



ECO SOCIETY INDIA ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Inspiring Ecosystem Protection
& Sustainable Development



Photo credits: Amal Abhishek

Prepared
by
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I am glad to compile our **3rd annual report** for the year 2020-2021. The year 2020 started off with a positive note with a slew of awareness wall painting events in government schools and public buildings. As the year progressed we have to limit our volunteering initiatives due to **COVID 19 pandemic** and the lockdown that followed. Although our regular cleanup and restoration activities came to a temporary halt we began to reach out to the communities who were affected by the lockdown by raising funds with the help of individual donors to a tune of **Rs 1,48,105/-** and distributed dry ration to **240 families** during the lockdown. Apart from distribution of dry ration our core volunteers did regular watering and maintenance activity at Agaramthen lake area and helped to save the 500 saplings planted last year from the scorching summer. As the lockdown was slowly relaxed we went on for the 3rd phase of Afforestation at Agaramthen lake area and planted **250 saplings** in a **1.5 acre** lake area which includes 100 bamboo saplings. We also tried **mural artworks** at Government run schools with the help of well trained artists Mr.Vicky Raj and Mr. Prabhakaran Appudu that attracted lots of public attention.

We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AMET University to further research and cooperation in doing Eco-Restoration in Chennai.

Altogether we conducted **57 events** and engaged with **734 volunteers** with **6163 hours** of volunteering this year. Our events have been covered **15 times** in print media and **1 time** in electronic media by leading media houses such as The Hindu, Indian Express, DT Next, The Deccan Chronicle, Thinamalar News papers and WINTV. Awareness wall painting events attracted the maximum number of volunteers due to the growing enthusiasm of Chennaites for creating a big change in a shorter span of time in the school environs. In the next year we must strive forward to achieve greater heights in the awareness levels of people to protect the last surviving ecosystems in the city and to make this city livable for our future generations. As we embark on our 4th year we would be organizing more such events in the week days to achieve greater impact in a shorter time. We express our sincere gratitude to our volunteers for braving the pandemic to serve the poor and needy and helping to save the saplings planted at Agaramthen lake area. We extend our special thanks to all our supporters, partner NGOs, Media houses, Government officials, Government departments, Companies and Corporations for making 2020-2021 an impactful year for Eco Society India.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darwin Annadurai'.

Regards,
Darwin Annadurai, M.Sc., M.Tech.,
Founder & Managing Trustee,

About the Organization

Eco-Society India is a registered non-profit, non political, non religious, voluntary and professional citizen group founded to sensitize and train the communities to protect and preserve the urban ecosystems.

Our vision

Our endeavor is to be a renowned NGO in social and ecological research, education, advocacy and action. Our vision is to create awareness & capability among the communities to undertake nature conservation and restoration leading to sustainable development of communities.

Our Mission

Our mission is to create a resilient and just world for all living beings in this planet. Towards this mission we help communities from underdeveloped regions, ecological scientists and researchers, conscientious consumers and ecological entrepreneurs understand the principles of socio-ecological system through our education. The approach is rooted in holistic principles on ecological economics, environmental justice and sustainable development of communities.

Our Key Objectives

1. To impart training among communities in the protection and preservation of ecosystem by creating awareness about ecosystem functions and services to the communities.
2. To develop sustainable water resources management strategies.
3. To create awareness about low impact development (LID) and promote Eco-friendly LID.
4. To develop sustainable agricultural practices.
5. To develop a sustainable business model in Eco friendly decentralized solid waste management.

Our strategy

Working across the thematic priorities of ecosystem restoration, green cities, sustainable development, Water resources, Education, Health & sanitation.

Eco Society India aims to deliver impact through seven strategic outcomes

1. Improved health, access to clean water, sanitation and eco friendly waste management .
2. Sustainable agricultural practices.
3. Improved air quality .
4. GHG emission reduction .
5. Enhanced adaptation to climate change.
6. Improved supply of ecosystem services.
7. Increased access to clean affordable energy and sustainable public transport.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

