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Overview

The year 2007-08

The year 2007-08 was both a good year and a bad year. What was good was that we were able to achieve many advocacy objectives in the areas of urban transport and toxins; brought out the sixth State of India's Environment Report; and, launched the India Environment Portal. We also brought out two new manuals – one on waste-water recycling and the other for the Green Schools Programme. But the year was not good in terms of the fact that we failed to bring out some of the other publications that were planned and we were not able to launch the

environmental course for students.



The sixth citizens' report on the State of the Environment (SOE), *Rich lands, poor people—Is Sustainable Mining Possible?* was published in November 2007. This was significant because the last SOE was published in the year

1999. The report is the result of CSE's work on mining issues, which began with the media fellowships that were offered in 2005. The book is also very timely as the mining sector is one of the hottest sectors in terms of corporate interest. The book is an attempt to find answers to how the poor, who are living on lands rich with mineral resources, can benefit from the exploitation of minerals. The report is being released across the country in collaboration with local groups to ensure that local communities develop an ownership over the issue.

Over the year, it has been released in four state capitals of Bhubaneswar, Panjim, Kolkata and Ranchi by the state Governors. These states are witnessing intense conflicts over land and the endorsement of the Governors to the issues flagged by CSE in the book served to send a strong signal to the

respective state governments. CSE was also requested to address the Group of Ministers on National Mineral Policy on the issue of mining. This is a powerful forum to influence policies on mining and minerals.

We launched the India environment portal in April 2008. The portal is a collaborative effort with the Knowledge Commission and we hope to make the portal the central source of environmental information for everyone sourcing information from NGOs, academic institutions and government institutions. Environment being an inter-disciplinary issue, information is often scattered among many different departments and we have found that sourcing information is one of the most difficult tasks.

To kick-off the portal, we have provided access to CSE's vast information resources. This includes the entire archive of the fortnightly magazine, *Down To Earth* – roughly 40,000 researched articles and information from CSE's library in the form of newspaper articles, magazine articles, books and documents. All this can be precision-searched using CSE's environmental thesaurus that can go to *the where*, *the who* and *the what* of any information a person is looking for. In the second phase, an effort will be made to collaborate with NGOs, research institutions and government departments to create a system so that they can contribute information to the portal.



Mining book release function in Kolkata

The Right to Clean Air campaign was able to influence the Delhi government to take measures to curb the use of diesel. It also influenced the government to take baby steps to favour public transport in the form of reduced taxes for buses and the launch of the Bus Rapid Transport Corridor in Delhi. Finally, it was able to get on board policymakers to set fuel economy norms for vehicles in India. The anti-toxin campaign also had good results because the government has finally announced norms for pesticide residues in soft drinks. CSE also made significant contributions to the government's approach to the NREGA programme by showing them that the programme would be an important tool to address rural poverty by creating durable natural assets.



Mining book release function in Panjim, Goa

Another significant work has been its work on climate change. CSE was one of the first organisations to introduce the issue of equity in climate change negotiations, way back in 1992 and actively campaigned for equity and justice in all the climate meetings. The release of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2007 triggered worldwide concern and interest in the issue of climate change. CSE's director participated in seminars and workshops across the world, appeared in national and international media and was made a member of key national and international committees to plan for actions to deal with climate change.

Institutionally, the major achievement has been the setting up of the impact monitoring system. The entire office is geared to identify the impacts of their activities and document it as it happens. Information is collected from the different teams and common indicators such as media coverage or website hits and letters are sourced from specific units. In terms of human resource development, the organisation has

stabilised to a great extent. Staff exits are mostly because of prevailing market incentives in many sectors such as media, IT and marketing. CSE will also have to address the challenge of foreign NGOs setting up base here offering better compensations.

A significant weak area has been our inability to go beyond short-term training workshops in the Anil Agarwal Green Centre. We have been planning to launch a longer-term course for students for some years and the programme, scheduled to go off in October was postponed due to lack of response. We were also not able to put in place many of attendant systems such as marketing, reading materials etc. We plan to address these weaknesses and push the AAGC to a higher level of learning.

We were also not able to complete a couple of major publications – one, a state of the art report on urban water management and the other, a manual on water harvesting. Clearly, the work of producing books is a long-term one, and it can be speeded up only if staff capacity is fully in place. Therefore, it seems that we are underestimating the time that it would take to produce a book that will meet internal quality standards. We are working to strengthening the editing capacity in the office so that this work can be both speeded up and improved in terms of quality.

The year also closed with some awards. CSE's Director was awarded the inaugural environment award of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for her work in highlighting the need for water security and the use of rainwater harvesting in India. She also received the Dr Jean Mayer Global Citizenship award given by the Institute for Global Leadership at Tufts University in recognition of her work on sustainable development. The Shiromani Institute, New Delhi, awarded her with the Bharat Shiromani award for her significant contribution in the field of science and environment.



Sunita Narain receives Award of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

Challenges for the coming year

Some of the key developmental challenges that were thrown up last year were reported on and analysed in *Down To Earth* during the year. In terms of more consistent programmes, CSE will address these challenges as follows.

Climate change: In the last year, the release of the fourth Assessment report of the IPCC catalysed global attention on the issue of climate change. While there is much talk and discussions, there is very little clarity on how to go forward and what needs to be done. CSE has been working on these issues for more than 15 years arguing for moving away from fossil fuels and for equity in global negotiations.



For the first time in history, the world faces the challenge of re-inventing a new energy system in order to deal with climate change. This can only be done as a co-operative enterprise. And the first condition that needs to be met for cooperation is that everyone must feel that the framework for cooperation is fair to all. Therefore, there is no getting away from the fact that all negotiations or contracts to deal with climate change must be founded on the principles of equity and justice. This is CSE's core position on climate change.

Secondly, measures to deal with climate change must be "real" as opposed to "creative carbon accounting". All studies on climate change show that the delinking of economic growth and CO₂ emission will take place only if

we recreate a new energy system built on zero carbon energy systems. Developing countries, particularly, must move to this new energy paradigm now when they are making big investments for energy. If they follow the example of the West and get locked into the fossil fuel sector, they will have to make fresh investments to get out of it. This would not only be expensive but also unnecessarily disruptive. But unfortunately, what is being done today is, in fact, only creative carbon accounting in the form of myriad schemes and aid projects.

Developing countries, therefore, have to create a market for zero-carbon energy systems, which can compete with the fossil fuel system. At the same time public policies to support the creation of new energy market have to be in place, so that the transition happens in the most economically effective way, minimising impacts on our economic systems in the short term.

Water and rural poverty: The country has already begun to see the impacts of climate change in many ways. Over 85 per cent of the cultivated area in this country is either directly dependent on rain or depends on rain to recharge its groundwater. The fact that climate change leads to highly variable rainfall was evident from the widespread floods and droughts in some parts of the country such as Bundelkhand, Karauli and Durgapur districts. Harvesting rainwater has proved to be a practical way of improving rural assets and there are many good examples of communities coming together to harvest rainwater. CSE will continue to advocate for rainwater harvesting and highlight success stories.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, if implemented wisely, could prove to be an opportunity to put a floor to rural their poverty by helping to create durable, natural assets and giving people control over them. CSE has been advocating that good land-water-forest management has immense potential to lift rural economy, based on several success stories from different parts of the country. The NREGA will now be implemented throughout the country. This programme gives priority to the creation of natural assets and has the potential to bring about huge benefits to rural India. CSE will

continue to advocate for the poor to be vested with rights to natural resources and for the state to create systems by which local communities create durable natural assets.

Urbanisation - Water and transport: India is rapidly urbanising and very soon half the total population will be urban. Like industrialisation, urbanisation, done the Western way, is capital and energy intensive. Even as we are trying to address global warming, cities are becoming energy guzzlers. Urban transport is a crucial factor that defines sustainable urbanisation and there is an urgent need for cities — particularly in developing countries — to prioritise public transport. CSE has a specific focus on this issue and we will work towards finding solutions for this challenge.

Another crucial element of urbanisation is of course water supply and sanitation. Despite official figures that claim nearly 100% urban water supply and sanitation, the reality is vastly different. In the area of water, the urban paradigm is one of being a parasite on rural areas. Water is almost always brought to cities from rural areas and the waste taken away to pollute the rivers and water bodies. Moving to a paradigm where cities become self sufficient in

water by harvesting rain within the city, and finding ways to treat the waste within the city would not only result in more equitable and efficient water supply and waste management but also reduce energy consumption. CSE will continue its work in this area.

Sustainable industrialisation: The country is also firmly on the path of industrialisation to achieve the objectives of economic growth. Here again there is a challenge of ensuring that the fruits of industrialisation will reach the poor and that the integrity of the natural environment is not destroyed. Although the country has a plethora of laws and policy measures to control pollution, industrial pollution remains a major concern. Clearly, the strategy of command and control, technological measures, zoning, fiscal incentives, and use of economic instruments have not been effective. This is partly due to the weak enforcement regime, and partly due to the lack of scientific and technical capacities within civil society groups. Finding a way to industrialise without compromising environmental integrity, thus, poses a great challenge. CSE will address these issues by working with the industrial sector, the regulatory sector as well as civil society groups.



Major activities and outcome

RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN

(Anumita Roy Chowdhury, Vivek Chattopadhyaya, Priyanka Chandola & Jayeeta Sen)

During last year (2007-08), the *Right to Clean Air Campaign* team largely focused on building outreach on strategic policy issues to push for policy change. The key areas of campaign included pushing for fuel economy standards for vehicles, addressing diesel emissions and building public transport in Delhi. CSE also worked to create awareness about congestion and pollution, specifically by highlighting the issue of small and cheap cars.

Objective: Frame fuel economy regulations

In early 2007, the team had raised concerns over lack of fuel economy regulations. The team organized press conference to release the findings of its study and also wrote to Prime Minister, Finance Minister and others regarding the urgent need for fuel economy standards in the country. On October 4, 2007, CSE organised the roundtable discussions on 'the challenges of developing fuel economy regulations in India that brought together experts, policy makers, and industry representatives to discuss the principles that must guide setting of fuel economy regulations in India. It was a good gathering and had all the key people. The event got prominent coverage in the media. This catalysed the decision to establish fuel economy standards for vehicles.

As a fall out the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the The Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) to establish fuel economy standards under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. CSE prepared an issue paper for policy guidance and made presentations to PCRA and officials of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways (MoSRTTH) and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI). CSE's paper was widely distributed among concerned officials and CSE was involved in all decision-making processes.

Objective: Carry forward the work on diesel

Delhi government comes up with a diesel plan: The diesel campaign gathered momentum this year. The team raised public concern over Delhi losing its air quality gains due to rising

number of vehicles and growing dieselization of car fleet. Media events were organized to take this message out. Roundtable discussions were organized on December 10, 2007 to debate this issue with the key stakeholders. This drew good participation from the car industry, regulators, engine developers, emissions control component manufacturers and also International experts from the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT).

The team carried out a detailed analysis of the new emissions data from the Automotive research Association of India to compare the key emissions of petrol and diesel car. This demonstrated how emissions from Euro III diesel cars are several times higher than the petrol cars. The results of this analysis were released to the media that made considerable impact.

Following the release of this study the Delhi government announced plans to cut diesel emissions in the NCR. The plan approved by the Cabinet proposed an Environment Cess on diesel fuel. The revenue from this cess will be used to create the Air Ambience Fund. Delhi Chief minister Sheila Dikshit also wrote to the Union government to introduce Euro IV diesel fuel and standards in the NCR by 2008-09. Simultaneously, the city government has also targeted to phase out light duty commercial vehicles on diesel. Financial incentives will be provided to vehicle owners interested in converting to CNG.





Objective: Take a bus' campaign

Policy paper on bus system: The team has prepared a dossier on the state of bus transport in Delhi and India. Based on the research, a report on bus transport prepared for the EPCA that was submitted to the Supreme Court. The analysis showed that the number of buses fall woefully short of the number (10000) that was mandated by the Supreme court in 1998. This issue was also raised publicly in the media. These activities led to the decision by the Delhi government to buy 6000 new buses to augment bus transport in Delhi.

Tax measures for public transport and clean and efficient vehicles: In January 2008, CSE wrote a letter to the Finance Minister for 2008-09 budget demanding tax measures to promote more sustainable means of transport and cleaner air for all in cities. A press conference was organized based on the letter sent to the Finance Minister. We had demanded

- zero excise duty on buses to lower the cost of investments for the city governments that are planning to build public transport system;
- Ensure that existing excise taxes on cars is not reduced which would only add to the subsidy to car owners. Already car owners are enjoying enormous hidden subsidies in Indian cities;
- Increase the Central excise duty on diesel

vehicles to reduce distortions because of fuel price differential.

- Link taxes with fuel efficiency and emissions of vehicles

This led to reduction in central excise on buses from 16 per cent to 12 per cent. This though a step forward, is not at all adequate to address the need of the public transport that now needs urgent attention in our cities. This reduction is too small to make a difference and will afford only a marginal cost advantage. The proposed excise cut to 12 per cent is not enough to lower the cost of investment in cities that are planning huge investments to increase the bus fleet.

Objective: Raising public concerns over air quality

CSE raised media awareness about the ozone build-up, high levels of air pollution, particularly during Diwali. These were well covered by the media. CSE also prepared a detailed report comparing the preparedness of Beijing and Delhi to two major sporting events, namely the Olympics and the Asiad Games. CSE found that Beijing is making an effort to make long-term investments made for the Olympics pay itself in terms of long-term positive health impacts. CSE also prepared an analysis of the implications of low cost cars for congestion and pollution. Cheap cars are expected to be a dominant trend in Indian in the years to come. A press release was organised and it generated much debate and discussion in the media.

Impact indicators

The team was invited to be a resource person by several groups and for crucial policy inputs. Select examples of inputs provided are:

- On the status of the LPG programme in Indian cities for the Indian Auto LPG coalition.
- On fuel economy regulations for Emission Controls Manufacturers Association at conference on Auto Fuel policy beyond 2010.
- On policy for public transport for the Planning Commission.
- Anumita RoyChowdhry attended the international conference on transportation in Mumbai
- On climate change for the European Parliament Committee organised by the European Commission
- On energy efficient fuels for the Stakeholders' Dialogue Leading to Collaborative Initiatives for Energy Efficient Fuels organised by the USEFI, New Delhi
- On sustainable development for the National Conference of High Court Justices organised by the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal
- On climate change in south Asia for the Seventh Annual Regional Meeting on "Climate Justice for Realisation of MDGs: Southern Perspectives and Voices" organised by One World South Asia, ITS Conference
- On the Right to Clean Air campaign at the International Bucket Brigade Conference organised by India Community Environmental Monitoring, Jamia Hamdard University

Media coverage

Bus crisis: The issue of the current bus crisis in Delhi caught the attention of the media during the period. Several newspapers such as *Asian Age*, *One World.net*, UK, *Sabara Samay* and *Dainik Jagaran* carried CSE's press release on the issue.

Fiscal incentives: *The Hindustan Times*, *The Times of India*, *The Hindu*, TV channels. Beijing story: *The Times of India*, *The Tribune* and *The Hindu*.

Small car: CSE's position on small car issue was also received a lot of attention in both national and international media. *The Independent* and the *Reuters* had done articles on this issue. During the Auto Expo

2007 in New Delhi, Sustran listserv carried lively discussions following a note posted by Anumita on the implications of Nano and transportation problems. The discussion revolved around the concerns raised by us. The note and the discussions were also posted by Eric Britton in another network called New Mobility Cafe.

Team members were interviewed by The Heinrich Boll Foundation on the small car issue for their newsletter. They were also quoted on small cars issue in National Public Radio, USA, for the programme 'On Point'. Other media interviews were by 'Living on Earth', Canadian Broadcasting Centre; 'Radio International', Herald Tribune; The New York Times; OneWorld South Asia; Central chronicle and sify.com, and, CNBC and IBN7.

