

The Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Development (CESD) was formed in 2019 to contribute to GIM’s quest for environmental sustainability.

The core objectives of CESD are: knowledge creation, knowledge dissemination and knowledge application and CESD focuses on five Sustainable Development Goals as shown.

The CESD team comprises of the following members:

- Prof. Arpita Amarnani, Chair
- Prof. Vithal Sukhathankar, Member
- Prof. Abhinav Sharma, Member
- Prof. Muneeb Ul Lateef Banday, Member- On leave
- Prof. Diya Guha Roy, Member
- Prof Mauli Soni, Member
- Prof. Subhamitra Patra, Member
- Dr. Karen Fernandes, Senior Research Associate



## 1 Student Engagement

For the Academic year 2023-24, CESD conducted induction sessions for all sections of courses offered at GIM viz. PGDM, BIFS, BDA and HCM. The induction sessions were conducted by Prof Arpita Amanani, Prof Vithal Sukhathankar and Dr Karen Fernandes. The induction sessions resulted in **119 students signing up** and showing interest



in being Sustainability Ambassadors. 64 students were shortlisted and 14 students were selected after conducting individual interviews. The first meeting with the Sustainability Ambassadors was held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023. On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 the second meeting was held to plan for the activities of the centre for the year.

## Sustainability Hackathon

On **24<sup>th</sup> February 2024**, CESD conducted its flagship event Sustainability Hackathon on the theme ‘Creating Sustainable Events’. A total of 685 registrations were received out of which 74 entries were screened to select the top 5 entries. The event had five mentors who mentored the top 5 teams for a period of 10 days prior to the event. Alice Kalro, Practice Lead, arkH3 an



emerging global thought leader in transformational corporate sustainability was the keynote speaker. Three jury members, Ms Saltanat Kazi, Fellow at TERI- The Energy and Resources Institute, Mr Ashwin Kak, Chief Consultant - Sustainability & Public Policy Chief Consultant - Sustainability & Public Policy-CIRE and Prof. Arpita Amarnani- Chair- CESD assessed the performance of the finalists and the winning team was Team Environ from IIT Delhi and the runner-up team was Team Utopians from Jadavpur University. Cash prizes worth Rs 1,50,000/- were awarded. The event gain over 28000 impressions on unstop platform and press release by Times of India.



## Sustainable Events at GIM

Focusing on contributing towards achieving the goal of a net zero campus in the future, CESD is attempting to create a GHG emission calculator through a team of faculty and students. An emission calculator for an event is expected to help event organizers track how much CO2 is being released into the environment through the event. By recognizing nodes where these emissions can be reduced an attempt will be made to measure the impact of any event on the environment. For this, certain pillars are identified under which all measurable event-related activities are collated where the organizers will have to measure the activity rate, and fill it in the calculator provided in the indicated format and the calculator would provide the CO2 emissions generated through each of them using their respective emission factors. CESD would try to extend the events emission calculator to our institute to capture GIM's carbon footprint. the calculator and the guidelines in July and will launch a competition at GIM to encourage innovation

## Student Workshop

On the **21<sup>st</sup> of November 2023**, the Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Development organized a student workshop and was honoured to have Mr Ashwin Kak and Dr Isabella Allan as resource persons who engaged a group of 24 students with insights into the career opportunities that lie within the domain of sustainability.



Moreover, Dr. Isabella Allan delved into Negotiation and the future looking into people, technology and sustainability. CESD was also happy to have students from Agnel Institute of Technology and Design Assagao participate in the workshop.

## 2. Sustainability at GIM

### Faculty Development Programme

In a significant milestone for the field of higher education, the Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Development, Goa Institute of Management (GIM) has successfully conducted a Faculty Development Program (FDP) focused on incorporating sustainability into its curriculum.

First module on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 consisted of a keynote address by the world-renowned American economist, academician, author and public policy analyst Prof. Jeffery Sachs, who is currently a University Professor and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University. He impressed upon the audience the need for holistic sustainable development and to bring together experts from scientific and non-scientific backgrounds so that complex sustainability issues can be resolved.



