



TWENTY SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABF	Axis Bank Foundation
APPI	Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
APU	Azim Premji University
CA	Conservation Agreements
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CFR	Community Forest Rights
CHW	Community Health Workers
CMN	Community Media Network
CWB	Community Wellbeing
FCRG	Field Course and Research Group
FRA	Forest Rights Act
FRC	Forest Rights Committee
FSTP	Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant
GAGGA	Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action
ICCAs	International Consortium on Community Conserved Areas
IFR	Individual Forest Rights
JSS	Jan Shikshan Sansthan
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NBR	Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve
NCF	Nature Conservation Foundation
NFLC	Nilgiri Field Learning Centre
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NNHS	Nilgiri Natural History Society
NNP	Narasimnaickenpalayam
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce
NTFP-EP	Non-Timber Forest Produce -Exchange Programme
OFAI	Organic Farming Association of India
PNC	People and Nature Centre
PNF	People and Nature Fund
PNP	Pernaickenpalayam
PRA	Participatory Resource Appraisal
SC	Scheduled Caste
SSC- IUCN	Species Survival Commission - International Union for Conservation of Nature
ST	Scheduled Tribes
STR	Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
TNUSSP	Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme
VKP	Vivekandhapuram
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	
APICULTURE	6
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT & RESTORATION	8
COMMUNITY WELLBEING	10
CLIMATE CHANGE	14
FIELD COURSES AND RESEARCH	16
NETWORKS MANAGEMENT	18
● USING DIVERSITY	20
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	24
PEOPLE AND NATURE CENTRE	26
WATER AND SANITATION	30
● WATER RESOURCES	
● SANITATION	32
FINANCE 2019 - 20	34
TEAM PROFILE	39
CALENDAR	43

FOREWORD

VALUE BASED ACTION FROM THE FIELD

Though I write during the COVID 19 – on 5th August 2020, going through the Annual Report is a deep dive into the Nilgiris Ecosystem out of which our core work is based. Each program action - be it the Community Wellbeing Card, the Conservation Agreements in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve or the large extent of stream bank rejuvenation for wetlands revival & protection - gives insights into our scope of work.

Each of our eight thematic groups – Community Wellbeing, Biodiversity Management & Restoration, Field Courses & Research, Water & Sanitation, People & Nature, Apiculture, Networks Management and Organizational Development – have a story to tell. Data collected in the past year is analyzed and our learning outcomes are disseminated through this year's report.

A thread connecting all of them is the Nilgiris ecosystem – where ecology, biodiversity, local livelihoods and wellbeing dynamics, all played out together. Like a theatre – there were several acts with Forests, Estates, Water Bodies, Invasives – performed with various actors such as the government, private institutions and academia.

To make it readable, long narratives have been converted into infographics – every two pages for a programme can be a brief from the field, leading to a policy discussion. Be it - the nutrition issue, mental health, human-wildlife interactions, the barefoot ecology, or the health campaign on Good Health for Nilgiris.

With COVID – a virus, the work of a field-based organization as Keystone Foundation, becomes even more relevant. During this crisis – a service delivery group emerged bringing essential supplies, food, vegetables, sanitation needs to needy, far-flung tribal hamlets and slums.

Islands of biosphere reserves like the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve - act like buffers to control, mitigate, learn and adapt the interactions between Humans & Nature. How much more manipulation in natural ecosystems can be a threshold, a tipping point?

History shows that human beings are combative to change. A new vaccine will bring back the old lifestyle and the attempt of a new paradigm for co-existence. Living will be postponed to the next pandemic. But here in the Nilgiris, in our work, we consciously try to chisel, tweak those models – looking at multi-disciplinary ways through science, politics, economy, ecology and most importantly through arts, music and creativity. A lived-in space for lifelong learning and adventure is our aspiration.

Pratim Roy

Founder Director,
5th August 2020, Kotagiri,
The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India.

**WE
THANK
OUR
DONORS**

HCL Foundation; Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives; Axis Bank Foundation; Rohini Nilekani Philanthropy; Both ENDS; Cornell University; Misreor, GAGGA; District Administration – Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Wayanad and Malappuram; Tamil Nadu and Kerala Forest Department; Indcoserve, ESO India; Indian Institute for Human Settlements, including so many - individuals, well-wishers and patrons have made this journey worthwhile and possible. We would like to thank our Board of Trustees, Advisors whose critical guidance, understanding has always helped us in our efforts. Our team has risen to the occasion – be it COVID or no-COVID, work has not stopped, they have innovated and carried on. Cheers!

APICULTURE

PURPOSE

We work to ensure and promote sustainable beekeeping in the Nilgiris, we advocate for beekeepers' interests, support honey bee health research and deliver practical training and information on beekeeping.

VISION / MISSION

We are committed to encourage apiculture as a sustainable livelihood for local communities which will potentially have a positive effect on agriculture, wellbeing of honey bees and the environment.

STRATEGY

Through information and training we support and work in partnership with a broad range of organizations, initiatives and individuals to strengthen landscapes and to promote native bees health. We also advocate strategies and policies that support and advance a sustainable environment.

The utility of beekeeping as a resilient livelihood has created a beneficial impact for small farmers and indigenous landless families across the regions we work in. Beekeeping is ecologically & traditionally an appropriate form of income generation for indigenous communities in the Nilgiris.

With this in mind, this year, several training sessions on the techniques & methods

of natural beekeeping were held across NBR. Trainings constitute modules on theoretical & practical learning. Components of theoretical learning include – introduction to natural beekeeping, kinds of local bees & bee boxes. Practical learning includes – maintaining and handling beehives, artificial queen rearing and sustainable honey harvesting, etc.

01
TRAINING &
SUPPORT SERVICES

02
APPROPRIATE
TECHNOLOGY

03
NETWORKING

TRAINING & SUPPORT SERVICES

May (2019) - This one-day workshop gave the participants an introduction to beekeeping. Those who took part in the workshop were people with diverse job backgrounds, who were all keen to learn the art of apiculture. Close to 45 people (women & men) from several places such as Coimbatore, Trichy, Karur, Thanjavur etc. participated in the workshop.



