

HCLFoundation

Reviving Blue-Green Commons:
Community-led, nature-based restoration of water bodies

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Picture from:
HCLF intervention site
at GBN, Uttar Pradesh


HCLTech
Supercharging Progress
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HCL INFOSYSTEMS
HCL HEALTHCARE
Making Corporate India Healthier
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50
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UNIVERSITY
Shiv Nadar School
Education for Life
SSN
Kiran
Nadar
Museum
of Art
VIDYAGYAN
INDIA CHIP
Shiksha
THE
HABITATS
TRUST
THE KNOWLEDGE
HABITAT
the magic years

Overview

Presence across 20 States, 3 Union Territories & 102 Districts of India



HCLFoundation has presence in 15 aspirational districts

People

8.4M+
lives impacted

54%

16,800+ PWDs
Reached since FY 19-20
(35% female)

46%

163,000+ people
Linked with Social Security Schemes*

Planet

74,000+ acres
of land greened
and brought under community management

155B+ litres^
water harvested

4.5 M+
Saplings planted

160,000+ animals
treated & protected

*SSS-Aadhar Card, Bank Account, PAN Card, Artisan Card, Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana,Labor Card, PMJDY, PMJAY, etc. |
^ - Third party verified by DNV BA Ltd.

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The state of **water in India**

- India constitutes **16%** of the world's **population**, but the country has only **4%** of the world's **freshwater resources**.
- **Nearly 80%** of India's freshwater is used in **agriculture.**
- Groundwater accounts for **90% of the drinking water requirements** in **rural** India and nearly **50% in urban areas**.
- **Out of total 24 lakh waterbodies,** 97.1% in rural areas and 2.9% are in urban areas. Of these, **72.4% had area below 0.5 hectare**, while only 3.1% exceeded 5 hectares.
- **59.5% of water bodies are ponds,** 15.7% tanks, 12.1% reservoirs followed by 9% percolation tanks/check dams, 0.9% lakes etc.

Source:
Water bodies, First Census report, 2023



A rural woman in Rajasthan walks over 2.5 kms to reach a water source, according to a report by the National Commission for Women.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at Karauli, Rajasthan

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What on Water ?
Stewardship at HCLTech

Achieved a
40% ↓
reduction in water usage in India
(where we have majority of our operations, since 2020 (baseline)

Target of
5% YoY↓
reduction in water consumption for all our owned facilities

Our work in communities replenished
51x
more water than we consumed throughout the year

Our strategy is aimed at:

- **reducing** water consumption
- **enhancing** water efficiency
- **preserving** water quality


Post-maintenance picture of Chauna Pond, GBN, Uttar Pradesh

Water harvested PAN-India

Figures audited by DNV under ISO certification number ISAE 3000.



HCL Foundation, under its flagship programme HCLTech Grant, has launched a new category focused on water.

It will be signing multi-year MoUs amounting to 6 crores annually with three organizations.

HCL × uplink

Aquapreneur Innovation Initiative
HCL Group's commitment of USD 15M, over 5 years with WEF Uplink

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Nala Bund


Percolation Pit


Constructed Wetland


Step Well

Restoring for Future

Over a span of 7 years, the HCLFoundation restoring 433 water structures in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. **We have employed a multi-faceted approach to water structure rejuvenation, through Nature based solution and habitat restoration measures to improve ecosystem values.**

433
water
structures rejuvenated

3,700
acres of water structure's
surface area treated

~10,000 Mn litres
of water holding capacity
increased

155 Bn litres
of water
harvested

Uttar Pradesh
Pond Restoration

Rajasthan
Pokher, Anicut, Step well, Johad

Maharashtra
Talab

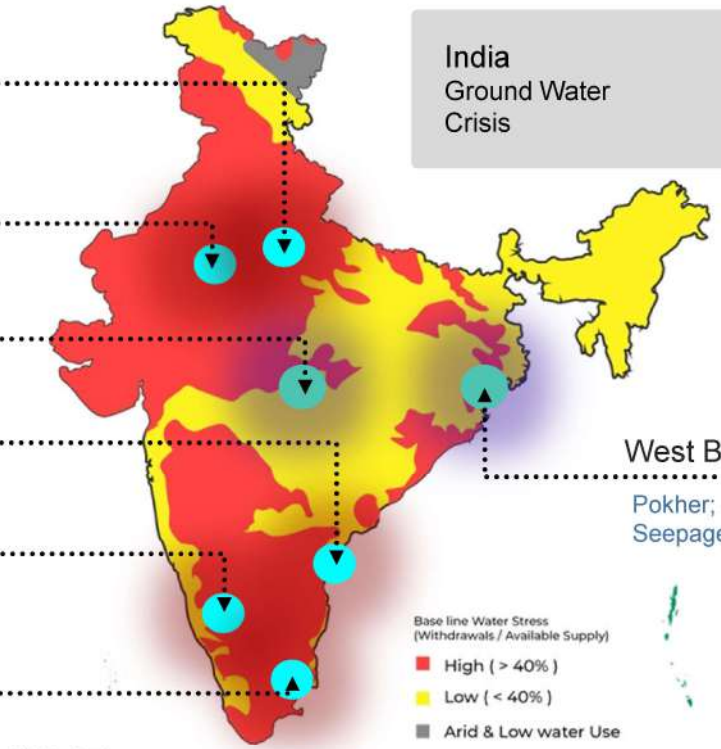
Andhra Pradesh
Cheruvu

Karnataka
Percolation Pits, Lake

Tamil Nadu
Oorani, Tanks, Channels, Ponds

India
Ground Water
Crisis

West Bengal
Pokher; Johad,
Seepage pond



*Not to Scale

MAP Source: WRI

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Key approach toward water conservation

