

Annual Report 2021-2022



When you feel the
suffering of all living
beings in your heart, It is
consciousness
Bhagavad Gita



**SARISHA
WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGY
SOCIETY**

PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends,

After overcoming the two years long pandemic, we are gradually getting back on track. After this temporary period of halt, the organization's various projects running at the 5 States of the country, gradually started to gain momentum, like before. Once again with renewed energy we are steadily moving towards our aim of achieving of coexistence between nature and human by mitigating various man-animal conflict issues, planning fruitful WLCP at vulnerable areas, conducting rescue and rehabilitation programs, generating and sustaining a stable economic structure for the forest adjacent villages and marginalized, under privileged, tribal forest dwellers through alternative crop management and cultivation, conducting village and school awareness programs at regular intervals to make the people, especially the young generation, aware of vast natural asset left unexplored, just by their surrounding.

President
SARISHA WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGY SOCIETY

SECRETARY'S DESK



Dear Patrons,

We completed 8 years in conservation of wildlife in India. Though it is our final year of our 2nd 4-Year Action Plan, due to COVID outbreak we extended our 2nd 4-Year Action Plan to another year.

This year we have returned to our basic project implementation format along with new and more applicable research methodologies and technical supporting wings, so the projects Gentle Giants, Bana Bandhu and Sarpa Sathi see many new application based research and technological supports. In Gentle Giants we focus on GIS based mapping to understand elephant migration along with food availability. In Bana Bandhu, scientific approach and digital marketing created new opportunities for the beneficiaries. Sarpa Sathi reaches new heights after the GPS based rescue operations with geo-tagging of conflicts helps to build conflict mapping and real time data analysis of human snake conflicts. Apart from these projects we are involved in various key activities which includes Wildlife Conservation Planning, Tree Enumeration, Wildlife Monitoring and so on...

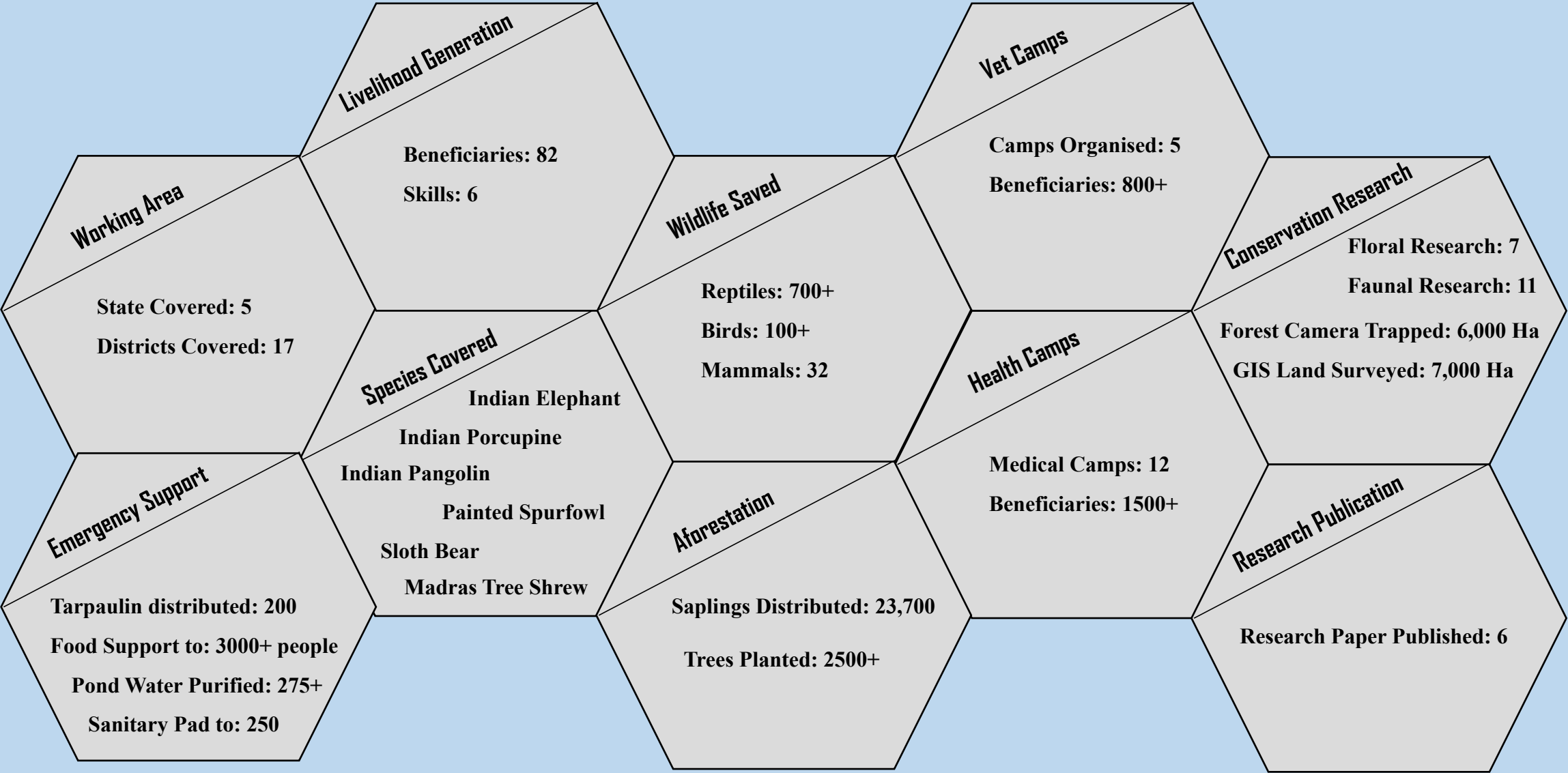
Secretary
SARISHA WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGY SOCIETY