August (2019) - A group of 16 people from Corinaga Wildlife Sanctuary visited our Sigur Center located in the Mudumalai National Park for a two-day beekeeping training. They theoretically learned about types of bees. And on the second day - through practical demonstrations, they learned about artificial queen rearing, colony characteristics, etc.



October (2019) - A two-day training to make beehives using lantana stems took place at Garikyur, Aracode. Together the community in the village has set up a space in which they have close to 30 boxes (made of wood) already functioning. By making these cost-effective ones, they can increase their number of boxes to nurture more colonies - which means more honey.





November (2019) - At Keystone – Cherupuzha center, Kerala. A beekeeping training with a focus on dammer bees took place. Community members from four villages (Pulimunda, Mundakadavu, Yattapara, Neduingkayam) attended the training. In total, 22 women and 32 men participated.

December (2019) - In association with The Forest Department, Coimbatore - A four-day training



for close to 100 members (women & men), mostly farmers, from two areas-Periyanaickenpalayam and Bolvampatty took place. They showed keen interest in learning to set up bees to deter elephants as both areas have high crop damage cases due to these animals.

Towards the second half of the year, the majority of the trainings was initiated and implemented in collaboration



with Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Malappuram (JSS) and Kerala State Federation of SC & ST Development Cooperative Ltd.

The intention behind these trainings is to help communities that were affected by the floods to have a secure livelihood through beekeeping. In total 385 (women and men) belonging to seven different indigenous communities participated in all these training sessions.

NETWORKING

Shiny, Sunil, Justin, Mahadesha and Leo traveled to Philippines to participate in Madhu Duniya - Asia's biggest forest honey and bee conference.

Shiny made a presentation on pollen analysis of *Apis dorsata* honey from Coonoor & Kotagiri region, and Leo presented about beekeeping in the Nilgiris.



STATUS QUO

Area	Number of boxes	Number of beekeepers
Aracode	120	20
Konavakarai	50	10
Pillur	08	08
Nilambur	411	14
Sigur	112	28

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT & RESTORATION

PURPOSE

To protect the existing biodiverse ecosystems of the Nilgiris and re-establish its lost parts to ensure a constant provision of ecosystem functions/services essential for the wellbeing of communities, wildlife & the environment.

VISION / MISSION

The programme's focus is centered upon understanding of ecosystem functions / service, human wildlife interactions, conducting biodiversity assessments and documenting traditional use of indigenous knowledge.

STRATEGY

The strategy involves applied research, restoration efforts, outreach & knowledge networks with - communities, academia, forest managers & citizen's group to build the necessary capacities locally for its implementation.

Land-use changes, rapid urbanization and agriculture intensification have caused a considerable reduction in biodiversity. Repairing these disturbed ecosystems increases native biodiversity, improves human wellbeing in degraded landscapes and creates a better

habitat condition for animals to move, eat & thrive. These are the primary issues that the programme aims to address. Furthermore, knowledge is shared through long term engagements with schools and colleges.

- 01 RESTORATION
- 02 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
- 03 CONSERVATION EDUCATION
- 04 HUMAN - WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

25,324
Native Plants
(28 different species) were planted in the last one year

26
Acres have been restored in past two years

02
Sites in the Aracode region were chosen for water retention activity

06
Outreach activity
(three school workshops +two community workshops +one workshop with Forest Department)

174
Students engaged in restoration activities

02
Removal of invasive species for ensured access for wildlife (Aracode, Longwood shola & Pandiyan Park estate).



In Kotagiri, there are several areas such as private lands or estates that contain resting spaces for animals like gaurs. These were identified as potential areas for restoration besides Reserve Forests. In the past year, we approached several private stakeholders to carry out restoration. A thorough evaluation of the site and a well-thought-out planting plan were some of the steps taken before initiating restoration. Restoration activities were carried out with other stakeholders like the Forest Department (Kotagiri & Kattabettu range), schools and with urban & rural communities.

DEMONSTRATION OF MODEL PLOTS FOR REUSE OF TREATED WATER AT THE FECAL SLUDGE TREATMENT PLANT (FSTP) IN PERIYANAKENPALAYAM, COIMBATORE.

The objective of the project is to demonstrate model plots or solutions that support the transition of treatment waste water to a production unit of different valuables to farmers and various other stakeholders. The site is landscaped into three sections to demonstrate the efficient usage of treated water from the FSTP.



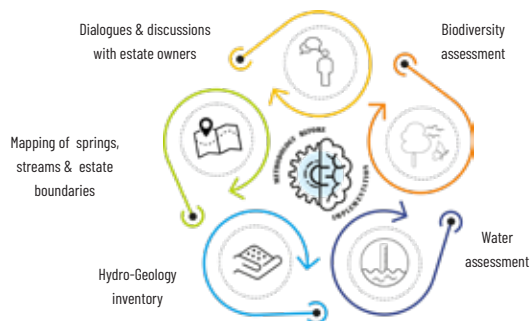
HUMAN - WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

Through applied research the team is trying to improve access to resources, mainly water, to reduce negative interactions over shared resources. Based on the data collected over the last year through monitoring three gaur herds around the Kotagiri town, Aracode and Kookalthorai for wildlife movement - some sites were identified to improve access to water resources for wildlife by:

1. Removing invasive plants which block access for animals; planting of native plants & grasses.
2. Water holes or structures that allow for storage of water for animals and birds in the dry season.
3. Sign boards were put up at human - wildlife intersection points to warn people about animal crossing areas.

The site of intervention for the first two points are chosen in areas where there are little or no human interference to avoid negative interactions. But in some areas where humans and wildlife have co-existed, these interventions are done along with the community. Creating water holes can increase awareness among the community about animal behaviour and bring about behavioural change over a period of time.

