



Annual Report 2012-13

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Conceptual Underpinnings

Environics means the study of the influence of the environment on human behaviour. In its mission **to evolve innovative solutions to the problems of community development** Environics Trust interprets it more comprehensively as the mutual influences of environment and social behaviour.

The design and of these innovations are channelled through the processes of **Participative Research**, which enables documentation of existing conditions and the changes aspired; **Community Based Action** to demonstrate the possibility of transforming innovations into a physical and social reality; **Enterprise Development and Servicing** to respond to the current reality of the economic world and identify sustainable entrepreneurial and occupational niches and **Communication** to interface with a larger universe to mutually learn and contribute.



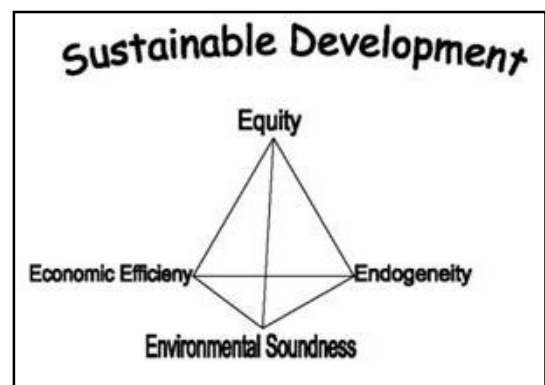
- Participative Research
- Community Based Activities
- Enterprise Development and Servicing
- Communication

Environics Trust, reaches out particularly to mountain, mining, coastal and other marginalized communities.

Environics Trust defines a **Sustainable Development** as the “set of processes that enables the local and global systems to be in ecological harmony”.

The four non-orthogonal attributes of sustainable development which are crucial to the state of being in ecological harmony can be described in the form of the state of these attributes.

- Equity and Justice
- Environmental Soundness
- Endogeneity or Self Reliance
- Economic Efficiency.



Environics Trust's proposition is that

“Societies should identify, evolve processes and implement programmes that concurrently address these four attributes at whatever levels and scales the intervention takes place”.

Participatory Research

1. Polavaram (Indirasagar Project): A Critical View On Ecological Governance

The Godavari is the largest river in south India and the second largest in the Indian union. It rises in the Sahyadris, at an altitude of 3,500 feet above mean sea level near Triambakeshwar in the Nasik district of Maharashtra and flows across the Deccan plateau from the Western to Eastern Ghats. Rising in the Western Ghats about 50 miles from the shore of the Arabian sea, it flows for a total length of about 910 miles in a general South – Eastern direction through the States of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh before it joins the Bay of Bengal, about 60 miles to the south of Rajahmundry. Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are the five riparian states.

Twelve divisions of the Godavari basin			
Division	Segment	Riparian State/s	
G-1	Upper Godavari.	Maharashtra	
G-2	Pravara	Maharashtra	
G-3	Purna	Maharashtra	
G-4	Manjra	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	
G-5	Middle Godavari.	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh	
G-6	Maner	Andhra Pradesh	
G-7	Penganga	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh	
G-8	Wardha	Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh	
G-9	Pranhita	Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh	
G-10	Lower Godavari	Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh	
G-11	Indravati	Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa	
G-12	Sabari	Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh	

1.0 Background

This study was undertaken with the support of the Society for Promotion of Wasteland Development to look at a specific instance of large-scale extinction of Forest Rights in the name of “development”. Polavaram Dam with impacts spreading over three states was chosen for the analysis as it not only affects over 300 forest dwelling villages but also has serious implications to forest and environmental governance. Godavari River originates in the Amarkantak Plateau in Maharashtra and meets the Bay of Bengal in Andhra Pradesh and its use has been a matter of contention in the inter-state river disputes panel. This report is based on field information, analysis of toposheets and other maps and from proceedings of litigations on the project. It describes the project as agreed upon in the disputes panel, the current design, the challenges faced on Forest and Environmental Regulations and the Forest Rights Act. It concludes with a description of one of the alternatives obviating such large-scale violation.

2.0 Polavaram (Indirasagar Project)

Mr. Sonthi Ramamurthi, Advisor to the Madras Government on Godavari River, conceived a project called Ramapadasagar in 1942. As investigations were initiated the project evolved into a much larger endeavour and has been a matter debated in the Interstate Water Disputes Tribunal. Its initial purpose included navigation as an important element. Polavaram (Indira Sagar) Multipurpose Project is by far the largest project in terms of geographical displacement of disadvantaged groups, i.e. indigenous people or tribals in the Scheduled districts of three states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Chhattisgarh.

Over 276 tribal villages spread over 9 mandals in the agency areas of Khamam, East and West Godavari districts are expected to be submerged under the reservoir. According to the 2001 Census, 237,000 people will be displaced. About 53.17 per cent of the displaced people will be tribals. Tribals and Dalits account for 65.75 per cent of the displaced. The displaced will have very little options as the history of resettlement and rehabilitation across the country indicates. The loss of the land, minor forest produce, tubers, leaves, indigenous medicinal systems, common property resources that support human population and livestock consequent destruction of natural resources, cultural systems and traditional knowledge threatens the very existence of these communities even beyond the submergence areas.

The project has been in the limelight for all the reasons – from discouraging public participation to inability to guarantee rights of people to be acknowledged within the framework of constitutional rights. This report describes the challenges made on faulty Environmental and Forest Clearances and their outcomes.

3.0 Forest Act

A complaint was preferred at the CEC of the Supreme Court on the manner in which the Forest Clearance including submergence of Sanctuary Areas were permitted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The CEC while clearing the project with some safeguards pointed out that the quantum of loss was so huge that a serious second thought should be given to the alternatives.

4.0 Environment Protection Act

An appeal was made against the Environmental Clearance of the project in the erstwhile National Environmental Appellate Authority (NEAA) and the NEAA quashed the environmental clearance granted to the project. However the Andhra Pradesh high court intervened and kept the order in abeyance.

5.0 Forest Rights Act

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers Act was enunciated in 2006 with an avowed objective of undoing the historical injustices done to forest dwelling communities. The law itself was an outcome of struggles by several communities and institutions supporting them and the growing impossibility of industrialization in these regions due to strong objections from the communities.

In brief the law provides for individual and community rights to be established over land and resources traditionally being utilized by the communities and to also enable their own management rights over these resources.