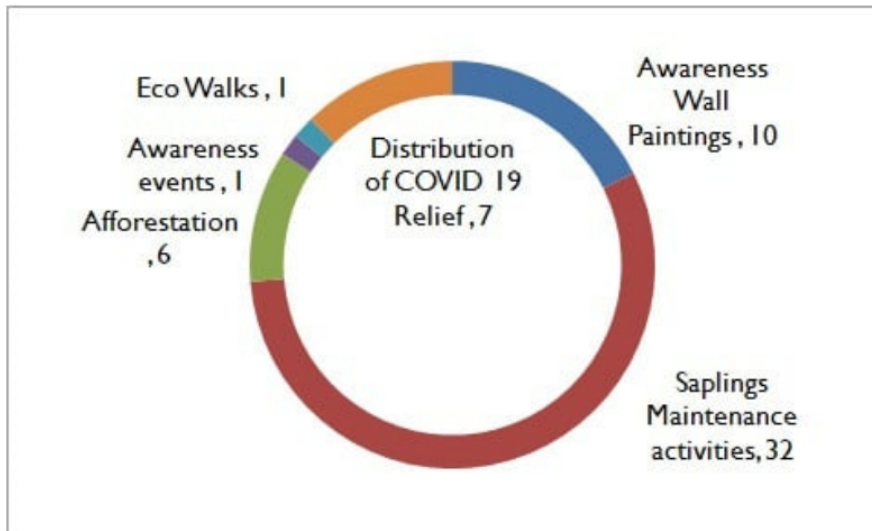


Figure 1: Number of events by type

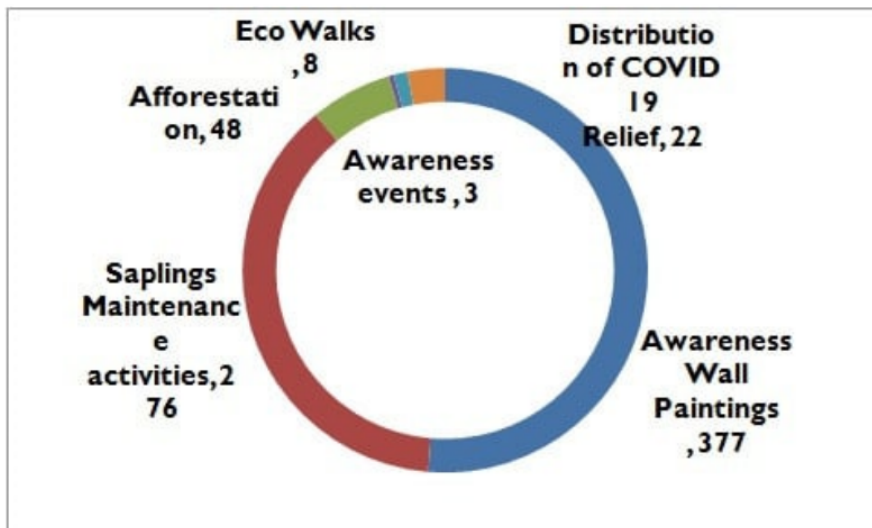


Figure 2: Number of Volunteers by events type

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

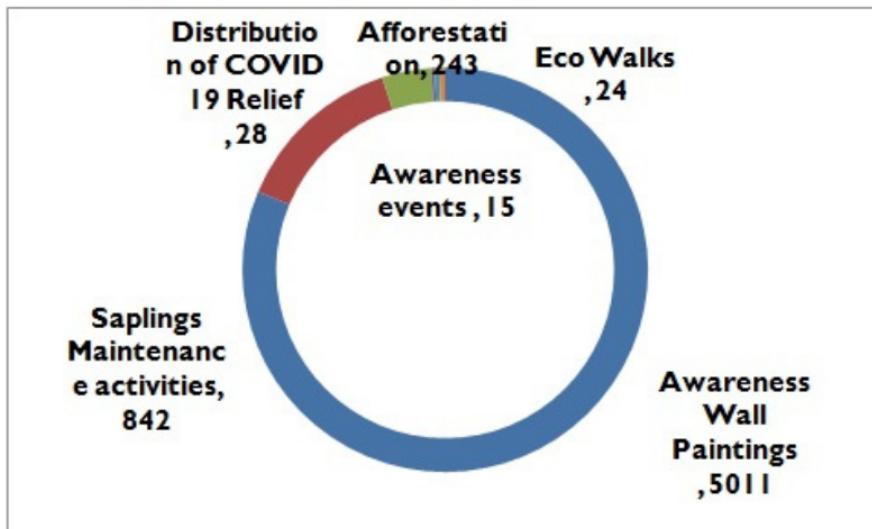


Figure 3: Number of Volunteering hours by event type

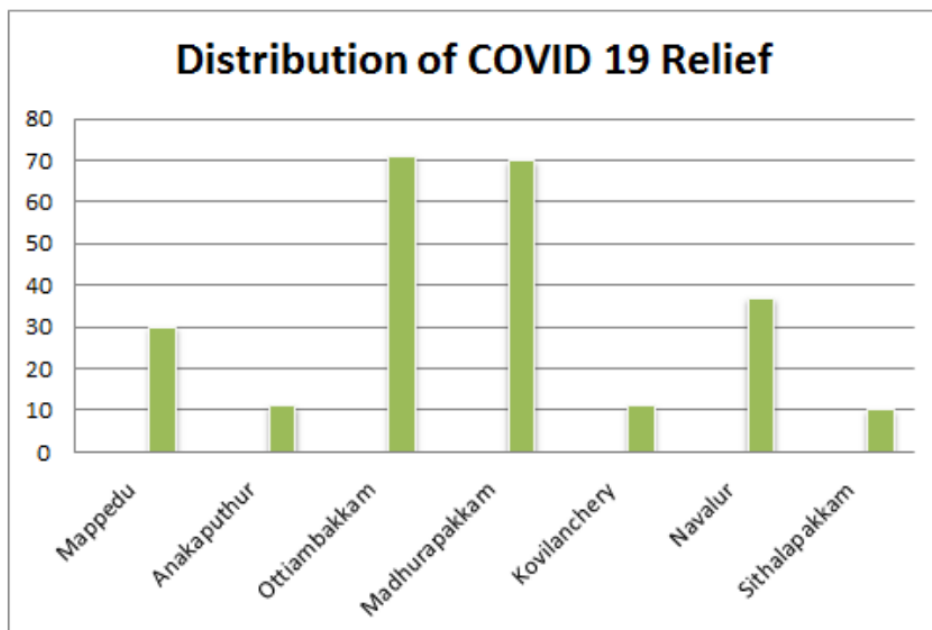


Figure 4: Number of COVID 19 Relief beneficiaries

AFFORESTATION EVENTS

During the Year 2020-2021 Eco Society India actively continued our afforestation project using landscape restoration approach in the vast barren area adjacent to Agaramthen lake area.

One mass plantation was conducted - during 15th August 2020 to commemorate our 74th Independence day. A total of 6 events was conducted to plant the saplings and 34 events was conducted to maintain it.

Eco Society India relied on core volunteers support for the plantation and maintenance activities.

Objective: The Objective of Afforestation initiative is to improve the green cover in the city, to improve the biodiversity in the region and to create awareness about the importance of protecting trees and offering a habitat for birds, insects and other living beings.

Impacts so far in afforestation events

Number of saplings planted: 311

Number of vetiver saplings: 300









APRIL 2019

ECO-RESTORATION OF DEGRADED LAND



JULY 2020

AWARENESS EVENTS

During the Year 2020-2021 Eco Society India created awareness about preventing spread of COVID 19 and offered health and sanitation tips to gypsy community at Pallavaram and tribal communities in Ottiambakkam.

Objective: To disseminate scientific knowledge to the general public, children, men, women and the elderly to bring out behavioral change to prevent spread of COVID 19 .

Impacts so far: Reached 250



COVID 19 RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

During the COVID 19 pandemic Eco Society India actively worked to support underprivileged and tribal communities who were badly affected by the lockdown.

Objective: To provide dry ration to the people who have lost their livelihood due to the lockdown.

Impacted : **240 families**





AWARENESS WALL PAINTINGS

During the Year 2020-2021 Eco Society India actively created Mural artworks on the theme - Education, Environment, Culture and Tradition on Government run Schools, educational institutions and Public buildings.

Eco society India partnered with IT companies such as Cognizant & Accenture for volunteer support. Students from Stella Maris College, Chennai and Ethiraj college, Chennai participated in the wall painting activities. Altogether we conducted **10 wall painting events** and drawn **164 images**.

