

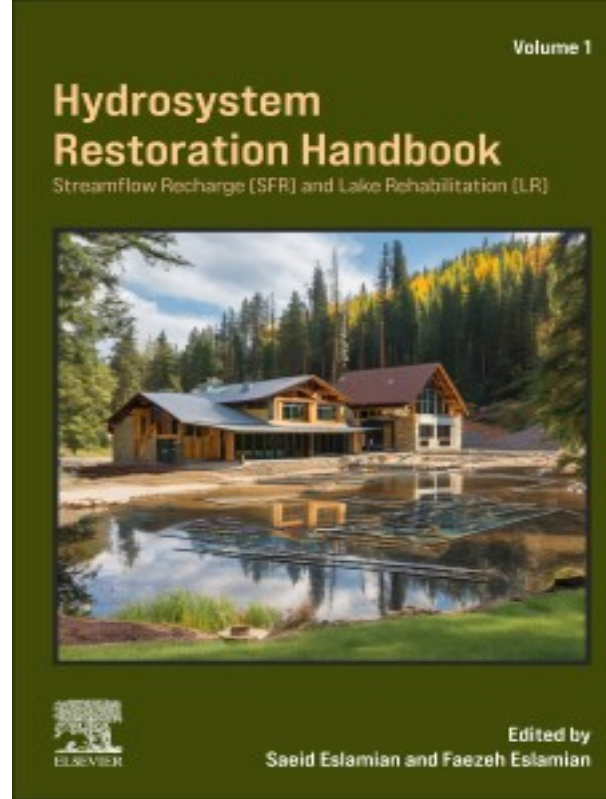
# Rejuvenation of streams and small rivers *for* Decentralised climate action and green GDP

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# About me and my work

- PhD in biotech, 30 years working on water and its interlinkages – as donor, research, documentation, advocacy, strengthening networks.
- Exploring water and climate relationships, how low cost affordable and practical solutions for water conservation can lead to mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Focus on gender, bridging gaps between indigenous and local knowledge and modern science/technology.
- Chairperson, Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell, Indian Himalayan River Basins, Council Khajuraho Nature Conservation Trust
- Chief Advisor of Tarun Bharat Sangh, Parmarth
- Member of Defence Sacred Alliance, Earthrise Collective
- Based in New Delhi, India,
- Key words: Sustainable, equitable nature rejuvenative economic growth, co-existence, peace and security, always learning



# Rejuvenation of streams, small rivers

- Climate change is exacerbating the water crisis.
- Decentralised rainwater conservation offers a way out: Slowing the flow of water, leading to recharged aquifers, river revival.
- Several streams contribute to river flow, rejuvenating these helps restoring ecosystems, livelihoods and peace and security
- How? By community-led decentralized rainwater conservation. Structures are low cost and based on local/ indigenous knowledge



# Tarun Bharat Sangh, Rajasthan

- **Tarun Bharat Sangh, Rajasthan:** Water work dates back to four decades.
- Benefiting **150,000** families from marginalized communities. The **15,000+** traditional water harvesting structures ensure year-round water availability. Their efforts have revived **14 rivers** setting a global precedent.
- Farmers income has doubled, and livestock productivity has improved.
- Over **10,000** “Water Warriors” sustain these initiatives, driving socioeconomic stability and reducing displacement.
- Embracing non-violence: More than **100** former bandits from Chambal now engage in agriculture, contributing to a peaceful society. In Mewat, Haryana, women well-being has improved as they lead stress-free lives with reliable drinking water access.
- Remote sensing imagery indicates increase in water availability, soil moisture, vegetation, economic benefits, river and nature rejuvenation.
- Published in academic journals like Springer and Elsevier.

# Parmarth, Bundelkhand region

- 35 + years of experience
- Jal Saheli (women's friend of water) model for women's right to water, has led to improved agriculture, nutrition and transformative governance.
- Revived 245 ponds, dug out 108 m of channel through 25 m high hills to revive 30 ha pond. Clean up traditional tanks, create new ones, build water conservation structures.
- Revived six rivers.
- Created water literacy in villages, formed a Jal Saheli band.
- Undertaken 300 km long water walk, jal yatra, 18 days, 5 districts, for water conservation literacy.
- Awarded by President of India, and others.



# How can this help BlueCities

- Ample evidence of people's managed rainwater conservation that has led to revival of groundwater resources and revival of small rivers. *This is applicable for rural and urban contexts.*
- BlueCities can learn from these efforts for climate action to let river flow, aquifers recharge and reduce urban flooding. Cities need to revive their natural water bodies.
- Same kind of approach can be applied to other water-stressed areas in across all continents.
- Need for small river rejuvenation literacy, understanding potential of this for climate action, deepening research, linking people's action with academia.
- Financial support for initiating work in different geographies, partnerships.
- Linkage with other stakeholders through web-based interactions