The Keynote address was followed by a panel discussion which included panel members who had academic and corporate experience. Ms Sunita Sule, Head- Country Development, BASF India Limited pointed out that academia encompassing sustainability is a great idea as India is becoming the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in 2025 and therefore conscious carbon reduction is essential. Prof Ajit Parulekar, Director- GIM said that though we are not scientists on climate change, we can collaborate with Government, Academicians, Industry and contribute and change the psyche of students through embodiment of sustainability in different courses. The second module of the FDP exclusively for the faculty of GIM on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 was conducted by Prof. PD Jose, Professor from IIM Bangalore. Prof Jose guided the faculty on how they could integrate the idea of sustainability in the various courses taught at GIM.

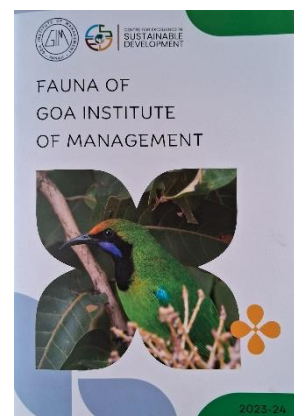


PRESS RELEASE - NAVHIND TIMES



### Project 'Faunal Biodiversity Register of GIM'

After the successful completion of the first phase of the GIM biodiversity register that photo-documented 150 floral species, CESD took up the next project "Biodiversity Register of GIM Campus: Major Fauna" with the objective of protecting and enhancing biodiversity on GIM campus by documenting fauna viz. including birds, butterflies, reptiles, insects, and other animals in a phased manner. In March '22, CESD tied up with the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) and two private consultants for



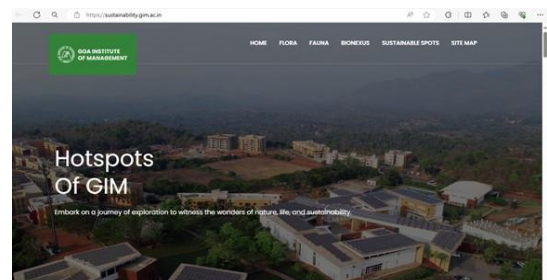
technical inputs in documenting and identification of various faunal species found on campus. A faunal biodiversity flyer was released on the **26<sup>th</sup> January 2023** to promote awareness about the rich faunal biodiversity heritage of GIM campus. GIM campus was divided into 41 one-hectare grids for scalability and consistency among survey sites.



The highlight of the survey was the observation and record of the endemic and charismatic frog of Western Ghats – Malabar Gliding Frog at the water harvesting pond as well as sighting of *Polyrhachis Thrinax*, a species of carton ants reported for the first time in Goa from GIM campus. The Faunal Biodiversity report was released on **6<sup>th</sup> April 2024** which suggested various measures to manage and enhance biodiversity on campus including the development of grid 17 as a faunal biodiversity refugia (Water harvesting pond), Supplementing gardens and lawns in specified grids with native flowering plants, creation of an active eco-club and long-term monitoring of biodiversity on campus.

### Sustainability Interactive hot-spot mapping project

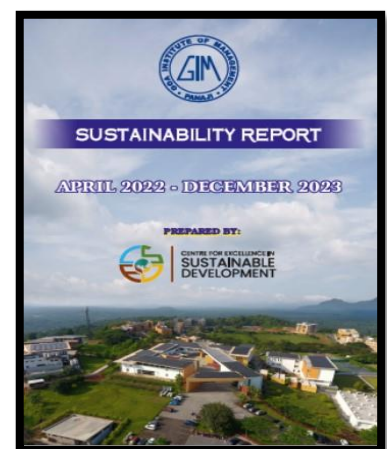
To create awareness of the sustainability initiatives undertaken at GIM and the biodiversity on campus, CESD worked with students to develop a webpage titled 'Interactive Hot-Spot Mapping,' which provides information about the flora and fauna on campus as well as the sustainability initiatives undertaken by the institute. An online as well as offline trail to guide one at the various hotspots and retrieve information through QR codes has been developed that gives interesting information to a variety of different stakeholders on campus. This was a project funded under the Director's Assistantship Programme. To date, the website has received 620 visitors.



### Sustainability report

CESD has been instrumental in taking up the creation of a Sustainability Report for the Institute to report on various ESG aspects. This Sustainability Report makes GIM one of the first Institutes in the country to report its sustainability initiatives using the internationally acclaimed GRI framework.