Integrated, science-based and community-centric solutions

The Convergence Model

Science-based Planning

- GIS & spatial analysis
- Aquifers based planning
- Evidence based design

Knowledge

Community-centric Interventions

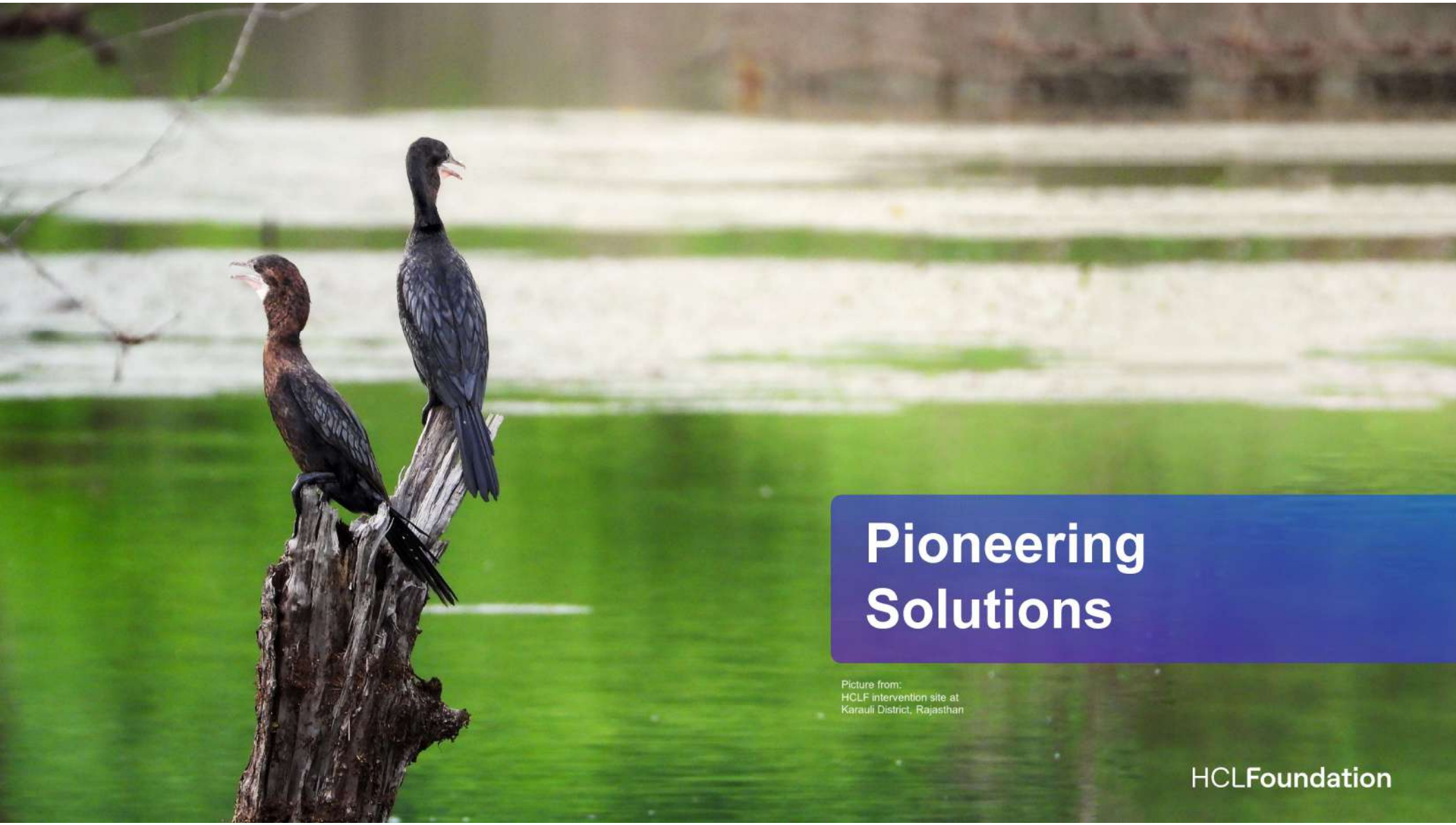
- Participatory planning
- Local ownership
- Inclusive & equitable

People

Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

- Work with nature
- Restore ecosystems
- Build climate resilience

Nature



Pioneering Solutions

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Karauli District, Rajasthan

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Bringing life to **water commons**

Our water conservation efforts aim to ensure the long-term availability of water through tailored, geography-specific measures.

433
water structures rejuvenated

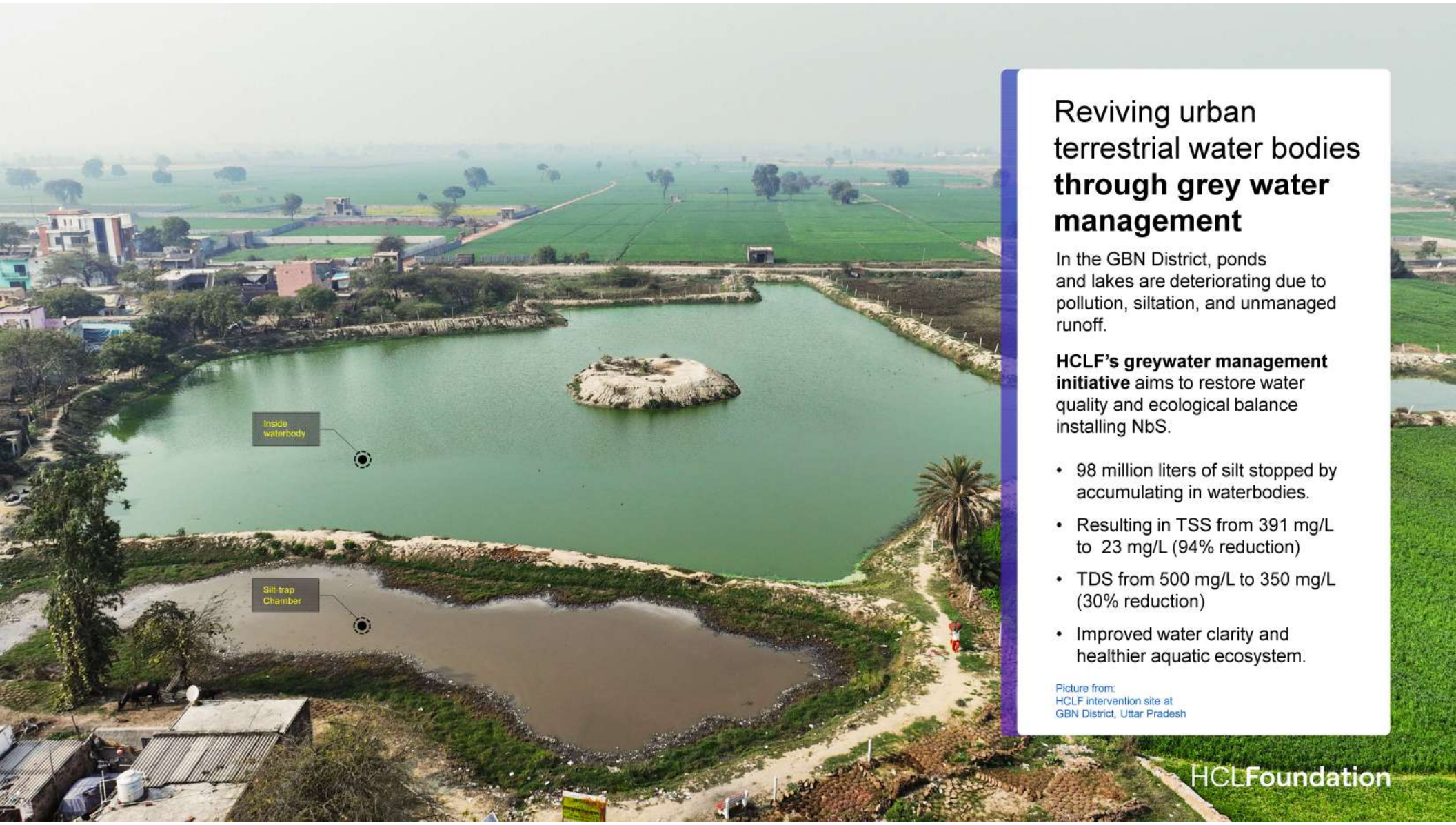
~10 Bn litres
of water-holding capacity created