CONTENT

OUR REACH:	3
MEET THE TEAM:	4
PROJECTS:	6 - 18
A. GENTLE GIANTS	7
B. BANA BANDHU	9
C. SARPA SATHI	15
KEY ACTIVITIES:	19
PHOTO GALLERY:	21



OUR REACH:



MEET THE TEAM

Governing Body:



Shwetadri Bhandari
Founder, President



Ayan Maity
Secretary



Ranit Mondal
Vice President



Sucheta Ganguly
Assistant Secretary



Kaustav Shee
Treasurer



Riya Acharya
*Public Relationship
(Membership)*



Shilpa Das
*Data Analyst
Governing Body Member*

Key Members:



Aurobindo Samal
*Wildlife Rescuer & Management
Odisha*



Gautam
*Herpetologist
Bihar*



Moruboyina Aditya Kishore
*Soil Scientist
Tamil Nadu*



Omveer Dhawal
*Zoologist
Rajasthan*



Karunai Prashanna Venatesh
*Wildlife Filmmaker
Tamil Nadu*



Rimpa Mondal
*Statistical Analyst
West Bengal*



Arka Prava De
*Butterfly Expert
West Bengal*



Ratnesh Karjee
*Wildlife Biologist
West Bengal*



Ritwika Mondal
*Mathematician
West Bengal*



Reshmi Chatterjee
*Paleo-Botanist
West Bengal*



Deeksha Pandit
*Veterinary Surgeon
Himachal Pradesh*



Swapnanil Patra
*Spider Expert
West Bengal*

MEET THE TEAM

Key Members:



Mohammed Umar
Wildlife Rescuer
Karnataka



Sreenath Karthik
Wildlife Photographer
Kerala



Dilip Solanki
Wildlife Rescuer
Rajasthan



Nakul Baskey
Public Relation (Santhal)
West Bengal



Omkar Mohan Hande
Wildlife Biologist
Maharashtra



Uttam Chouhan
Wildlife Rescuer
Rajasthan



Sandipan Ghosh
Geographer
West Bengal



Achintya Soren
Field Expert (Florist)
West Bengal



Rakshita Mohnot
Public Relation (Media)
Rajasthan



Tushni Mondal
Public Relation (Fundriser)
Tamil Nadu



Puja Ray
Biologist
West Bengal



Suklal Hembram
Researcher (Santhal Culture)
West Bengal



Atanu Modak
Avian Expert
West Bengal



Bijay Rajak
Environmental Activist
West Bengal



Srabani Ray Das
Public Relation (Media)
West Bengal



Pallabi Roychowdhury
Zoologist
West Bengal



Priti Bhandari
Historian
Jharkhand



Prasad Besra
Field Expert (Gardener)
West Bengal



Budhram Murmu
Field Expert (Enthonobotany)
West Bengal



Anindya Sengupta
Project Consultant
West Bengal

PROJECTS:



A. GENTLE GIANTS: An initiative to reduce human elephant conflict in East India

Human elephant conflict is one of the major challenges to mitigate in India. Due to rapid developmental projects and anthropogenic pressure, the forest habitats are shrinking which resulted in major human elephant conflict in the country.

We have launched the project back on 12th August, 2018 on the World Elephant Day with a goal to mitigate the human elephant conflict in East India by implementing scientific and technological approaches.



Elephant herd of 92 individuals moving through a crop field at Patrasayer Range of Bankura

OBJECTIVES:

- Understanding the elephant movement pattern in east India along with studying their behavior throughout the year.
- Reduce human-elephant conflict by implementing proper conflict management measures in the conflict zones.
- Develop wildlife conservation plan for forest areas to ensure the sustainability of elephants.
- Capacity building in human-elephant conflict zones to handle the conflict situation.

