

**BCC&I Social Leadership Awards 2023**

**Annexure – II (For Civil Societies/Sec 8 Companies/Societies and Trusts)**

**General Instructions**

- The award is an effort to recognize projects that have created significant positive and sustainable impacts on society irrespective of source of funding, scale of funding, geographic spread, etc.
- Organizations are encouraged to showcase all innovative/high-impact projects irrespective of scale.
- Organizations can showcase their projects across various themes like Education, Health Care, Water and Sanitation, Skills Augmentation, Livelihood Promotion, Women Empowerment, Rights Realization, Child Rights, Slum Development, Rural Development, Agriculture Practices, Building and/or Strengthening Community-Based Organizations, Welfare of armed force personnel, Environment Protection, Promoting handicraft and enhancing livelihoods of artisans, Protection of cultural dance forms, Rural technology and others.
- Organizations are encouraged to submit multiple entries. Separate forms may be used for multiple entries. (Each entry is entitled to showcase **only one project**).
- Please use separate sheets wherever necessary.
- Application to be submitted in soft and hard copy.

**Qualification Criteria**

Category	Minimum Financial Outlay of nominated project.
Best Project by Civil Societies/Sec 8 Companies/Societies and Trusts in category A	50 lakhs
Best Medium Project by Civil Societies/Sec 8 Companies/Societies and Trusts in category B	25 lakhs
Best Small Project by Civil Societies/Sec 8 Companies/Societies and Trusts in category C	10 lakhs

- Organizations must be registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs by filing CSR Form – 1.
- Projects implemented in the Financial Year 2022 – 23 should be nominated.
- Projects implemented anywhere in India shall qualify for the award.
- Multi-year project implemented in the Financial Year 2022-23 may also be nominated.
- Shortlisted participants will be invited by the jury to make a presentation in supportive of their application.

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- Time duration for presentation will be 15 minutes.
- The presentation should have a maximum of 10 slides.
- The presentation should not include any audio / video content. No charts / graphs should be incorporated.
- The presentation should not be overloaded with text.

#### Section A: - Details of the organization

1. Name of the Organization: *Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha (BTS)*  
Name of the person to be contacted along with designation: *SusantaGiri, Secretary-Director*  
Tel: *8001111780*  
Mobile: *9733524070*  
E-mail: [btsruraloffice@gmail.com](mailto:btsruraloffice@gmail.com)  
Website if any: [www.bts-india.org](http://www.bts-india.org) (*currently under preparation and to be launched soon*)

2. Details of the Governing Body: -

Mr. Kamal Ranjan Maiti-*President*  
Mr. SusantaGiri-*Secretary*  
Mr. Haradhan Sau-*Assistant Secretary*  
Mr. Haripada Jana-*Treasurer*  
Mrs. Pratima Naiya-*Member*  
Mrs. Manjurani Maiti-*Member*  
Mr. Ranajit Naiya-*Member*  
Mr. Ajit Kumar Khatua-*Member*  
Mrs. Ashalata Das-*Member*

3. Legal status of the organization (Registration details)

*BTS is a registered society under WB Societies Regn. Act of 1961 under the Registrar of Societies, Firm & Non-Trading Corporations, Govt. of West Bengal. The registration no. is S/39842 Dated 29.01.1983*

(Society, Trust, Section 8 company, etc. – attach a copy of Registration Certificate)

4. Whether registered with MCA by filing CSR form 1? *Yes*

(Please attach a copy of CSR form – 1, Mandatory Field)

5. Whether registered u/s 80G & 12 AA of Income Tax Act

*BTS is registered under section 12AA and 80G of I.T. Act, 1961. Below are the details of registration.*

Section 12 AA	Registered under section 12 AA of IT Act Order Number: DIT(E)/T-160/8E/35/1995-96 Date: 25th March, 1996 <b>IT Renewal 12A URN</b> AAATB6212BE19968 of 02.10.2021
Section 80G	Registered u/s 80G of Income Tax Act. Registration No. DIT(E)/8E/35/95-96/3367/7485 Dated 12.01.2012 Renewal No. AAATB6212BF20212 Dated 08.02.2022 for next 5 years 2022-23 to 2026-27.

