

# Global Buzz

APRIL 2022



# WORLD EARTH DAY

22 APRIL

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INTERNATIONAL



## Water for Rivers | the Global Crisis

**The issue of water and that of rivers is a global one, that affects each and every person!**

Most countries are doing what they can to reverse and rectify the crisis we have in rivers, usually with huge obstacles!

One such main river in crisis, in Australia is the Murray-Darling Baaka River – Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia. Three ICA friends are joining the Baaka Water for Rivers Convoy this month – a small group of concerned and committed folk, with their home made boats! There will be a report, photos and poetry at the end of the trip in early May.

You can read about the crisis for one river, and join the global movement, "saving our rivers".

The movie - doco "River" beautifully, powerfully, tragically, depicts this global crisis unfolding over just hundreds of years. It highlights the essential role First Nations peoples have played in trying to protect the sacredness of rivers, up to the present day crisis. Its opening line: "1000's have lived without love, no-one has lived without water". This movie is in cinemas in Australia now, and maybe on Netflix later.

**Robyn Hutchinson, Deborah Ruiz Wall, Rosemary Wright**



## Activity Report

### **ICAs Bangladesh, India and Nepal proposing a shared project.**

On 14 March, representatives of subcontinental ICAs - ICA Nepal, ICA India and ICA Bangladesh met online to discuss a proposal for a shared project. They discussed ICAI Global Fundraising Task Force's proposed fundraising project to build a team of committed fundraisers and trainers. The three ICAs decided to collaborate. ICA Nepal and ICA Bangladesh are scheduled to do a training program on Leadership Development and fundraising for ICA Bangladesh's members in May. ICA Nepal trainers will visit ICA Bangladesh the last week of May

### **Partnership Meetings with BARD and AIRD**

On 19 March, an in-person meeting was held between ICAB and BARD (Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development) for potential training facilities and partnership opportunities. On 30 March, an online meeting between AIRD (Associates for Innovative Research and Development Ltd) and ICAB was held for conducting collaborative initiatives for projects. The authorities of these two organizations plan to sign an MOI for collaboration and partnerships.



## General Meeting of ICA Bangladesh

A general meeting was held at the AIRD office on 1 April 2022 where the members attended both virtually and in person. The members conducted a Participatory Vision Exercise: five years plan and did a focused conversation on priorities and action plan. The members also decided about the next board of directors and updating legal documents and submissions. There was also conversation about following-up on the restorative justice seminar held back 22 November 2021. The ICAB has a visionary plan to promote restorative justice and ensure victims' rights as human rights.

## Team Building Meetings

In March several team building in-person meetings were held in Dhaka, Chandpur, Comilla and Tangail with ICA colleagues upon the return of the founder of ICA Bangladesh - Aziz Rahman. Based on these conversations, an in-house team building and planning meeting was held virtually on March 25th.

## Mahmuda Akter, ICA Bangladesh





## World Water Day

Every year, ICA Benin organizes events to celebrate **World Water Day**.

For 2022 it was organized in the municipality of Ouaké in Donga region.

Participants were the Safe Water Consumers' Association's board members and ICA Benin's staff members.



Field visit of Sèmèrè village.

**Two main activities have been organized for that:**

- 1-** A conference organized on 22 March 2022 to discuss the international theme of this year: "**The Underground Water, Make the Invisible Visible**". The speakers were Mr. Kassimou Issotina, executive director of ICA Benin and Mr. Tchan Habiou officer in charge of water and sanitation issues of Ouaké.
- 2-** The second activity was fields visits of water boreholes of Sèmèrè and Komdè.

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## Activity Report

As part of contributing to the economic recovery of the populations of the Agneby-Tiassa region and also in its participation in the fight against climate change, ICA-CI was able to carry out some activities this month.

In addition to the continuity of classes at the Sainte Sato Preschool Center, which is in its second year, this year we have undertaken an experimental project for the cultivation of plantain and desert bananas with organic fertilizers from Italy as fertilizer.

The result of this experiment in the use of organic fertilizers will allow us to set up a framework for collaboration and exchange of experience by also receiving agricultural students from this country.

To better capitalize on the results, we undertook this experiment for this first phase with the ICA-CI office, since we have a space bordered by water. This stream also allows us to test the cultivation of peppers and eggplant.

In the diversification of its activities we also started the breeding of snails which is easy and very inexpensive. These snails were collected on the plot that we currently use for planting banana trees.

For economic recovery, since February we have started a support program for 30 women from the Mericas district of Agboville, in the AVEC to allow them to practice savings and also to give themselves loans to raise their Commercial activities.