Objective: To convey awareness and social messages to people of all ages. The site selected for wall painting is usually a public place where people gather in large number or places where large number of people passes through. Generally we focus on drawing awareness messages in the walls of Governments school, Colleges, and public buildings.

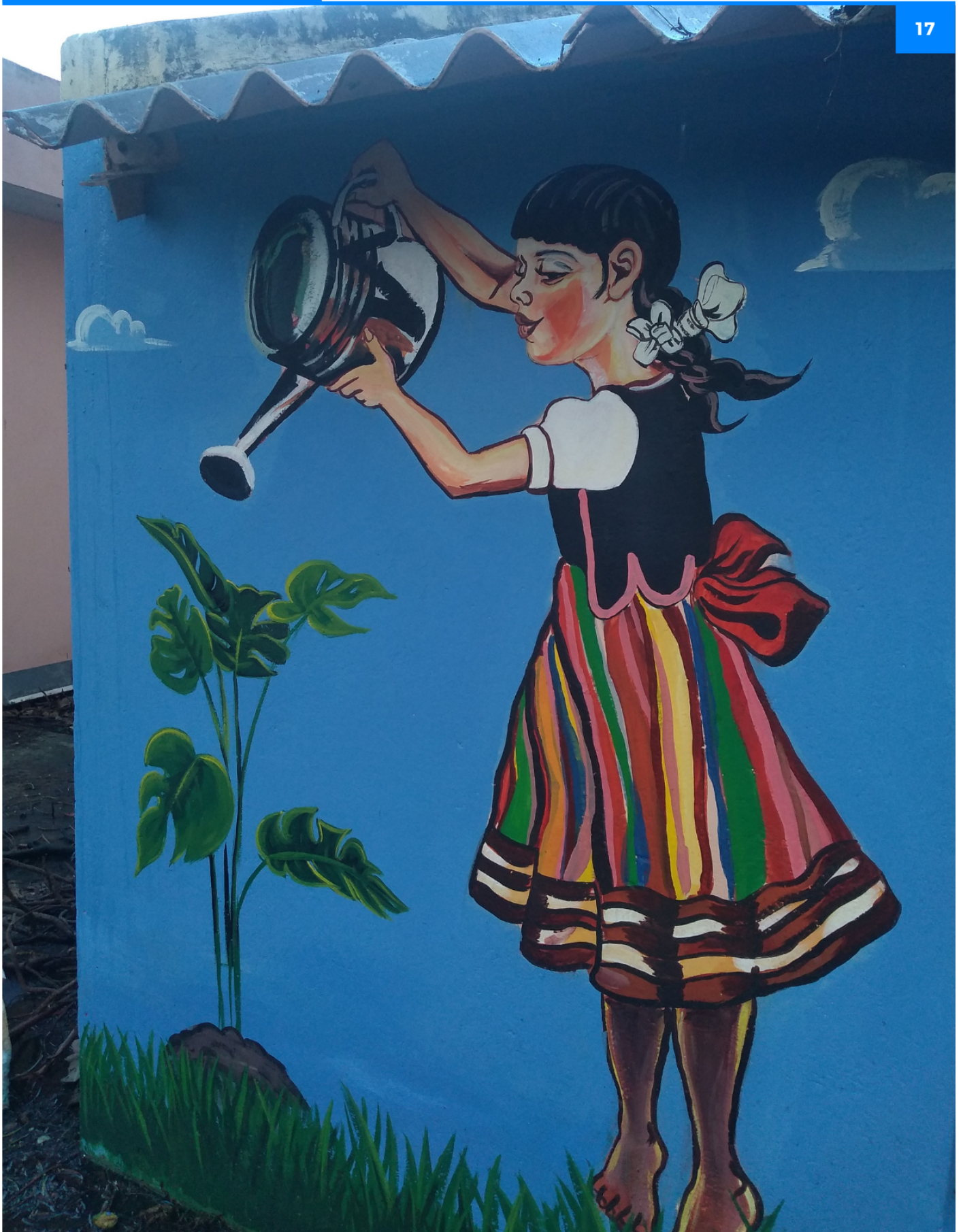


Awareness wall paintings









ECO WALKS

Objective: To disseminate information on the significance of native plants that provides habitat for various life forms and the importance of protecting it to maintain ecosystem function.