~190,000 acres
of catchment area enabled for runoff capture

3,700 acres
of water structure area treated

Picture from:
Black-headed Ibis spotted at
Police Line Pond, GBN, Uttar Pradesh

HCLFoundation



Reviving urban terrestrial water bodies **through grey water management**

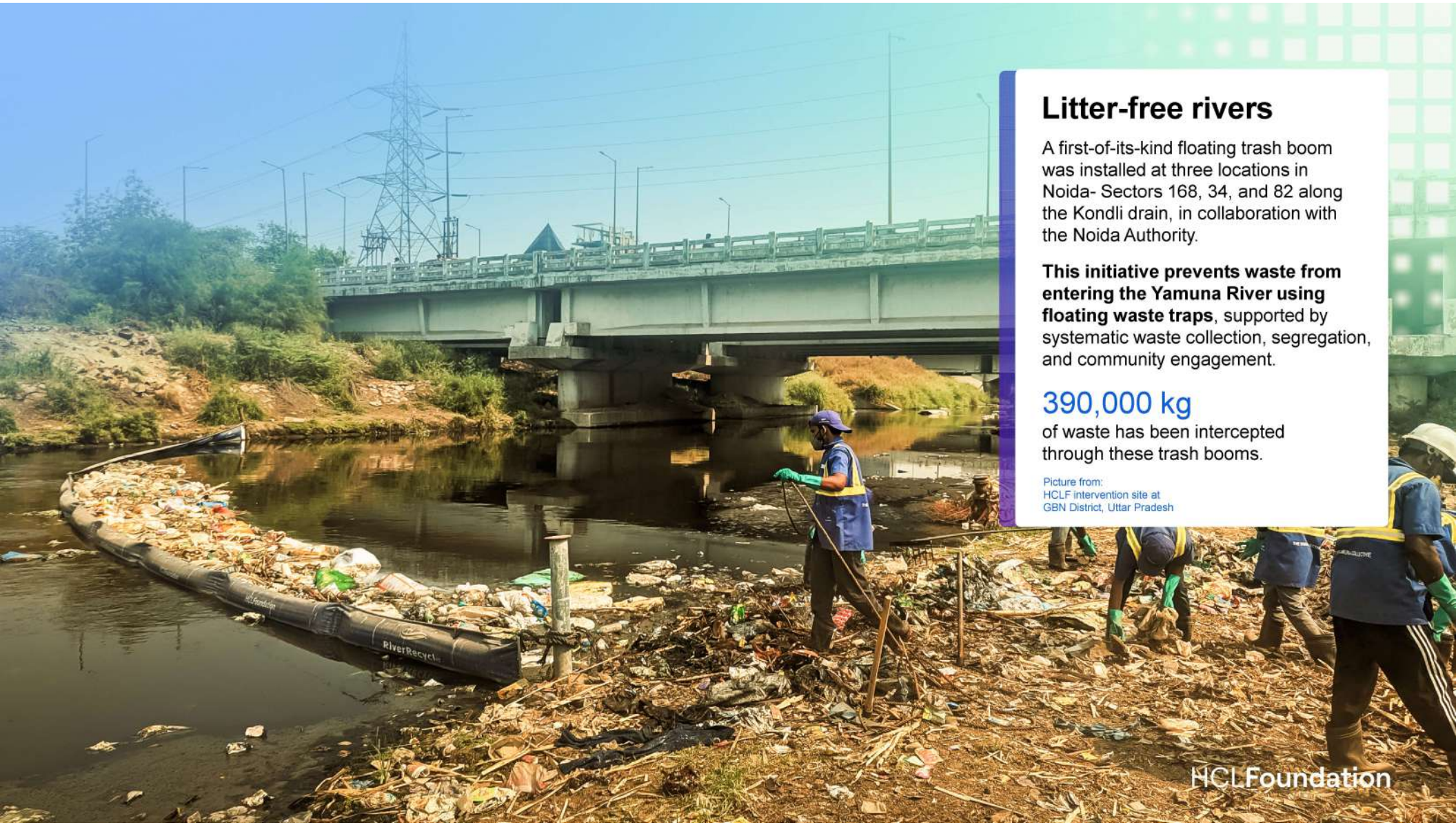
In the GBN District, ponds and lakes are deteriorating due to pollution, siltation, and unmanaged runoff.

HCLF's greywater management initiative aims to restore water quality and ecological balance installing NbS.

- 98 million liters of silt stopped by accumulating in waterbodies.
- Resulting in TSS from 391 mg/L to 23 mg/L (94% reduction)
- TDS from 500 mg/L to 350 mg/L (30% reduction)
- Improved water clarity and healthier aquatic ecosystem.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
GBN District, Uttar Pradesh

HCLFoundation



Litter-free rivers

A first-of-its-kind floating trash boom was installed at three locations in Noida- Sectors 168, 34, and 82 along the Kondli drain, in collaboration with the Noida Authority.

This initiative prevents waste from entering the Yamuna River using floating waste traps, supported by systematic waste collection, segregation, and community engagement.

390,000 kg

of waste has been intercepted through these trash booms.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
GBN District, Uttar Pradesh



Himalayan
ecosystem restoration

Landscape Conservation & Habitat Restoration in the Upper Uttarakhand Himalayas: Over 40 acres restored and 33,000+ saplings planted (including Rudraksha).

Driven by community-led efforts, the initiative focuses on slope stabilization, flood mitigation, and habitat connectivity.

The project is designed in partnership with NMCG, HCLF, and INTACH.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Harit Rudrakash Aranyavan, Gopeshwar, Uttrakhand

HCLFoundation



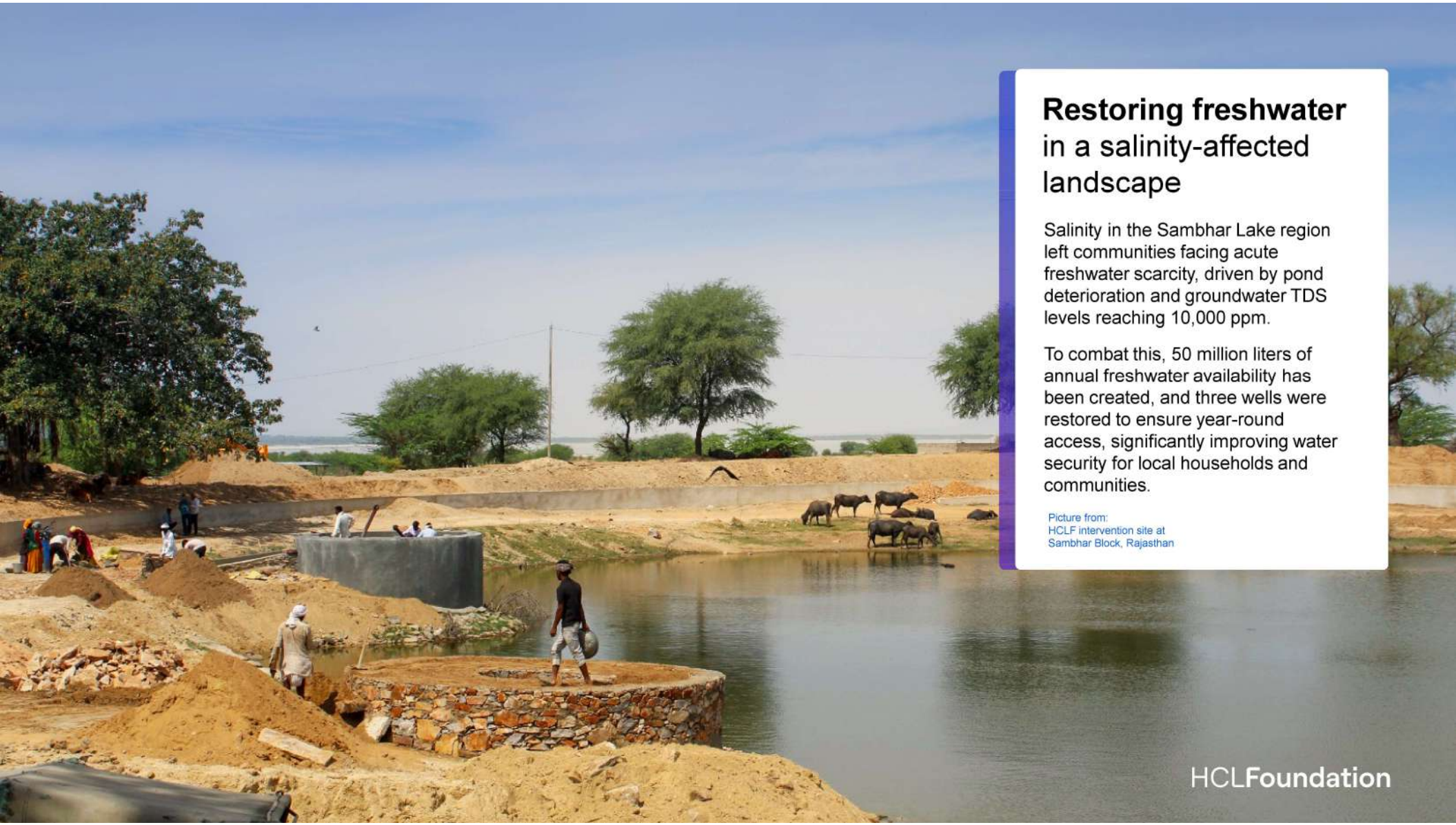
Restoration of degraded common watershed area

