ONE TREE

S H E L T E R
S   **U**   **R**
F   **P R I V A C Y**   **N**
P F   **F R U I T**   **S E**
S   **H A D E**   **N**
O   **O X Y G E**   **E N**
R   **R E S P I T E**   **E**
F L O W E R S

TREE REVIVAL CAMPAIGN
M U M B A I

Green Line

ekonnect
knowledge foundation
A **PRASAD** MODAK **INITIATIVE**

Wadala Edition,
Mumbai
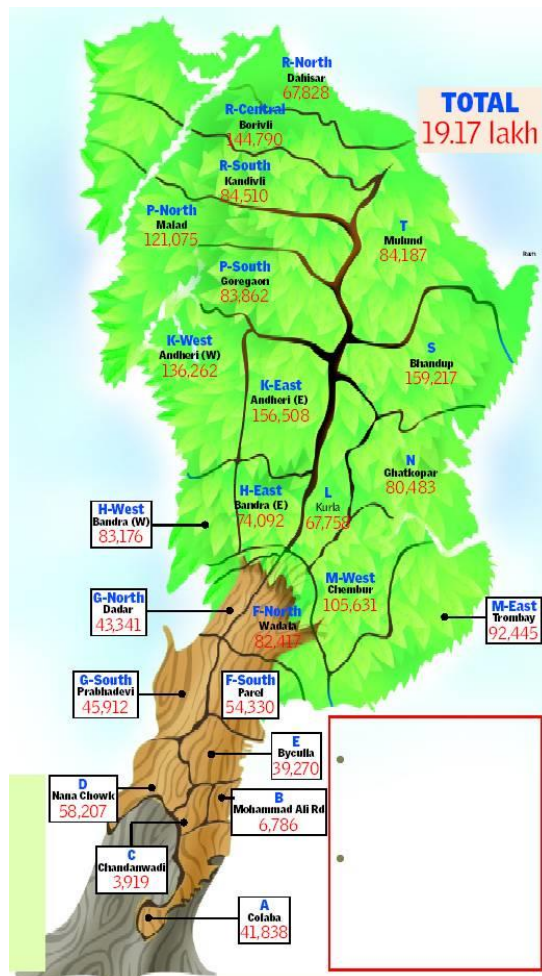Friday 27th September 2013

Content

Background

Current Scenario:

"The BMC's tree census booklet is out and it says Mumbai has more than 19.17 lakh trees; but the figure includes 33,202 dead trees and 1.59 lakh subabhul trees, a foreign species known to be weeds and invaders.

If the health of a city can be measured by comparing its tree cover with its population then Mumbai needs an urgent green transplant. The city's 1.3 crore inhabitants have a green cover of just 19.12 lakh trees. In effect, there is just one tree breathing out oxygen for every six persons.

A city like New York, which is often likened to Mumbai for its similar heterogeneous characteristics, has an average of five trees per person and has managed to maintain its green lungs in spite of the fact that it has far more high rises than Mumbai.

Study after study has shown that Mumbai's air has a high content of greenhouse gases compared to other cities. The health of the average Mumbaikar has gone from bad to worse. Incidents of heart ailments and respiratory tract illnesses are on the rise,'' said Dr Nilesh Baxi, a former member of the Tree Authority. He said the civic administration does not have a far-sighted policy for afforestation, planting trees and making up for the denuded green cover. "They do not keep a record of the state of trees that have been implanted and uprooted for developmental work. The result is our highways and roads look barren and a majority of the trees that have been planted here have died,'' he said. Source: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-05-31/mumbai/29603775_1_tree-authority-lakh-trees-dadar

Inspiration from:

Ekonnect initiative of Not Just Walk in the Park: A walk with fun and educational that involved children and adults identifying trees, birds and butterflies in a park. The walk ended with waste segregation and composting activity and eco-mapping of the park neighborhood. To learn more, visit Not Just Walk in the Park under Ekohub on www.ekonnect.net or click here.
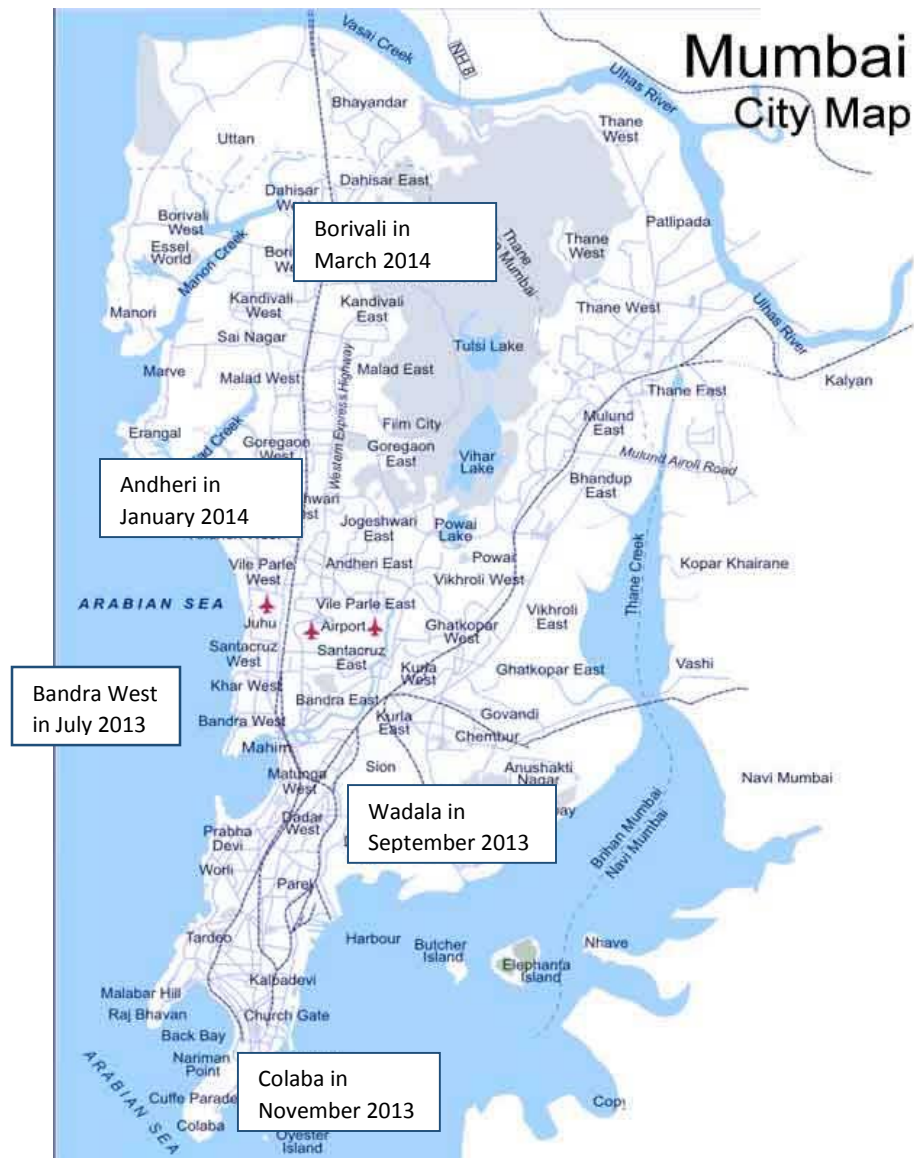
Need:

Decreasing green cover in Mumbai city has led to negative impacts. These include heat island effect as evidenced through increasingly hotter summers, loss of rain water through run-off, decreasing ground water levels. Besides, there is also a loss of carbon sequestration potential, less trees leads to reduced

biodiversity, loss of derived sense of comfort and pleasure from green areas and related loss of community areas for recreation.