Impact: 8 wildlife photographers visited the Agaramthen lake area to take photographs of the wildlife in the Agaramthen Lake area.



Photo credits: Wineston



Photo credits: Wineston

PUBLICATIONS

4. A Note on *Pamburus Missionis* (Wight) Swingle (Rutaceae) - A Lesser

Known Evergreen Tree Species Native to Tamil Nadu

ABDUL KADER S., DARWIN A., DEVARAJAN P.T., SANTHANAPANDI P.
AND WASIM AKRAM, S. A.

Department of Plant Biology & Plant Biotechnology, Presidency College (Autonomous)
(Affiliated to University of Madras), Chennai - 5. Ecosociety of India, Tambaram.

ABSTRACT

Robert Wight in 1833 described a new species from the sandy coastal regions of South India as *Limonia missionis* Wight (Rutaceae) but this species was later transferred to the genus *Atalantia* as *Atalantia missionis* by Oliver in 1861. Again, *A. missionis* Oliv. was transferred to *Pamburus missionis* in 1916 by Walter T. Swingle but Gamble and Fischer (1921) had retained the name *A. missionis* Oliv. in their publication 'The Flora of the Presidency of Madras'. The genus *Atalantia* Correa is a wild relative of *Citrus* L. genus and hence *Atalantia* species are used as rootstocks for grafting purposes to produce commercially important Citrus fruit trees. Of the 4 *Atalantia* species reported by Gamble and Fischer (1921), *A. monophylla* (L.) DC. is a common species while *A. missionis* (Wight) Swingle is not common. It was the second author who brought the specimens of *A. missionis* Oliv. [as *A. monophylla* (L.) DC.] for identification to the first author who sees this specimen first time. While checking with *The Flora of the Presidency of Madras*, it was identified as *A. missionis* Oliv. – an uncommon species. Therefore, we were interested in studying this species in detail regarding its distribution, botanical characters etc. Intensive field studies were carried out in Kancheepuram District in Tamil Nadu, South India; specimens were collected, examined, taxonomical data recorded and herbarium prepared. Photographs were taken. Data were also gathered from the literature. *Pamburus missionis* (Wight) Swingle is distributed in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka near the Coast and in dry regions. In Tamil it is called 'Kuruntu'. The Type specimen was collected from the sandy coastal region in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. We have seen this species abundantly growing in Agaramthen sacred grove, near the Lake and Palanthandalam Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest. Among the population, two big trees with GBH 1.18 m and 7.5 height, 71.3 cm and 6 m height respectively were recorded. It is a much branched small

Plant Diversity of Agaramthen Sacred Groves

Abdul Kader S.,^{1*} Darwin A.,² Devarajan P.T.,¹ Santhanapandi P.¹
and Wasim Akram S.A.¹

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ABSTRACT

Botanical exploration were carried out in Agaramthen Sacred Groves (12.8430° N, 80.1305° E), in Kancheepuram District during 2019-2020. Photographs were taken. Only unknown, rare and uncommon species were collected for herbarium preparation. Species were identified in the field itself and unknown species were identified using regional flora. More than 100 angiospermic taxa belonging to 96 genera and 46 families were recorded. The dominant family is Fabaceae (8 species), followed by Compositae and Euphorbiaceae (each 6 species). The families such as elaborated Malvaceae, Mimosaceae and Rutaceae were represented by 5 species each; Asclepiadaceae, Labiatae, Phyllanthaceae, Moraceae, and Verbenaceae were represented by 4 species each; Apocynaceae, Caesalpiniaceae and Rubiaceae were represented by 3 species each; Acanthaceae, Amaranthaceae, Asparagaceae, Boraginaceae, Cucurbitaceae and Palmae were represented by 2 species each. The rest of the families were represented by one species each. Some of the rare and uncommon species recorded are *Crotalaria albida* Roth, *Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn., *Diospyros ferrea* (Willd.) Bakh., *Euphorbia corrigioloides* Boiss., *Indigofera aspalathoides* Vahl ex DC., *Lepisanthes tetraphylla* (Vahl) Radlk., *Memecylon edule* Roxb., *Pamburus missionis* (Wall. Ex Wight) Swingle, *Sauropus bacciformis* (L.) Airy Shaw, and *Sida schimperiana* Hochst. ex A. Rich.

