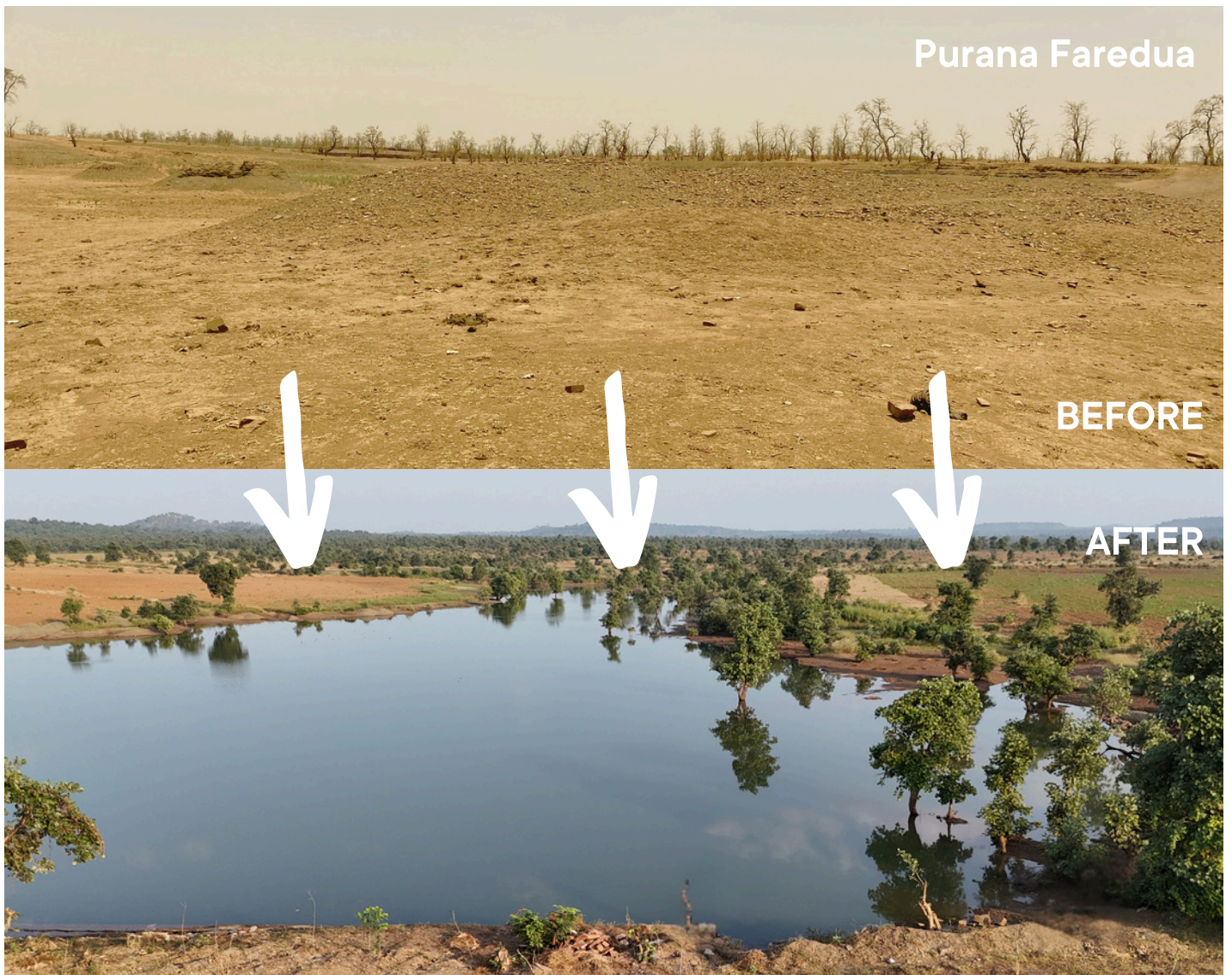


Re- Foresting Baran

WATER RETENTION | SOIL REGENERATION | RE FORESTATION





Introducing Baran

Reforestation Baran is an ambitious ten + year project to rejuvenate and reforest 125 sq km of degraded land in Rajasthan, India. Land which was once dense forest, but due to lack of water, soil erosion and famine it has crossed a tipping point of ecological degradation - no water, no trees and severe soil degradation. The villagers who inhabit the area have lost their source of livelihood.

