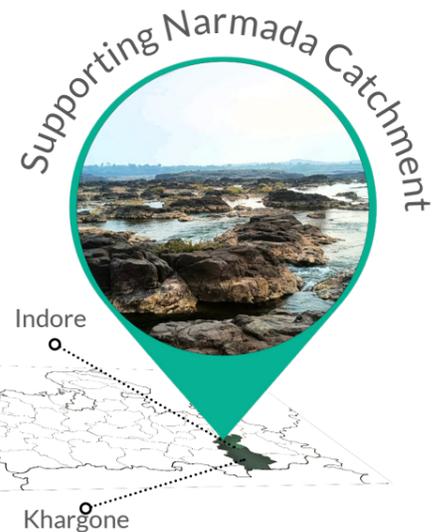


Developing India's First Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) model for the Narmada River Ecosystem.

## Data and Information Being Gathered to Develop the PES model under NLRP

A meeting was set up with the IMC delegates to orient and gain their support for the project.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Narmada Landscape Restoration Project (NLRP) had an orientation meeting with the Additional Commissioner, Indore Municipal Corporation Smt. Bhavya Mittal on August 29 at IMC office Indore. Smt. Mittal oversees all operational activities for River Narmada's Water Supply Scheme to Indore. The PMU team informed her about the objective, scope, and current progress of the NLRP project. She was very supportive of the project concept and helped the team gather the necessary data for the development of the PES mechanism. She also advised the team to set up a meeting with Indore Municipal Commissioner Smt. Pratibha Pal. The NLRP team also conducted several other meetings with, the Executive Engineers, the PHED department of Indore and Mandleshwar, the VP Consultant, DRA consultancy, and other staff involved in the Narmada Water Supply Scheme, to orient the stakeholders on different aspects of NLRP and gather data, information, and insights to develop the best PES mechanism.



## Indore Municipal Corporation's Support to NLRP

Meeting with IMC Commissioner scheduled for next quarter.

A meeting with the Indore Municipal Commission Meeting (IMC), Smt. Pratibha Pal is scheduled for the beginning of the next quarter. The meeting is important not only to get a buy-in from IMC but also to engage deeply in the implementation, and outcomes of NLRP. Director, of IIFM has already written to IMC informing her about the project concept and a very brief meeting was held with IMC in 2021. However, the PMU seeks to secure an appropriate time for a detailed discussion on the project. The PMU has developed an animation film that needs endorsement from IMC before being released in the public at large. The input from the IMC Commissioner will also be crucial to develop an appropriate PES model. In terms of scalability and adoption of the project ensuring the IMC is updated with the current progress of the project is imperative for the project future.

## Forest Department's Approval for NLRP

PCCF permission for undertaking forest work

NLRP plans to implement various soil and moisture conservation works in Forest Areas for which permission from Forest Department is required. In the month of August 2022, the Chief of Party-Mr. Nitesh Kumar and Prof. Omprakash Madguni submitted a letter with the request to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF). The response received from PCCF requires the NLRP team to get into a tripartite agreement with the Forest Department and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) to carry out the activities in Forest Area. A revised proposal has been submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Development), Shri. Chitrajan Tyagi and a positive response is awaited. In all likelihood, the forestry activities will begin early next year.

## IUCN-IORA Support in Development of the PES

Developing Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Model for NLRP.

The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and IORA Ecological Solutions Pvt. Ltd team visited the field sites for NLRP and has gathered data from various project stakeholders and communities. During the field visit and discussion with stakeholders, the team deeply analyzed the scope of PES along with the identification of potential ecosystem services, existing conditions of the ecosystem and way forward to develop the mechanism. The team gathered some data on time when they visited the stakeholder's office or interacted with communities. It was planned that some of the data will be gathered later by the PMU and shall be provided to IUCN-IORA at the earliest. The team has now started working on developing the PES mechanism. The likelihood for submission of the first draft of PES remains till the end of 2022.

## Change in Forest Guards

All the forest rangers have been changed as of this quarter.

The project area for NLRP consists of Four different Forest Ranges under two forest divisions. The forest ranger of Mandleshwar, Sanawad, and Padlya under Barwaha Forest Division has been transferred and new officials have joined the group. An initial meeting with the new ranger from Padlya and Mandleshwar has been completed, and the new forest ranger team has been orientated on the scope of work for the project.

## Capacity Building Agency Selected

New organisation on board for capacity building.

Capacity building ToR was released in July 2022, on GGGI's official website. SPS was selected as the implementation agency for all capacity-building activities. SPS will implement the activities under Ramrahim Pragati Producer Company Limited. Capacity building exercise under NLRP aims to create a youth cadre that will perpetuate the sustainable landscape measures piloted in NLRP.