Bringing 74,000 acres of land under community governance through community-led restoration of commons and an Assisted Natural Regeneration approach.

This is achieved by strengthening Gram Sabha governance and improving fodder availability, water security, and rural livelihoods.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Udaipur District, Rajasthan

HCLFoundation



Restoring freshwater in a salinity-affected landscape

Salinity in the Sambhar Lake region left communities facing acute freshwater scarcity, driven by pond deterioration and groundwater TDS levels reaching 10,000 ppm.

To combat this, 50 million liters of annual freshwater availability has been created, and three wells were restored to ensure year-round access, significantly improving water security for local households and communities.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Sambhar Block, Rajasthan

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Communities, when trusted and supported,
can be the most powerful stewards of their resources.
- ELINOR OSTROM
Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Karauli District, Rajasthan
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Strengthening local capacity for long-term impact

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'Nadi Ghati Yatra' **of Rajasthan**

A community-led annual initiative in Karauli that promotes sustainable water management through farmer engagement, dialogue, and knowledge sharing to address water scarcity and climate challenges.

By identifying 154 potential pond and anicut sites, it supports water conservation, groundwater recharge, and long-term community stewardship of local natural resources.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Karauli, Rajasthan

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'Pani ki Pathshala' with **the future stewards**

Through child-friendly water conservation awareness models—conducted more than 150 *Bal Samvads, Jal Jagrans*, puppet shows, and interactive classroom sessions—children are engaged in storytelling and hands-on learning.

These activities help them identify healthy versus degraded ponds through real-life examples, making water conservation relatable, engaging, and memorable.



Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
GBN District, Uttar Pradesh



Every voice matters, **every decision counts**

Anchoring ecological restoration in participatory governance has transformed locals into long-term stewards. Traditional wisdom is combined with modern conservation through inclusive two-way dialogues, such as *Jan Samparks, Jal Samwads, Mahila Jal Samwads,* and *Jal Saksharta Samwads.*

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Sambhar Block, Rajasthan

HCLFoundation

Ensuring resilience **through collective actions**

Community-driven efforts were promoted to preserve water bodies through collective contributions. This approach ensured the long-term sustainability of interventions by reaching out to more than 8,000 stakeholders and fostering a deep sense of ownership.

By strengthening more than 15 formal and informal institutions, the initiative encourages shared responsibility for maintaining healthy ecosystems and shared resources.



Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Madurai District, Tamil Nadu



Harit Clubs – **teaching young minds**

Local school children mobilized for constituting Harit Clubs; guided walk-tours organized for children and teachers to explain the relevance of waterbody and the need for their active participation in its conservation and maintenance.

23 Harit Clubs

created to reach out students

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
GBN District, Uttar Pradesh

HCLFoundation

Little hands, Big change!

Various initiatives are taken up in the intervention villages to explain the relevance of waterbodies, its ecosystem values and the need for conservation, the interventions and the community driven approach in conservation

1000+ children and youth reached

through *Nukkad Natak, Bal Samvads, Pani ki Pathshala.*



Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
GBN District, Uttar Pradesh



HCLTech's **volunteering forward**

HCLTech volunteers drive positive change through community and environmental initiatives, including cleaning water bodies and planting saplings. Rooted in the spirit of giving back, they believe that every contribution of time and effort can create a meaningful impact and support nation-building.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Nagpur District, Maharashtra

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Strengthening local **governance together**

By strengthening collaboration between communities and local institutions shared responsibility, participatory planning, and collective decision-making is encouraged.

NOCs and MOUs ensures long-term stewardship of natural resources and development outcomes.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Nagpur District, Maharashtra

