



Hello!

August is the month we focus on exploring the intricate connections between human activity, marine ecosystems, and terrestrial landscapes in the Anthropocene.



*"We are in the midst of the sixth great extinction, and the reason is us"*  
— **Elizabeth Kolbert**, Author of *The Sixth Extinction*

In this month's story, *"How a Beach and Turtles Found Hope"*, we explore the value of instilling positive behaviours from an early age. Young Sam and his father, Jay, demonstrate how small actions taken by many, can lead to significant positive changes in our world. *"How a Beach and Turtles Found Hope"* emphasises the importance of preserving ecosystems and learning from nature, ultimately fostering a sustainable future for all.

Free to our members, in this issue:

- Thrive Again: How a Beach and Turtles Found Hope
- Thriver's Voice: Marine Minds: Exploring the Sentience of Ocean Creatures
- This Month: Life Below Water, Life On Land, The Anthropocene
- What's next: Sustainable Cities and Communities // Globalisation
- Thrivability Spotlight: Meet our winner for 'Best Question or Comment' !
- Your feedback matters: Tell us what you like to see here



### **Thrive Again: How a Beach and Turtles Found Hope**

The evening sun cast a warm, golden glow over Versova Beach, a stretch of sand in Mumbai, India. As they strolled along the shore, young Sam fell behind his father, Jay, who reached out and gently took his hand.

"You know, Sam, this beach wasn't always this clean", Jay said.

"Really, Dad? What happened?" Sam asked.

"A few years ago, this place was buried under plastic and trash. The golden sand was hidden, and the sea turtles hadn't been seen in decades," Jay explained.

"That's sad. How did it get better?" Sam asked.

"An attorney named Afroz Shah started picking up trash by himself. Slowly, others joined him, and together, they removed 13 million kilograms of garbage over two years," Jay said.

"Wow! Did the turtles come back?" Sam asked, amazed.

"They did," Jay nodded. "The Olive Ridley sea turtles, which had avoided the polluted beach for years, returned. The clean sands made them feel safe enough to come back and lay their eggs. One night, they crawled up the shore, just as they had done before the beach was covered in trash".

As they walked on, Jay said, "Remember, Sam, even small actions can make a big difference when we care for our planet".





### Marine Minds: Exploring the Sentience of Ocean Creatures

My name is Zoe, I'm from France but currently living in Germany! I'm a copywriter here and also responsible for social media.

I would like to take this opportunity to voice out a concern for the increased killing of more and more marine mammals for business, because of ships and cargo, because of military infrastructure expansion and other exercises and war related activities in the ocean. ***Marine life, including mammals have a mind too.***

Furthermore, ***ocean plastic pollution*** or ocean litter is devastating. Earth.org reports that, 'we find about 100,000 marine animals killed by ocean plastic ingestion or entanglement each year... about 8 to 10 million tons of plastic make their way into the water every year, and we believe there are over 46,000 pieces of plastic in every square mile of ocean'. Every single day, 13,000 to 15,000 pieces of plastic are dumped in. For a full report on the effect on sentient life, see ***here***.

We need to control ourselves and we need to have more empathy towards the effects of our destructive practices affecting ***marine life and the ocean***.

### August's Focus - Life Below Water, Life On Land, The Anthropocene

This month's theme focuses on **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) 14 and 15, which are 'Life Below Water' and 'Life on Land', respectively. These goals from the United Nations (UN) highlight the importance of **preserving ecosystems**. We also reflect on how **human lifestyles and practices** are significantly impacting the natural habitats of plants and animals.

The **Anthropocene** is a term that describes the current geological age, in which human activity has profoundly shaped the planet and its biodiversity. We can also think of this term as the universal effect of human beings, their social behaviour and daily habits that over time, have a compounded impact on the natural world.

The theme invites us to take a deeper look at our current human **stewardship** of the **ecosystems** of Earth. We will explore the impact of cities and urbanisation on land-dwelling animals and their habitats, the effects of ocean litter choking and poisoning the shores and marine creatures, and how water from springs, aquifers, rivers, and the ocean connects all life. We also underline the link, and challenge our caretaking-role as humans in the delicate balance of planetary coexistence sustaining life as we know it.



#### Ecosystem Restoration And Reintroducing Wolves

THRIVE explores the dynamics of wolf extinction and reintroducing wolves, analysing political, social, and ecological factors. These factors have influenced current wolf populations. Henceforth, THRIVE provides an in-depth examination of the political ecology surrounding these efforts.

[Read More →](#)



#### The Age Of Humans And The Anthropocene Epoch

The year 2020 marks a milestone in humanity's learning process. The impact on the planet has been so great that scientists around the world are now calling for our period in the Earth's history of just 200,000 years to be named 'The Anthropocene Epoch,' (the age of humans).

