sources, etc.). For statements with multiple conditions (e.g. "The organisation has a defined organisational structure with clear lines of authority and responsibility. Job descriptions exist for all staff positions"), the group should only select the statement if all of these conditions are met; otherwise, it should select a statement with a lower score. For two indicators, the group is asked to review a list of eight statements and to mark all of those that are true; half a point is given for each true statement, producing a score from 0 to 4. A notes box is provided for each indicator, to give the group an opportunity to provide a justification for any qualitative assessments made, or to comment on any difficulties encountered in applying the indicators.

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY TRACKING TOOL - PART I: DATASHEET

Basic information	
Name of organisation	Environics Trust
Type of organisation (NGO, CBO, academic, etc.)	NGO
Number of years in operation	10
Date of assessment	April 2014
Name(s) of facilitator(s)	Organisation and position
1.R.Sreedhar	Managing Trustee
Names of assessment group	Position within organisation
1.Nishant Alag	President and Trustee
2.S.Vanitha	Director
3. Mohit Gupta	Information Systems Incharge

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY TRACKING TOOL - PART II: ASSESSMENT FORM

Indicator	Criteria	Score	Notes
<b>1. Human resources</b>			
<b>1.1 Staff numbers</b>  Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	There are no paid staff	0	3
	Staff numbers are so low that they are a serious impediment to the effective functioning of the organisation	1	
	Staff numbers are below the level required for the effective delivery of the organisation's mission but not so low that they are a serious impediment to the effective functioning of the organisation	2	
	Staff numbers are sufficient for the effective delivery of the organisation's mission. At least 60% of staff are project staff or otherwise on short-term contracts	3	
	Staff numbers are sufficient for the effective delivery of the organisation's mission. Less than 60% of staff are project staff or otherwise on short-term contracts	4	
<b>1.2 Staff experience</b>  How many years of combined experience relevant to their positions do the staff of the organisation have?	Less than 10 years	0	4
	10 to 50 years	1	
	51 to 100 years	2	
	101 to 200 years	3	
	More than 200 years	4	
<b>1.3 Staff skills</b>  Which of the following skills can be demonstrated (in terms of graduate-level qualifications or at least two year's practical experience) by the organisation's staff?  <i>Note: 0.5 point for each</i>	Ability to manage the implementation of projects	0.5	4
	Ability to manage an organisation	0.5	
	Ability to set priorities for community based action	0.5	
	Ability to conduct a participatory appraisal with local stakeholders	0.5	
	Ability to conduct surveys/research with relevant applications	0.5	
	Ability to develop a Geographical Information System (GIS)	0.5	
	Ability to communicate conservation and development messages	0.5	
	Ability to advocate changes to public policy	0.5	