Print media mentions included *New York Times*, *Guardian* and *The Independent*, *World Politics Review*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Frontline*, and websites such as http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/JA17Df01.html, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/01/11/2136595.htm>

Mr Praful Bidwai, a veteran columnist wrote an article in *Times of India*, based on right to clean air campaign material on dieselisation of cars and public transport crisis in Delhi. Moneycontrol.com interviewed the team for their article 'Should diesel cars be banned?'

Ms Archana Prasad from Jamia Millia Islamia University requested CSE's permission to reprint the chapter 'choking cities' from the book '*Slow Murder*' in a reader that she was editing for Macmillan Publishers on environment and development for students.

Ms Barbara Nicholls, BBC who is making a documentary on the CNG programme in Delhi interviewed APC members for her documentary.

The team participated in media interviews on Azaad News, FM Rainbow's Ek Duniya Ek Aawaaz, OneWorld South Asia and Lok Sabha TV talk show.

Feedback from readers

The issue on the small car as well as the editorial brought in a big response. The report was also sent to industrialists and several of them replied back agreeing with the issues raised. We received letters from Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, Satnam Singh, AutoBeat ASIA and from DLR-Transportation Studies, Germany.

Water programmes

CSE started its work in the area of water management by working to create wide awareness about the need for small decentralised systems of water conservation and went on to focus on all aspects of urban water management. CSE will in the coming years sharpen its programme focus on resolving issues – from legislation, technology, institution and policy – in this sub-sector of urban water management.

The overall objective of CSE's programmes on water is to bring policy change that would ensure sustainable, equitable and participatory management of water resources. But CSE works in a focused manner on three specific dimensions of urban water management. These are:

Programme	Specific objective
Urban rainwater harvesting: A programme to popularise rain water harvesting systems in urban areas.	To mainstream the idea of rainwater harvesting within the policy and practice of water management for meeting the basic water needs of the people.
River pollution programme: A programme that will look at issue of river pollution from the perspective of a complete river basin and look at current and alternate water treatment technologies, waste disposal management and water quality monitoring.	To bring about a change in national policies to ensure clean rivers with the aim of providing safe drinking water to all.
City water-waste management programme: A programme that will promote decentralised sewage management technologies and rational urban water usage.	To bring policy change to ensure that cities source water and clean up their waste water at the city level and cities do not become 'water parasites' on rural India.

THE URBAN RAINWATER HARVESTING PROGRAMME

(Salahuddin Saiphy & Sushmita Sengupta)

Key objectives of training and providing technical help by designing rooftop systems were prioritised. Awareness creation activities were to be continued. The technical research tasks were subsumed into the manual, which was part of the capacity building objective.

Objective: To build capacities in society to undertake decentralised and rational urban water management

The focus for the year was the training programmes. We conceptualised two types of training programmes – basic and advanced programmes. These were successfully conducted for students and professionals. Although only 4 workshops were planned initially, a total of 6 training workshops were conducted for over 250 participants. The response from the student community was exceptional though there were logistical problems in terms of capacity to pay for

travel, boarding, lodging as well as for the course, which was highly discounted. We got requests from several colleges across India to conduct similar programme in their colleges, as students were unable to afford travel and lodging costs in New Delhi.

Madhya Pradesh, May 27, 2007: Workshop for plumbers, masons, and contractors in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation of Gwalior (MCG). The MCG brought together more than 100 participants and later issued them



Training workshop in Gwalior



CSE director addressing the students

certificates and official identity cards authorising them to undertake rainwater harvesting.

Chattisgarh, August 10, 2007: A briefing workshop on rainwater harvesting was given to the officials of the district administration of Sarguja district. About 60 officials participated including the District Collector, Development Commissioner, Tehsildars, CEO's and BDO's of all blocks of Sarguja district. The district administration is planning to come out with legislations on harvesting rainwater and organising training programmes.

New Delhi, September 24-28, 2007: The announcement for a training programme for students on 'Urban Water Management' from September 24-28, 2007 brought overwhelming response. More than 80 students from different parts of the country registered for the training. Since we do not have the facilities to accommodate all of them, we selected 48 students from different universities in India and 1 each from Italy and U.K. The programme comprised of exercises and a complete hands on training to students including site visits.

New Delhi, October 29-November 02, 2007: Students of two different colleges in Jaipur attended this programme.

West Bengal, November 19, 2007: One day briefing workshop was organised for officials of

Burdwaan district, West Bengal. The city mayor, Additional District Magistrate, SDM and other key officials of the district attended the programme. As a fall out of this programme, the district administration is currently developing a Rain Centre with CSE's inputs.

Maharashtra, December 27-29, 2007: A three-day long training programme on rainwater harvesting was organised at Shri Guru Gobind Singh Institute of Engineering and Technology, Nanded, Maharashtra. More than 50 participants, both students and faculty attended. The students prepared the proposal for rainwater harvesting systems for four major buildings in the campus. The director of Institute, Dr Sontakke, took special interest in organising this training to learn how to implement rainwater harvesting in the college campus.

Gurgaon, December 2007: At the request of district administration of Gurgaon, a presentation for the officials was made on all aspects of water harvesting. This resulted in the administration taking interest in the issue and implementing projects. An award for water harvesting has also been announced.

New Delhi, February 4-8 & March 17-21, 2008: Workshops were organised in two batches for a mixed group of government officials, NGOs and corporate entities. A total of 37 persons attended the training.

Objective: To generate new knowledge and document people's efforts in the area of urban water management

A number of case studies of people's initiatives in urban water harvesting were documented. The process, which began the previous year, picked up better this year and a number of new case studies have been documented. However, work is yet to begin to convert these into web formats and upload on the web. The documentation, which will also be a part of the new, revised manual, has been followed up with field visits to get an idea of the problems at the field level.

The uploading of the case studies collected the previous led to visits from several universities. Students of Coimbatore University and the MIT School of Government, Pune, visited the centre to learn about our urban water work. Professors of Malaysian University who were undertaking research in this area also visited CSE after visiting the website. Several requests for

technical consultancy has been received from people wanting to undertake water harvesting after visiting the CSE website.

Objective: To disseminate information collected and knowledge generated widely

A number of lectures were given at various platforms including Shri Ram School and Amity School of Urban Management, Noida; FICCI and HUDCO; and, residents of Maharani Bagh and Greater Kailash.

There was wide coverage of CSE's water programmes in both print and electronic media. Interviews and panel discussions on rainwater harvesting and related issues were conducted on TV and articles were published in newspapers. Mr Chuba, a scientist by profession said, "This is the first time that I am coming to a website which provides rich information free of cost. I salute you!"

Impact indicators

Media coverage

Interviews on rainwater harvesting and related issues were carried out by CNN-IBN, Sahara NCR, Azad TV, local news channels in Burdwan and Sarguja and Akashwani Sarguja (radio). The Doordarshan channel also invited CSE staff to be on their panel on a debate on water for their "Evening Live Show".

There were articles on CSE's programmes on rainwater harvesting in news papers like Times of India, Hindustan Times (3 articles), Sahara Times (Hindi), Mint (HT), and ODE Magazine published from USA.

Catalysing spread of practice

A consultant who had been trained by CSE and whose name was put up on the CSE website reported getting several enquiries for water harvesting. He was also approached to help set up a Rain Centre in Thane. CSE staff inaugurated the Rain Centre. Other participants of past workshops have become full-fledged water warriors and are implementing projects.

Participants of earlier training programmes have written to say that they are implementing water harvesting structures in various places. Participants from Punjab and Haryana were awarded contracts by the government for more than 10 water harvesting projects. Two participants from Kolkata have been awarded several contracts including one in Africa and another project in slums. A participant from Mumbai is working on projects for the Maharashtra government.

Excerpt of a letter from a participant

*"The name of the firm is ' Comprehensive Water Management Solutions Pvt Ltd ' . Our activity is consider all water resources in any given area - such as - rain water, ground water , surface water and effluent water . Collect all sources , put to use for different purposes, again reuse -recycle .to make the area 'water sustainable' . Our aim is to conserve water and maintain the water ecology. **I learnt all this of course, from CSE** and now I work in this area with full capacity. We all are group of people - civil, geohydrolic expert and quality expert, and masons, plumbers etc. I will need your help for training programme for plumbers . I am also ready to extend my support for any scheme you want do in Pune and Maharashtra."*

Inputs for policymaking

Ms Sunita Narain participated as a speaker and panelist in the seminar titled ' Water, Power, development- How New Thinking and innovative Technologies will solve Global Water Challenges' organised by the Embassy of Sweden and Stockholm International Water Institute held in Washington.

Ms Sunita Narain attended the Stockholm Water Week held in August 2007 and participated at many events including the speech at the Royal Colloquium in Honour of H.M King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

Ms Sunita Narain participated as a panel member at the National Ground Water Congress, organized by the Ministry of Water resources in New Delhi.

RIVER POLLUTION CAMPAIGN

(S V Suresh Babu, Bharat Lal)

The team released the book, *Sewage Canal: How to Clean the Yamuna* and the film, *Faecal Attraction*, in Delhi, Gurgaon (Haryana) and Agra (Uttar Pradesh). The events were well covered by the media and catalysed a debate on need for revamp of the national river cleaning programmes. The film was also screened in different schools, colleges and public forums in and around national capital region.

Objective: Advocate for policy change on alternative solutions for clean rivers

The programme focusses on critical issues such as wastewater minimisation, cleaner technologies and importance of environmental flows. A particular focus is on clean-up strategies for the Yamuna, as this could be a model for other rivers to follow.

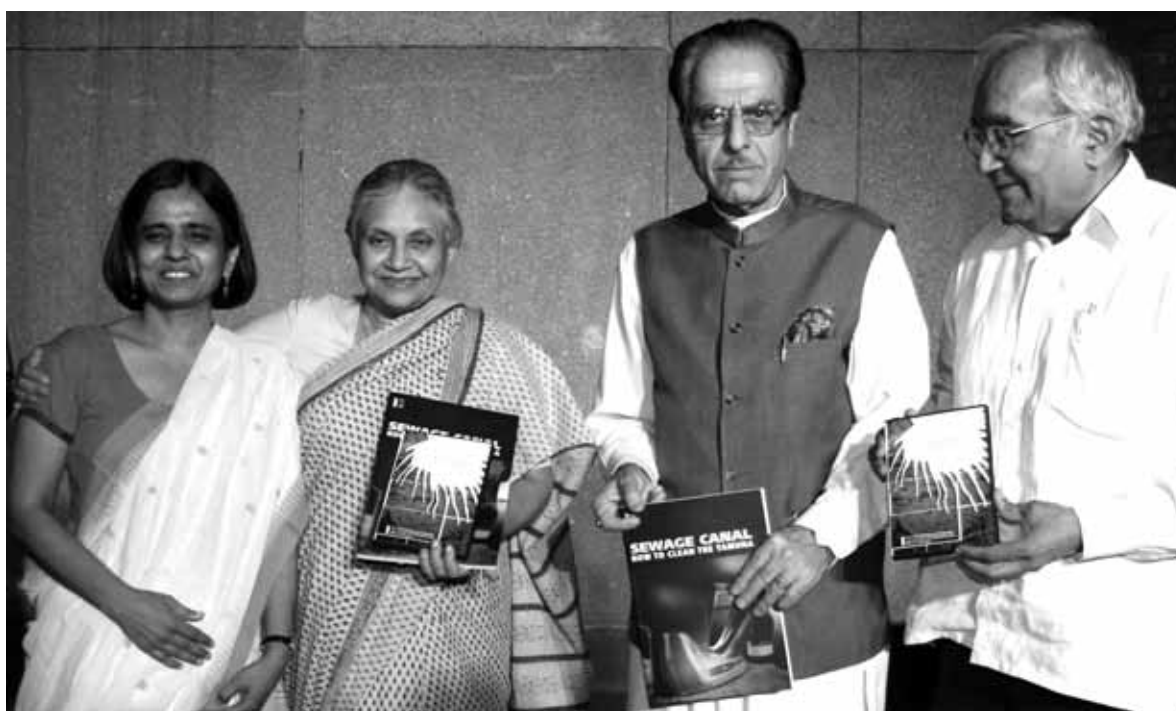
Release of the publication, *Sewage Canal: How to Clean the Yamuna*

New Delhi, April 2007: In New Delhi the book was released at a public event by Prof Saifuddin Soz, Union water resources minister and Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of NCT Delhi. At the same time, a film, *Faecal attraction*, was also released. The release functions of the book and

film on Yamuna were well attended and have initiated a debate on need for revamp of the national river cleaning programmes. More than 300 people from different walks of life participated in the meeting. The release functions included the presence of municipal corporation officials. The book and the events received very good coverage in the national and international media. Dilli Aaj Tak organised an hour-long programme 'Jan Path' focusing on Yamuna. Local people, legislators and councillors, attended this programme organised on the banks of Yamuna at Majnu ka tilla.

Gurgaon, May 2007: The book was released in Gurgaon in collaboration with the Development Research Organisation for Nature, Arts and Heritage (DRONAH). More than 150 people were present for the meeting. Engineers from Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA), Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) and Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) participated. HIPA invited CSE to be a member of its high-powered committee on capacity building for Yamuna Action Plan II.

Agra, July 2007: In Agra, the release meeting was organised with the help of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. Mr Sita Ram Meena, Commissioner Agra was the chief guest. The



Book release function in New Delhi

meeting generated a debate on Yamuna pollution and the ways and means to clean it up. This event also received good attention from the print and electronic media.

The CSE campaign has begun to yield results. The Union government has announced a revamp of policy on National River Conservation Plan. CSE has been requested to provide inputs for revised policy. The Agra Municipal Corporation has announced plans to move towards decentralised sewage treatment and has initiated a pilot project.

Research on clean-up strategies for other rivers such as Cooum, Musi and other water bodies are ongoing. The aim of the research is to show how current strategies are ineffective and how we can move forward.

Assessment of the efficacy of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) as a strategy for river clean-up

A policy study to assess and evaluate the impact of CETPs in controlling industrial pollution is in the final stages. This study focuses on regulatory, technical and managerial aspects pertaining to functioning of CETPs. Besides Delhi, CSE researchers traveled to five states-Kolkata, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan for this purpose. Ahmedabad, Jetpur, Sachin and Vapi (Gujarat); Tarapur, Thane Belapur (Maharashtra), Pali (Rajasthan), Patancheruvu, Jeedimetla (Andhra Pradesh), and, Bantala (West Bengal). The study is nearing completion.

The team works closely with the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), which has been asked by the Supreme Court of India to monitor the performance of the CETPs in East Delhi. CSE has also been made a member of the Apex Committee to look at issues relating to the clean-up of Yamuna. CSE has also been made a member of the task force on rivers, lakes and aquifers constituted by the union Ministry of Environment and Forests, which provides an opportunity to influence policy-making in the area of management and conservation of water bodies

Objective: Create forums to facilitate sharing of knowledge, strategies and experiences on river clean-up programmes

The pollution of rivers poses a unique dimension of 'hydrosolidarity' between upstream and downstream users. At the moment there is no concept like river basin planning in India for water quality purposes. When environmental governmental governance is not up to the mark, the civil society acquires an important role in fighting for appropriate change in governing systems. CSE will bring together the upstream and downstream users and river pollution fighters to understand each other's problem and to find solutions.

The team undertook research and laboratory testing of pollutants in Bandi river on behalf of a farmers' group, *Sri Kisan Paryavaran Sangarsh Samiti*, fighting river pollution. The team



Training workshop in progress

conducted a quality assessment of ground and surface water in and around the town till 50 kilometers downstream. During May 2007, water samples were collected from the industrial area, the CETPs and tested. A report was prepared and handed over to the local farmers' group that was working to fight the river pollution.

As a result of the CSE report on the Bandi river there is direction from the High Court (where a farmers group has filed a case against river pollution by textile industries), that industries have to install systems to ensure zero discharge of effluents into the river.

The High Court also gave direction to the State Pollution Control Board to assess wastewater generation by industries on a regular basis.

Objective: Create awareness and build capacities to work on alternate solutions for river clean-up

There is very little awareness, both among decision-makers as well as the public on the enormous costs of current strategies and the possibilities for workable alternate strategies.

