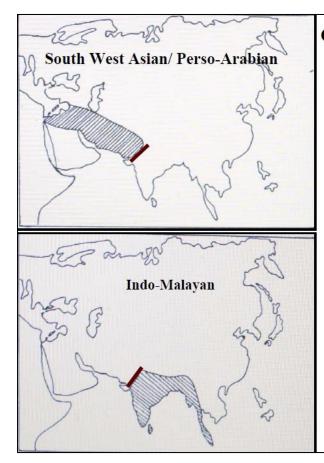




An Experiment at linking Theory with Practise

Think Globally Act Locally, Act Locally Spread Globally

Preparing to engage meaningfully with the SDGs through application of Geo Spatial Tools to address issues related to Sociological and Environmental Stewardship



Great Aravallis : Drude's Line

- Drude (1890,1913) stated- the line limiting **Perso-Arabian** and **Indo-Malayan** elements runs along the Aravallis and extends southwards to the Gulf of Cambay.
- The western or **Perso-Arabian** elements (Mediterranean, south-west Asian and African) are dominant over the eastern or Indo-Malayan element in the region west of Aravallis. In the Aravallis and the eastern region the proportion of eastern element exceeds that of the western element.
- Drude's line therefore, runs along the western side of the Aravallis, being the region of changeover between the two floras dominated by eastern or western elements.

An Experiment at linking Theory with Practise

Think Globally Act Locally, Act Locally Spread Globally

Preparing to engage meaningfully with the SDGs through application of Geo Spatial Tools to address issues related to Sociological and Environmental Stewardship

Study team¹



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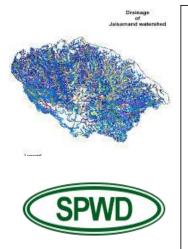


Leyla Surmeli



Eco Club, Science Club

Literature club



Taking forward the work of Jaisamand Consortium through organic partnership from the local to Tribal South Rajasthan integrating elements conducive to linking ecosystem stewardship concepts with that of principles of local self governance to respond to global developments like Climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Prayatna Samiti

Hanuman Van Vikas Samiti

Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti

¹ The study team reflects the outward looking approach of IELA and JJVS engaging in collaborative efforts as a way forward.

Background:

This paper, a collaborative effort between Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti and Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action is the start of a new beginning as both prepare themselves to respond to the new challenges facing the world. IELA has vast exposure to the issues of ecology, sustainability and livelihood facing the world. Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti's work on the other hand in rooted in the local ecology and the relevance of traditional health practises. The need for an alternate approach to development stemmed from the vast loss of biodiversity and its impacts on climate change and other issues facing the world. Since the youth are the leaders of tommorrow a proper orientation to the youth will prepare them for the design of an alternative future. The sustainable development goals provide a road map for the future, however we cannot engage with it mecahanically, rather need to see the contextual situation we are in. **Think Globally act locally** is our motto how do we practise this. The local here is work area of Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti, the global being the SDGs.

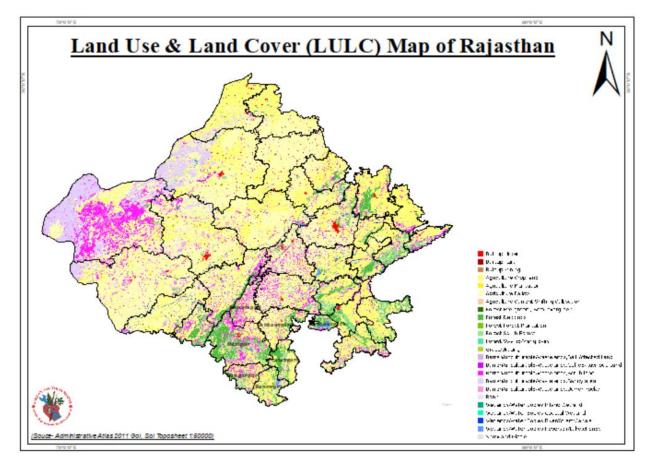
If we look at the Himalayas which define the Northern boundary of India: It is the third largest ice cap in the World, but the snow has melted to about 40% of its original size 70-8- years ago. What does this mean ? Ice/ snow being white reflect the sun rays back , reduction of its size means there is less reflection of the sun so more heating up of the earth. A 1* rise in temperature at the equator means a 10* rise on the polar ice caps so we can understand its impact on the Himalayas as well. India and Australia are connected in between by the sea. Due to different polarity, when it is hot in India it is cold in Australia and vice versa. Air Currents flow from cold to hot due to reduction in the pressure so what happens if it is hot instead of cold and vice versa ?