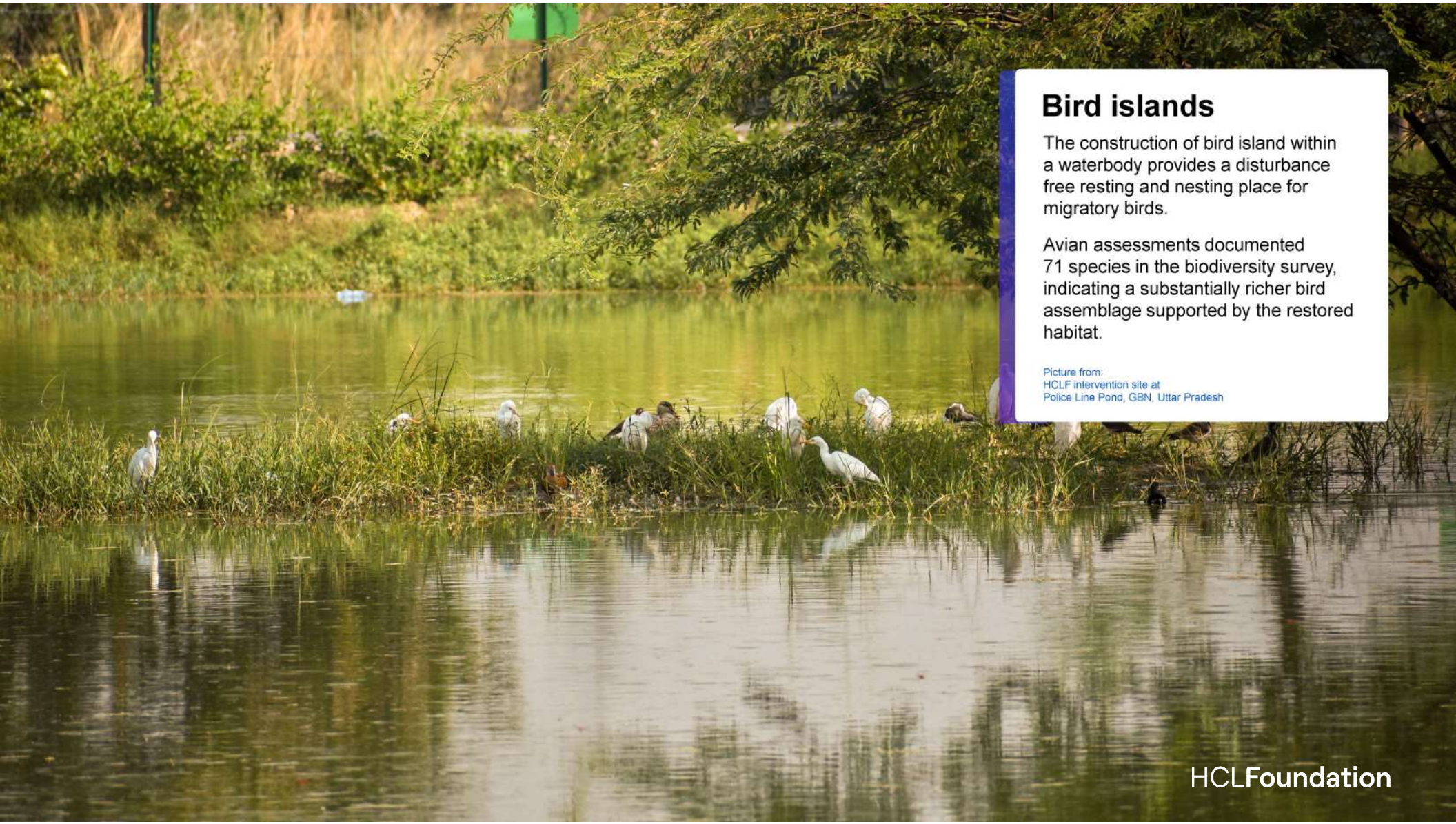




Nature-based Solutions

Picture from:
Painted-lady Butterfly at
Atal Hanit Upvan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

HCLFoundation



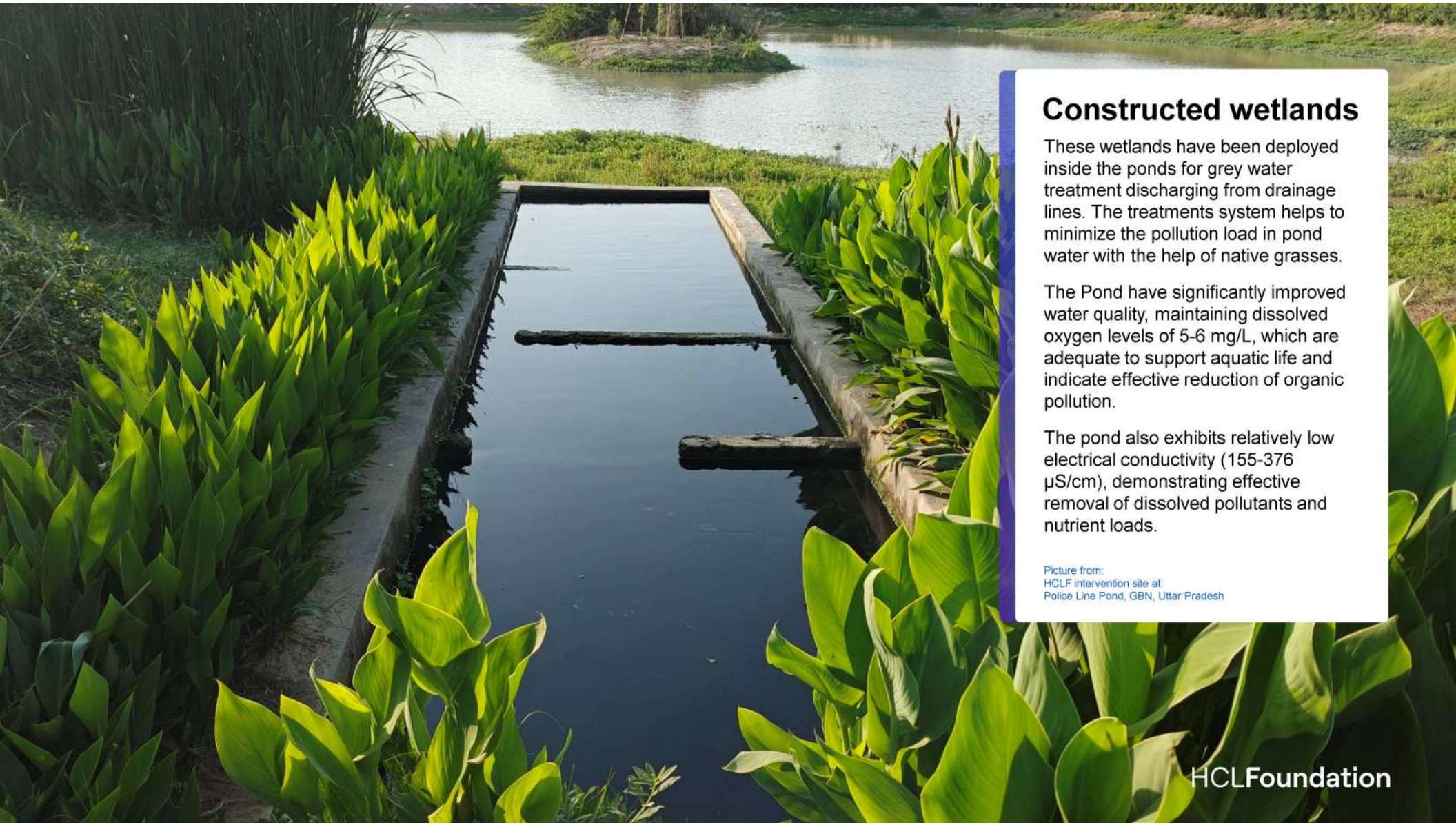
Bird islands

The construction of bird island within a waterbody provides a disturbance free resting and nesting place for migratory birds.

Avian assessments documented 71 species in the biodiversity survey, indicating a substantially richer bird assemblage supported by the restored habitat.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Police Line Pond, GBN, Uttar Pradesh

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Constructed wetlands

These wetlands have been deployed inside the ponds for grey water treatment discharging from drainage lines. The treatments system helps to minimize the pollution load in pond water with the help of native grasses.

The Pond have significantly improved water quality, maintaining dissolved oxygen levels of 5-6 mg/L, which are adequate to support aquatic life and indicate effective reduction of organic pollution.

The pond also exhibits relatively low electrical conductivity (155-376 µS/cm), demonstrating effective removal of dissolved pollutants and nutrient loads.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Police Line Pond, GBN, Uttar Pradesh

HCLFoundation



Jute bags as silt trap

Use of jute sacks/bags for sustainable and cost-effective results in de-siltation chamber construction (silt-trap).