The documentary film, *Faecal attraction: Political economy of defecation* was screened in different schools, colleges and public forums in and around national capital region to create a public pressure for policy changes on river clean-up programmes. It received rare reviews in the media. It was selected for screening at the second International Film Festival, Voices from the waters in Bangalore.

To strengthen media understanding and thus create wider awareness, a two-day media-briefing workshop on "state of our rivers" was organised. Thereafter, fellowships were given to eleven journalists from different parts of the country to research and report on pollution and its management in Subarnarekha, Indravati, Gomti, Mahanadi, Bharatapuzha, Jhelum, Sutlej etc.

A training programme Meeting the challenge: River pollution was conducted from November 13-16, 2007, to a mixed audience of students, NGOs and water professionals. There were a total of 33 participants. The four-day training programme included class room sessions and site visits to sewage treatment plant, central pollution control board (CPCB) pollution monitoring lab and a boat ride in the Yamuna. External resource persons included RC Trivedi (CPCB), DK Joshi (petitioner Agra); Nikhil Nayyar (Advocate Supreme Court); Sandeep Joshi (Pune); SG Deolalikar (Water and sanitary

engineer), Naveen Chopra (EM technologies), Rajendra Singh (Tarun Bharat Sangh) and Manoj Mishra (Yamuna Satyagraha). The workshop catalysed further interest and the unit received enquiries for similar training workshops in colleges from Kerala and Coimbatore.

The team published several reports on the issue including a special report on Sabarmati river front development, Kolkata tanneries, a cover story on CETPs in Hyderabad industrial area and another on water purifier market and state of regulation. The training programme catalysed interest among students and we received requests from colleges for training on the issue.

Impact indicators

Media coverage

Book release: Almost all national dailies such as Times of India, The Hindu, Dainik Bhaskar, Rashtriya Sahara, Business Standard, Indian Express, Amar Ujala, Jansatta, The Fortune Magazine, Gulf news, Malayala Manorama, Mathrubhumi and Indo Asian news service. TV channels Dilli Aaj Tak, Doordarshan, DD News and other channels also covered the event.

Dilli Aaj Tak organised an hour-long programme 'Jan Path' focusing on Yamuna. Local people, legislators and councillors, attended this programme organised on the banks of Yamuna at Majnu ka tilla. The river pollution team also helped Dilli Aaj Tak television channel to organise a boat ride along the Yamuna.

The release of the book in Agra as covered by Dainik Jagran, Hindustan, Hindustan dainik, Aaj, Amar Ujala, DLA Media Campus and IANS. Moon TV and Zee News also telecast the news item on the release.

Many websites including International Water and Sanitation Centre, People and Planet, Dailyindia.com, Rediff.News, Express India, Telecentre.org and Headlines.India.com, 'One World South Asia', DLA Media - Campus and Projectmonitor.com also carried reports on the book.

The media workshop on the state of the rivers was covered by Reuters, Planet Ark, Newkerala.com, The Tribune, and The Hindustan Times.

Film release: The film, *Faecal Attraction: Political economy of defecation* was widely reviewed. *Frontline* magazine carried a two-page review and *Consumer Voice* also reviewed it favourably. Jennie Kermode in *Eye for film* said, "*Faecal Attraction is a political film, concerning itself with the plight of the poor who are continually moved on from their shanty towns on the riverbank.*" The film was also selected for screening in the 2nd International Film Festival on water, *Voices from the waters*, in Bangalore.

CITY WATER-WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

(R K Srinivasan and Anita Bhatt)

The major work during the year was the work on two publications – one was the revised manual on decentralised wastewater treatment and the other on urban water management. While the manual was completed and published, the book is still under preparation and will be completed this year. The team also produced a film on decentralised wastewater practices named “*Clean your act*”.

Objective: Build knowledge on alternate sewage management practices through research and documentation

The team completed the research on 72 Indian cities water and excreta profile. The research has been compiled to form a state of the art publication on urban water management. The book will look at water scenarios in cities across India to try and find answers for how cities can manage their water supply and waste-water sustainably. The book is being edited and will be published in the current year.

The team also produced revised edition of the previous manual for wastewater recycling called *Do-It-Yourself*. This 96-page manual emphasizes decentralised wastewater management and describes simple techniques that can be implemented in individual buildings. It has additional content on the science of waste-water

Influencing policy

CSE team members provided inputs to develop the Vision document, ‘Bringing sustainability to drinking water systems in rural India’, at the request of the Department of drinking water supply.

CSE also assisted the department to organise the national workshop on sustainable sanitation.

CSE was co-opted as a member of a committee that looked at water supply scenarios in villages Papumpare, East Kameng and West Kameng districts of Arunachal Pradesh to help develop future strategies.

The Planning Commission requested CSE to give a presentation on alternative and decentralised sewage management systems along with other NGOs who work on these issues and have developed such systems. The aim was to sensitise policy makers cost effective ways of treating domestic wastewater. After the presentation, the Planning Commission agreed to set up a pilot project to demonstrate the viability and feasibility of such systems.

treatment, alternate and decentralised treatment technologies being developed across the country.

Objective: Build capacities in civil society to move towards alternate sewage management systems

The team carried out several training programmes with an objective to strengthen capacity building, awareness creation and wide



Participants at the training workshop held on 16-19 October, 2007



Participants at the Sulabh International Museum of toilets

spread the technical knowledge on decentralised wastewater systems into larger sections of society. The team also delivered lectures at various seminars and workshops.

Training workshops were organised in October, 2007 and January 2008 on City water and waste management. A total of 51 participants attended the workshops. The workshop included field trips to see the Sulabh toilet museum and case studies of innovative ways of treating sewage in different parts of the city. A mixed group of engineers, students, representatives of NGOs participated. One of the participants has implemented the sewage treatment project in Scindia School, Gwalior.

Objective: Create awareness through model projects on small, decentralised sewage treatment systems

Team members prepared the design and plans for several projects on decentralised sewage treatment plants at the request of institutions and individuals. Water samples from the projects were collected and analysed for quality to assess the performance of the systems. The following were the projects for which designs were created:

- Plan for the Tughlakabad Institutional Area
- Residence of Urvashi Dhamija in Gurgaon
- Jamia Hamdard University. Being implemented.
- Indo German Hospital at Ghaziabad. Has been implemented.
- Phase II of the Ajay Garg College, Ghaziabad.

Objective: Create awareness through regular reportage and documentation

During the year, several reports on the issue were published in the media. A film on wastewater recycling was completed and has been disseminated widely. It is also used as a training tool. Several new case studies on alternate wastewater treatment technologies have been documented. Reports were published in the magazine *Down To Earth*.

Impact indicators

CSE films ‘Clean your act - A guide to treat domestic sewage’ and ‘The raincatchers - a practical guide to solve your water problems’ were nominated for CMS VATAVARAN 2007 – 4th Competitive Environment and Wildlife Film Festival.

CSE staff made presentations at various forums, including at meetings organised by the Department of drinking water supply. Team members also spoke at meetings organised by NGOs.

The second edition of the “Do it yourself: A wastewater recycling manual for urban areas” has become very popular amongst experts, practitioners and policy makers. About 1,300 copies were sold since the release of the second edition in January 2007.

Natural resource management and livelihood programme

(Richard Mahapatra, Supriya Singh, Neha Sakhuja & Sandeep Das)

The team focused on assessing the Impact of the newly launched programme under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Even though the programme is mainly one of creating employment for the rural poor to ensure that they get minimum employment, CSE had strongly and successfully advocated to ensure that the programme be used to create durable natural assets. Therefore, CSE prepared a policy paper to look at how this programme can be made into an effective tool for the creation of durable natural assets and contribute to improving rural livelihoods. CSE also conducted ground-level surveys in two districts where it had been implemented to assess the impact from the perspective of natural asset creation.

Team members also traveled widely to have a first-hand look at rural India and how the government programmes are impacting on their lives. These reports, published in *Down To Earth* were widely read and greatly appreciated.

Objective: Influence policy on using the NREGA to improve rural assets and livelihoods through research and field studies

Study on NREGA: To advocate alternative approaches to livelihood security through good natural resource management for different ecosystems, the team undertook extensive research on the issue of employment for improving rural livelihoods. The team identified 10 villages which could serve as case studies for research on the impacts of community efforts in managing local natural resource base.

By the end of the year, the team came out with a policy paper on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). The paper was released on March 31 2008 on the eve of the Act becoming pan-India. The paper deals with development Impact of the act and its potential for the local economy. It covered 12 districts in 9 states. It was preceded by an extensive and intensive backgrounder on state of unemployment in India which was put on the website.

The findings of the base paper on NREGA have been discussed and debated at various

forums, and in the Ministry of Rural Development Seminar on NREGA. The paper has created a new understanding of rational and participatory natural resource management vis-à-vis rural development programmes that focus on ecological regeneration. It gives a whole new meaning to the development programmes in seeing them as ecological programmes rather than simple employment generation programmes. It is unique in that it looks at productive asset creation under NREGA unlike most of the studies available on the act.

There has been a very good response to the NREGA paper and the background paper on employment which have been uploaded on the website. Positive feedback has also been received from those who have read the papers.

Survey of NREGA districts: As part of its assessment of NREGA, the team has developed a survey to monitor rural development programmes. The methodology has been tested in 3 districts of Orissa and MP in partnership with local universities. The survey report has been sent to the state governments for consideration and debate and awaits comments from the ministry as well as the state government.

The detailed survey methodology has been used to train student representatives from 7 states. The training imparted on the use of these instruments has been helpful for the concerned organizations to further hone their skills in monitoring development programmes.

The team was asked by the Ministry of Rural Development to prepare a template for evaluation of NREGA during a meeting to discuss the evaluation process for the NREGA programme. Team members also participated in the deliberations for the 11th plan and provided inputs on analysis of poverty estimates.

Objective: Create awareness and influence policy on community-based natural resource management by highlighting success stories

The team published several reports on various aspects of natural resource management. The cover story on Hiware Bazar was instrumental for



Participants of the training workshop held on 9-13 April, 2007

the village to get an award instituted by the Ministry Of Water Resources for exemplary efforts in recharging groundwater. The story has been very well received and very positive feedback has been received. As an outcome of the report on rainfed farming, the team was invited to a national workshop on 'New paradigm for rainfed farming' organised by Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Hyderabad based Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) in New Delhi to talk on rainfed farming.

There were major reports on rainfed farming, natural resource management initiative stories, the controversy surrounding the use of waters of the Hirakud dam.

The team conducted extensive research on local governance, rural development and Panchayati Raj institutions and the report '*Panchayati Raj: half a cheer for democracy*' was published in *Down To Earth*. A series of reports were published on the eve of the Union budget on budgeting for the development sector. Reports were also published on the state of NREGA implementation.

Objective: *Create awareness about natural resource management issues by documenting and disseminating information*

Ecology for Economy series: A series called Ecology for Economy has been prepared that

comprises case studies of Sukhomajri, Bunga, Hivre Bazar, Mendha and Raj Samadhiyala villages. These case studies provide detailed analysis of the framework that is necessary for community-based natural resource management. This has been uploaded on the website.

Dossier on backward districts: A dossier of 200 backward districts under NREGA complete with the natural resource base and other development indicators has been uploaded on the website. The website also has a central site on NREGA that has information on all aspects of NREGA available in one place with important links to related resources. The website also has an interactive map that tracks NREGA implementation in 200 backward districts.

E-POV newsletter: The monthly e-newsletter on environment-poverty linkages is now two years old and 1200 strong in subscription. This is a network platform for us on environment and poverty. We have come out with thematic issues on climate change, rainfed areas, budget, etc. along with extensive coverage of issues in NRM and related fields.

Briefing workshops: We have conducted two training workshops. The workshops fill an important gap in understanding poverty and its link to environment by looking at practical ways of managing natural resources. Representatives



Participants of the training workshop during their visit in Sukhomajri

from 26 organisations, mostly implementing NGOs and policy advocacy groups, participated.

April 9-13, 2007: The workshop had guest lectures from the Planning Commission, Supreme Court's Right to Food secretariat, Indian Institute of Public Administration and other development experts. Participants made a trip to Sukhomajri and Bunga villages in Haryana for gaining first hand experience on local natural resource management.

November 19-23, 2007: The team organised a second training programme from November 19 -

23, 2007 that included a two-day trip to Laporiya village in Rajasthan's Jaipur district. The field trip to Laporiya, a drought prone village, which has been successfully able to revive its ecosystem and improve its local dairy economy by adopting an innovative rainwater harvesting system popularly known as chaukas (dykes) helped all to gain perspectives on ecological poverty and its relevance to local development. The workshop included debates and discussions on the linkages between environment and poverty in Indian context.

As a direct result of the workshop that dealt with the issue of ecological poverty, many participants have adopted this concept in their rural development projects. A training participant, from Sahgal Foundation organised a farmers' meet in Punjab to share the biomass economy part of the training. A farmer from Rajasthan, who participated in this meeting organised another farmers' meeting in Sriganaganagar for reviving agriculture in the state.

The Planning Commission director who attended the meeting did promise to study the linkages between economic growth and poverty in more certain terms. The unit is also initiating a specific workshop on poverty measurement and how to quantify ecological poverty.

Impact indicators

Team members asked to provide policy inputs

The report on Panchayati Raj Institutions evoked good response from many quarters. Based on the story the unit members made many presentations in regional as well as national conferences on local governance. The Aga Khan Foundation invited the team to make a presentation on the 'Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in universalisation of school education' at a seminar in Jaipur. Many regional newspapers picked up the report and published it.

- Coalition of the Indian Millennium campaign 'Keep the Promise' asked the unit to make a presentation on environment and the linkages to poverty in Orissa. 'The India Development Foundation', Gurgaon requested the unit to make a presentation based on the report 'Horns of a Dilemma'. They also requested the team to make a presentation on NREGA.
- The team anchored a discussion on ecological aspects of poverty in the UNDP supported solution exchange programme.
- The team was invited to Madurai Symposium organised by Dhan foundation and made a presentation on the issue of economic growth and its impact on poverty eradication.

- Team members provided inputs on NREGA and reviving natural assets at a workshop organised by the Ministry of Rural Development
- Ms Sunita Narain addressed a consultation on the theme 'Where Hunger Rules, peace cannot Prevail - A Roadmap for a hunger Free, Nutrition Secure India', organised by The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi.
- Ms Sunita Narain was delivered a lecture at the Tufts University, Massachusetts in their symposium on global poverty and inequality._

Web and media impact

- Web groups Jivika and Forest rights referred CSE'S NREGA briefing paper and backward district ranking available on unit's website.
- The Ministry of Water Resources requested the team to prepare a brochure containing the profile of awardees for the newly constituted national water award and Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskar.
- Online web group run by students of Symbiosis institute of management requested the permission from the team to host E-POV articles.

Sustainable industrialisation

(Chandra Bhushan, Monali Zeya, Nivit K Yadav, Sujit K Singh, Gayatri Santhanam)

The major achievement during the year was the completion and release of the 6th State of India's Environment Report on mining. CSE released the reports in the states of Orissa, Goa, Jharkhand and West Bengal at events chaired by the respective Governors. In all venues the event received an overwhelming response from the public and served to bring together groups fighting corporate mining. The events were also well covered by the local and national media.

The team undertook advocacy on the issue of mining arguing for sustainable mining that ensured benefits to accrue to the poor. The Anil Agarwal Dialogue on Mining, People and Environment, organised in April 2007, brought together civil society groups, government officials and the media. Team members made presentations at key forums on mining and a report published in *Down To Earth* resulted in the Group of Ministers on National Mineral Policy asking CSE to make a presentation on the issue.

