



## **Srushtidnyan**



28<sup>th</sup> of April 2014, updated 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2015

### **Climate Ambassadors Mumbai - Stockholm**

#### **A climate education-action-advocacy and conservation project**

#### **Project plan 2015 and 2016**

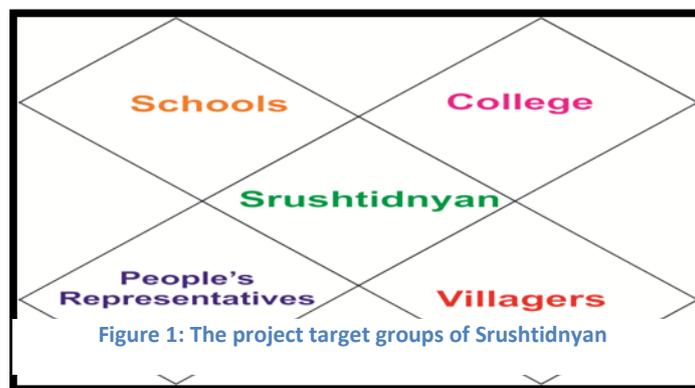
##### **Summary of the project**

Srushtidnyan in Mumbai, India, will implement a project supported by their partner organization Climate Action in Stockholm, Sweden. The project focuses on students from 13 to 15 years, in 10 secondary schools and from 18 to 21 years in 1 graduation/ Degree College in Mumbai or surroundings. It will be a continuation of the existing project with some additional features, such as that the College students will take a lead in school activities in the schools. The students will gain awareness, knowledge and skills when it comes to environmental and climate change issues, in order to contribute to attitudinal change and problems solutions through specific actions and activities. This will be performed by the climate ambassadors of the College and/or best schools from the project in the year 2014, with the help of teachers and principals. The exchange of experience during project year 2014 between MD College, Mumbai and Global College (Globala gymnasiet), Stockholm will be continued on their own. There is a proposal to take one new college both from Mumbai and Stockholm for a similar exchange. A new interaction will be started between Dharmaprakash Shrinivasayya High School, Sion (henceforth called DS High School) and the Swedish High School Skarpatorpsskolan in Stockholm for this exchange in the year 2015 and 2016. DS High School will be one of the 10 schools proposed in the project.

As the now ongoing project will conclude with a Climate Ambassadors Conference in December 2014, there will be people's representatives like the Minister of Environment and the Mayor of Mumbai invited to this conference. These people's representatives will be further approached in the next year project to initiate the advocacy work with all the relevant people's representatives (see [Annexure](#) for the types of people's representatives that can be approached). The advocacy involves a communication through meetings and workshops on the climate issues to make them incorporate the climate resilience action

plan in their portfolios, for instance, the People's Representatives Training Workshops (henceforth called PRTW) can be organized. This will help in becoming vocal in their respective houses of governance to ask about the climate friendly governance.

The project also focuses on the villagers of Kundi Village in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra State that falls in the belt of the Western Ghats which is one of the



Biodiversity Hotspots in the world. The forests of Kundi village is presumed to hold endemic and endangered plant species. There is a great need of preservation and conservation of the plants which are either vulnerable or resilient to climate change. The plan is to explore the forests with the participation of the villagers of Kundi, the field research volunteers and prepare a Community Bio-diversity Register of Kundi Village forests (which henceforth will be called CBR of Kundi village forests). This would help the village to plan further the conservation work of the plants which are vulnerable or resilient to climate change. The Bio-diversity Register would serve the purpose of formulating a data bank of the village forests and help the villagers to undertake the species conservation work as per the status of the forests.

The figure states the main primary target groups of this project. There are 10 schools proposed to be taken in the project year 2015 and 2016. There will be a group of 50 students from each school that will be participating in the project activities. There will be 2 teachers per school involved in the implementation of the project activities at the schools level.

MD College, Mumbai, and Global College, Stockholm, will continue their interaction on their own. A new Indian college will be selected with 30 Climate Ambassadors students who will continue working in the college as well as in the schools. A new Swedish College will be selected. DS High School is selected for the exchange program with one Swedish high school, Skarpatorpsskolan in Stockholm.

The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has 227 municipal corporators who work at the local ward level to serve the people for civic amenities like water, electricity and garbage disposal, etc. India holds the Parliamentary Elections in April 2014 and the State of Maharashtra is also going to have elections for the Members of Legislative Assembly

(MLAs) in December 2014 (dates not yet declared). So, we have new members in the Parliament of India and in the Assembly of Maharashtra in the year 2014 onwards till the beginning of 2015. There is therefore a good ground for advocacy with all these people's representatives about the climate issues and lobby for inserting the climate friendly policies in their portfolios.

The villagers of Kundi is a comparatively new target group for Srushtidnyan to work with. But we have a strong contact with the organizations working on ecology and sustainable development in the region. This will help us to initiate the work easily in the village. The number of villagers may not be claimed perfectly at the moment, though the recorded population of the village is around 600 people. The young people and the knowledgeable elderly people living in harmony with the forests will be our primary target group, estimated to a number of 200 individuals.

In all above mentioned target groups, the participation of women will be ensured to be equal, exception is the people's representatives who are elected members and thus difficult to quote the gender ration in the project application.

Srushtidnyan will be strengthened as an organization through organizational and capacity building training programs and workshops, focusing on skills in the fields of advocacy, field biodiversity research, member and volunteer recruiting skills. A website of the organization will be created.

