

31 Dec 2024

Project Updates

Sharing updates of the progress of work for the present phase of the project

Hydrology and Groundwater Study - Hydrology study will capture the impact rainwater runoff had on the catchment prior to the Purniah Nala (largely a grassland with some lakes then). It will also capture the/ impact of the Purniah Nala on the rainwater runoff and its recharge presently. Field visits and studies and calculations to understand hydrology are on.

Since this is an elevated area, the availability of Groundwater is variable. Present developmental activities are putting more stress on the groundwater resources. Data is being collected on aquifers from the past and how these can be augmented by repurposing the canal.

Urbanisation Study - The land around the canal has transformed from grassland to dry land cultivation and now urbanisation without any regard for groundwater recharge or flooding of downstream areas - these patterns are already visible. It is also important to understand how urban areas will affect the landscape. The canal is being studied with respect to urbanisation, groundwater depletion, rainwater runoff, interception of water by the canal, prevention of flooding downstream. Additionally, urbanisation study can also reveal the importance of this additional greenbelt if green spaces around the nala are revived. The study will identify, categorise and help understand implications of urbanisation. Few site visits have been initiated.

Biodiversity Assessment - We have surveyed the initial total length of the nala (11 line transects were conducted). We have recorded birds and mammals as a part of this assessment. We have also identified stretches and locations for continuous monitoring of biodiversity for the remaining duration of the project. Additionally, we will be working towards monitoring flora and some of the other biodiversity that we come across, especially butterflies and reptiles.

Sociological field surveys - There is no homogeneity in people residing around the nala, except in some of the village areas. Issues are also different for people. We will be identifying, categorising and engaging with different stakeholders

Community engagement - Although not really part of the first phase of activities, we have already begun the community engagement component. Pilot run of the nala walk has been followed by 3 nala walks engaging different focussed citizen groups. As part of the immediate plan for the future, we have planned about 4 nala walks for a month.

Online outreach website draft content and tabs are being worked on and it should soon be available online