



K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
THE COMPLETE WORLD OF EDUCATION

Project Report Submitted

On

Protection and Conservation of Species in Aravali Range, Faridabad



Submitted in collaboration with MoU partner

Save Aravali trust,

Faridabad, Haryana

Project Coordinators

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School of Education

and

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K.R. Mangalam University, Gurgaon, Haryana

Academic Year - 2023-24

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DECLARATION

We undersigned hereby declare that the project report on ***Protection and Conservation of Species in Aravali Range, Faridabad*** represents work carried out by us. We also declare that we have adhered to all the principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any source in our submission. We understand that any violation of the above will lead to disciplinary action by the Institute. The findings in this report are based on the information collected during the project observation from 5th March to on 30th May, 2024 in collaboration with Save Aravali Trust, Faridabad under the guidance of Mr. Saket Bihari & Ms. Shalvi Kumari, Assistant Professor, School of Education, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurgaon, Haryana and Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Partnerships Manager and Coordinator, Save Aravali Trust.

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Date: 10 June, 2024

Place: Gurugram, Haryana

Acknowledgement

We express our deepest gratitude to the Dean of the School of Education at K.R. Mangalam University, Dr. Tania Gupta for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout the project. Their vision and guidance were instrumental in shaping this initiative and enabling us to pursue our goals in environmental conservation and sustainable development.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Save Aravali Trust, whose commitment to environmental preservation and innovative wastewater management methods have inspired and empowered us. Specially, our Project Coordinator, Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Partnerships Manager and Coordinator, Save Aravali Trust. Apart from her, Ms. Samvedna, Ms. Krishan Rawat and Mr. Yash Bhadana, volunteers of Save Aravali Trust for their unconditional support and motivation throughout the Project Work.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the management of KRMU for their continuous support and facilitation of this collaborative project. Their provision of resources and logistical assistance has been crucial in the successful execution of our fieldwork and research activities.

This project report on Wastewater Management by Save Aravali Trust in Faridabad is the culmination of the collective efforts of many individuals and our MoU partner Save Aravali Trust. It would not have been possible without the cooperation, dedication, and hard work of everyone involved. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a meaningful and impactful cause.

Last but not least we are also thankful to our Project Coordinators Ms. Shalvi Kumari and Mr. Saket Bihari, Assistant Professor, SOED for their motivation and guidance thorough out the Project Work.

Sanjana, Ritika, Vanshika, Himanshi & Gayatri

(B.Ed. II Semester)

About the SAVE ARAVALI TRUST (MoU Partner)

Save Aravali Trust, located in Faridabad Sector 12, Delhi, is a prominent environmental NGO dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the Aravali Range, a vital natural resource in the region. Here are some facts about the trust:

Mission: Save Aravali is committed to protecting the ecological integrity of the Aravali Range through advocacy, awareness- rising, and on-the-ground conservation efforts. Their mission revolves around safeguarding the biodiversity, water resources, and overall environmental health of the Aravali region.

Advocacy and Awareness: The trust engages in advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of the Aravali Range and the threats it faces from urbanization, industrialization, mining, and illegal encroachments. They work to mobilize public support and influence policymakers to prioritize conservation measures.

Conservation Initiatives: Save Aravali implements various conservation projects aimed at restoring and preserving the natural habitats within the Aravali Range. This may include afforestation programs, habitat restoration, and biodiversity conservation efforts to protect endangered flora and fauna species.

Community Engagement: The trust actively involves local communities, residents, and stakeholders in their conservation initiatives. They promote community participation through education, capacity-building workshops, and collaborative projects, recognizing the importance of grassroots involvement in sustaining conservation efforts.

Legal Advocacy: Save Aravali may engage in legal advocacy to address environmental violations and protect the Aravali Range from illegal encroachments, deforestation, and mining activities. They may collaborate with legal experts and environmental organizations to pursue legal recourse against environmental offenders.

Research and Monitoring: The trust may conduct research studies and environmental monitoring programs to assess the ecological health of the Aravali Range, identify conservation priorities, and measure the effectiveness of their interventions over time.

Partnerships and Collaborations: Save Aravali collaborates with governmental agencies, other NGOs, academic institutions, corporate entities, and international organizations to leverage resources, expertise, and networks in advancing their conservation goals.