The second sustainability report has been prepared for the period April 2022 to Dec 2023 and was released on 31st May 2024. An attempt has been made to incorporate the feedback received for the first report. In the latest report, more detailed information has been collated on student and employee diversity at GIM, financial support offered by GIM under various scholarships, gender equality



and more. Information on sustainability initiatives taken with respect to new projects and construction on the campus have also been included.

### Capacity building of CESD members

Prof Diya Guha Roy and Dr Karen Fernandes underwent sessions on Climate Literacy Training organized by PRME from 18 January 2024 to 15 February 2024. The PRME Climate Literacy Training for Business Schools is led by Professor Petra Molthan-Hill (Nottingham Trent University) UK in collaboration with the PRME Champions, the PRME Working Group on Climate Change, oikos International, and the Carbon Literacy Project. Prof Diya Guha Roy attended the first in-person meeting from March 13-15 in Madrid, Spain, hosted by CUNEF Universidad as GIM has been selected as the PRME Champion School for the next two years.

Dr. Karen Fernandes underwent the Energy Literacy Training (ELT) program designed to deepen one's understanding of energy, SDG 12, and its impact on the local and global environment, organized by Energy Swaraj Foundation.

### Other sustainability initiatives

The centre has implemented the use of old newspapers in washrooms to dispose sanitary napkins in an attempt to control the use of tissue rolls thereby saving the environment. Besides in an attempt to educate on the



Distribution of paper bags

usage of flush in washrooms to reduce usage of water, stickers were designed and affixed in washrooms. CESD provided the provision shop on campus with paper bags in an effort to reduce the usage of plastic on campus. In addition posters were affixed at the shop to remind students to be sustainable by carry their own carry bags.



Sensitizing students to avoid plastic bags

### World Environment Day: Sustainable Expedition and Interactive session- 5 June 2023

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 the Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Development- Goa Institute of Management celebrated World Environment Day by organizing a Sustainable Expedition through GIM campus followed by an interactive session for the faculty and staff.

The Sustainable Expedition consisted of a walk through GIM campus to spread awareness about the various sustainable initiatives undertaken by the institute towards energy, water, waste and biodiversity. GIM faculty and staff shared information on various sustainable initiatives such as the biogas plant, waste management, solar energy etc.

The interactive session on environment focused on reptiles particularly snakes through a snake awareness cum show by Mr. Charan Desai, a wildlife rescuer and proprietor of SAWE Solutions who



sensitized the faculty and staff about snakes, precautionary measures to avoid encountering snakes and measures to be taken in the event of a snakebite.

A team of ten members from the Forest department- Sattari Valpoi headed by Range Forest Official Mr. Sangam Desai attended the event and shared information on sustainability with the audience after which saplings were distributed to faculty and staff. The event ended with the Prof Ajit Parulekar Director GIM sharing his thoughts and Prof Vithal Sukathankar delivering the Vote of thanks. The event saw a wide coverage from print media which included seven Marathi newspapers and two English newspapers.

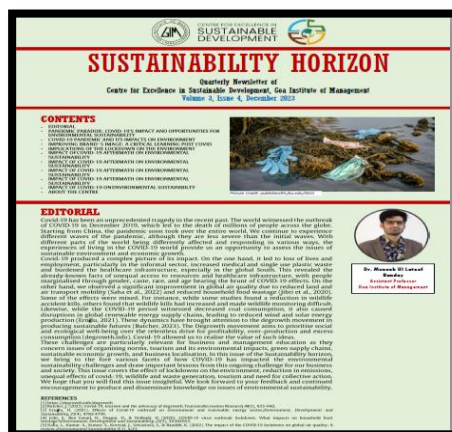
### 3 Stakeholder Interaction

#### ‘Sustainability Horizon’ newsletter

Sustainability Horizon, a quarterly newsletter by CESD collates contributions from students, academicians, and practitioners in the field of environmental sustainability and attempts to address the changing dynamism in the sector. For the year 2023, the four issues of Sustainability Horizon was released on an overall theme for the year titled ‘Global Impactful Events’ with four sub-themes to cover each quarterly newsletter. The four sub-themes include

- i. Impact of COP27/G20 Summit on Environmental Sustainability
- ii. Impact of Global Sports events (e.g., FIFA World Cup Soccer) on Environmental Sustainability
- iii. Impact of COVID-19 aftermath on Environmental Sustainability
- iv. Impact of Russia-Ukraine War on Environmental Sustainability

Presently, the newsletter is sent to around 1200 people, including the GIM community, corporates, start-ups, government agencies, etc. The Centre has received several appreciative messages/ emails from the recipients mentioning that the newsletter is a good resource in sustainability.