Indicator	Criteria	Score	Notes
<b>1.4 Human resources development</b>  Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	The organisation has no human resources development strategy, and provides no mentoring or training for its staff	0	2
	The organisation has no human resources development strategy, a few staff are provided with some mentoring or training on an opportunistic basis	1	
	A human development strategy is in place, and the organisation provides occasional (at least annual) mentoring or training for most of its staff	2	
	A human development strategy is in place, the organisation budgets resources for it, and most of its staff receive regular (at least semi-annual) mentoring or training in skill areas relevant to their positions	3	
	A human development strategy is in place, the organisation budgets resources for it and actively fundraises for them, and all staff receive regular (at least semi-annual), targeted mentoring or training in skill areas relevant to their positions in accordance with annual performance appraisals	4	
<b>1.5 Volunteers</b>  Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	The organisation does not currently have any volunteers	0	2
	The organisation has one or more volunteers but they do not have clearly defined terms of reference (TORs) or workplans	1	
	The organisation has one to four volunteers with clearly defined TORs and workplans	2	
	The organisation has at least five volunteers with clearly defined TORs and workplans	3	
	The organisation has at least five volunteers with clearly defined TORs and workplans, and receiving structured training/mentoring from other staff	4	
<b>2. Financial resources</b>			
<b>2.1 Total financial resources</b>  Which statement best describes the financial resources of the organisation?	The organisation has no secured financial resources	0	3
	Secured financial resources are so low that they are a serious impediment to the effective functioning of the organisation	1	
	Secured financial resources are below the level required for the effective delivery of the organisation's mission but not so low that they become a serious impediment to the effective functioning of the organisation	2	
	Secured financial resources are sufficient for the effective delivery of the organisation's mission in the short term (one to two years) but sufficient funding to meet medium-term (three to five years) costs has not been secured	3	
	Secured financial resources are sufficient for the effective delivery of the organisation's mission in the short-to-medium term (one to five years)	4	
<b>2.2 Diversity of funding sources</b>  Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	All of the organisation's funding comes from a single source	0	3
	The organisation's funding comes from at least two sources but a single source accounts for more than 80%	1	
	The organisation's funding comes from at least three sources, with no one source providing more than 60%	2	
	The organisation's funding comes from at least five sources, with no one source providing more than 40%	3	
	The organisation's funding comes from at least 10 sources, with no one source providing more than 20%	4	
<b>2.3 Fundraising capacity</b>  Which statement best describes the fundraising capacity of the organisation?	The organisation is unable to prepare project proposals without significant external assistance	0	3
	The organisation is able to prepare project proposals with realistic goals and objectives but requires significant external assistance to formulate measurable indicators and develop logical frameworks	1	
	The organisation is able to prepare project proposals with realistic goals and objectives and measurable indicators but requires significant external assistance to develop logical frameworks	2	
	The organisation is able to prepare project proposals with realistic goals and objectives, measurable indicators and well developed logical frameworks but has limited capacity to respond to tenders	3	
	The organisation is able to prepare project proposals with realistic goals and objectives, measurable indicators and well developed logical frameworks, and has responded to and won many tenders	4	
<b>2.4 Sustainability strategy</b>  Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	The organisation has not begun to develop any sustainable financing strategy	0	1
	The organisation has developed or is in the process of developing a sustainable financing strategy but has not taken any steps to implement it	1	
	The organisation has adopted a sustainable financing strategy and has begun to develop at least one long-term financing mechanism (e.g. endowment fund, real estate, commercial enterprise, etc.)	2	
	The organisation has adopted a sustainable financing strategy and has developed at least one long-term financing mechanism but this mechanism currently accounts for less than 10% of the organisation's annual income	3	

