**TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING ON RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

***Title of Initiative: Table Tennis for early-life socio-ecological responsibility***

***Uttarakhand, INDIA***

***Task:*** *Provide a summary of the initiative, including a brief overview, proposed/actual outcomes and an assessment of any lessons learned and the way forward.*

Table Tennis for early-life socio-ecologoical responsibility project is being implemented by Tanjun Associate LLP, a social enterprise, in the state of Uttarakhand in India. The project is supported by the International Table Tennis Foundation’s Dream Building Fund, powered by GSD (The Foundation for Global Sports Development). It commenced from 1st April 2022 and will end on 31st March 2024.

The project has taken roots in the ecologically fragile Himalayan region, in three districts of Uttarakhand state, paving the way for a unique blend of sports, education, and environmental consciousness together with gender equality and social conflict mitigation. It focuses on enhancing sustainable development by building resilience among communities made vulnerable by climate change and its adverse impact. Using sport as a powerful community aggregator for development, the project works with children through five hub schools (an outreach of 2500 plus children and young students), mostly located in remote rural areas. Using the primary platform of table tennis, the project involves collective participation in sport for climate action, simultaneously promoting gender equality and social cohesion to make development stronger and more sustainable. It focuses on early life education on the prevention of deforestation, efficient waste management solutions through organising hands-on activities and promoting bamboo as an alternate material for sport equipment, housing, fuel, lifestyle products and excellent mode for livelihood upliftment. Tanjun conducts frequent plantation activities of bamboo and native broad-leaf species for their high carbon sequestration, water retention and and mountain slope stabilising properties. This project is primarily contributing to the realisation of UNSDG Goal 13: Climate Action, and uses the principles developed by the United Nations Sport for Climate Action Framework in order to measure its impact. The project springboards from UNSDG Goal 13 and engages with young citizes who are not only gaining actionable knowledge about climate change but also becoming acutely aware of the value of gender equality in reducing social conflict and thus raising socio-ecological responsibilities.

***Timeframe:*** *Please only include initiatives that fall within the reporting timeframe of January 2022 – February 2024*

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| **Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:** |
| **Objective(s):** | *Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:* |
| * Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport)
 | * Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity
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| * Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development
 | * Conflict prevention/peace building
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| * Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination
 | * Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology
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| * Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises, leading to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions

 | * Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime
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| * Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace
 | * Other (please specify)
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| **Situation** | *What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?*Climate change and its impact is a reality being faced by our planet. Melting glaciers, erratic and unpredictable weather conditions, changing rainfall patterns, and increasing temperatures are impacting people and wildlife all across the world including the Himalayas, one of the biodiversity hotspots regions of the world. The Himalayas control weather and climate systems at local-regional-global scale. Climate change is having far-reaching consequences in the mountains and its communities. Uttarakhand is witnessing landslides, flash-flooding and forest fires, almost every year. It is also a seismically active area with all districts of the state falling either in zone IV or V. Further, the inability of mountain agriculture to provide adequate incomes and the non-availability of alternate employment opportunities in the mountain districts has led to heavy outmigration of men from the region therby increasing the burden on women.  |
| **Implementation mechanisms:** | *What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?*The process involves working with mountain communities in three selected districts in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand to implement a range of climate action initiatives through a schools based approach using sport (Table Tennis) as a powerful platform. The inclusion of bamboo as one of the primary pillars of the initiative has allowed it to promote the use of bamboo for earthquake resistant housing, as a means of livelihood and bamboo plantation for slope stabilization and water retention. *What are the main deliverables/activities involved?*Activity 1 – Creating a best practice by installing innovative bamboo frame table tennis equipment followed by regular table tennis training sessions in schools; ongoing R&D on making TT nets and other sports nets with jute or other locally available natural fibresActivity 2 – Training and development of table tennis community coaches who also double as environmental motivators and social conflict management guidesActivity 3 – Workshop with students on existing and emerging Green careers in IndiaActivity 4 – Plantation activities involving teachers and students, stressing upon the need to create micro-climates that provide clean air, sequester carbon and promote biodiversityActivity 5 - Creating solar powered greenhouse and introducing soilless and rooftop farming promoting replication of the same with the communities followed by education tour to the Uttarakhand state government’s Hydroponics facility. Activity 6 – Climate Education of students and volunteers – education tour to the Regional Science Centre and its biodiversity parkActivity 7 – FGDs introducing bamboo for its use in agroforestry systems by farmers/ community as an additional source of livelihood and localised carbon sequestrationActivity 8 – Using table tennis as a common platform to create a commune of joyful young people who also make bamboo artefacts/ basic outdoor fences and furniture at Tanjun’s bamboo products manufacturing centre; Activity 9 – Creative, innovative and artistic purposing of discarded tyres, plastic bottles and other waste material Activity 10 – FGDs with students and community on climate action initiatives; this includes screening of climate change as well as climate action films, documentaries and awakening graphics to sensitize young people into an action modeActivity 11 – Solar panels installed within bamboo frames (as a replacement to conventional aluminum/ steel frame) for electrification of greenhouses and selected area within school premises showcasing simple ways of reducing carbon footprint. *What is the time frame of implementation?*1st April 2022 to 31st March 2024 |
| **Target Audience(s):** | *Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?*Children and young people (in-school upto Grade 12), teachers and administrators, community members and volunteers, government agencies such as the forest department education department and the department of environment.  |
| **Partners/Funding:** | *Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?*Tanjun Associte LLP, a social enterprise based in Uttarakhand is implementing the project.  *What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?*The project is funded by the International Table Tennis Foundation with Tanjun Associate LLP as a Co-funder (15%) |
| **SDG Alignment:** | *To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?*SDG Goal 13: Climate ActionTarget 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countriesTarget 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction*Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.*National: Mission LiFE of Government of IndiaInternational: 5 Principles of UN Sport for Climate Action Framework – Refer to the Attachment |
| **Alignment with global frameworks:** | *How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the* [*Kazan Action Plan*](https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan)*,* [*WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity*](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf) *or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?***Kazan Action Plan:**II Maximizing the Contributions of Sport to Sustainable Development and PeaceII.3 Provide quality education, and promote lifelong learning for all and skillsdevelopment through sportII.4 Build peaceful, inclusive and equitable societiesII.6 Advance gender equality and empower all women and girlsII.7 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and take urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts**WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity**The project is contributing to the following action plans as defined under the four strategic objectives: Create Active Societies: Action point 1.4Create Active Environments: Action point 2.4Create Active People: Action point 3.1Create Active Systems: Action Point 4.4 |
| **Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:** | *Which of the four thematic areas of the* [*UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/06/14.pdf) *is this initiative designed to align?*Resource mobilization, programming and implementation*To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?*i. Encourage multi-stakeholder programme development and implementation at all levelsii. Identify a forum for systematic exchange of information on good practices in sport for developmentand peace across the research, programming and policy fields. |
| **Outcomes:** | *What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?*Outcome 1: Demonstrates and involves students in activities that support long-term carbon sequestration Outcome 2: All participants are sensitized during early-life about the urgency to conserve our environment Outcome 3: Creates awareness and encourages students to adopt Green careers thereby contributing to collective climate actionOutcome 4: Shares data and knowledge with teachers, community and students on the world’s need for responsible food security and simple sustainable actions such as learning hydroponics and rooftop farmingOutcome 5: Encourage the community in and around the project schools to participate in group activities towards use of bamboo and its potential to evolve as a source of sustainable livelihood. Outcome 6: Initiated and enhanced motor skills, focus, commaradarie, gender equality and quick conflict resolution through the use of TT as a sport that inherently underscores all these skill **Professional Sporting Outcome**: For the first time, seven participants from one of the project schools secured spots in the State Table Tennis championships held in September 2023 with one female participant earning her spot to represent the State at the National Level. |
| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | *What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?*Performance indicatorsFormal surveysParticipatory methods for qualitative analysis*What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?*M&E Framework developed by ITTF Foundation for monthly, quarterly, half yearly and annual reporting |
| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | *What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?*1. The project has been highly successful and has been appreciated by ITTF Foundation. However, securing further or new funding has been the key challenge. 2. Development is not an event, it is a slow process and needs patience to work continuously before the real impact starts showing by itself. Funders are usually in a rush to publish ‘stories of change’ and expect impact very soon. The pressure to deal with it tends to shift the focus from systematic intervention to bringing quick results that may or may not be possible. *What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?*Sport is a powerful tool to engage with communities creating avenues to work towards bringing the desired development outcomes. We will continue to use sport in our community development projects in future promoting sustainable development and social cohesion.  |