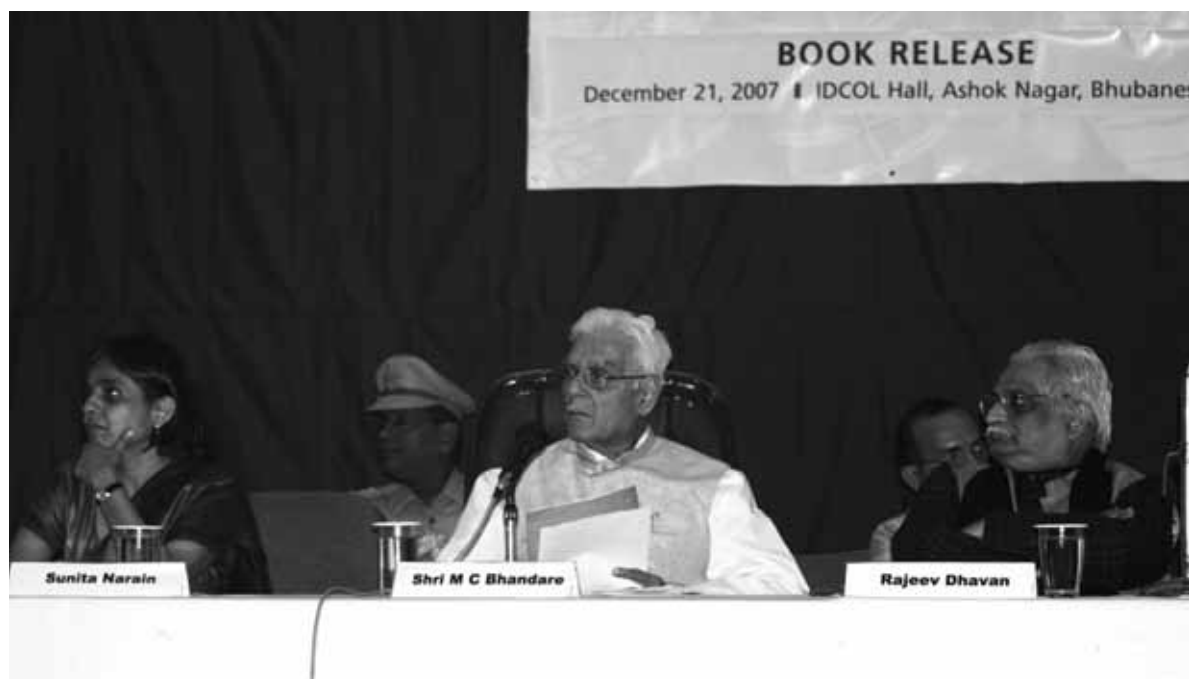
The team continued with its popular training programme on EIA. The Department of Environment (DOE) of Bangladesh requested the team to conduct training for government officials. The week-long programme so impressed the officials that they requested CSE to help them set up a permanent training centre and develop a regular training programme for their regulators.

The community support programme also met with positive response and CSE's reports were used by NGOs to intervene in the public hearing process successfully in at least two cases.

Objective: To undertake advocacy for sustainable mining

Rich Lands, Poor People – Is Sustainable Mining Possible?: The sixth State of India's Environment Report on mining was published in November 2007 and released in Orissa, Goa, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh by the Governors of the respective states. This book is a result of the year-long research on status of mining sector in the country and the issues related to it. The mining sector is an important constituent of the Indian economy. However, it has huge environmental and social costs. This is why there are protests in many states against mining projects.

The book is an attempt to present the current scenario of mining sector in the country and recommend a path for sustainable mining. It analyses the importance of the sector to the growth of the country keeping in perspective the environmental and social costs. The book also documents the status of mining sector and the



Mining book release in Bhubhaneshwar



Media briefing on mining

issues arising out of it — the public protests and the environmental challenges — in the major mineral producing states of the country.

Anil Agarwal Dialogue on Mining, People and Environment: This event, held in April 2007, brought together activists, officials and scientists. More than 75 persons attended the meet from the states of Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. The meeting included a media briefing which was attended by about 30 media representatives from across the country. Representatives from the union ministry of mines, ministry of tribal affairs and other related departments were present to dialogue with the activists and NGOs. The dialogue covered issues of mining regulations, regulatory capacity, forest clearances and 'no-go' areas, mine closure and displacement, resource sharing and other issues.

A report on mining published in *Down To Earth* was sent to the Group of Ministers (GoM) on National Mineral Policy. CSE was invited to make a presentation on the subject, which was well appreciated. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Chairperson, Planning Commission also communicated his agreement with the issues highlighted in by CSE.

Release of the book in other cities: The book is being released around events planned to bring

all sections of society together and create awareness about the issues.

Bhubaneswar, December 21, 2007: The first national release of the report took place in the mineral-rich state of Orissa by the Governor of Orissa, M C Bhandare.

Kolkata, January 18, 2008: In Kolkata the book was released to coincide with the 2nd Asia Mining Congress at the city. The report was released by the Governor of West Bengal Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi. Among the panel, chairman of Coal India, Shri Partha Bhattacharya was also present. The function was well very received by the industry, local NGOs, regulators and general public.

Panjim, January 28, 2008: The Governor of Goa, Shri S C Jamir released the report. This event was very successful in gathering affected communities, regulators and industries to a common forum. Ms Sunita Narain also met and gave presentation to the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary of Goa.

Ranchi, March 28, 2008: In the mining state of Jharkand, the Governor, Shri Syed Sibtey Razi released the book. On the panel were Shri R P Ritolia, Chairman of Central Coalfields Limited, Shri Ram Dayal Munda, Former Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University and

renowned activist and Shri H B N Singh, Editor of Prabhat Khabar.

Objective: To engage with the industrial sector to improve its environmental performance

Sectoral rating: The base paper for the new cross-sectoral rating of industries on energy and water management has been prepared. The aim is to undertake a cross-sectoral rating of about 200 companies on their energy and water efficiency performance. The team has compiled information on energy, water and pollution and looks at sectors such as distillery, fertiliser, steel, aluminium, tanneries, thermal power plant, pulp and paper, automobile, chlor-alkali, cement and hospitality sector. This work is ongoing and will be completed this year.

Objective: To build a network of NGOs, local communities and the panchayats, who can be watchdogs to the process of environmental clearance in the country

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an important tool to inform decision-makers, regulators and stakeholders about the possible environmental, social and economic costs of a proposed project. To be effective, it requires the active involvement of all stakeholders. However, since EIA reports are technical in nature,

community-based organisations and small NGOs find it difficult to review and interpret them.

The team helped grass root organisations and NGOs with evaluations of EIA reports on projects. The team provided EIA assessments for 8 projects during the year. The team also undertook an inspection of a distillery in Bihar at the request of NGOs.

Objective: To strengthen the regulatory system in the country

The Industry and Environment Unit prepared a draft report on the state of environment regulations and regulatory institution in the country. The report was prepared with the help of primary data collected from 10 state pollution control boards and online survey in which more than 100 people participated. Preparation of the final report is progressing.

Objective: To create capacities among all stakeholders of industry-environment area

Recognising the need for building capacities of regulators and others to use and implement the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) mechanism, CSE developed a hands-on-five-day training programme, 'Understanding EIA: From screening to decision making' aimed at giving

EIA evaluations and after

- The technical evaluation of Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIA) of Monet Ispat was used by local activists in the public hearing process. Mr Ramesh Sharma, from Ekta Parishad, a local NGO asked questions in the hearing on the lacunae identified by CSE in the EIA report to which company and the consultant could not respond satisfactorily. Therefore, the district collector, chairing the public hearing, cancelled the hearing process and asked the company to respond to the queries raised. Ekta Parsihad is also planning to use the report for filing case against Monet in the Supreme Court.
- CSE's technical evaluation of EIA and Risk Assessment report for coal bed methane exploration project of Mand Raigarh CBM Block, was used by the local NGO to raise pertinent questions in the public hearing meeting. The meeting was later cancelled due to the protests from the public. The story is also being covered in *Down To Earth*.
- Mr Rajesh Jakhar, an advocate in Hissar, approached for advice on the clearance that had been granted to Hissar Thermal Power Plant. He wants to file a legal case against the plant.
- Civil society from Pudducherry approached us for the technical evaluation of the port. A detailed analysis was conducted which was published as a Cover story in *Down To Earth* (May 15, 2007) on Port in Puducherry 'Harbouring doubts'. The story was very much appreciated by the readers and number of readers wrote back endorsing the findings of the story. The story has created huge hue and cry in Puducherry and two parts of the project has been cancelled.
- The team was also approached by local NGO in Sitamarhi, Bihar requested to assess the pollution from a distillery plant in their area. A detailed analysis was done which included a visit to the area to assess the impact. This was again published as a special report in *Down To Earth*.



Sunita Narain addressing the training participants on EIA

practical exposure to participants on environmental impact assessment.

During the period, the Industry and Environment Unit organised three training programmes on 'Understanding EIA: From screening to decision making' in the months of August (27-31st), September (24-28th) 2007 and February (25-29), 2008. The 5 days training programme included lectures, classroom exercises and in-depth analysis of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) reports. More than 100 participants attended the training programmes from civil society, industry, consultants and academics.

The training provided a forum for detailed debate and discussion on a range of issues regarding EIA beginning from history and background of EIA, environmental clearance

process in India, importance of scoping, fundamentals of data collection, impact assessment, mitigation and environment management plan, significance of biodiversity and development projects and its assessment methodology, introduction to industrial air pollution monitoring and modelling etc. The participants were also given classroom exercises on how to file and compile applications based on their projects.

Several officials from state pollution control boards of states like Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra attended

the programmes. NGOs from across the country also underwent training on how to interpret EIA reports and how to intervene in the public hearing process, the only route for community intervention in the industrialisation process.

Training for Bangladesh officials: The team was approached by the Bangladesh Environmental Institutional Strengthening Project (BEISP) to undertake a special EIA training programme for project appraisal committee of Department of Environment, Government of Bangladesh. At the end of the training programme, the officials requested CSE to help them to set up a training centre for regulators and also to help them develop training programmes.

Impact indicators

Media coverage

Mining book release in Orissa: The Samaja, Orissa Samaya, The Times of India, Odisha Bhaskar, Indian Express, Pragtiwadi, Business Standard. Also covered in The Hindu and The Hindustan Times, Delhi edition.

Mining book release in Goa: The event was covered by all the local newspapers such as 'The Navhind Times, Tarun Bharat, Herald, Gomantak Times, Gomantak, Tarun Bharat, The Herald and news channels such as Goa Times.

Mining book release in Jharkhand: Almost all the local newspapers such as The Pioneer, The Hindustan Times (Ranchi Edition), Prabhat Khabar, Ranchi Express, The Telegraph, Dainik Jagran and Hindustan reported on the event.

Team members asked to provide policy inputs

- Presentation on 'Rich Lands, Poor People' in the international Asia Mining Congress in Kolkata; in a conference organised by Heinrich Boll Foundation, New Delhi on March 25, 2008; at National seminar on Environmental Cost and opportunities by Loyala College, Chennai.
- Presentation on 'Environmental and social impacts of mining sector' at a Media Briefing Workshop organised by PANOS on July 20, 2007; in an international conference "Managing the social and environmental consequences of coal mining in India" organized by Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and Australian National University in Delhi on 18-21 November, 2007.

Climate change campaign

CSE's interventions and activities in the area of climate change have been in several forms – from attending meetings to present CSE's perspectives on climate change to producing reports to providing policy inputs at key committees that will influence national and international policies to address climate change.

Policy inputs

Nationally, the Prime Minister has set up a council under his Chairmanship to assess and plan for actions to deal with climate change. CSE director has been made a member of the Council and this affords CSE the opportunity to intervene in the policy making process on the issue. CSE director has attended some of the meetings and the Committee is expected to produce an action plan for the country to address the issue.

Internationally, the Swedish Government has set up the International Commission on Climate Change and Development to address the adverse effects of climate change on development and CSE director has been made a member of this Commission and has contributed with inputs at the first meeting held in Stockholm.

CSE director was also invited by the UN General Assembly to participate in a panel discussion on 'Climate change as a global challenge'. Her presentation at this forum was reported and disseminated widely. Another influential forum was the Nobel Laureate Symposium held in Potsdam, Germany where CSE's presentation was very well received – *"the most emotional, and emotionally stirring, talk of the meeting, by Sunita Narain ...shocked the audience with an unadorned account of how climate change will affect poorer countries like hers, and an equally unadorned accusation of rich societies failure to act"* – a comment in nature.com.

The World Bank, Washington, invited CSE director to speak at Sustainable Development Network Week on the topic, *'Climate change and development: External views and internal vision'*. She was also the keynote speaker at the meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers in Georgetown, Guyana, on climate change.

In June CSE participated in the G8 Alternative Summit in Rostok, which was organised as a form of protest to the policies and politics of the G8 governments. Sunita Narain was a panelist in the workshop titled, *'Climate justice: How can we achieve it?'* While in

Germany, she also spoke at two other separate events in an attempt to create wider awareness of the need for equity and for political will to take actions to halt global warming.

Creating awareness through media participation

CSE director was invited to be on the panel for a discussion on Saving Planet Earth, a part of the Future Summit held in Singapore organised by CNN International Television Show. The panel included Olafur Grimsson, President, Republic of Iceland and Bjorn Lomborg, Author of *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. This show received good response from a number of viewers.

CSE director was also interviewed on climate change by the BBC World Service Radio on climate change and its global impact prior to the release of the final IPCC report and by the German magazine *Der Uberblack*. Another premier German daily, *'Suddeutsche zeitung'*, published CSE's article on climate change. Indian publications such as *Malayala Manorama Yearbook* and *Tebelka* have also published reports on climate change from CSE. *Gulf news* carried Sunita Narain's views, as a member of the Prime Minister's council on India's plans to do to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Creating awareness through reports

The editorial *Climate science and the Indian scientist*, was circulated to a number of Indian scientists to initiate discussion among the scientific community and we received very good responses from a number of scientists. The editorial, *No more kindergarten approach to climate Change*, received huge responses from international experts. They include Caspar Henderson, Oxford, Daniel M. Kurtzman, Climate Change Impact Research Project, Inc, Dr Shiv Someshwar, International Research Institute (IRI)



for Climate and Society, Columbia University, Jacques Leonardi, IPCC reviewer on transport and climate mitigation, Jürgen Maier, Director, German NGO Forum Environment & development, Anders Wijkman, Member Of European Parliament, Dr. Hassan Virji, Deputy Director International START Secretariat.

The special issue on climate change prior to the Bali climate meet was circulated widely to policy and decision makers, media and scientists and we received positive responses from most of those who had been sent a copy of the issue.



Anti-toxin campaign

(Chandra Bhushan, Kushal P S Yadav, Sapna Johnson, Nirmali Saikia, Avinash K Balyan)

CSE continued with its two-pronged strategy of doing lab research to generate empirical data on issues of toxins and food safety and also doing policy research and advocacy to bring about changes in the regulatory and enforcement framework.

Objective: To bring about changes in the regulatory and enforcement framework

The team followed up on its studies on pesticide contamination in soft drinks. CSE continuously monitored the union health ministry's work to fix a final product standard for soft drinks. In February 2008 the ministry finally validated a methodology for testing soft drinks. The final product standard is now in the process of being published as a gazette notification. This is the outcome of CSE's five-year long research and efforts to highlight the issue of pesticide contamination and to regulate such products.

The CSE laboratory successfully finished two studies. The lab studies have been backed up with research on regulatory aspects, the ground realities and policies in countries the world-over. The studies will be publicly released in the coming months. Water samples were collected from the Patancheru area in Andhra Pradesh and tested for heavy metals. The analysis was done to support the CSE report on the high levels of antibiotic residues in the waters of Musi river.

Objective: To network with civil society groups who are fighting the unregulated use of chemicals

CSE has been supporting the efforts of Kheti

Virasat Mission (KVM), an NGO-based in Bhatinda district in Punjab, that has been working among the farmers in Punjab to spread awareness about the indiscriminate use of pesticides. The NGO has been educating farmers against use of chemicals and shifting to non-pesticidal and organic farming. CSE had commissioned KVM to do a "Detailed studies on local agriculture practices at Jajjal village, district Bhatinda, Punjab". The study is currently ongoing.

CSE provided a forum for those who are fighting toxification in agriculture. It organised a meeting to discuss issues of interest and also to discuss ways to counter the strategy of industry to use litigation to harass scientists and NGOs who are fighting industry. The pesticide industry has filed what are known as SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) cases against scientist and activists spreading awareness or doing research about harmful effects of pesticides. This meeting was to discuss these issues and find a way forward.