Looking at the Aravallis we see that the desert is to the West, Churu is the hottest place in India. This hot desert attract the current from the sea in a particular way. We have already seen how the Himalayas affect the rain bearing clouds. In the Desert, the Indira Gandhi canal has brought prosperity to Bikaner, Ganganagar and Hanumangarh however with cropping take place year round due to irrigation, this region is cooling while the rest of India is heating up. So now imagine what this change in the temperature pattern does to the currents carring rain bearing clouds into the country ? Can we properly study the impacts or make changes to way things are happening as individuals ? The answer is a resounding no. So what can we do ?

To understand the insection between ecology and governance, we will start with three Panchayats of Kurbad Block of Udaipur District namely Jamar Kotra, Chasda and Lalpura. While the larger issues related to the natural resources of the region will be studied at the this level, sixteen villages within these three panchayats are being taken as the smallest unit for development planning which will be Federated at the level of the three panchayats to start with.

Part I

How can CFR pattas transform micro planning?



The land use, land cover map of Rajasthan, shows that the majority of the forests of Rajasthan lie East of the Aravallis with a major part in tribal South Rajasthan.

	Raja	jasthan : % Forest Area East of Aravallis				
S. No.	District to the East of Aravallis	Forest Area (Sq. km)	% of Total Forest on East of Aravallis	% of Total Dense Forest on East of Aravallis		
1	Ajmer	618.4419	2.50	0.76		
2	Alwar	1783.6148	7.21	8.76		
3	Banswara	1006.3866	4.07	1.85		
4	Baran	2239.6901	9.05	3.31		
5	Bharatpur	434.9344	1.76	0.69		
6	Bhilwara	779.6888	3.15	0.76		
7	Bundi	1557.3335	6.29	3.25		
8	Chittoragarh	1793.4145	7.25	13.23		
9	Dausa	284.4934	1.15	0		
10	Dholpur	638.3859	2.58	1.82		
11	Dungarpur	692.7533	2.80	0.98		
12	Jaipur	945.6630	3.82	2.82		
13	Jhalawar	1349.7943	5.45	1.85		
14	Karauli	1810.0470	7.31	0		
15	Kota	1322.4592	5.34	3.4		
16	Pratapgarh	1666.3071	6.73	0		
17	Rajsamand	401.2779	1.62	2.91		
18	Sawai Madhopur	952.8829	3.85	5.6		
19	Tonk	330.0466	1.33	0.73		
20	Udaipur	4142.3344	16.74	31.58		
	Total	24749.94954	100	84.3		

Details of Forest Area East of the Aravallis

With seventy five percent of the forest land and 84 % of the dense forest in this region and another 11% of the dense forest in the two adjacent districts of Sirohi and Pali West of the Aravallis, the Aravallis play a vital role as a barrier, what happens to the Aravallis therefore is central to the health of the people of Rajasthan. There is a large open forest and scrub land falling in Barmer/ Jaisalmer known as Desert National Park².

² Final FRA Status and Strategy report: Facilitate FRA Implementation in Rajasthan through Interaction with Civil Society and Grassroots Movements; paper prepared by Viren Lobo.

