

Clean *Mandovi* Campaign to Nurture Mangroves and to Strengthen the Future of Estuarine Ecosystem at Vengurla, Sindhudurg

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Abstract: *Mandovi estuary is in the vicinity of Vengurla, which is selected by Mangrove foundation, Mumbai to encourage the local fisher Women for Mangrove restoration. Mangrove safari is run by Swamini self help group which is success story of community involvement through scientific training about ecosystem studies for community development. Global problem of waste management and ecosystem restoration needs involvement of Scientists, Academicains, Researchers and community in vicinity of sensitive ecosystems. Swamini self help group in collaboration with Br. Balasaheb Khardekar College, Vengurla, Retract Midtown, Vengurla Nagarparishad-Municipal corporation, has started Clean Mandovi Campaign to encourage waste collection, segregation, quantitative assessment and waste management ways. Present paper involves the monthly data of waste collection throughout the year 2021-22. Involvement of youth and community participation can solve the problem of Waste management in sustainable way. Plastic bottles, clothings, foot wear, glass bottles are the major part of non-degradable garbage collected and considered during campaign. Biodiversity is studies by the team and recorded. 7 Mangroves species, Mangerove species and butterflies are mainly enlisted in this paper. 27 species of butterflies which are sensitive indicators of healthy ecosystem are recorded. 587 kilogram of non-degradable waste is collected through 14 visits in 14 months and awareness about waste management was effectively done among community and youth. Similar campaigns, supporting all these biotic factors can be sustainable solution for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration.*

Keywords: Waste management, Mangroves, Ecosystem restoration, community involvement.

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