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## Rapport D'Activité

Dans le cadre de contribuer au relèvement économique des populations de la région de l'Agneby-Tiassa et aussi dans sa participation à la lutte contre le changement climatique, ICA-CI à dans ce mois pu effectuer quelques activités.

En plus de la continuité des cours au Centre Préscolaire Sainte Sato qui est dans sa deuxième année nous avons entrepris cette année un projet d'expérimentation de culture de banane plantain et de désert avec pour fertilisant des engrais bio venus de l'Italie. Le résultat de cette expérience d'utilisation d'engrais biologiques va nous permettre de mettre en place un cadre de collaboration et d'échange d'expérience en recevant aussi des étudiants agricoles venant de ce pays.

Pour mieux capitaliser les résultats nous avons entrepris pour cette première phase cette expérimentation auprès du bureau de ICA-CI vu que nous disposons d'un espace bordé d'eau. Ce cours d'eau nous permet aussi de tester la culture de piment et d'aubergine.

Dans la diversification de ses activités nous avons aussi entamé l'élevage d'escargot qui est un élevage facile et très peu couteux. Ces escargots ont été ramassés sur la parcelle que nous utilisons actuellement pour le planting des bananiers.

Pour le relèvement économique, nous avons depuis le mois de février entamé un programme d'accompagnement de 30 femmes du quartier Mericas d'Agboville, en l'AVEC pour leurs permettre de pratiquer une épargne et aussi de se donner des crédits pour relèvement de leurs activités commerciales.

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Courtesy call to the Chief of Imaroro Location. From left is the Chief, in the middle is two ICA staff and on the right is the two leaders from Ebenezer self-help group.

## Launching Climate Change Activities

The Institute of Cultural Affairs in Kenya has selected Makueni and Kajiado Counties for climate change pilot projects targeted for re-entry development activities. Initial activities have already been undertaken as a result. This report explains the details of what was done.

### Courtesy Call

An ICAK three-person team went to East Kajiado Sub-County and met with the Ward Administrator, Sub-county Environment Officer, and Imaroro Location Chief. The second team went to Makueni County and met with the Village Administrator, Environmental Officer, Ward Development Officer and Water/Agriculture Officer. The purpose of the visits was to introduce ICA Kenya, to ascertain what has been so far done in climate change, and to seek partnership and authorization to operate in the two counties.

A partnership between ICAK and the County government is possible. Possible areas were defined, including sharing a recent video of local initiatives in the county, and the PVCA assisting in our development of the climate change training manual. A potential collaboration could be doing a strategic planning for a committee and training in Group Facilitation Methods for the officers.

## Community Expectations

As the teams got to the community the participants in Kajiado County expressed their expectations. They wish to be trained about how to care for trees and protect the environment. They want to learn more about agriculture and how to deal with visitors. The participants in Makueni County expect to create employment opportunities for youth and do economic empowerment, and build strong membership relationships and bonds. More training for guaranteed livelihoods may include food security measures; diversification of farming methods; fencing of dams to prevent vandalism and contamination of water; and raised water table due to number of dams conserved.

## ICA Kenya Climate Change Visits

The ICAK explains "What is climate change" referring to longterm shifts in temperature and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.

Examples of what causes Climate Change include: greenhouses gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane; petrol for running cars; clearing land and forests releasing carbon dioxide; and Industries, transport, buildings, agriculture, and other land use methods are among the main emitters.

Emissions that cause Climate Change come from all over the world and affect everyone. But some countries produce much more emissions than others. A 100 least-emitting countries generate 3% of the total emissions. The ten countries with the largest emissions contribute 68% per cent. Everyone must take action on climate change, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first.

Some of the consequences of Climate Change include: intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea/lake levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic loss of biodiversity and disconnected ecosystems.

## Ebenezer Self Help Group

The Ebenezer Self Help Group operates in four villages: Nkatu A, Nkatu B, Isilale and Eiti villages in Kiloh Sub-location, Imaroro Location, Imaroro Ward, Mashuru Sub-County in Kajiado County. The group was initiated in June 2017 with 33 members, and legally registered in 2019. Currently, 30 active members include eight men and 25 women and among them there are four adult men, four men youth, nine adult women, and 16 women youth. The group now has a constitution and by-laws.

### Tree and grass planting

The group has one-acre land where they have planted fruits trees and five other varieties of trees which are still in the nursery. Some of the members have planted trees in their land and not at their home because of livestock. This project was started in February 2021. The group has planted one acre of grass for fodder and they intend to plant 59 acres more. The current challenge is where to get enough grass seeds. The group has fenced the land using their contribution from their account.





### **Poultry farming**

The group is building a poultry house funded by FAO who deposited Ksh. 175,000 for grading chicken food to the Ebenezer group account. FAO has also promised to buy 1,000 chicks at ksh. 300 each totaling ksh. 300,000. FAO will work with the group for six months.