Idea:

We want to address this issue through a participatory approach focusing on students from schools. Idea is to emphasize the importance of trees, encourage citizen ownership and take action as protectors of their own natural environment. Indeed, there is an urgent need to protect and have more trees in an urban setting like Mumbai that has a depleting green cover.

Proposed and completed editions of the Campaign:

Objectives:

- Increase in awareness on the importance of trees and urban ecosystems where trees have been removed to make way for infrastructure

- Encourage community conscience on a collective and participatory basis
- for the purpose of mapping
- Bring together different organisations, including NGOs, municipal representatives, children, citizens, corporates, ALMs and corporate houses on a common cause with a shared goal
- Develop a tree census of the trees in a web based format with identification also of potential areas for planting trees that is accessible to the public, planning agencies, development agencies and others as a resource for further action. Provide a free tool (web based application)

Partner:
Ekonnect has tied up with GreenLine as partner for the Tree Revival Campaign.

The GreenLine project is an initiative of Don Bosco Development Society Mumbai, and was started in October 2010. The aim of GreenLine is to enable people in the city of Mumbai to adopt more environment-friendly lifestyles and to make 'green' choices.

To learn more about GreenLine please visit http://greenline.org.in/

Vision:
Ekonnect has a vision for a green, clean and beautiful Mumbai. Although clichéd and seemingly impossible such a vision provides a driving force to the initiative and pushes forward efforts with a determined and single minded focus.

Achievement and Actions:
There is a lot of work to be still done and this campaign is just the beginning. The purpose of the campaign is to bring together people from all spheres of society who would be interested in contributing and supporting the cause in any way they can. Ultimately the goal is to transfer responsibility of ensuring a greener surroundings over to the community. With a growing interest hopefully an increasing network of people and connections will take the campaign on towards a larger goal. As such the objectives and activities are not limited however they remain intentionally flexible so that different groups of people are able to add to and modify the campaign so as to achieve more practical and immediate results.

About the Bandra Edition

The first event of the Tree Revival Campaign or the 'pilot' kicked off on **Friday 12th July** in Bandra West, Mumbai. Invitees to the event along with children from six schools gathered in St. Stanislaus ground floor room to learn about the campaign. XXX children participated. Introduction the campaign was followed by the importance of trees and the role of ALMs in the campaign. Groups were then sent off outside the premises to map the selected roads. Each group had a tree expert, volunteer and teacher accompanying the children. After the mapping they gathered at the same premises and presented their findings to the audience. ALM representatives were invited to walk with the groups. Visit XXXX to download the proceedings
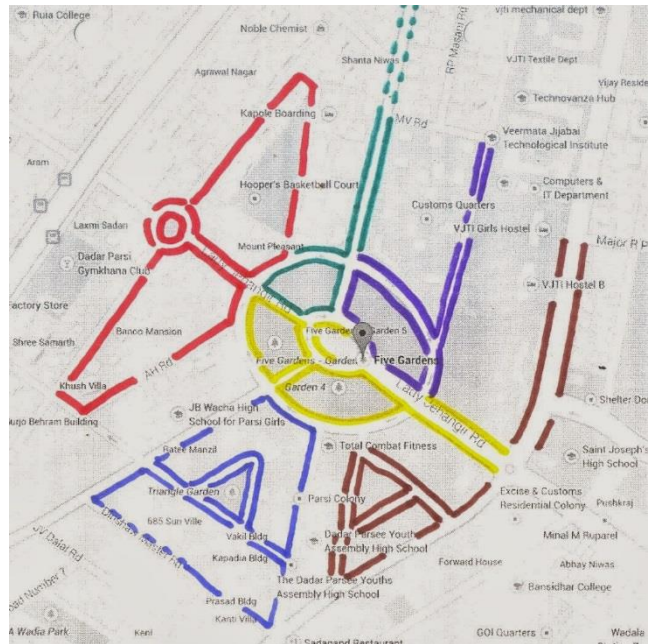
Proceedings: Wadala Edition

The second event of the Tree Revival Campaign took place on **Friday 27th September** in Wadala, Mumbai around the famous Five Gardens.

