

How YOU can be involved

We welcome your participation in our initiatives. You are free to volunteer your services to help a wide range of campaigns and projects. Any kind of support – technical, administrative or moral – is welcomed. Some ways in which you can participate are listed below:

- Directly volunteering services to ESG that may help in the facilitation of any ESG initiative.
- Supporting issues raised by ESG through letters, petitions, and participation in protests, public meetings and other social forums.
- Using the ESG Information Center for research and consultation on various social and environmental issues at a nominal fee.
- Donating to help ESG do more.

Funding

Our public campaigns and research initiatives are promoted with little or no funding. High expenditures incurred on these activities are supported from our project earning. We welcome your active support and donations so we can reach wider audiences and contribute substantially to our society.

Your donations are eligible for income tax exemptions under Sec 80G of the Income Tax Act. Contributions may be made in favour of "Environment Support Group", payable by Cheque/DD/MO, and mailed to our address.

Members of ESG

ESG is an openly structured organisation consisting of members working in various roles. Full Time Staff, Volunteers, Advisory Board and Student Volunteers all aid the overall purpose of this initiative. The accommodative nature of the organisation encourages wide public participation in socially relevant issues.

ESG believes in collaborating with other NGOs, networks, governmental agencies and community groups and individuals in its research, campaign, training and advocacy initiatives.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Environment Support Group®

S-3, Rajashree Apartments,

18/57, 1st Main Road,

S. R K. Gardens,

Jayanagar, Bannerghatta Road,

Bangalore 560 041. INDIA.

Telephone: 91-80-6341977/6531339/6534364

Telefax: 91-80-6341977

Email: esg@bgl.vsnl.net.in

Web: <http://www.altindia.net/esg/index.htm> or <http://education.vsnl.com/esg>



Progressive, Effective and Responsible - Environmental and Social Justice

ESG has been in the forefront of a variety of environmental and social justice campaigns, keeping the interests of local project affected communities and voiceless ecosystems primary in our focus. We respond progressively, effectively and responsibly to promote environmental and social justice.

The spirit of our involvement is to facilitate processes that deeply consider contextual complexities in promoting environmental and social justice.

ESG is mainly a campaign organisation that sustains its activities by project grants and a very high degree of volunteer involvement.

Campaigns and Legal Support

We actively work with local communities and partner organisation in addressing environmental and social justice concerns, and develop campaign initiatives influencing media, administration, legislature, judiciary and the business community.

- Along with Nandikur Janajagriti Samithi, ESG resisted the establishment of a coal fired thermal power plant proposed by Mangalore Power Company, a subsidiary of Cogentrix Inc. of USA and China Light and Power, Hong Kong. Promoting economically viable alternatives for power sector development, a series of campaign and public interest litigation initiatives were advanced. This resulted in the project being abandoned and resulted in a major revamp of power project clearance mechanisms. <http://elj.warwick.ac.uk/global/issue/2000-1/fernandes.html>



Environmental Activism

Research and Capacity Building

We review major legal, policy and investment decisions for their impacts, and develop contexts of analyses that promote a more central role for environmental and social justice concerns.

Ø Environmental Decision Making: We monitor developments in environmental decision-making processes of India and based on our campaign experiences, help develop strategies and approaches in decision making that ensure public interest and involvement. ESG volunteered a Review of Environmental Decision Making Processes in India, at the behest of the Union Minister for Environment and Forests.

Ø Community Access at Raichur: The City Municipal Council, Raichur is our partner in developing community access systems on a variety of civic issues. Reforms of urban, environmental, social and health planning of the city are proposed to improve quality of life and develop strategies for encouraging economic growth. Asia Urbs Programme of the European Commission, National Foundation for India and German Technical Cooperation support the initiative.

Ø Solid Waste Management: A humane engagement of solid waste workers with communities in developing sustainable strategies of municipal solid waste management has become the cornerstone of our efforts in this area. This has become a model for other similar initiatives. ESG has produced a delightfully entertaining and socially relevant short film, *Nagara Nrymalya*, which explores the complex issues of the community's role in solid waste management. United Nations Environment Programme, Indo Norwegian Environment Programme and the Department of Urban Development are actively supporting the programme.