### **Solar Energy**

Half of the group members are using Mkopa solar energy for lighting, charging phones, watching and listening to news.

### **Kitandi Fruit Value Chain Self-Help Group**

The group in Kee Ward, Makueni County has 26 active members (15 men and 11 women; no youth). The majority of members are largely from two villages – Watema and Kitandi. The group's main focus is fruit tree planting of mango and avocado seedlings as well as other tree for cover. Each member was supplied with 50 fruit tree seedlings initially to plant on their farms. Members estimate that on average 30 of those trees are in fruition and a number have cooperative shares where they sale their fruits.

The group's main challenge is marketing their produce. Buyers pay little knowing sensitivity of the fruits; if they don't buy the fruit, it rots on the farms. The group members have low income, need training and the majority are aged with no money to pay for labour, e.g. digging holes. Inputs are too expensive in relation to return on sales. Inputs include fertilisers, chemicals and tools; rent of the leased land of the nursery; purchasing water for seedlings.

Proposals to address these challenges include: organizing group workdays to assist elderly members; merry-go-round, table banking and monthly contributions to boost group accounts; seek market linkages, e.g. the cooperative bank who can market their produce; encourage buyers to negotiate prices at individual level; keep proper chemical application records to enable better buying prices; marketing to overseas markets; and certification of nursery.

### **Natulenge Juu Self-Help Group**

This group was formed and registered in October 2016, with presently 35 active members.

They partnered with Africa Sand Dam Foundation (ASDF) in 2019 and have completed building three dams with a fourth one in process of construction. Members are volunteers and are responsible for labour to construct the dams made of stones and sand. This they see as critical for ownership and sustainability after the donor goes. The main purpose and aim of the group is to conserve water and the environment during the dry seasons. ASDF has provided training in conservation of the environment - tree planting, trenches and the protection of nature e.g. impacts of tree cutting for charcoal burning. To date, over 1,500 trees have been planted by group members in their own homes, and all have dug trenches for soil erosion protection. The county government graded the road to the dam site to enable materials to reach the area. Members have clean water as wells are constructed on the dam site.

They collaborate closely with the political government – MCA, Ward administrator and the Ward chair of the Climate Change Committee. Other stakeholders are sons and daughters in towns and cities who contribute for their workday lunches. The Africa Sand Dam Foundation, through the ArchNova, Germany has sponsored over six dams in the ward.

The group challenges include: inadequate food supply for group members; arduous labour of extracting the stones and carrying sand for construction; mobilization of members to participate in construction of dams; family demands are high (people volunteer for two full days a week); not able to distribute water to members due to limited resources (e.g. no water pump to get water from dam to a high ground to distribute); certification needed for standard of nursery to be able to market seedlings; not all members have acquired the necessary training; lack of exposure to learn from other communities who have dams constructed; poor market links for produce; not utilizing the water; those not participating in the construction of dams are benefitting from the sweat of members i.e. drawing water for sale; and attitudes and myths that are hard to change especially what people plant or not plant.

The group proposes: to find ways to distribute water to members using gravity tanks; obtain more partners like ASDF who commit for five years; ensure continuous capacity building of members; add farm inputs and equipment to assist members; and exchange visits to learn from other groups.

## Empowerment Workshop

Three ICA Kenya staff participated in the New World Experience organized and sponsored by Relief Foundation Kenya. The workshop concentrated on looking at traits in human beings and being able to start seeing their individual potential. The discussions focused on looking at how those traits benefit you and others and how they cause pain to you as well. Once you understand your traits this helps you to develop new ways of thinking and can be useful at your workplace or communities at large. At the end of the workshop, participants were able to see the essence of their traits, goodness, usefulness and therefore being able to live their life to the fullest.

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## Activity Report

### Annual Plan Meeting, 2022

ICA Nepal has been conducting a series of Planning and Implementation meetings for the sustainability of the organization aiming at holistic development. The Planning Team meets regularly to discuss, reflect, and review the activities. As a part of these initiatives, ICA Nepal held a meeting on their 2022 Annual Plan in early March at the Ananda Bhumi Events and Boutique Cafe, New Baneshwor. The Founding Chairperson of ICA Nepal, Prof. Dr. Tatwa P. Timsina, facilitated the learning session, which was attended by the core planning members of the ICA Nepal team.

The main objective of the meeting was depth and comprehensive information on the activities carried out by the organization during the previous year, and plans for the coming year. The main theme of the session was "Sharpening the Saw" which means preserving and enhancing the greatest asset you have. A brief reflection meeting on the work of ICA Nepal, along with its associated initiatives such as Fundraising for NGOs, Institute of Innovation and Quality Assurance, Development Media Group, and Triple-I was included during the session. The methodologies used in the sessions included The Workshop Method, SWOT Analysis, and Mind-Mapping.