In the context of Polavaram Project the Central Government had chosen to ignore its own recommendations in the context of other projects where it insisted will have to settle the rights and seek consent under this Act, but has been eventually been forced to instruct the State to follow the law.

6.0 Alternatives

While all Environmental Good Practices seek that alternatives to the project be explored thoroughly so as to find alternatives which have least impact on people and environment, the Project authorities are blind to a number of alternatives proposed. The report describes one specific alternative which virtually obviates the need for massive submergence.

This Day That Age – The Hindu -²²dated February 16, 1957: Ramapadasagar project

A survey of the Rs. 80-crore Ramapadasagar project in Andhra Pradesh is now being undertaken by the Government of India at the instance of the State Government. The project envisages the construction of a dam across the Godavari with Ipur as the base town and a barrage at Polavaram from where the right and left bank canals will take off. The water-spread of the reservoir will be about 1,000 square miles. A distinguishing feature of the project is said to be that the canal system from Polavaram will be extended right up to Visakhapatnam harbour. Since the canal width will be about 20 feet, barges can easily pass through it, thus affording opportunities to develop the navigational facilities. The network of navigable canals will also be extended to the hinterland providing facilities for easy and direct transport of coal from Singareni, marble available in Khammam area and timber from Central Godavari region

2. Gender and Mining: An assessment of the status, and campaign strategy needs for communities affected by mining in the Lower Mekong countries

Environics Trust has been constituent members of the International Women and Mining Network and have been involved in coordinating some of the advocacy and campaign support activities of network members across regions. The region of South East Asia has had little opportunity for international alliance building with respect to the extractive industry concerns, and more so indigenous women and artisanal women miners have had almost negligent access to networking with civil society groups at all levels. In this respect, Dhaatri Resource Centre and the International Women and Mining Network perceived this opportunity of a collaborative research on gender concerns and mining as a timely intervention to form new engagements with mining affected groups in the region and to open up dialogues for campaign strategies that are sensitive to demanding for gender equity.

We wanted to converge our international experience of working on gender issues in the mining sector with local community needs and to initiate a process of capacity building, advocacy linkages with multiple stakeholders, based on the interactions in the course of the study. Of particular relevance is the work with indigenous women affected by mining projects as the three countries of the study-Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao PDR are primarily populated by indigenous communities where mining operations are located or proposed. These communities have no access to information regarding impacts of transnational mining projects and natural resources and limited means of articulating their demands given the political context here. Global experiences of communities have evidence of serious human rights violations and destruction of natural resources and livelihoods. These have received global attention only due to the networking and collective strengths through solidarity and public actions across regions, which we perceive as the need for the Mekong region where new strategies should emerge to connect local communities and the larger platforms.

As gender dimensions were not specifically studied in the region vis-à-vis extractive industry impacts, the study had the purpose of identifying local communities and groups with whom to initiate reflection and actions and especially to involve women, women's groups and women's empowerment agencies within and outside the government and political systems, and with international organizations. The research was a critical vehicle in enabling such a dialogue. There is, however, no overlap with other projects as this was a pilot initiative to build a regional dialogue on gender concerns. Yet, this becomes a part of the process of international solidarity building and networking with women and community groups affected by mining.

The project has been challenging and taught us many lessons both in terms of conducting research and in having realistic action targets for working in politically challenging countries. We have a background of strong human rights orientation and work in more democratic (or what appear to be democracies) compared to the Mekong region countries. It was a huge learning for us to experience the limitations of civil society action in the three countries, particularly in Laos. It has been a challenge for us to undertake a study in three countries, being a small team, but the challenges were more related to not being able to have collaborating partners ready at the start of the project (infact they were identified only after the end of the

initial project period). Therefore, this project is, in a way, giving an entry to the international civil society on mining issues by making contacts, building linkages and finding a direction to campaign and provide solidarity to local communities from the outside on gender issues and mining.

The challenge was also the different stages at which each of the collaborating partners were in terms of their own institutional positions. As SODA was not yet formed and works mainly at a policy level, the quality of field inputs were lacking. Yet, given their political limitations and time constraints they have given us as much field information as was possible. This learning helps in identifying the serious needs for finding innovative approaches to getting access to women in the mining areas in Laos.

Having a mining coalition in Cambodia has enabled us gain more inroads into mining communities and as a future strategy, this has potential for advocacy and collaboration on strengthening the women's empowerment. We are now in touch with the new mining coalition in Vietnam that was formed recently, which will help link the international network with the national groups on mining.

Both Dhaatri and RIMM have the support of the national mining network in India and the international network based in London which help in international lobbying and in technical knowledge of mining and global finances. Support and inputs were given by these networks during the course of this study, for the regional consultation and for potential strategizing for follow up actions in the Mekong region. We anticipate that we can build on this support and network.

The main adjustment was the time factor as the project got delayed for long uncertain periods due to the slow process of identifying local partners and getting field data from them. These delays caused a lot of adjustment of time which overlapped into other activities of the organization. This has helped us understand the regional context better and to plan activities according to the political situation and the constraints of development organizations.

In terms of the future follow up to the study, Dhaatri Resource Centre and the Asia coordination of the RIMM network will take responsibility for taking the process forward. The study was intended to pilot a process of capacity building and international networking linkages to enable the mining concerns get public attention and action at the global level. The objective was also to enable women from mining affected communities, indigenous women and women artisanal miners to have access to information, exchange and skills development, campaign solidarity and negotiating platforms for their local problems. We would like to extend our resource support to addressing these needs in the region. Specifically indigenous women and women artisanal miners are critical groups that we see as in need of our interventions. For instance the campaign to stop the use of mercury in extraction of gold and violence against women; the need to educate and dialogue with local civil society on supporting women miners on alternate technologies, strengthening women's bargaining capacities, policy level changes required for artisanal mining in support of women are some of the areas that could form a focus for follow up actions with respect to artisanal mining. It is important to make accessible platforms for dialogue for indigenous and artisanal women, to facilitate their exchange of skills, information flow, voices and strategies. We will work with the national and local groups in the three

countries and in Burma which is an emerging threat to women's safety and rights vis-à-vis the mining sector to extend capacity building support at the local level and advocacy support at the international level. The regional consultation that was organized in January 2013 in Phnom Penh led the way to identification of country specific needs by the groups themselves. RIMM and Dhaatri with the help of Environics Trust and the London Mining group would like to take forward these stated perspectives and needs in the areas of gender sensitive advocacy and work with Oxfam partners in these countries. Especially the extractive industry activities and impacts in the Mekong region and Burma are known to the outside in a very limited way even for international civil society networks. There is no active exchange of information and news from this region and no active groups involved in the international mining networks to lobby with international agencies and climate change negotiations, business and human rights advocacy with the UNHRC and other bodies, networking on the UNDRIP and the indigenous women's right to free, prior and informed consent vis-à-vis mining, the regional level lobbying with ASEAN and EITI. This is a glaring gap that we see. Our international network sees our intervention as an important vehicle of exposing the mining industry abuses and in building international pressure to bring accountability in governance and corporate structures.

