

THRIVABILITY MATTERS

Newsletter and updates



Hello!

June is the month when THRIVE focused on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and the Biosphere.

A banner with a background image of a river flowing through a forest. The text "Tips to Save Water" is overlaid in a bold, dark blue font.

Tips to Save Water

"Water is the driving force of all nature" — Leonardo da Vinci

This month's story, *'The Long Walk Home'*, demonstrates the power of the human spirit and how collective action to create sustainable change can provide a beacon of hope amid the challenges faced by communities striving for access to clean water and a better future.

Free to our members, in this issue:

- Story for the ages: The Long Walk Home
- Thriver's Voice: The apathy that comes from clean water on tap
- This Month: From Sustainable Agriculture and Food security, to experiments in the Biosphere, and Decolonising Ecologies
- What's next: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure // Sustainable Living
- Making a difference: A Citizen's Science Project for you
- Your feedback matters: Tell us what you like to see here

The Long Walk Home



Amina slumped against the trunk of the nearby acacia tree and stared out at the long line of women waiting to use the well. Her eyes welled up as she daydreamed of a life where she could attend school and play with friends.

The hot morning sun leaked through the swaying branches, energising her, whispering to her not to give up. This journey and the family's prosperity was her responsibility now, a hefty burden for any twelve-year-old. Amina stood up, wiped the tears from her eyes and hoisted the large plastic container, filled with water, onto her tired body and began her long 20-kilometre journey home.

The water sloshed around uneasily on Amina weary shoulders, making each step a challenge. There wasn't much further to go, but under the blazing sun, the remaining distance felt like an eternity. As she approached home, Amina noticed a commotion in the village. The villagers swarmed around a group of strangers with trucks and equipment. Her siblings ran to meet her. Amina

knelt down, hugging them tightly and feeling a surge of pride and hope. She had done it.

“What is going on?” Amina asked. “Who are these people?”

“They’re from UNICEF,” Her baby brother replied. “They say they’re going to build a well in our village!”

One day, their walk would be shorter, their lives better. Amina allowed herself to dream of that future, knowing it was within reach.



If, like me, you're fortunate enough to live in a house or apartment with direct access to water, you probably haven't given much thought to SDG6 - Clean Water and Sanitation. Fresh, clean water flows abundantly from the tap, yet this very abundance often leads to a diminishing awareness of water's true value and significance. Unfortunately, this is not the reality for the majority of the world.

Water is not just essential for hydration, it also drives economic results in the agricultural and industrial sectors, crucially supports ecosystem health, and contributes significantly to the biosphere. Surprisingly, only 3% of Earth's water is freshwater, and a mere 1.2% of that is drinkable.

Growing up in Australia, a sunburnt country, I experienced a glimpse of water scarcity. I couldn't understand why we had shower timers or why activities like watering gardens or washing cars were outlawed. The concept of a country running out of water is challenging for any child to grasp, yet it's becoming a new norm as the World Health Organization predicts that by 2025, half of the world's population will live in water-stressed areas due to continuous global temperature increases.

The impact on life in water-stressed areas is profound. Communities struggle daily to secure clean water for essential needs like drinking, cooking, and sanitation. Children miss school to fetch water, sometimes walking incredibly long distances. Lack of proper sanitation leads to health issues and the spread of diseases within these communities. Farmers accrue insurmountable debts as year after year crops wither and livestock die from erratic rainfall patterns and droughts.

Waterways, acting as lifelines for rivers, lakes, and oceans, face similar challenges. Industrial pollution, including untreated wastewater discharge and chemical runoff, is devastating these vital ecosystems. Shockingly, 80% of the world's wastewater is released without treatment. The consequences include fish species extinction, algal blooms, and

biodiversity loss, impacting not just aquatic life but also human communities dependent on these water sources.

So, what can we do to help? Implementing water-saving strategies at home, such as fixing leaks and using water-efficient appliances, is an easy and effective first step. Writing to your local government representatives to demand greater protections for waterways and more action on SDG6 targets can also make a difference.

Every action, no matter how small, counts towards preserving this precious resource for generations to come and building a healthier, more equitable world.

THIS MONTH

June's Focus - Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) and the Biosphere

Access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right. Yet, billions will still lack access to these basic necessities in 2030, leading to further health crises and environmental challenges. SDG 6 aims to ensure universal access to safe water sources and adequate sanitation facilities for all.

The Biosphere is our planet's delicate ecological balance and it's intricately linked to water and sanitation. Pollution, overuse, and climate change threaten this balance, significantly impacting ecosystems and human health.

This month, we delve into the critical importance of clean water and sanitation for sustainable development and the preservation of our precious biosphere. Join us as we explore solutions, initiatives, and actions to safeguard these essential resources for current and future generations.



Water For Sustainable Agriculture And Food Security

Water is essential for every form of life, for all aspects of socio-economic development, and for the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. While there are enough freshwater resources available on a worldwide scale to support continuing industrial and agricultural expansion, concerns about the long-term sustainable use of water resources are developing.

[Read More →](#)



Water Sanitation In Developing Countries

Water remains a fundamental part of all aspects of life. Water sanitation in developing countries is imperative to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, providing health and prosperity for life on this planet. Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for every man, woman and child is considered a human right.

[Read More →](#)



How To Live Sustainably: Lessons From The Biosphere 2 Experiment

For centuries, humans have been manipulating the Earth's environment to suit our needs, but what about recreating the Earth itself? In the late 1980s, a group of scientists did just that.