Latest Issue- Volume 3 Issue 4



Issues of 2023

## Social Media Engagement

June 2023-24	LINKEDIN				INSTAGRAM		
	NUMBER	LIKES	VIEWS	REPOSTS	NUMBER	LIKES	IMPRESSIONS
<b>POSTS</b>	40	552	21062	59	11	231	2476
<b>VIDEOS</b>	2	41	956	-	5	66	1932
<b>FOLLOWERS</b>	621				184		

CESD has been able to create an impact through social media posts and the figure above provides analytics of the LinkedIn posts. CESD plans to improve its social media presence with the help of the student group, by consistently posting quality content related to various themes in the domain of sustainability. The total followers on linkedin in June 2023 were 386 and this has grown to 620 followers. Recently the Sustainability hackathon organized in February 2024 earned more than **28,000** impressions on unstop platform.

## National Conclave on ESG

Prof Arpita Amarnani, Chair CESD chaired a panel discussion on Sustainability Tracking & Reporting with Ms. Jyotsna Belliappa, Founder and Director, BlueSky Sustainable Business, Mr. Thiruvankateswaran Ramachandran, CEO and Founder, Climeup.AI and Professor Anish Sugathan, Associate Professor of Strategy, Chairperson, Arun Duggal



Center for ESG Research as panellists. The panel discussion centered around key points such as Global ESG reporting standards and alignment with BRSR, Road to readiness for ESG reporting and Role of Technology and SusTech Start-ups in ESG tracking and reporting.

## CESD Advisory Board

The Centre formed its Advisory board comprising of five external advisory board members. The advisory board member are as follows; Dr. Ajit Parulekar, Dr. Arpita Amarnani, Dr. Venkatesh Naga, Dr. Isabella Allan, Dr. Abhinav Jindal. Mr Levinson Martins, Mr Ashwin Kak and Ms Wilma Rodrigues. The first advisory board meeting was conducted through online mode on the



First Advisory Board meeting May 2023

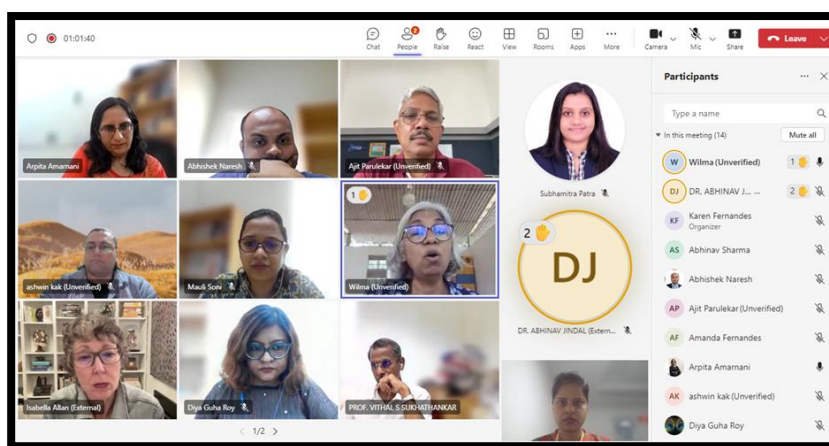
**22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023.** These members are academicians, practitioners from the corporate sector, government officials, and experts working with various foundations. The CESD board members will provide advice relating to the various pursuits of the Centre as well as direction on how the Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Development (CESD) at GIM can reach greater heights in the future in the field of sustainable development.



