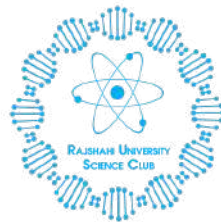


Project Progress Report

Green Horizons: Sustainable Legacy through
Environmental Restoration
Rajshahi University Science Club
31/01/24



Project info

Green Horizons will be a transformative 5-year project dedicated to creating a sustainable legacy through environmental restoration. By engaging communities, we aim to restore ecosystems, reduce pollution, promote recycling and waste management, and raise environmental awareness. Through tree plantation drives, pollution diminishes campaigns, recycling programs, and environmental education, we will strive to empower individuals to be active stewards of the environment. Let's build a greener future, preserve biodiversity, and leave a sustainable legacy for generations to come.

Objectives of the Project

- **Improved Environmental Health**
- **Enhanced Community Engagement**
- **Positive Social Impact**
- **Behavioral Change**
- **Long-Term Sustainability**

The CAP-RES project has three objectives as follows:

Objective 1: Create an enabling environment and foster individuals to enhance their knowledge of climate change issues and develop their problem-solving skills

Objective 2: Generate factual evidence from local practices to scale up at the global level.

Objective 3: Improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness in decision-making and putting into practice in climate intervention

Our project is highly relevant to **improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness in decision-making and implementation in climate intervention.**

Firstly, by focusing on tree plantation drives, pollution diminish campaigns, recycling programs, and environmental education, our project aligns with the goal of improving environmental health. Through institutional efficiency, we can streamline these efforts, ensuring a more impactful and coordinated approach to address issues such as air quality, biodiversity preservation, and overall ecosystem health.

Secondly, the emphasis on community engagement in our project is in line with the goal of enhanced community involvement described in the details. Efficient decision-making processes within institutions will facilitate smoother coordination with communities, fostering a sense of responsibility and active participation in sustainable practices. This, in turn, contributes to a stronger and more environmentally conscious community, as envisioned in the project details.

Moreover, our project's positive social impact aligns with the outlined objective of fostering unity and collaboration within communities. Institutional efficiency in decision-making ensures that social benefits, such as strengthened community bonds and a shared sense of purpose, are maximized.

Additionally, the behavioral change aspect of our project resonates with the details, as environmental awareness campaigns and educational programs are integral to influencing individual behavior positively. Institutional efficiency is crucial in designing and implementing effective behavioral change strategies, ensuring that the knowledge and understanding gained lead to sustainable lifestyle choices.

Finally, the long-term sustainability goal of our project is consistent with the notion of establishing a solid foundation for sustained efforts over five years. Institutional efficiency ensures that programs and initiatives become ingrained in the community's values and practices, contributing to the continuity of positive impacts even beyond the project's completion.

Team Composition


Team Lead:

Masud

President

Phone No: 01976961162

E-mail: masud.rueee@gmail.com

Full team:  RUSC Team for Green Horizons: Sustainable Legacy through Environmental Resto...

Disclaimer: Our previous committee changed on 17/01/24. The top 8 positions were declared on that day and this board will form the full committee on 03/02/24. The attached spreadsheet will be updated with the new team members that day.

Location

Our project is based on **Rajshahi metropolitan city and urban areas near it**. A significant amount of work on the project will be completed inside the **University of Rajshahi**.

Reached people (Direct and indirect)

Direct Reached people:

Male: 500

Female: 300

Indirect Reached people: 50000

Summary findings

The conducted events, including Tree Plantation Drives, Recycling & Waste Management Workshops, School Outreach Programs, and Environmental Awareness Seminars, have yielded positive outcomes. These include increased green spaces, improved environmental health, adoption of responsible waste practices, and strengthened community bonds. The initiatives have successfully promoted behavioral change, with participants making eco-friendly decisions, and contributing to a more informed and environmentally conscious community. The overall impact reflects a comprehensive and successful approach towards fostering sustainability and positive environmental practices.

Describing findings of the project

The findings from the conducted events—Tree Plantation Drives, Recycling & Waste Management Workshops, School Outreach Program, and Environmental Awareness Seminars—reveal a comprehensive impact on various aspects.

1. Tree Plantation Drive:

- Positive outcomes include increased green spaces, contributing to improved environmental health.
- Mitigation of pollution levels and a move towards a cleaner and healthier ecosystem.
- Community engagement and a sense of shared responsibility among participants.

2. Recycling & Waste Management Workshops:

- Adoption of responsible waste disposal practices, contributing to effective waste management.
- Increased awareness and understanding of sustainable waste practices among participants.
- Potential behavioral change with participants making informed choices in waste disposal.

3. School Outreach Program:

- Successful dissemination of environmental knowledge and awareness within educational institutions.
- Positive impact on students' understanding of environmental issues and fostering a sense of responsibility.
- Potential long-term influence on sustainable practices within school communities.

4. Environmental Awareness Seminars:

- Significant behavioral change was observed, with participants making more eco-friendly decisions.
- Strengthened community bonds and collaboration, fostering a shared sense of purpose.
- Enhanced institutional efficiency in decision-making through informed and environmentally conscious participants.

Overall, the findings suggest a positive and multi-faceted impact on environmental health, community engagement, behavioral change, and institutional effectiveness. The combination of these events has contributed to a more informed and environmentally conscious community, laying the foundation for sustained positive outcomes in the long run.

Measuring Progress

How many project activities you have done? (These might be workshops, focus groups, or performances, etc). Please list all of these

We have done mainly four activities so far.

These are:

1. Tree Plantation Drive
2. Recycling & Waste Management Workshops
3. School Outreach Program
4. Environmental Awareness Seminars

The other activities are currently in processing, such as the Green Bin Distribution Campaign, Campus Cleanup Week, Public Art Installations, and Leaflet & Poster Distribution.