Impact indicators

Web and media responses

- The film *The Whistle Blower*, based on CSE's study on pesticide contamination in bottled water and soft drinks and produced by Public Service Broadcasting Trust won the National award, the Rajat Kamal and a cash prize of Rs 10,000/-.
- It also received the VATAVARAN awards for films on environment sponsored by the Union ministry of environment.

Science and environment reportage

(Pradip Saha, Sopan Joshi, Kushal Pal Singh Yadav, Nidhi Jamwal, Vibha Varshney, Maureen N Mitra, Kirtiman Awasthi, Arnab P Dutta, Ravleen Kaur, Sumana Narayanan, Savvy Soumya Mishra, Archita Bhatta, Mario D Souza, D M Nair, Paromita Ukil, Kaushik Dasgupta, Snighda Das, Indrajit Bose, Archana Yadav, Surya Sen, Shyamal Banerjee, Agnimirh Basu, Vineeta Venugopal, Neha Saluja, Shri Krishen, Kirpal Singh, Surender Singh, Gundar Das)

The debate of environment and development is raging all over the country. Tribals and farmers are being increasingly forced out of their lands, with little opportunities of livelihood elsewhere. These events required in-depth reportage, not just about capturing these conflicts and events, but also a nuanced understanding and reportage of the socio-cultural patterns and future implications for the nation and its people.

CSE's environmental reportage yielded good dividends during the year. Several stories brought in corrective actions from officials, responses from NGOs and scientists.

CSE reporters travelled to farms, factories, villages and urban areas across the country to capture and report the happenings. Reportage captured some of the most intense events and debates: the launch of the *Nano*, the SEZs and

the resulting intense conflicts, several issues on rural issues ranging from panchayati raj to rainfed farming to NREGA, the debate about how the mineral resources of the country should be used, the regulation of hazardous wastes and how to conserve wildlife in India. The coverage on mining

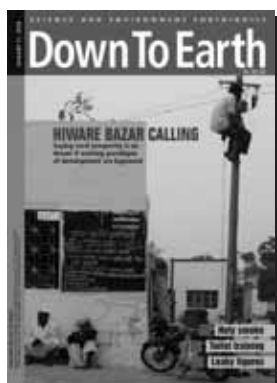
was picked by numerous publications. Environmental health issues such as the shortage of vaccines in the country were also covered.

The reportage on the upcoming Puducherry port in south India and the problems in the project received a tremendous response. Authorities immediately took cognizance of the problems highlighted in the report and took corrective action. As an aftermath, a new environmental impact assessment was,

ordered by the Pondicherry government. Senior government official informed CSE that two of the components of the port namely Iron ore and the coal terminal were scrapped as these would increase pollution in the city.

Impact: Policy change

- Reportage on how extensive use synthetic vanilla is creating problems for natural vanilla growers in India led to substantive policy initiatives. Government-controlled co-operative institutions such as Mother Dairy and the National Dairy Development Board were instructed to buy natural vanillin from farmers and use it in products like ice creams by the union agriculture and union commerce ministries. The director (Marketing) Spices Board, Cochin, wrote to CSE saying that they are working to solve the problem of the vanilla farmers.
- A presentation by a CSE staffer on CDM at a seminar in Luxembourg resulted in parliamentarians taking up the issue in the parliament. A question was introduced asking how the government wants to make sure that the Luxemburg CDM-projects will bring the expected results.
- The special issue on climate change prior to the Bali meeting was very well received amongst politicians, scientists, civil society and industry. Reactions poured in from all over the country and also from international readers commenting on the in-depth and holistic coverage of the issues. Indian Prime minister's office wrote to CSE saying that the "PM has taken note of your suggestion for our national position on climate change". Former PM I K Gujral wrote to CSE appreciating its effort to rouse public consciousness on the issue.
- The Down to Earth story on Municipal Solid Waste Management in India was widely referred in R'07 World Congress –Recovery of Materials and Energy Resources Efficiency at Davos, Switzerland during first week of September 2007.



Replication in Media

- The reportage on small cars, congestion and pollution was widely covered in various publications all over the world. After the CSE report the issue was picked up several media organisations and led to a huge public debate. Several leading publications including International Herald Tribune, The New York Times, One World South Asia, Central chronicle, sify.com and a large number of televisions channels picked up CSE's reportage and spoke to the CSE reporters. Leading auto manufacturers responded to the CSE reportage on the issues.
- The Guardian, UK published an article titled 'Truth about Kyoto: huge profits, little carbon saved' based on the DTE story
- A number of editorials were re-printed in several publications both in India as well as abroad.

Impact: Letter

- The article, 'Surviving 15 years of bad News – Desperately seeking good news' got good comments from Sanat Mehta, the former finance minister of Gujarat saying that he liked the article and that he, like the author of the article is also desperately seeking good news.
- A *Down To Earth* reader wrote to us, "I enjoyed reading your editorial. The insights are deep and new, and very few persons raise these issues in such a clear and cogent manner. I think you should seriously consider taking out in a book form your selected editorials. They would be a great help to many NGOs and development organisations".
- Reading the story on the benefits of small tractors for Indian farmers, Shubsankar Tomar wrote to DTE saying that his small tractor manufacturing industry is in dire straits. He received many offers from venture capitalists volunteering to help him restart his company.

Impact: Request for reprint of CSE reports

- The Guardian, UK published an article titled 'Truth about Kyoto: huge profits, little carbon saved' based on the DTE story 'Newest Biggest Deal' on the Clean Development Mechanism.
- Ashok Datar reprinted the story Spoilt Lot; Horns of Dilemma was reprinted in Central Chronicle and was also carried by following e-groups - forest rights, jivika, andamannicobar, development gateway, IAS general studies web group and Africa development web group and www.rainfedfarming.org
- Agriculture Today, India's premier agriculture magazine reprinted the story of Hiware Bazar - 54 Millionaires in a village.
- TsuInfo Alert, the newsletter of the National (US) Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program reprinted Coastal Shield; ICFAI University Books reprinted No Concrete Plans.
- Soch Pani Ki', a newsletter by HEDCON requested permission to translate an article by Sunita Narain, published in Dainik Bhaskar on groundwater depletion.
- *The Island* newspaper, Sri Lanka requested permission to reprint the editorials on the science page of their paper.
- Dr N Balasubramani, MANAGE asked for permission to use the editorial 'When markets do work' in his training programme as a case study.
- Steve Ewings asked for permission to use editorial 'No more Kindergarten approach to Climate change' as a reading in his online class.
- NataliePace .com reprinted the editorial 'Biofuel: Good idea, Bad practice' in the July issue of their monthly newsletter *Ezine*.
- Insight Magazine reprinted the editorial 'Urban Growth Model needs Reality Check' in their July issue.
- Monique Pool, of Suriname Environmental Advisory Services, Suriname, South America has requested permission to translate and reprint the editorials in the local newspaper.
- LEAD International has requested permission to reprint the editorial 'A Biofuel: good idea, bad practice' as background reading within a training workbook for an international event exploring Leadership and Climate Change:
- 'Writing a Nation – An anthology of Indian Journalism' – Edited by Nirmala Lakshman includes the editorial by Sunita Narain 'Slapped into Submission'.
- The editorial 'Bottled water Costs us the earth', was reprinted in the website of 'Paryavaran Sandesh'.
- GroundWork an environmental justice NGO in South Africa and The European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee) requested permission to reprint the editorial 'Bali - the mother of all no-deals'.
- The Global Subsidies Initiative, Switzerland requested permission to reprint the editorial 'The Nano- flyover Syndrome' in the forthcoming edition of their monthly newsletter 'Subsidy Watch'.

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ENVIRONMENT AND DISSEMINATION

The purpose of EIDU is to disseminate information about CSE products and generate revenue through sale of CSE publications, *Down To Earth* magazine and advertising space in

Down To Earth. The main strategy to achieve these objectives is direct mailing. In addition, we also use exhibitions, booksellers, newsstands, schools and CSE meetings to sell disseminate CSE products. *Down To Earth* is available at newsstands in over 50 cities in India.

The year ended with an income of Rs. 1.77 crore from the sales of CSE products, *Down To Earth* and training services. The new book on mining sold nearly 700 copies within three months. The book was sold as a package deal with all the SOEs and this helped to also push the sales of other SOEs. The new manual on wastewater recycling has also been sold out within a few months and will go into reprint.

The sale of Green Files was Rs. 12.75 lakh, and the income from sale of publications was Rs. 17.89 lakh. Income from audio-visual products was Rs. 25.82 lakh.

The income from advertisements in *Down To Earth* was Rs. 27 lakh and income from sales of the magazine was Rs. 42 lakh. More than 2500 new subscribers were added and the renewal rate was about 70%. Nearly 50% of the subscribers are individuals followed by schools, colleges, research institutions and NGOs, which together make up another 40%. This year there has been a special effort to get bulk subscriptions and 2 bulk orders from two different forms were obtained.



Anil Agarwal Green College

(Gita Kavarana, Aditya Batra and Pratap Pandey)

This has been a mixed year for the Anil Agarwal Green Centre (AAGC). Broadly, the objectives and tasks for 2007-08 were to expand the existing bouquet of short-term and long-term training programmes and to conduct a feasibility study on the Centre gaining a University status.

Although we conducted 18 training programmes this year, in which more than 550 participants were trained by AAGC, there were no new training programmes launched. Similarly, a flagship programme planned for the year, a 2-month course for Indian students and young professionals, was postponed as it was announced with very little response time for participants to register.

However, the new initiative for the year was in carefully selecting and targeting two newer constituencies — students and regulators. The rainwater harvesting course specifically targeted students, and met with enthusiastic response from colleges and universities across India. The regulator community was another new constituency targeted and they were invited to attend the workshops on conducting Environmental Impact Assessments.

Feedback from the participants shows that the programmes fulfil an acutely felt need among the target group. Most participants attending the documentation workshops, for instance, were in the midst of creating or reorganising their information management systems in their organisations, and this programme allowed them to put to practice what they learned at AAGC. Similarly, feedback from many participants

attending the rainwater harvesting course said the workshop helped them sharpen their abilities to popularise and implement RWH systems.

AAGC continued the month-long orientation programme for The Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo, Norway. The course, conducted for the fourth time, has consistently received good feedback from the students. As part of the course assignment, students produced, entirely on their own, a magazine, *ReAct* together with a website and a campaign which they then exhibited at the University of Oslo upon their return to Norway.

Training programmes conducted

A total 18 short-term training programmes were conducted this year, in which more than 580 participants were trained. Lectures were also given under the aegis of AAGC to students and



Students from Oslo at a training session

Name of workshop	Number of workshops	Number of participants	Profile of participants	Revenue earned
Rainwater harvesting	6	264	Consultants, NGOs, government, industry, plumbers, students	3.71
River pollution	1	30	Students, NGOs, consultants	0.57
Wastewater management	2	49	Students, NGOs, consultants	1.06
EIA (including one at	4	122	Industry, NGO, consultants, Bangladesh)regulators, lecturers	8.33
TGV	2	34	NGOs	1.80
Information management	2	53	Largely NGOs, but also govt and industry	2.91
Total	17	552		18.38
Foreign students	1	30	Students	31.00

Impact

- The student programmes are impactful because they are made to learn new ideas in an interesting and useful manner. Several students wrote back to say that they are interested to attend other CSE courses. In the case of foreign students, many of them have come back to India to undertake longer term projects (5 from the previous course).
- The other new constituency was the regulators of the GRP workshops. The regulators found the programme very useful as implementing EIA is part of their daily work and they had not been given any training on the recent changes made to the programme or provided inputs on how it can be applied to bring about sustainable development. The learning from these workshops has been that there is a huge capacity gap among regulators to use the potential of EIA to influence good development. There has also been a demand for workshops on specific sectors.
- The feedback from the participants shows that the programmes fulfil a felt need. For instance, in the documentation workshops, most participants are in the midst of creating or reorganising their information and this programme is a good fit and thus ensures that participants really put to practice their learning. Similarly, many participants of the RWH programme become consultants and they have said how the workshop really helped them to popularize RWH.
- The students of the Challenge of the Balance programme produced, entirely on their own, a magazine, ReAct (<http://www.cseindia.org/react.htm>), together with a website and a campaign which they then exhibited at the University of Oslo upon their return to Norway. This course has been rated highly by the students and even by the University authorities. Many students considered it the most rewarding experience in their academic career.

visiting groups of professionals. The month-long training programme was conducted for the students of Oslo University.

Work not completed

Planned new short-term courses were not launched. Also, the institutional development activities planned, specifically of creating a business plan, producing marketing collaterals as well as producing teaching materials, were not completed due to time constraints and inadequate staff capacity.

The long-term course for Indian students that was planned for October- December could not

be conducted due to lack of response. This will now be conducted during the summer break.

Lessons learnt

As we start planning for the next year, it is clear that several persistent challenges to growth will need to be addressed. One is participants' capacity to attend training workshops in Delhi, often a constraint that prevents many from attending courses, as they have to bear the costs of travel and stay in Delhi, in addition to the fees charged by AAGC. We will also need to sharpen our methods and strategies of spreading the word about training programmes, especially to reach a carefully targeted audience. In addition, in order to truly understand the practical impact of our training efforts and to build strong networks, we will have to make more effort to maintain ties with alumni. Similarly, we will need to more carefully package teaching materials, and think of means to control the rising costs of conducting training programmes.

More urgently, over the next year, we will consider University Affiliation or attain a Deemed University status — this not only to make courses more valuable for students, but also to allow AAGC to tie up with foreign universities and study abroad programmes. Similarly, to scale up training activities, we will need to pursue donor-funded international training tie-ups for a variety of constituencies and to be able to share international best practices in environmental management and regulation.

Feedback from the students on 'Challenge of the Balance' course

- "The Southern perspective is truly interesting and it has been very useful to hear from people actually living in and being affected by the issues we have learned about in Norway" - Ida Tuett.
- The best thing the training gives I think is the practical experience on tasks and ways of working that will be very useful for many of us in our work in the future" - Ida Thomassen.
- "CSE's training brings in great enrichment by exposing us to great Indian minds and enthusiasm which I believe is fundamental for engagement in the topic" - Alp Pit.
- "As I did not have a very in-depth knowledge about India's environment and development issues, this training has become an eye opening experience" - Thale H Eddie.
- "The course will always be at the back of my mind when I read and analyse the theories. I feel very privileged to have had the chance to be here" - Magms.

Media resource centre

(Souparno Banerjee, Shachi Chaturvedi)

The Media Resource Centre (MRC) largely concentrated on two broad areas of work. The first of the two areas was the Seventh CSE Media Fellowship Programme on 'Rivers: Used and Abused', which was scheduled over October-November 2007. The Jury selected 11 Fellows and the fellowship programme generated an extensive amount of reportage and base studies on all the subject areas.

The second area of work was that the team got into book editing seriously this year and edited and brought out the book on mining, *Rich Lands, Poor People: Is Sustainable Mining Possible?* They then worked with the industry team to organise a series of nationwide releases of the report. The basic idea behind this was to generate a debate around the topic of mining, especially in the context of the Indian parliament's moves towards a new mining policy for the country.

The team continued to reach out to media through its Feature Service in Hindi and English. It organised press conferences on different topics throughout the year. Over the months, it has also become an effective one-stop shop for journalists scouting for information on environment: the growing numbers of telephone calls, e-mails etc that the team receives every day requesting for information and help point towards this.

Objective: To build a community of environmental writers through the Fellowship programme

The seventh fellowship programme on *Rivers: Used and Abused* was announced in August 2007. The programme offered print and audio-visual journalists a unique opportunity to travel, research and report on the state of our rivers, the reasons behind their conditions, the steps taken and their effectiveness and the impacts on the people and environment. More than 100 applications were received and the selection of the finalists was done by a jury consisting of Arti Jeyrath, Bureau Chief, DNA; Om Thanvi, Executive Editor, Jansatta; Qamar W Naqvi, News Director, Aaj Tak; and Sunil Jain, Associate Editor, Business Standard on September 27, 2007 in New Delhi. The criteria for selection included originality of ideas, understanding and comprehension of the issues, relevance of issues, analytical skills and the geographical spread.