STUDY THE SITUATION

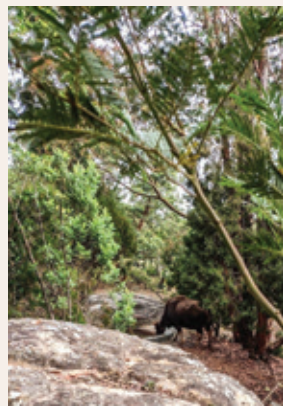


Corsley stream: Based on data collected through monitoring gaur movement around the Corsley stream and wetland, this site was chosen for intervention.

Prior to this intervention, we were monitoring wildlife movement around the water sources located inside the private property. Through our

gaur monitoring data, it was observed that this stream is an important source of water for one of the herds being monitored (Pandiyan Park herd). With this data, we approached the estate owners and asked if we could restore the health of the stream. Thus began a long-term working relationship between Corsley estate and Keystone to work towards ecological conservation and biodiversity improvement.

To begin with, a water and biodiversity inventory was carried out to get a picture of usage and functions of existing natural resources as well as, how wildlife interact over these shared resources in the estate premises. With information disseminated from the inventory - a implementation plan was co-developed based on data and discussions with the estate owner.



- A water hole structure was created based on observations through monitoring and after looking at the range in which one of the gaur herds travels.
- Community stewards made a four day exposure trip to the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) field centre in Valparai.
- Various sign boards were put up in different intersection points based on the data collected through Gaur monitoring. So far we have put up about 14 boards around Kotagiri and plan to put up more in other areas.

PURPOSE

Community wellbeing (CWB) is a programme to support and address the various challenges experienced by the indigenous communities in a holistic manner. Livelihood, governance, community health & wellness and traditional knowledge & crafts were brought together as a strategy to consciously address and aim for holistic outcomes.

VISION / MISSION

The larger vision is to move towards more community led initiatives and interventions as well as gather enough evidence to bring about policy level changes that enable communities to achieve wellbeing.

STRATEGY

This programme comprises of four key components representing the four conditions - economic, political, social and cultural. Programmes are intended to be sustainable and gender inclusive. There are various projects implemented focusing specifically on each of these programmes, and different tools & approaches are applied towards reducing vulnerabilities, increasing resilience ultimately achieving wellbeing.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

GOVERNANCE

Facilitating training & workshops to improve indigenous communities knowledge on the nuances of FRA have been our central efforts to improve local self-governance in the NBR. Over the years, continuous efforts were adopted to help people comprehend and submit IFR claims. Presently, most of them

have received the land they were entitled to as an individual. In 2019-20, our efforts were directed towards addressing affairs pertaining to Community Forest Rights (CFRs) – a component of rights under the FRA constructed to improve the collective living conditions of indigenous people.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

A three-day workshop took place in December 2019 bringing together communities members to design a sustainable management plan that depicts their traditional efforts of protecting forests, land, soil, and water. Forest Rights Committee (FRC) members from six regions partook in the workshop. Sessions held during the workshop had its focus on watershed management, soil management through organic farming, sustainable collection & harvesting of NTFP and most importantly the sections in the FRA act that concerns CFRs.

Post the workshop, communities in consultation with their respective Gram Sabha worked extensively on formalizing this document. The management plan will be appended to all CFRs claims and will act as a substantiating document to



counter the notion that community rights are detrimental to the forest.

Furthermore, increasing visibility and accountability through banners and letterheads are under process in six villages – one in each region. This will increase awareness and more importantly emphasize the onus of the committee members to call for consultation meetings, maintain proper records, guide the community to submit claims and lead the post-submission process.

A short advocacy film on the Forest Rights Act signifying the cultural dependence & livelihoods of the indigenous communities of the NBR is due to be released on our Youtube handle. This was carried out with the help of two interns (Hanna Lindqvist & Anna Nilsson) from our funding partner organisation Svalorna, Sweden.

01
LIVELIHOODS

02
GOVERNANCE

03
COMMUNITY HEALTH

04
TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE
COMMUNICATION &
DOCUMENTATION



DISTRICT LEVEL COMMITTEE

SIGUR - 13
 COONOOR - 01
 PILLUR - 01
 HASANUR - 05



SUB-DISTRICT LEVEL COMMITTEE

PILLUR - 06
 Includes 11 villages in the Nellithorai Reserve Forest region.



COMMUNITY LEVEL

ARACODE - 02
 Includes all villages in the Aracode region

*The figures represents the number of CFRs claims that were submitted in 2019-2020.

In the Konavakarai region, five CFRs were received in the last one year. Out of which, three titles were incorrect. Re-submission of the same are under process.

LIVELIHOODS

The livelihoods programme reaches out to small and marginal indigenous farmers to achieve food security along with income security. This is being effectuated through extending support for sustainable agriculture and facilitating market linkages.

In 2019-20, livelihood support was disbursed through three main projects - NABARD, Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) and Axis Bank Foundation (ABF).

Under the NABARD project, the WADI model (plantation on one acre land with forestry along the borders) was carried out to promote the practice of agriculture among small land holders. Primarily, farmers received plantation crops such as coffee, pepper and silver oak etc.

In the NBR, The ABF project was carried out exclusively in the Sigur region - to revive and support traditional crop production. Farmers received millet seeds, coco-piths and resources to set up centralized seed bank (currently functional at Semmanatham village). Interested farmers were engaged in bio-input trainings envisaged to begin local production that could act as a source of income.

The APPI project commenced in November 2019. It is being carried out in six regions in the NBR. The objective is to help indigenous communities revive traditional occupations that make them self-sustaining. In 2020, impelled by the pandemic surge-mandatory lockdowns - additional farmers were identified to receive support under this grant.

Preserve Farmland & Improve Rural Livelihood

110

WADI's were setup in two regions (Aracode - 43 & Konavakarai - 67) in the past year.

Revive Traditional Seed Support & Exchange Opportunity

1090

Farmers from Pillur, Sigur, Coonoor, Hasanur, Aracode & Konavakkarai received millet seeds.

