



Aarati Halbe

Associate | Consensus Building Institute

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Aarati is an Associate at the Consensus Building Institute. She brings over a decade of experience working in community and stakeholder engagement, program management, and communications. She has worked across sectors, both with non-profits and in corporate philanthropy. Her diverse work spans India and the US, urban and rural regions, and issues including natural resource conservation, climate resilience, housing, access to education, legal empowerment and livelihoods, and sustainable development.

EXPERIENCE

2023-Present	Consensus Building Institute <i>Associate</i>	Cambridge, MA
2023	Rural Empowerment USA <i>Consultant</i> Developed a tailored IT skills training program to upskill participants and increase economic opportunity in Danville, VA. Managed partnerships with local community college and technology companies. Oversaw program management and communications.	Remote
2022-2023	Community Design Agency <i>Consultant</i> Wrote grants and guided long-term strategic planning for impact, monitoring, and evaluation of urban slum redevelopment and neighborhood revitalization projects in Maharashtra state.	Mumbai, India
2016-2022	Fiserv <i>Advisor, Corporate Citizenship</i> Led corporate citizenship and social responsibility for Fiserv in India. Oversaw strategic planning, corporate philanthropy, non-profit partnerships, communications, and volunteer engagement.	Bengaluru, India
2013-2016	Centre for Pastoralism, Sahjeevan <i>Project Coordinator, Living Lightly</i> Project and content management of a major exhibition that advocates for pastoralist communities in India. Supported research, analysis, and evaluation for projects focused on land rights, biodiversity, conservation, legal empowerment, and pastoralist livelihoods with a focus on community inclusion, institution-building, and advocacy.	Bhuj, India

EDUCATION

2012	London School of Economics <i>M.Sc. Environment and Development</i> Graduate with Merit	London, UK
2009	University of Massachusetts Amherst <i>B.S. Environmental Sciences</i> Magna cum laude	Amherst, MA

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- 2023 **Trained Mediator**
- Completed forty-hours of mediation training in accordance with M.G.L. ch.233 § 23C with MWI in Boston, MA.

SELECTED PROJECTS

RENEWABLE ENERGY

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority – Technical Working Group on Solar Development and Agricultural Lands, New York, January 2024-Present. Assist with and support facilitation of a technical working group that serves as a forum to address concerns relating to solar development and potential conflicts with agricultural operations and lands of greatest importance.

BOEM Gulf of Maine Task Force Public Stakeholder Meetings, Gulf of Maine, 2023. Administrative and technical support for six public stakeholder meetings around the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s process to finalize a Draft Wind Energy Area in the Gulf of Maine. Feedback received at these meetings helps inform the Bureau as they finalize the wind energy leasing area and process in the Gulf of Maine.

CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCE

Lower Mystic Waterfront Vision, Greater Boston Area, January 2024-present. Support community engagement for a new resilient waterfront along the Mystic River in Massachusetts. This involves process design, interviews and focus groups with community leaders, and on-the-ground community engagement, specifically with priority populations.

Resilient Border Street, Boston, Massachusetts, January 2024-present. Support facilitation and community and stakeholder engagement for a coastal resilience infrastructure design project targeting the central Border Street waterfront in East Boston.

Maine Climate Council, Maine, 2023-Present. Project management, administrative and technical support for the Maine Climate Council full council and working group meetings. The Council is working to update the State’s climate action plan *Maine Won’t Wait* by December 2024.

NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Piping Plover Habitat Conservation Plan, Massachusetts, 2023-present. Assist with facilitation of a process to revise the MA Piping Plover Habitat Conservation Plan.

Charles River Watershed Association - Muddy River Watershed Vision Plan, Greater Boston, MA, 2023-present. Assist with design and facilitation of a stakeholder process to develop a comprehensive and innovative long-term vision for the future of the Muddy River watershed, the most polluted tributary of the Charles River. Engage a range of stakeholders, including municipal and state agencies, the business sector, community-based organizations, and others to incorporate strategies around water quality, climate resilience, environmental justice, access to recreation, habitat restoration and other issues into a coherent vision.

