

Eco-conservation



The amount of land covered by lush green trees is getting smaller every day and so the balance of gases these trees help to control is changing. At a grassroots level GVNML are taking steps to help mitigate the global problems climate change brings by developing eco-parks. GVNML is encouraging village communities in Rajasthan to dedicate 2-3% of the total village land to become protected forest areas called 'bannis'.

These areas of 10 – 20 hectares provide a place for birds to nest, wildlife to take rest, make their homes and give birth to offspring. 15 different species of trees have been planted, most of them indigenous types and 30 different grasses grow in the bannis with the seeds spreading naturally to other areas through the birds. 40 bird species take shelter here, 7 of which are endangered including small and large owls. The entire area is free from artificial developments such as insecticides, pesticides, plastics and chemical fertilisers that are harmful to nature and can destroy the eco-system.

At first these eco-parks were met with some resistance by villagers, who failed to see the long term impact, wanting short term results instead. But since they have been tending to the bannis, they are starting to believe in the vision of these special areas and can see nature regenerating naturally through them. Communities are now demanding bannis are established in their village.