Organic Production Support

115

Farmers from Pillur, Sigur, Aracode & Konavakkarai received Bio input trainings (Panchakavya, Fish Amino, Poochiveratti & Dasakavya).

The ABF project grant was predominantly utilized to revive agriculture, soil rejuvenation and land clearing post-flood in Wayanad. In Nilambur, a series of trainings (three months) on beekeeping as a livelihood option was provided to 60 indigenous landless families. The honey collected by these community beekeepers are presently procured by the local panchyat in the region.

District	Blocks	Panchayat / Municipalities	Households
Wayanad	Mananthavady	Mananthavady	3
		Thirunelly	501
		Thavinhal	646
		Edavaka	155
Malappuram	Nilambur	Pothukallu	60
		Chaliyar	70
	Kalikkav	Karulai	210

INTERVENTIONS



COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

The intention of our work on preventive health care is to achieve better outcomes for physical & mental wellness. Our interventions include – health monitoring, building awareness on gender-inclusive aspects of health, facilitating access to locally available health facilities or resources and crucially - strengthening local capacities through training of Community Health Workers (CHWs).

In September, we conceptualized, drafted and administered – “community wellbeing cards” through our CHWs. The card contains sections that comprehensively cover cultural, social, economical, environmental, psychological & physical wellness. Through this, we envisage attaining a macro-level understanding that will enable us to bridge gaps for better health outcomes. This first year of information has helped intervene with the need for facilitating social entitlements (Aadhar cards, Insurance, Disability card and

Ration card etc) for community people in the above-mentioned regions.

This will ensure the right of access to subsidised health coverage and particularly better medical attention. Our plan to extend our work on health to other areas in the Nilgiris is restricted due to the recruitment of members willing to take up the health worker’s role. However, in the present working areas, three more women have joined the team. Senior health workers have been closely working with the newly recruited ones.

Besides this, more requests for the facilitation of social entitlements, support for consultation in hospitals and other access-related requests are attended to. Nutrition interventions including diet planning, mental health interventions and adolescent health meetings have been continuing.

HEALTH ACTIVITIES

All beneficiaries covered through the below interventions are from three regions - Aracode, Hasanur and Sigur.

Community Wellbeing card



426

Households were covered through this activity.



Social entitlement facilitations



193

Households were covered through this activity.

23

Individuals received support for consultations in hospitals.



13

Individuals have received mental health treatment and interventions.

20

Awareness meetings on adolescent health, menstrual hygiene, nutrition planning & handwash were conducted.



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMUNICATION & DOCUMENTATION

Community Radio

Title	No. of Programmes
Vazhamudan Vazhvom (Health Programme)	49
Idhu Namma Boomi (Organic Farming)	56
Indigenous Songs	30
Hello Student	45

Seemai Sudhi (Indigenous Newsletter)



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR : Radio award programme for "Best Outreach Activity Award"; Increased recognition through interviews with local Gov. officials; Setting up a local radio youth group in Aracode.



Radio Kotagiri is still the only exclusive community radio in the Nilgiris. Since 2014, the radio as envisaged, offered a platform for indigenous communities, urban & rural communities to communicate on local issues and a diversity of opinions or information.

Over the years, Radio Kotagiri produced most of its content through interactions with people living in our geographical areas. However,

sometimes it has been challenging to make the community come forward and express their visions or ideas.

With the introduction of our recent programme "People & Nature Centre" - we agreed that the Radio should be influenced by the communities as it could enhance the capacities of local people to work together to tackle a range of social problems and nurture creative talents. Read more about it's new journey in the PNC section.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Nilgiris hills in South India is one among the highly vulnerable areas which is prone to multiple natural hazards like landslides, floods, earthquakes, hailstorms etc., The ecological imbalance in the region caused due to historical land use changes, mass tourism, unplanned development and climate change has made the Nilgiris prone to disasters on various fronts. The region has been experiencing landslides from the year 1891. Soon after the great deluge in 1978, the Geological Survey of India stated that the Nilgiris has passed the stage where preventing disasters was an option. The GSI also mentioned that the environmental degradation in the region is alarming and the magnitude of the problem needs to be understood by the communities, keeping in mind the disasters have happened in areas where intense developmental activities like constructions of heavy buildings, end to end roads, leveling of slopes, removal of soil and rocks, cultivating

lands for agriculture purposes, deforestation and blocking of natural drains have taken place.

The Nilgiris district has been on shaky ground since the 1978 landslide after which there have been consecutive big disasters in the year 1990, 1993, 2001, 2009 and 2019 claiming lives and causing damage to property. The main reason quoted even today by many individuals, environmental organizations and government institutions is that the planting of exotic vegetation like wattle, eucalyptus and pine at the cost of native shola grassland vegetation and biodiversity has triggered the process of man made disaster in the region. According to studies conducted by GSI, 70% of native forests were destroyed to start tea & plantations, and vegetable cultivation. More than 10% have been denuded for residential purposes.





Keystone Foundation has worked in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve with indigenous communities on aspects of biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest based livelihood, cultural documentation, preventive health and water & sanitation etc., for more than two and a half decades. Even though the initial idea of the organization was to look at honey hunters and their livelihoods, we felt the need to work with communities in a holistic manner that organically allowed Keystone to set up 12 thematic programme areas.

Today, there is a need to accelerate another programme in Keystone which will work on Climate Change and Resilience with the indigenous and other hill communities in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve. The engagement with LANDSLIP project in the past two years has enhanced the knowledge of Keystone on natural disasters, specifically landslides. The working areas of Wayanad and Nilambur in the Kerala state of NBR has also been experiencing landslides and floods in consecutive monsoon periods from 2017 to 2020. The locations prone to landslides notified by the District Administration in the Nilgiris have also multiplied three times in the past decade from 101 in the year 2001 to 283 in 2019 as per GSI field reports. The Nilgiris District recorded 140 landslides in the month of August 2019. Most of them have been in the Avalanche region that had displaced 1000 or more families.