Ø Reform of International Aid/Credit Agencies: We are part of international efforts to reform Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) to ensure they comply with various human rights and environmental standards. We are also involved in the reform of public disclosure policies of Asian Development Bank, and are constantly addressing issues of similar concern with the World Bank.

- ESG campaigned with Shambavi River Protection Committee in Dakshina Kannada to close down an absolutely illegal construction of a pigment and dye manufacturing unit by American multinational Engelhard. Chemicals intended for use as raw material in US Dollar mints would have destroyed the river and the lives of thousands of villagers who depended on it.

A photograph showing a wide river flowing through a lush, green, forested landscape.

- With Parisara Samrakshana Kendra, Sirsi, we have successfully stopped the construction of the 7th dam by Murdeshwar Power Corporation Ltd. (MPCL) across Kali River in thickly forested Uttara Kannada region in the Western Ghats. Plagiarised and fraudulent Environment Impact Assessments by Ernst and Young and Tata Energy Research Institute supporting the dam were exposed, in the worst ever scam in environmental decision-making history of India. Kali Bachao Andolan, a network of local tribal, village communities, community organisations and NGOs is actively involved in raising awareness to ensure that the river and the surrounding forests are secured from dams, pollution and mining impacts.
<http://www.narmada.org/related.issues/kali>

Documentation and Publication

We regularly collate information on a variety of social, environmental, economic and legal developments and policies, major investment decisions in ecologically sensitive areas, and electronic and audio-visual material for reference in our Public Information Centre.

ESG's Public Information Centre is a vast repository of information that can be used by the public for research and consultation at a nominal fee.

Ø ESG was part of an overall effort to force the closure of iron ore mining by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) in the ecologically unique Kudremukh National Park. As a result the Supreme Court of India decided that the mines would have to be phased out by 2005, making this one of the most significant successes of people's movements in protecting forests from mining.

• With Vimana Niladhana Vistharana Virodh Samithi, an association of local project affected communities, we have opposed the expansion of the Mangalore airport in violation of airport design standards and environmental norms. On the basis of our Public Interest Litigation the Supreme Court has ruled that the airport can now be built only if compliant with all standards, thereby potentially securing the livelihood rights of the depressed Dalit communities who were dislocated for the project.

• ESG helped initiate the sensational Save Cubbon Park Campaign in collaboration with a wide variety of local groups and individuals, to stop encroachment of Bangalore's heritage park by the Legislators Home. This has triggered a city wide movement for protecting parks and open spaces.



Education and Awareness Building Initiatives

We regularly conduct experiential training programmes and workshops for a variety of target groups on topical issues of environment and social justice.

Ø "Cities in the 21st Century: People, Planning and Politics": In this study abroad initiative of the International Honours Programme of Boston University, students from a wide variety of universities across the United States experientially explore ecological, cultural and economic dynamics of cities in India, South Africa, Brazil and USA. We facilitate the India programme by organising a range of learning opportunities in Bangalore, Mysore, Chennai and Raichur cities.
<http://www.ihp.edu>

Ø Chiguru: Enabling critical engagement of student communities in social and environmental justice issues, we promote learning techniques based on interaction with natural environment and exposure to environmental impacts of development.

Ø Environmental Law Training: Training programmes on environmental law for a variety of target groups are regularly organised. One such programme is with Karnataka Judicial Academy and the US based Environmental Law Institute training subordinate judiciary on "Judicial Enforcement Of Environmental Law In Karnataka".

Ø Website Development Training for NGOs: To build Web Solidarity amongst NGOs and increase exposure to stories on environment, development and human rights initiatives, we frequently organise website development and internet research training for NGOs in collaboration with Oneworld South Asia. Philips, SASKEN and Wipro have extended support to such initiatives.

Ø "Environmental and Developmental Challenges of Bangalore" is the theme for learning by field exposure on a variety of issues relating to urban planning and development of Bangalore. Such programmes have benefited representatives from a variety of sectors including media, NGOs, government and teaching sectors.

- Five new cities and an expressway between Bangalore and Mysore constitute the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor project promoted by Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise threatens 200,000 people from about 180 villages and 21000 acres of agricultural and forestland. Protesting the need for this project we are advocating that the project be abandoned and equitable and viable transport and travel options be promoted. <http://indiatogether.org/campaigns/bmc/>