Objective: To build capacity and provide information through media workshops

The team organised a workshop on river pollution for journalists. About 17 journalists from

The Fellows of the Seventh CSE Media Fellowships

- Alok Prakash Putul, Editor, *Desbandhu*, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh): Putul reported in Hindi on the privatization of some rivers in central India.
- Anupama Kumari, freelancer writing for *Prabhat Khabar*, Ranchi (Jharkhand): Anupama re-looked at the Damodar river. She wrote in Hindi.
- Dolonchapa Bhattacharya, Senior Reporter, *India Today*, Kolkata (West Bengal): Dolonchapa studied the changing courses of the Padma and the Bhagirathi in her state, and wrote in Bangla.
- Kanchan Vasudev, Senior Staff Correspondent, *The Tribune*, Ludhiana (Punjab): Kanchan did stories in English on the Sutlej.
- K Rajendran, Senior Correspondent, Kairali TV, New Delhi: Rajendran traveled back to his native state – Kerala – to study the Bharathapuzha. He aired his programme in Malayalam.
- K Sajeevan, Senior Sub-editor, *Mathrubhumi*, Kannur (Kerala): Sajeevan, reporting in Malayalam, looked at the Valapattanam river in Kerala.
- Manipadma Jena, freelancer writing for EPW, Bhubaneswar (Orissa): Manipadma covered the Mahanadi in her state. She wrote in English.
- Parvez Ahmad Bhatt, Senior Correspondent, *The Kashmir Times*, Srinagar (J&K): Parvez was asked to study the Jhelum in his state.
- Rajesh Kumar Singh, Principal Correspondent, *The Hindustan Times*, Lucknow (UP): Rajesh reported in English on the state of the Gomti.
- Rajshekhar Pant, freelancer writing for *Sabara Times*, Bhimtal (Uttarakhand): Rajshekhar published his stories in Hindi and English. His river of choice was the Nandhaur in Uttarakhand.
- Sobhapati Samom, Correspondent of *The Assam Tribune* and *The Hindustan Times* in Imphal (Manipur): Sobhapati wrote in English on Manipur's Nambul river.

outside Delhi and 5-6 journalists from Delhi attended the two-day workshop.

Participants of the workshop on river pollution found it very useful. Kulsum Talha, senior Lucknow-based journalist said that the workshop updated her knowledge on river pollution. Aditya Kant, of the HT-Chandigarh, said, 'It was a good enriching experience in the workshop, with quite interesting insights'.

Objective: To strengthen the community of environmental writers with regular information on issues and resource persons

The team continues to produce the Feature Service in Hindi and English which is well appreciated. Over the months, the unit has become an effective one-stop shop for journalists scouting for information on environment: the growing numbers of telephone calls, e-mails etc that the team receives every day requesting for information and help point towards this. Ms Susannah Fisher, from the University College, London, interviewed the team member for a project on how the Indian media has been reporting on climate change issues. Mr Stefano Vecchia, an Italian journalist based in Bangkok, got in touch with the team unit for an interview on various social and environmental issues. Journalists from across the country approached the team for information and inputs on issues such as forests, forest cases in the court, diesel,

cement industry and other environmental issues.

The governor of West Bengal called up the media fellow Ms Dolonchapa Bhattacharya of India Today on the article on the erosion in Ganga in Malda region prepared as part of the fellowship.

Objective: To support CSE teams in their awareness raising activities

The team worked closely with CSE's sustainable industrialization programme team to bring out the book, *Rich Lands, Poor People: Is Sustainable Mining Possible?* It then worked to release the publication in Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Panjim and Ranchi. In the first four cities, the respective state governors released the book. In most of these functions, separate press briefings were organised for the benefit of local media. The events received large-scale participation from all walks of life - including mining communities from interiors of the states, industry representatives, lawyers, academicians and researchers, etc - and generated extensive reportage and coverage. The basic idea behind this was to generate a debate around the topic of mining, especially in the context of the Indian parliament's moves towards a new mining policy for the country.

The team also worked with the team of City water-waste to help the Department of drinking water supply produce their 150-page vision document titled "Bringing Sustainability to Drinking water Systems in Rural India".



Erosion caused by Padma and Bhagirathi rivers in West Bengal, taken by a CSE media fellow

Environment education

(Sumita Dasgupta, Shankar Musafir, Ashish Shah, Suparna Banerjee)

The directive by the Supreme Court to make environment education mandatory in schools and colleges was a landmark directive. However, it has also created huge problems for schools and colleges because there are no standard publications, no specific modules and no way of sharing information with each other.

So a vacuum exists on three fronts:

- Initiative to train teachers on 'how to teach Environment'.
- Books, journals, films or any accessible teaching material
- A platform for educators to share techniques, students' responses, and experiences.

The Environment education unit has three separate programmes to address these needs. The Green School Programme shows teachers 'how to teach environment'; the *Gobar Times* provides informational resources that teachers can use; and, the unit has also started forums for teachers to meet and discuss issues and experiences. *Gobar Talk* brings the readers together and helps team members to learn about readers' perspectives and preferences.

During the year, the team focussed on strengthening the Green Schools Programme across the country. The Green School Programme is gradually but seriously moving into the interior parts of the schools community. In partnership with Salwan Public School, the unit set up a Green Schools Programme Learning Centre in Gurgaon.

One of the major activities during the year was the Gobar Times Green Schools Festival, which was organised on December 17th 2007 in New Delhi to felicitate the top 20 schools in India. The NCERT director Dr Krishna Kumar felicitated the award ceremony. Hundreds of students and

teachers participated in this programme and made the festival a great success. All the participating schools were issued certificates.

Objective 1: To add to the body of environmental information and knowledge available with the educators through informational products.

Gobar Times continued to be produced. Last year, the focus was to use its content more strategically to reach out to a larger group of audience. The topics were more contextual and related to current issues and concerns. A new initiative was launched in the form of *The Gobar Talk*, which is a meeting of educators and others interested in

Letters from readers

I've been a reader of DTE since 12+ years and hence been a reader of Gobar Times since its inception. And it has been a wonderful, eye-opening ride! Many a times content from GT has formed the basis of EVS projects for my child and other students too. With the bouquet deliver, the brickbats... there are none.

— Paresh, Via e-mail

Thank you for being so lively and interesting! I, being the head of an institution, take care that Gobar Times is read by most in the staff and students. Sometimes, I send special notes to my colleagues from it! I would like to have someone come down to our school and talk to young learners about preservation, and also see how we are trying in our little ways to follow the conservation.

— Gurmeet Singh, Principal
DAV Sr. Sec. Public School Cheeka, Kaithal (Haryana)

You are doing a good job. Although I am 60+, I do not miss the opportunity to go through it fully. What I feel is that there is need to penetrate all primary and secondary schools, especially so in the hinterland.

— PCS Rautela Air Vice-Marshal (Retd.)

Though I teach M. Tech to environment students, whenever I receive DTE, I go through GT first. The ways in which difficult issues are dealt with amuses me. To read Panditji's views and concerns gives me a whale of a time. Thanks are due to the hard working CSE team for keeping us updated on environmental issues.

— Nivedita Kaul, Deptt. of Civil Engg, MNIT Jaipur



Gobar Times Green School Award ceremony

environment. It offers a forum for participants to discuss environmental issues in depth and in the process learn about new perspectives.

The magazine completed 10 years and the special issue to mark this was filled with games, activities and quizzes which received an overwhelming response from the readers. What was notable was that many educators write to say that they found the magazine extremely useful. Though the target readership is school students, the range of subjects that are dealt with in GT attracted readers from all age groups and backgrounds. Many other responses noted how the magazine deconstructed topical and complex issues and made interesting and easily understandable. There are also continuing requests to make the magazine available on its own, unlike the current pattern of coming as a supplement to *Down To Earth*.

The team published the second revised edition of the Green Schools Programme manual. More than 10,000 copies were sold during the year. The team received a request from the Karnataka state unit of the National Green Corps programme for 8500 copies of the manual and the bulk of this was the language version to enable larger reach. Downloadable activity sheets on different issues of environment were posted in PDF format on the website to assist teachers in teaching of environmental issues in schools.

Objective: To build capacities of educators to impart concepts of sustainable development

The team conducted 16 teachers training programmes to train more than 500 secondary school teachers about how to implement the Green Schools Programme. A master trainers programme for teachers was conducted by CSE. More than 500 teachers were empowered with knowledge and their capacities were improved to teach about environmental issues in their schools and about 2500 students participated in environmental activities during the year.

Objective: To strengthen the hands of educators and school management to give priority to good environmental practices

The team collaborated with the National Green Corps to network with schools and implement the Green Schools programme. The membership increased considerably to 3500. Of these 400 schools participated in the Green Schools Award

Prize winners of the Gobar times-Green School Programme Awards

- First prize - Government Secondary School, Boormajra, Ropar, Punjab. This school bagged the first prize for second consecutive year for their excellent work in adopting sustainable practices to improve the school's performance. Students of the school produced minutely detailed information on water, land, air and energy.
- Second prize - Government Secondary School, Daramdin, Sikkim. As a first timer in the Green School Programme, this rural school which is in a remote corner of South Sikkim, presented a well tabulated and researched audit data and secured its position to become the second winner.
- Third prize - Apeejay School, Pitampura, New Delhi. The school's water audit included monitoring of overhead tanks. Students physically measured the catchment area to get an exact area. The energy audit was a masterpiece as the school conducted audit for the past two years and allotted points for each month.
- Best students' audit team award - Apeejay School, New Delhi. The audit teams of this school were represented by all senior classes and separate teams were organised for the different modules.
- Best teachers award - The Vishwabharti School, Noida, U.P. The teachers of this school worked with their students to turn in immaculate data sheets with great enthusiasm and honesty.

programme. The second 'Gobar Times Green School Festival' was organised on December 17, 2007 at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The event was used to catalyse interest among students through events such as skits, painting competitions etc.

As part of the festival, several interactive programmes were organised. A painting competition received good response as more than 250 students participated. An exhibition was also put up at the venue in which ten chosen schools from across the country had showcased their work on the Green Schools Programme. Students took part enthusiastically in street plays and dance programmes. Environmental films were also shown. Theme pavilions were put up to enable participating schools to display their work under the Green Schools Programme.

Prof. Krishna Kumar, Director, National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) presented the awards to the top 20 schools. Government Secondary School, Boormajra, Ropar, Punjab bagged the first prize for second consecutive year for their excellent work in adopting sustainable practices to improve the school's performance. The participation of rural/peri urban schools rose to 9 from 3 the previous year. The National Green Corps (NGC) of Punjab was awarded the best NGC state award for making maximum schools participate in the GSP. To motivate the students and teachers alike, other awards such as *Best students' audit team award*, *Best teachers award* were also given.

The Green School Award programme was well covered in the media and all leading newspapers like Hindustan Times, Tribune, The Indian Express, Times of India carried reports on the same. The event was also covered by electronic media like CNN-IBN, Lok Sabha, Aaj Tak, Metro Nation etc.

Objective: To provide a forum for policymakers, educators and students to exchange experiences about environment education

For the first time, CSE organised a meeting with NCERT, which sets the school curriculum, and the Directors of State Nodal Agencies of National Green Corps(NGC). The National



National Educators' Meet, 16 December, 2007

Educators Meet was conducted on 16 December 2007 and was attended by state NGC representatives from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Goa and Tamil Nadu.

The discussions were useful and CSE hopes to provide inputs to the curriculum setting process. The NGC of Karnataka decided to implement the Green Schools Programme in 7500 schools and 250 pre-university colleges in the state and the GSP manual was translated into Kannada for use in the schools. Talks are on with several State NGC nodal offices to translate the manual in regional languages. Hindi and Kannada versions are already in print.

Impact indicators: Recognition from peer groups, request for policy inputs

- The NCERT team writing new textbooks on political science requested for inputs for a section on 'Social movements like Chipko and Narmada Bachao'.
- Inputs on environment education was provide at the 4th World Environmental Education Congress held at Durban.
- Presentation on environment education for university teachers, at the Delhi University Campus
- Lecture at the Times Foundation's 'Concern Planet Initiative', which was attended by 150 schools in and around the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- Pro Quest Information and Learning, US, requested permission to reprint the story 'Carbon: The Building Block of Life'
- World Health Organisation requested for an audit report based on the Green Schools Methodology
- Tehelka Foundation requested inputs at a

workshop to teach representatives schools from 200 schools to undertake water audit.

Request for training programmes

- Mansoor Shah an eminent environmental lawyer based in Pakistan requested CSE's help to organize the Green School Programme in Pakistan
- The National Green Corps Uttaranchal and Karnataka has invited CSE to conduct training programme for the teachers in their states.
- Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC), Bangladesh requested a training workshop on Green Schools Programme.
- Enviro Vigil, a Maharashtra based NGO approached to facilitate teachers' training workshop for teachers in Thane.
- Environmental groups from Vietnam have requested training on the Green Schools Programme.

Environment resources unit/ knowledge portal

(Kiran Pandey, Madhumita Paul, K M Sheeja, Susan Chacko, Sarika Gaur, D S Thapliyal, Shompa Das, Rashmi Kumari, and Jaidev Sharma)

The environment resources unit continued its activities through information collection and documentation to support various research and advocacy programmes. The objectives of the unit have been reframed to focus on web-based information research and advocacy dissemination and outreach to facilitate online access to a comprehensive range of resources and database of environmental resources archived by one of the best documentation facilities in the South Asia.

The team continued with documentation of books, documents, journals, CD-ROMs and articles/ and also worked towards building its collection of digital books, studies, reports, articles, research papers, news clippings and photographs. Internal current awareness services were provided to keep the core programme staff updated on the relevant and significant books, journals, articles, etc. The unit also carried out short term training programmes on information management and documentation.

Objective: To make available a central repository of environmental information in India

The key work was to build a knowledge portal on environment, which will be a single stop-gateway for research resources, information and

knowledge on environment with focus on India and South Asia. The portal, a collaborative effort with the Knowledge Commission was launched in April 2008.

Using an open source portal content management system (CMS), the team has streamlined the information collection and documentation system. The portal has access to 40,000 records from *Down To Earth*, which was earlier available only to the subscribers. In addition to this information, approximately 2,00,000 records — news clippings, journal articles, reports & documents and a selection of important books — are also made available on the portal. Information filing, search and browse facility is based on the Topic Tree — a thesaurus of over 7,000 keywords on key environmental and developmental issues, people, organisations and geographical locations.

Hardware upgradation included computers, dedicated internet connection, installation and use of “Abby Fine Reader” for scanning, OCR of scanned materials and conversion into PDF format. Drupal CMS, an open source software was also obtained.

The unit plans to extend the environment portal further as a collaborative platform. This will involve working with other NGO’s colleges, research institutions for identifying the data/information/knowledge



Training session in progress

available, understand the knowledge gaps, and formalise a practical and easy way of bringing together useful information on the internet. This will also include development of a wiki-directory of people and institutions working in related fields.

Designed as a virtual media resource centre, the portal will make information on events and issues accessible with backgrounders and resource materials. It will also include several survival guides, or tool kits for action and best practices — information on what people can do and where they can find help on a host of environmental issues.

Objective: Document and disseminate information on environmental issues

Regular documentation and dissemination services such as articles alert, daily environment news alert were restructured and continued to keep the staff updated on developments in the area. The team

also continued with its monthly products of Green Files. The audio-visual team documented photographs on a variety of environmental issues during the year. The total strength of the database stands at 45,000. The e-newsletter now reaches to 1.5 lakh people across the globe.

An additional service E-doc Alerts was started by the team from July 2007 onwards to provide information on the latest central and state government reports, notifications as well as reports of international organizations and agencies.

About 220 visitors from India and abroad used the resources for reference and research during the year. The audio-visual unit has been approached by several national and international media organizations such as CNN, BBC, ABC News, Newsweek and TIME Magazine for photographs, film footages. Organisations also consulted the audio-visual section on suitable locations to shoot pictures on environmental issues. The database is used as an effective marketing tool for training programmes and CSE products. Users accessed the site more than 3.5 lakh times for information on the website.