1. Conservation Measures Taken:

- In order to mitigate human elephant conflict in the district of Purulia & Bankura, we have prepared elephant conservation planning for the Forest Department of West Bengal.
- We have prepared an elephant management planning along with Wildlife Conservation Planning (WLCP) for the upcoming 338.74 Ha deforestation due to coal mining works of WBPDC.
- We have promoted Alternative Crop Management in the conflict prone areas to reduce the crop damage for the forest adjacent villagers. This year we have cultivated chamomile and lemon grass experimentally in 3 Ha lands to reduce crop damage.
- We have submitted a reports with all the necessary data to the Forest Department in order to announce Ajodhya Hills as an Elephant Reserve Forest.



Elephant herd of 92 individuals moving through a crop field at Patrasayer Range of Bankura

A. GENTLE GIANTS: An initiative to reduce human elephant conflict in East India

2. Research & Development:

- Our team strictly monitors and studies the corridors used, corridor preferences and habitat quality along the Chandil-Matha & Mahilong-Kalimati Corridors to understnad the movement pattern of the elephants. We also study the role of external factors (mainly human interference) during the corridor selection.
- Our team is regularly documenting the diet of elephants in the study areas and also focuses on the comparative studies on seasonal diet selection in two different places of West Bengal to understand the food selection and the role of fodder plantation. Two study sites are,

1. Ajodhya Hill forest of Purulia

2. Fragmented forest lands in between Damodar and Dwarkeswar River

3. Capacity Building:

- We provide 5 training programs for the local villagers and forest departmental staffs regarding the elephant driving during their raids in the crop fields.
- We engaged 27 village level teams who have joined forces with the Forest Department to fight againsts the forest fire during the month of February to June.
- We have created 15 Manchas in the 15 forest adjacent villages to handle the elephant(s) in Ajodhya Hills to reduce crop damage at the argicultural fields.
- We have created and monitored a WhatsApp group to convey regular basis elephant movement and sightings in the Ajodhya Hill Forest areas.
- We financially supported 3 families whose prime earning members deceased due to elephant attacks to strenthening the relationship with the local villagers of the conflict zones.



Understanding elephant behaviour from a local person whose house was damaged by a wild tusker



At an afternoon a wild tusker raided the crop field and destroyed it completely at Matha Range



Crop damage by a herd of 13 elephants in the Ajodhya Hills of Purulia District



During Field Survey inside Gobaria Forest with RFO Ajodhya of Purulia District



Elephant herd of 13 individuals moving from West Bengal to Jharkhand through Chandil-Matha Corridor



Human Death due to elephant attack in Purulia



During workshop with students of Presidency University



View from a Mancha in Kotshila Range



Group photo before a night field with departmental staffs, Matha Range



Team Discussion before elephant field study in Purulia

B. BANA BANDHU: An initiative to save forest by sustainable development of backward, tribal, marginalized forest adjacent villagers

On the event of World Environment Day i.e. 5th June, 2019 this project came into existence to create a forest friendly alternative livelihood for the tribal, marginalized, under privileged, forest adjacent villagers to gradually but significantly reduce the biotic pressure on the forest.

Over a considerable period of time, it has been observed that the villagers living along the forest fringes depend solely upon the forest to generate their everyday living. This dependency results in destruction of huge forest cover annually. So in order to mitigate this alarming threat befalling upon the forest for centuries, BANA BANDHU became one the organization's innovative initiative where the beneficiaries involved at the project will be able to generate a stable economy all the year round, while their dependency on the forest will visibly reduce.



*During a Village Meeting of the Project
Bana Bandhu*



*Lemon-grass cultivation in Puncha
Block of Purulia District*

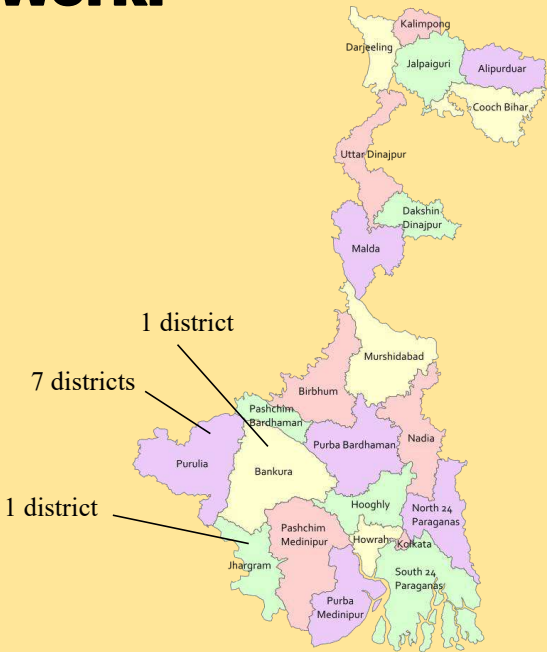


*Alovera Plant cultivation in the Puncha
Block of Purulia District*



*Tree Plantation in Teliabhasa Jr.
High School*

Area of Work:



Criteria of Area Selection:

- At least 60% of the villagers are under BPL (Below Poverty Line) category.
- Strong problem of market linkage in the agricultural sector due to remoteness.
- At least 50% people of the village is from backward class or tribal or marginalized community or it is forest adjacent.
- No proper source of income is available for the villagers.
- Noticeable record of crime rate as per the police departmental reports

PARTNERS IN BANA BANDHU

NGO Partners:



CHHATATAR CHALANTIKA

Marketing Partners:



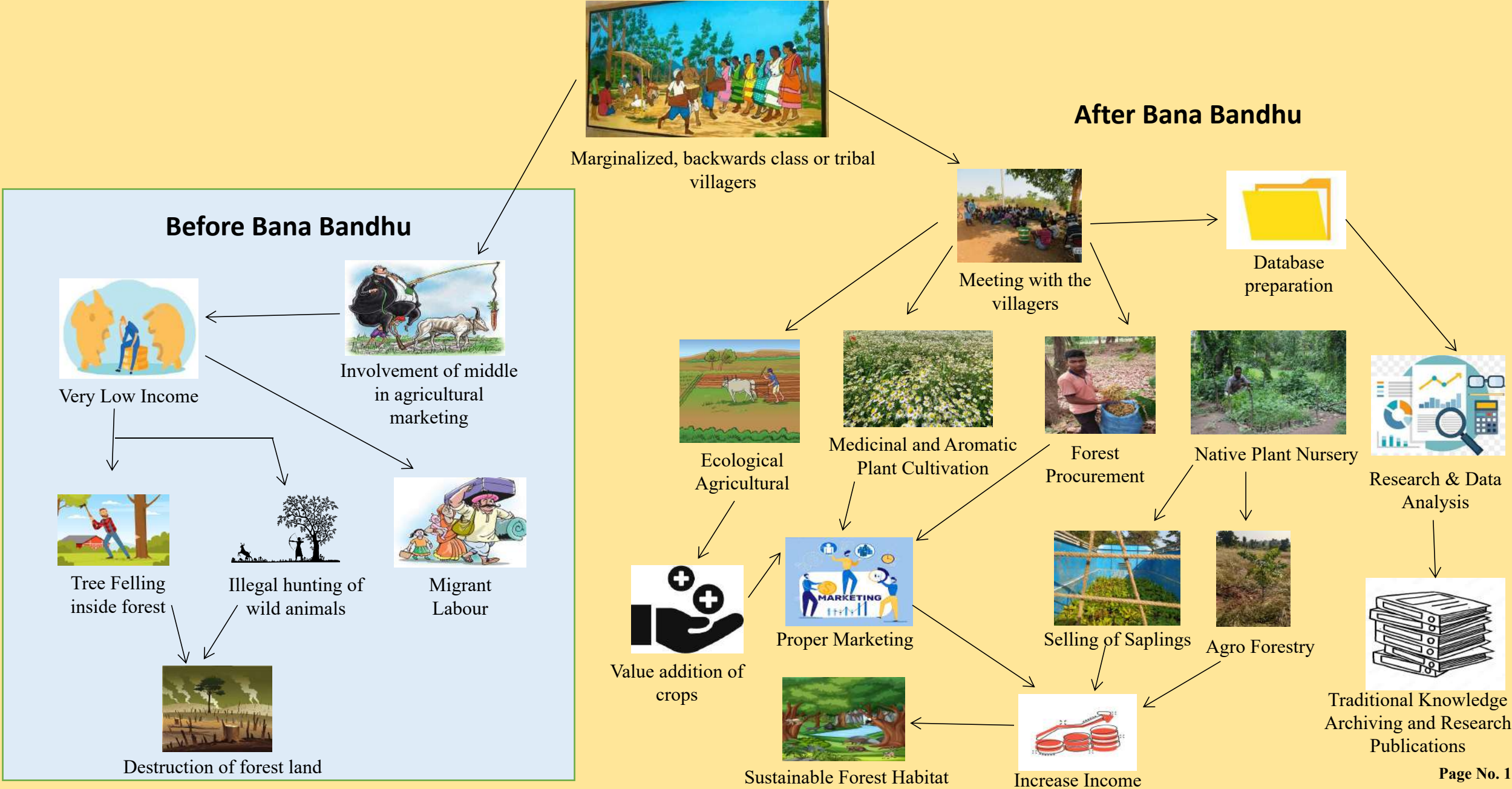
Supporting Partners:



Travel Partners:


HOTEL AKASH SAROVAR
(a unit of Akash Tourism & Resort Pvt. Ltd.)

