AHINSADHAM
Pashu Raksha Kendra

AHINSADHAM

A Journey of Compassion towards Animals and Environment

Tree Plantation Report 2025

Sustainability Commitment

Our Commitment to Sustainability

Fruit Tree Plantation:
We grow fruit-bearing trees to provide natural food for birds and animals, supporting biodiversity without commercial harvesting.

Water Management:
Over 35 acres lake and rainwater is systematically harvested and stored, ensuring sustainable irrigation without external sources.

Natural Fertilization:
Only organic cow dung is used to enrich soil, eliminating synthetic chemicals and protecting the environment.

Ecological Restoration:
We organize plantation events where community members actively contribute by planting trees and supporting our restoration efforts.

- Topavan Dham

ABOUT US

Established in 1990 and inaugurated in 1995, Ahinsadham has grown from 5 acres to 600 acres in the arid Kutch region of Gujarat. The sanctuary actively pursues ecological restoration through large-scale tree plantation, herbal cultivation, and water conservation. Native and drought-tolerant species are prioritized to regenerate degraded land and improve soil fertility. These efforts also enhance groundwater recharge and contribute to significant carbon sequestration. Together, they foster biodiversity and create a resilient habitat for flora and fauna.

OUR MISSION

- **To Plant 10,00,000 Trees** – native and drought-resilient species that help sequester carbon, reduce heat, improve air and water quality, prevent soil erosion, and strengthen biodiversity.
- **Afforesting 225 Acres of Arid Land** – transforming degraded terrain into green sanctuaries that provide safe habitats for animals & birds, regulate microclimate, and establish stable vegetative cover, which also helps to support ecological diversity.

OUR VISION

Our ambition is to create a self-sustaining, green sanctuary that brings back biodiversity, and also provides a safe and thriving environment for animals & birds, and ensures favourable conditions, food, and shelter for migratory birds to breed.

We aim to build a balanced ecosystem that supports both plants and Biological life in the long term.

OVERVIEW

Ahinsadham's Tree Plantation Project seeks to revive 225 acres of dry land through the planting of one million diverse trees. This effort enriches soil health, stabilizes local ecosystems, and attracts native wildlife. Canopy growth offers natural shade while sustaining fodder resources for resident animals. Extensive root systems enhance groundwater recharge, improving long-term water security.

Pioneering Reforestation in Arid Regions

The project is being implemented within the 600-acre sanctuary of Ahinsadham, in the arid zone of Kutch district, Gujarat, India. This region experiences extreme climatic variability, with annual rainfall averaging less than 400 mm.

In summers temperature exceed 45°C, and there are prolonged dry spells. The soils are predominantly sandy to sandy-loam with low organic matter, making them highly susceptible to erosion, poor water retention and desertification. This arid region is only suitable for resilient shrubs.

Approximately 225 acres of degraded topography have been designated for systematic afforestation and ecological rehabilitation throughout this challenging landscape. The other extent is dedicated to ongoing animal rescue, watershed management, as well herbal horticulture initiatives. The site also lies along a vital ecological corridor that overlaps with the migratory pathways of several bird species. Strengthening vegetative cover in this zone contributes not only to improved soil stability, carbon storage, and microclimate regulation.

- Nandi Sarovar

A SELF-SUSTAINING ECOLOGICAL ENGINE

Nandi Sarovar, a 35-acre artificial lake developed by Ahinsadham, anchors a transformative ecological initiative in the arid landscapes of western India. Designed for long-term sustainability, it supports afforestation, animal welfare, and spiritual sanctuaries across a 600-acre expanse.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Ahinsadham's ecological sustainability is further enhanced by an effective water management system, comprising a 35-acre lake and a 21-lakh-litre raised tank. These resources, which include forest restoration, animal shelters, and spiritual areas, assure year-round vitality, reduce reliance, and maximise sustainability.

AFFORESTATION STRATEGY

A total of 225 acres have been allocated for tree plantation, with 500,000 trees already planted. The land is divided into 45 plots, each spanning 5 acres and serving distinct ecological or thematic purposes ranging from herbal cultivation to fodder production while collectively contributing to biodiversity.

Planting Process

Planting activities establish a clear, auditable route from seed to mature canopy. This section defines practical steps, measurable actions, and expected results so teams can implement consistently, record data reliably, and present progress transparently.

Planting steps and how to get there

Present the planting steps in a concise table so readers can grasp tasks, responsibilities, and outcomes at a glance. This format saves time while improving comprehension and enabling straightforward monitoring.

