

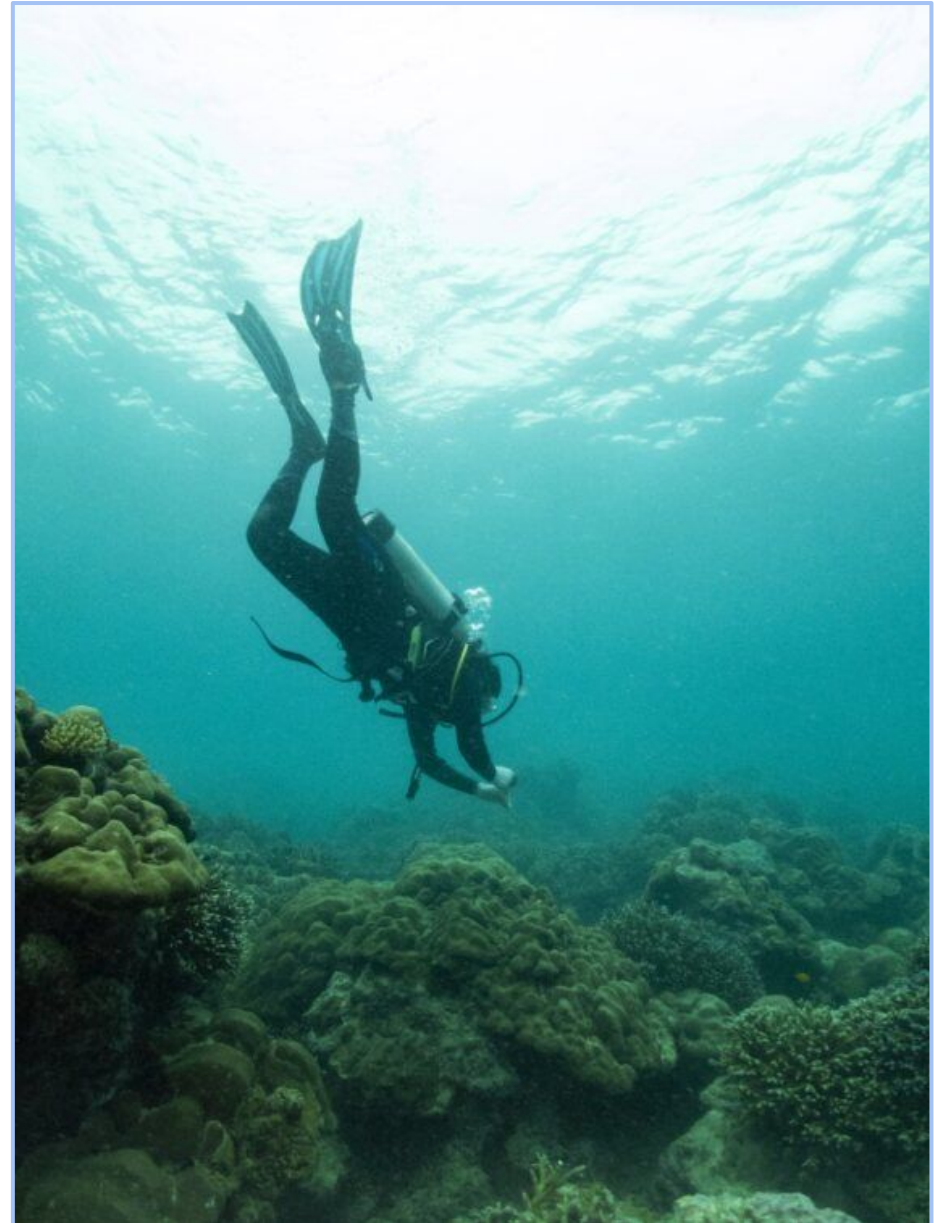


January - March 2024
QUARTERLY REPORT
for



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ABOUT

KACHREWAALE FOUNDATION

The Kachrewaale Foundation started as the Kachrewaale Project in 2018, **with the aim of addressing plastic pollution in the** Andamans. The Foundation has grown to **design and implement** end-to-end waste management systems in the island's ecologically fragile areas that usually go unnoticed. The organization has initiated, for the 1st time in the island's history, data backed strategy and framework for ocean plastics. For Kachrewaale, collaborative action through stakeholder and community engagement have been key elements in developing solutions and reducing waste generation and its entry to the oceans.