- Discussion on collection of Landslide information in the pilot study areas of the Nilgiris and Darjeeling with the help of Keystone Foundation and Save the hills.
- A mobile app has been developed by Amrita University for the purpose of inventorying Landslide information.
- LANDSLIP team met with Ms. Geetha Priya (Personal Assistant to the District Collector and contact person for LANDSLIP project in the Nilgiris). In this meeting LANDSLIP team once again updated her about the progress of the work and shared the specific data requirements to evaluate the model in the coming monsoon season.
- A subset of LANDSLIP team also met with Mr. Ranjeet Singh, Sub-Collector Coonoor and Mr. Kupuraj, Tahsildar, Coonoor on 10th December and Ms. Mohana, Tahsildar, Kotagiri on 12th December. Mr. Ranjeet Singh emphasised on the need for community engagement to further strengthen the usability of the landslide forecast.
- On 10th December LANDSLIP team lead by the GSI partners visited some of the 2019 monsoon landslide sites.
- LANDSLIP consortium members from King's College London, British Geological Survey, Geological Survey of India, Practical Action, India, along with their local partners the Keystone Foundation met with Ms. J. Innocent Divya, District Collector and Ms. Geetha Priya. Purpose of this meeting was to
 - a) Update the District Collector about LANDSLIP's progress; b) share landslide data requirements for evaluation of the model.
 - b) Outline project's planned interaction with her office in the coming year. Ms. Divya promised her complete support in data collection process and in helping organise meetings with the district and sub-district disaster management officials in 2020.

FIELD COURSES AND RESEARCH

PURPOSE

The purpose of the field practicum is to provide students the opportunity to work in a setting to develop and demonstrate skills, integrate the theories and practices learned in and out of the classroom and to better understand local communities & resources.

VISION / MISSION

To understand conditions whereby human use and biodiversity richness complement each other.

STRATEGY

Through field learning and action research projects - train, study and implement community based conservation.

The FCRG programme engages with a diverse set of people like the NGO professionals, local indigenous communities, academic students and young children. Its various components are designed explicitly to increase communities' personal

responsibility to conserve their natural environment, equip young students to use theoretical research methods in real world situations and involve young children to learn about biodiversity & practice conservation behaviors.

01
ACTION
RESEARCH

02
EDUCATION
OUTREACH

03
NETWORKING

EVENTS AND TRAINING



12

NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

2 in Sigur, 3 in Hasanur and 7 in Kotagiri (conducted by NNHS). In total 323 students were a part of these programmes.

03

WORKSHOPS

- Pollination workshop for Tamil Nadu & Kerala Forest Department personnel.
- Community Based Ecological Monitoring training for youths working for Lokpanchayat, Maharashtra.
- To study phenology of trees by Season Watch.

02

FILM FESTIVAL

In November 2019, a mix of short documentaries from film makers with varied backgrounds were featured at the festival organised by NNHS & Keystone with the theme "Nature and People". The event was supported by the Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies. The events took place at Coonoor and in Sathyamangalam with a reach to 700 students.

ACTION RESEARCH

Conservation Agreements (CA) and Barefoot Ecology are the two central projects with a people-centered approach that cooperatively works with indigenous communities towards the conservation of their natural base.

The CA project funded by Conservation International has been carried out in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve since 2018. After two fruitful years of bringing communities forward to formally agree to conserve their natural resources in exchange for compensations - the project came to a conclusion with a Learning Network Meet - envisaged to create a

platform to interact, share experiences and learn from various community-based conservation efforts across the world.

The theme for the network meeting was "Incentivizing conservation through community enterprise and sustainable supply chains". Keystone Foundation hosted the meet from December 4th to 9th in Coimbatore, which was then followed by field experience for the visiting participants - in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR).

40

Representatives

*Attendants for the meeting

29

Countries

177

Representatives

*Conservation Agreements status

People from six villages in the Hasanur region have signed CAs since its initiation.





It's a little more than 10 years that we have been hosting a Barefoot Ecology project which trains community members to observe and record habitat quality & changes. Over 50 + community members have been part of the program and they have taken up ecological monitoring, raising nurseries, conducting nature education programs

and village elder programs. Largely it has been carried out in the Hasanur region.

This year has been a breakthrough for us. The project has increased its working areas to Sigur, (falls inside the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve) Nilambur & Pillur region. More significantly, our deepest wishes to have all-women barefoot ecologists have come true. It took more than three months to find them, but today, we have close to 16 women who have trained with us and are carrying out monitoring in their respective field areas since August, mainly on agro-ecology mode.

FIELD LEARNING IN ECOLOGY AND SOCIETY

This is a structured internship offered by APU and Keystone Foundation. Six students of the MA Development course from APU along with four local students from the Nilgiris immersed in this unique month-long internship. Through our work the students got a glimpse of the landscapes, its people and biodiversity. Towards the second half, students had to carry out their field research in four chosen landscapes - Pillur Sigur, Sathyamangalam & Kotagiri.

The students were split into four groups. They were introduced to five possible research topics -



Urban migration with a focus on migration in the Kotagiri tea industry; Governance systems and decision making around NTFPs; Pathways to health (traditional and non-traditional knowledge systems); Exploring livelihoods, current and in the past.

NILGIRI FIELD LEARNING CENTRE

Our 5th batch, kicked off on January 20th, 2020, with an all-women cohort of five students - three from the Nilgiris and two from Cornell. Through assorted lectures, readings, discussion, and practical activities - the students learned about key research methods and had glimpses of the landscape, villages and the people. The small group of students crossed boundaries very early and were gearing up to what questions to frame for their upcoming field research. But, due to the sudden turn of events impelled by the pandemic, it was deemed safer to send the students back home. However, plans to figure out how to continue a new model of study for NFLC in these strange times is being deliberated.



01

WESTERN GHATS PLANT SPECIALIST GROUP

A specialist group under the SSC-IUCN has been constituted for conservation of plants of the Western Ghats. Anita Varghese is the first chair of this group.