Identifying new skills and where to learn more

What are the most useful skills or practices that you learned? Which do you use most often?

1. Project Management:
 - Effectively plan, organize, and execute the various components of the project, ensuring timelines and objectives are met.
2. Communication Skills:
 - Facilitate clear communication between stakeholders, communities, and institutions to convey project goals, progress and foster collaboration.
3. Environmental Science Knowledge:
 - Understand environmental issues, climate interventions, and the scientific principles behind initiatives like tree plantation, waste management, and pollution reduction.
4. Community Engagement:
 - Build relationships and engage with communities effectively to ensure their participation and understanding of the project's goals.
5. Leadership:
 - Provide strong leadership to guide the project team and partners, inspiring confidence and commitment towards the project's objectives.
6. Decision-making:
 - Make informed and strategic decisions, considering both short-term and long-term implications for environmental and community outcomes.
7. Educational Program Design:
 - Develop effective educational programs to raise awareness and drive behavioral change among individuals and communities.
8. Analytical Skills:
 - Analyze data related to environmental health, community engagement, and project effectiveness to make data-driven decisions.
9. Adaptability:
 - Be adaptable to changing circumstances, unforeseen challenges, and emerging opportunities, ensuring the project remains effective and relevant.

10. Sustainability Planning:

- Develop strategies for long-term sustainability, considering how the project's impact can endure beyond its initial duration.

What knowledge or skills do you think would have improved your project?

To enhance our project, having access to resource persons with expertise in environmental science, sustainable practices, and climate interventions would have been valuable. Their insights and guidance could have strengthened the educational programs and awareness campaigns, providing a more informed and impactful approach. Additionally, involving valuable guests, such as environmentalists, policymakers, or influential figures in the field, could have elevated the project's visibility. Their presence would attract attention, lending credibility to our initiatives and encouraging broader community participation. Furthermore, having a popular face associated with our project could have increased public awareness and engagement. A well-known advocate for environmental causes could draw attention to our efforts, creating a ripple effect and fostering a stronger connection with the community. While our existing knowledge and skills form a solid foundation, including these resources and influential figures could have amplified our project's overall success and reach.

What are the challenges/Risks you faced during the project activities? How do you overcome/minimize those challenges?

Several challenges and risks were encountered during the project activities, and effective strategies were implemented to overcome or minimize them: 1. Limited Community Engagement: - Challenge: Difficulty in actively engaging the community in project initiatives.

- Strategy: Implemented targeted outreach programs, personalized communication, and collaboration with local leaders to increase community involvement. Conducted surveys to understand community preferences and concerns, adapting project activities accordingly.

2. Resource Constraints:

- Challenge: Limited financial and material resources for project implementation.

- Strategy: We have used club funds for the initial process and kept due in shops/vendors, which was paid after receiving the first disbursement.

3. Weather-Related Setbacks:

- Challenge: Unpredictable weather affecting outdoor activities like tree plantation drives.

- Strategy: Developed contingency plans and flexible scheduling. Monitored weather forecasts and communicated changes promptly. Utilized indoor activities during adverse weather conditions, ensuring project continuity.

4. Limited Awareness and Participation:

- Challenge: Low initial awareness and participation from the target audience.

- Strategy: Implemented an extensive awareness campaign using various media channels. Collaborated with influencers and local media to amplify the project's message. Conducted follow-up sessions to address questions and concerns, fostering sustained interest.

5. Logistical Challenges in Waste Management Workshops:

- Challenge: Ensuring proper logistical arrangements for waste management workshops.
- Strategy: Collaborated with local waste management authorities for logistical support. Conducted workshops in partnership with established organizations to leverage their infrastructure. Implemented a pre-registration system to estimate participant numbers and tailor logistics accordingly.

6. Sustaining Behavioral Change:

- Challenge: Ensuring long-term adoption of sustainable practices after the awareness campaigns.
- Strategy: Implemented follow-up sessions, distributed informative materials, and established community support groups. Fostered a sense of community ownership and responsibility, emphasizing the long-term benefits of sustained behavioral change.

By addressing these challenges with proactive planning, community engagement strategies, flexibility, and collaboration, the project successfully navigated hurdles and ensured the effective implementation of its initiatives.

Write down the “lesson-learn” of your project

The key lesson learned from our project is the paramount importance of community involvement and adaptability. Recognizing that sustainable change requires active participation and understanding from the community, we adjusted our strategies to engage residents effectively. This involved personalized outreach, collaboration with local leaders, and adapting activities based on community feedback. Additionally, our project underscored the need for adaptability in the face of unforeseen challenges, such as weather-related setbacks and logistical issues. Developing contingency plans, flexible scheduling, and maintaining open communication were crucial in overcoming these obstacles. The lesson learned emphasizes the dynamic nature of community-based projects, highlighting the significance of responsive strategies and ongoing collaboration to achieve meaningful and lasting impact.

Most relevant photos



Feedback on this innovation fund (Based on given questions)

Question: How do you know about this?

Answer: We learned about this innovation fund through an email communication from ICCAD.

Question: How have you benefited from this?

Answer: The innovation fund has been instrumental in supporting our project, which was initially hindered by funding constraints after the completion of our previous initiative, "Mass Awareness," in 2021. The funding received from this innovation fund served as the foundation for our current project.

Question: What is the lack you faced?

Answer: The primary challenge we encountered was the delay in fund disbursement, causing a slowdown in our project's progress. Consequently, certain project phases had to be completed as sub-events of other activities, such as the Science Show.

Question: How can we make the initiative better for the next year?

Answer: Improving the initiative for the next year could be achieved by ensuring timely disbursement of funds. This would enable smoother project execution and completion of planned phases within the specified timeframe.