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	1	OF CCOMMUNITY F			
District	Received	Sanctioned Claim	Reject	Pending	Total Hactare
Udaipur	2467	733	958	776	96835.72
Dungarpur	1267	880	837	0	3292.12
Banswara	2166	691	861	614	1198.08
Pratapgarh	1018	155	663	200	24.16
Chittorgarh	321	0	321	0	0
Rajsamand	68	24	44	0	1343.96
Total	7307	2483	3684	1590	102694.04

This is 10.58 % of the forests in this region. Even though the amount sanctioned is small compared to totality possible how this can energise a people's planning process for CFR is what we see great potential in at the moment. In addition another 2.5 % has been approved in the region. The comparable figures for Udaipur District are 23% under CFR and 2.1% under IFR. This makes Udaipur a good place to start the post CFR sanction, micro planning process. Since JJVS has a large presence in Kurabad Taluka, a start is being made there where 5.24% of the CFR claims in Udaipur District have been approved.

Part II

Transforming the health agenda in Kurabad



A revised perspective of Nutrition, Health and Overall Well Being

Jagran's experiences during the COVID pandemic indicated the need for decentralised and robust Nutrition and Health care, capable of providing cost effective and easily acessable alternatives to local communities in South Rajasthan. The process of documenting Nutritional and health deficiencies among the local community was initiated. During this process it became clear that development of an appropriate nutrition and health programme is intricately linked to revival of the local bioversity and traditional knowledge and practises of local communities.

While Jagran is working on local nutrition and remedies known to women, traditional healers and ayurveda experts there is a need to strengthen this with the improved ability of local communities to make ecological assessments. Jagran has therefore teamed up with IELA to provide the requisiste technical assistance to develop a participatory nutrition and health care system at community level building on Jagran's considerable expertise of working with traditional healers and ayurveda experts.

Government reports indicate that pregnant women have lower than recommended intakes of energy, protein, essential micronutrients and Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplements despite 91% receiving IFA supplements, only 32.3% took them for more than 100 days. 32% of children under five years are underweight, 36% stunted, 19% wasted, 67% have anaemia. 19% of women and 16% of men under 50 are undernourished. 24% of women and 23% of men are obese.

Government schemes and facilities exist, but these are either inadequate, not accessible and hence not properly made use of. To supplement and strengthen these efforts, Jagran is currently integrating the use of local remedies known to women, traditional healers and ayurveda experts by strengthening traditional knowledge of the local biodiversity in health and nutrition and development of kitchen gardens. Aamla powder, candy, Chyawanprash, Battisa are among the local options that will help increase awareness and access of local communities to robust health and nutrition systems.

In order to better deal with the conditions emerging from COVID Jagran undertook nutritional studies to better target interventions towards the more needy. The studies showed chronic malnourishment and in particular iron deficiency. These issues emerged more sharply for women after puberty, during pregnancy and at the time of breast feeding as well. Targetted programmes by Jagran aimed at addressing these issues among, children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers and other malnourished adults.

Appreciating the significance of a comprehensive programme for Nutritional and Health care, Jagran has tied up with Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action (IELA) to train local communities in self assessment of Biodiversity and Ecology in a manner that can help assess the current base line and facilitate communities to put in place the missing links based on their own expertise and exisiting government programmes and schemes in place.

The COVID pandemic threw up the need for robust decentralised health and nutrition systems that could address the immediate concerns of the local disadvantaged communities that urgently required cost effective solutions. The importances of the local household remedies, local health practitioners (gunis) and ayurveda (based on the local herbal diversity), was very much in evidence. Malnutrition and other studies done by Jagran to identify the most needy identified the relevance of local foods and traditional nutritional supplents to the daily diet. While Jagran has

been systematically working to build on this, IELA has separately worked across the country to empower the local communities to assess the relevance of their own local resources for a comprehensive programme related to Nutrition, Health, Education and Overall Well Being. It was only natural that both decided to team up to combine their strengths to take these issues forward.