02

COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREA

The team partook in the International Consortium on Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) South Asian Regional assembly held in November 2019. At the meeting, discussions on how to strengthen Community Conserved Areas in the legal context and to make networks work in coalition were explored.

03

BEE SURVEY

With permission from Tamil Nadu and Kerala Forest Department, we conducted a bee survey in Mudumalai, Nilambur, Wayanad and Silent Valley National Park.

NETWORKS MANAGEMENT

The People and Nature Fund (PNF), is initiated by Keystone Foundation as a funding facility for grassroots groups working on issues of environment protection and livelihoods of vulnerable communities in India. The fund recognizes the important role of grassroots action where local communities are the foot soldiers of all environmental and development activities. Keeping the priorities of human rights, environment justice and social action is of prime importance for the wellbeing of the community

and the environment. This is the vision behind the PNF.

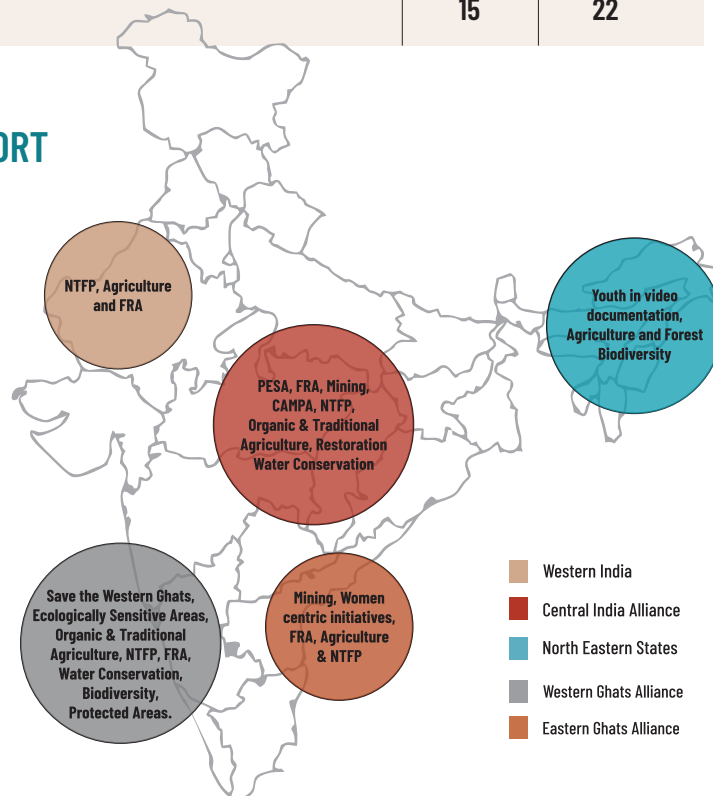
In the last year, the PNF fund supported credible, experienced groups and individuals in India working on environment protection and peoples' rights and livelihoods.

The funds are supported by the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), Both ENDS, Netherlands and Misereor, Germany.



Sl. No.	Theme	No. of grants	
		2019	2020
1.	Small Grants	09	09
2.	Micro Grants	11	09
3.	Fellowship Grants	05	04
	Total	15	22

OUR REACH AND ACTIVIES WE SUPPORT



A NEW CHAPTER

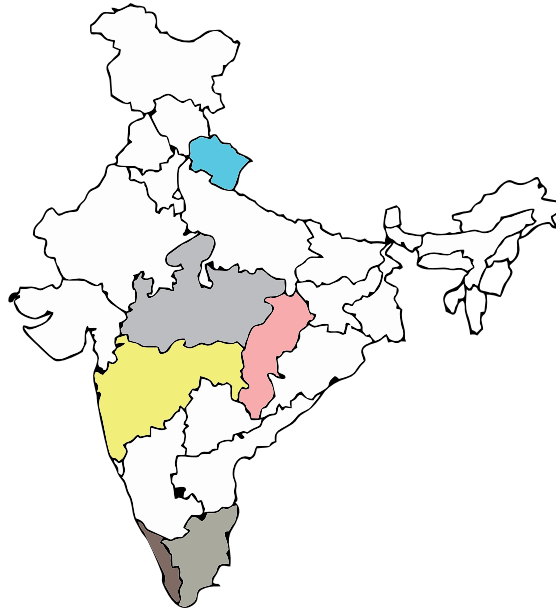
On 19th November 2019 - a new Section 8 Company NTFP-EP- India (not for profit) was registered under the Companies Act (Section 18 of 2013). The initial compliances and processes have been completed and are now open for membership NGOs and CBOs. This principle objective of this company is:

- To enhance the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and conservation of natural resources through local capacity building in the field of non-timber forest products and agro-ecology development in India.
- To educate, assist and by other means to enhance and uplift the livelihoods of tribal and Adivasi communities by using the non-timber forest products as a source to generate income.
- To facilitate the exchange of information, experience, and expertise between nongovernmental organisations, community-based organisations, communities and other stakeholders in sustainable forest management and particularly non-timber forest produce development.
- To support all fundamental rights of indigenous people/Adivasis and other forest-dependent communities, especially for access and tenure of land/forests.
- To promote culture, community networking and local self-governance amongst the communities for knowledge sharing and empowerment.
- To provide technical and strategic assistance to community-based organisations and their support groups on legal aspects, advocacy, resource management, marketing and other related concerns.
- To present needs and approaches of grassroots organisations to government agencies, donors and research institutes.



USING DIVERSITY

OUR REACH



WE WORK WITH...

The project currently involves the Baiga and Bharia communities of Madhya Pradesh; the Pahari Korwa, Birhor and Kamars of Chhattisgarh; the Paharias of Jharkhand; the Kattunaicken and Cholanaickens of Kerala; the Kurumba of Tamil Nadu;

the Katkari of Maharashtra; and farmers of Uttarakhand in the Himalayas.

In 2020, through the Using Diversity project a variety of traditional seeds – which included several varieties of millets, maize, pulses, highland rice, legumes, and vegetables - were distributed to 906 farmer families across Central India, Western Ghats and Uttarakhand. The seeds will be cultivated in their fields, traditional shifting cultivation plots, homestead plots and kitchen gardens.