Jute sacks/bags reduce soil erosion in silt traps and cost one-third less than regular chamber construction.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Thora Village, GBN, Uttar Pradesh

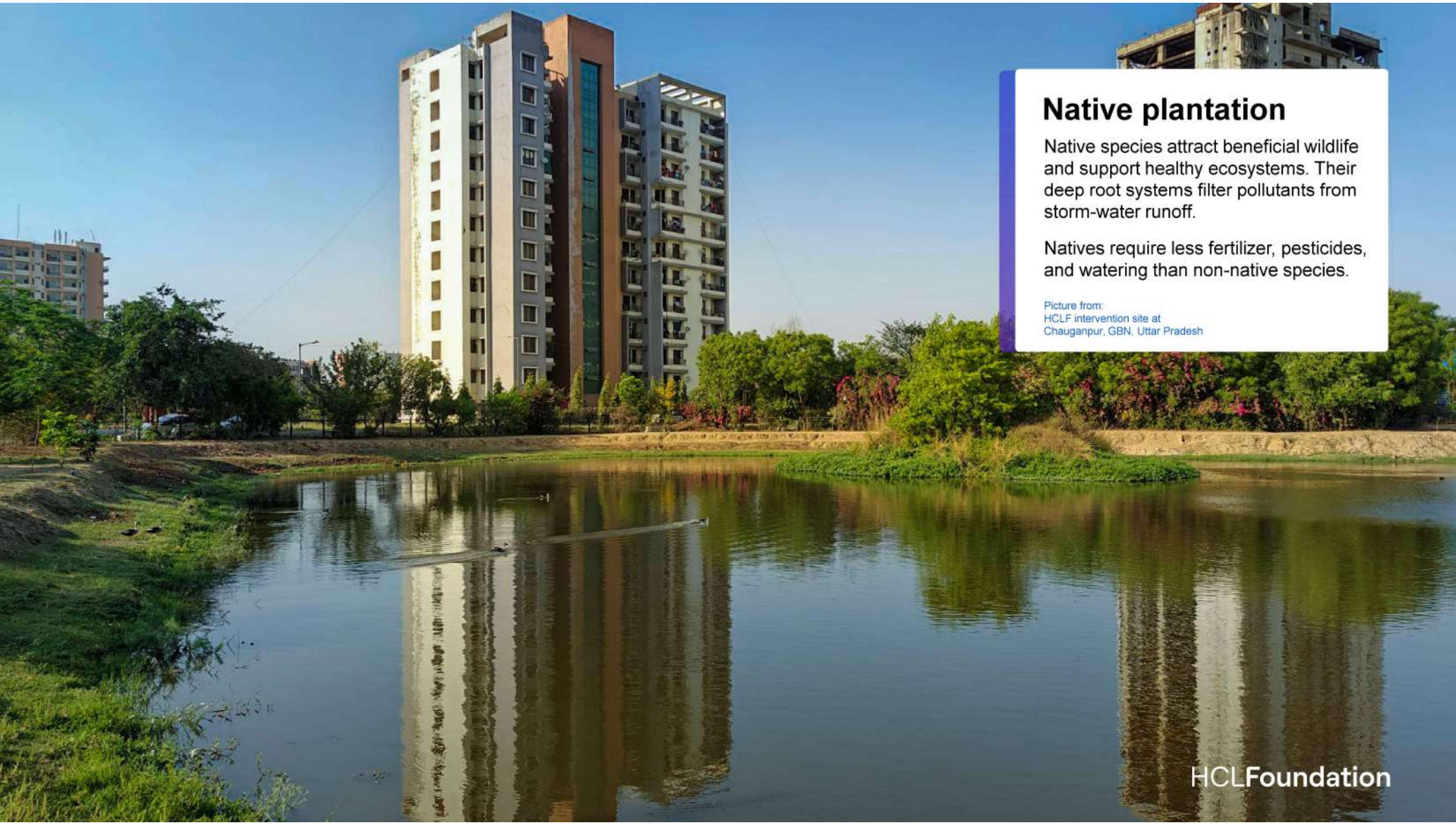


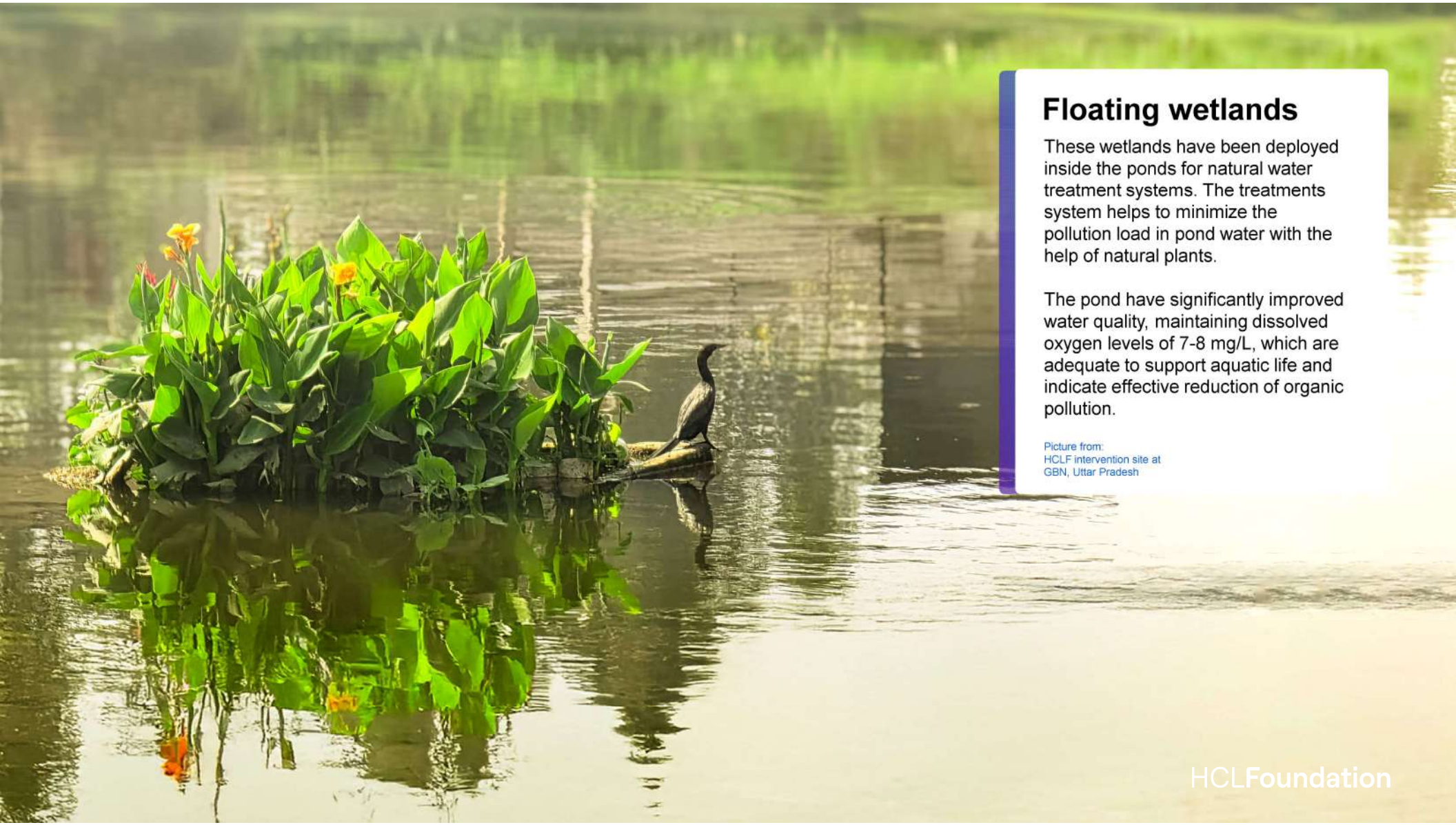
D-structure chambers

The D-structure is a two-chambered settlement structure built to treat incoming greywater in ponds. Chamber A acts as the settling tank, while Chamber B is planted with aquatic plants that aid in treating microbiological contamination.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
GBN, Uttar Pradesh

