

Project Update: April 2010

The National Rural Employment Guaranty Act 2007 (NREGA) of the Government of India has immense potential in ecological restoration and providing secure livelihoods to rural poor. However, local administration failed to implement this act on a large scale. On 19th April 2010, along with hundreds of local people, we took part in a 1-day peaceful demonstration at government block head office (*THASIL*). Following Mahatma Gandhi we call it Satyagraha (way of truth and peace). In response to this demonstration large scale eco-restoration work started in whole Karanja block. Hundreds of people are getting help with livelihoods and massive watershed development work is started.

The river Study group was established at Waghola village. This village is situated at the bank of River Adan.

We contributed in designing the river study course syllabus for the Haridwar University.

Regular village meetings are going on in various villages along the River Adan and other rivers in the area.

We are guiding two students for the Graduate Volunteer course designed by SNDT University, Mumbai. The first student, Praful, is studying the present status of the wetlands of the Karanja block and the second student, Nilkanth, is studying nomadic pastorals of the area.

The summer survey of the River Adan has been done. A substantial portion of the river is dry. The major problem is the deposition of a massive amount of the silt in the riverbed.



Left: Activism to start eco-restoration work in the Adan river basin. Right: Summer survey of the Adan river reveals problem of the river.