HOW BANA BANDHU WORKS:



B. BANA BANDHU: An initiative to save forest by sustainable development of backward, tribal, marginalized forest adjacent villagers

1. Value Addition in Traditional Farming:

- We invovled 38 farmers in this sector. Out of the traditional farming crops we have selected Rice, Mustard, Tomatoes and Chilli for value addition and its market linkage
- We have supported our beneficiaries with Dhenki, through which they have prepared hand-pound rice/husked rice. This year they have produced 5 quintal husked rice.
- We have created direct market linkup for the beneficiaries and in turn have they have sold 6 tonnes rice without the intervention of any middleman.
- We have provided quality planting mateial for mustard cultivation and have certaed proper market chain for selling of the final product.
- We have provided quality planting material for tomato and green chili cultivation, which resulted in good production.



Organic Rice Cultivation in Teliabhasa Village, Ajodhya Hills

2. Medicinal & Aromatic Crop Cultivation:

- We have involved 8 benficiaries in this sector.
- We have cultivated lemon grass in 1 ha of land, out of which 2.5 bighas was under Puncha Block and 5 bighas under Bagmundi Block in the dristict of Purulia.
- We have cultivated aloe vera over a of land of 1440sq.ft. (2 katha), on an experimental basis, in Hura Block of Purulia dristict.
- We have cultivated tulsi over a of land of 700sq.ft. (1 katha), on an experimental basis, in Hura Block of Purulia dristict.
- We have cultivated chamomile over a land of 20 bighas. We have also created a direct market linkup of the final product for the beneficiaries involved.



Making of Hand Pound Rice by beneficiaries of Ajodhya Hills



Harvesting of Chamomile from Lakhra Village, Puncha Block of Purulia District

B. BANA BANDHU: An initiative to save forest by sustainable development of backward, tribal, marginalized forest adjacent villagers

3. Ecological Farming:

- We have engaged 10 benficiaries at this project, who are already conducting organic farming at their plot of land.
- We have succesfully cultivated organic pumpkin, papaya, watermelon, dragon fruit and pineapple over a land of 5 bighas.
- We have distributed quality planting material to the beneficiaries for all of the above-mentioned crops.
- The cultivation was done in Barabazar and Balarampur Blocks of Purulia district, Barjora Block of Bankura district and Binpur-1 Block of Jhargram district.
- We have created direct market linkup of the final harvested products for the benficiaries involved.

4. Native Plant Nursery:

- We have engaged 11 benficiaries at this project all of whom belong from the Baghmundi Block of Purulia district.
- We have succesfully germinated and reared native species of Ajodhya like Sal (1,00,000), Kusum (20,000), Bhela (1000), Palash (1000), Kumbhi/Elephant Guava (1000), Mahul (500), Piyal (2000), Kendh (1000), Neem (2000), Asan (1000), Amloki (200), Bahera (2000), Haritaki (2000), Krishnachura (2500), Radhachura (2500) and Amaltash (2000).
- Apart from the native species we have succesfully germinated and reared Jakaranda (2500), Malabar Neem (1000) and Tecoma stans (1000).
- The saplings were sold to the Forest Department and other agencies by creating a market linkage done from our side.



Organic Pumpkin in Lakhra Village



Malabar Neem at our Nursery



Using agro shade Chamomile Seed Germination



Kusum Plant at our Nursery



Prasad with first four sapling of the nursery



Lemon Grass Plantation at Kalapathar

B. BANA BANDHU: An initiative to save forest by sustainable development of backward, tribal, marginalized forest adjacent villagers

5. Forest Procurement:

- We have involved 15 beneficiaries from multiple forest adjacent villages of Purulia and Bankura districts.
- The beneficiaries collect, various fruits from the forest areas, such as Amloki, Bahera, Haritaki, Kendh, Kusum, Mango and Jackfruit
- The beneficiaries collect, various seeds from the forest areas, such as Neem, Sal, Amaltash, Sirish, Piyal etc
- The beneficiaries collect, various flowers from the forest areas, such as Mahua, Aparajita etc
- The beneficiaries collect, various leaves from the forest areas, such as from Sal, Neem, Kalmegh, Siyali, Tulsi etc
- The beneficiaries collect, various barks from the forest areas, such as from Mango, Arjun, Neem, Eucalyptus etc
- We have created a succesful market linkage for all the above-mentioned products for the beneficiaries.



Lemon-grass cultivation



Seed ball distribution with school students

6. Aforestation:

- We the forest departments we have distributed 10,000 seed balls in the forest areas of the Ajodhya Hills.
- We have organized Gap Plantation programs with the forest departments in the Matha Range of Purulia Forest Division.
- We have planted more than 5000 fruit plants this year in the non forest areas.

