

Sir Mark Tully visits our projects

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Om Prakash was with our Patron in April

Eminent journalist, former BBC bureau chief in India and our Patron, Sir Mark Tully visited the tribal belt of the Oghna area of Udaipur District on 18th April 2009.

Sir Mark spent the whole day visiting Biladiya and Kukdakheda villages and saw work done in partnership with local non-government organization (NGO) Gandhi Manav Kalayan Society, Oghna. In his visit to Kukdakheda, Bilariya and Jambua villages of he saw various water-harvesting, livelihood enhancement and education works done by the local communities for a better life and to enhance their livelihood opportunities. In his almost three-and-a-half hours' interaction with local villagers, he asked many questions related to the impact of the work, how they are changing lives, how other villagers can also replicate the work, etc.

In his brief interaction with the Kathodi community he stressed the need to harvest water and use it efficiently for a better and sustainable future.

He said that small-scale water-harvesting works which can be locally repaired and managed needed to be encouraged as these are the essential foundation for overall development in a village. He also said that innovative works like roof



rainwater harvesting must be encouraged in the hills and drylands to increase water availability for families and to reduce women's drudgery.

Sir Mark also reflected his belief that development and strengthening of NGOs is the most effective way to develop rural India and meet the needs of every sector of society. He said that the Government has the resources and NGOs have the contact with the people and so are able to deliver services.