The Annual Planning Meeting has been a crucial component in ensuring the smooth and effective operation of the organization, including group discussion and outcome, and adherence to the plans. During the meeting, we went through a detailed discussion where we got to know things from other team members' perspectives and reached a conclusion. Further after the meeting, we compiled the new working and meeting schedule for each core team divided into three parts as Training and Facilitation, Community Development Project and Fundraising for NGOs in Nepal.



## Promotion of Innovation and STEM Education in Schools

ICA Nepal conducted the program on Promotion of Innovation and STEM Education at a school in Parbat. The program was first requested and locally supported by the Moti Library team and developed by the team of ICA Nepal. The overall objective was to orient school teachers and students on innovation through Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) approach in teaching and learning. The school was extremely appreciative of all of the assistance and requested further sessions on the subject matter.

## Social Artistry

In memory of Richard Sims, ICA Nepal launched a Certificate Course on Social Artistry in August 2021. The sessions for the second batch were held in early October, followed by the third session in March 2022 in collaboration with Kalpa Academy. It is designed as a five-day session. For the first three days, participants work together to understand the tools and methods of Social Artistry and develop Spark Projects. They have 15 days to implement their Spark Project with the help of their mentor. On days IV and V, participants share their learning and achievement.

ICA Nepal with the support of PEOPLEnergy, Social Artistry in Taiwan has collaborated to develop social leaders, and artists and develop an artistic approach to the social behavior of people. The work of Social Artistry strives to provide a dynamic balance between inner understanding and outward expression to enable the same focus, perspective, skill training, tireless dedication and fresh vision of the artist to the social arena.

Thirty-five youth participated in the training from diverse geographies and backgrounds. The youth have developed their Spark Project action plans and are currently implementing the projects. The participants are divided into four teams with each team assigned a mentor. Participants are provided with Rs. 5000 each as a grant. The sessions are facilitated by Janet Sanders, Evelyn Philbrook, Tatwa P. Timsina, Amba Datta Bhatta, Ishu Subba, Pramila KC, and Er. Ravi Khanal.





## Every Friday Learning Friday

ICA Nepal has been organizing different Classified Talk shows from experts on Fundraising and Development-related topics. As mentioned in the earlier reports, we have been conducting Every Friday, Learning Friday program sessions by experts in a particular field. Topics for this February were:

- Webinar on Fundraising- Ms. Enusha Khadka
- Talk on Creating Friendly Learning Space: Improving Access to Education- Ms. Vedika Murarka
- Talk on Understanding Autism & Challenges in Fundraising- Ms. Sabita Upreti
- Talk on Fundraising- Ms. Purnima Subba

Attendees have warmly appreciated the learning program and the number of participants is growing each week to attend the free webinar and improve their fundraising skills. The experts and facilitators provide excellent insights to the participants. Additionally, we also express our gratitude to the experts through our Certificate of Appreciation.

ICA Nepal signed an agreement for the school construction project in the Sankhuwasabha district as a part of the Fundraising for NGOs in Nepal initiative.

ICA Nepal assisted the Rotary Club of Rudramati to conduct the 3-day intensive Sewing and Cutting Training at Parbat. ICA Nepal previously facilitated obtaining the required raw materials such as clothes and machinery.

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## Activity Report

We are living in a world where environmental issues are at the centre of discussions, congresses and conferences all over the world. Governments, NGOs and the private sector focus their effort on climate change issues such as drought, flood, deforestation, global warming.

As far as ICA Togo is concerned, through the support of ICA USA, we are working with small farmers who want to increase their harvest. Knowing that they are cultivating on degraded lands, farmers decide to generate the fertility of these lands. In the framework of this project, ICA Togo has built the capacity of 34 farmers on climate change and adaptation methods. Right now, we are going through the dry season that has slowed down our activity. As soon as the rains start, we will continue with the project.

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## Global Schedule of Events

To see four types of events: studies, significant conversations, training and impactful global events visit the Global Schedule at:

<https://icaglobalarchives.org/social-research-center-events/>

**Remember, YOU are invited to:**

- 1- Offer a presentation you are interested in giving;
- 2- Recommend other people to present;
- 3- Participate in any of the events and encourage your friends to attend; and
- 4- Give feedback by emailing: [icaglobalschedule@gmail.com](mailto:icaglobalschedule@gmail.com)

The vision for the Global Schedule of Events is to make this easily accessible and globally friendly to all no matter where and what!

**Alan, Karen, Robyn, Sunny, and Virginia**

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