STRUGGLE FINDS A NEW VOICE

We live in a world where mobile phones are no longer a luxury but a necessity we can’t live without. So why not use it as a tool to help those in need? Introducing Radio Sangharsh – an initiative started by Greenpeace India a little while back with the objective of using mobile phones to bridge the gap between local authorities, policy makers and villagers of the affected Mahan region in Central India.

What started off as a test has now proved to be an invaluable asset in the growing struggle for justice. For the first time, villagers have now turned citizen journalists by using their phones to call and voice their local problems as an act to bring people and communities together to fight a common cause. As they say, ‘the proof is in the pudding’, so we’ll let the numbers do the talking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total calls to Radio Sangharsh</th>
<th>5654</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg. calls to Radio Sangharsh/day</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls made to record</td>
<td>828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. actual stories recorded/day</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls made to listen to the stories</td>
<td>4826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. calls to listen/day</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unique number of Callers</td>
<td>854</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As more issues come to light with the numbers steadily increasing, you can play a crucial role by being a mobile activist. All you have to do is ‘Like’ and ‘Share’ our Facebook page; http://act.go/MobRadio. To keep yourself updated on the fight to save the forests in India or to become a mobile activist, give a missed call to +91 796 777 3688.

www.radiosangharsh.org

Recommend a Friend
Have a friend who loves the planet? Send us their name and phone number and we’ll call them!
SMS GREEN <name> <number> to 9220092200

Supporter Services
Email: supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org
Phone: 1800 425 0374
(Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 7:00pm)

New address/ email/ phone number?
Email your current contact information to supporter.services.in@greenpeace.org

If working for a cause and increasing awareness is what you’re looking for, call:
+91 97401 00885

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Edited, printed and published by Sanmit Aich for Greenpeace Environment Trust, which has its office at #40, Wellington Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore 560025. Printed at Trail Blazer PVT LTD, #205, 4th Cross, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore- 560027.
From the desk of:

Samit Aich
Executive Director
Greenpeace India

It’s a known fact that strength lies in numbers and we at Greenpeace take pride in our extended family across the globe. Recent events involving the arrest of the crew of one of our ships that was peacefully protesting oil drilling in the Arctic, brought us face to face with the proverbial Goliath and demonstrated that suppressing like minded, passionate people is no easy task.

This was a tough time that truly tested our mettle – would we stand our ground or would we cave in. After every conceivable trick in the book was used against us, it was the relentless support from over a million people that aided their release. This is what Greenpeace is; a group of like-minded people from all walks of life, willing to go to the ends of the Earth to save it from annihilation. The world we live in today, brings with it an unfortunate set of problems that threaten its very survival. From large scale deforestation to the neighbourhood lake that’s being polluted, everywhere we look, it’s bursting at the seams.

The consoling factor amidst all this is that now, people are waking up to take charge of the environment around them. With technology and free thinking, there’s no problem too big. The road ahead will undoubtedly be a long and treacherous one but as the awareness rises, so does the hope that tomorrow will bring solutions to a world in need of some love and affection.

Since we don’t have a ‘reset’ button to give us a fresh start, it’s up to us as 21st century citizens to stand up and fight like our life depended on it because let’s face it, it does.
GOOD NEWS FOR THE ARCTIC

This is the moment millions have waited for; have worked for; have wanted to see. People around the world campaigned for their release, they wrote emails, they marched, they protested, they made a noise that became deafening, even in the Kremlin. This is their victory.

While we celebrate, we also recognise that this should never have happened, it should never have come this far. More than 100 days ago they were seized in international waters by armed commandos. They faced absurd charges – piracy then hooliganism and spent two months in jail for a crime they didn’t commit. They were guilty of nothing more than having a conscience.

The Arctic 30 sailed north to bear witness to a profound environmental threat, they protested peacefully at that oil platform because they knew an Arctic oil spill can’t be cleaned up and they know the danger posed to the Arctic by climate change. They took part in civil disobedience because sometimes actually doing something – taking a stand, is the only course of action open.

While the campaign to free the Arctic 30 can now claim victory; the campaign to save the Arctic cannot. Gazprom has just started pumping the first oil from icy Arctic water, while Shell is planning to drill off Alaska this summer. The biggest battles still lie ahead of us. There will be more civil disobedience and more action in the name of Arctic protection.

Through the enormous sacrifice of the Arctic 30, the movement to save the Arctic is now marching. Millions joined to push for their release, while people across the globe heard their message about Arctic oil drilling and climate change. The companies moving into the Arctic – Gazprom, Shell and all the others, now know they face a formidable opponent, global public opinion. This is the start of something big, not the end.

NECESSITY AND INNOVATION

They say necessity is the mother of all invention. When push comes to shove and the walls are closing in, human ingenuity reaches its finest hour. Everything from the invention of the wheel to the modern day smartphone, came about to quench the necessity of the time.

A case in point is that here in India, almost 10 million diesel-powered irrigation pumps have allowed small farmers to water their crops year round. Now here’s where the problem lies; diesel is a fossil fuel that is now proving to be a liability than a solution. With the frequent price hikes, the farmer finds himself between a rock and a hard place. He then abandons his land and moves to the city with the hope of finding work. Is this sustainable?

Wouldn’t it be ideal if the farmer could retain his land, not be in debt and continue to do what he does best? Well, this is the thought that went behind the Greenpeace Innovation Challenge. An open challenge that ran for 10 weeks, inviting participants from all over to submit technical designs for a water pump that’s powered on renewable energy. It was a stellar turn out with 1500 people from 58 countries who created 258 pioneering designs!

The winning designs will be prototyped and tested in villages in Bihar and depending on the feedback, they will be perfected for implementation in the fields. From crisis to solution, we are paving way for renewable energy in India together. This is human ingenuity for a sustainable tomorrow.

EVERYONE’S AN ACTIVIST

Being a supporter of Greenpeace goes to show your selfless commitment to lend a helping hand to our ailing environment. Inevitably though, when we look around us, we’re saddened by the state of our immediate surroundings and often wished there was something that could be done about it.

Introducing, Greenpeace Extra (GPX). It’s a relatively new concept by Greenpeace India that aims to empower the common man and focus on localised issues that pertain to our day-to-day lives. The beauty of this tool is that anyone can start, run and win campaigns on issues that affect their community. Being a free tool, it levels the playing field and harnesses the will and passion of the people behind it.

If we look around us, we cannot help but notice that people are no longer procrastinating from the comfort of their homes but instead, they’re taking a stand to fight for what they realise is their tomorrow. Everything from the local park that’s about to turn in to a parking lot to the indiscriminate dumping of garbage is now getting its time in the spotlight.

One of the major reasons for its success apart from the ease of use is that we provide all the technical support and the access to Greenpeace India’s vast social media network. The gap between large-scale global issues and local ones has now been bridged. So, is there something in your neighbourhood that’s plaguing the environment? Now you can change that; www.greenpeace.in