Introduction

Biodiversity is the cornerstone of a healthy and functioning ecosystem, and it is imperative for the sustenance of life on Earth. The Aravali Range, one of the oldest mountain ranges in India, boasts a rich biodiversity that includes numerous species of flora and fauna. This region, stretching across the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi, serves as a crucial ecological barrier against the advancing deserts and plays a vital role in maintaining regional climate stability. However, the Aravali's ecosystem faces significant threats due to rapid urbanization, industrialization, deforestation, and climate change. Recognizing the urgent need for conservation, the School of Education collaborated with the Save Aravali Trust to undertake a comprehensive project aimed at the protection and conservation of the species inhabiting the Aravali region.

The Save Aravali Trust is a renowned organization dedicated to preserving the natural heritage of the Aravali Range. With its extensive experience in conservation activities and community engagement, the Trust provided invaluable guidance and support to the students throughout the project. This collaboration aimed not only to enhance the students' understanding of environmental science and conservation techniques but also to contribute meaningfully to the preservation of the Aravali's biodiversity.

The primary objectives of this one-month project were multifaceted. First and foremost, it sought to study and document the diverse species of the Aravali region. This included identifying various plant and animal species, understanding their roles within the ecosystem, and recognizing the interdependencies among them. By creating a comprehensive database of the region's biodiversity, the project aimed to provide a valuable resource for future conservation efforts.

Another critical objective was to identify and analyse the threats facing the Aravali ecosystem. Through field surveys and research, students aimed to uncover the extent of deforestation, pollution, poaching, and other detrimental activities. Understanding these threats was crucial for developing effective conservation strategies and raising awareness about the urgency of protecting this fragile ecosystem.

Furthermore, the project focused on the development and implementation of conservation strategies. Guided by experts from the Save Aravali Trust, students participated in various conservation activities, such as tree plantation drives, habitat restoration, and anti-poaching initiatives. These hands-on activities not only contributed to immediate conservation efforts but also equipped students with practical skills and knowledge that would be beneficial in their future careers.

Community engagement was another pivotal aspect of the project. The involvement of local communities is essential for the success of any conservation initiative, as they are the primary stakeholders and beneficiaries of a healthy ecosystem. Students interacted with local residents, farmers, and tribal communities to gather traditional knowledge and understand their

perspectives on conservation. These interactions helped in designing conservation strategies that were not only scientifically sound but also culturally acceptable and sustainable in the long run.

Throughout the project, students were encouraged to think critically and creatively. They conducted detailed surveys, collected and analyzed data, and used their findings to propose innovative solutions to conservation challenges. This approach fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility among the students, as they realized the impact of their work on the real world.

The project also emphasized the importance of raising awareness about biodiversity conservation. Students organized workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns in local schools and communities. These activities aimed to educate people about the significance of the Aravali ecosystem and the need to protect it. By spreading knowledge and fostering a conservation ethic, the project sought to inspire a broader movement towards environmental stewardship.

In summary, this one-month project was a comprehensive effort to study, protect, and conserve the species of the Aravali region. It combined scientific research with practical conservation activities and community engagement, providing students with a holistic learning experience. The collaboration with the Save Aravali Trust enriched the project with expert insights and guidance, ensuring that the efforts were impactful and sustainable. This report documents the project's objectives, activities, findings, and recommendations, offering a detailed account of the students' journey towards contributing to the conservation of one of India's most vital ecosystems.

Objectives

- To study the biodiversity of the Aravali region.
- To understand the threats to the species in the Aravali.
- To develop and implement conservation strategies.
- To raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation among local communities.

Methodology

Preparation Phase

Workshops and Training:

As part of the two-month project in collaboration with the Save Aravali Trust, a series of comprehensive workshops were conducted to equip the students of the School of Education with the necessary knowledge and skills for effective biodiversity study and conservation. These workshops were crucial in laying the groundwork for the field activities and ensuring that the students were well-prepared for the tasks ahead. Below is a detailed summary of the workshops:

Workshop 1: Understanding Biodiversity

Date: 5.03.2024 & 21.03.2024

Duration: 2 Days

Facilitators: Ms. Shalvi Kumari ,Assistant Professor (SOED)

Objectives:

- To introduce the concept of biodiversity and its significance.
- To explore the types of biodiversity (genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity).
- To discuss the current state of biodiversity globally and locally in the Aravali region.

