

# PROJECT PROTECT HIMALAYAS

A green initiative in Uttarakhand by SankalpTaru Foundation



PROJECT  
UPDATE  
REPORT  
2021



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# INTRODUCTION

- Uttarakhand, located at the foothills of the snow clad Himalayas is lush with green vegetation. A diverse range of flora and fauna are found here with rich and diverse floral, fauna, and microbial wealth.
- Every year forest fires damage the precious flora and fauna of the Himalayan regions becoming a major cause of concern and require mitigation actions.
- 2016 forest fires in Uttarakhand Himalayas destroyed more than 4,900 acres of green forest area spread over 111 districts of the state. Around 1,857 incidents for forest fires were noted in 2016.
- Perturbed by the huge damage of precious flora and fauna in Uttarakhand Himalayas, the SankalpTaru Foundation, along with its passionate donors launched a Community Land Plantation Program called Project Protect Himalayas, where we embarked on a mission to greenify the region and protect its trees from recurrent forest fires.
- Thus, with your support, not only we planted fruit-bearing trees in several districts of Uttarakhand but also replaced pine trees (which were burnt in forest fires) with native species of Oak, Cedar and Kachnaar. Planting native, fruit and fodder bearing trees have also resulted in preventing soil erosion and landslides in the region. Through Project Protect Himalayas, we are also addressing the social issue of women empowerment. Therefore, the major on-ground team in the plantation activity in this region has been taken up by women.







# THE BEGINNING



- For protecting the Himalayan ecosystem and the community, the SankalpTaru foundation launched Project Protect Himalayas in 2012 in Tehri and Chamoli districts of Uttarakhand.
- Our first sapling was planted by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in a government school in Chamoli which has grown to become a big tree now.
- The state grows a variety of fruits and fodder bearing trees so, with your generosity the Foundation decided to support the community by planting Bargad, Guava, Peepal, Amla, Mango, Apple, Plum, Pomengranate, Neem and Gulmohar.
- Your planted trees help prevent soil erosion, recharge ground water table, provides Oxygen, increases greenery and simultaneously improves the bio diversity of these areas.

