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BUILDING A TRANSNATIONAL, CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP TO INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF BUILDING COASTAL POPULATION IN SOUTH ASIA



Regional Forum - Sri Lanka

5-9 February 2024

Highlights

Submitted by SaciWATERS



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I. Day 1 (5 Feb 2024)- Inauguration & Thematic Workshop:

Key Takeaway Messages

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks by Mr. Lal Emmanuel:

- The Nagenahiru Foundation (NF) is a non-profit organization based in Ambalangoda, Sri Lanka. Since 1991, it has been dedicated to environmental conservation, community development, and capacity building for communities residing in environmentally sensitive areas.
- The disastrous tsunami in December 2004 wreaked havoc in coastal areas, profoundly impacting people's lives. The devastation was exacerbated by coastal degradation, underscoring the critical role of mangrove forests as natural barriers against high tides. This realization motivated NF to restore the mangrove forest with funding assistance from the Global Nature Fund (GNF).
- Since 2006, GNF has been the primary donor for the Nagenahiru Foundation. The Nagenahiru Environmental Learning Center was established with 50% funding from GNF, with a primary focus on engaging youth and recognizing them as custodians of the future.



2. GNF and recap of CRP projects Presentation by Mr. Thies Geertz:

- The Global Nature Fund (GNF) is an international non-profit foundation dedicated to environmental and nature protection. It operates independently and has its headquarters in Radolfzell at Lake Constance, Germany. Additionally, it has offices in Bonn and in Berlin. The GNF aims to protect nature, environment, and animals. It employs 26 staff members.
- GNF offers one of the most stable funding sources, with the number of projects and partnerships increasing over the years. Its activities include implementing global development projects, initiating, and executing nature and environmental protection initiatives, developing sustainable economy model projects, publishing materials, and organizing events on nature conservation.
- The GNF initiated the Living Lakes network in 1998. This network includes global environmental partnership organizations dedicated to the conservation of lakes and wetlands on a worldwide scale. A primary objective is to improve the quality of life for local communities and fostering a commitment to the sustainable use and development of these ecosystems. It has 112 lakes and wetlands and partners from over 32 countries globally. All global networking partners convene at the conference once every four years. The next Living Lake Conference will be held in India in 2025. In India, it has been involved in the conservation of the Sundarbans and the lake Pulicat.
- The GNF has been forming alliances with partners from civil society, the public sector, the private sector, and scientific bodies, providing concrete support for its project work. Some of the projects, supported by our sponsors, include:
 - a) Living Lakes (Biodiversity and Climate Project): supported by Mercedes Benz, Foundation Ursula Merz
 - b) Clean Drinking Water for School Children, Burundi: supported by Foundation Ursula Merz
 - c) Clean Water for the World aiming at improving the sewage water situation in developing countries in Latin America: supported by Alfred Kärcher SE & Co. KG.
 - d) Drinking water in rural regions in Colombia: supported by Wilo-Foundation
- GNF aims to continuously support the network by securing additional donors.

3. Mangrove aquaculture: BEDS and CReNIEO

a) Production of ecofriendly Indian Seabass and Mud Crab through women empowerment: Centre for Research on New International Economic Order (CReNIEO)

- CReNIEO has adopted a semi-intensive farming technique for producing Indian Seabass and green mud crab in eco-friendly brackish water farms adjacent to the Pulicat Lake region. This approach differs from commonly adopted aquaculture practices, as it relies on natural feed (plankton soup) created by the organization, as opposed to the artificial and commercial feed used in conventional methods, which often results in significant waste. This method specially focuses on stability of the feed wherein micronutrients are added slowly.
- Feed is provided based on a pre-determined ration, and the time intervals between the initial, middle, and final feedings are also fixed.
- Since shrimps are nocturnal, they require more ration during the night.