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6. Details of Income last three years

Year	Income from CSR	Income from Government Sources	Donations from Individuals / Communities / Crowdsourcing	Contribution from members	Other sources	Total Income
2020-21	39,91,976.00	4,06,770.00	31,08,555.06	2,15,480.00	1,97,26,049.94	2,74,48,831.00
2021-22	24,06,300.00	0	21,57,686.00	21,800.00	1,52,43,307.42	1,98,29,093.42
2022-23	29,27,200.00 *	0	31,91,123.00	21,800.00	79,34,927.00	1,40,75,050.00

Note: (\*) The figure includes the contribution of Rs.27, 92,200.00 which we have received through Seeds India on account of this CSR project of Nvidia

7. Details of Expenditure last three years:

Year	Expenses towards objectives of the organization	Administrative Expenditure	Depreciation	Establishment Expenditure	Other expenditure	Total Expenditure
2020-21	21,584,077.97	1,009,700.00	477,946.79	2,572,813.00	1,650,900.00	27,295,437.76
2021-22	12,841,090.30	846,466.00	671,385.25	4,179,720.00	2,055,594.00	20,594,255.55
2022-23	9,21,3,879.00	7,39,834.00	10,73,174.00	8,96,401.00	26,60,342.00	1,45,83,630.00

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8. Major donor organizations (CSR / Government agencies / International donors / etc.) in last three years.

Year	Name of Donor Agency	Quantum of Donation
2020-21	Asha for Education-USA	3,453,000.00
	Kollol Women Forum(Medha), NJ	231,703.06
	Embassy of France, New Delhi	4,339,473.68
	VIBHA-USA	850,117.67
	PRAXIS Institute	2,127,074.00
	JGVK(UBU-Denmark)	139,157.00
	AID-USA	3,121,250.00
	Smile Foundation-New Delhi	562,094.00
	BftW Germany through CASA New Delhi	663,146.85
	Charities Aid Foundation(CAF)-India	700,000.00
	Discovery India through WWF- India(CSR)	1,361,300.00
	Oxfam India	707,358.00
	PPI-USA	293,260.00
	SAVE – India	199,800.00
	Aaro Aakash	200,000.00
	Ananta Akash	210,000.00
	Linde Global Services(CSR)	350,000.00
	PwCIndia Foundation(CSR)	900,000.00
	SIDBI (CSR)	882,180.00
	HAL(CSR)	498,496.00
Govt. of WB.	406,770.00	
2021-22	Asha for Education-USA	1,572,000.00
	VIBHA-USA	764,600.00
	AJWS-USA	1,802,250.00
	AID-USA	2,194,000.00
	Oak Foundation-Switzerland	3,098,236.00
	BftW-Germany through CASA New Delhi	938,494.00
	SETU Sverige Foundation-Sweden	
	PPI-USA	100,000.00
	Smile Foundation New Delhi	184,750.00
	Ananta Akash	606,567.00
	Monoj Modi Foundation (CSR)	2,492,824.00
	PwCIndia Foundation(CSR)	550,000.00
	SIDBI	1,443,800.00
	TMF(Tech Mahindra Foundation)-CSR	510,000.00
	Discovery India through WWF-India (CSR)	450,000.00
	Impact Guru(Crowd Funding)	352,500.00
	JTPL(Jyotirmoyee Textiles Private Ltd) CSR	146,660.90
		100,000.00

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Year	Name of Donor Agency	Quantum of Donation
2022-23	Asha for Education-USA	7,93,000.00
	AID-USA	22,81,500.00
	Kollol Women Forum(Medha), NJ	2,66,656.00
	Oak Foundation-Switzerland	25,19,627.00
	Talent Search Program [TSP]-Multiple Donors	2,91,680.00
	BftW-Germany through CASA New Delhi	3,11,189.00
	Smile Foundation New Delhi	5,05,320.00
	Ananta Akash	7,39,000.00
	TCF-Canada	3,58,701.00
	MultiDonors	3000.00
	SIDBI	97,000.00
	PwCIndia Foundation(CSR)	38,200.00
	SEEDS India	27,61,232.00

9. Geographies in which the organization is active (State and Districts): *BTS is active in the state of West Bengal and district of South 24 Pgs. We work in the area of Sunderbans in 6 CD Blocks namely Kultali, Patharpratima, Mathurapur-II, Basanti, Gosaba and Namkhana. In all our geographical area covers a total of 12 Gram Panchayats (GPs)*

10. How are the thematic priorities of the organization aligned to schedule VII of the Companies Act:

BTS-Thematic Priorities	Alignment with provisions under Schedule VII on Companies Act
Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security	Schedule 7, Section -135, (iv)
Child Protection & Quality Education	Schedule 7, Section -135, (ii)
Sustainable Livelihood & Women Empowerment	Schedule 7, Section -135, (ii), (iii)
Climate Change Adaptation & Bio Diversity	Schedule 7, Section -135, (iv)
Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction	Schedule 7, Section -135, (xii)
Mother- Child Health & Nutrition (MCHN++)	Schedule 7, Section -135, (i)
Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency	Schedule 7, Section -135, (iv)
School WASH and Safe Adolescence	Schedule 7, Section -135, (i)
Care for Older People & Safe Sights Program	Schedule 7, Section -135, (ii)