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Native plantation
Native species attract beneficial wildlife and support healthy ecosystems. Their deep root systems filter pollutants from storm-water runoff.
Natives require less fertilizer, pesticides, and watering than non-native species.
Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Chauganpur, GBN, Uttar Pradesh
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Floating wetlands

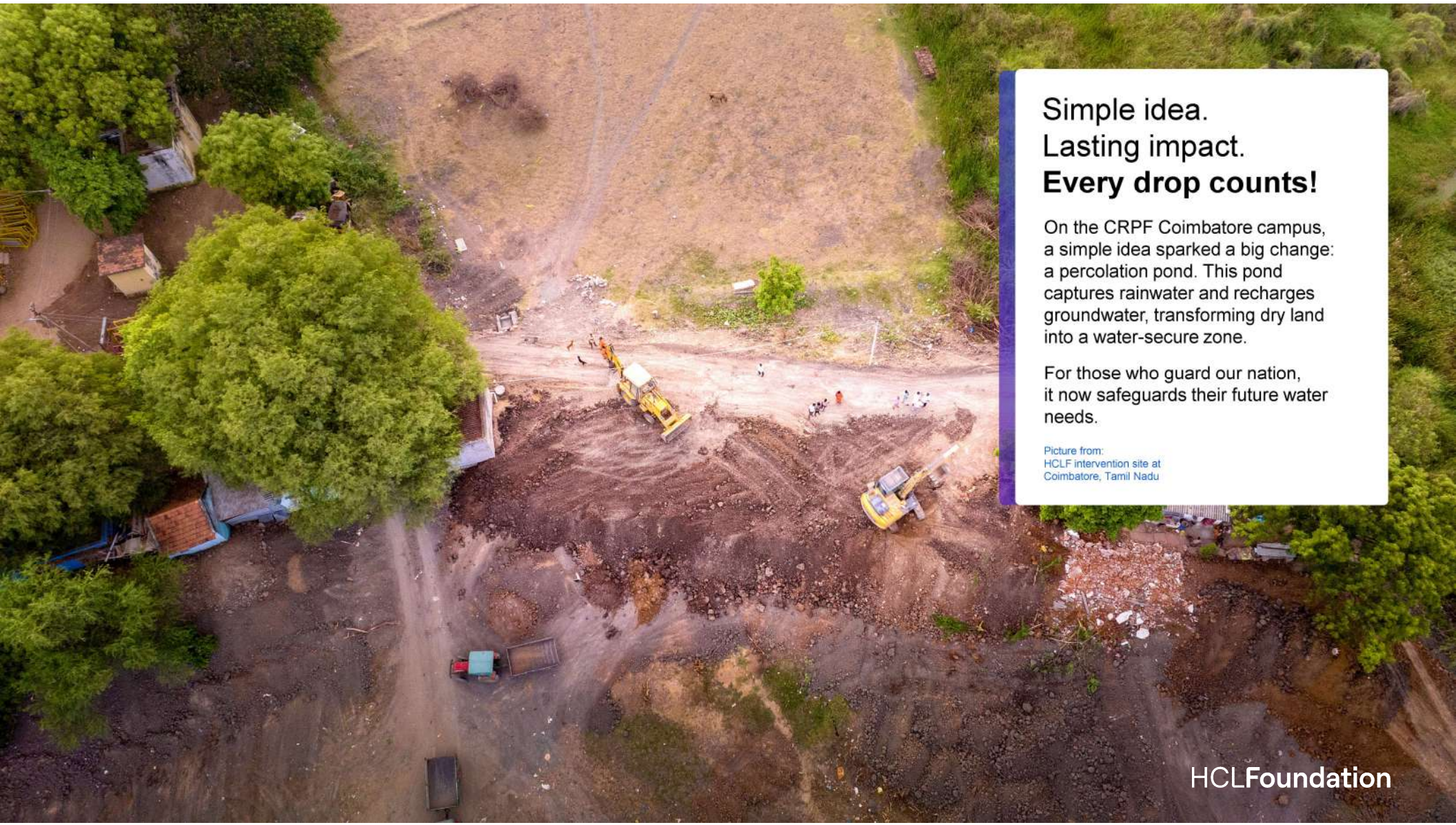
These wetlands have been deployed inside the ponds for natural water treatment systems. The treatments system helps to minimize the pollution load in pond water with the help of natural plants.

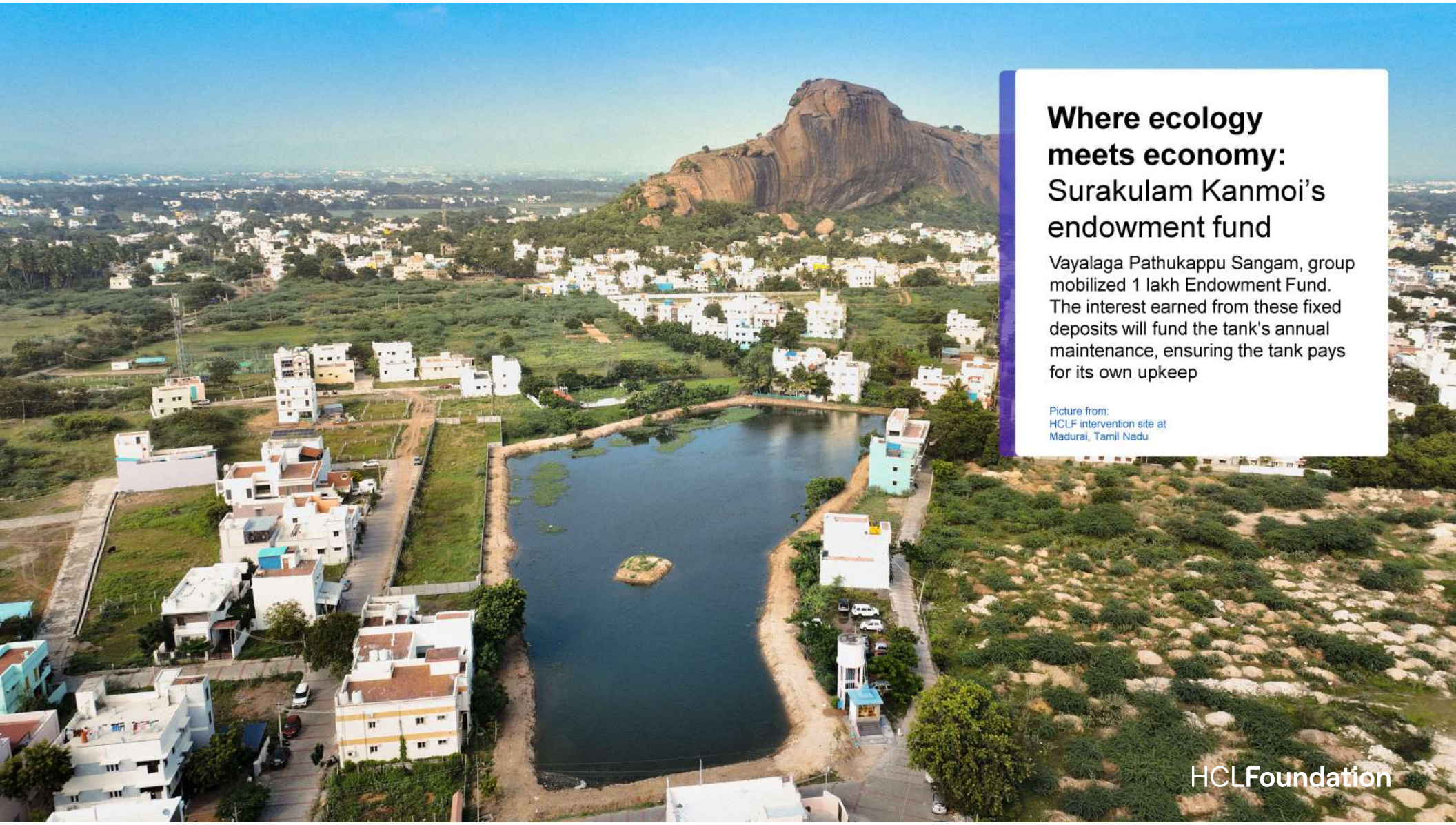
The pond have significantly improved water quality, maintaining dissolved oxygen levels of 7-8 mg/L, which are adequate to support aquatic life and indicate effective reduction of organic pollution.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
GBN, Uttar Pradesh