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- The feed ratio is set at ten percent of the body weight.
- Both environmental and biological monitoring are important components of this method, where factors such as salinity and health of the organisms are noted.
- Shrimps take on a cashew nut shape when frozen, but the market prefers them straight. Sometimes, stainless-steel rods are inserted to maintain their shape and enhance their value. In countries like Japan, there is a higher demand for live shrimps.
- Forty women beneficiaries from different Self-Help groups (SHGs) were selected and educated on the objectives and methodologies of the project such as regular feeding, monitoring.

b) Knowledge on IMA: Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS)

- The session began with seeking responses to the questions: why to protect mangroves; how to protect/conservate mangroves; how to educate, restore, and empower; mangrove and livelihoods; and health security.
- The mangrove ecosystem prevents the dyke from breaking.
- The biggest issue in Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture (IMA) is site/farm selection.
- Both mangrove species and the selection of fish/shrimp species should be done very carefully, as not all species are suitable for Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture (IMA).
- Restoration efforts using monocultural models are unsuccessful, mainly due to the limited capacity of single-species plantations to sustain biodiversity and their heightened susceptibility to pests. A diverse mix of suitable species should be utilized, with a ratio of 30-60% in alignment with the local landscape.
- The value chain of the IMA should be predetermined based on geographical and local needs.
- Impact of IMA in Bangladesh:
 - a) Fish and vegetable production have increased in 20 farms, resulting in a 10% rise in income and a 20% reduction in input costs.
 - b) Number of Mangrove trees is gradually increasing.
 - c) Mangrove tea, juice, honey, pickles, mats are different products obtained through mangrove forest.

4. Global women's perspective in nature-based solutions and community development:

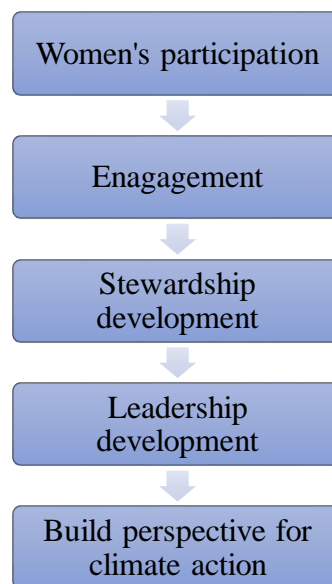
TERRE Policy

- Global women network for nature: Link to join the network: <https://globalwomennetworkfornature.com>
- TERRE Policy is involved in following initiatives:
 - a) Women empowerment through mangrove restoration: The women members of the community from the area of Amba, Kolhapur, Maharashtra in sustainable activities. A Self-Help Group has been created where women are involved in activities such as waste segregation, agarbatti (incense stick) making, lamp wick making, etc.
 - b) Educating about dos and don'ts through a snake and ladder game.

- c) Involvement of community in various projects for livelihood generation.
- d) Afforestation activities involve local communities, who participate in pit digging and shifting of plants.
- e) Solar lamp assembly and distribution.
- Conflicts related to water usage often arise in afforestation activities involving the local community. To mitigate this, afforestation sites are selected by gaining the community's confidence.
- Monitoring is crucial, especially in afforestation activities, to protect the plants from livestock. To address this issue, the organization opted to plant taller saplings, and the entire site was fenced. The growth of the plants is monitored for up to three years and is later managed by the communities.

5. Women empowerment in conservation: NEWS

- Women's empowerment entails the ability to make decisions, achieve equality, and realize wisdom, among other aspects.
- The role of women evolves gradually over time.