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11. Are the accounts of the organization audited every year: - Yes

(Please attach audited statement of accounts for last 3 years). *Audited Accounts for FY 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 are enclosed*

12. How does the organization disseminate the information related to its project to internal and external stakeholders? (explain in maximum 500 words)

BTS employs a multi-faceted approach to disseminate information related to its projects to both internal and external stakeholders. This comprehensive strategy aims to ensure effective communication and engagement with various groups. Here's a detailed description of how BTS reaches out to its stakeholders:

**Internal Stakeholders:**

**Beneficiaries:**

**Community Meetings:** Organizing regular community meetings at the grassroots level to directly engage with the beneficiaries, understand their needs, and update them on project progress.

**Direct Visits:** BTS team members visit local communities to establish a personal connection, gather feedback, and address any concerns.

**Local Administration (GP and Block Levels)**

**Meetings and Workshops:** Arranging meetings and workshops with local administrative personnel to provide detailed updates on project activities, share outcomes, and discuss any challenges or requirements.

**Office Visits:** BTS representatives visit the offices of administrative personnel to maintain open lines of communication, seek support, and ensure alignment with local development goals.

**External Stakeholders:**

**Donors and Well-Wishers:**

**Periodical Publications:** Regularly publishing newsletters and annual reports that highlight the achievements, impact, and financial aspects of BTS projects. These documents are distributed to donors and well-wishers to keep them informed about the organization's progress.

**Social Media Updates:** Sharing project updates, success stories, and impact assessments on social media platforms such as Facebook and Whatsapp to maintain a transparent and real-time connection with external stakeholders.

**General Public:**

**Website Launch:** Developing and launching the official website [www.bts-india.org](http://www.bts-india.org) to serve as a centralized hub for information. The website will provide detailed project descriptions, progress reports, success stories, and ways for the general public to get involved.

**Social Media Presence:** Leveraging social media platforms to regularly share updates, photos, and videos, creating awareness among the wider community about BTS's initiatives.

13. Total Staff Strength: -

- a. Permanent Staff : - 39 (as of 2022-23)
- b. Contractual / Fixed term staff: - 02 (as of 2022-23)

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c. Volunteers: - 02 (as of 2022-23)

14. Attach copies of the following: -

- i. Registration Certificate / Certificate of Incorporation, Enclosed; [See attachment-1]
- ii. Certificate of registration u/s 80G of Income Tax Act, Enclosed; [See attachment -2]
- iii. Certificate of registration u/s 12 A of Income Tax Act, Enclosed; [See attachment -3]
- iv. Copy of Pan Card, Enclosed; [See attachment-4]
- v. Detailed audited statement of accounts (including all annexures) for last three years. Enclosed; [See attachment-5]

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**Section B: - Nominated Project**

15. Name of the project being nominated: *Restoring Life and Livelihood of Coastal Communities in Sundarbans; Reviving Nature Based Solutions*
16. Key theme/central focus of the project (Health / Education / Skills Development / Rural Development / Environment Protection / Women Empowerment / Empowerment of vulnerable sections of society/ promotion of sports/ welfare of armed force personnel/ sustainable agriculture/rights realization/ income generation/ rural enterprise development / others.):  
  
*Environment Protection, Ecological Restoration of the Sundarbans which over the decades has been prone to climatic extremes like storm surges, tropical cyclones, floods etc. while focusing on skills development and empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups like farmers and fisher folks so that they develop resilience against future incidences of climatic extremes.*
17. Whether implemented in project mode: *Yes*
18. Source of funding for the nominated project: *Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) through Nvidia, India [It is a CSR fund of Nvidia]*
19. Project Location: *Block-Patharpratima, Dist. South 24 Pgs. Implemented in GPs:*
20. Duration/projected duration of the project: *0 Years and 07 Months ( From 01 September, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023)*
21. Start Date of the project (DD/MM/YY): *01/09/22*
22. End Date of the project (DD/MM/YY): *31/03/23*  
*(The impact of programme/project would be considered up to 31.03.2023i.e. between 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2023).*
23. Amount allocated to the Project being nominated (in Cr.) (in FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22& FY 2022-23):