Community Based Action


1. Tracking the MMDR 2011 and Strengthening the mm&P Alliance


1. A large-scale expansion of mining projects and regularization of a number of illegal mines over the year demands stepped up action in several states.
2. The delay in the introduction of the MMDR Bill has meant continued work on the issue.
3. The move by the Government to bring in a number of legislations having a bearing on each other and the variety of networks trying to intervene calls for more integrated approach among the groups.
4. The state governments have deliberated on the provisions of the MMDR bill but there has been no attention given on taking this effort to communities. Therefore a concerted effort to bring the State Governments to dialogue with the communities is required.
5. This year we plan to expand the coverage to the Tribal Areas of two contiguous states, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, which are heavily mined. The focus will be on connecting them with struggle groups across the border and also look at possibility of cluster mining of minor minerals whose mining propensity is high in these states.


EnviroNics Trust conducted appraisal of rights and enable local communities to assert their rights in mining areas.

- To enable a collective learning on the implementation of law and policy and building capacities;
- Improved stakeholder response and taking pro-people actions;
- Focussed debate and inputs to policy and legislations already enacted and bills proposed (MMDR Bill 2011)
- Capacity Building of the mm&P alliance.
- Specific Focus was on the following tribal Schedule V Areas

Tribal Tehsils	District	
MaregaonTahsil	Yavatmal	
RalegaonTahsil	Yavatmal	
KelapurTahsil	Yavatmal	
GhatanjiTahsil	Yavatmal	
GadchiroliTahsil	Gadchiroli	
ArmoriTahsil	Gadchiroli	
Chamorshitahsil	Gadchiroli	
Rajuratahsil	Chandrapur	

CHHATTISGARH	
Districts that are fully under Schedule V	
1. Surguja	
2. Koriya	
3. Jashpur	
4. Kanker	
5. Bastar	
6. Dantewada	
7. Korba	
Districts that are partially under Schedule V	
1. Raigarh	
2. Bilaspur	
3. Durg	
4. Rajnandgaon	
5. Raipur	
6. Dhamtari	

JHARKHAND	
1. Ranchi	
2. Singhbhum	
Districts that are partially under Schedule V	
1. Palamu	
2. Santhal Parganas	

ORISSA	
Districts that are fully under Schedule V	
1. Mayurbhunj	
2. Sundargarh	
3. Koraput	
Districts that are partially under Schedule V	
1. Sambalpur	
2. Keonjhar	
3. Khondmals	
4. Ganjam	
5. Kalahandi	
6. Balasore	

2. 'Water Beyond Borders'

'Water Beyond Borders' aimed at understanding the transboundary water agreements between India, Nepal and Bangladesh from the perspective of Principle 10 of Rio viz Public participation, access to information and access to justice. The need was felt in view of the fact that existing studies on transboundary water have focused more on 'who gets how much' rather than from the perspective of rights.

Specifically, the project aimed at the following:

- Analyse existing cross border water related agreements – formal and informal between India, Nepal and Bangladesh and identify common and differentiated obligations of each state;
- Identify opportunities and obstacles to access rights within the framework of the agreements as well as in the negotiation process;
- Examine and monitor the functioning of existing bilateral commissions on rivers;
- Study effective common water resource management models from other regions of the world;
- Identify new and emerging issues relating to shared river systems between the three countries specially in the context of dam construction, oil exploration, river linking and flood control – all with a view to identifying appropriate opportunities for cross border civil society collaboration and action to catalyze national re-conceptualization of common water resource issues;

Implementing Partners:

The project was to be implemented by The Access Initiative India Coalition (TAI India coalition) along with TAI Partners in India and Bangladesh. One of the main objectives of the project was create a focused group of TAI partners who can address water governance issues from a cross-country perspective. The identified partners would take the lead in engaging the State as well as informing the media, civil society groups on such issues especially from the access rights perspective. The group as a whole will develop a strategy (based on the current TAI assessments as well as the above studies) to develop a potential campaign around prioritized common river systems and to use the unique opportunities available in domestic laws, justice mechanisms and civil society mobilization to urge States to re-think current common water issues and find common solutions.

The Final Meeting on Water Beyond Borders (April 14 and 15, 2012) yielded many interesting points of discussion on a variety of issues. Central among these were:

- The plurality of Indo-Nepal Committees, despite the fact that many of these have not had regular meetings;
- The lack of information on any of the Indo-Bhutan Committees despite RTI requests;
- The lack of information on lean season flow of rivers;
- The non-inclusion of China in bilateral and multilateral treaties in the region, despite China/Tibet being the source of many major rivers;
- The fragility of the existing flood forecasting system;
- The diminishing returns from dams;
- The non-inclusion of downstream impacts of rivers in the EIA process.

Following the discussion, the agenda for the following year has been agreed upon as under:

Obtaining information on Indo-Bhutan Committees:

- From ICIMOD/WWF-India
- RTIs to be filed before state level authorities.
- Approach the CIC under Sec. 4 of the Right to Information Act for getting the Ministry of Water Resources website updated to have more information and documents available.

3. A Guide to Transboundary Treaties and Customary Laws on Water

- Paper analyzing/ reviewing the material/papers that have already been collected;
- A handbook/ ready reference demystifying some aspects of customary international law:

First user rights (including Helsinki Rules and other applicable treaties):

The first user right is now used to justify construction of dams without concern for either upstream or downstream users. The Principle is frequently used by India and there is lack of clarity on the meaning and implication of first users rights and the accompanying Helsinki Principle.