7. Indiginous Knowledge Archiving:

- We have documenting the traditional knowledge various tribes of Purulia, Jhargram and Bankura districts of West Bengal.
- Under this activity we have documented many good findings related to medicinal use of various flora and fauna. After proper research on the same flora we can able to verify wheather their usage is genuine or its just a superstition or myth beliefs.



A view from our nursery before COVID 19

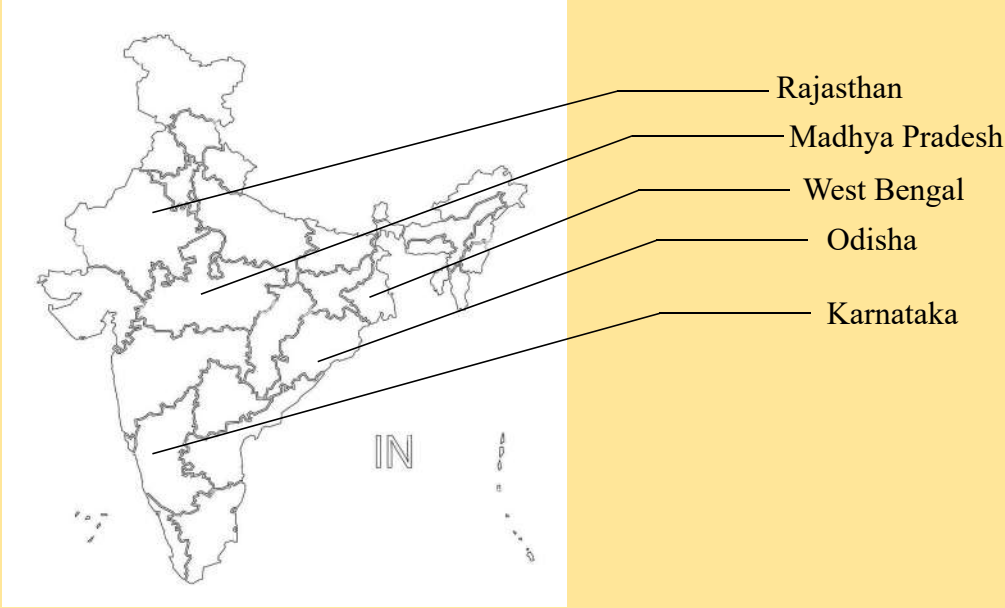
C. SARPA SATHI: An initiative to reduce human snake conflict

Every year it has been noted that in India roughly 80% of the people, which counts to about 64,000 to 78,600, die due to snake bite according to the reports published by The Hindu and The Indian Express in 2022. On the contrary over a million or maybe more snakes die due to human conflict, each year. The reason behind this are lack of proper knowledge and awareness within the general mass, a sense of repulsion and fear towards this slithering reptile, prevalence of various superstitious beliefs resulting in jeopardizing the unhindered movement of the serpents and last but not the least, the rapidly shrinking habitat of the snakes at large.

OBJECTIVES:

- Mitigate the issue of human snake conflict in India.
- Creating a mass awareness by addressing the prevalence of various superstitious belief on the serpent community.
- Maintaining a database (scientifically) of various rescue operations, snake diversity and population, frequency of occurrence and pattern of various human snake conflict issues region-wise.

Area of Work:



Snake rescue from Mysore outskirts, Karnataka



Awareness on snake in 24 PGS (S), West Bengal



Survey on Snake Bite in 24 PGS (S), West Bengal



Snake Bite Workshop with the school students in Dapoli, Maharashtra



Snake (Rock Python) rescue from Jawai Rajasthan

PARTNERS IN SARPAA SATHI

Rescue Partners:



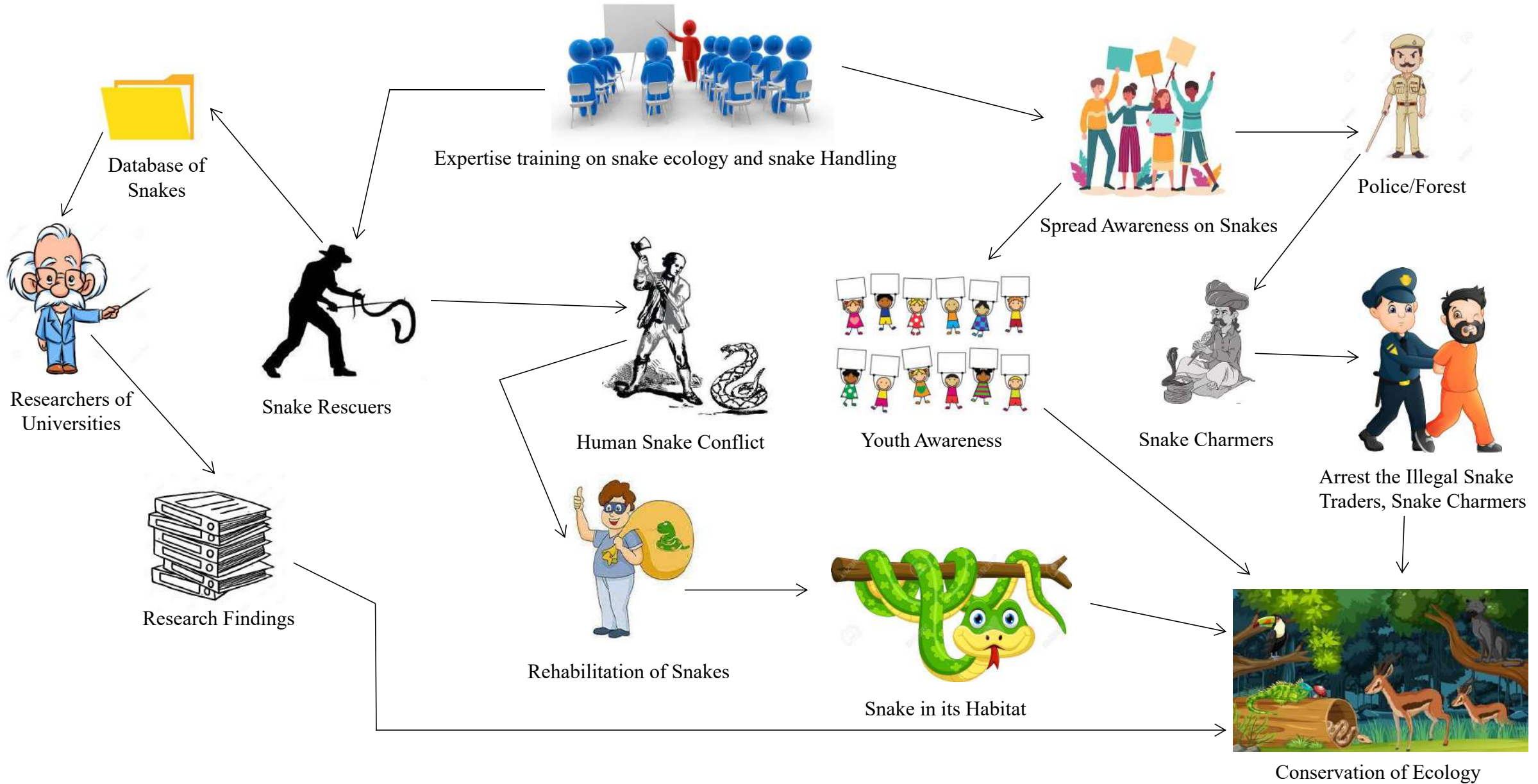
Research Partners:



Supporting Partners:



HOW SARPA SATHI WORKS:



C. SARPA SATHI: An initiative to reduce human snake conflict



Educate the young ones are the key to success, Under the Sarpa Sathi, our team has organize more than 50 awareness programs to spread awareness on snakes among the youths.



Our expert team performs various tricks that are performed by the Ojhas, Gunins and snake charmers in front of the school kids and villagers to spread awarness on the superstitious beliefs on snakes.



Our team organize village awareness programs in the remote villages of India to spread awareness on snakes. We have organized more than 50 village awareness programs this year.



Our team rescued snakes from the human settlements to reduce human snake conflicts. In this financial year our team has rescued 1407 snakes from the human settlements, out of which 363 are venomous.



Our team organize surveys to understand and monitor local beliefs on snakes, snake bites and snake related superstitious beliefs in the remote villages & track socio-economical aspects for SWOT Analysis of the problems.



Our team has published 7 research papers under Sarpa Sathi from various places of India of which 2 first ever documentation from Rajasthan. Moreover, many ongoing research works are yet to be published in this upcoming year which will unearth many unknown behavior of the snakes



Our experts provide special training to the forest departmental staffs on snake handling, rescue and rehabilitation.



Our Team organize raids with departmental staffs to mitigate the threats from illegal traders and snake charmers.

Key Activities

Stop Illegal Hunting of Wildlife in Ajodhya Hills:

On 26th May, 2021, the tribal community of Ajodhya Hills in Purulia celebrated their age-old tradition of Hunting Festival. Few weeks before the assigned day, we conducted regular basis awareness at the villages of Ajodhya to refrain people from hunting down wild animals in the name of tradition. Alongside we coordinated with the Forest Department, Police Department, Railways and other administrative departments so that during the particular day, hunting down wildlife can be regulated. The outbreak of COVID created a mobility restriction all over the country due to which outsiders from West Bengal or more specifically saying Purulia failed to reach Ajodhya which too positively impacted our initiative to ensure zero hunting in the name of a ritual.