Financial Year	Amount Allocated
2020-21	0.00
2021-22	0.00
2022-23	27,92,000.00

24. Amount spent for the Project being nominated (in Cr.) (in FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22 & FY 2022-23):

Financial Year	Amount Spent
2020-21	0.00
2021-22	0.00
2022-23	27,92,000.00

25. What are the major concerns the project seeks to address?

*The project aims to address several major concerns related to the region's exposure to climatic extremes and their impacts on the local communities. Here are the key concerns that the project seeks to tackle:*

**Land Loss and Infrastructure Damage:**

**Soil Erosion:** *The region is vulnerable to climatic extremes, leading to soil erosion. The project likely focuses on implementing measures to reduce erosion and preserve fertile land.*

**Weakening of River Embankments:** *Earthen river embankments are essential for protecting the communities from floods, high tides etc.. The project may involve initiatives to strengthen these embankments and enhance overall resilience to extreme weather events.*

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**Salinization of Fresh Water Supplies:** *Climatic extremes contribute to the salinization of fresh water supplies, posing a significant challenge to the availability of safe drinking water. The project likely aims to implement solutions to mitigate salinization and ensure a sustainable and safe water supply for the affected communities.*

**Impact on Agricultural Activities:**

Migration for Better Income Opportunities: *The project recognizes the adverse effects of climatic disruptions on local agriculture, leading to a situation where many men have to migrate to other cities for better income opportunities. The focus may be on implementing measures to enhance the resilience of local agriculture and create alternative income sources.*

**Gendered Impact on Households:**

Added Responsibilities for Women: *With men migrating for better opportunities, women in the households are left with additional responsibilities. The project likely seeks to address gender disparities by providing support, training, and resources to empower women in managing both domestic chores and agricultural activities.*

**Involvement of SHGs, Farmers, and Fisher Folks:**

Frontline Communities: *The project recognizes the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), farmers, and fisher folks as frontline communities facing the brunt of climatic disruptions. It may involve these communities actively in planning, implementing, and sustaining resilience-building measures.*

**Lack of Knowledge on Early Warning Systems (EWS) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):**

Vulnerability to Climatic Distresses: *Due to a lack of knowledge about Early Warning Systems (EWS) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), communities are more susceptible to climatic distresses. The project likely includes education and awareness programs to empower communities with the necessary knowledge and skills to respond effectively to climatic challenges.*

26. How was the project conceived?

*The project was conceived based on the need based study conducted by BTS to assess the extensive losses and damages caused by frequent cyclones, floods, storm surges, high tides, particularly in the region, with a specific focus on Patharpratima island in Sunderban Delta area. The study aimed to understand the impact of these natural calamities on the lives and property holdings of marginalized communities, including women, marginal farmers, and fisher folks.*

**Study Methodology:**

**Focus Group Discussions (FGD):**

*The study team engaged in FGDs to gather insights and opinions from community members who have directly experienced the impact of cyclones, floods, and other natural disasters. This allowed for a more nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized groups.*

**Surveys:**

*Surveys were conducted to collect quantitative data on the extent of losses and damages. This method likely involved gathering information on the economic, social, and environmental impacts of the natural calamities on the targeted communities.*

**Direct Interviews:**

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*Direct interviews with victims provided a platform for individuals to share their personal experiences and perspectives. This qualitative data likely contributed to a deeper understanding of the human impact of these disasters.*

**Findings and Community Opinions:**

**Community Emphasis:**

*The community's emphasis on the restoration of mangrove forests and the protection of weakened river embankments highlighted the importance of nature-based solutions in mitigating the impact of climate-related disasters.*

**Desire for Capacitation and Training:**

*The expressed desire of the community to capacitate themselves indicated a recognition of the need for local empowerment and resilience-building. This likely influenced the project's focus on capacity-building initiatives*

27. Objectives of the Project:

*The objective of the project is to protect the coastal population in Patharpratima Block of South 24 pgs. against devastating impacts of future climate induced disasters by focusing on nature-based solutions to the problem. The solutions include 3 three phased approach-*

**Phase-I – Soil stabilization by planting mangroves**

**Phase-II Riverside and stream bank protection in vulnerable points using nature based solutions like plantations which include vetiver grasses, coir mats, bamboo/arecanut mats – along the inner line of the mangrove plantations**

**Phase-III Capacity building of the communities in emergency evacuation, search & rescue operations, importance of environment protection, first aid, fire safety while empowering the women in alternative livelihood earning opportunities which can provide protection and sustainability in case of future disasters.**