Indo-Nepal Treaties

Indo-Bangladesh Treaties

Law of riparian rights: Similar to the First user rights, there is lack of clarity on the meaning and extent of riparian rights.

Lean Season flow data:

– Study with focus on the Teesta on the lean season water availability. The aim of the study would be to have citizens' assessment and recommendation as to how the share between India, Bangladesh and the needs of the river should be worked out. This is needed in view of the fact that it is felt that the proposed sharing of 40 + 40 for India and Bangladesh and 20% for the river is unscientific and ad hoc.

Flood forecasting:

– Detailed paper on the existing flood forecasting system, roles of government and non-government organisations, flood security as a right – making government authorities accountable.

4. Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational and Environment Victims (ANROEV)

1. **Silicosis Medical Camp** – With the support of AMRC, a medical camp for sandstone quarry workers was organised at Panna, Madhya Pradesh from Aug 29 to Sep 1. Dr V Murlidhar and his team (OHSC) volunteered for their services at the camp. The team conducted various diagnostic examinations like BP, PFT etc. X rays and other medical documents of the workers were collected and taken to Mumbai for reading. Out of 224 workers examined, 84(37.5%) workers were found to be suffering from silicosis. It was depressing to see the pathetic condition of the workers who were suffering. Majority of workers were also suffering from TB in addition to silicosis. An 18 year old victim was given a life expectancy of 1-2 years by Dr Murlidhar. A meeting with the local doctors, activists and journalists was also conducted. The doctors informed us of their helplessness in identifying silicosis due to lack of expertise and tools. Dr Murlidhar even offered his help to train the doctors in reading X-Rays using ILO Plates (once they are procured). Some difficult questions were put up to the factory inspector present for which he had no answer except that he was not responsible for OHS in the mines and quarries. We were also able to meet the local Member of Parliament, who seemed to be aware of Silicosis. We presented him with the facts of silicosis and the large number of victims found. He was also made aware of lack of equipments and expertise with the local hospital. He promised all possible help in this regards.



In another development, 17 victims identified in last year medical camp were finally accepted by the government as suffering from silicosis and were presented with the card which will help them in availing priority medical treatment in local hospital and benefits of many more beneficial government schemes.

2. Interaction between Trade Unions / Civil Society and Australian Senator Lisa Singh –

An interaction between Australian Senator Lisa Singh, Trade Unions and civil society was held at the constitution club of India. The interaction was jointly organised by Occupational and Environmental Health Network of India (OEHNI), BWI and IndustriALL. Sh Sudharshan Rao gave a brief background of use of Asbestos in India. Mr Rao informed about the Kerala Human rights Commission judgement which ordered the schools to remove Asbestos Cement Sheets from their facility; however the order has still not been implemented. He also informed that the strategy is to take small steps i.e. we try and introduce a ban in one state and then move to other states to eventually achieve a national ban. The first state targeted is Kerala where a memorandum was submitted in April to the chief minister. The Senator has promised all help required to help put pressure on the Indian Government to ban use of Asbestos. To read more about the meeting please visit - <http://oehni.in/node/111>



3. **Action against Quebec Government's decision to sanction loan to Jeffery Mines** - A demonstration was held outside the Canadian Embassy in New Delhi with the support of Indian trade unions against the Quebec Governments decision to sanction the loan to Jeffery Mines to start operation again. A protest letter addressed to the Canadian PM and Quebec premier was handed over stating our concerns.
4. **Meeting on Occupational Lung Diseases** – Regional meeting on occupational lung diseases was organised in Hong Kong on 9-11 Aug. the meeting presented an opportunity to understand the problems in different regions of Asia in Occupational Lung diseases and some solutions and way forward was discussed. Participants shared their success stories and there was constructive dialogue to ensure that ANROEV campaigns on Occupational Lung diseases moves forward with a renewed thrust.
5. A network of medical practitioners in the Asian region has been proposed. A background note for circulation to the medical practitioners willing to volunteer their services and join the network is being prepared.
6. **ANROEV website and blog** – The ANROEV and ABAN websites and the ANROEV blog are being regularly monitored and updated with content and information on OSH.
7. **ANROEV newsletter** – the quarterly newsletter “OSH Times” is being regularly published and posted on the web site.
8. **Identifying Partners** – research is being conducted on prospective network partners in the region. Organisations with similar ideas and areas of work are being researched and approached.
9. **Research on OSH** – research on OSH especially in Asia continues. News and updates on OSH in the region is sent regularly to the network and posted on blog to ensure that the members are updated about the happenings and activities of each other. Prospective funding opportunities in the field of OSH are also being explored and evaluated.
10. Ground work on the use of Chemicals in Indian Garment and textile industry is being done for a future documentary on the subject.
11. **ABAN Meeting** – Annual meeting of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network was held in Bangkok from 19-21 November 2012. Discussions took place on the developments in the Asian Region and the countries where discussions are taking place to ban use of Asbestos. Strategic discussions also took place to develop an action plan to ensure that more countries in the Asian region ban use of Asbestos at the earliest. Discussions on the industry propaganda to escape or prolong the bans in many countries were held. A demonstration outside the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok was held at the end of the conference and a strongly worded letter was submitted which listed and demanded an immediate ban on use

of Asbestos in Canada and demanding the Canadian government to stop its pro-Asbestos propaganda.

- 12. OSH Workshop – Vadodara:** A workshop on Occupational health and Safety was held at Vadodara in December 2012. There were almost 35-40 participants from across the country representing Trade Unions, Activists, victims, civil society, government officials. Discussions on the current situation in India as far as OSH is concerned were held. Participants felt a need to work together as a cohesive unit and to ensure better rights for the workers and victims in the country.
- 13. Invisible Victims of Development** – India chapter for the report titled “Invisible Victims of Development” was written. The chapter outlines the current OSH situation in the country, various laws, problems in implementation, non-availability of statistics and carries stories of government neglect.
- 14.** Indian paper on various laws on Occupational health and Safety in the country, their drawbacks, and problems in compensation is being written.
- 15. Dhaka Trip** – Following the devastating fires in Pakistan and Dhaka, a fact finding mission to Dhaka was organised from January 7-9. During the trip an investigation report by OSHE was released during a multi-stake holder conference organised by AMRC, ANROEV and OSHE. More than 100 persons from diverse backgrounds participated in the conference and gave suggestions to ensure that such devastating incidents are not repeated in the country. Victims narrated their sufferings; they narrated horrifying stories of jumping out of windows on the third floor or fifth floor to escape the advancing flames. The investigation report brought out the indifference of the government and the manufacturing association to the plight of the victims and lack of adequate compensation awarded to the victims. A visit to the factory site took place where more than 50 victims and their family members were met. The stories were truly horrifying. A list of all victims is being prepared by OSHE. A report on the visit has been made and circulated among the network.