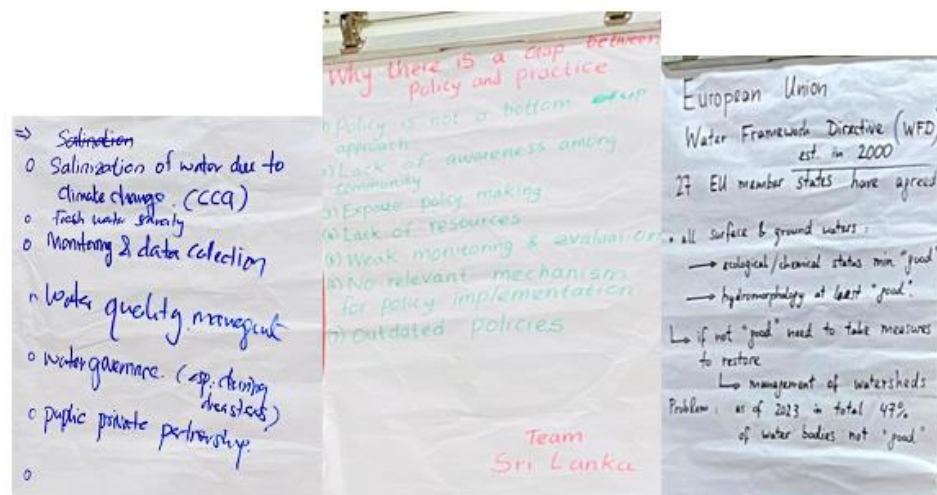


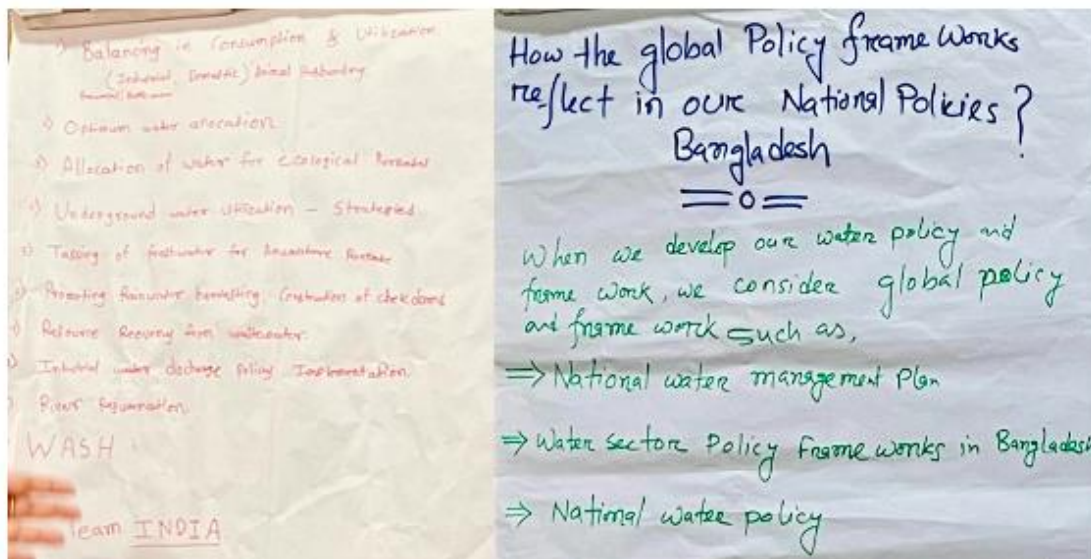
- The role of CSO is to channelize their work.
- Women's participation involves decision-making, raising their voices, and ensuring that their voices are heard.
- In the Sundarbans, women observe Mangrove Day as Rakshabandhan day, where they tie rakhi to mangrove plants as a symbolic gesture to protect their safety.
- Climate action: Women in Sundarbans, including young girls, are active and visit colleges to educate about climate change.

- Engagement: Women have become self-reliant, and they formed a green force.
- In case of mangrove restoration, women are involved in nursery development, plantation, protection, and monitoring.
- Women are involved in various income generation activities such as backyard poultry farming, handicraft development, aquaculture, horticulture, and eco-tourism.
- Monitoring of the mangrove is done with the help of an app developed with the support of GNF.
- In total, there are 23 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with 250 members.
- **In India, harvesting of any product from the mangrove forest is not allowed.**

6. Water Policy Framework and Approach for Increasing Coastal Resilience against Global Climate Change: SaciWATERS

- Climate Change is primarily a Water Crisis: UN
- Water can help win the race to limit climate change: UN.
- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Water management must play a central role in adapting to the worst effects of climate change and reducing greenhouse gases.
- National and regional policy and planning must view water management through a climate resilience lens.
- UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event: Recognition of Indigenous women as equal stakeholders. Gender- environment nexus should be mainstreamed.
- UN Climate Change Conference COP28: 152 countries endorsed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food Systems, and Climate Action. Over USD \$7.1 billion mobilized during COP28 for climate-positive action in the food system sector.
- Why global policy scenarios are important!