28. How are the objectives aligned to national and global developmental priorities?

*The objectives of the project, particularly focused on mangrove plantation, mangrove nurseries, and the protection of weakened river embankments, align closely with both national and global developmental priorities, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

**Mangrove Plantation for Climate Change Mitigation (SDG 13):**

*The planting of mangrove saplings contributes significantly to SDG 13 (Climate Action) by acting as a natural barrier against the impacts of climate change. Mangroves play a crucial role in protecting coastal communities from the adverse effects of climate change, such as sea-level rise, storm surges, and floods. By preventing saline water intrusion into farmlands, the project aids in climate change mitigation and adaptation, ensuring the resilience of agricultural production.*

**Ensuring Food Security and Eradicating Hunger (SDG 2 and SDG 1):**

*Mangrove plantation directly aligns with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 1 (No Poverty) by safeguarding farmlands from saline water intrusion, preserving agricultural productivity, and contributing to food security. This initiative not only protects livelihoods but also addresses the broader goal of poverty eradication by sustaining the income of marginalized coastal communities.*

**Mangrove Nurseries for Inclusive Economic Growth (SDG 8):**

*The establishment of mangrove nurseries in collaboration with Self-Help Groups aligns with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by providing an additional source of income for coastal communities. This initiative promotes*

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*sustainable and inclusive economic growth, empowering local communities and reducing dependence on external intermediaries, thereby preventing exploitation and enhancing economic resilience.*

**Protection of Weakened River Embankments for Sustainable Infrastructure (SDG 9 and SDG 11):**

*The project's focus on protecting weakened river embankments with nature-based solutions aligns with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). The use of innovative solutions like vetiver grass, coir mats, bamboo, and aeracut mats contributes to the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure, safeguarding coastal communities against natural disasters and enhancing the overall resilience of the region.*

**Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems (SDG 15):**

*Through the conservation and restoration of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, including the mangrove forests, the project aligns with SDG 15 (Life on Land). This initiative contributes to efforts to combat deforestation, restore degraded ecosystems, and promote biodiversity, thereby supporting the broader global goal of environmental sustainability.*

29. Rationale for the Project:

*The rationale behind this project stems from the urgent need to address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change in a specific region, particularly in connection to Patharpratima island. The frequency of cyclones, floods, storm surges, and high tides in the area has resulted in extensive losses and damages, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities, including women, marginal farmers, and fisher folks.*

**Climate Change Impacts:**

*The region faces severe climatic extremes, leading to widespread soil erosion, weakened river embankments, and the salinization of freshwater supplies. These environmental changes significantly impact local agricultural activities, forcing many men to migrate in search of better income opportunities.*

**Community Engagement and Needs Assessment:**

*The project's rationale is rooted in a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by BTS. Through Focus Group Discussions (FGD), surveys, and direct interviews with victims of natural calamities, the community's perspective and needs were thoroughly explored. The community emphasized the urgent need for action, focusing on the restoration of mangrove forests and the protection of weakened river embankments.*

**Nature-Based Solutions and Climate Resilience:**

*Mangroves play a critical role in climate resilience. The project strategically focuses on mangrove plantation, complemented by the establishment of mangrove nurseries. This approach not only acts as a natural barrier against climate-related disasters but also aligns with global priorities in climate change mitigation and adaptation.*

**Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Growth:**

*The initiative to set up mangrove nurseries in collaboration with Self-Help Groups aligns with the goal of promoting inclusive economic growth (SDG 8). By providing an additional source of income for coastal communities and eliminating the need for middlemen, the project seeks to empower these communities economically.*

**Infrastructure and Ecosystem Resilience:**

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The project's focus on protecting weakened river embankments using nature-based solutions, such as vetiver grass, coir mats, bamboo, and aeracut mats, aligns with Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11. This approach emphasizes the importance of building sustainable and resilient infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change.

**Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems:**

Through mangrove plantation and the broader conservation and restoration efforts, the project contributes to SDG 15 (Life on Land). This involves preventing deforestation, restoring degraded mangrove forests, and promoting overall biodiversity in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

30. Inputs provided by the Organization (financial /non-financial contribution): -

- ❖ Group formation
- ❖ Handholding supports
- ❖ Technical supports
- ❖ Material supports
- ❖ Logistical support
- ❖ Arranging trainers