*First In-person Advisory Board meeting- November 2023*

The In-Person Advisory Board meeting took place on the **20<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.** Eleven members were present. The advisory board members along with the CESD team planned the strategic plan of the centre and discussed on how the centre can take forward the action points of the previous advisory board meeting.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, CESD conducted its third Advisory Board meeting via online mode. The advisory board of CESD now consists of seven external members with Dr Radhika Khosla as the most recent member. Dr. Radhika Khosla is an Associate Professor, School of Geography and Environment, University of Oxford and



Research Director, Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development. Dr. Radhika has vast experience on various issues of sustainable development. An urban climatologist by training, her work seeks to advance understanding of one of the most fundamental questions of our time: how can societies improve human well-being while preserving and enhancing the environment? Her interdisciplinary research examines the productive tensions between energy consumption trajectories, urban transitions, and climate change governance – in the context of development – that lie at the heart of this global challenge. Dr. Radhika works closely at the interface of research and policy and is Special Advisor to the UK’s House of Commons Environment Audit Committee for the inquiry on heat resilience and sustainable cooling. She serves on the UK Government’s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office UK-India Advisory Board. She has worked on a number of international scientific reports. The third advisory board meeting saw discussions on the Master's degree in sustainability, which is being designed by CESD, carbon footprint measurement and environment policy of GIM, and the strategic plan of CESD.



## 4. International Collaboration

### RISE Project

CESD was part of an international project, Responsibility, and Innovation via Social and Sustainable Entrepreneurship (RISE), funded by the Finnish National Agency, EDUFI. The objective of this Project was to network and develop proposal for further research.

Under the RISE project, a total funding of 8000 Euros was provided for the travel of two faculty members twice to Finland. As a part of this project, the team had monthly online meetings and there were four meetings that were conducted in the hybrid mode in Finland and India. The team developed a proposal on “Co-designing learning for Impact focused Entrepreneurship” and further submitted this proposal for funding to the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building programme. The RISE project concluded in December 2023.

**Co-Life Project** As an outcome of meetings under the RISE project, the consortium co-develop a proposal for curriculum for partner Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for *capacity building in the field of social and sustainable entrepreneurship*. In 2022, the project received in-principle approval from the funding body but was put in the reserved category as higher-ranked projects got precedence due to budget constraints. A fresh application was prepared based on the detailed feedback received from the agency after several rounds of online meetings with all the consortium members. A hybrid meeting was also organized in Mumbai in the second week of January and the new application for Erasmus+ funding was submitted on 12th February 2023. In August 2023, CESD received approval of the application for grants under ERASMUS+. The centre completed the Grant Agreement signing formalities.

Prof. Arpita Amarnani and Prof. Vithal Sukhathankar visited Finland in September which is funded by EDUFI, Finnish National Agency. From 28<sup>th</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, CESD- GIM hosted the ERASMUS partners for hybrid meetings spanning across 3 days where the schedule for the CO-LIFE project was discussed and finalised. The project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and the kick-off meeting was scheduled from 5<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Mumbai. This meeting was attended by Prof Arpita Amarnani and Prof Vithal Sukhathankar from GIM. CESD recruited Project Assistant, Ms. Amanda Fernandes. From January to May’24, 12 number of meetings were conducted which includes 4



steering committee meetings, 9 work package meetings and 4 full days of kick-off meetings. From a total of 16 deliverables, CESD has already submitted 4 of them.

## 5. Research in environmental sustainability

The following research publications by CESD members have been published.

*'Goa Institute of Management: campus water sustainability projects'* was published by Prof. Arpita Amarnani and Prof. Vithal Sukhathankar in the journal *'Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies'* in January 2023.

*Service Supply Chain Environmental Performance Evaluation using Fuzzy TOPSIS method* authored by Prof Diya Guha Roy was published in March 2023.

In December 2023 Prof Diya Guha Roy publish a research paper titled *'Medical tourism brand equity in emerging markets: scale development and empirical validation'* in the International Journal of Emerging Markets.

Prof Subhamitra Patra published a research paper titled *'Impact of climate change on food security in India: evidence from the autoregressive distributed lag model'* in a journal titled Environment, Development, and Sustainability in November 2023.

In December 2023, Dr Karen Fernandes published a research paper titled *'A sectoral approach to the energy consumption-economic growth nexus for select Asian countries'* in the International Journal of the Energy-Growth Nexus.

In February 2024, Prof Arpita Amarnani and Prof Vithal Sukhathankar published a case study on *'Campus Sustainable Energy Management Initiatives at Goa Institute of Management'* was published in February 2024 by the Emerald Emerging Market Case Studies.

*Is there a time-varying nexus between stock market liquidity and informational efficiency?—A cross-regional evidence*, Dr Subhamitra Patra, Studies in Economics and Finance, 2024.