A visit to Pakistan to investigate and meet the victims of the Karachi fire could not take place due to visa issues.
- 16.** A network of medical practitioners in the Asian region has been proposed. A background note for circulation to the medical practitioners willing to volunteer their services and join the network along with a questionnaire has been prepared and sent to all network members in 11 countries. The member responses are being received and compiled to formulate a training program.
- 17. ANROEV website and blog** – The ANROEV and ABAN websites and the ANROEV blog are being regularly monitored and updated with content and information on OSH. The current hosting service has put in place blocks which restrict the viewing of the network website in some countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh. Other service providers have been evaluated and the site is in the progress of being moved to another service provider
- 18. ANROEV newsletter** – the quarterly newsletter “OSH Times” is being regularly published and posted on the web site.
- 19. Research on OSH** – research on OSH especially in Asia continues. News and updates on OSH in the region is sent regularly to the network and posted on blog to ensure that the members are updated about the happenings and activities of each other.

20. Preparations for the ANROEV meeting in May 2013 have started and a registration form has been created.
21. A meeting of mine workers and quarry workers was organised near Bhilwara in Rajasthan. Dr J R Parekh (Ex director NIOH) presided over the meeting. Government officials, Mining Department officers, Health Department Officers were also present during the meeting and informed the workers about their legal rights. Workers were also told about dust hazards and how to save themselves. Dr Parikh helped in examining a few workers on the spot. He identified 4 workers suffering from Silicosis who had been diagnosed as suffering from TB by the local doctors.
22. A meeting was also held with quarry workers in Rajasthan where soap stone is mined. During rock sample analysis (done by Yeyong), it has been identified that there is asbestos contamination in these quarries. Workers have been informed about these contaminations and further work will be done.
23. A victims meeting (Silicosis victims from 3 States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat) is being planned in February. The meeting aims to let the victims learn from the struggles of each other and formulate their future strategy.

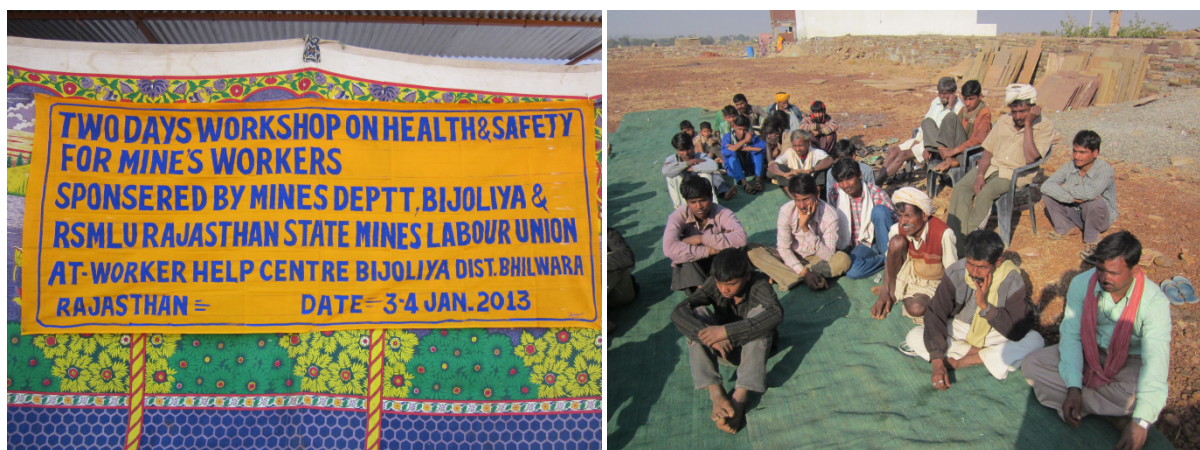
5. Asbestos Victims and Medical Camps

1. Application for Information filed under the Right to Information Act (2005) – RTI applications were filed with different departments like Provident Fund, Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health to gather information regarding asbestos manufacturing units in the state and to find details of violations by these units and other information. Some of these departments were not ready to supply with the information asked for and repeated follow-ups and appeals were made. The information is still being received and compiled
2. Awareness camp for Mines & construction workers of Bijoliya, Rajasthan, January 2013 – An awareness camp was organized for Mine and Construction workers in Rajasthan to educate them about the hazards and dangers in the workplace, laws which protect labour rights and whom workers can approach in case of any problems or difficulties. More than 125 workers took part in the camp. Workers were also explained about the problems caused by addiction of any kind and various welfare schemes for them being run by the government. Dr Parikh was also able to examine a few workers who were at risk of contracting Silicosis and other lung diseases and suggested a few workers to be examined further.

Some workers informed us that:

In the mines, workers make the initial marking by hand tools & then tools are inserted in the holes to break the slabs of stones. While marking, small pieces of stones fall into the eyes regularly leading to loss of vision. One such case was of Ramsingh S/O. Pidiya Bhil, aged 42 yrs. No compensation has been paid to Ramsingh yet. Another victim had injury on his leg caused while drilling

Female Construction workers were getting INR 70 while male workers were getting INR 140. No place to stay was being provided. No other facilities were being given to the workers. There are no educational facilities for the Children and the employers or local officials are not bothered



The sand stone mines of Bijolia were also visited. 3 workers who had brought their x-rays were examined by Dr Parikh and were found to be suffering from TB. Four children were found to be under Nourished. Some female workers complained about waist and back pain due to loading/unloading works.

The Head of the Primary Health Centre in the region described the mines workers as uneducated & unaware of their rights & benefits. He said that they are getting good earnings, but due to bad habits, they waste their earnings due to addiction with liquor & tobacco.

Deputy Director Mines also addressed the meeting & asked the workers to use the safety equipments & also criticized that all these workers waste their earnings after bad addiction and not ready to improve their health.