Indicator	Criteria	Score	Notes
	The organisation has adopted a sustainable financing strategy and has developed at least one long-term financing mechanism, which accounts for at least 10% of the organisation's annual income	4	
<b>2.5 Organisational profile</b>	The organisation is little known beyond its direct partners	0	3
Which statement best describes the profile of the organisation?	The organisation is well known among civil society organisations in the country/ies where it operates but it has a low profile among the general public, government, donor agencies and the private sector	1	
	The organisation has regular contact with decision makers in government, donor agencies and the private sector, and has implemented some activities to raise its profile among the general public	2	
	The organisation is well known among decision makers in government, donor agencies and the private sector, and is often approached by them to collaborate on conservation initiatives or develop proposals for conservation projects, and has a high profile among the general public	3	
	The organisation is well known among decision makers in government, donor agencies and the private sector, and is often approached by them to collaborate on conservation initiatives or develop proposals for conservation projects, has a high profile among the general public, and has a membership base among private citizens, totalling at least 3,000 members	4	
<b>3. Management systems</b>			
<b>3.1 Organisational structure</b>	The organisation has no clearly defined organisational structure and lines of authority and responsibility are not clearly defined. No job descriptions exist for staff	0	2
Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	The organisation has a defined organisational structure but lines of authority remain unclear and authority tends to be exercised by one or a few individuals. Job descriptions exist for some staff positions but these are rarely developed prior to recruitment	1	
	The organisation has a defined organisational structure with clear lines of authority and responsibility. Job descriptions exist for all staff positions	2	
	The organisation has a defined organisational structure with clear lines of authority and responsibility. Job descriptions exist for all staff positions, and are regularly reviewed and updated during staff appraisals and/or performance reviews. Staff are recruited according to job descriptions	3	
	The organisation has a defined organisational structure with clear lines of authority and responsibility. Job descriptions exist for all staff positions, and are regularly reviewed and updated during staff appraisals and/or performance reviews. Staff are recruited according to job descriptions and following a recruitment policy	4	
<b>3.2 Administration procedures</b>	Mechanism to monitor/control the use of supplies	0.5	2
Which of the following administration/personnel management procedures are in place at the organisation and consistently observed by staff?  <i>Note: 0.5 point for each</i>	Mechanism to monitor/control the movement of vehicles	0.5	
	Equipment inventory	0.5	
	Procurement policy	0.5	
	Leave and public holidays policy	0.5	
	Travel expenses policy	0.5	
	Disciplinary and complaints procedures	0.5	
	Standard operating manual	0.5	
<b>3.3 Financial management</b>	Records of expenditure are not kept for projects	0	4
Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	Records of expenditure are kept for projects but the expenses of all individual line items never remain within 20% of the agreed budget	1	
	Records of expenditure are kept for projects but the expenses of all individual line items remain within 20% of the agreed budget less than half of the time	2	
	Records of expenditure are kept for projects and the expenses of all individual line items remain within 20% of the agreed budget more than half of the time	3	
	Records of expenditure are kept for projects and the expenses of all individual line items always remain within 20% of the agreed budget	4	
<b>3.4 Monitoring and evaluation</b>	The organisation makes no attempt to monitor or evaluate the impact of its projects	0	3
Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	External evaluations of the organisation's projects are undertaken occasionally, usually at the request of donors	1	
	The organisation regularly monitors and evaluates the impact of its projects but the results are not systematically used to guide management or design of future projects	2	

Indicator	Criteria	Score	Notes
	The organisation systematically monitors and evaluates the impact of its projects and uses the results to guide management and design of future projects. The results of monitoring and evaluation are only disseminated to stakeholders inside the organisation and donors	3	
	The organisation systematically monitors and evaluates the impact of its projects and uses the results to guide management and design of future projects. The results of monitoring and evaluation are widely disseminated to stakeholders inside and outside the organisation	4	
<b>3.5 Financial reporting</b>	The organisation has no system for preparing financial reports and statements	0	4
Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	The organisation has a system in place to produce financial reports and statements but these are produced sporadically, in response to donor demand. No external audits are conducted	1	
	The organisation regularly produces financial reports and statements, which it makes available to the board and management, but these are often incomplete or delivered late. External audits are conducted on a periodic basis	2	
	The organisation regularly produces financial reports and statements, which it makes available to the board and management, and which are usually complete and delivered on time. External audits are conducted on an annual basis, and recommendations are implemented	3	
	The organisation regularly produces financial reports and statements, which it makes available to the board and management, and which are always complete and delivered on time. External audits are conducted on an annual basis, recommendations are implemented, and an annual financial report is published and made publicly available	4	
<b>4. Strategic planning</b>			
<b>4.1 Governance</b>	The organisation has no board or independent body to provide strategic direction and oversight	0	3
Which statement best describes the governance of the organisation?	The organisation has a board but there is no clear distinction between its oversight role and the role of management. Board members are selected without regard to the organisation's needs or representation of key sectors	1	
	The organisation has a board that clearly differentiates between its oversight role and the role of management. The majority board members are drawn from a single sector (academia, NGOs, corporate sector, media, government, etc.)	2	
	The organisation has a board that clearly differentiates between its oversight role and the role of management. The board's members are drawn from multiple sectors, and are capable of carrying out such functions as fundraising, public relations, financial oversight and advocacy	3	
	The organisation has a board that clearly differentiates between its oversight role and the role of management. The board's members are drawn from multiple sectors, and are capable of carrying out such roles as fundraising, public relations, financial oversight and advocacy. Committees have been formed to address specific issues such as campaigns, fundraising, financial sustainability, etc.	4	
<b>4.2 Mission statement</b>	The organisation has no mission statement	0	4
Which statement best describes the mission statement of the organisation?	The organisation has a mission statement but it is imprecise or too broad, and does not provide clear direction for the organisation	1	
	The organisation has a mission statement that clearly expresses the central purpose of the organisation. However, most staff are unable to readily articulate the mission statement, and outsiders do not readily identify it with the organisation	2	
	The organisation has a mission statement that clearly expresses the central purpose of the organisation. Most staff are able to readily articulate the mission statement, but outsiders do not necessarily identify it with the organisation	3	
	The organisation has a mission statement that clearly expresses the central purpose of the organisation. All staff are able to readily articulate the mission statement, which is widely identified with the organisation by outsiders	4	
<b>4.3 Strategic plan</b>	No strategic plan for the organisation exists	0	3
Which statement best describes the strategic plan of the organisation?	The strategic plan for the organisation is out of date, being prepared or lacks measurable indicators	1	
	The organisation has a strategic plan with measurable indicators, covering a period of at least three years, but there is no monitoring of actions against it	2	
	The organisation has a strategic plan with measurable indicators, covering a period of at least three years, and actions are monitored against it. The plan is updated on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis	3	