31. Number of beneficiaries for the project: - *We have been able to support 1, 14,321 community people.*

**Break up of beneficiaries (Male -39,586, Female- 53,608, Below 18 years –14,296, Below 14 years -6,831)**

32. Impact (both qualitative and quantitative) of the intervention: -

Quantitative Outcomes	Qualitative Outcomes
An identified land area of 5 hecatres is covered by planting 50,000 mangrove saplings	Soil Stabilization along the coastlines by planting mangroves to reduce the impact of cyclones and storm surges
100 community people comprising of women, farmers, fisher folks and youth are oriented by conducting 4 workshops	Orientation of stakeholders on importance of soil stabilization by planting mangroves
15 community groups, a total of 180 people comprising of women, farmers, fisher folks and youth are made aware about the importance of nature based solutions	Orientation and capacity building of community groups on the importance and benefits of nature based solutions for protection of earthen river embankments
15 such embankment locations are identified, by planting vetiver grass , coir mats/ arecanut mats provided inner line to the mangroves- efforts are made to strengthen the weakened river embankments	Critical embankment locations having problems of soil erosion are identified and strengthened using nature based protections
3 numbers of search and rescue trainings are held; total participants: 30; 3 numbers of fire safety trainings are held; total participants: 30; 3 numbers of first aid trainings are held; total participants: 30; 3 numbers of evacuation cum shelter management trainings are held; total participants: 30; 5 numbers of search and rescue trainings are held; total participants: 50; Thus in 5 disciplines a total of 170 participants are trained	Formation and Training of Task Force at local level on Search and Rescue, Fire safety, First Aid, Evacuation cum relief shelter management and Environment Protection
3 Table Top drill reports of 3 drills, 1 in each with one group	Creation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Training of Task Forces
15 workshops in total are held; in 5 pond locations; a total of 450 participants are trained in all	School children, youth clubs, women groups and other stakeholders are made aware on the importance of conserving the local water bodies ( domestic and community ponds)
5 number of ponds are cleaned involving local women and youth groups	Cleaning and rejuvenation of water bodies
3 SHGs are identified, the location of the mangrove nursery is also selected, training provided on nursery making,  Handholding training also provided to group on the	Creation of nursery ( training on nursery bed, seed bed, collection and planting of mother plants, storage of dried, cleaned, soil and compost manure, seeds production, manuring, watering system, waste water management

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managing of the nursery and marketing of its produce.	techniques, plant protection and harvesting); training the SHG women on managing the nursery and marketing of the products of nursery
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33. What is “unique” or “different” or “innovative” about the nominated project: -

*Several unique and innovative aspects distinguish the nominated project:*

**Nature-Based Solutions for Disaster Resilience:**

*The project's emphasis on nature-based solutions, such as the plantation of mangroves and the establishment of mangrove nurseries, sets it apart. These initiatives act as natural barriers against floods and disasters, showcasing an innovative approach that aligns with sustainable environmental practices.*

**Community Collaboration through Self-Help Groups (SHGs):**

*The collaboration with SHGs for mangrove-related activities demonstrates a community-centric approach. By involving local stakeholders, particularly women and marginalized groups, the project ensures that solutions are not only effective but also socially inclusive, addressing the specific needs and vulnerabilities of these communities.*

**Preventing Saline Water Intrusion for Agricultural Protection:**

*The focus on preventing saline water intrusion into farmlands through mangrove plantation is a unique approach to safeguarding agricultural crops. This strategy not only contributes to disaster resilience but also directly addresses food security concerns by preserving the productivity of agricultural land in the region.*

**Shielding Women and Marginalized from Exploitation:**

*The project's commitment to shielding local village women and marginalized groups from abuse and exploitation is a distinctive and socially conscious aspect. By addressing the vulnerabilities of these groups, the project recognizes the interconnectedness of environmental and social challenges, providing a holistic solution.*

**Formation of a Cadre of Task Force Groups for Disaster Response:**

*The creation of a cadre of task force groups as first responders to natural disasters showcases a proactive and community-driven approach to emergency management. This initiative ensures a swift and coordinated response to disasters, minimizing the impact on the community.*

**Capacity Building at Various Levels:**

*The comprehensive capacity-building initiative involving local SHGs, youth clubs, and community clubs is a unique aspect. By strengthening these grassroots organizations, the project empowers the community to take an active role in disaster preparedness and response, fostering a sense of ownership and resilience.*

*Tailored Women Empowerment Programs:*

*The specific focus on strengthening local women groups for sustainable livelihoods in the face of catastrophes highlights a gender-sensitive approach. The project recognizes the unique challenges faced by women during and after disasters and tailors empowerment programs to address these challenges directly.*

34. What is the sustainability strategy of the project/programme?

*The sustainability strategy for the project/programme can encompass various elements to ensure its long-term impact and effectiveness. Here are key components of a sustainability strategy:*