MAKE MY TRIP FOUNDATION

MakeMyTrip Foundation's vision is to be a catalyst for positively impacting destinations, people and the environment by promoting sustainable travel and tourism. The Foundation was established with the aim of working with key stakeholders and implementation partners to improve the state of tourism destinations and elevate awareness amongst travellers. MMTF promotes sustainable and responsible travel by actively collaborating with organizations working towards inspiring responsible tourism, supporting local communities, helping maintain ecological balance, and restoring and preserving heritage.

https://www.makemytrip.com/csr/mmt_foundation.html



**MAKEMYTRIP
FOUNDATION**

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ANDAMANS

MakeMyTrip Foundation and Kachrewaale Foundation have been independently implementing waste management campaigns on the islands. In 2023, the organizations partnered for a collaborative impact to tackle the problem of waste in Andamans. The project aims to effectively manage waste by actively cleaning up waste on land and underwater through partnerships with local stakeholders, residents, and tourists. For long term participation and ownership of the movement, the project includes interactive and engaging activities that aims to empower locals and tourists with the knowledge of their marine ecosystems in order to build a deeper appreciation for the pristine environment.

FEATURED UPDATES

KACHREWAALE INVITED AS A PANELIST BY CSE



The Centre for Science and Environment, which facilitated the creation of the 'Coalition of Coastal Cities', invited Kachrewaale to participate on a panel at the 2nd National Workshop of the Coalition, to discuss the draft strategy paper on Marine Litter in India. The aim of this workshop was to mobilise discussions around the impact of lost, abandoned or discarded fishing gear on marine biodiversity. This 3-day workshop was an initiative taken to address the vast problem of marine litter in coastal areas of the country, especially the gaps in policy on marine litter

RECEIVING THE SAMIR ACHARYA AWARD

Garima Poonia, the Program Director of the Kachrewaale Foundation was given the prestigious Samir Acharya Award. She received the award for the work she leads through Kachrewaale with a focus on waste management across the islands. The award was presented by Smti. Geetanjali Acharya to Ms. Garima Poonia in the presence of Shri. Farookh Alam, Shri. Meherzaad, Smti. Susan and Smti. Pushpanjali Raju. The renowned environmentalist late Samir Acharya founded the Society for Andaman & Nicobar Ecology (SANE) and spent his life working for our islands. It was his relentless efforts that resulted in the Supreme Court Order of 2002 on the ban of sea sand mining, ban of deforestation and ban on influx of non-islanders.

Garima Poonia Receives the 3rd Samir Acharya Memorial Award for Conservation of Coastal and Island Ecosystem

Denis Giles – 17 February 2024



www.andamanchronicle.net

CLEANUP DRIVES

	UNITS (UPTO THIS QUARTER)	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION
Beach Cleanups	16	Reporting Team from Port Blair, Student groups, tourists, hoteliers	Bharatpur Beach, Marine National Park, School Ghat, Sitapur, Ramanagar
Underwater Cleanups	30	Participants from Scuba Luv, Tourists, Chief Secretary	Lighthouse, Bus stop, Margarita, Anchor Point, Sync City, Junction, Aquarium, K-rock, Busy Burrow, Fish Slate
Clean up by staff dedicated for clean up	250 bags (approx 400 kgs)	One personnel	Bharatpur beach, from the jetty to extreme right towards the end of the beach

Increase in tourist engagement

Over 1500 kilos of waste has been collected until this quarter. This year, we commenced our collaboration with hotels, tourists and the local community. Some tourists who heard about the project also collected waste during their dives and handed it over to us, or gave relevant information about waste to plan other clean up dives. The length of the fishing lines collected from our clean up dives so far is about 800 meters.



Pilot collaboration with local hotel

Kachrewaale and Avisia Resort, a local hotel, have joined hands on a pilot project to increase waste collection efforts at hotels. This is the first resort to have committed to organising cleanup drives for their beach as and when possible, for which Kachrewaale will provide bags and gloves.

CLEANUP DRIVES

CLEANUP WITH THE CHIEF SECRETARY

The Chief Secretary of the Andamans joined us for an underwater cleanup at the Lighthouse dive site. Our aim was to draw attention to the extent of underwater pollution. This was the first time he was able to see the waste that was in the water and understand the scale of the problem. He expressed that the dive was both enjoyable and eye-opening for him, and it emphasised the need for such waste management initiatives in the Andamans.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SESSIONS	UNITS (UPTO THIS QUARTER)	LOCATIONS
ACTIVITIES & WORKSHOPS	16	Sitapur, Bharatpur, Senior Secondary School in Neil, Break Water Resort, Jetty, Temple Committee Ground, Market, Ramanagar, Intertidal area at Sitapur
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS	10	Main Market, Shops at Laxmanpur, Shops at Bharatpur Beach, Auto drivers in different locations, Radha Krishna Mandir, Rajasthan, Port Blair

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

KACHREWAALE STALL AT THE VIVEKANANDA MELA

The Vivekananda Mela is the biggest cultural event that happens in Neil on an annual basis and lasts for seven days. Government departments are given exclusive space to showcase their work. Since the last two years, the mela committee has been providing space to Kachrewaale Foundation to showcase their work in order to raise awareness about the issue of waste.