Objective: Build capacity and expand constituencies of people through short-term training programmes

Two trainings were organised for around 55 participants from national and international organisations. We found that this training programme not only attracted information managers but a large number of researchers, academicians, consultants, scientific officers, and website developers as well. The discussions on portal development and significance of open source softwares, using the CSE case study were appreciated by many of the participants. PAN AP, Malaysia, a participant of the documentation training, is working to bring out a thesaurus and sought the guidance of CSE in putting the thesaurus together and identifying environment terms.



Website unit

(S K Mishra, Allan Lyngdoh, Vasudha Kuthiala)

Over the past year, the website unit launched two major initiatives – it worked with the ERU on the India Environment Portal, and it developed the *Down To Earth* e-magazine. It also achieved the milestone of more than one million page views per month on all CSE web properties put together.

The *Down To Earth* e-magazine is a digital replica of the printed version of the magazine, which simultaneously enhances user experience through innovative features, such as allowing subscribers to clip and electronically store their favourite articles. Users can also download, print and share exact page replicas of the printed magazine. The voice feature is especially helpful to the visually disabled who can now hear the text of the articles read out electronically. The e-magazine also allows easy access and content sharing via RSS feeds. In particular, with the costs of printing, distribution and postage only getting higher each year, the *Down To Earth* e-magazine is a more reliable and efficient way to reach out to subscribers living outside India.

Objective 1: To make environmental information from DTE easily and economically available

The *Down To Earth* e-magazine is a digital replica of the printed version of the magazine, which simultaneously enhances user experience through innovative features, such as allowing subscribers to clip and electronically store their favourite articles. Users can also download, print and share exact page replicas of the printed magazine. The voice feature is especially helpful to the visually disabled who can now hear the text of the articles read out electronically. The e-magazine also allows easy access and content sharing via RSS feeds. In particular, with the costs of printing, distribution and postage only getting higher each year, the *Down To Earth* e-magazine is a more reliable and efficient way to reach out to subscribers living outside India.

Objective: To make available environmental information in the country from a single source

The website team worked with the Environment Resources Unit (ERU) to launch the first phase of the Environment Portal. While the ERU provided access to information, the website took

responsibility to oversee the design and implementation of the portal.

This is an important initiative as much of the information and data on environmental issues in the country remains in unpublished materials, materials in Indian languages or simply research and data not available on the Internet. The India environment portal is an effort to proactively network with information and knowledge communities across the country involved in environmental issues.

The proprietary software, OMNIDOCs, has been replaced by “Drupal”, an open source CMS. This will help the team to provide a full text and subject specific search facility across the entire news-archive. This system has also integrated the news archive with other information resources – books, documents, articles, etc. Another software, Abby Fine Reader, was also put in place for converting hard copies into soft copies.

To make the search for information resources more accurate and contextual, all information will be manually tagged according to a detailed thesaurus of more than 700 environmental terms. This customised thesaurus will allow researchers to track each resource, not just by subject area, but where it is located and who is the agent involved.

More than a mere information repository, and in order to be a truly collaborative and networked project, the portal will develop common systems for collection, tagging and accessioning information from government institutions and tap into other research and policy networks. When completed, it will allow institutions and individuals to actively contribute and share information across a common platform. The portal is being developed on an open source platform, and all content will be copyrighted under the creative commons license.



Institutional development

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

In order to ensure that planned activities are executed and desired objectives are attained, CSE continuously monitors the performance against planned programmes. From a simple monitoring of execution of activities, the monitoring system has been enhanced and expanded to include the assessment of execution and impacts of activities of each staff member as well as teams. The entire system has been automated and put on the intranet so that all staff members have access to their annual plans and the progress made by the teams. Every staff member, programme or management, is expected to update progress on implementation of plans along with outcomes and impacts on a monthly basis.

The performance monitoring system gives the following reports:

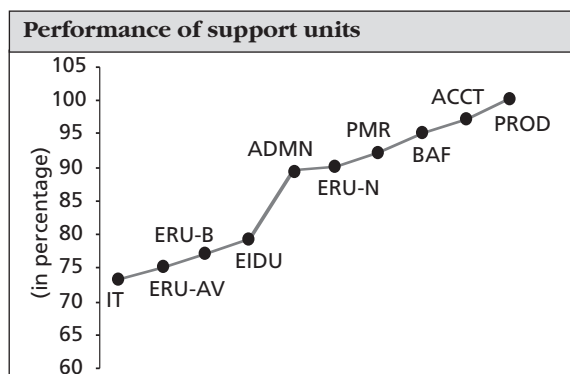
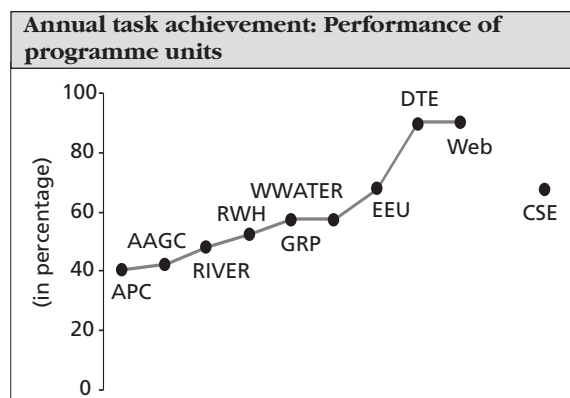
- Schedule of activities: are we on track
- Rating of activities: are we completing the priority programmes (based on the weightages given)
- Staff performance: which staff has completed what
- Team performance: which team has

completed how much

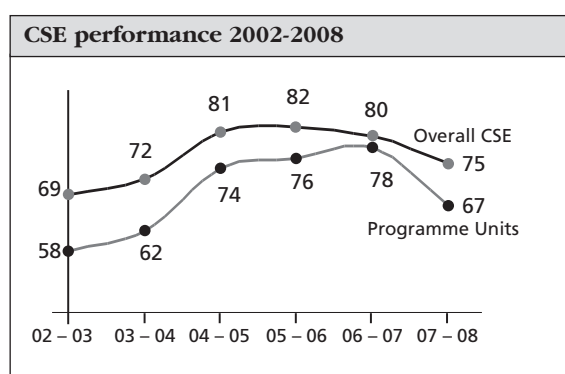
- Contribution to DTE: which team/staff has contributed to DTE

Last year we moved from monitoring and tracking the activities to monitoring objectives and impacts, hence the annual plan was made objective-wise and impact indicators were developed for each of our objectives. This year we also introduced a system of peer review by other programme leaders. A group of 3-5 members and a chairperson, reviews the annual plan of each unit. The final plan is put up for approval after incorporating comments.

The monitoring is tracked through an online monitoring system, that tracks each person's progress on the annual plans. The consolidated monitoring report for the year is given as a separate report.



Unit-wise performance			
Programme		Support	
Units	Achievement (in per cent)	Units	Achievement (in per cent)
WEB	90	ACCT	97
EEU	67	ADMN	90
GRP	57	EIDU	85
APC	40	ERU	81
DTE	90	IT	74
AAGC	42	PMR	92
NRML	89	SALES	98
RIVER	48	PROD	100
WWATER	57	BFC	95
URWH	52		
Total Prog.	67	Total Support	86
Overall			75

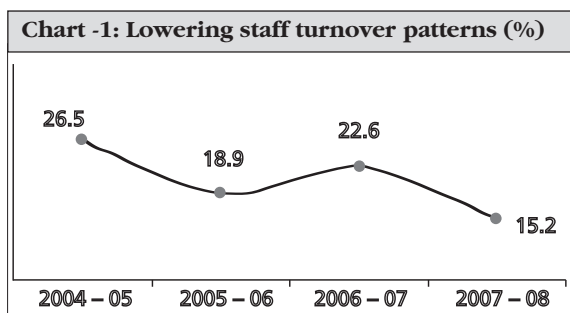


Performance of major outputs planned					
No	Outputs	Programme/unit	Status	Planned	Over and above plans
1a	Publication of book on Mining	Green Rating Project team + Media team	Completed	✓	
1b	Release of book in different cities	Green Rating Project team + Media team	Completed		✓
2	Publication of book on urban water management	CWW team	Not completed	✓	
3	Publication of manual on wastewater recycling	CWW team	Completed	✓	
4	Publication of manual on water harvesting	URWH team	Not completed	✓	
5	Publication of manual on GSP	EE team	Completed	✓	
6	GSP Awards	EE team	Completed	✓	
7	Monographs – NREGA	NRML team	Completed	✓	
8	Yamuna book releases	Water pollution team	Completed	✓	
9	Workshop on mining	GRP+ Media team	Completed	✓	
10	River pollution fellowship	Water pollution + Media team	Completed	✓	
11	Short-term and long-term training programmes	Various teams under the aegis of AAGC	Completed for the most part.	✓	
12	Curriculum and reading materials	AAGC team	Not done	✓	
13	Feasibility report for AAGC	AAGC team	Not done	✓	
14	New workshop launches	AAGC team	Not done	✓	
15	Environment portal	Web + ERU team	Completed	✓	
16	Interiors of both buildings	Administration	Completed	✓	

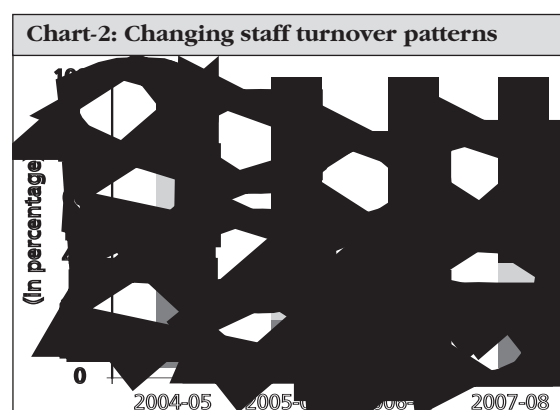
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff turnover

Chart – I and II give a clear indication of favourable dynamics over the years as far as staff leaving statistics is concerned. The turnover percentage has come down from 26.5% to 15% in the last 4 years, as also the percentage of “Staff asked to leave”, which has gone down from 31% to 11%. Unlike yester years, almost 75% of the



staff left is among those who have served less than 2 years in CSE, which means CSE has not lost much in terms of trained staff.



Gender pattern: We have had the following gender distribution at CSE this year: Female – 39%, Male – 61% and the average age of staff has been 37 years which is indicative of a young staff.

Volunteer programme

This year 47 volunteers and 31 interns contributed 3123 human days, which is equivalent to contribution in days of 12 regular employees (considering 253 working days in a year). The volunteers' database now has over 3,000 registrations and is constantly being used for various CSE and non-CSE projects and events. The volunteers / interns have been in the age group of 19 and 55 years.

This year we had about 700 registrations of which 12% of the registrations are from abroad, 60% from outside Delhi and the rest from Delhi. Nineteen volunteers joined us from other states of India while 17 volunteers and interns came from universities abroad this year. Volunteer-Intern usage by Programme Units has been 60% as against 40% by Support Units. As many as 6 volunteers and interns contributed articles for the magazine, *Down To Earth*, with word count of over 10,000 words.

CSE has also built up long-term relations with some institutions of repute that sends qualified volunteers and interns on regular basis. For instance, the All Jewish World Service (AJWS, USA) collaborated with us in 2007 and has already placed 2 candidates with us. Mount Holyoke College, Canada, started sending interns from 2006 onwards, and we have a long-standing relation with EWB (Engineers without border), UK who have sent 2-3 interns every year since 2004.

Some noteworthy contributions by volunteers and interns:

- Interns from Tata Dhan Academy (Mr. Subodh Kr. And Vinod Panday) did an extensive survey of NREGA programme in various districts in the NCR of Delhi.
- Most volunteers extended help in organizing the Yamuna book release function and in organizing the symposium on mining.
- Mr. Manpreet Singh, Ms. Swati Sharma and Ms. Sriti Ganguly's contribution as volunteers during the Green School Programme award function in December 2007 was noteworthy and highly appreciated.
- Volunteers actively participated in a public meeting on river pollution held at Agra.
- Sarabjit Butalia, a middle aged man from the merchant navy, and a long term volunteer in CSE, screened a film "Invaders from the sea", which won the Best UN Feature Film Award, 2007. He volunteered this year too, on research on marine and aviation related emission issues

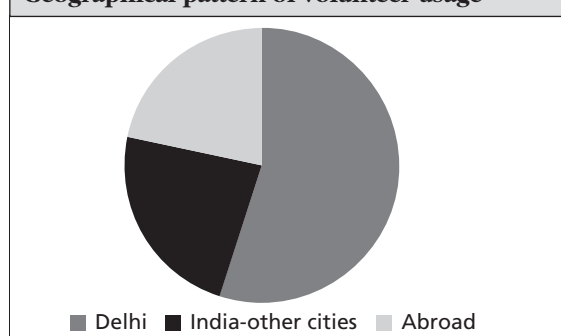
for Air Pollution Campaign (APC).

- Mr. Harry Hoffman, a German intern carried out a study on 'bio-fuels' in India and did a status report on the issue for APC
- Ms. Archana Bharadwaj did a base paper on "challenges of Aviation industry in India" for APC.
- Chandan Kumar, an Ex-TISS student has been interning with the GRP and working on a study 'The corporate influence on public policies in India

Unit-wise use of volunteers

Unit	Number of volunteers	Total days worked
Poverty & Environment	5	114
Urban water harvesting	3	117
City water-waste campaign	6	215
River pollution	11	238
Industry-environment	12	537
DTE	9	274
Right to Clean Air campaign	8	230
Environment Education	4	91
Documentation	6	546
Database	5	368
Funding, Admn, EIDU & PMR	10	393

Geographical pattern of volunteer usage



Map of volunteers from different cities of India



Annual plans for the year 2008-09

RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN

Overall objective

To drive and implement, policy change towards a sustainable mobility in urban centres of the country, with a focus on New Delhi. A large part of this work will be to first bring about improved air quality in Indian cities.

Specific objectives

- Bring about fuel economy standards for vehicles;
- Strengthen public transport in Delhi;
- Reducing diesel emissions; and,
- Reducing congestion and pollution.

Plans for the year 2008-09

This year the mobility campaign will be scaled up and the work on securing improved air quality in other cities will be put on priority. In addition, a new initiative of building capacities among regulators and other officials involved in urban transport systems will be undertaken. Moreover, the team will also look at urban issues in totality looking at energy and waste issues.

The campaign team will have a rolling plan to target the campaign goals on an ongoing basis. This will target priorities and the policy opportunities in our core campaign areas of air quality policies, public transport and congestion reduction campaigns, tax and pricing policies related to transportation and mobility, auto fuel policy to push the technology leapfrog agenda, energy Impact of motorisation (fuel economy regulations) and others. Research will be carried out to support these initiatives for policy change.

Air pollution and mobility programme: The aim will be to scale up the programme to secure public health, reduce energy Impact and achieve sustainable mobility: Within this framework the following initiatives are being initiated this year:

- Assessment of the first generation and second generation air quality reform programmes to chart the way forward in Delhi.
- Estimation of the trend in pollution load from vehicles after the implementation of the first generation reforms. This will primarily focus

on the comparative contribution from the personal vehicles and public transport vehicles vis a vis their carrying capacity.

The team will continue its work in the following areas:

- Strengthen the public transport campaign — campaign to support bus rapid transport project and augmentation of bus transport in Delhi and integration of all public transportation modes.
- Campaign for congestion reduction strategies. The key strategies to be pushed include parking policy, taxes and pricing related to public transport and personal transport in cities.
- Support the city action plans to combat air pollution in different cities of India.
- Influence Auto Fuel Policy to get clean technologies and address the problem of dieselization
- Continue to push for fuel economy regulations for vehicles and ensure that it is crafted appropriately

Regional activities on air pollution and training:

Capacity building for air quality management and mobility management will be an important thrust area of our work. Towards this end the team will organize training programmes for the key target groups including regulators, civil society groups, industry and media. These programmes will be organised at a regional level to support the ongoing initiative on city action plans.