Wildlife Monitoring:

Our team from the 5 States of India conduct regular basis wildlife monitoring works which include seasonal bird and insect survey, bird survey along the coastline of Bay of Bengal, identifying and listing insects through various trapping techniques, camera trapping of big and small mammals and reptiles inside the forest cover, noting down various significant observation while conducting rescue operations, wildlife photography.

Tree Enumeration Work:

We have conducted the tree enumeration of Barjora Range under the Bankura North Forest Division. While conducting the enumeration work, we have simultaneously documented the ethnobotanical knowledge of the local inhabitants, medicinal herbs and their usages, various economically important floral species and endemic floral exclusively from the area.

Wildlife Conservation Planning:

We have created a Wildlife Conservation Planning for the entire Bankura North Forest Division as the conflicts and threats towards wildlife, be it flora or fauna, is increasing significant in this division, each passing year. This WLCP identifies and proposes various mitigation measures to address various issues like hunting and poaching of endangered animals, crop and property damage due to sudden wildlife intervention, death cases of both human and wildlife due to direct encounters, over exploitation of wild flora for their various economical and medicinal usefulness, adverse effect of invasive floral species on the particular habitat.

Emergency Disaster Management (EDM):

After Cyclone Yaas hits West Bengal and Odisha our team responses immediately. We reach out the most remote areas of Sundarbans, along with severely damaged areas of Purba Medinipur also. These are the following supports we have provided,

1. Free Medical Camps
2. Free Veterinary Camps
3. Tarpaulin Distribution
4. Dry Food Distribution
5. Community Kitchen
6. Bleaching Powder Distribution
7. Sanitary Pad Distribution
8. Cloth Distribution

Wildlife Rescue:

This year we have rescued over 150 wild animals. 32 Mammals and 100+ avies have been rescued by our rescuers around India. Our rescue teams are active in 5 states at the moment. The majority of this is in conflict situations resulted due to local habitat loss.

Key Activities

NOTABLE DAYS CELEBRATION:

22nd April:

we celebrated World Earth Day with some young kids of West Bengal with a poster competition.

22nd May:

we arranged a session on the World Biodiversity Day, in college focusing on the importance of conservation and the impact of biodiversity in it.

23rd May:

One the World Turtle Day, we rescued a soft shell turtle and released it in nearby habitat and arranged an awareness drive on how to stop the illegal trading of Indian turtles.

5th June:

One the World Environmental Day, we marked the day with plastic cleaning activities with our young volunteers and tree plantation program.

16th July:

On the Global Snake Day, we held awareness programs in many states to make local people aware of the importance of snakes in the ecosystem.

25th July:

On the birthday of Jim Corbett, we remembered his work and shared his stories with school students to inspire them to take an active part in conservation.

29th July:

On the World Tiger Day, we held a drawing competition on tigers in Sundarbans.

12th August:

On the World Elephant Day, we had arranged an awareness rally in the Purulia forest division with children youth, and forest officials for spreading love for the gentle giants.



Celebrating World Elephant Days, in a school in Purulia

4th October:

On the World Habitat Day, we organized an online discussions on habitat management in todays' world with technological help and with new ways to meet the challenges of wildlife conservation in the future.

23rd October:

On the International Snow Leopard Day, we arranged a video session followed by a question answer session in school to spread awareness among children on snow leopard.

2nd February:

On the World Wetland Day, we visited the wetland site and did a cleaning and awareness drive with local communities and also posted infographics on online platforms.

3rd March:

On the Wildlife Day, we arranged a nature trail on how to observe and experience local wildlife and created a sense of compassion for wildlife among school children.

Photo Gallery



Tree Enumeration Work in Barjora Range, Bankura North Division of West Bengal



After Cyclone Yaas, we are running Community Kitchen at Ramnagar, Purba Medinipur



Bleaching Powder Distribution at Tajpur, Purba Medinipur



Medical Camp in Mousuni Island, Sundarbans



Insect Survey in Purulia



Tarpaulin Distribution in Sundarbans



Stopping the hunters from entering the Ajodhya Hill forest for hunting



Insect Survey



Dry Food distribution in Gosaba, Sundarban after Cyclone Yaas



Medical Camp at Kultali block of Sundarban after Cyclone Yaas



Village awareness to stop illegal hunting of wildlife in Ajodhya Hills



Distribution of Blanket in the Teliabhasa Village of Ajodhya Hills



WNE - India has registrations under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961; Section 12-A (a) of the Income Tax Act, 1961; West Bengal Society Registration Act 1961;

Head Office: Sarisha, Nabasan Road, Diamond Harbour, Pin : 743368;