# Agricultural and Forest Activities

## Sustainable Agriculture:

### Needs Assessment Survey:

Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted by the field teams with farmers who visited 19 villages, comprising of Chikli, Somakhedi, Navrangpura, Julwaniya, Jamniya, Lachora, etc., in the mid of September and met with various stakeholders. The FGDs were part of a 'Needs-Assessment survey to finalize the plan for the capacity-building training for farmers, forest communities (JFMCs), SHGs and other village institutions. The Needs Assessment report is set to be released early next quarter. It will help develop the capacity building training modules, delivery mechanisms and training plan for the next 2 years.



Conducting Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)

## Sustainable Forest:

### Towards Bamboo Plantation:

Bamboo has known benefits in recharging the groundwater table. The roots of a Bamboo plant provide protection against soil erosion. NLRP seeks to create a river buffer that will function as groundwater recharge and tap the sedimentation loss in the rainy season. Bamboo plantation Demonstration Activity was carried out in the North Bank where a superior quality Katanga Bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*) was distributed to the farmers, having their land beside the stream. Once matured, Bamboo will provide an extra source of income for the farmers.



Bamboo Plantation

## Success Story Maize Plantation:

During the demo activities farmers were taken to the field of Rukmini Bai and Raju, both agricultural farmers who were given the indigenous seeds of maize at the beginning of this year. The progress made in his field was a good was a good motivator and example for organic farming moving forward.



## Indigenous practices promoting Wastewater Management:

To manage the Wastewater from the Village Households, NLRP devised a Treatment Plan which could provide the families with extra income, and essential nutrition and prevent pollution of Narmada. As a measure, Kitchen Gardening is promoted under NLRP, where the extra and grey water discharge from live-stock-excreta and other sources that can be used completely in raising vegetables in the backyard of the households. Seeds of Tomatoes, Brinjal, and Sponge Guard were distributed to the farmers at the initial stage. Based on the adoption of Kitchen Gardening among the community, NLRP will implement the activity more intensively in the next season.



Distribution of Seeds for Kitchen Gardening

## Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) Meetings:

A meeting with JFMC Navrangpura and a few others in North Bank was conducted to know the status of work and the problems faced by the JMFC to implement their forest conservation works. This will be helpful to understand the need of the JFMC and to start engaging with them.



Meeting with the JFMCs

# WaterShed Activities

## Transect Walk:

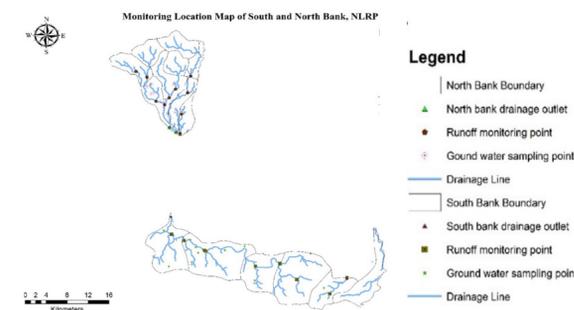
To study the landscape/topography and assess the present structures and their conditions Transect Walks were organized under NLRP. The implementation CSO, SPS has conducted several Transect Walks both in the North and South Banks. The Transect Walk for the North Bank has been completed and the findings have been reviewed by the Watershed Team, which will finalize the potential NRM structures based on various technical parameters.



Transect Walk this Quarter (Pipalgaon & Jamniya Watersheds)

## Water Monitoring Report:

The baseline report for water quality and quantity for estimating the water quality index of surface water and monitoring the seasonal groundwater fluctuations has been in progress after the completion of pre- and post-monsoon surveys. The first draft has been prepared and has been reviewed by the IIFM. Based on the suggestions and inputs the report will be finalized. The reports will contain the details of the Water Quality index for the project area as well as the baseline data of water quality and quantity of the project area. The final report will be submitted to our funding stakeholders to understand the progress in water data analysis by the first week of November 2022.



## Collection of Water Samples:

For identifying Water Quantity Data, a current meter has been purchased by the NLRP team and the discharge rate is being collected from the monitoring points since October (first week). During the baseline survey for water quantity, one set of Discharge Pre-Monsoon Data was already collected and once the post-monsoon data is obtained, an investigation of the perspective of the data analysis method can be accessed that will be applied for water quantity estimation. The data captured during

the Need Assessment for the Capacity Building Survey that was conducted is being analyzed to estimate the water budgeting under the project area. From November onwards the post-monsoon data collection for all other parameters for its regular monitoring will be initiated.



(From Right) Current meter, PH calculator, temperature calculator, TSS

## Detailed Project Report (DPR) Underway:

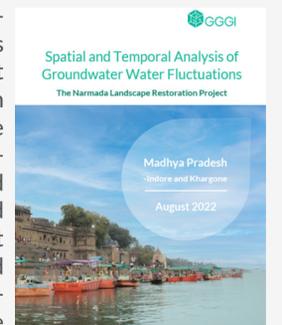
The DPR for the remaining of the 10,000 Hectares (Ha) of land is underway. The technical survey for the identified NRM structures has been completed in the North Bank. The DPR format has been shared by SPS with the Project Management Unit (PMU) which was then reviewed by IIFM and finalized. The 10,000 Ha is planned to be completed by September 2022.