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Transforming lives,
Spreading smiles
Picture from:
HCLF intervention site
at GBN, Uttar Pradesh
HCLFoundation


Simple idea.
Lasting impact.
Every drop counts!
On the CRPF Coimbatore campus, a simple idea sparked a big change: a percolation pond. This pond captures rainwater and recharges groundwater, transforming dry land into a water-secure zone.
For those who guard our nation, it now safeguards their future water needs.
Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
HCLFoundation



Where ecology meets economy: Surakulam Kanmoi's endowment fund

Vayalaga Pathukappu Sangam, group mobilized 1 lakh Endowment Fund. The interest earned from these fixed deposits will fund the tank's annual maintenance, ensuring the tank pays for its own upkeep

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Madurai, Tamil Nadu

HCLFoundation

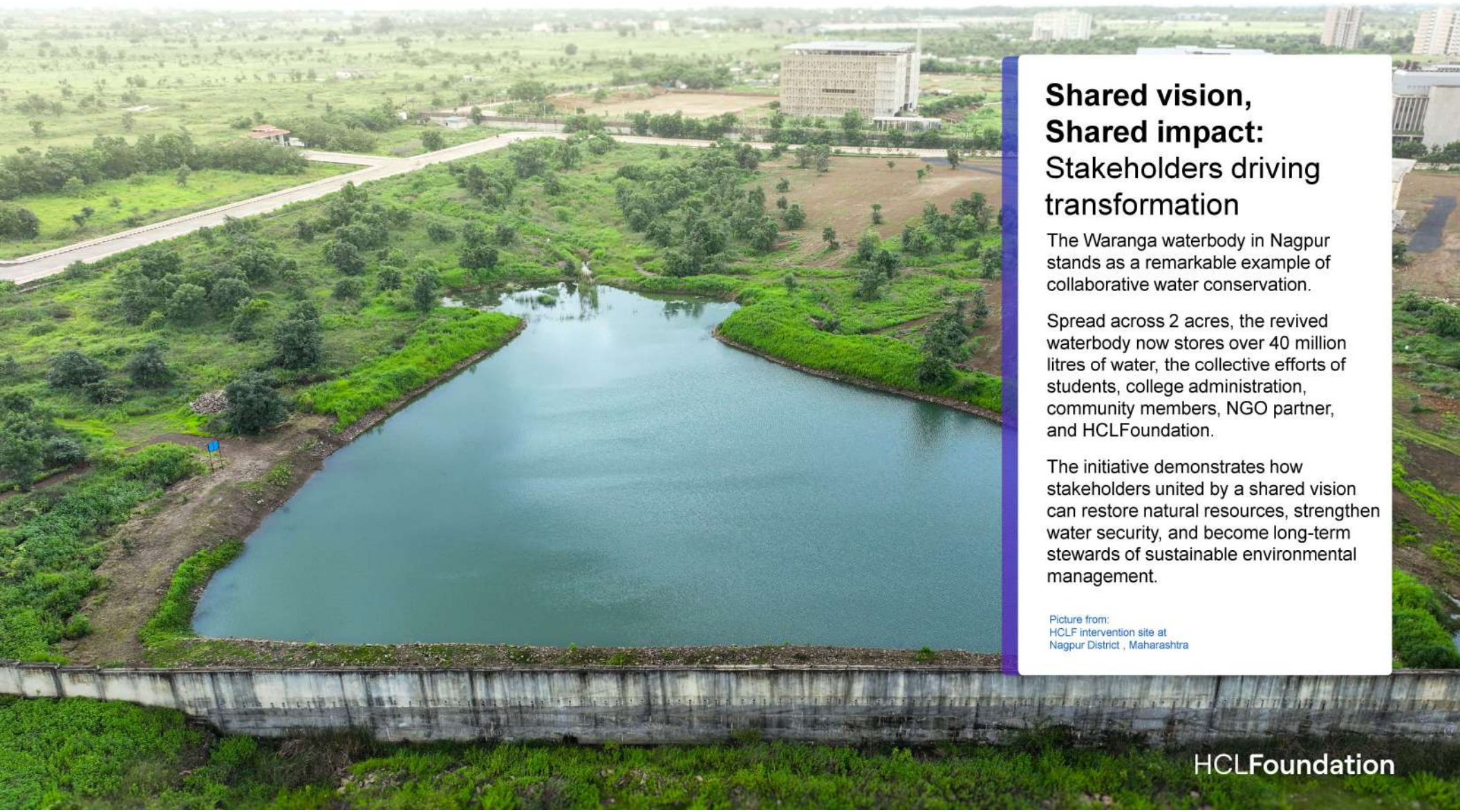


From crisis to collective success: Reviving *taals*, reviving hopes

Rajasthan Sapotara's collective action is redefining water security. Community contribution for waterbodies is ensuring equitable access, resilience alongside reviving traditional water systems. It's a local model of 33% community contribution brings hope and collaboration, transforming scarcity into shared prosperity.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Karauli, Rajasthan

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Shared vision, Shared impact: Stakeholders driving transformation

The Waranga waterbody in Nagpur stands as a remarkable example of collaborative water conservation.

Spread across 2 acres, the revived waterbody now stores over 40 million litres of water, the collective efforts of students, college administration, community members, NGO partner, and HCLFoundation.

The initiative demonstrates how stakeholders united by a shared vision can restore natural resources, strengthen water security, and become long-term stewards of sustainable environmental management.

Picture from:
HCLF intervention site at
Nagpur District , Maharashtra

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HCL Foundation
8 States, 18 Districts, One mission
Luharli, Uttar Pradesh



HCLFoundation received the **National Water Award** for the **Best industry for CSR Activities** from the Hon'ble Vice President of India at **4th National Water Awards** by Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, GoI.

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155,000,000,000 liters

of water harvested so far…

“No water, no life,
No blue, no green.”

Sylvia Earle

www.hclfoundation.org