This is a transformative journey, working with the communities across the region, in collaboration with the Jal Sahelis (friends of water) who take responsibility for water security across the villages. The project is at the very beginning and it not only has huge potential to restore biodiversity and store thousands of tonnes of carbon, but also to bring back a basic healthy life for the tribes and communities who rely on this land.



WATER RETENTION | **SOIL** REGENERATION | RE **FORESTATION**

Three Pillars

WATER RETENTION

The Baran region has dried up. A lack of water holding structures means that when it rains, the water is not held in the land and it is lost. The lack of water has a knock on effect - leading to the soil degrading and the forest dying.

SOIL REGENERATION

There is a vicious cycle of drought and soil degradation - each in turn exacerbating the other. Retaining water in the area will improve the soil health, in turn increasing the capacity of the soil to hold water and prevent the land from drying out.

REFORESTATION

Once the area can retain water and soil health is restored, the land can once again be the home to a returning forest, which will replenish the ecosystems as well as sequester thousands of tonnes of carbon, and provide food and livelihoods to the people.

VISION 1

Building multiple water bodies to capture rainwater, thereby recharging rivers and aquifers and restoring the water balance in the region

VISION 2

Minimising erosion and enhancing soil fertility, moisture retention, and natural carbon sequestration in the region's soil

VISION 3

Planting 350,000 native trees to rejuvenate the dense forest adjacent to Kuno National Reserve, aiding tribal communities in reclaiming their natural habitats

ALONGSIDE THE OVERARCHING AMBITION TO PROVIDE SELF RELIANCE AND FOOD SECURITY FOR THE 220 VILLAGES IMPACTED

Multiple layers of impact

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Once the area can retain water and soil health is restored, reforestation can happen. Thereby, replenishing and regenerating ecosystems and sequestering carbon.

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Reviving the ecosystem enables farming, providing food and livelihoods. This prevents forced migration and has a ripple effect on education, nutrition, poverty alleviation and more.

FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

The Jal Saheli have initiated life-changing improvements, empowering them to actively participate in discussions once reserved for men. Their achievements have given women a voice.

EDUCATION & EXCHANGE

A two pronged strategy of literacy and action enables local communities to remain independent, responsible and in charge of their actions, to become water secure and self reliant.



Project Overview



STAGE 1
2023/2024

✓ **Completed**

- Project plan developed in partnership with the regional communities and local partner
- Initial surveys completed
- Community engagement across the region
- The first four ponds in Bhoyal, Guwari, Ranipura & Purana Faredua
- +9,000 trees planted
- Water School India launched



STAGE 2
2024/25

Purana Faredua Micro Catchment

- Building diverse water structures
- Training in water conservation
- Developing sustainable agriculture
- Restoring the Talipashi River
- Establishing nurseries & seed banks
- Planting 10,000 native & fruit trees
- Capacity building & launching the learning laboratory



STAGE 3
Beyond 2025

Broader 10-year + project

- Expanding to 220 villages
- Impacting over 100,000 people
- 125 sq km of land restored
- Thousands of tonnes of carbon sequestered

Project Progress



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



POND BUILDING & STRENGTHENING



TREES PLANTED AROUND THE PONDS & THE VILLAGES



Our approach enables communities to become water secure and self-reliant. They learn and implement practical, successful methods of holding water in their landscapes in ever increasing quantities, rehydrating the planet at a micro level.

Impact to date

These images showcase the immediate **impact of our ponds in only 3 months**. Without them, this water would be lost. The transformation is life-changing.



Progress in 2024

This project started in spring 2024 with the first 4 water structures being built. During the summer monsoon rain 140,000m³ of water was collected, the equivalent to 60 olympic sized swimming pools of water!