NOAA On-Demand Interoperability Workshop, 2023. Provided technical and administrative support, and wrote a report of a 3 day multi-stakeholder workshop to discuss implementation of on-demand fishing gear. The workshop convened fishermen, gear manufacturers, state and federal officials, researchers, acoustics experts and other relevant partners.

Pease Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board, Portsmouth, NH, 2023-present. Assist with the facilitation of a 20- person group advising the Air Force on the cleanup at the former Pease Air Force base. In particular, focusing on water quality and concerns about per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). Plan and facilitate quarterly meetings to share information, discuss community concerns, and hear from the public and write meeting summaries.

OTHER PROJECTS

Danville Cybersecurity Skills Training Program, Rural Empowerment USA, 2023. Led program coordination and communications, managed engagement with industry partners, and supported curriculum development for a cybersecurity skills training program to increase economic opportunities for underserved communities in Danville, VA, in partnership with Danville Community College and leading technology companies.

Sanjaynagar Slum Redevelopment Project, Community Design Agency, Mumbai, India, 2022-2023. Led grant writing for a major grant for project construction, and guided long term planning for impact measurement, monitoring and evaluation. CDA is working with the residents of Sanjaynagar in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, to redevelop the neighborhood to provide formal housing designed for climate resilience. A participatory design process ensures community ownership, and will result in a built environment that fits community needs and will maintain the residents' social ties.

Legal Empowerment and Community Land Rights for Pastoralists, Sahjeevan, Bhuj, India, 2013-2016. Supported research and documentation for the Banni Buffalo Breeders Association's community land rights claim under the Indian Forest Rights Act. Participated in community meetings discussing the legal implications with camel herders, and wrote the bio-cultural community protocol for the Kutch Camel Breeders Association. Sahjeevan supported the buffalo and camel herders' associations in Kutch district in their efforts to retain access to traditional grazing lands. This involved education, advocacy, and facilitating the filing of claims under the Indian Forest Rights Act.

Living Lightly: Journeys with Pastoralists Exhibition, Sahjeevan, Bhuj, India, 2013-2016. Project management, and curatorial support for Living Lightly, a curated exhibition about pastoralism that raises awareness, improves policy recognition, and advocates for semi-nomadic herding communities in India. Worked directly with pastoralist and artisan community members to identify exhibition narratives. Oversaw research, documentation, and content management; facilitated knowledge sharing with partner organizations and donors; and supported planning of associated conferences and roundtables with academic and government stakeholders.

Identifying Grazing Routes and Migration Patterns, Sahjeevan, Bhuj, India, 2014-2015.

Contributed to field research and reports on drought-driven pastoralist migration patterns in Gujarat, India, focused on traditional and emerging grazing routes, and grazing and migration patterns of local herders. Prepared interview protocols, interviewed camel and buffalo herders on migration and contributed to data analysis.

Enhancing Economic Opportunities for Camel Herders, Sahjeevan, Bhuj, India, 2013-2016.

Sahjeevan has strengthened camel herders' livelihoods over the past decade by increasing revenue from milk sales, ensuring recognition of local animal breeds, and exploring new avenues like use of camel wool. A major camel milk dairy operates in Kutch district. The Kharai camel, a unique breed found only in Gujarat, received breed recognition in 2016. Supported both programs through field research, documentation, and analysis. Led a pilot project developing apparel and lifestyle products from local camel wool from 2013-2014. Interviewed community members on traditional uses of camel milk, resulting in a short publication.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

[Pastoralism – Living and Working on the Move](#), 2020

Podcast interview on BIC Talks, Bangalore International Centre.

[Biocultural Community Protocol of the Camel Pastoralists of Kachchh](#), 2013

Written for the Kachchh Camel Breeders Association and Sahjeevan

Biocultural community protocols are recognized by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Used in legal empowerment and advocacy work, they highlight a community's use of resources, access, and legal rights.