[Read More →](#)



Decolonising Ecologies: Unlocking Thrivability Through Indigenous Knowledge

Over the last nine months, THRIVE Project researchers, alongside a diverse team of collaborators and strategic partners, carried out an extensive investigation into the intricate dynamics surrounding thresholds and allocations within ecological and social systems. The emergent understanding unlocked the value of indigenous knowledge through systems thinking.

[Read More →](#)



Trailblazers Leading Brisbane to Global Business Prominence

The Lord Mayor's Convention Trailblazer Grant program, administered by Brisbane Economic Development Agency (BEDA), spotlights the THRIVE Project. THRIVE's holistic sustainability education advances Brisbane's global presence. Through the program, THRIVE fosters knowledge exchange and innovation, underscoring Brisbane's dedication to sustainable growth and prosperity.

[Read More →](#)

WEBINAR REPLAY



Yelysaveta Demydenko
Senior Programme Associate, Global Water Partnership



Madhukar Swayambhu
Cofounder & Researcher Head, Vaidic Srijan LLP



Rajesh Kumar
Sustainability Professional; TLR Krosaki



WATCH IT NOW

<https://ThrivabilityMatters.Online>



Encouragement to Take Action

On June 18th, 2024, the Thrivability Matters Webinar highlighted the interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 and emphasised the need for innovations in water sustainability. Speakers addressed water sustainability topics like country-led indicators for monitoring water progress, entrepreneurial opportunities for private sector in water technologies and practical solutions that you can implement to conserve water at homes. The THRIVE Project is incredibly grateful to the three speakers Yelysaveta Demydenko, Madhukar Swayambhu, and Rajesh Kumar for their captivating presentations during the June 2024 Thrivability Matters Webinar, and their call to action.

Here are the highlights from our webinar!

Based in Stockholm, **Yelysaveta Demydenko** brings over six years of expertise in water and environmental law. A critical figure in her field, she works closely with the Global Water Partnership (GWP) on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and Transboundary Water Cooperation.

Yelysaveta discussed the Global Indicator Framework, which consists of voluntary and country-led tools used to monitor global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yelysaveta shared insights from the latest report, indicating that the IWRM implementation score reached 57% in 2023. Despite progress in sustainable water management, Yelysaveta emphasised the need to accelerate our efforts and increase the pace to meet our goals more effectively.

Madhukar Swayambhu has a background in sustainability and environmental innovation, and is the co-founder and research head of Vaidic Srijan LLP, a climate tech start-up in India. Recognised as a Global Top 3 author on water by Spain's Smart Water Magazine.

During his presentation, Madhukar elaborated on the various governmental arms, schemes, and projects dedicated to achieving sustainable water management in India. He also introduced us to the concept of 'Aqua economy,' which encompasses both the immediate and peripheral sectors of the economy that are heavily reliant on water. His topic 'Waterpreneurship' highlighted the immense potential for water entrepreneurs to step up and solve some of the challenges, as this field is in need of technological interventions that can help amplify water sustainability efforts.

Bringing nearly 19 years of experience in ESG leadership and climate action, **Rajesh Kumar** has collaborated with prestigious organizations such as Michelin Tyres, Renault, Nissan, Pricol, and TVS.

Rajesh emphasised that "Water sustainability is a shared agenda that requires a collective response." He encouraged us as individuals to contribute by educating ourselves and understanding the importance of water in our lives. Despite 71% of the Earth's surface being covered in water, only 3% of it is freshwater, and a mere 1.2% of that is actually usable. This scarcity has resulted in global water stress, highlighting the critical need for sustainable water management.

For more insights and responses from the Q&A session, click [here](#). Be sure to attend the next event to continue this vital conversation.

Register Today and Save the Date!

WHAT'S NEXT?

WEBINAR

LIVE WEBINAR

SDG9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

SL Sustainable Living

TUESDAY
16 JULY 2024

6:00-7:30 PM
(UTC+10)

<https://ThrivabilityMatters.Online>

REGISTER NOW

THRIVE

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure // Sustainable Living

"The future will either be green or not at all" — Bob Brown

Register today for the next webinar (you will receive a link):

When: Tuesday, 16 July 2024, at 6:00PM (UTC + 10)

Theme: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure // Sustainable Living

For a sustainable world, we need to change our linear model and find innovative approaches that promotes a regenerative economy. Our webinar brings alive this topic and there are three reasons to sign up now:

1. Expert insights and practical solutions delivered to you for FREE
2. Interactive and engaging sessions to clear all your doubts
3. Be a part of the change we wish to see in this world

A CITIZEN'S SCIENCE PROJECT FOR YOU

For those who are ready to make a difference and start a movement to inspire others, then do read along. At THRIVE, we are launching a cool citizen science project for all the water heroes out there. For this edition, we are calling on residents of Sydney, NSW to partner on this unique project. Scan the QR code to register for FREE.



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

As we endeavour to elevate your experience, your feedback holds immense value for us. Feel free to spare a moment to convey your thoughts. Whether it's a suggestion, comment, or critique, we eagerly anticipate your input. Email us at tmn@ThrivabilityMatters.Org. Until then, do keep on thriving.

THRIVE Project is an independent research, education and advocacy group providing the latest information from the natural and social sciences on the means to achieve a sustainable society and thrivable future.

THRIVE aims to exhibit the most effective pathways to a sustainable planet. We want to instil the concept of "thrivability" (beyond sustainability) in human communities. We arm individuals and organisations with the knowledge they need to make sustainable changes in the pursuit of prosperity for all.



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