II. Day-2 (6 Feb 2024)- Youth Forum & Thematic Workshops

Key Takeaway Messages

1. Youth Forum- Involving Sharing Experience of Young Leaders in South -Asia

1.1 The Purpose of formation of young leaders for Nature and Climate: Ms. Shehani Koshila, Manager Nature Conservation, Nagenahiru Foundation

- Youth involvement in nature conservation and climate action is crucial as they represent the future of the country.
- The rural community often lacks an understanding of the climate crisis.
- Young leaders can serve as catalysts for change.
- Embracing sustainable practices can pave the way for a sustainable world.
- Youth actively participate in collecting data related to carbon assimilation by mangroves, thereby recognizing their significance.



1.2 The role of the Ministry of Environment in Sri Lanka concerning youth and climate initiatives: Dr. Manoj Prasanna, Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, political partner, Living Lake Biodiversity and Climate Project.

- The Ministry has also established youth forums where young individuals are invited to share their innovative ideas to combat the climate crisis.
- The Ministry cannot work alone, and similarly, youth cannot achieve anything in isolation. They need to actively collaborate to work towards climate action.

1.3 Disentangling the role of youth in Climate Crisis: Mr. Kabindra Sharma, Associate Fellow, SaciWATERS.

- The impact of climate change ranges from people residing in the Himalayas to those living in coastal areas. Efforts have been made by smaller countries from the Himalayas to island nations. In this direction a significant step was taken by the Maldives which caught global attention just before the COP 15 of 2009 by conducting a cabinet meeting underwater, making the world understand the possible impact of climate change on them. Similarly, Nepal conducted its meeting on Mount Everest the same year, emphasizing the importance of the Himalayas for human survival and how climate change might threaten their very existence. These two small nations in South Asia smaller in size and population, were headline makers just before the very important climate summit which had a significant impact on the outcome of the summit. This symbolic action has made us think about how small stands taken for the right cause have the gravity to change the direction of the wind.

- It is crucial to understand the role played by the youth in the cause of climate change which is often ignored and sidelined in the process of negotiations in key summits.
- There are different definitions of youths by different organizations:

Entity/Instrument/ Organization	Age	Reference
UN Secretariat/UNESCO/ILO	Youth: 15-24	UN Instruments, Statistics
UN Habitat (Youth Fund)	Youth 15-32	Agenda 21
UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA	Youth: 15-24	UNFPA
UNICEF /The Convention on Rights of the Child	Child until 18	UNICEF
The African Youth Charter	Youth: 15-35	African Union, 2006

- It is essential to recognize that youth continue to take on a leading role in influencing, advocating, and demanding responsible climate behavior and stronger political will from governments and the private sector.
- An example was cited from COP26, where young leaders presented a Global Youth Position statement representing the views of over 40,000 young leaders demanding that their rights be guaranteed in climate change agreements. Youths are in a unique position to drive tangible changes at the grassroots level. Dilmani, a 16-year-old Sri Lankan climate activist who is also a part of the Save the Children's Red Alert on Climate campaign.
- Their familiarity with technology helps them leverage digital tools in taking initiatives, running environmental campaigns, and monitoring local ecosystems. They can also play a vital role in engaging the community and nurturing a collective sense of responsibility towards nature conservation.

1.4 Launch of the book on “The Diversity of Plant Life” -Author Shavinie Asna Ulliwishewage, young Naturalist.

- Asna is a seventeen-year-old student from Sri Lanka who participated in Living Lakes South Asia Session and Global Lake Marathon in 2021.

1.5 Address by Chief Guest: Prof. Gehan Jayasuriya

- The 21st century is the century of biodiversity. Sri Lanka and India are rich in biodiversity resources, with Sri Lanka being a hotspot under threat due to human and natural activities.

- Climate change is no longer a hypothesis but a reality. The last generation failed to find any solutions.
- The world belongs to the youth, along with its responsibilities. Connectivity is better, and with the help of elders, positive changes can be brought about.

