



Akshat Saxena

Host organization: Living Landscapes

Fellow position: Management Fellow

Fellowship duration: June 2024- June 2025

Degree: B.Tech (Civil Engineering); MBA (Environmental Management)

Professional experience: 9 years

LIVING LANDSCAPES



Summary

As a Management Fellow, I lead partnership coordination and end-to-end support throughout the project cycle across a multi-stakeholder initiative. I work to strengthen internal organizational processes and contribute to the long-term strategy development advancing key programmatic priorities

The problem Living Landscapes aims to tackle

Degrading Commons has a cascading impact on the poor and marginalized caused by systemic challenges across policy and practice, exacerbated by a lack of focused ecosystem level engagement

The solution Living Landscapes provides...

..to catalyze collaborative action by connecting various actors, initiatives and organizations to amplify impact, at scale, for community-centric environmental governance and rural livelihoods. The effort is to integrate landscape approach within existing natural resource management ways

... contributing to the SDGs:



Opportunity for a Fellow

- To understand systems thinking approach and devise grounded strategies for rural landscape restoration. Explore how rights, agency and local stewardship shape environmental and social impact, how digital and public goods can enable grassroots change agents towards action.
- To convene, connect ecosystem actors strengthening the connections between women's empowerment, tribal leadership and climate resilience at scale.
- To co-create solutions to solve complex interlinked challenges

"My experience as a Fellow..."

... has been deeply enriching. It gave me a hands-on understanding of systems thinking-how it's shaped into action and brought to life with diverse voices across the impact space. I had the privilege to work with incredible thought leaders and experts who model how to bridge today's challenges with long-term solutions. The organization's trust, flexibility and patience allowed me to contribute in ways that felt true to me. It's been a space of real learning, contribution and growth - something I will carry forward with gratitude.

- Akshat



Akshat's achievements...

- Led partnership engagement with 4 partners to drive operational and programmatic coordination across multiple projects, fostering collaboration and strategic alignment among partner-led initiatives.
- Authored a rapid appraisal report on a bamboo-based agroforestry and value chain model in Indonesia, contributing to the design of landscape restoration and NTFP-based livelihood strategies for the Common Ground initiative in India & tailoring model to operational geographies
- Supported fundraising efforts by developing pitch decks and investment snapshots for grant opportunities, conferences, and one-on-one engagements with potential funders.
- Institutionalized internal project and grant management processes.
- Enhanced reporting and knowledge workflows by designing an activity tracker and streamlining internal knowledge management systems.
- Provided research and writing support for multiple concept notes, policy briefs, and programmatic submissions to influence strategic direction and policy advocacy



... contributing to Living Landscapes

\$2m

Worth of fundraising assisted, currently under review

\$4m

Portfolio spanning multiple donor investments monitored

3

Convenings and workshops facilitated with the team, cumulative participation of 600+ attendees in a year

Akshat's next challenge

Continue working and deepening role at Living Landscapes by leading projects to completion, institutionalizing remaining internal systems