Technical Survey for NRM Structures North Bank

## GIS REPORT:

The GIS mapping report, "Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Groundwater Water Fluctuations" has been prepared. The report highlights the current situation of the groundwater level in selected watershed areas of the project and lists unsustainable agriculture as one of the most prominent reasons for the reduction in groundwater levels. The increased population demand has led to increased abstraction and reduced water quantity. The report highlights the overall need for the catchment communities to adopt sustainable landscape practices.



Available on GGGI Website

# Outreach Activities

## 75th Independence Day

On Independence Day, the NLRP team participated in 'Gram Sabha meetings' in the Panchayats falling under the project area. During which, the newly elected panchayat members were informed about the NLRP project and interactions in other villages of the Narmada Catchment. To bring up-to-speed with the project objectives and status detailed discussions took place regarding the proposed works/activities in these villages related to-watershed management, organic farming, and forestry (both the current and future activities through which the project will come to completion).

The consent and cooperation of the Panchayat in the implementation of the project was discussed. On 15th August the team participated in the village Julwaniya and Nalwat and set up formal meetings with the panchayat members in the villages of North Bank. NLRP is grateful for having such a dedicated and enthusiastic team sharing the vision to implement independence in the agriculture sector.



## Social Media Outreach :

Videos explaining the process of the PES mechanism developed for Indore and Khargone have been developed. The English version of the video is circulated across social media and the Hindi version of the same shall be released shortly targeting especially the residents of Madhya Pradesh. Social Media content now will contain explanatory content such as 'why are forests important for water quality or 'Role of Stop Dams for underwater recharge' etc. for spreading awareness.

All social media posts are available on GGGI's social media accounts:

@GGGIIndia @GggiIndia

## Newspaper Articles :

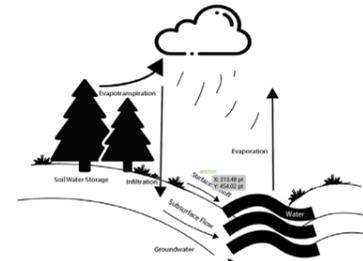
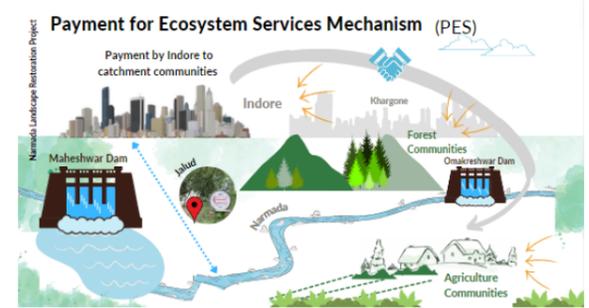
NLRP developed a news piece for Dainik Bhaskar which was published on August 5, 2022. The article focused on the activities of NLRP, and the capacity-building exercises undergone in the project so far. Works on the publication of 'IS PES suitable for India' have been facilitated and the publication of the same are targeted by the end of this year. Most contents are planned as Bi-Lingual, i.e Hindi and English versions for ensuring the maximum reach.

## Documentary film :

The SPS-Media Team, visited the North Bank of the project site to understand the on-ground status of the area under the NLRP project. They will ensure the development of a documentary film on the same to be released at the end of the project completion. This film is proposed under the capacity building project a draft script for the film has also been developed.

## Training of Field Staff on MIS software:

MIS forms to capture the data from field activities have been developed by *Dhwani Rural Information Systems Pvt. Ltd.* with close coordination and support of PMU. The data in the MIS forms are being captured through an android application namely "M-form." The development of all necessary credentials and final modifications has been completed. A training of field staff (CSO Staff) was conducted on 7th July.



## Monitoring-Evaluation (MEL) Officer:

A MEL officer joined the project stationed at the PMU office, from the beginning of this quarter to facilitate monitoring of data sampling, evaluating testing against baselines, GIS mapping for spatial and non-spatial monitoring, ensuring gender and social considerations of the project, and financial monitoring among others. All these activities are part of the interactions with the stakeholders of the project. The selected officer is stationed at the field office and is a part of the ongoing capacity-building exercises on the field.

|                            |                                      |                          |                                   |                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                            |                                      |                          |                                   |                           |
| Water Intervention Profile | NRM Structure Monitoring             | Water Quality Monitoring | Forest Intervention Monitoring    | Water Quantity Monitoring |
|                            |                                      |                          | Management Information Form (MIS) |                           |
| Beneficiary Profiling      | Agricultural Intervention Monitoring | Capacity Building        |                                   |                           |

## NLRP Partners:



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