9,000 saplings and 20,000 seeds of a variety of uncultivated food trees and plants as well as horticultural tree species were planted in community lands, forests, schools, anganwadi's and private lands across different project areas.

Over 25 small and large events, training programs, workshops, community meetings and exhibitions were held across all project areas in Central India and the Western Ghats on a

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is enabling/supporting food sovereignty, traditional knowledge and local action amongst marginalised communities in India.

VISION / MISSION

The Using Diversity Project aims to support NGO/ CBO partners for action-research on food biodiversity (cultivated and uncultivated foods) and provide a platform for sharing the lessons and examples from the field with networks.

STRATEGY

The programme is to be implemented through partner NGOs and CBOs located in different parts of India with a focus on Adivasi, pastoral communities and women. The proposed project areas have a sizeable population of Adivasi communities. With a network of 10-12 NGOs/ CBOs the project is expected to reach out to more than 5000 families.



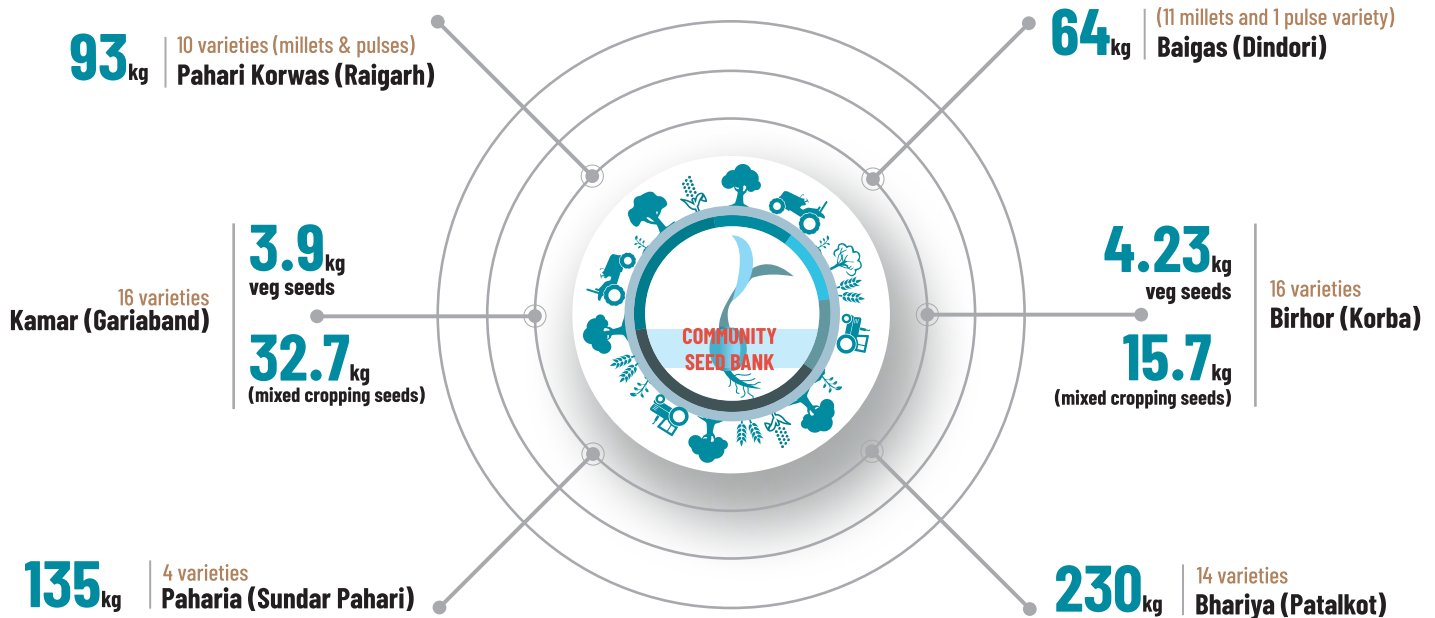
variety of issues that included traditional and modern millet recipes, traditional agricultural practices, uncultivated and wild food, natural and ecological farming and Forest Rights (with a focus on Habitat Rights and CFR) were held in the last year.

Using Diversity teams from Central India and Western Ghats participated in the Organic Mahotsav, organized by OFAI in Udaipur from 29th November to 1st December 2019, displaying a variety of uncultivated food and traditional crops from different project areas.

Two new Forest Gardens and a pilot guided fallow plot were established in the Paharia villages of Sundar Pahari Block, Godda District, Jharkhand. The Forest gardens and guided fallows are aimed at helping

farmers gain more benefits from forest fallows, increase the fallow period of the traditional shifting cultivation practice of Jaraand Kurwaand and also addresses other challenges like the spread of invasive species and reduction in soil quality.

Participatory research for developing two pilot Ecological Calendars was carried out in the Pahari Korwa project area in Dharamjaygarh Block of Raigarh District, Chhattisgarh and the Paharia project area in Sundar Pahari Block, Godda District, Jharkhand. This research was aimed at exploring the rhythm of indigenous people's lives which are synchronised with nature through an ecological calendar which is a document that links the seasons, climate/weather, to events in nature, life and livelihood of a community.



To promote self reliance and independence of CSBs, farmers were encouraged to return a portion of seeds.

PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS (PGS)

The principle objective of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is to incentivise farmers to grow organic food. Farmers from a region are grouped together - and they act as peer reviewers for each other. It allows producer groups to jointly certify their products as organic using a system of standards that have been developed to accommodate their own local needs.

Certification is issued through peer assessment, inspection and verification of the production practices. PGS enables organic farmers to sell her/his produce as organic and allows the use of organic logo on product packages.

Keystone, as a regional council assists and conducts trainings for multiple farmer collectives across India through local agency partners. We also act as a facilitator for issuing PGS Green (in-conversion) certificates to existing or newly formed groups.