Keywords: Agaramthen Sacred Groves, Kanchipuram, Fabaceae, herbarium.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On 12th March 2021, AMET University, Chennai have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eco Society India to extend mutual cooperation to further research and development, consultancy in the field of Environmental management and undertake Ecosystem Restoration initiatives in Chennai.

The MoU was signed by Dr.M.Jayaprakashvel, Registrar, AMET University and Mr.Darwin Annadurai, Founder & Managing Trustee of Eco Society India.



COVERAGE ON MEDIA

Print media

1. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/02/11005234/1214439/Selaiyur-lake-water-unfit-for-drinking-due-to-sewage-.vpf>
2. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/03/03032230/1218116/Deer-birds-find-home-in-Selaiyur-lake-after-restoration.vpf>
3. https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/04/12060610/1224663/NGO-seeks-fund-to-help-Narikuravas-in-city.vpf?fbclid=IwAR2MJ1zjDQnblfi4M04LUXCPBHNAgIftji_PZLM1NsPI13S5EhwjCbQdcE
4. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/04/10053426/1224292/Air-water-quality-get-better-as-vehicles-stay-off-.vpf>
5. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/05/20054319/1231123/Municipality-continues-to-dump-waste-near-Chitlapakkam-.vpf>
6. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/02/25044815/1216930/Coastal-cleanups-alone-not-enough-opine-experts.vpf>
7. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/covid-19-koyambedu-market-to-be-closed-on-sunday-in-view-of-nation-wide-peoples-curfew/article31116373.ece>
8. <https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2020/01/21044754/1210481/Agaramthen-lake-turns-a-garbage-dump-yard.vpf>
9. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2020/dec/01/around-the-anganwadi-in-77-hours-ngo-gives-a-vibrant-makeover-2230197.html>
10. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/water-recharging-structures-sought/article33414026.ece>
11. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/redrawing-chennais-lake-restoration-map/article29361870.ece>

Electronic Media

1. Win Tv coverage of NIRT awareness wall painting event <https://youtu.be/icqnHTDGSSs>

NGO Partners



Media Partners



Corporate Partners



BALANCE SHEET & FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2020-21

Income & Expenditure Statement 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Expenditure		Rs	Income		Rs
To	Afforestation	38019	By	Donations	263952
"	Awareness wall paintings	10196	"	Grants	185000
"	Audit Fees	10000	"	Bank Interest	1199
"	Accounting Charges	7500			
"	Bank Charges	18			
"	Covid 19 Relief Materials	143555			
"	Labour Charges	44150			
"	Office Expenses	12641			
"	Petrol Expenses	12829			
"	Postal & Courier charges	319			
"	Printing and & Stationery	8298			
"	Roof Gardening	8084			
"	Salaries	41000			
"	Tools	29650			
"	Travelling Expenses	11878			
"	Vetiver plants	11900			
"	Village Map	400			
"	Excess of Income over	59714			
		450151			450151

Balance Sheet 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021

Liabilities	Amount	Assets	Amount
Rs	Rs		Rs
Capital account			
Capital Fund	6957		
Add. Excess of Income			
Over Expenditure	59714	Current Assets	
Current Liabilities	66671	Cash-in-hand	1021
Sundry Creditors	8300	Bank Accounts	122032
Audit Fees Payable	10000		
Labour Charges	34800		
Printing Charges payable	1550		
Website and Renewal	1732		
	123053		123053

BOARD MEMBERS

<u>S.No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Year of joining</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1.	Mr. Darwin <u>Annadurai</u>	Founder & Managing Trustee	2018	Director, Eco Society India
2.	Ms. Cynthia Stephen	Member	2018	Founder, President at TEDS Trust
3.	Mr. <u>Rajendran Prabhakar</u>	Member	2018	Founder, at <u>Maarga Society</u>
4.	<u>Arivazhagan Rayan</u>	Member	2018	Founder, Roots Trust
5.	Ms. <u>Sangeetha Kathan</u>	Treasurer	2018	--

- None of the Board Members have any blood relations with any other Board Member.
- None of the Board Members made any International travel trips funded by Eco Society India during this period.
- None of the Board Members receive any remuneration from Eco Society India.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Founder and Managing Trustee,
Eco Society India.
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Email: ecosociety.alliance@gmail.com**

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