

# **STUDY OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION OF A NATURAL RESOURCE**

## **INTERIM PROJECT REPORT *UNDER DST-NCSTC WASH PROGRAMME***



*Image Courtesy: Mumbai Hikers  
Source: google.com*

**WaSH Fellow Name:** Renuka S. Kulkarni

**Supervisor :** Shruti Barve

**Wash Fellow name:** Renuka S. Kulkarni

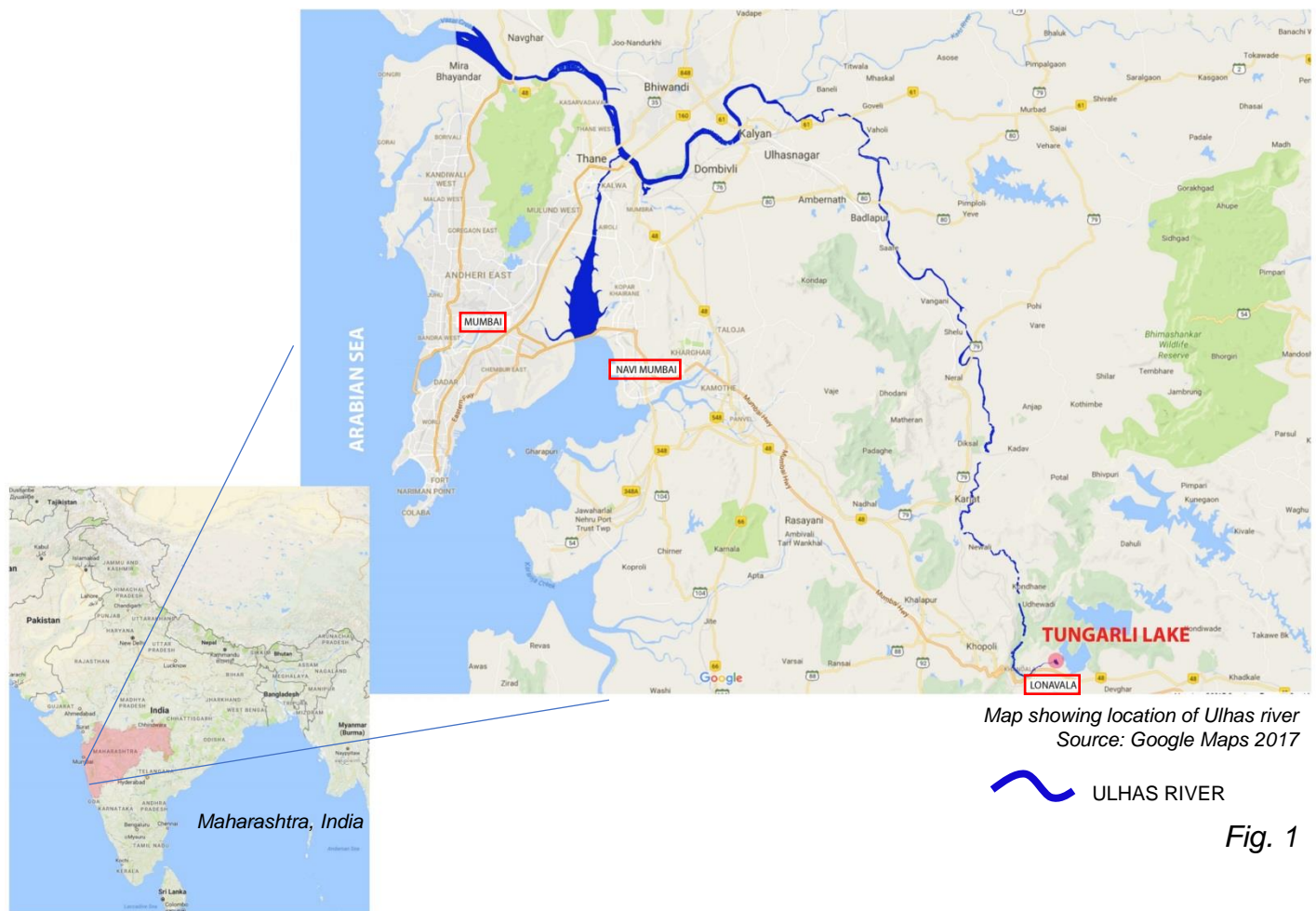
**Email Id:** kulkarnirenuka427@gmail.com

**Supervisor:** Shruti Barve

**Email Id:** shrutiutpal@gmail.com

**Project Start Date:** 1 March 2017

**Project Site:**



The Ulhas River originates from Tungarli Lake in Rajmachi, Lonavala in Maharashtra and meets the Arabian sea near Mumbai.