Step	Activity	Expected outcome
Nursery preparation and seed handling	Collect native and fruit-bearing seeds; sow in shaded nursery beds; saplings reach about 1 ft in two months and grow to 1-3 ft before transplantation.	Uniform, resilient saplings ready for hardening within 2-4 months.
Site preparation and soil enrichment	Lay out 2 m planting grids; excavate pits ~3 ft deep × 2 ft wide; amend pits with cow dung and organic compost; connect to rainwater-harvesting channels.	Improved soil structure and moisture retention that supports strong root establishment.
Maintenance & Care	Provide 3-5 litres of water per tree weekly; continue mulching, pruning, and inspections for five years to ensure full establishment.	High survival and steady canopy growth.

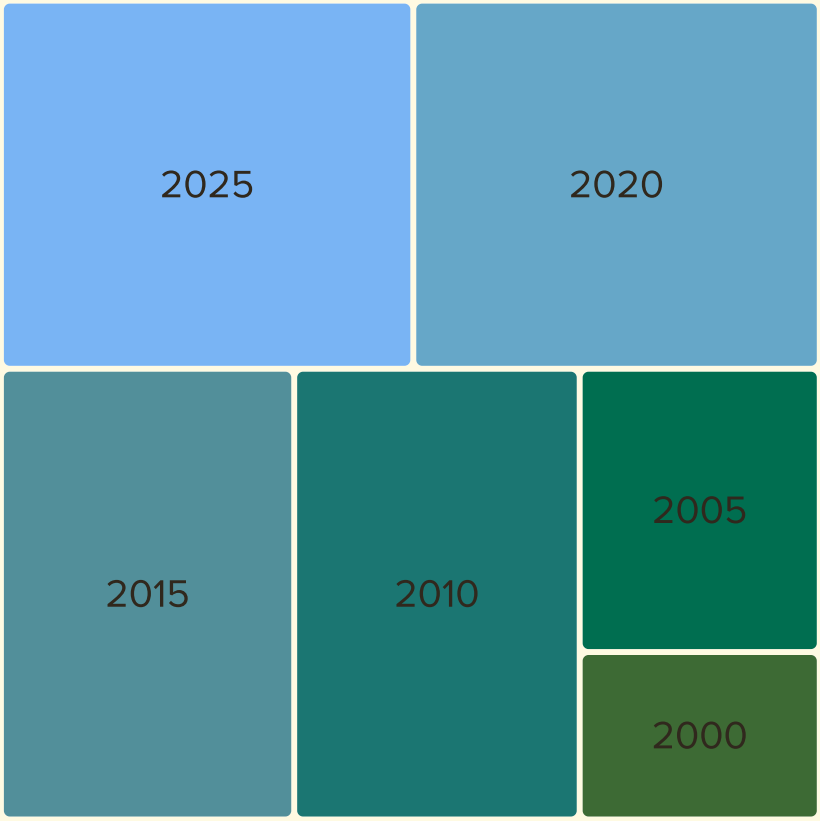
Survival Rate

- Out of every 10,000 saplings planted, only 15-20 fail to survive, indicating exceptionally high success, a figure that underscores careful nursery management, systematic watering, and five years of dedicated maintenance.
- **Survival Rate = 98%**

Tracking Plantation Progress

Plantation Progress Overview

A treemap visualising milestone phases and cumulative restoration from 2000 to 2025



Every block denotes a significant time period; the block area shows the expansion of planting effort and recovered area during that time, as well as any relative emphasis or cumulative activity.

This treemap illustrates Ahinsadham afforestation journey from 2000 to 2025, showing how planting efforts expanded each year. It provides a quick visual snapshot of cumulative growth and the steady progress toward restoring 225 acres with one million trees.

- 2025 — Target phase: Completion goal of one million trees across 225 acres.
- 2020 — Scale-up phase: Large-scale afforestation and expanded nursery capacity.
- 2015 — Expansion phase: Site-level planting and species diversification.
- 2010 — Nursery scale-up: Increased sapling production and hardening protocols.
- 2005 — Pilot phase: Initial orchard plots and community engagement trials.
- 2000 — Baseline phase: Site assessment, hydrology mapping, and species selection.

Sources of afforestation

Afforestation at Ahinsadham is driven through multiple, interconnected sources that ensure long-term ecological restoration. From conserving genetic diversity through seed banks to propagating saplings in nurseries and expanding green cover via plantations, each stage contributes to soil regeneration, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity enhancement.

Herbal Plantation

The herbal plantation focuses on cultivating medicinal and ayurvedic plant species that are ecologically suited to arid conditions. These plantations not only conserve ethnobotanical knowledge but also enhance soil fertility, promote pollinator activity, and contribute to sustainable resource use.