2. Thematic Workshops

2.1 Ethical Bee Keeping: EMACE

- The environment is not conducive for beekeeping near Lake Bolgoda as mangrove density is lower. EMACE is working in 8 villages.
- Clay pots were used by active beekeepers; this process is standard and ethical.
- It is called ethical beekeeping because it doesn't involve killing the bees, disturbs them minimally, and leaves one-fourth of the honey for the bees.
- Beekeeping is the most potential Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) action. The Theory of Change has been applied to envisage the EbA action.
- The ongoing beekeeping activity bridges the gaps and proves that beekeeping is not only a source of income but also an effective EbA.
- Along with the clay pots, five flowering plants—avocado, star fruit, cashew nuts, rambutan, and coconuts—have been given to the community.
- Over 50% of the beekeepers are women, and they manage this activity alongside their regular household chores.
- The project aims to reach over 350 beekeepers. To ensure sustainability, beekeeping is being promoted at the divisional level.
- 25 people extracted honey till now.
- Challenges in beekeeping include:
 - a) Waiting time for honey harvesting
 - b) Lack of proper lab facilities.
 - c) Insufficient awareness of pest control and disease management.
 - d) Halting garbage burning
- Advantages of bee keeping include:
 - e) Utilization of indigenous methods, such as using clay pots that are broken in the middle and later rejoined by wires.
 - f) In Bangladesh, the positioning of the clay pots is determined by the direction of bee movement.
- In the case of India, the commercial production of honey utilizes the *Apis mellifera* species of bee. The honey harvester migrates to different places (from Punjab to Kolkata) depending on the bee movement, resulting in a very high amount of honey production."
- NEWS uses *Apis Indica* for beekeeping activities, employing an ecosystem-based approach.
- To prevent the queen bee from flying, queen gates are used.

- Bees prefer a natural environment. Paints are required on the wooden boxes used for beekeeping to prevent algae deposition on the wood. However, bees are intolerant of strong smells.
- Super chambers are present in the beehive boxes. They are subjected to centrifugal forces to extract honey.
- Honey can have traces of chemical residue because sometimes neighboring farmers use pesticides in their fields.
- Sometimes antibiotic traces are also present in wild honey.

2.2 Solar energy and coastal communities: Nagenahiru Foundation

- Traditionally, kerosene lamps have been used during night fishing. However, due to an increase in kerosene prices, fishermen now spend one-third of their income on buying kerosene.
- Each fisherman buys 1.5 to 2.0 liters of kerosene per night.
- With the help of GNF, NF provided LED lamps for shrimp catching to the fishermen, but the project was discontinued due to sustainability issues.
- Solar lamps provided by the NF for night fishing now have two extra bulbs for home use.
- A few people from the community are trained for resolving the technical issues of the solar lamps.
- LED bulbs are easily available in the market and its life is 1-2 years.
- The life of the battery in solar lamps is nearly 3 years.
- New batteries are bought at a discounted price by exchanging the old batteries.
- Some places have fishermen's associations that provide financial support to purchase the battery. The amount can be repaid to these associations in installments.
- An 18% VAT is charged on solar batteries.
- The initial cost of these lamps was 55,000 SLR, and the lamp has a capacity of 4W.
- **To address the challenges related to solar lamps, shifting from individual solutions to organizing communities can be the best solution.**
- LED bulbs can be refurbished. The barefoot organization in India provides training to the community member for the refurbishing of the equipment.
- Better quality batteries cost three times more than normal batteries, but they last much longer. Awareness should be raised among the fishing community regarding this.
- In the case of cloudy days, the battery can sustain the lighting of lamps for up to three days.

2.3 River Restoration in the Chambal region, Rajasthan: TERRE policy

- The successful implementation of the project resulted in a significant transformation, leading to the diversification of livelihoods, economic development, and community progress.
- The earlier dacoits of the region initiated farming activities, marking a positive change.
- The project involved active participation from the community.