Agenda:

Introduction to Biodiversity:

- Definition and importance of biodiversity.
- Levels of biodiversity: genetic, species, and ecosystem.
- The role of biodiversity in ecosystem services and human well-being.

Biodiversity in the Aravali Region:

- Overview of the Aravali ecosystem.
- Key species of flora and fauna in the Aravali.
- Unique features and endemic species of the region.

Threats to Biodiversity:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Climate change and its impact on biodiversity.
- Pollution, over-exploitation, and invasive species.

Interactive Sessions and Discussions:

- Case studies on biodiversity loss and conservation success stories.
- Group discussions on local biodiversity issues and potential solutions.

Outcomes:

- Students gained a solid understanding of biodiversity and its importance.
- Awareness of the specific biodiversity of the Aravali region and the threats it faces.
- Enhanced ability to identify and discuss biodiversity-related issues.

Workshop 2: Conservation Techniques

Date: 8th May to 10 May, 2024

Duration: 3 Days

Facilitators: Ms. Shalvi Kumari Assistant Professor (SOED)

Objectives:

- To provide knowledge about various conservation techniques.
- To understand the principles of habitat restoration and species conservation.
- To learn about community-based conservation approaches.

Agenda:

Introduction to Conservation:

- Definition and goals of conservation.
- Historical context and evolution of conservation efforts.

Conservation Strategies:

- In-situ conservation: protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries, and national parks.
- Ex-situ conservation: zoos, botanical gardens, seed banks.
- Restoration ecology: principles and practices of habitat restoration.

Species-Specific Conservation:

- Techniques for conserving endangered species.
- Case studies on successful species conservation programs.

Community-Based Conservation:

- Engaging local communities in conservation efforts.
- Sustainable livelihood approaches and conservation incentives.
- Examples of community-driven conservation projects.

Field Exercises:

- Practical demonstrations of habitat restoration techniques.
- Simulated exercises on creating conservation management plans.

Outcomes:

- Students learned about various conservation techniques and their applications.
- Understanding of the importance of community involvement in conservation.

- Practical experience in designing and implementing conservation strategies.

Conclusion

The workshops were instrumental in preparing the students for the project on species of the Aravali and their protection and conservation. By covering essential topics such as biodiversity, conservation techniques, and data collection methods, the workshops provided a solid foundation for the students. The interactive sessions, practical exercises, and fieldwork components ensured that the students not only gained theoretical knowledge but also developed practical skills essential for effective biodiversity conservation. The collaboration with experts from the Save Aravali Trust enriched the learning experience, making the workshops both informative and impactful.

Coordination with Save Aravali Trust: Planned field activities and data collection in consultation with experts from the Trust.

Field Activities

First Visit: 21st May 2024

Second Visit: 28th May 2024

Participants: Group of Environmental Science Students

Faculty Supervisor: Ms. Shalvi Kumari & Mr. Saket Bihari

Objectives:

- To observe and document the current state of biodiversity in the Aravali Range, Faridabad.
- To identify the key challenges in the protection and conservation of species in the area.
- To engage with local communities and stakeholders to understand their perspectives on conservation.

First Visit: 21st May 2024

Activities:

Orientation and Introduction: The visit began with a brief introduction to the Aravali Range's ecological significance and the objectives of the field study.

Field Observation: Students were divided into small groups and assigned different sections of the Aravali Range to observe and document flora and fauna.

Interaction with Local Communities: Discussions were held with local villagers and farmers to understand their interaction with the environment and wildlife.

Observations:

Biodiversity: Notable sightings included various bird species, small mammals, and a range of native plants. However, signs of habitat degradation were evident in several areas.

Human Impact: Significant human activities were observed, including illegal mining, deforestation, and grazing.

Community Perspectives: Local communities expressed concerns about wildlife encroachment on agricultural lands and the lack of alternative livelihoods.

Second Visit: 28th May 2024

Activities:

Follow-up Observations: Students revisited the same sections to note any changes and gather more detailed data.

Interviews with Stakeholders: Meetings were held with representatives from local NGOs, forest department officials, and conservation activists.

Conservation Workshop: A workshop was organized to educate students and locals on sustainable practices and the importance of conservation.

Observations:

Environmental Changes: No significant changes in wildlife sightings compared to the first visit, but further signs of environmental stress, such as increased litter and signs of soil erosion.

