



# Wainganga Area Water Partnership

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ArjuniMorgaon



Initiated by

GOMUKH ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## Memorandum of Association

**1. Name :** The name of the organisation shall be "Wainganga WaterPartnership" Arjuni Morgaon.

**2. Address :** The Registered Office of the organisation shall be situated at:-

C/O Manish Rajankar, 2278/1, Ward No. 06, Near S.S. Jaiswal College, ArjuniMorgaon, Dist-Gondia, 441701

Or such other place, which the Governing Body may decide from time to time.

### **Preamble:**

Whereas Article 48 A of the Constitution of India gives the fundamental right of livelihood to the citizens of India,

And whereas the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional amendment and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment gives powers to local self-governance institutions, Gram Panchayat and Nagar Parishad to manage the natural resources, including water in their respective areas,

And whereas the Section 41 (1), 41 (2) and 41 (3) Of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 gives powers to Gramsabha to form the Biodiversity management committee and to manage the natural resources in sustainable manner for sustainable use and to conserve the diversity,

And whereas Environment Protection Act provides avenues to control and stop the pollution of environment,

And whereas section 3 (1) and 3 (2) of Forest Rights Act, 2006 gives individual and community rights over forest resources and on the water resources in the area, section 5 gives right of management and to make rules of the use of these resources to the rights holders,

And whereas the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act gives right to work for planning and strengthening of natural resources to the local self-governance institutions,

And whereas Right To Information act gives access to the information related to decisions and implementation of the various schemes and acts,

And whereas Bombay Village Panchyat Act, 1958 gives powers to Gramsabha to take decisions regarding the planning, management and development of life supporting resources to the villagers, and for local self-governance,

And whereas the Tribal Self Rule Act, 1996 gives rights to the Gramsabha in the fifth schedule areas for management of the natural resources and specially management of minor water bodies,

And whereas the Central and State Pollution Control Act provides the scope for maintaining the water quality and to prevent the polluting activities,

And whereas The National Water/ Policy (2012) has the provision of Integrated Water Resource Management, which includes the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach towards conservation, management and development of water resources,

We form this organisation to help concerned people and their formal/informal institutions to undertake the above stated lawful provisions, duties and to execute their rights for the betterment of society at large and water resources, their utilisation, management and development in integrated manner.

The "Wainganga Water Partnership" (WWP) is a non-profit making organisation with following aims and objectives :

### **3. . A) Aims**

The main aims of the WWP are as follows: -

1. Formation of forums/ study groups of the stakeholders of Wainganga River Basin for creating support group, to share experiences, learnings and success stories to sustainably develop the water resources of the basin area for the benefit of the local communities of the Wainganga basin.
2. Promoting overall economic development and improving the socio-economic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged section with distributive justice inhabiting Wainganga Basin.
3. Poverty alleviation, community empowerment and development of human and other economic and natural resources through conservation, development and management of the same.
4. To improve the Human Development Index of the stakeholders of the Wainganga basin.

### **3. B) Objectives**

The main objectives of the WWP are as follows: -

1. To promote, support and undertake research and action research to check degradation of fresh water ecosystem, to protect from external threats and to conserve it.

2. To undertake different research, action research, programmes, projects, contracts and assignments to prepare the sector wise and holistic plans for integrated development of the communities, especially weaker sections of the society and natural resources in the Wainganga Basin and to facilitate the stakeholders to implement them.
3. To support and facilitate groups, organisations, individuals, villages and gramsabhas to establish rights over natural resources for sustainability of livelihood through the implementation and, if required, amend of related laws and policies of Central and state Governments.
4. To optimise the use of all water resources in Wainganga basin, equally for the benefit of stakeholders on a priority basis within the river basin. E.g. Domestic water users, for drinking purposes for all, agriculture, fisheries, forestry livestock etc.
5. To advocate for, appropriate amendments wherever necessary, lobby for and monitor the implementation of Central and State laws regarding pollution control and management of natural resources to maintain ecological and social balance.
6. To support and facilitate groups, organisations, individuals, villages and gramsabhas engaged in maintaining ecological balance through appropriate management, conservation and development of natural resources.
7. To protect and conserve the freshwater ecosystem from the threatened activities in the Wainganga basin area with and for the stakeholders of Wainganga basin, within the basin area.
8. To prepare training and awareness material for local people in the basin and for the media such as newspapers, magazines, radio, T.V. etc.
9. To undertake training and necessary extension activities to fulfil the objectives.
10. To undertake developmental activities in selected areas to promote the successful models and practices for management and development of natural resources, especially water resources in the Wainganga basin.
11. To establish resource centres and advocacy centre for regular follow up of the planned activities and to ensure the active participation and completion of lawful duties of all the stakeholders of the Wainganga Basin.
12. To actively work towards relief of distress caused by scarcity, drought, flood, fire or other natural calamity.
13. To advocate and lobby for the early implementation of proposed, “Master-Plan for Integrated Development & Management of Water Resources of Wainganga Sub-basin.”