Indicator	Criteria	Score	Notes
	The organisation has a strategic plan with measurable indicators, covering a period of at least three years, and actions are monitored against it. The plan is updated periodically, through a participatory process involving staff, board members and external stakeholders	4	
<b>4.4 Relevance of projects</b>	The organisation does not have a clearly defined mission statement and its portfolio of projects is totally lacking in coherence	0	4
Which statement best reflects the situation within the organisation?	The organisation has a diverse portfolio of projects that are often inconsistent with its mission statement	1	
	The organisation has a diverse portfolio of projects that are usually but not always consistent with its mission statement. Funding opportunities are never screened against the organisation's mission and strategic plan	2	
	The organisation has a coherent portfolio of projects that are usually but not always consistent with its mission statement. Screening of funding proposals against the organisation's mission and strategic plan takes place on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis	3	
	The organisation has a coherent portfolio of projects that are always consistent with its mission statement. Funding opportunities are systematically screened against the organisation's mission and strategic plan, and only pursued if they are in line with them	4	
<b>4.5 Accountability to stakeholders</b>	Stakeholders have no input into project design and implementation	0	3
Which statement best reflects describes the role of the organisation's stakeholders (government, local communities, other civil society organisations, etc.)?	Stakeholders are sometimes consulted during project design and implementation but they have no involvement in decision making	1	
	Stakeholders are regularly consulted during project design and implementation, and contribute to some decisions on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis	2	
	Stakeholders are systematically consulted during project design and implementation, and have a clearly defined role in decision making. The organisation's stakeholders are consulted during the development/revision of its mission and strategic plan but have no involvement in decision making	3	
	Stakeholders are systematically consulted during project design and implementation, and have a clearly defined role in decision making. The organisation's stakeholders are consulted during the development/revision of its mission and strategic plan, and have a clearly defined role in decision making	4	
<b>5. Delivery</b>			
<b>5.1 Scale of on-going projects</b>	Less than US\$1,000 per year	0	3
What is the largest annual budget of any project that the organisation is currently implementing?	US\$1,000 to US\$10,000 per year	1	
	US\$10,000 to US\$100,000 per year	2	
	US\$100,000 to US\$1 million per year	3	
	More than US\$1 million per year	4	
<b>5.2 Relevance of projects to conservation objectives</b>	No project defines clear biodiversity targets/conservation outcomes	0	4
Which statement best describes the projects currently being implemented by the organisation?	Less than half of the projects define clear biodiversity targets/conservation outcomes	1	
	More than half of the projects define clear biodiversity targets/conservation outcomes	2	
	All projects define clear biodiversity targets/conservation outcomes, and monitor progress towards them	3	
	All projects define clear biodiversity targets/conservation outcomes based on global conservation priorities (IUCN Red List, Key Biodiversity Areas, WWF Ecoregions, etc.), and monitor progress towards them	4	
<b>5.3 Delivery of project outputs</b>	Never	0	3
How frequently are project outputs delivered successfully and in the proposed quarter?	Less than half of the time	1	
	More than half of the time	2	
	Always delivered successfully but not always in the proposed quarter	3	
	Always delivered successfully and in the proposed quarter	4	
<b>5.4 Geographical reach</b>	The organisation is based in an urban centre, and all of its activities are focused there	0	4
Which statement best describes the geographical reach of the organisation?	The organisation has one or more field projects but these are directed from its base in an urban centre	1	
	The organisation has from one or more field projects directed from local field offices	2	