Given the larger concerns related to sustainability and need for cost effective livelihood support programmes, this base programme addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2-5 is ideally suited to tap the latent energy of women and children in developing concrete programmes that address the concerns reflected in the other SDGs as well. Conditions are ripe to promote these options to improve the Primary Health Care sub centres located in remote villages, improve the quality and delivery of the Mid Day Meal programme and provide an entry point for children to actively engage with these issues through an appreciation of local biodiversity and natural resources on questions related to Nutrition, Health and Overall Well Being.

The blend between science, experiment and its relvance in evaluating local traditional knowledge and practises would help marginal and backward communities concretely engage with a larger concerns related to health justice. Local species are well adapted to climate and have health benefits also.

Studies done by Jagran indicate the nutritional issues faced by children which further get aggravated in women post puberty due to the differential demand for nutrition as a result of menstruation, pregnancy and breast feeding. Traditional systems had inbuilt mechansims to address these issues many of which have gone out of use due to the breakdown of the nutritional habits prompted by avalability in the market, PDS, Mid Day meal scheme and provision of supplements to address these issues. A number of barriers exist in relation to proper awareness and availability in government schemes which can be corrected by supplementing these through evaluation of the relevance of traditional practises like provision of Battisa to lactating mothers.

Participatory studies done by IELA indicate that many unsustainable practises are being followed by local communities ignoring issues related to water and nutrient cycles, issues related to soil heath and traditional climate and ecosystem specific diets of local communities. Proper participatory evaluation of the ecological significance of the local biodiversity and steps needed to facilitate appropriate site specific land and water use practises are needed. Given the relative commercial orientation of the men, it has been found that such participatory exrcises are better conducted by women who have a greater stake in issues related to health and nutrition as a result of the impact of discriminatory practises emerging from the commercial orientation. They are also the ones who can better appreciate the positive impact that such a programme can have on the nutritional status of their offspring.

Greater involvement of women which is inbuilt into the programme will also promote the involvement of children as this will positively impact the MId Day meal scheme in the Child care centres (anganwadis) and schools and facilitate a field based perspective to environment and climate change issues.

The biggest hurdle facing a robust health system are deep seated community taboos and prejudices. Adolescent girls in particular do not reveal the real issues related to gynaecological problems rather only describe outward symptoms. If wrongly treated such problems can develop into ovarian cancer and other more serious problems. Experience has taught doctors at Jagran to

be able to quickly identify the real issues and treat accordingly. Awareness and information gathering is also facilitated through women doctors and women staff of the organisation.

Another major issue is the difference in short term and long term solutions which require a qualitatively different approach. Short term solutions are sought for a number of reasons

a. The severity of the case requiring immediate treatment.

b. Need to get well soon so as to resume duties at the workplace.

c. General approach favouring quick fix solutions.

Long term treatment like change of diet, use of supplements many time require life style changes to accompany it. In particular use of local remedies require reversal of some practises and ensuring easy availability of the ingredients. This requires regular follow up and monitoring to ensure that the combination of activities required are in place and are implemented one by one.

As can be seen from the above, the project design itself takes into deep seated gender concerns. In addition, this is reinforced at various levels through the following

a. Creating awareness about gender specific health and nutritional issues in SHG group meetings.

b. Using Government camps, programmes and other opportunities to spread awareness related to gender specific diseases, issues and concerns.