14. To undertake programmes, projects, assignments, contracts, consultancies to fulfil the aims and objectives of the society.

Name, addresses, designations and occupation of the members of the governing body of “Wainganga Water Partnership”, ArjuniMorgaon.to whom by the rules and regulations, the management of its affairs is hereby entrusted.

No	FULL NAME AND ADDRESS	AGE	OCCUPA-TION	NATION- ALITY	DESIGN ATION
1.	Dr. Harishchandra Prabhakar Borkar, At Rengepar Kohli, Tah- Lakhani, Dist. Bhandara	74 Yrs	Retd. Education Officer	Indian	President
2	Mrs Anagha Amol Padwad, Tondon Ward, Bhandara Maharashtra	43 Yrs	Teacher	Indian	Vice- President
3	Mr Manish Madhukar Rajankar, 2278/1, Ward No.6, Near S.S. Jaiswal College, Arjuni Morgaon, Gondia.	41 Yrs	Social Researcher	Indian	Secretary
4	Mr. Vijay Vishwanath Rukhmode, Balaji Telecom, At Arjuni Morgaon	48 Yrs	Businessman	Indian	Treasurer
5	Dr. Manohar Vitthalrao Naranje, Saraswati Nagar, Bahadura Phata, Po Vihirgaon (Umred Rd.) Tah. Dist. Nagpur.	44 Yrs	Archeologist	Indian	Member
6	Mrs Meena Quereshi, At Compounder Tola, Baihar, Dist.	44 Yrs	Social Worker	Indian	Member

	Balaghat (M.P.)				
7	Mr Sudhir Kailash Katara, Ward No.11, Govindpuram Colony, Behind Church, Budi Road, Balaghat.	43 Yrs	Businessman	Indian	Member

5 We the following persons, being desirous of forming ourselves into a society namely " Wainganga Water Partnership,"Arjuni Morgaon under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, have subscribed our names to this memorandum and accordingly signed.

No.	Names	Signature
1.	Dr. Harishchandra Prabhakar Borkar	-----Sd-----
2.	Mrs Anagha Amol Padwad	-----Sd-----
3.	Mr Manish Madhukar Rajankar	-----Sd-----
4.	Mr Vijay Vishwanath Rukhmode	-----Sd-----
5.	Dr. Manohar Vitthalrao Naranje	-----Sd-----
6.	Mrs Meena Quereshi	-----Sd-----
7.	Mr Sudhir Kailash Katara	-----Sd-----

**Place:** Arjuni Morgaon

**Date:**

**Signature**

I identify the aforesaid signatures. (Special Executive Magistrate/Advocate/  
Chartered Accountant/Notary)

## Background:

The Gomukh Environmental Trust began its activities in the year 2010-11 in the Wainganga valley by holding a stakeholders' meeting in June 2010. The primary idea of holding such a meeting was to identify a set of issues and subjects which reflect the stakeholders' understanding of the Wainganga as a river-basin. The meeting was held at J.M. Patel college, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015, during the days deliberations the stakeholders' were give basic information (physical, geo-morphological, cultural) about the Wainganga river-basin which lies partly in Madhya Pradesh(37743.00 sq. Km) and partly in Maharashtra(36306.00 sq. Km)

During the last five years, the Wainganga Area Water Partnership has been functioning albeit without being registered till early 2014. The process of registration was initiated in mid'14, and the final registration papers are awaited.

All partners actively participated in the different programs, negotiations and discussions with government officials, holding formal and informal meetings in villages and developing case studies related to climate-change-impact-resilience. They were also instrumental in collecting opinions, recommendations and suggestions for implementing the "Master Plan for Integrated Development and Management of Water Resources of the Wainganga Sub-basin".

During the last meeting dated 22/2/2015 the partners identified the following activities. Some of these are in the form of follow-up activities initiated last year, and the rest are new initiatives.



*Informal Fisherman's group discussing issues with Mr.Rai and Prof. Paranjpye*





Lean period fishing by creating artificial bunds within the Wainganga river course

#### **Activities that took place in theyear 2014**

- Formation of informal group: A freshwater biodiversity conservation group for advocacy issues related to sustainable fishery was formed at the beginning of the year.
- Programme of fish migration day- issues were identified related to problems in the natural migration of fishes. Tank design related problems were discussed with the IPI division of Bhandara and it has been decided that in the programme of fish migration day of 2015 representatives from IPI division and design section will attend the programme. Further follow up will be decided after the programme.
- The various meetings with local fishing groups also raised the issue that there is a need to draft a state level fishery policy that takes into account the practices and techniques of the traditional fishing communities.