Glimpses of Field Visit



Students of School of Education along with faculty coordinators ready to depart for their field visit on Protection and Conservation of Species in Aravali Range, Faridabad



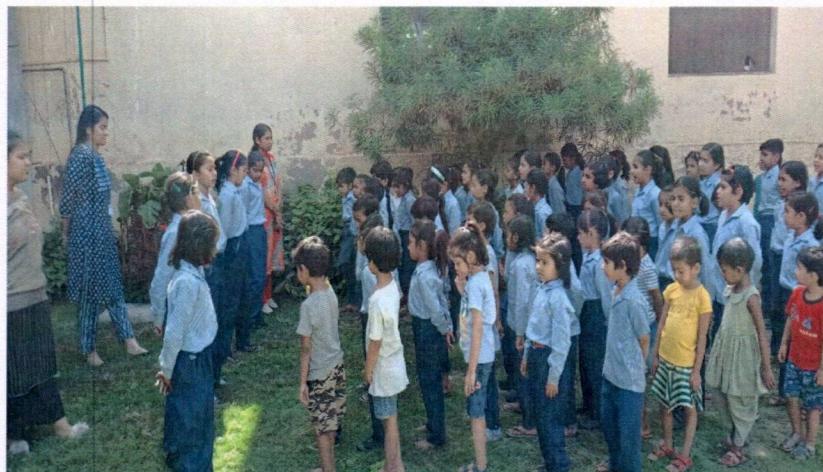
Volunteers of Save Aravali Trust watering extincting plant species



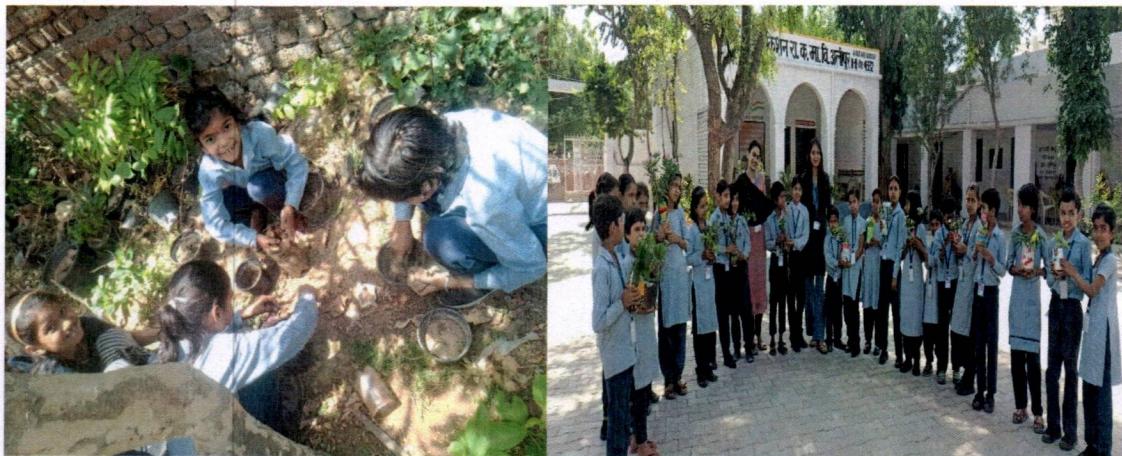
Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Partnerships Manager and Coordinator, Save Aravali Trust and Volunteer of Save Aravali Trust, enlightening students on different plant species.



Volunteer of Save Aravali Trust, giving insights on invasive alien species that was colonizing the Aravali Range.



Student teachers from SOED (KRMU) demonstrated and explained rare species among the children



Student teachers from SOED helping School children in the plantation of rare species

Stakeholder Insights:

- **NGOs:** Highlighted efforts to combat illegal mining and promote reforestation.
- **Forest Officials:** Discussed challenges in enforcement of environmental regulations and the need for more resources.
- **Activists:** Stressed the importance of community involvement and education in conservation efforts.

Key Findings:

- **Habitat Destruction:** Urbanization, illegal mining, and deforestation are major threats to the habitat.
- **Pollution:** Air, water, and noise pollution are adversely affecting the ecosystem.
- **Climate Change:** Altered rainfall patterns and temperature variations are impacting species distribution.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** Encroachment and livestock grazing are leading to conflicts and habitat degradation.
- **Lack of Awareness:** There is a significant gap in awareness and education regarding conservation among local communities.