The total length of the river is approximately 122 kms .The Ulhas basin lies between North latitudes of 18° 44' to 19° 42' and East longitudes of 72° 45' to 73° 48'.

The river has the following tributaries:

Pej ,Barvi, Bhivapuri, Murbari, Kalu, Bhasta, Poshir & Shilar

Kalu and Bhatsa are the major tributaries which together accounts for 55.7% of the total catchment area of Ulhas River.

The river drains an area of about 4,637 km<sup>2</sup> which lies completely in Thane, Raigad and Pune districts in the Indian state of Maharashtra. Also, it completely comes under MMRDA (Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority). The river flows from South-East to North-West.

The river majorly flows through Sahyadri Hill Range from its origin and through heavily urbanised areas at its mouth. It forms two major creeks before meeting Arabian Sea viz. Thane creek and Vasai Creek.

## **Project Summary:**

Rivers is an important natural resource. It has been playing an important role in evolution of mankind, in fact all the living beings. As we step back in time, we see that major human civilizations have thrived along the rivers. From basic necessity of drinking water, to farming, to transport, rivers have been and are being used by human beings. As relationships between our kindred has been changing over the time so is our relationship with rivers.

To study a river fully, apart from studying its natural and physical features we also need to study and understand the relationship between the human beings which are living near the river and using it in one way or the other.

Ulhas River is one of the major rivers originating and flowing through Maharashtra. It flows through forests, villages and also urban areas like Mumbai and its satellite cities. Over the years the use of this river has been changing and also many areas are becoming urbanised day by day along the river. Hence it is important to conserve the river and the ecology it supports. Since people are major users of this natural resource it is important to analyse this relationship and try to find out steps which will help conserve it

## **Aim:**

To understand,

1. How people relate to the river in the current scenario of rapid urbanization.
2. Whether sense of ownership helps in conservation of the resource.

## **Objectives:**

1. To identify and map the land-use around the Ulhas river.
2. To understand the relationship of people with the Ulhas river (natural resource) and what effect does it have on the river.

## **Methodology:**

The following methodology will be used to achieve the objectives:

1. Formulation of aim and objectives.
2. Preliminary Site visits: Such site visits are required to know about the accessibility of the areas, resources and contacts for the project.
3. Digital Mapping: The land use of whole river will be digitally mapped with the help of google images to extrapolate the type of land uses
4. From the land use mapping areas will be identified for site visits.
5. Preparation of questionnaire
6. Site visits: The site visits will be done to the identified areas.
7. The questions will be asked to various age groups of various occupations
8. Inferences and conclusion for the project: The data obtained from the site visits will be documented and conclusions will thus be derived.



## **Expected Outcome:**

1. The major outcome will help us understand the relationship of human beings with a natural resource.
2. It will further help us to understand the ways in which a natural resource can be conserved with maximum positive intervention of the people using it.



**Project Timeline:**

Activities	March	April	May
Formulation of aim and objectives and initial study			
Digital Mapping and Site visits			
Documentation and conclusions			

 Work completed  
 Work to be completed

**Work/ Activities carried out so far:**

1. The initial study was done online using various maps to identify the origin and path of the river as seen in Fig. 1 (page 1).
2. Areas were identified for preliminary site visits which included Badlapur, Ambernath and Kalyan.
3. These areas are majorly urban in nature but also includes rural and industrial zones. Ulhas River flows through cities of Kalyan and Badlapur, where as Waldhuni river flows through Ambernath and Ulhasnagar which is a tributary of Ulhas River which meets Ulhas in Kalyan City. Activities around the accessible areas of the river in these towns were observed. (Site visit photos on next page.)