- Archaeological study on role of Vakataka Dynasty in the Wainganga basin, especially related to water culture and the importance of Wainganga as *uttarvahini* during the 250s CE – 500 CE was undertaken by Dr Manohar Naranje.

**Photographs of Traditional Water Devices**



*Aad*

Village – Shiwani, Dist - Nagpur



*Aad*

Village- Kohmara. Dist - Gondia

- Zadiboli sahitya sammelan was organised at Salekasa in Gondia district in Dec. by Dr. Harishchandra Borkar for preserving the folk art and literature in Zadiboli, the dialect of Wainganga basin, especially the traditions like *boadies*, *aadh*, *baavri* and *talaabs*.



*Kapur bawadi – Ramtek*



## Ambala Tank - Ramtek

### Planned activities in the year 2015

1. A group of people from Bhandara city has raised issue of Wainganga river pollution, as city receives its drinking water from Gosekhurd back water and it is highly polluted due to sewage effluents from Nagpur city. WAWP will organise this group and provide them with data and field studies for further action plan
2. Preparations for submission of the final report of Wainganga sub basin to WRD
3. Considering the need of fishing communities, WAWP members are planning to draft a state level fishery policy
4. To manage water and all natural resources in the villages, 12 Biodiversity management committees will be formed.
5. A study is planned on the basis of responses of fisherman community. The community members told that local small fish have larger contribution in the annual income of family than the high yield carp species. This hypothesis needs to be studied.

6. To decide and discuss about various issues related to freshwater biodiversity conservation and sustainable fishery; more informal groups of freshwater biodiversity conservation group for advocacy issues related to sustainable fishery will be formed.



**Press Conference at Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Arjuni, regarding Government on Tank leasing policy. Dated 25 Jan 2015**

### **Celebration of World Fish Migration Day on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at Nawegaon Bandh**

The World Fish Migration Day was celebrated world over on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. It is for the first time that such a program was organized, on the need for conservation of freshwater fishes and making the society aware of the facts about migration. This program is to be held every year from now on. At Nawegaon Bandh in the Wainganga Basin, the program was jointly organized by Bhandara Nisarga Va Sanskruti Abhyas Mandal, Wainganga Water Partnership, Gomukh Trust and Wildlife Department division of Gondia district.



A total of 46 persons have participated in the program. These included, the members of fishing cooperative societies from Gondia and Bhandara districts. The President of Gondia district Fishermen's Cooperative Federation and Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation Group, Mr. Ghusaji Meshram, Vice-president of the group Mr. Patiram Tumsare, Range Forest Officer of Nawegaon Bandh, Mr. Vaidya, two Round officers, Associate Professor of Fishery Science College, Mr. Swapnil Ghatge, Mr. Ravi Behra and Mr. Mangala Rai from IWP, Mr. Vijay Paranjpye, Mr. Manish Rajankar and staff members of Gomukh also participated in the program.

Mr. Manish Rajankar welcomed all the participants and Mr. Vijay Paranjpye gave a brief introductory speech about the organization of this event. Later, Mr. Ghatge made a detailed presentation on reverse migration of fish species in the context of Wainganga river and its linkages with the tanks and reservoir fishery, and finally the impact of climate changes on the migration pattern of fish, and on the livelihood of fishing community.

During the afternoon session there was a group discussion on inland fish migration. The issues for discussion was about assessing the status of fish migration in the water bodies in the area and threats to the migration path. Suggestions from the participants were taken regarding the corrective measures. Further a strong demand was made for providing fish ladders, mechanical devices for translocating fish from the downstream section of the river into the reservoir of the dam. Technical and administrative problems related to such procedures were discussed.



#### Monitoring Activities:

1. The data regarding case of ecological restoration of water body in village Jambhali is collected. Based on this data WAWP members will prepare a research paper to present and to publish it in the national level scientific journal.
2. Programme of fish migration day- issues were identified related to problems in the natural migration of fishes. Tank design related problems were discussed with the IPI division of Bhandara and it has been decided that in the programme of fish migration day of 2015 representatives from IPI division and design section will attend the programme. Further follow up will be decided after the programme.



Wainganga Area Water Partnership members include Dr. Naranje, Dr. Harishchandra Prabhakar Borkar, Mr. Manish Rajankar and Prof. Paranjpye (advisor).