III. Day-3 (7 Feb 2024)- Thematic Workshops

Key Takeaway Messages

1. Building a collaborative policy agenda & Youth Capacity building: SaciWATERS

Participants were grouped into four main working groups and needs to find the timelines and mechanisms to promote the policies and agenda with respect to the following themes:

- Ecosystem-based Sustainable Coastal Development
- Renewable Energy (Solar lamps and Solar based RO)
- Coastal Livelihoods Resilience and Capacity Building
- Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

a) Ecosystem-based Sustainable Coastal Development		
Proposed Actions	Organization	Timeline
1. Best Practices		
Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystem	BEDS and NEWS	March' 4
	CRenIEO	Feb '24
	HAD	Apr' 24
	BEDS and NEWS	shared
	CRenIEO (sea bass and Mud Crab in BWA)	March' 24
	CRenIEO (giant freshwater prawns' culture and value chain with participation of women in coastal pond system)	May'24
2. Seminars/ Webinar		
National forum in India (2days)	CRenIEO (Aquaculture in BWA)	Mar/Apr' 2024
Sustainable Aquaculture in Coastal Ecosystem	Webinar	Oct'24

b) Renewable Energy (Solar lamps and Solar based RO)	
Proposed Actions	Timeline
Documentation of best practices	March end' 24
Sharing best practices through social media	Apr end'24
Conducting a regional webinar	Apr end'24

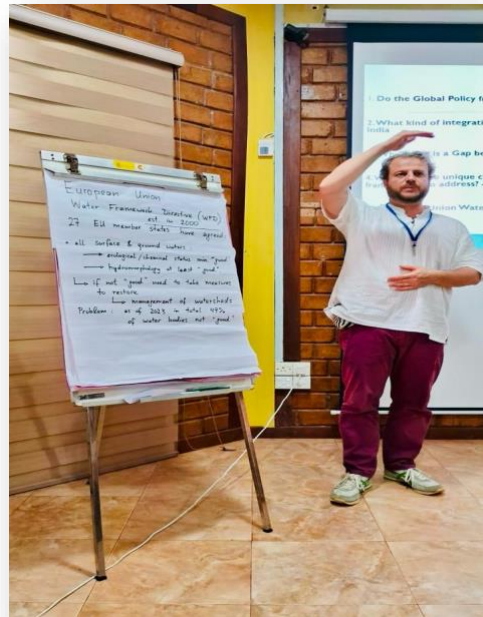
Media coverage	May/Jun'24
Sharing best practices through youth	Jul '24

c) Coastal livelihoods resilience and capacity building		
Proposed Actions	Organization	Timeline
Best practices		
Livelihood mapping- existing challenges (Documentation of the experiences of the Badabon Farmers Producer Company Ltd)	NEWS	Oct '24
Honey processing best practice document	BEDS	Apr'24
Microplanning at village level (Advised Write analysis based on the inputs provided by	TERRE Policy	End of Feb'24
Proposed Online Training for Youth		
Understanding ocean's biodiversity	TERRE Policy	End of Feb'24
Bee honey marketing (Business management plan)	EMACE	Sep'24

d) Gender equity and social inclusion	
Strategies	Timeline
Webinars	
Women focused self-help group formation and livelihood creation	July'24
Involving women in decision making	May '24
Online Training by SaciWATERS	
Roles and responsibilities for both male and females	May '24
Removing the barrier of digital divide	Aug'24

Creating mass awareness for equal participation in social development

July'24



2. Session by One Tree Planted: Towards a joint agenda fundraising and organizational development:

a) Partnership and collaboration:



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- Establish clear communication channels to facilitate regular and transparent communication among partner organizations.
- Utilize digital platforms, regular meetings, and newsletters to share updates, challenges, and successes.
- Engage in joint planning sessions to identify areas of collaboration.
- Offer training and capacity-building programs to strengthen the skills of individuals within partner organizations.
- Invest time and effort in building trust and rapport among team members from different organizations.

b) Funding:

- For CSR funding, a commission was requested. This can be prevented by having dedicated funding expertise in the organization, which can negotiate effectively.
- Developing organizations often operate with limited financial resources. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of projects and initiatives can be challenging, especially when dependent on external funding, as there is no stability provided by the donors for the continuity of their funds.
- Developing the skills and capacities of staff for raising funds is crucial, but it can be challenging due to budget constraints and competing priorities. Dedicated grants should be allocated for such kinds of training.
- Limited access to technology or the slow adoption of technological advancements, such as MIS, can impede organizational efficiency.