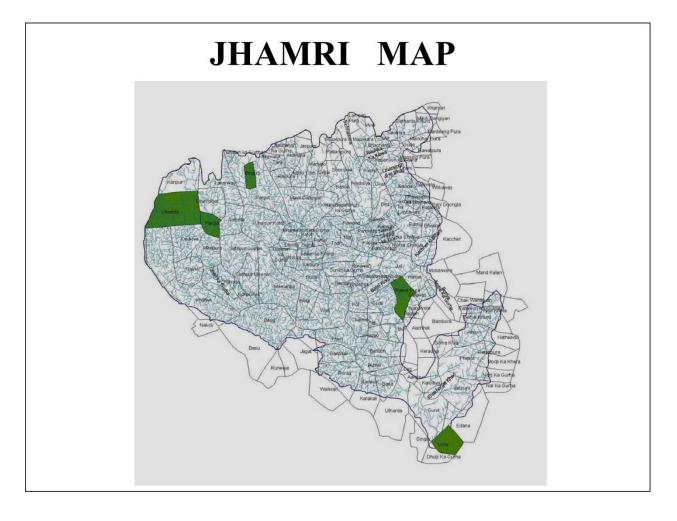
c. Educating mothers about child and self care at various forums namely with the help of the anganwadi worker in relation to issues facing children in age group 1-5.

d. Facilitating discussion relating to issues facing adolescent girls in school committees run by the parents.

An empowered women's group will be in a better position to share their experiences in the gram sabha and work collectively with men to build a more comprehensive Health Care system combining the relvance of the traditional with the modern. Since the project will help tie up loose ends related to nutrition and health care delivery system by showing the relevance of the local biodiversity and traditional knowledge in bridging the gaps, it is expected that system will be able to better cater to marginalised and disadvantaged women having financial and social reasons behind their neglect and discrimination.

Part III

Picking up the threads from Jhamri Study

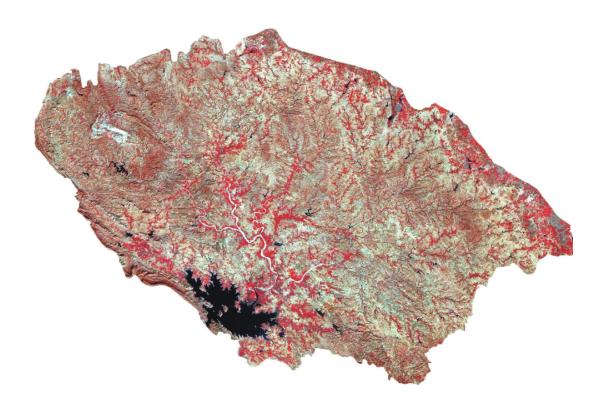


A Peep into the Past and its links to the Present

Prior to the formation of Jaisamand Consortium, SPWD and its partners in Jaisamand built on the potential offered by GIS (Geographical Information Systems) to develop a perspective on the natural resources of Jaismand following the principles of the basin level approach which at SPWD's request was facilitated by SOPPECOM to understand the relationship between a watershed, sub basin and the catchment area of Jaisamnd lake. During the course of this study SPWD noticed a relationship between the land holdings and the Cattle population held. The Dangis ho;ding more land in the lower catchment areas and access to water had more buffaloes while the Rawats (Meena) who were mostly in the upper catchment areas had more goats. The significance of Jaismand Catchment area compared to some other regions of Udaipur was that there was 62% revenue land, 16% forest and 22% agriculture of which 6% was irrigated. This meant that forest ecology and tribal culture was important in pockets, while animal husbandry (based on the open pastures; some of them privatised) was the dominant form of land use. The study helped SPWD get a handle on a different angle to the relevance of the commons as compared to forested, tribal regions of the district while simultaneously throwing light on aspects of tribal economy as well. Later IELA was able to work with tribal fisher communities residing on the shores of Jaisamand Lake. Due to the construction of the Lake their land use got changed from then existing forest dependant economy to a water depedant one. These are aspects which will be integrated later as IELA collaboration with Jaisamand Consortium deepens.