3. Medical Camps

a. **For Gandhinagar Thermal Power Station (TPS)**

These female workers belong to Cleaning Cell of Gandhinagar TPS. They are victims of Asbestosis, diagnosed by Dr.V.Murlidhar of OHSC Mumbai. These workers are victims of NIHL i.e. (Noise Induced Hearing Loss) During 14-15 July a medical camp was held for PFT & Audiometry of 57 TPS workers at Gandhinagar. The same workers were examined during a medical camp held on 25-26 August, 2012. 10 cases of Asbestosis, 1 case of silicosis and eight (8) cases of Hearing loss have been found & certificates issued. Compensation cases will be filed for victims of Thermal Power Plant at Gandhinagar under the WC Act also ensuring job safety for these workers.

b. **Nithauva Medical camp**

Medical camp was held at Nithauva, Ta. Aspur of Dungarpur Dist in Rajasthan where 59 workers were medically examined. Some x-rays were read & 12 victims of Silicosis were diagnosed. The mines in the region have asbestos contamination and further camps will be held to diagnose any potential asbestos victim. These cases have been filed in the Pneumoconiosis board in Rajasthan for Compensation and Rehabilitation

Workplace visits and examination of the Talc stone revealed Asbestos fibres and silica contamination and presence of significant exposure in these mines that would lead to silicosis, silico-TB and Asbestosis.



[Medical examination of Soap Stone mines workers at Nithauva by OHSC team, Mumbai]

4. Continuing dialogue with Gujarat Human Rights Commission to ensure that the plight of victims is addressed in a just manner and justice is achieved. Several meetings were held and GHRC has ordered ESIC to take immediate and proper steps for the welfare of the workers suffering from Asbestos related disorders.
5. Continuing efforts with ESIC – Continued efforts and dialogues with ESIC to ensure that all victims covered under this scheme get proper and just compensation. Due to apathy by the ESIC officials it is proving to be a hard task but some progress has been made. 6 asbestosis victims have been referred to the Occupational Disease Centre in Mumbai, 8 victims will soon be appearing in front of the Special Medical Board so that their application can move forward.

Communication

1. ELAW Annual Meet 2012 Goa, India

The ELAW Annual Meeting 2012 in Goa was convened jointly by the Legal Initiative for Forests and Environment (LIFE) and the Goa Foundation. Forty three grassroots leaders from Twenty two countries deliberated on the global perspectives of Environmental Law over four days from the 27th of November to 30th of November 2012.

In the opening presentation by Dr. Claude Alvares of the Goa Foundation it was informed that in addition to the problems common to the mines the world over, such as deforestation and contamination of air and water, there is also the issue of mining trucks taking over the road, causing deaths by accidents and rendering the roads in these areas impossible for public use.

Ritwick Dutta of the Legal Initiative for Forests and Environment, in the following session on the National Green Tribunal informed that the statute creating the NGT states that any aggrieved person can bring a claim to the NGT as all Indian citizens have a duty under India's Constitution to protect and improve the environment. The NGT resolves cases in an average of three months which is the speed of light as compared to other courts in India. Although the NGT is issuing good, fair judgements and protecting India's resources, Ritwick and his colleagues say that they need more horsepower to bring more such cases to the NGT.

Bern Johnson, Director of the ELAW network, in his presentation on work done by ELAW in empowering grassroots advocates in 70 countries described its work in protecting Marine Ecosystems in Panama. He also informed that the assistance provided to people approaching the ELAW network is in exchange only for an assurance that the same people would respond to other new requests when called for.

He also highlighted the work with ELAW partners in India in protection of forests from Limestone Mining in Himachal Pradesh, through the National Environmental Appellate Authority order of 30th August 2010 quashing the Environmental Clearance sought by Lafarge India Limited and also noted the work on critiquing the EIA of a 74 year lease to mine bauxite in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

This was followed by presentations by Audrey Matura of Belize on a mass campaign against offshore drilling through a Peoples Referendum in February 2012; Kenji Fukuda of Japan on the work of the local SAFLAN Network with victims of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster on 11th March 2011 and Aarthi Sridhar of India on the importance of strategic decisions in legal battles, the CRZ notification and revealing the state of Monitoring and compliance of Environmental Clearance conditions.

Small group working sessions in the program were moderated by Lori Maddox, Associate Director of the ELAW network. The topics broadly covered Mining, Marine Conservation and Biodiversity, Nuclear issues & dirty energy and EIA processes. On the whole it was felt that in the formulation of the EIA law, there was no independent monitoring agency for checking on compliances and mitigation measures. Also public participation is a key area in the process especially after the Final EIA Report is prepared. In countries like Nepal, the women folk would not attend a public hearing unless specifically invited or taken along by the menfolk.

Participants also had a flavour of the cultural heritage in Goa through a visit to Old Goa and an opportunity to witness the agricultural wealth of the state through a visit to the Savoi Spice

Plantation. The conspicuous absence of hordes of trucks en route to Chorla Ghat was a relief while the wanton destruction by iron ore mining in the state was there for all to see.

At Chorla Ghat participants witnessed the rich faunal and floral diversity besides the stunning view of the lower steps of the Western Ghats flanked by the three states merging into one. "Seeing this reminds us what we are fighting for" one of the participants says.

The Meeting concluded with the Final Plenary and presentations from the discussing groups. It was resolved to continue sharing information and support while working together across borders with everyone stamping their right foot on the ground in agreement to the shout of Isang Padyak.

Many thanks are due to each participant and the Global Green Grants Fund, for making this meeting an enormous success.

2. Voice for the Verbal

Steps towards Enabling Technology Appropriation by Adivasis

1.0 THE SHORT TERM GOALS LAID OUT IN THE PROPOSAL WERE

- Form alliances with tribal mass organizations and NGOs working in adivasi areas to understand their communication needs in bringing about socio-economic change and adapt Swara to meet them.
- Create a group of dedicated moderators who will regularly engage with communities as well as the administration to act on the problems reported on Swara and so increase the visibility and effectiveness of the medium in supporting the grassroots struggles for socio-economic change.
- Create a wider community of users who will regularly use Swara to express themselves culturally, socially, economically and politically.

2.0 EFFORTS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE SHORT TERM GOALS

Dialogues and discussions to further the process of implementation with communities, partners and the analysis of the methods to achieve the goals were held. The first two short-term goals were field tasks which will feed into the design and adaptation whereas the third goal was of the nature of measuring the outcomes. Hence a baseline survey was designed and executed.