**Community Ownership and Involvement:**

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*Facilitate active participation and involvement of the local community throughout the project lifecycle. Engage community members in decision-making processes, ensuring that they have a sense of ownership over the initiatives. This involvement fosters a commitment to sustaining the outcomes beyond the project's duration.*

**Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer:**

*Focus on building the capacity of local communities, especially through training programs. Equip them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools to independently manage and maintain the implemented solutions. This includes training local leaders, establishing community-based committees, and organizing workshops for skill transfer.*

**Establishment of Local Institutions:**

*Work towards the establishment or strengthening of local institutions that can carry forward the project's objectives. This may involve formalizing community groups or strengthening existing organizations. These institutions can serve as conduits for ongoing support, resource mobilization, and collaboration with external partners.*

**Diversification of Income Sources:**

*Support the creation of alternative income sources for the community. This can reduce their dependence on a single livelihood strategy and enhance overall economic resilience. Explore opportunities for income-generating activities related to the project's objectives, ensuring sustained financial stability for the community.*

**Integration with Local Policies and Practices:**

*Align the project with existing local policies and practices. Ensure that project interventions seamlessly integrate into the socio-cultural and economic fabric of the community. This alignment enhances the likelihood of continued support and adoption of the initiatives after the project concludes.*

**Partnerships and Collaboration:**

*Foster partnerships with local government, non-governmental organization and other stakeholders. Collaborative efforts can contribute to the sustained impact of the project by leveraging additional resources, sharing responsibilities, and fostering a supportive network for ongoing initiatives.*

**Promotion of Sustainable Practices:**

*Encourage and promote sustainable practices within the community. This may include the continued care of planted mangroves, adherence to sustainable agricultural methods, and the incorporation of eco-friendly habits. Building a culture of sustainability contributes to the long-term resilience of the community.*

**35. What is the probability of Replicability of the project/programme?**

*The project is distinguished by its rigorous and systematic approach, characterized by a thorough study, structured methodologies, and a commitment to measuring progress and benefits. This disciplined management style significantly enhances the project's replicability, making it highly probable for introduction in various locations facing vulnerability, particularly in the context of coastal islands.*

*The systematic study forms the cornerstone of the project, ensuring a nuanced understanding of the challenges prevalent in the community located in vulnerable coastal areas. This careful examination lays the groundwork for a structured approach that permeates every phase of the project, from design to implementation. The structured methodologies and protocols employed contribute to a well-defined framework that can be easily replicated in diverse settings.*

*A key strength of the project lies in its robust system for measuring progress and assessing benefits. This data-driven approach not only substantiates the project's success but also establishes quantifiable metrics, serving as benchmarks*

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*for potential replication. The ability to demonstrate tangible outcomes enhances the project's credibility and underscores its transferability to other regions grappling with similar environmental adversities.*

*Importantly, the project's adaptability to vulnerable environments, particularly in coastal islands, showcases its applicability in diverse settings. The strategies and interventions developed are tailored to address the unique needs and challenges of such areas, reinforcing the project's potential for introduction in other locations with comparable environmental vulnerabilities.*

*The community-centric approach, characterized by the active involvement of local stakeholders in decision-making processes, ensures that solutions are not only effective but also culturally and socially relevant. This inclusivity strengthens the project's relevance and applicability, making it suitable for introduction in various communities with distinct characteristics.*

*Furthermore, the project's commitment to documenting best practices creates a valuable knowledge repository. This repository, rich with insights into successful strategies and lessons learned, facilitates the transferability of these best practices. As a result, the project provides a blueprint for effective interventions that can be replicated in other vulnerable areas.*

*The creation of a cadre of task force groups for disaster response exemplifies a proactive and community-driven approach. This model, structured for rapid and coordinated response, is not only applicable to the current community but also serves as a scalable and replicable model for effective disaster management in other regions prone to environmental disasters.*

*In summary, the project's systematic study, structured approach, measurement of progress, adaptability, community-centric focus, and proactive disaster management model collectively position it as a highly replicable initiative. Its well-defined processes and comprehensive methodologies make it suitable for introduction in various locations worldwide, particularly those facing vulnerabilities akin to coastal islands*

36. Involvement of senior management in the project: -

*During the project initiation phase the senior management took part in planning, budgeting, identifying the project location, engaging with local stakeholders to leverage their support in the implementation of the program.*

*A 5 member MET(Monitoring and Evaluation Team) was set up to successfully implement and monitor the project; guide its progress as per the project action plan.*