Sustainable cities programme: The ambit of the programme will be broadened this year to achieve the ultimate goal of moving towards sustainable cities. How can the city define its goals in a way that is more sustainable? The programme will assess the ways to reduce city's use of natural resources and production of wastes while simultaneously improving the livability. How can city go about achieving an integrated approach? As an entry level project we plan to demonstrate the linkages between resource use and waste generation and the ways these can be managed to minimize both through an environment impact assessment of resource intensive mega commercial complexes and malls that have begun to invade the urban space leading to most inequitable use of urban land and resources. Detailed energy, water and waste

audits of these structures will be carried out to set the agenda for policy action.

We will create a manual to do this assessment and then carry out the assessment. In addition to using these assessments for policy action training modules will be created.

WATER PROGRAMMES

THE URBAN RAINWATER HARVESTING PROGRAMME

Overall objective

To mainstream the idea of rainwater harvesting within the policy and practice of water management for meeting the basic water needs of the people;

Specific objectives

- To build capacities in society to undertake decentralised and rational urban water management
- To generate new knowledge and document people's efforts in the area of urban water management
- To disseminate information collected and knowledge generated widely to catalyse society to take proactive measures for urban water management

Plans for the year 2008-09

The team will continue to work to popularise the idea and practice of rain water harvesting in urban areas.

Building capacity in society for harvesting rainwater: The team will continue to conduct training programmes. The new and revised manual will be completed and published. In addition, a training reader will also be produced. A total of 4 training workshops will be conducted.

Generating new knowledge and document people's efforts: We plan to revise and update the current website. The new case studies that have been collected will be updated on the website. The team will also travel to learn about new developments in the area, Impact of policies or new efforts initiated by people. Water quality and levels will be monitored in model projects within and outside Delhi to gather data on the impact of rain water harvesting.

Disseminate information on rainwater harvesting(RWH) widely: Reports will be

published in the magazine and team members will also undertake lectures in schools, workshops and other fora.

Strengthen people working on/interested in RWH: This year we are helping build a Rain centre in Burdwan. The team will also develop a toolkit so that others who want to start a Rain Centre can do it easily. In addition, the team will continue to provide technical help for other projects including model projects in and out of Delhi.

A new activity will be the development of water audits that can then be undertaken for people.

RIGHT TO CLEAN RIVERS CAMPAIGN

Overall objective

To bring about a change in national policies to ensure clean rivers with the aim of providing safe drinking water to all.

Specific objectives

- Create new knowledge and understanding on alternative solutions for clean rivers and push for policy change
- Created forums to facilitate sharing of knowledge, strategies and experiences on river clean-up programmes
- Create awareness and build capacities to work on alternate solutions for river clean-up through reportage and training

Plans for the year 2008-09

Policies and programmes for river pollution control look at water use, waste generation and pollution in isolation and hence a piecemeal approach towards river cleaning. The river pollution campaign aims to re-establish the link between society and the river, and also water, excreta and pollution.

Creating new knowledge and understanding on alternative solutions for clean rivers and push for policy change: The policy paper on Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) will be completed this year. As this technology is the principal technology in use for control of pollution in the country, the attempt is to review the technology to see how it can be improved for effective implementation. A roundtable meeting of regulators will be organised to discuss strategies to address the technological, administrative and regulatory challenges facing the CETPs

A policy paper on Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) will assess whether the JNNURM projects are leading to sustainable water management in rivers. The policy paper will prescribe mid-course changes in strategies if required to make the programme effective. The 100,000-crore JNNURM programme has set an agenda for urban infrastructure building. The projects funded include water, sewage and river conservation projects. The paper will be discussed at roundtables organised in different parts of the country.

Facilitate sharing of knowledge, strategies and experiences on river clean-up programmes: CSE will undertake a community environmental audit and monitoring programme in Pali. The objective of this programme is to support civil society groups in Pali, Rajasthan to monitor the activities undertaken by the government and industries to clean the river Bandi. The attempt will be to expand the programme gradually to help communities in different parts of the country to evolve as watchdogs. As part of this effort, CSE will conduct meetings and training workshops for civil society groups in and around Pali.

A monograph on community initiatives in river conservation, profiling the initiatives by civil society groups and others to fight pollution and other activities threatening rivers will be prepared. Training workshops for civil society groups from different parts of the country on conducting community environmental audits. A river fighters network will be organised. The network will be kicked off with a national conference on river pollution, which will aim to find solutions to conserve rivers.

Reportage: Regular reportage in *Down To Earth* on various water issues.

CITY WATER-WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Overall objective

To bring policy change to ensure that cities source water and clean up their waste water at the city level and cities do not become 'water parasites' on rural India. The aim is to build a strong city-wide movement for water-waste management through meeting and networking with local planners, policy makers and NGOs.

Specific objectives

- Build knowledge on alternate sewage management practices through research and documentation
- Build capacities in civil society to move towards alternate sewage management systems.
- Awareness creation through model projects, and documentation of case studies

Plans for the year 2008-09

Advocacy on urban water and sewage management: The book on urban water and sewage management will be published. The book will bring together information and knowledge on the current state of water and sewage management in more than 70 cities of India. The book will point towards alternate and sustainable ways of managing water supply and waste water in cities of India. The book will be released in different cities of India to create wide awareness and an ownership among the municipal bodies of different cities.

Capacity building for creating decentralised sewage treatment systems: The team will undertake training workshops for professionals and NGOs in Delhi and also encourage students to take an interest in these issues by conducting special programmes for students in colleges out of Delhi.

Facilitate implementers to exchange information and experiences: The team will work with local groups to translate the manual into regional languages so that the system can be widely taken up by the society. It will also organise a meeting that will bring policymakers, NGOs, experts, donors together to discuss the issue and develop strategies to take the issue forward.

Popularise alternative wastewater treatment technology through model projects, lectures, presentations, release of manual and films in different cities: The team will target educational institutions and large households/farmhouses where there is no sewage connection, which are in peri-urban/suburban areas to build model projects. We will also try to design and implement such projects in non-sewer colony areas/slums in small towns as a pilot project.

During the year, events will be organised in cities across the country to create awareness about the issue and catalyse people to implement these systems. The release of the revised manual,

Do it yourself, and the film, will be used to build mass awareness. The events will also be used to network with groups working in different cities to help build model projects on alternative sewage management systems.

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION

Overall objective

To push for policy and mindset changes needed to bring about sustainable industrialisation

Specific objectives

- To undertake advocacy for sustainable mining.
- To engage with the industrial sector to improve its environmental performance.
- To build a network of NGOs, local communities and the panchayats, who can be watchdogs to the process of environmental clearance in the country.
- To strengthen the regulatory system in the country.

Plans for the year 2008-09

Advocacy for sustainable mining: The 6th State of India's Environment report on mining will be released in a public function in 4 more mineral states – Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Dehradun. The public function would include discussion on sustainable mining and other issues related to mining. A press briefing/release will also be organised in New Delhi to discuss and critique the New National Mineral Policy to sensitise the policy makers, efforts will be made to make presentations to parliamentarians.

Engage with the industrial sector: The cross-sectoral rating of 200 companies on energy and water will be undertaken. Best practises in energy and water efficiency will be compiled for 20 industrial sectors of the country.

A programme to build capacities within the financial and investor community on environmental due diligence will be undertaken. The programme includes the preparation of a training module and conducting a training programme.

Engage and strengthen community groups and NGOs: Training programmes will be conducted on environmental clearance process and other development issues. New training

programmes will be developed on mining and urban infrastructure projects. A dedicated Community Support Centre will be operationalised to respond to needs of communities quickly and efficiently. The aim is to provide technical assistance to 10-12 projects in a year.

To strengthen the regulatory system: The report on the state of regulatory system and regulations in India will be released in a public meeting. A roundtable meeting will be organised where members of all state pollution control board would discuss the key findings of the report and identify areas for strengthening regulator's capacity. An action plan for future strategy for strengthening the regulatory system in the country will be developed as an outcome of the discussions.

SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTAGE

Overall objective

To create informed public opinion by bringing together information, including a range of perspectives, to catalyse debate, discussion and action on key areas of sustainable development.

Specific objectives

- To report changes around us and catalyse changes we need at every possible level.
- To research and report on current happenings with analysis and insight.
- To increase the coverage of news and events in south Asia.

Plans for the year 2008-09

The team will make an effort to increase coverage of rural issues. The team will also begin the planning for coverage of other south Asia countries by putting together a database of journalists based in these countries who can travel, research and write for us.

ANIL AGARWAL GREEN COLLEGE

Overall objective

To build capacity in society to develop a multi-disciplinary perspective on sustainable development so that decision-making for development incorporates concerns of long-term environmental sustainability, justice, equity, and participation.

The aim is to provide an understanding of emerging environmental threats, their potential Impact and solutions through the different educational programmes to a wide variety of interest groups.

Specific objectives

- To build knowledge, skills and perspectives among professionals on diverse issues such as water conservation, pollution management, natural resource management, information management and others.
- To build knowledge, skills and perspectives among students on issues of environment and development.

Plans for the year 2008-09

Over the next year, we will consider University Affiliation or attain a Deemed University status - this not only to make courses more valuable for students, but also to allow AAGC to tie up with foreign universities and study abroad programmes. Similarly, to scale up training activities, we will need to pursue donor-funded international training tie-ups for a variety of constituencies and to be able to share international best practices in environmental management and regulation.

This will be in addition to the normal activities of short-term training programmes, the course for Oslo students and the longer course for Indian students.

We will also complete all the activities that were not completed the previous year.

MEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE

Overall objective

To build the capacities of the media for improved environmental reporting with a holistic perspective.

Specific objectives

- To build a community of environmental writers through the Fellowship programme.
- To strengthen the community of environmental writers with regular information on issues and resource persons.
- To build capacity and provide information through media workshops.
- To create awareness about key environmental issues.

Plans for the year 2008-09

Fellowship programmes: The media fellowship programme will be continued. An effort will be made to make it available to south Asian journalists.

Regular inputs to media on issues and resource persons: The regular email alerts and Feature Service will be continued.

Build capacity and provide information through media workshops: A number of briefing workshops are being planned for the year. Media briefing workshops on air and river pollution, urban mobility, city water-waste management, water conservation, mining and climate change. These workshops will be conducted in different parts of the country.

Support other teams to access media for awareness creation: The release of the sixth SOE will be continued in more cities of India to include the states of Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya. The team will also continue to edit and produce the other CSE publications.

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION

Overall objective

To increase consciousness and awareness about environmental issues among students and to provide them an understanding of the linkages between environment and sustainable development. It intends to take environmental education beyond nature education.

Specific objectives

- To add to the body of environmental information and knowledge available with the educators through informational products.
- To build capacities of educators to impart concepts of sustainable development.
- To strengthen the hands of educators and school management to give priority to good environmental practices.
- To provide a forum for policymakers, educators and students to exchange experiences about environment education.

Plans for the year 2008-09

Informational products: *Gobar Times* and other resource materials can be used more strategically and efforts are on to strengthen this area. We will continue to produce the magazine

every month. At the same time, we will prepare a Business Plan for launching *Gobar Times* as an independent product. Several issue-based primers are also planned. Activity sheets will also be prepared and put up on the website.

During the year, the manual will be brought out in other Indian languages. Two language editions are already in the pipeline – Kannada and Hindi. There is also a request from the Abu Dhabi government to help them produce a manual for the country.

Two more manuals will be produced – a Climate Change and Global Warming manual and another on Green Habitat.

Capacity building workshops for educators:

The aim is to build a network of informed educators and participants in our green school programme. This year we also plan to build Green Schools Learning Centres, which are nodes for training and discussion. These need to be formalised over time and made into nodes for CSE material and programmes.

- Conduct week-long Environment Educators refresher courses on How to teach environment? (2)
- To launch a web training model of Green Schools Programme based on 2007 Edition

Green School Programme: We need to upscale the number of schools that are part of the Green Schools Programme. Currently there are 3500 schools across India, of which training conducted for roughly 2000 schools and others who are in touch with us. This year we are planning for 15 training with 50 participants across different regions of India.

The Green Schools Award programme will be organised and several interesting events will be planned as part of this programme.

Influence policy making in the area of environment education: A Green Educators Summit will be organised and Gobar Talk will be continued.

ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES UNIT/ KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

Overall objective

The long-term objective is to establish CSE as the state-of-the-art digital news and knowledge portal on environment and development issues with focus on South Asia in general and India in particular.

Specific objectives

- To make available a central repository of environmental information in India.
- Document and disseminate information on environmental issues.
- Build capacity and expand constituencies of people through short-term training programmes.

Plans for The year 2008-09

Environmental portal: The Environment Resources Unit plans to extend the environment portal further as a collaborative platform. This will involve working with other NGO's colleges, research institutions for identifying the data/information/knowledge available, understand the knowledge gaps, and formalise a practical and easy way of bringing together useful information on the internet. This will also include development of a wiki- directory of people and institutions working in related fields. Information backgrounds and resources will be provided on recent environmental issues under "Environment In-depth section". The team will also work towards developing survival guides or tool kits for action – information on what people can do and where they can find help.

We are still trying to find an appropriate solution for providing information in regional languages. This will be one of the significant activities under Phase II of the environment portal. The team also plans to restructure training programmes on information management and documentation.

Financial performance

The bulk of funds for the organisation came as programme grants from donors. CSE received a total grant income of Rs. 930 lakh, earned Rs. 108 lakh from the sale of its products and earned Rs. 147 lakh as interest income. CSE's core fund (corpus + own fund) stands at Rs. 23.67 crore. Of the total of Rs. 108 lakh that CSE generated, Rs. 51 lakh is from training activities. Of this, Rs. 31 lakh came from the training fee for Oslo University students. Therefore, there is a need to

develop strategies to increase the income from training activity.

In terms of expenditure, the maximum expenditure was on research and advocacy (Rs. 225 lakh) followed by expenditure on awareness creation and information dissemination activities (Rs. 183 lakh). Over the year, CSE spent Rs. 40 lakh on assets, which was mainly for equipment such as computers, LCD projector, communication systems and for furniture, fixtures and furnishings.

Chart-1: Donor-wise expenditure

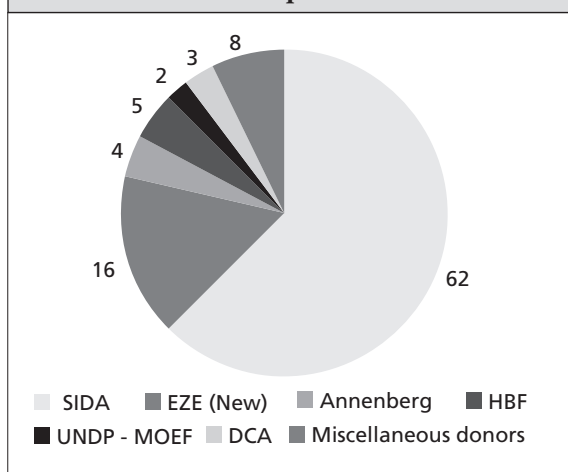


Chart-2: Donor-wise grants received

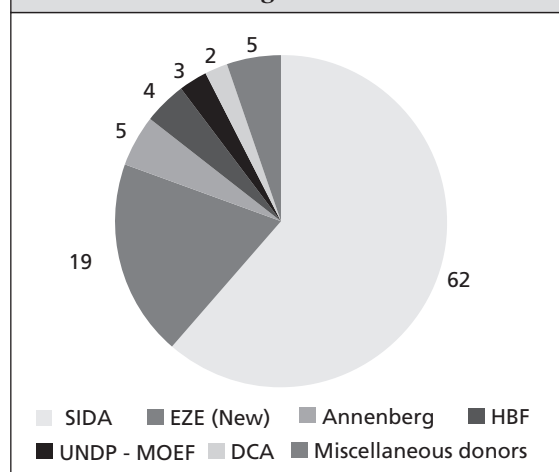


Chart-3: Progress in growth of own funds (2007-08 Rs. 23.89 crore)