Over 500 people attended the Kachrewaale stall at the mela this year. Infographics and graphs were used to present data about marine litter in the Andamans. Also showcased were alternatives to single-use plastic items, such as upcycled cloth decorations, wooden combs, homemade shampoo, soaps and toothpaste.

It was found that local people, especially women, were interested in buying some of these items if they are available at Neil, especially since all of them were daily use items. Several tourists also came to our stall and found it very informative.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Informal discussions with auto, cab drivers and shopkeepers

The discussions aimed to identify key causes of waste due to tourist activities. Auto and cab drivers reported that many tourists throw things out of the vehicles. In the case of shops in the Andamans, the sale of single-use items, such as the popular handle-less carry bags, is unmonitored by the local government. Shopkeepers are unable to stop the sales out of fear of losing customers to competitors. These problems require intervention from local government, to ensure that the root cause is dealt with.

Though participants were reluctant to report these issues, many expressed an interest in putting up posters to spread awareness in their vehicles/shops. They were also interested in the possibility of attending workshops to learn how to engage with tourists and discuss how the issues can be tackled.

Development of guest engagement activities

One of our aims is to meaningfully engage with tourists on matters of sustainable travel choices and to showcase highly biodiverse but less travelled parts of Neil. We organise nature walks through the forest and intertidal zones to educate tourists about the uniqueness of these islands and why it needs protection, especially from unmanaged waste and plastic. This year, we spent about 12 hours a day over the span of a week to curate new trails with the support of local resources. So far, 26 guests have joined us for the pilot phase of these activities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

REDUCING WASTE GENERATION ON THE ISLAND

The Kachrewaale team has been working towards convincing the the puja committee to start using steel glasses instead of paper cups to serve water during this three day event held at the local Radha Krishna Mandir. Over 5000 people eat at the mandir, which serves three meals a day for three days. This translates into as many paper cups being produced as waste.

This year, the Kachrewaale Team succeeded in convincing the committee to make this shift. As a result, 5000-7000 paper cups have not been used and turned into non recyclable waste. Kachrewaale also donated 150 steel glasses to the committee and they bought about 250-300 glasses on their own.

Members from Kachrewaale also volunteered their services during the puja.

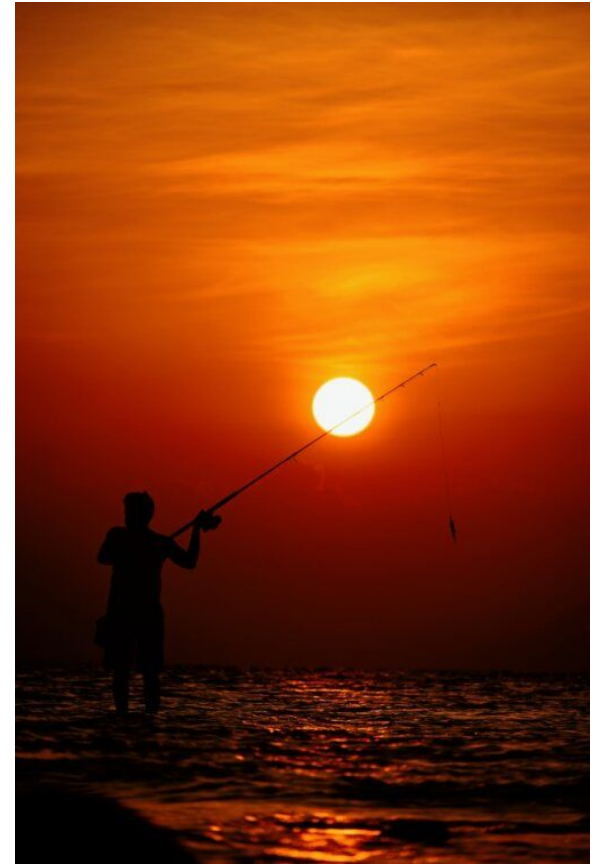


OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



As a follow up to the photography workshop conducted with students to encourage them capture Neil from their own perspective, we organised a photography contest during the Vivekananda Mela. We received a total of 150 photographs as entries. 4 children were given awards in 2 categories: 'People of Neil', and 'Open' category. Avisa, a popular local resort, sponsored 50% of the awards as a part of their collaboration with Kachrewaale.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

YEAR-END PICNIC



A small get together was organised for the student group that has been a part of the clean up drives and group activities since October 2023. Lunch was made and distributed at the beach side through volunteer effort, all done by the students and led by the local field expert Subal Dada.