Indicator	Criteria	Score	Notes
	The organisation has one or more field projects directed from local field offices, and coordinates at least one network of local NGOs, community-based organisations or other civil society groups, which is active in one or more regions of the country	3	
	The organisation has one or more field projects directed from local field offices, and coordinates at least one networks of local NGOs, community-based organisations or other civil society groups, which is active nationwide	4	
<b>5.5 Collaboration</b>  Which statement best describes the organisation's collaboration with other civil society organisations, local or international?	The organisation does not have experience of working with other civil society organisations	0	4
	The organisation occasionally collaborates in joint initiatives with other civil society organisations on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis	1	
	The organisation has working relations, and at least one on-going joint project, with other civil society organisations	2	
	The organisation has working relations, and at least one on-going joint project, with other civil society organisationsThe organisation also participates in and supports at least one civil society coalition/network but does not play a leadership role in any coalition/network	3	
	The organisation has working relations, and at least one on-going joint project, with other civil society organisationsThe organisation also participates in and supports at least one civil society coalition/network and plays a leadership role in promoting coalitions/networks	4	
<b>Scores</b>	<b>1. Human resources</b>	17/ 20	
	<b>2. Financial resources</b>	13/ 20	
	<b>3. Management systems</b>	15/ 20	
	<b>4. Strategic planning</b>	17/ 20	
	<b>5. Delivery</b>	18/ 20	
	<b>OVERALL SCORE</b>	80/ 100	

## Board Members

Name – R. Sreedhar

Post – Managing Trustee

Gender - Male

Age – 58 Years



R.Sreedhar is a Geologist from University of Roorkee (1979) IIT Roorkee. After his Masters he was researching on mineralogy and petrology at the Department of Metallurgy. He was selected to work with all the major national exploration organizations. He worked with mainstream exploration organisations, Atomic Minerals Divisions, Department of Atomic Energy and later with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. In 1985 he moved out to begin working with communities on environmental and alternate technology issues, establishing the Environmental Systems Branch of Development Alternatives, New Delhi.

He has been actively involved in institutional and network development, research, implementation of alternate technologies and providing techno-legal support for Human Rights and Environmental Litigations. Over the past three decades, he co-founded and nurtured several groups and institutions broadly addressing issues of community development - TARU ('91) - a leading Development Research group, the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change ('94) – amongst the oldest network on Climate Change in India, the BCIL ('95)– country's biggest green building company, mines minerals and PEOPLE ('99) – the largest alliance of mining affected communities, Environics Trust ('03) the EIA Resource and Response Centre ('08) and the Mojolab Foundation (2012).

Currently he is the Managing Trustee of the Trust; Chairperson of mm&P; Mentor at BCIL and an Advisor to the CSR Centre of Excellence at MEC, Mysore University.

## Board Members

Name: Nishant Alag

Post: President

Gender: Male

Age – 38 years



Nishant Alag studied the discipline of planning - graduated with Urban and Regional Planning from GNDU, Amritsar and post graduated in Environmental Planner from the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology Ahmadabad. The initial period of travelling and working in the Himalayas over a variety of issues provided a much required need to look at similar contexts in other geographical regions. He has been working for over a decade on issues of community based planning and information management. He has contributed extensively to environmental impact review and trained communities on issues of mining and environmental legislation.