*Monthly and quarterly progress was measured as per planned activity flow. Monthly, Quarterly and Grant End Reports were shared along with project photographs and testimonials.*

*Program Manager, Project Desk-In charge including the field coordinators, accountant (a team of 5) monitored the team for smooth and hassle-free execution of the project.*

37. How has the organization leveraged partnerships to amplify the impact of the project?

*The organization has strategically leveraged partnerships to significantly amplify the impact of the project. Through collaborative efforts with various stakeholders, the project has extended its reach, resources, and expertise, resulting in a more comprehensive and effective implementation. These partnerships can be categorized into several key areas:*

**Community Engagement and Local Organizations:**

*Collaborating with local community groups, such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), youth clubs, and community clubs, has been integral. These partnerships ensure that the project is rooted in the specific needs and context of the community, fostering a sense of ownership and active participation.*

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**Government and Local Administration:**

*Partnering with local government bodies and administration at the Gram Panchayat and block levels has facilitated smoother implementation. This collaboration ensures alignment with local policies and regulations, streamlining processes and promoting sustainability beyond the project's duration.*

**NGOs and Development Organizations:**

*Collaborations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development organizations have brought additional expertise and resources to the project. These partnerships contribute to a more holistic approach, incorporating a diverse range of perspectives and solutions to address complex challenges.*

**Donors and Well-Wishers:**

*Establishing partnerships with donors and well-wishers has played a crucial role in securing financial support for the project. These collaborations enable the organization to access funding for key activities, including mangrove plantation, capacity building, and disaster response initiatives.*

**Academic and Research Institutions:**

*Engaging with academic and research institutions has provided the project with access to cutting-edge knowledge and expertise. Collaborations with researchers and academics contribute to evidence-based decision-making and enhance the project's overall effectiveness.*

38. How was the project monitored during the course of implementation? (explain in maximum 500 words)

*The project was meticulously monitored throughout its implementation to ensure effectiveness, measure progress, and adapt strategies as needed. The monitoring process involved a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as regular feedback mechanisms. Here's an overview of how the project was monitored:*

**Baseline Assessment:**

*Before the project's initiation, a comprehensive baseline assessment was conducted to understand the existing conditions, vulnerabilities, and needs of the community. This served as a benchmark against which the project's impact could be measured.*

**Regular Progress Reports:**

*Regular progress reports were generated at predefined intervals. These reports outlined key milestones achieved, activities completed, and challenges faced. The systematic documentation of progress allowed for continuous evaluation and adjustment of the project's trajectory.*

**Quantitative Metrics:**

*Quantitative metrics were established to measure the project's impact on specific indicators, such as the number of mangrove saplings planted, acres of farmland protected, community members trained, and the frequency of disaster response drills. These metrics provided measurable outcomes for assessment.*

**Community Feedback Mechanisms:**

*Community feedback was actively sought through various channels, including community meetings, surveys, and focus group discussions. This qualitative data provided insights into the community's perception of the project, identified areas for improvement, and ensured that the project aligned with the community's evolving needs.*

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**Stakeholder Engagement Meetings:**

*Regular stakeholder engagement meetings were conducted with partners, local government officials, NGOs, and other collaborating entities. These meetings facilitated communication, coordination, and shared learning, ensuring that all stakeholders were aligned with the project's goals.*

**Environmental Monitoring:**

*For nature-based components of the project, such as mangrove plantation, environmental monitoring was conducted to assess the health and growth of the mangrove ecosystem. This included tracking changes in soil quality, water salinity, and the overall biodiversity of the area.*

**Capacity Building Assessments:**

*Assessments of capacity building initiatives were carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of training programs. This involved assessing the acquired skills and knowledge of community members, SHGs, and other local groups involved in disaster response and mangrove conservation.*

**Internal and External Audits:**

*Internal and external audits may have been conducted periodically to ensure financial accountability and compliance with project objectives. This helped maintain transparency and credibility in project implementation.*

39. Has the organization undergone Impact Assessment of the Project: (Yes / No) NO

If yes, has it been conducted –

A) Deploying internal resources

B) Engaging third party agency

40. Is the Impact Assessment Report available for the project being nominated? (Yes/No) NO

(Please attach a copy)

41. Testimonials (Videos / photographs / NEWS items / etc.) in supportive of application Videos, Photographs, Case Stories are available as testimonials for the project

42. Attach a presentation in support of your application for the award (Refer to General instruction) : Attached

43. Name to be printed in trophy and Certificate in case your application is selected for award.

Implementing Partner: - **Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha**

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