DIALOGUES AND COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Various organisations and networks have been contacted and several members exposed to the Swara process. The baseline study involved discussions with groups in its design and execution.

TRAINING AND CREATING A DEDICATED GROUP OF MODERATORS



Over six moderators have been identified and trained.

Criteria for Selection of 200 Top Callers of CGNetSwara

1. The participants were selected based on the time they had spent on the system. The data was extracted from the CGNetSwara call records. The process of extraction was as follows:
2. Every single call received by the system through the Asterisk PBX-call tracking mechanism was tracked. It provides a mobile phone number as a reference ID, as well as a map of the actions taken by the user on the call.
3. Based on the text summaries and tags provided by the moderators, it is determined which number, or which set of numbers belongs to which contributor
4. For each contributor, the calls made from their phone number(s) are aggregated
5. For each call, the length is calculated as follows : Sum of the time spent listening + length of posts recorded
6. This gives a picture of how much time each user spends on the system
7. Based on this data, the top 200 users from the system for the survey were picked.
8. This data was extracted in CSV format.

3.0 CONSIDERATIONS IN THE BASELINE SURVEY

The central theme of any baseline survey involves fixing of bench marks prior to any intervention, so that after the completion of a specific intervention (or mid-way, to assess the rate of impact, and evoke strategies to increase the pace of intervention, if need be), the progress can be measured vis-à-vis the same bench marks, in post- intervention phase. The baseline survey was planned to start in December 2012, so we have chosen the activities covered in the month of November 2012 for fixing the bench marks.

Though initially it was considered to record the response of the 200 top callers of CGNetSwara (see Box), but after a careful consideration the idea was abandoned.

Firstly, these callers are very well aware of CGNetSwara community platform, as is evident from the frequency and number of their calls.

Secondly, CGNetSwara is not going to expand its area of work among the callers themselves but among the wider masses and hence the bench mark for impact assessment should ideally be from the level of awareness among the wider masses.

Thirdly, fixing bench mark from the data of top callers emerging from the CG Net Swara will not give the truly representative bench mark for this intervention, as it comprises the heaviest apex.

Fourthly, any increased participation from wider masses owing to the planned intervention (in post implementation phase) can only be measured, juxtaposing the current status within the wider masses, and not restricted solely to callers of CGNetSwara.

Fifthly and finally, any comparison can only take place between the two equal/uniform/even units/parameters whereas here the top callers of CGNetSwara, on the one hand, and the wider masses on the other hand, represent as diverse units as possible and any comparison between the two will portray an extremely distorted picture.

Hence, for the purpose of capturing grass root reality to the extent as accurate as possible, the survey design was targeted for the general masses, which may or may not include callers of CGNetSwara. Taking a balanced view, we have neither consciously excluded the top 60 callers of CGNetSwara nor we have exclusively included the top callers of CGNetSwara. Response of the respondents on the structured questionnaire was procured, analyzed and interpreted.

4.0 METHODOLOGY OF THE BASELINE SURVEY AND EMERGING YARDSTICKS

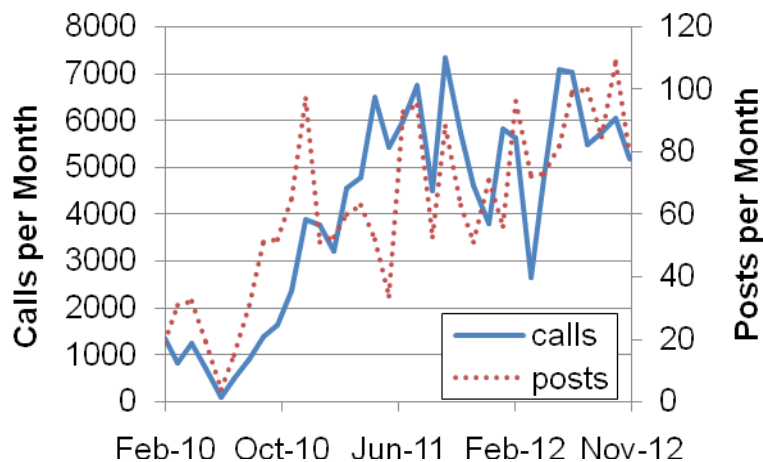
A two-pronged approach has been utilized for the purpose of fixing yardsticks for baseline and November 2012 has been taken as a reference month. Analysis of the callers and reports made by them has been conducted. A structured questionnaire was prepared and persons were surveyed in four states under intervention. These filled up questionnaire were analyzed and inferences were drawn. Simultaneously, three daily newspapers of Chhattisgarh for the month of November 2012 were subjected to look for news reports published on developmental issues, and categorized. Opinions of government officials, members of non-government organizations and member of PRI were also sought.

The following yardsticks emerge from the analysis of the callers of CGNetSwara and filled-up questionnaire in November 2012, against which the progress and impact assessment can be gauged, after the completion of the project tenure –

1. Number of callers in all four states under intervention, during Nov 12-September-13
2. Number of women callers in all four states, during Nov 12-September-13
3. Number of individual callers, during Nov 12-September-13
4. Number of callers from low income group, during Nov 12-September-13
5. Number of callers from tribal community, during Nov 12-September-13
6. Number of cases where action has been taken by concerned officials (after the callers raised the issue on CGNetSwara), during Nov 12-September-13
7. Number of beneficiary families, during Nov 12-September-13

5.0 CREATION OF A BASE LINE

As of 1 December, 2012, CGNetSwara has received a total of 137,000 phone calls and has posted 2,100 recordings (see figure below).



Currently it publishes about 4 new posts per day, and receives between 300-500 calls per day; thus, the vast majority of callers are only listening to content.

The posts on the system were contributed by over 2500 distinct callers.

