

# Livelihoods



In **Kachchh**, a group of organisations are working together on matters as seemingly disparate as pastoralism, resource conservation, rain-fed agriculture and crafts.

They have come to realise that everything is connected to everything else.

*Top: A platoon of Rabaris and their camel herds on one of their migrations.*

One of these organisations, **Sahjeevan**, works with pastoral peoples like the Gujjars and Rabaris in the Banni, advocating for community & habitat rights and securing grassland and water resources on which they depend.



*Left: A community meeting of the Gujjars in the Banni landscape, expanses of which have been taken over by invasives or have turned saline.*

*Middle: Sahjeeven is aiding in resource mapping to help secure grazing pastures and water holes.*

*Right: Grasslands and flood-plains still remain, home also to wildlife such as flamingoes and the great Indian bustard.*



Elsewhere in Kachchh, Sahjeeven's efforts have conserved **local breeds** of cattle, allowing communities to earn an income through sale of milk, and to recycle cow-dung as an input in subsistence agriculture. In this it is being aided by the organisation **Satvik** that promotes organic farming (see exhibit 5).



*Left: Kankrej - a local breed of cattle long adapted to the harsh climate of Kachchh - has now been recognized as a unique breed.*

*Middle: A group of Rabaris in the Lakhpat region who returned home after 16 years following the coming of a dairy.*

*Right: An unfortunate shift however with the coming of dairies is increase in buffalo-keeping. Buffaloes require considerably more water and fodder.*