The Jaisamand Initiative

SPWD started working in Jaisamand catchment area since the 90's with its partner organizations Prayatana Samiti and Hanuman Van Vikas Samiti. Initially the work centered on Joint Forest Management, pastureland development moving towards watershed development. Subsequently a study on small water harvesting structures was done, which attempted to establish the link between the watersheds and the basin level data. This formed the basis for discussions among civil society institutions and CBOs about the need for looking at various aspects of natural resource management at the basin and sub basin level in order to bring in synergy in the efforts of various NGOs, activists and CBOs. Over a period of four years, these interactions matured into three partners (also Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti) deciding to collaborate in the Jhamari river basin for a study on Wastelands Characterisation. The study attempts to give a meaningful framework for Mapping, Database creation at village level making use of Remote Sensing and GIS techniques



Objectives

- Mapping of Spatial distribution of land use/ land cover, Soil and Ground Water Potential at village/ cadastre level
- Identification of wasteland areas having potential for agriculture development
- Study and comparison of land use/ cover area estimates at cadastral level
- Generation of Action Plan for land and water resources
- Linking with attribute data collected from field
- To generate specific action plans for sustainable development of natural resources using wasteland information generated using remote sensing

A characterisation exercise done by SPWD attempts to understand the issue of basin level management from its smallest unit, the village watershed and building up to the catchment area by characterising different parts of a sub basin from upper catchment to its entry into the lake. Industrial development, agriculture, animal husbandry and mining are the major economic activities within the river basin. The related issues and the interest of different sections of the community in this regard have been documented. GIS mapping and field survey, uncover different facets of the natural resources, the people and their relation to natural resources. The survey for instance clearly brings out the relationship of different communities to animal husbandry resources and their link with agriculture and fodder availability.

The Institutional dimension

The three NGOs, Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti, Prayatna Samiti and Hanuman Van Vikas Samiti between them work in 170 villages in Jaisamand and have facilitated the creation of 550 Self help groups. A consortium comprising of five organizations viz. Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti,

Prayatna Samiti, Hanuman Van Vikas Samiti, Samarthak Samiti and Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development. The Consortium has taken up three panchayats for comprehensive development under NREGA in Girwa panchayat samiti of Jaisamand Catchment area. The programme seeks to enhance NRM based livelihoods by strengthening the programme under NREGA and in addition taking up value added activities in agriculture and animal husbandry. Marketing of agricultural produce, milk and NTFP are undertaken by aggregating produce so as to have better bargaining power in the market. The programme is envisaged to carry on for three years.

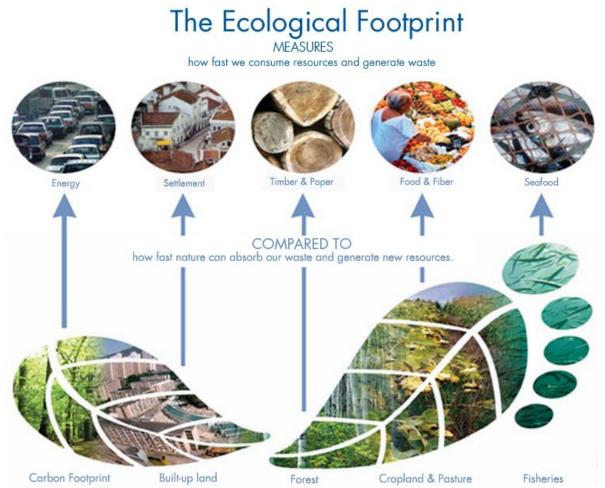
Way Ahead (written about 17 years ago) and its implications at prsent

Basin level management is a multi dimensional issue and requires proper understanding and coordination of a number of data bases. The GIS format provides sufficient flexibility to examine issues in a multidimensional space. However by itself this will not be useful if at the grass roots appropriate organization is no there to take up the relevant issues. Hamlet level organizations, networked over time deal with sub basin level issues, provides both the flexibility and the unity of purpose to deal with larger problems affecting the local communities. While the paper does not deal with the specific issue relating to natural resource management at Panchayat level and the relevance of National Rural Employment Guarantee programme to provide the critical labour component needed in building up the productivity of the asset base. The importance of such organizations in improving governance at the panchayat level cannot be undermined. It is clear that the strengthening building up of decentralized governance is intricately linked with an upto date data base that can correlate local issues with more macro ones which aloe can lead to more effective planning of natural resources at the sub basin level . The ongoing initiatives in Jaisamand over the next 3 years should help to provide more answers to these critical questions.