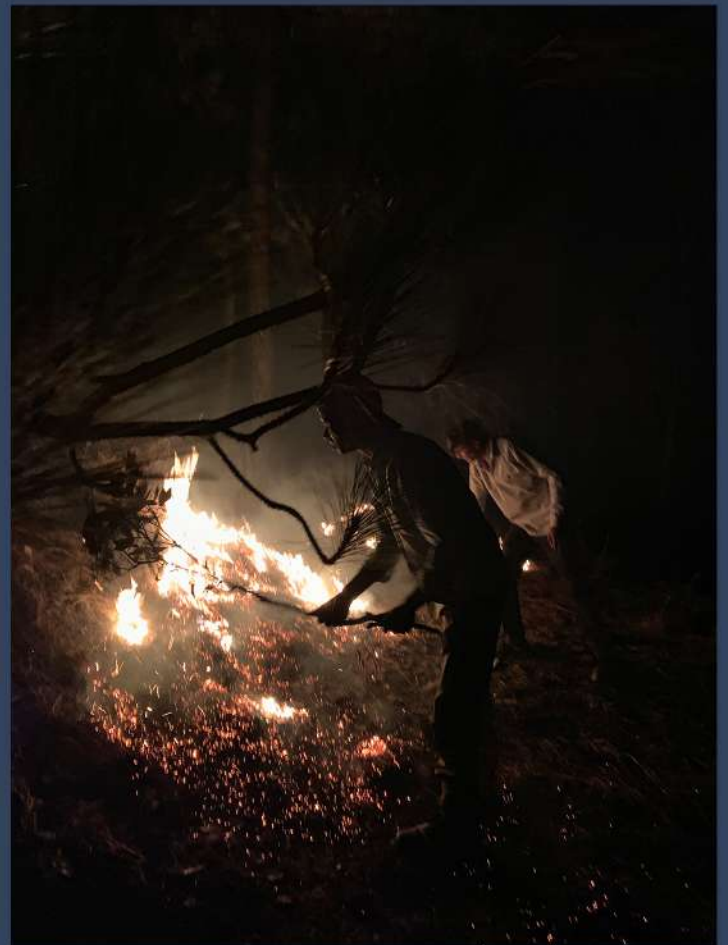


# THE CHALLENGES

- Recurring forest fires in the villages of Himalayas are undeniably a major challenge for protecting trees, therefore we have formed a forest-fire patrolling team comprising of school students and villagers. The team is 24X7 on their toes to control forest fire incidents and are continuously enlightening rural natives about the measures they can take to avoid such mishaps and protect the greenery of Himalayas.
- The washed out roads, uncertain weather patterns, steep and rugged surface of hilly terrain give The SankalpTaru Foundation team and the community members a very challenging time in plantations.
- The team has to analyze a monthly, even a quarterly weather forecast to plan pre-plantation, plantation, and post plantation activities.
- Community members were mobilized from several villages of Tehri and Chamoli districts to make them aware about the importance of trees for sustaining Himalayan ecosystem.









# FOREST FIRE PREVENTION

Since forest fire is one of the biggest problems in the area, we initiated a new program of preventing forest fires by launching SankalpTaru Forest Force which remains active in summers in the Himalayas. The team not only fights these forest fires but also educate the villagers about the same.







## THE STORY TODAY

- The project has come a long way since its launch because of the trees you donated.
- More than 4 Lakh trees have been planted and have positively impacted the area and its inhabitants. The green patches have increased.
- The Foundation's vision about afforestation, is helping community protect the Himalayan ecosystem and shielding the community from the risks around forest fires and weather uncertainty. Seeing the success of the program, many new communities are showing an interest to be a part of the program.



## PLANTATION DETAILS:

NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED (2020-21): 1,58,330

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND VILLAGES IMPACTED: 159



**267 million tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub> is the estimated sequestration for life span



**513 million tonnes** of O<sub>2</sub> is the estimated release for life span



**2.7 billion litres** is the estimated total water absorbed



**9 million tonnes** is the estimated total no. of fruits produced per season



**762 million rupees** is the estimated economic value per

\* The average life span of each tree is taken to be 20 years

\* Average farmer's price is taken to be 54



















# ON-GROUND REPORT:

## MEET OUR FARMER BENEFICIARY, PREMVATI



60 year old Premvati from Thauldar village of district Tehri, Uttarakhand is an example of an ageless, timeless woman who kept her inner child intact in her heart!!

Living off grid, in the isolated areas of Tehri, her family used to face tough times arranging for water supply for cultivation of plants in their half hectare land. Also, the wild monkeys used to attack their farm, desolating all the yield they could afford to grow. In order to get rid of the attacks of the wild animals, her husband decided to cover the field with an electrical fence. Sadly, this fence became the reason for Premvati's handicapped arm when during one night she went to the field and accidentally touched the fence. Her husband also could now barely take care of the field due to his old age and chronic illness. But she never lost hope and her hope found us.



Team of SankalpTaru decided to lend her a helping hand to encourage her lofty intentions of self-sufficiency and planted 200 trees of apple, khumani and plum, circumpassing her entire field in 2019. A water tank was built in by our team to supply water to the trees that would stabilize the future income of her family. And while the tank was made fully functional, our team gave them water service from 10-15 kms away from their place. Two years later, Premvati's farm has plenty of fruits whose trees she raised single handedly, with lots of courage in her heart and a smile that can melt hearts!!

We are proud of her and all other women beneficiaries like her who don't allow any challenges to mould their fate for anything but triumph!!





# THE WAY FORWARD:

- With your continued support and trust, the Foundation aims to increase the number of districts under the ambit of Project Protect Himalayas. The project had never been a one-time plantation program, rather remained a continuous activity of planting and nurturing trees.
- We have received requests from the various other residents of several other districts for the project to be extended to their areas and to help them protect the Himalayan ecosystem and their community.





PROJECT UPDATE REPORT 2021

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A green initiative in Uttarakhand by SankalpTaru Foundation



Click  
here

to plant more trees  
in Uttarakhand with  
**Project Protect  
Himalayas.**

Click here

to see the 360 degree view of  
our plantation block in  
Khamoli village, Tehri  
Uttarakhand.

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