c) Human resources:

- Limited budget allocation for staff management is challenging. It can be resolved by increasing staff benefits.
- Some projects require a multidisciplinary approach. This can be undertaken by having different thematic groups within the organization.
- It is difficult to manage the team. Capacity-building training should be provided from time to time.
- Developing loyalty for the organization is difficult. It can be tackled by increasing perks and benefits for the employees.

d) Monitoring, evaluation, learning

Problems:

- The availability of open-access data is restricted, which can hinder effective monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Technology is evolving rapidly, posing challenges in keeping up with the latest advancements.
- Maintaining and sustaining technology beyond the duration of a specific project is challenging, leading to potential inefficiencies or gaps in the long run.

Solutions:



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- The problems can be addressed through better transparency and budgeting.
- By improving access to open data, organizations can enhance their monitoring and evaluation efforts.
- Establishing clear budgetary plans for technology implementation and maintenance can contribute to sustainability beyond individual projects.

3. Pioneering interrogation of environment conservation and Eco-tourism through voluntourism: HAD

- About Maldives:
 - a) Huvadhoo is the third largest atoll of the world.
 - b) More than 150,000 expats live in Maldives.
 - c) Maldives is quite vulnerable to climate change.
 - d) Maldives has a wet season and a dry season.
- Huvadhoo Aid was formed in 1986 by the community. But in early 2000, new organization was formed by the youth focusing on youth empowerment, capacity development of other NGOs. They started focusing on governance since 2008.
- Voluntourism It simply describes “tourism in which travelers do voluntary work to help communities or the environment in the places they are visiting. It is a concept of integrating environmental conservation with eco-tourism. It has following characteristics:
 - a) Cultural immersion
 - b) Act as educational modules.
 - c) Hands on conservation activities
 - d) Aids in community integration
 - e) A sustainable funding models.
- In 2009, Maldivian youth held climate change conference in the sea. In following years, they held it in the boat.
- In 2018, the first pilot program for coral planting was done.
- Iron bars was used for coral planting in deeper ocean, one km from the shore and 200 meters deep.
- The area was monitored through transect line study, quadrant survey and coral ID.



4. Natural farming and food security: NEWS

- Natural farming in Sundarbans promotes saying no to inorganic agriculture or the practice of **NIA**. It utilizes traditional farming methods, including crop rotation, multi-cropping, and straw mulching.
- It involves the preservation of indigenous seeds and the maintenance of soil health. Stopping the use of inorganic fertilizers has resulted in an increase in the microbial content of the soil.
- A tensiometer is used for monitoring soil moisture. Integrated pest management is utilized, including biological pest control through bird perching. Biopesticides and pheromone traps are being used.
- Farmers have transformed into citizen-scientists by establishing their own micro-laboratories for producing and testing bio-pesticides. This innovative process is drawing the interest of the younger generation towards farming.
- The first step was to collect local seeds from the farmers, specifically vegetable seeds. Indigenous rice seeds were collected from an organization called Paribesh Unnayan Parishad (PUPA).
- After the harvest, 3 kgs of seeds were collected from the farmers, with 1 kg returned to PUPA and 2 kgs kept in the storage center. Three women's groups are maintaining the seed storage units at Amlamethi.
- 147 farmers have started growing local paddy and vegetables, including 16 indigenous varieties of paddy. It helps in local employment generation.
- BEDS shared that there are no indigenous watermelon seeds present in Bangladesh due to the cultivation of hybrid seeds.

5. Field Visit to Organic Farming Sites

5.1 Visit to garden of people practicing organic farming in Ambalangoda near NF.



- The people in the community are practicing organic farming and using homemade manure for plant nourishment.
- They cultivate a variety of vegetables including tomatoes, chilies, ridge gourds, cucumbers, spinach, drumsticks, bananas, and more.
- They also grow various kinds of ornamental plants.
- It not only helps them for sustenance but also acts as an extra source of income.