Fr.S. Silveira, Director of GreenLine welcomed the participants and introduced the Tree Revival Campaign and the program for the Wadala edition.

Groups of 10-15 students from six schools in the vicinity of the Five Gardens at Wadala gathered at St. Joseph's High School at 9:00am on the scheduled day.

Willing, enthusiastic and helpful college students in a group of 12 representing the Rotaract Club of Ramnarain Ruia College joined the campaign as volunteers. A number of well-known tree experts also joined the event: Katie Bagli, Hutokshi Rustomfram, Anil Rajbhar, Nita

Routes mapped out using colour codes

Shashidharan and Devyani Singh along with Julius Rego with his team from Green Souls. Green Souls is a group promoting and practicing organic farming in Mumbai.

Introduction: Fr. Savio spoke about the importance of trees and how often we take them for granted. Fr. Bernard, principal of St. Joseph's High School Wadala addressed the participants calling them "torchbearers of change".

Presentation on Rare Trees in the Area: Resident tree expert Katie Bagli then shared an amazing presentation on the lesser known and rare trees found in Five Gardens as well as some lesser known facts about them. Katie spoke about the jewel box pods of the Guest Tree, whose seeds look strangely like pearls! And the African native Sausage tree which is called so because of its sausage-shaped fruits.

Katie Bagli talking about the trees found (sometimes exclusively!) in Five Gardens

Katie also shared an interesting historical account of the Five Gardens from its inception by the founder Mancherji Joshi.

Mapping: Aristo from the GreenLine team then gave everyone instructions on how to go about mapping the trees. He divided the schools into teams, comprising students, a tree expert and two volunteers. Every team was given colour coded routes to follow.

In addition a game was planned where each team was named after a rare tree found in Five Gardens. The team was tasked to find that particular tree on the route they were assigned. So for instance, the Amulakh school team was called Albizzia richardiana and they had to find their tree namesake (which was on the Red route) and click a group photo with it!

The Tree Experts spoke about not only the trees but also the biodiversity they supported teaching the group the importance of trees in setting up and supporting an entire ecosystem of their own.

After an hour all the teams returned to the venue for some well-earned refreshments. Then each team was invited to present their findings to the entire audience. Almost all the team learned about all the trees on their route as well as their special features and some even brought back specimens in the form of leaves, fruits, bark etc. to show the audience.

Fr. S.Silveira flagging off the Tree Revival Campaign with Katie Bagli, Fr. Bernard of St. Joseph's High School and Sonal Alvares from Ekonnect

Presentation on Planting: Julius Rego from Green Souls team presented to the audience on the why learning about trees is a means to an end. He urged all present to start growing whatever they could in whatever space was available emphasizing that it was important to grow plants in a city like Mumbai where there is a severe space crunch. He brought along with him some samples of potted plants such as 'kaddi patta' and 'Jamaican Blue Spike' plants that he grew in plastic jars. He mentioned that such plants also attracted butterflies and such other insects which are needed to build a self-sufficient eco system.

The program concluded with Fr. S.Silveira giving the vote of thanks to all present as well as the school principal and reminded all present to keep up the interest in Trees.

Tree Experts and Ruia College Rotaract Club Volunteers

The teams at work with Nita Shashidaran

Measuring the girth with Vishal Rasal

Auxilium students with tree expert Katie Bagli near rare trees outside the Agiary near Five Gardens

Team Albizzia richardiana: as Hutokshi Rustomfram shows them around

Spotting the Common Emigrant laying eggs with Julius Rego & Sabita Rajendran

St. Joseph's High School under their tree found in the middle of Garden Number 3!