The villages have taken responsibility for this water, deciding what land can be farmed and how much water can be used for irrigation.

Already in 2024 the amount of agricultural land farmed has doubled. Productivity has been significantly enhanced and a second harvest has already been planted.

Agriculture provides not just food but livelihoods. The men have not had to migrate in search of work, the children are sent to school and girls are protected from trafficking.

AUGUST 2024: OUR PONDS WERE FULL + OVERFLOWING

Ponds built
4

Water capacity
139,500 m³

Trees planted
9,100

People impacted
1,800



Next Steps

In the next phase, we're creating a model of an ecologically revived area. This will demonstrate the interconnected impacts possible, inspiring support for the broader 10-year project.



Ponds planned
4

Trees to plant
14,500

Families impacted
250

Area covered
15KM2

Rivers Revived
1

Our ponds are part of the larger Baran revival initiative to combat drought, poverty, and famine while enabling reforestation and sustainable farming. To create long lasting change, the work will be expanded across a model catchment area, working together to replenish the groundwater.

Additionally, work is planned to restore 15-20km of the Talipashi river, building low weirs to reduce the speed and intensity. Slowing the river increases percolation recharging aquifers and nearby wells, providing water also in periods of low flow. Eventually, the river will flow year round.

PURANA FAREDNA CATCHMENT:

- 1 Building additional water structures
- 2 Training the communities
- 3 Developing sustainable agriculture
- 4 Planting native and fruit-bearing trees
- 5 Establishing a seed-bank & nursery
- 6 Implementing efficient water practises

TALIPASHI RIVER:

Weirs built in the river will:

- 1 Regulate the flow
- 2 Maintain water levels
- 3 Stop erosion
- 4 Mitigate downstream flooding
- 5 Recharge ground water

'Bringing back the water, restoring the soil and regenerating the forest would rejuvenate the Baran region, restore its water balance, and yet again, prove the link between water, trees, carbon sequestration, cooling of the planet and climate change mitigation.'

theflowpartnership



Our Project Partner: The Flow Partnership

This project is led by The Flow Partnership together with lead NGO Parmarth SSS. Together they have successfully mobilised community action to revive water structures and food security in over 300 villages in surrounding states, impacting the lives of many hundreds of families. A key advisor to the project is Rajendra Singh, the Stockholm Water Prize winner who has revived 7 rivers in Rajasthan, enabling the construction of over 15,000 community water structures in these 7 river catchments.



Some of the rivers Parmarth have revived include:

Barua River: 2022 - 16 km long - India

Kanera River: 2018 - 19 km long - India

Bachhedi River: 2016 - 15km long - India

Multiplying the Impact: The Water School India

Water Schools are a shared platform created by The Flow Partnership to hold, exchange and implement a community-led water-retention movement across the planet. The vision of the global Water Schools is for local communities to come and share their water wisdom, learn practical, successful methods of holding water in their landscapes from each other and ultimately hold rain water in ever increasing quantities to rehydrate the planet at a micro level. This two pronged strategy (of literacy and action) enables local communities to remain independent, responsible and in charge of their actions to become water secure and self-reliant at their level.

The Water School India will showcase this Baran project, increasing the skills and enhancing the knowledge of people from across the planet to hold and manage water in their landscapes successfully and build resilience in the face of economic and climate uncertainty.



WATER RETENTION | SOIL REGENERATION | REFORESTATION

This project poses an exciting opportunity to create meaningful change, and to scale the impact across the region pond by pond.

Your contribution and partnership can play a pivotal role, especially in the next stage as we extend the work around the ponds we have built to create a model of regeneration.

We are seeking funding of CHF 280,000 to complete this stage; to perform the work needed on the Talipashi River and to expand the work across the Purana Faredua catchment in 2025.

**By empowering local communities
with a sustainable source of water
together we are
laying the foundations
for lasting change**

Photo Credits: Pascal. d'Erm and The Flow Partnership



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