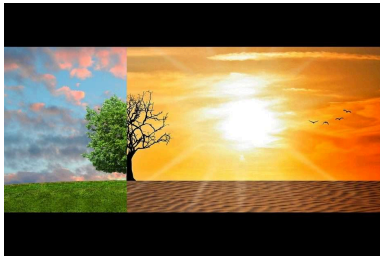
[Read More →](#)



## Whaling Laws: Is Commercial Whaling Sustainable?

An estimated 2.9 million whales were killed during the twentieth century, obliterating global whale populations. Japan is one of the largest contributors to this. They have fiercely protected their right to whaling, despite global outcry.

[Read More →](#)



## Climate Risk Management

A comprehensive climate risk management strategy is essential. The effects of human action-driven climate change are eroding the progress made towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Extreme weather events like cyclones, floods and heatwaves are rapidly increasing in rate and severity.

[Read More →](#)



## The Mammoth Resurrection Project: Innovations

In the grand tapestry of cosmic history, we find ourselves at a unique juncture. For the first time, humankind possesses the power to resurrect extinct creatures. This power was once the sole domain of nature and time, and exploring the Mammoth resurrection project is a pioneering endeavour in the field of de-extinction.

[Read More →](#)

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# WEBINAR REPLAY



**Felix Mutwiri**

Program Coordinator,  
Friends of Nairobi  
National Park



**Madhukar  
Swayambhu**

Cofounder & Researcher  
Head, Vaidic Srijan LLP



**Nik Metaxa-  
Schwarten**

Executive Director,  
PROUD-PH



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<https://ThrivabilityMatters.Online>



## The science of all living things

On August 20th, 2024, the Thrivability Matters Webinar focused on the critical intersections between the **Anthropocene** and the health of our planet's **ecosystems**, emphasising the profound interconnectedness of Sustainable Development **Goal 14: Life Below Water**, and **Goal 15: Life on Land**. The discussion highlighted how human activities are reshaping marine and terrestrial environments, stressing the urgent need for innovative strategies to preserve **biodiversity** and promote **ecosystem resilience**.

Our speakers, Felix Mutwiri, from Friends of Nairobi National Park, Kenya; Madhukar Swayambhu from Vaidic Srijan LLP, India; and Nik Metaxa-Schwarten, from PROUD.PH, Philippines; spoke to our online audience from around the world. The event was streamed live and moderated by Dr Karan Kapoor from THRIVE Project's research arm who facilitated the online panel discussion. The event was seen as one of the more lively webinars in recent times.

To delve deeper into their powerful messages and transformative insights, be sure to read the **article** and watch the webinar recording! Click **here** to find out what transpired with our experts during the Q&A session.

Join us next month where we will have Nicole Garofano from **Planet Ark** sharing her wisdom with those in attendance. Invite your friends to register early to ensure that they and you will not miss out!

**Register Today and Save the Date!**

**WEBINAR** **LIVE WEBINAR**

**SDG11** Sustainable Cities & Communities

**GL** Globalisation

**TUESDAY**  
17 SEPT 2024

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

**REGISTER NOW**

<https://ThrivabilityMatters.Online>

**THRIVE**

## Sustainable Cities and Communities // Globalisation

*"The future of our planet, the quality of the environment, and the ability to build a fair and equitable society depend on the decisions we make about our cities today" – Kofi Annan, Former UN- Secretary-General*

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

**When:** Tuesday, 17th September 2024, at 6:00 PM (UTC + 10)

**Theme:** Sustainable Cities and Communities // Globalisation

Explore the vital importance of **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities) in shaping urban environments that balance **economic growth**, social equity, and environmental protection in the age of **globalisation**. As globalisation accelerates the movement of people, goods, and ideas, it also intensifies challenges such as resource depletion, **pollution**, and **inequality** in our cities. By prioritising sustainability, cities can harness the benefits of globalisation while mitigating its negative impacts, ensuring **resilience**, inclusivity, and livability for future generations.

Together, these goals enhance ecosystem resilience and promote sustainable resource management, significantly reducing the effects of climate change and fostering a healthier planet. Dive into the crucial issues of **SDG 11** and learn how we can protect our Planet's precious ecosystems with:

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

**Register Today and Save the Date!**



## Meet our winner for 'Best Question or Comment' !

We are recognising Abarna Visvanathan for her thought-provoking questions in our recent webinar. Although now working in the IT sector, her passion for environmental causes remains unwavering. With a strong foundation in Environmental Management from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, India, she has developed a passion for conservation through hands-on experience in evaluating **ecosystem services of wetlands** and water quality analysis. Her connection to the environment is deeply personal, having grown up in coastal Chennai where she often jogged along the iconic Marina beach. This emotional bond fuels her dedication to preserving the beauty and integrity of the beaches and water bodies.

In recognition of this award, the THRIVE Foundation in support of the THRIVE Project donated the planting of ten native seedlings at Lockhart - regional Australia, which will absorb carbon dioxide, enrich soil health, and provide habitats for local wildlife. See above some images from the site.

Empowered by Abarna's story, you too can make a difference! Participate in our **webinars**, ask insightful questions, and win prizes that support environmental causes. Together, let's cultivate a thriving planet for generations to come.



## 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](mailto: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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