Since then Jaisamnd Consortium worked on NREGA in more than 75 villages covering different aspects of land use in collaboration with the community. The potential offered by the approaval of CFR claims in 2023 provides a different kind of space for local communities to function integrating traditional nutrition, health and other practises with the potential that convergence programmes can provide for which JJVS has developed expertise.

PART IV

The Possibility of Engaging with Ecological Footprints?



Problem Statement :

Ways to measure Carbon, water, energy and ecological footprints have been developed as a guide to sustainable livelihoods on this planet. However existing mehods to measure footprints do not take into account the integration between production systems and consumption systems. General yardsticks are provided. While this is a good start to create awareness, we need to be able to measure the footprint from production to consumption. Geo spatial tools allow for community participation in tracking all facets of production. Given proper incentive and framework design for monioring indicators, communities can be roped into this process both at the production, transportation and consumption levels. Certainly the basic infrastructure is in place to allow for data entry of this type. Cost effective monitoring systems have to be built in to make this happen in real time.

Project Goal and Objective

Goal: Development and facilitation of a Participatory approach to upgrading capacity of relevant stakeholders in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Rajasthan for Ecosystem Valuation through a multipronged approach to livelihood and sustainablity questions related to ecosystem services and related decisions on appropriate land use, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation in line with the necessity for active engagement with Agenda 2030.

Overall Objective: Community centric ecosystem valuation based on the interplay between scientific principles and community knowledge and potential for Capacity building of local communities, academic insitutions, government and other insitutions for Concrete realisation of agenda 2030 through its manifestation in the decisions on land use and programmes undertaken in the States of Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

Objective 1: Building on studies done by Habitat Ecological Trust in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh to develop and outline for studying Ecological footprints from Production to Consumption to develop in community centric basis for measuring ecological footprints in selected pilots of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Rajasthan covering tribal, pastoral, small and traditional fishers. small and marginal farmers and labour originating from such pilot regions.

Objective 2: Development of Participatory Ecosytem Footprint Assessment and valuation tools for Ecosystem specific Thematic programmes related to Food, Nutrition, Health, Education, and Overall Well Being around the promotion, development and protection of the local biodiversity, its relation to appropriate land and water use and related energy and nutrient requirements in selected pilots in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Rajasthan covering issues related to forests, pasturelands/rangelands, dryland and irrigated agriculture, wetlands and montane ecosystems and communities covered in Objective 1.

Objective 3: Use of Geo-Spatial tools and AI for real time ecossytem footprint assessment and valuation to facilitate land use decision making by local communities, implementation, monitoring, documentation and evaluation of the work of stakeholders in diverse ecosystems across the selected pilots covering issues outlined in Objective 2.

Objective 4: Development of Federation of women and Children from Gram Sabha to the landscape level so that the same can participate effectively in matters related to Ecosystem valuation and related decision making in programmes being developed by Panchayati Raj Institutions at village, Block and District level. In the case of children, involvement of the schools in which they are being educated to develop effective learning centres on issues related to the local ecosystems and the 17 SDGs so as to develop leadership skills for the future.

The principles of the slogan *Think Globally Act Locally: Act Locally Spread Globally* is being reflected in the operationalisation of the goal defined above.

Underlining hypothesis:

https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Valuation-of-Ecosystems_-IELA_Habitat_Case-studies-from-different-States.pdf The paper above illustrates the problem being faced when Economic systems based on cash/ market transactions are applied to the process of Ecossytem Service valuation. The work of IELA and its partner organisations indicate that involvement of women and children in the ecosystem valuation process would help bring to bear the vast amount of local and traditional knowledge embedded with local communities and update them with multidisciplinary expertise in a manner that is consistent with dealing with the current issues and problems being faced by local communities in the process developing transformational ecosystem stewardship for sustainable livelihoods and overall well being. What is needed now is an alternative Ecological footprint in tune with nature's cycles which can considerably reduce the cost of production and provide cost effective eco friendly options for diverse communities in rural and urban areas.