The year 2015 and 2016 will be concluded with the Climate Ambassadors Conferences. The experiences of the planned Conference in December 2014 will be important for the planning. There would be an attempt to set the trend of organizing climate ambassadors' conference every year by involving other local organizations. The conference will come up with an action plans as per the scenario at local, national and international levels like the COP 21 in Paris in 2015 which will influence local, national and international climate policies. Srushtidnyan will seek other external funds in order to permit, at COP21, the presence of a number of the young Climate Ambassadors from the project.

**Principal documents** are the Project Plan, the Goal and risk matrix, and the Budget.

**Overall goal** – The project contributes to a society that believes in equitable and sustainable sharing of all natural and man-made resources.

**Project goal** - To **raise awareness** among students and in society about the phenomenon of climate change and its impact on environment and society; and to **build capacities** among students, teachers and schools to respond to the consequences of the climate change through local specific actions.

To **advocate the climate issues** with the people's representatives.

To **establish the importance of bio-diversity conservation and protection** at Kundi Village Forests as one of the Regional Bio-diversity Hotspots of the Western Ghats of India, focusing on the endangered and /or endemic plant species either vulnerable and/or resilient to the climate change.

### **Subgoal 1 – Increased knowledge**

Students are aware of the issues of climate change at global and local level.

The people's representatives are aware of the issues of climate change at global and local level and incorporate the climate agenda in their portfolios.

The availability of a completed report in the form of a Community Bio-diversity Register helps in describing the conservation measures to protect the bio-diversity of the forests of Kundi Village.

#### *Activities:*

1.1 Audio-Visual show on climate change followed by a quiz contest.

1.2 Poster exhibition displayed to elaborate the causes, consequences and solutions to cope with climate change.

1.3 People's Representatives Training Workshop (PRTWs) are conducted in order to understand the causes, consequences and solutions to cope with climate change and to bring the climate agenda in their portfolios.

1.4 The villagers of Kundi take up the conservation measures like plantation or seed bank to ensure the growth of bio-diversity of the area.

### **Subgoal 2 – Survival skills**

Children learn various methods to mitigate/cope with the consequences of climate change.

People's representatives learn various methods to mitigate/cope with the consequences of climate change.

Kundi Village Forests Community Bio-diversity Register is prepared from the field study.

#### *Activities:*

2.1 Energy audit in school about learning to minimize the wastage of electricity at both school and personal level.

2.2 Water audit in school about learning to minimize the wastage of water resources on a school and personal level.

2.3 Plantation of indigenous plants in the school as an answer to the global warming.

2.4 Waste Not! Activities in schools and college about minimizing the waste and garbage, also learning to recycle the waste material and to use it appropriately.

2.5 Biodiversity conservation through field studies and formation of seed banks by the children at the school level.

2.6 People's representatives plan and execute the climate friendly activities like plantation at public places in their constituencies.

2.7 Listing of endangered and/or endemic plant species from the forests of Kundi Village and maintaining the description of it in Kundi Village Forests Community Bio-diversity Register.

### **Subgoal 3 – Attitudinal change.**

Children and teachers develop the perspective towards sustainable and equitable management of natural resources. The children's achievements are shared with the media and political institutions to get the societal attention.

The people's representatives develop the perspective towards sustainable and equitable management of natural resources in the context of climate change.

The villagers of Kundi develop the perspective towards the conservation of the forests around them to protect the endangered and/or endemic plant species important in larger context of bio-diversity conservation. They develop a sense of ownership and propagate the knowledge about the biodiversity importance of Kundi Village Forests.

#### *Activities:*

3.1 Create local specific information, education and communication material on the local environment in the context of climate change in Marathi (the local language).

3.2 Game "Save water" will be used in each student group in order to discuss and improve gender equality. The game usually shows that the girls are more responsible and efficient to take care of the natural resources. It will be used for further discussions how women in Indian society take substantial share of work and care for all, and how young women and men can contribute to a more equal distribution of responsibilities.

3.3 Climate Ambassadors' Conference will be organized with the participation of various stake holders coming together, for instance, students, teachers, parents, environmental NGOs, printed and electronic Media, Minister of Environment, the people's representatives, the village youth, field researchers etc.

3.4 Climate Ambassadors Mumbai-Stockholm, an interaction program between one not yet selected College in Mumbai or surroundings, and one not yet selected College in Stockholm, as well as DS High School and a Stockholm based high school, Skarpatorpsskolan.

### **Subgoal 4 – Stronger organizational capacity**

Srushtidnyan develops its capacities of communication skills, advocacy skills, field biodiversity research skills, member and volunteer recruiting skills, towards societal structures in regard to climate change and to children's right to a healthy environment.

*Activities:*

4.1 A capacity building program for board members and volunteers of Srushtidnyan focusing on communication skills, advocating skills, field biodiversity research skills, member and volunteer recruiting skills, etc

4.2 Creating a website of Srushtidnyan.

## Annexure

Types of people's representatives:

- 1) The State Environment Minister, Maharashtra State.
- 2) The Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs): 36 members represent electoral representation from Mumbai.
- 3) The Members of Legislative Council (MLCs): 5 members represent nomination representation from Mumbai.
- 4) The Member of Parliament (MPs) – Lok Sabha: 6 members represent electoral representation from Mumbai.
- 5) The Member of Parliament (MPs) – Rajyasabha: 10 members represent nomination representation from Mumbai.
- 6) The Municipal Corporators from Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai: 227 members represent electoral representation from Mumbai.