- **Policy and Enforcement:** Weak enforcement of existing laws and lack of comprehensive policies are hindering conservation efforts.

Recommendations:

Strengthen Legal Frameworks: Improve enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

Habitat Restoration: Implement reforestation and habitat restoration projects.

Community Involvement: Engage local communities through education and sustainable livelihood programs.

Sustainable Development: Promote eco-friendly practices that balance development with conservation.

Research and Monitoring: Conduct continuous research and monitoring to inform conservation strategies.

Conflict Mitigation: Develop strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflict, including buffer zones and compensation schemes.

Pollution Control: Implement measures to reduce industrial, agricultural, and urban pollution.

Climate Adaptation: Develop adaptive strategies to mitigate climate change impacts on the ecosystem.

Conclusion:

The visits underscored the urgent need for a multifaceted approach to address the challenges in the protection and conservation of species in the Aravali Range, Faridabad. Collaborative efforts involving government bodies, NGOs, local communities, and educational institutions are essential for sustainable conservation.

The project provided valuable insights into the biodiversity of the Aravali region and highlighted the urgent need for conservation efforts. Through hands-on activities and community engagement, the students not only contributed to immediate conservation actions but also laid the groundwork for sustainable long-term efforts. Continued collaboration with the Save Aravali Trust and other stakeholders is essential to ensure the protection and conservation of this vital ecosystem.

SAVE ARAVALI TRUST ®

Volunteers for Environment



July 12, 2024

To Whomsoever It May Concern

This is to certify that **Himanshi**, a student of the **B.Ed. II Semester** from **School of Education, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram** has successfully completed her Project Work with Save Aravali Trust from **4th March, 2024 to 30th May, 2024** under the supervision of **Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Partnerships Manager and Coordinator.**

She completed her Project Work entitled **“Protection and Conservation of Species in Aravali Range, Faridabad.”**

We commend **Himanshi** for her hard work during her Project Work and wish her all the best for her future.

Regards,


Kailash Bidhuri
Save Aravali Trust

Save Aravali Trust ®

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July 12, 2024

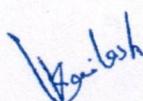
To Whomsoever It May Concern

This is to certify that **Gayatri**, a student of the **B.El.Ed. II Semester** from **School of Education, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram** has successfully completed her Project Work with **Save Aravali Trust** from **4th March, 2024 to 30th May, 2024** under the supervision of **Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Partnerships Manager and Coordinator**.

She completed her Project Work entitled "**Protection and Conservation of Species in Aravali Range, Faridabad.**"

We commend **Gayatri** for her hard work during her Project Work and wish her all the best for her future.

Regards,


Kailash Bidhuri
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July 12, 2024

To Whomsoever It May Concern

This is to certify that **Sanjana**, a student of the **B.Ed. II Semester** from **School of Education, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram** has successfully completed her Project Work with **Save Aravali Trust** from **4th March, 2024 to 30th May, 2024** under the supervision of **Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Partnerships Manager and Coordinator**.

She completed her Project Work entitled "**Protection and Conservation of Species in Aravali Range, Faridabad.**"

We commend **Sanjana** for her hard work during her Project Work and wish her all the best for her future.

Regards,

Kailash Bidhuri
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To Whomsoever It May Concern

This is to certify that **Vanshika**, a student of the **B.Ed. II Semester** from **School of Education, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram** has successfully completed her Project Work with **Save Aravali Trust** from **4th March, 2024 to 30th May, 2024** under the supervision of **Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Partnerships Manager and Coordinator.**

She completed her Project Work entitled "**Protection and Conservation of Species in Aravali Range, Faridabad.**"

We commend **Vanshika** for her hard work during her Project Work and wish her all the best for her future.

Regards,


Kailash Bidhuri
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This is to certify that **Ritika**, a student of the **B.E.I.Ed. II Semester** from **School of Education, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram** has successfully completed her Project Work with **Save Aravali Trust** from **4th March, 2024 to 30th May, 2024** under the supervision of **Ms. Meenakshi Sharma, Partnerships Manager and Coordinator.**

She completed her Project Work entitled "**Protection and Conservation of Species in Aravali Range, Faridabad.**"

We commend **Ritika** for her hard work during her Project Work and wish her all the best for her future.

Regards,

Kailash Bidhuri
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