

Project Update: October 2011

1. **Deploying student's power in the nature conservation:** 6th September 2011: One-day workshop with the schoolteachers and public has been held at Karanja regarding Paryawaran Mitra (Friends of Environment). The teachers and students from 30 schools and colleges attended this programme and activities of the year have been decided. Mrs. Tejashree Kali from Center for environment Education (CEE) was chief guest for the programme.
2. **Distribution and plantation along river Bembla: 9 September 2010.** Vilegav is situated on the bank of river *Kapasi*, a tributary of river Bembla. Along with villagers and local school plantation activity has been carried out.
3. **Towards the involvement of youth in river conservation:** 10th – 15th September 2011: In order to involve youth into the river conservation work it is essential to design study based syllabus to understand riverine ecosystems. Keeping this in mind, I am developing syllabus of the river study in association with Tarun Bharat Sangh, Jaipur, and a NGO. This will be first of its kind syllabus and students, youth; NGO worker from throughout India will be participating in the short course. Regarding this, I have visited Tarun Bharat Sangh study area.
4. **Training:** 17th September 2011. Invited as resource person for 1-day discussion workshop on Mgnrega organized by Neusid organization.
5. **Policy impact:** 21st – 25th September. Our policy level impact work on the utilisation of the potential of Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guaranty Act 2005 of Government of India in the eco-restoration and river rejuvenation is going to be successful venture. In this regard, I have presented about linking conservation with employment generation in the National River Summit held at Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. Secretary of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (MoRD), activist, researchers, and NGO workers throughout India participated in the event. Considering our efforts in the Godavari basin secretary of MoRD committed to make policy changes to harness potential of Mgnrega in river conservation.
6. **Team Expansion:** Two members of our RSG team have been selected for the CFL course conducted by CORO, Mumbai. They have to work for a year period on one of the facets of RSG project and submit a project. CORO will provide them monthly stipend and travel allowance. Mr. Santosh Jadhav of our RSG team has been selected as fellow for Rural Commune and SNTD University, Mumbai. He will work in the Arunavati river basin.
7. **Field work to Katepurna River. 4th October 2011.** River Katepurna is tributary of river Purna (Tapti River Basin), a fieldwork has been arranged to understand the present status of the river.

8. **Regular village meetings:** Village meetings are going on for eco-restoration planning, awareness generation and livelihood security.
9. **Greening river basin:** Plant distribution ceremony has been organised at Vilegav village of the Karanja Taluka. An overwhelming response received from the villagers.
10. **Invited as chief guest** for the programme arranged by forest department at Girda village. The village is situated at the bank of river Adan and surrounded by blackbuck sanctuary.
11. **Monthly team meeting:** 29th September 2011. 1-day workshop with the RSG project team for monthly planning, experience sharing, and to explain village study methodology.
12. **Joint venture with forest department.** 2nd November 2011. 1-day workshop has been conducted with the forest department. The main issue of the discussion was Joint Forest Management (JFM) and its role in forest conservation.
13. **Sustainable agriculture and river conservation.** 16th November 2011. As part of our organic pesticide campaign, field work in the farms around River Bembla has been arranged and understood paste outbreak and other issues related to river conservation.
14. **New website** of our organization created and can be accessed at <http://www.samvardhan.org.in/>
15. **Research paper** (related to RSG funded work) has been selected for poster presentation for the conference "Planet Under pressure" to be held in March 2012 at London.
16. **At various villages** in the Adan, Bembla and Uma river basin plants has been distributed.
17. **Baseline data** about 5 small Rivers has been generated viz. BEMBLA, SAKHALI, KAPSI, ARUNAVATI and UMA.
18. **Next month** (December 2011) we are organizing foot march around river BEMBLA.