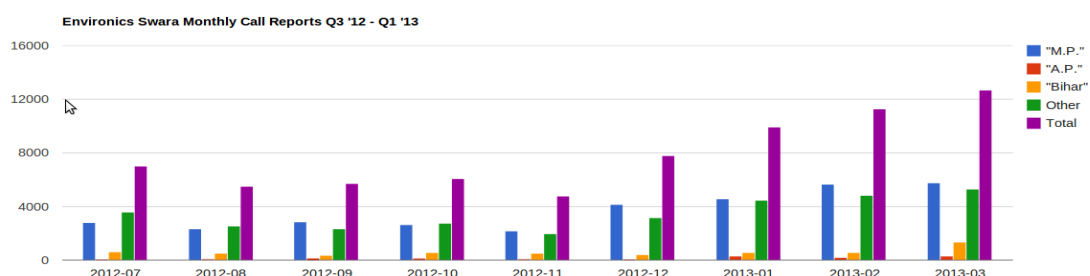
As in many systems hosting user-generated content, the 10% most active contributors are responsible for a large fraction (51%) of the posts.

There are over 23000 distinct callers who have listened to content on the system; of these, at least 2,850 are “regular” callers (have called 10 or more times)

The 10% most active listeners are responsible for 61% of the phone calls.

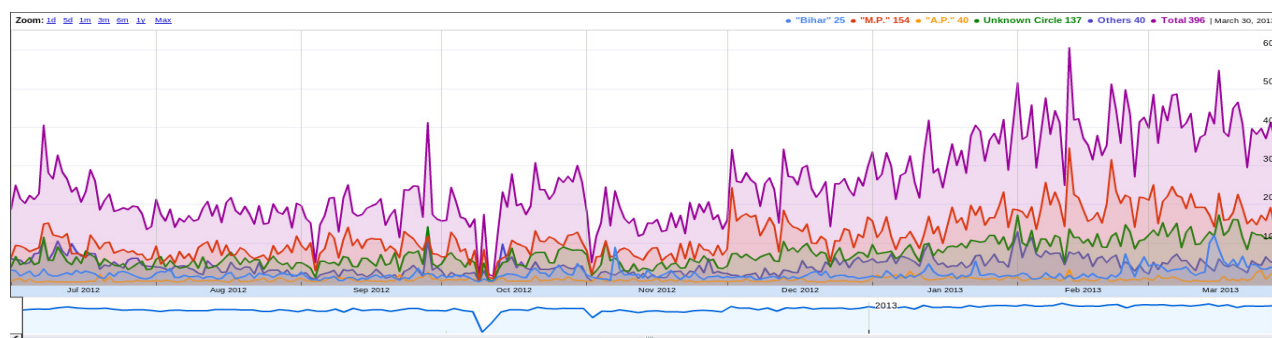
The average phone call is 3 minutes long, and the server streams more than 10 hours of audio content per day.

The system is growing steadily, with roughly 25 new contributors authoring a post each month, and about 700 new listeners calling in for the first time.



6.0 SUMMARY OF EFFORTS AND CURRENT PROGRESS

The initial three months were focused on building a team and conducting training and establishing the baseline. From January- March we have done 3 workshops in Madhya Pradesh in Rewa, Mandla and Raipur. We have done 3 workshops in Jharkhand in Dhanbad, Khunti and Chatra. We have trained around 200 people in these 6 workshops.



Our call volume is up 50%. The graph is here :<http://cgnetswara.org/graphs/googlecharts/hivosinterimapril/monthlycallreport-condensed.html>

We now get around 3 impact stories in a month. Here are the impact stories: <http://cgnetswara.org/impact2.php>

On the technology side the major development is the moderation through e mails. This has democratised the moderation process. Now more than half a dozen moderators sitting in many parts of the country are moderating together using their e mails. For the research framework a set of tools has been developed using open source components. The graphical reports at <http://cgnetswara.org/graphs/googlecharts/hivosinterimapril> were generated using this toolset.

We just started the Gondi Swara and will roll-out in April – May 2013. A training server has been set up at Bhopal (+918989161864) which allows participants to call in and record practice messages which they can listen to immediately on the IVR.

These efforts place us in a position to strengthen our medium term goals of introducing the concept of people's media being a powerful support for grassroots democracy across the different layers in society, especially the adivasis and to operationalize and refine the tools and practices that facilitate grassroots media communication through field experimentation and engagement with the community through trainings and workshops at different levels. This will pave the way for achieving our long term goal to create a vibrant, community owned and managed information network, accessible by even the poorest of the poor.

Financials

ENVIRONICS TRUST

Receipt & Payment for the year ended 31st March 2013

RECEIPT	Amount(Rs)	PAYMENT	Amount(Rs)
Opening Balances:-		Administration & office Expenses	
Cash in Hand 115.0		General Expenses	2,000.0
Cash in Hand 879,031.3	879,147.3	Rent	171,600.0
Cash At Bank(ICICI Bank)		Bank Charges	531.1
A/c No 017101006263		Telephone	1,626.0
Cash at Bank(ICICI Bank)	352,679.8	Travel Perdiems	507,455.8
A/c No 017101006864			
Funds Received During the Year(Grants)	750,268.0	Professional Costs:-	
Sale of Jeep	225,000.0	Salaries & Benefits 331,200.0	
Bank Interest	103,645.0	Audit Fees	62,556.0
FCRA Receipts		Workshop expenses	181,000.0
Asia Monitoring Resource Centre	579,701.5	Skill development	31,600.0
Oxfam America	815,100.0	Insurance	76,179.0
Centre for Study of Public (PCI)	1,142,642.4		
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	1,525,786.5	Boleto Purchased	346,000.0
Conservation International		FCRA PAYMENTS	
The Asia Foundation	142,280.0	Asia Monitoring Resource Centre	696,333.2
Oxfam India	2,900,000.0	Oxfam America	1,169,034.6
HIVOS	4,515,114.6	Centre for Study of Public (PCI)	288,292.1
Global Green Grants	1,311,627.0	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	1,721,409.5
Amnesty International	214,600.0	Conservation International	
Peace	100,000.0	The Asia Foundation	572,395.0
	13,346,851.9	Oxfam India	2,902,714.0
		HIVOS	1,731,470.5
		Global Green Grants	1,311,627.0
		Amnesty International	309,000.0
		Peace	100,000.0
		Closing Balances:-	
		Advance for Expenses	102,765.0
		Cash in Hand	223.0
		Cash at Bank-ICICI Bank	
		A/c No 017101006263	184,221.4
		A/c No 017101006864	2,765,609.7
TOTAL	16,064,862.8	TOTAL	16,064,862.8

for ENVIRONICS TRUST

Managing Trustee
Place: New Delhi
Date: 16.09.2013



For B Rattan & Associates
Chartered accountants
New Delhi
B K Kam
M.N.694790