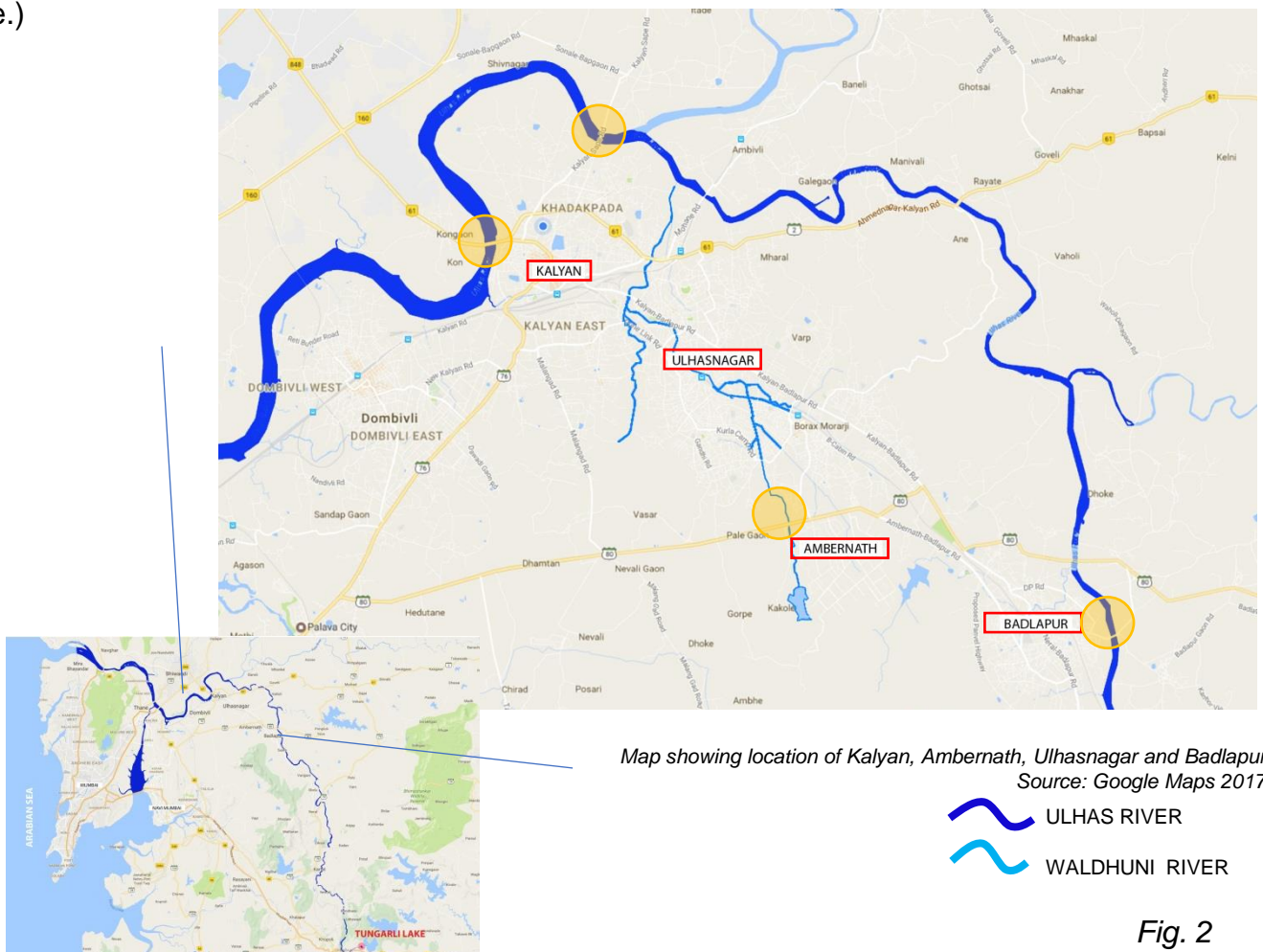
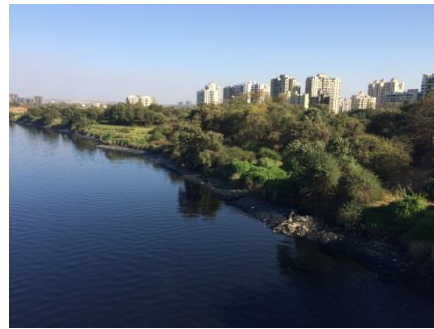


Fig. 2

4. A meeting with NGO was arranged with the help of *Mr Vinit Waghe* with a group of local people working for cleaning and conservation of Ulhas River in Badlapur Town area.
5. The interactive session with this group helped getting insights in the attitude of local people towards the river for that area. Also further meetings were arranged for the same.



Photos of Ulhas River at Badlapur



Photos of Ulhas River at Kalyan



Photos of Waldhuni River at Ambarnath



Meeting held at Badlapur

**Work to be done:**

1. Digital mapping will be done to identify the land use and areas for detailed site visits.
2. Questionnaire for the same will be prepared.
3. Site visits will be done and the local people will be interrogated with the help of questionnaire.
4. The data will be documented and analysed
5. Inferences and conclusions will be drawn from the collected data.

The work done till now is in congruence with the defined timeline.

**Future Directions:**

The work done will help in achieving an over view of relationship between human being and a natural resource. It will give new insights about whether sense of ownership or awareness about a natural resource helps conserving it.

It will help in developing better methods for conserving a natural resource which are beneficial to both the human and the nature.

**Citations:**

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