Proposed Programme:

Phase 1

Development of a framework for measuring Ecological Footprints:

Based on the experience of Dr Leena Gupta, this phase lasting about one month to 45 days will be to consolidate the considerable experience gathered by her to develop a frameowrk which can be used to measure the Ecological footprint in pilot locations of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, so selected because of the necessity of being able to provide objective measurement to parameters which are already operational in the field.

Phase 2

Field testing of framework and generation of qualitative and quantitative methods of assessment

The framework so tested will be field tested in the pilot locations mentioned in Phase 1 to generate qualitative and quantiative methods of assessment which can be more generally applied in other locations as well. This is expected to take about 4-5 months.

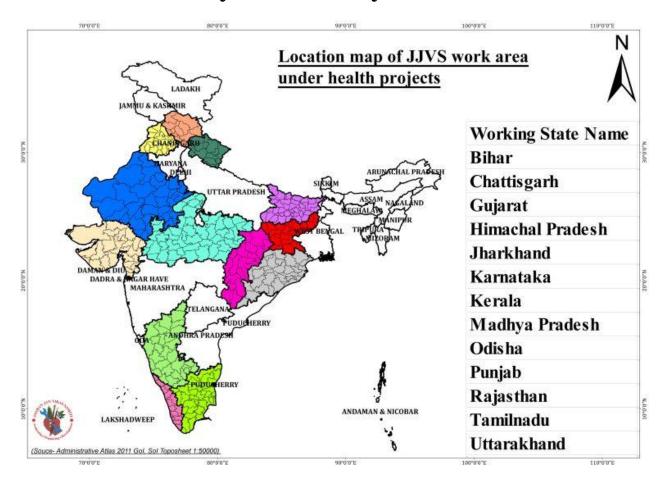
Phase 3

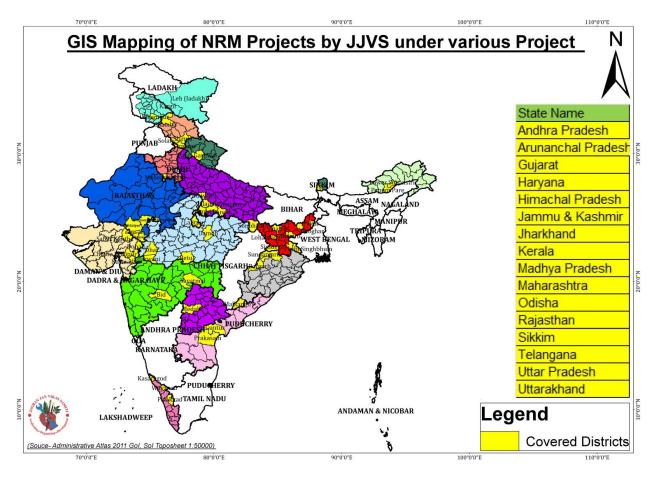
Integration with other processes taking place in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Rajasthan

This phase is expected to start in April 2025 and continue till March 2028.

PART V

Think Globally Act Locally where JJVS fits in





Area of Operation:

Jagran works in 32 districts of 16 States of India. Jagran has prepared GIS based GPs NRM. Linked to the work on GIS Jagran also conducted Health Program in 7 States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Rajasthan).

The relevance of a collaborative effort for integration and upscaling:

Given the potential provided by the robust GIS team that JJVS has, the possibility of an integrated approach to upscaling the efforts through a process of collaboration with IELA and its partner organisations is immense. To start with, JJJVS with the help of IELA will attempt to integrate the work in Jaisamand Catchment area with its own partners.