Students were asked to share ideas about future activities. Some of the most popular suggestions were more competitive activities and water-based engagements.



SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS

MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE TALK

The Kachrewaale Team was invited by the Senior Secondary School, Neil, to speak to a group of 30 adolescent girls on the subject of menstrual health and hygiene. This included topics such as understanding changes in the body after puberty, interaction with society, understanding how periods happen and how to manage them. This was also a chance for the team to bring up the issue of menstrual waste management with the young girls. There were conversations about the implications of sanitary waste due to the use of disposable sanitary products, as well as the dangers these products pose to health. The participants were introduced to cloth pads and how they are used, as well as their environmental benefits. Kachrewaale aims to continue such interactions with the adolescent girls at Neil.



WATER ATM (BHARATPUR)

MONTH	NO OF TOURIST VISITS
FEBRUARY	979
MARCH	871
TOTAL	1850

Over the months of February and March, the Water ATMS at Bharatpur were used a total of 1850 times. The ATMs have ensured that use of disposable bottles is reduced by 1850 bottles that would have been brought and then thrown away. The Water ATMS have provided a reliable source of drinking water without compromising on the cleanliness and health of the environment on the islands, an initiative that we would like boost more throughout the year. We have also taken efforts to discuss the water ATMs with resorts and hotels that can make their guests aware of the facility, to reduce the purchase of plastic bottles.



CHALLENGES

Survey forms with tourists

Tourists typically have not shown much interest in filling out survey forms, even when they are on Google forms. We have tried to get forms filled through verbal surveys. However, what seems to have worked best this season is group discussions. People are more open during such discussions and cumulatively have to spend less time. Shorter forms have been designed, however, for consistency in our findings for this season the bulk of insights from tourists has been obtained through informal discussions and group discussions.

Hiring of fourth person for beach clean ups

With the approach of summer combined with reluctance to work on waste, we have not found any people to pick waste from beaches apart the existing personnel. Plans to resolve this are through engaging multiple women who are in need of money, and have access to beach in close vicinity of their house. The money meant for one person will be then divided among 2-3 women who will do this work.

Water ATMs

There have been some basic operational and maintenance issues which have been resolved. It is suggested that the water ATMs be serviced at least once every season, preferably by someone from the company.

The water ATM also requires some infrastructural changes to allow for the operator to sit comfortably, especially in summer months. This can be arranged for the next season.

Clean ups in Marine National Parks

Due to the elections, the forest department has been busy with VVIP visits, and thus it has been challenging to organise clean ups in these areas.

REFLECTIONS

“Before I knew about your project, I did not know that plastic waste is an issue with reference to corals, especially in the Andamans. I’m very happy to know that Kachrewaale has taken up this issue and glad that I also was able to take part in clean up dive. The coral life in Andamans is very beautiful, and I can understand why this initiative is so important.”

Chief Secretary of the Andamans



“Very unique and innovative idea to save this world from the menace of non-biodegradable and other plastic items. We should all imbibe these ideas into our day-to-day life. I wish them all success in their fantastic efforts. May your tribe flourish!”

Madhu Nair Sarma
Registrar, Gauhati High Court

NEXT STEPS

MOVING FORWARD

- Increasing the number of hotels that can conduct small beach clean ups for the beach next to their premises.
- Conducting dedicated surveys of hotel to gather information about use of SUPs and understand their issues regarding waste management.
- Survey of Neil Island to create a visual map of dustbins and dumping points.
- Curating a list of plastic alternatives that women at Neil want to buy, and make the products more accessible to them
- Organising a meal for about 100-200 people at the local mandir in a completely waste free manner and setting it up as an example.

MEET THE TEAM



Garima Poonia
Team Lead



Shareena Purty
Associate - Outreach
and Engagement



Subal Biswas
Field Expert



Tanvi Achwal
Intern -
Documentation

THANK YOU.
LET'S DISCUSS!

FIND US ON

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WATCH! **TRASH PIRATES : THE
STORY OF THE FIRST
KACHREWAALE PROJECT**

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