Julius Rego speaking about greening every space you can find, showing his saplings in plastic containers

Don Bosco students with tree expert Anil Rajbhar find their tree

Students from DPYA with their tree experts Nita Shashidharan and Devyani Singh

Students interacting with teams presenting their findings

Groups of students came up to present their findings and samples to the audience

Mapping: potential for trees to be planted

Along with learning about trees on the roads/routes that were taken by the groups, each was also advised to look out for potential spaces where a tree could be planted.
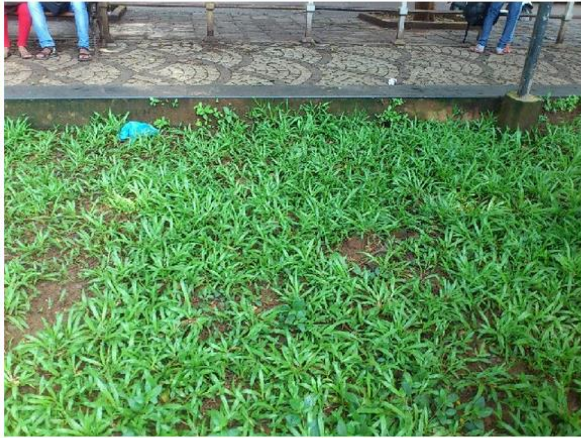
Volunteers were shown how to download an application for suggest a tree spot using the web based application of the same name.

Ekonnect has tied up with the developers of suggestatreespot.com Mr.Jaskirat Singh and his team at Webrosoft Solutions is based in Ludhiana, India. Visit http://www.suggestatreespot.com/

As per the findings of most of the groups that returned from the mapping, the area of five gardens seemed sufficiently covered with trees leaving barely any room for more. **However one group was able to spot and suggest, using the application, eight potential spots for trees to be planted.**

Potential spot for a tree as posted by the Volunteers during the mapping. Shows image, description, date and coordinates as well as marks the 'green arrow' on the map

Next steps and vote of thanks

After the presentation by the groups, Fr.Savio Silveira gave the vote of thanks thanking all those present for making the second edition of the Tree Revival Campaign an educating, informative and interesting event. He hoped that all present would carry back what was learnt and become active member of saving trees and our environment.

The next edition scheduled in the Tree Revival Campaign is being planned for the months of November/December 2013 for the next event and January or February and March of 2014. The areas that are selected for these upcoming events are Colaba, Andheri and Borivali.

We expect to complete the campaign and all five events before the start of the monsoons next year before June 2014.

The plan is then to take all the information for where trees may be planted as per recorded on the map through suggestatreespot and to share this information with the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). We will then solicit their support in sharing this information in the public domain so that trees may then be planted as per their permission or approval for each of the locations.

Call for Partners & Sponsors

Looking for Partners and Sponsors:

Show your support; join the TRC as a *partner* to the campaign.

We promote all our partners in all marketing collateral print and digital.

Sponsor a part of the campaign, become a *principal* or *supporting sponsor*. Get branding for your company.

Every edition incurs a minimum cost that is spent on basics like logistics. Contribute to share the cost and garner goodwill among the community.

Email to learn more sonal.alvares@ekonnect.net

Annexure 1

List of Participants

6 schools of 10-15 students each accompanied by one teacher: from **St. Joseph's, Shishuvan, DPYA, Don Bosco, Auxilium and Amulakh School**

Chief Guest: Fr.Bernhard, Principal, St.Joseph's School, Wadala

As Experts:
Katie Bagli and Hutokshi Rustomfram, Tree experts, Save Rani Baugh
Anil Rajbhar and Vishal Rasal, Tree experts
Nita Shashidharan and Devyani Singh, Tree experts
Julius Rego with his team at Green Souls: Sabita Rajendran and Sky Williams
Nikhil Desai, Civic & ALM Activist

As Volunteers: Ruia College Rotaract Club
Roshni Singh & Abhishek Shah with their team of ten members

From Partner: GreenLine
Fr.Savio Silveira, Director
Aristo Mendis, Program Officer
Jessica Luis, Program Officer

From Ekonnect:
Sonal Alvares, Campaign Coordinator
Rhea Cordeiro, Environmental Specialist, EMC
Vishwa Trivedi, Environmental Planner, EMC

Visual Capture
Photographs: Jessica Luis, GreenLine