Seed Bank

The seed bank collects and preserves 80+ naturally fallen and rare seeds from native trees, ensuring long-term genetic diversity. These conserved seeds are later used for germination in our nursery, where they are nurtured into saplings, and also distributed freely to farmers to encourage sustainable agroforestry and ecological restoration.

Thriving Nursery

Seeds preserved in the seed bank are germinated and nurtured into healthy saplings within the nursery. This stage ensures higher survival rates, promotes strong root development, and provides communities with ready-to-plant saplings for afforestation and habitat restoration.

Biodiversity Impact After Afforestation

Following the plantation of over 5 lakh trees, Ahinsadham has observed a significant resurgence of local wildlife and avifauna within the sanctuary. The restored green cover has attracted a wide variety of species, indicating improved ecological health and habitat quality.

Bird Species

- Among the bird species, resident populations such as peacocks, sparrows, parrots, eagles, owls, grasshoppers (insect indicator species), and peregrine falcons are now commonly sighted. Additionally, the sanctuary has become a safe resting and breeding ground for migratory birds, including the Flamingos, Pelicans, Cranes, Cuckoos and Storks which rely on the newly created habitats for shelter, food, and nesting opportunities.

Tree Species

- The tree species that dominate this environment, such as neem (Azadirachta indica), banyan (Ficus benghalensis), tamarind (Tamarindus indica), guava tree (Psidium guajava), Java plum (Syzygium cumini), and rayan (Manilkara hexandra) etc, play an important role in biodiversity conservation. These trees not only provide substantial shade for animals, but also provide fruits that are vital food sources for birds and small mammals.

Animal Species

- The reforested terrain has also become a home for creatures such as boars, nilgai (blue bulls), and Indian hedgehogs, who all benefit from the restored vegetation and water resources. These biological changes reflects and indicate how afforestation has revitalised food chains, improved microhabitats, and restored balance to Kutch's semi-arid ecosystems.

Insects Species

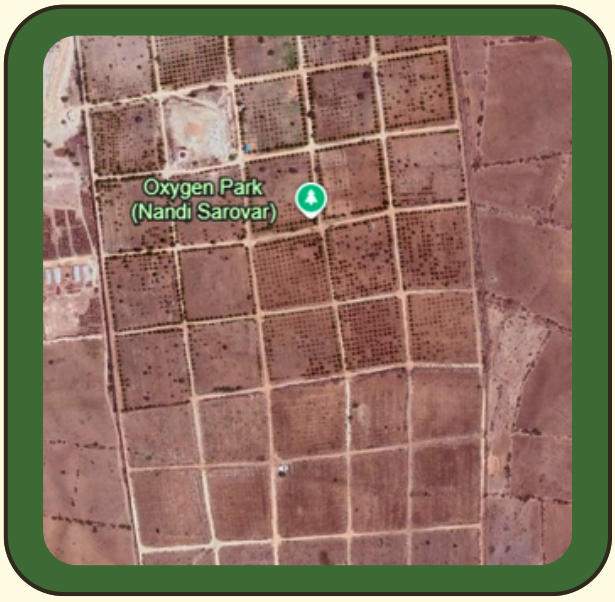
- Insect species such as honeybees, butterflies, ants, beetles, and dragonflies have returned to the plantation areas. They promote pollination, soil health, and natural pest management while signalling ecological rebound. Their arrival enhances food chains, improves habitat quality, and demonstrates Ahinsadham organic restoration efforts.

Aerial Evidence of Ecological Revival

The two images below show our journey from April 2011 to January 2022 not just a change in land, but a powerful story of commitment, action, and ecological revival. Once dry and sparse, this 225 acre land is now blooming with over 5,00,000 trees, forming the heart of our dream to plant Ten Lakh trees.

BEFORE (2011)

AFTER (2022)



Note: Satellite imagery sourced from Google Earth)

Our Achievement

Trees Planted: 5,00,000 (50% of 10,00,000 target)

Plot-based Afforestation: 225 acres allocated as 45 × 5-acre plots

Improved Air Quality: Trees absorb CO_2 and filter atmospheric pollutants.

Prevent soil erosion: Root systems reduce soil erosion and land degradation.

Support biodiversity: Trees expand forest cover and stabilize ecosystems.





Reference

Contact

info@ahinsadham.org

socialconnect@ahinsadham.org

BORIVALI OFFICE:
97264 75555

BORIVALI ADDRESS:
5, Gurukrupa Apartment,
Kasturba Cross Road No.1, Borivali (E),
Mumbai - 400 066, Maharashtra

www.ahinsadham.org

@ahinsadham