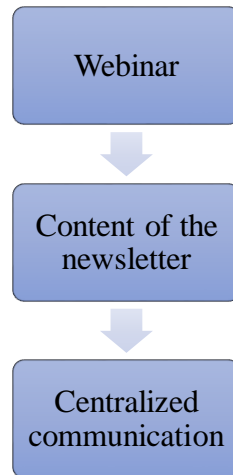
5.2 Field visit at Madampe lake



- Reforested 6 acres of destroyed mangrove areas in Madampa Wetland, involving the planting of over 30,000 new seedlings.
- Project was initiated in February 2005, shortly after the Indian Ocean Tsunami.
- Planned and implemented primarily by Nagenahiru Foundation, with strong collaboration with various stakeholder groups from the communities involved.
- Stakeholder groups include fishermen families, traditional wetland users (farmers, residents), women groups, handicraft experts, teachers, school children, college students, mayors, community leaders, government authorities, conservation opinion leaders, and entrepreneurs (e.g., tourist boat operators).

6. Living Lakes Network- The South Asian Chapter: Ms. Ajanta Dey.

- Suggestions given by the forum:
 - a) Quarterly meetings should be held.
 - b) Competitions, such as poster making, on the Triple Planetary Crisis topics (pollution, climate crisis, biodiversity loss) should be organized to select youth participants.
 - c) A newsletter should be launched by the network covering themes like lake restoration, pollution in lakes, biodiversity loss, or topics related to existing projects.
 - d) Monthly meetings should be held.
 - e) A dedicated person from NEWS should be appointed to manage communication in the South Asia network.
- Communication to be shared through emails. Focus should be given on the following:



- The newsletter is tentatively scheduled to be launched on World Water Day, March 22, 2024.
- The Focal point for communication for every organization is decided. It is as follows:

ORGANIZATIONS	POINT OF CONTACT
NEWS	Dr Mayur
Nagenahiru Foundation	Ms. Vishekha
CRenIEO	Dr. Vincent (confirmation needed)
BEDS	To be declared
TERRE Policy	Ms. Sneha
HAD	Mr. Abdullah Hareesh
EMACE	To be declared
SaciWATERS	Ms. Aradhana Amlathe

IV. Day-4 (8 Feb 2024)- Field Trip

Highlights

1. Field visit to mangrove restoration site 1-Kalpitiya: Tottupulai Lagoon



- Coastal communities are engaged in mangrove conservation, which offers an additional source of income for these poverty-stricken areas.
- The community members are prohibited from cutting the mangrove plants.
- Prawn farming and proximity to conflict areas are major causes of mangrove destruction. To settle down, people cleared a larger area of mangrove forest.
- The site was selected based on consultation with the coastal conservation department.
- Two models have been used for mangrove protection: one involving the fishing community and the other through the involvement of the youth.
- Before plantation, GIS mapping of the site and data were collected scientifically.
- Before the plantation drive, a workshop for the community explaining the importance of mangroves was conducted.
- A single species of mangrove was planted on the site.
- The tidal level at the site is less than 2 feet.
- During low tides, a 50-meter area is exposed.
- Suggestions provided by the experts:
 - a) older mangroves can be connected to the site by providing water channels.
 - b) Monoculture is not advisable; multiple species of mangroves should be planted.
 - c) Protect the flora from cattle grazing.



2. Visit to fisherman communities to understand the use of solar energy: Korakanchenai Village

- 60 solar lamps have been provided till now.
- Extra two bulbs have been provided for the household purposes.



V. Day-5 (9 Feb 2024)- Field Trip

1. Field visit to mangrove restoration site 2-Kalpitiya: Othakanna Lagoon

- The site features a multi-species plantation.



2. Visit and discussions with women of her family farm: Red bana Pallivasthurai Village:

- Women in the village engage in organic farming to cultivate a variety of vegetables.
- They produce manure at home by composting animal excreta.
- Additionally, they sell various byproducts of the vegetables they grow.
- The additional income earned by the women is used to pay electricity bills and cover madrasa fees for their children's education.