Some of the training elements include – identification & mobilization of farmers, forming & registration of groups; capacity building on conducting peer review; uploading of data collected from groups; process of generating certificates and providing marketing opportunities etc.

In the last year, we worked with farmer groups, local & national NGOs and Government agencies that aim to promote rural livelihoods. In the Southern region of the country, trainings were conducted across five districts (Thriuvallur, Kanchipuram, Villupuram, Vellore & Pudukottai) in Tamil Nadu and across two states in the Northern region (Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh).

SAFE FOOD PROJECT

This project aims to make healthy and safe food accessible for all people. Along with our partner organization, Welterhungerhilfe (WHH) India, and their network partners – trainings to initiate PGS process were conducted.



Furthermore, a three day exposure visit for project personnel from five NGOs (Vaagdhara, Indo German Social Service Society, Kheti Virat Mission, Development Research Communication & Services Centre and WHH) took place in August 2019.

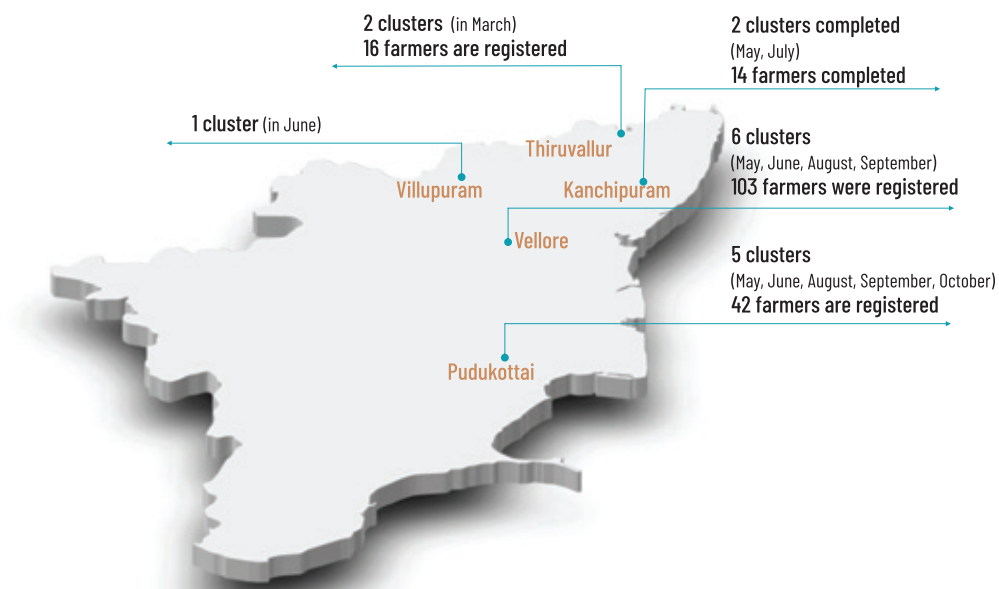
During their visit, they learned about adding value to farming products. They visited two village production centres set up by Keystone through its sister organization – Aadhimalai Tribal Producer Company. The participants interacted with the women's groups that run the production centre and witnessed the sustainable processes that we involved in producing a product.

TAMIL NADU STATE RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION

Within Tamil Nadu, the following activities took place:

Onsite Training to register groups; online training to anchoring agencies; processing approval of registered farmers at the district level; generate certificates.





FOLLOW UP TRAINING WITH WOMEN ORGANIC CLUSTER GROUPS

Name of Agency	No of ToT on Peer review entry	No of groups registered before October 2019	No of groups registered after October 2019	No of farmers approved	No of certificates generated
Rose Trust - Pudukottai	2	32	17	460	16
Vivekanada Sastan Pradhan - Kholpur	2	18	22	408	4
Keystone - Hasanur	3	19	0	206	6
National Agro Foundation - Thiruvallur	1	7	7	35	0
Kalvikendra - Villupuram	1	12	0	146	0
National Agro Foundation - Kancheepuram	1	9	0	96	0

TRAINING OF KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA STAFF UNDER THE PARANPRAGHAT KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA SCHEME

Name	No of training conducted	No of groups registered	No of Farmers registered and verified	No of certificates generated	Fee collected
Myrada - Gopi	2	3	5	2	14000
Animal Science college - Kattupakkam	1	-	20	0	14000
CREED - Ariyalur	1	2	12	0	15000
Animal Science - Kundrakudi	1	3	8	0	15000
Avinashilingam - Coimbatore	1	1	10	0	18000

FOLLOW UP WITH KEYSTONE PGS INDIA GROUP

Name of village	No of Local Groups	No of farmers
Bangalapadiagi	1	7
Kerikaiyur	3	23
Samaigudar	1	9
Sakkaipadigai	1	6
Kokode	1	7
Vellaricombai	2	13
Mavanatham	1	7
Thadasalhatti	1	7
Ittarai	1	6
Pillur	2	24

Follow up and meetings were held along with the PGS Organic Council, under the Tamil Nadu State Livelihoods Rural Mission (TNSRLM) programme.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Just like every other year, the Administration team kept themselves busy, adhering to internal schedules, maintaining the campus and extending their support for the smooth operations of projects besides their general administrative duties. In April 2019, the team set about by renewing staff contracts, field centers agreement, building taxes, and other yearly chores of maintaining information and other resources.

Building maintenance and remodel-improvement activities are *sin qua non* for the team. They closely work with our group of engineers, contractors and craftsmen in the specification development stages of each project on our premises.

A rainwater harvest tank with a capacity to hold 6000 liters was built at the lower part of the campus. Adjoining our compost pits, a small room accommodate our Community Radio transmitter

was constructed. This helps to keep it intact - free from dust, direct sunlight, humidity and damp weather.

Coordinating, managing accommodation and arranging other prerequisites for interns, students and project-related visitors are constant around the year. Students from - Good Earth school, Chennai; Kodaikanal International School, State Forest Training Institute, Kerala, a batch from the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy and a batch from the Defence Services Staff College, Coonoor visited us to learn about our work in the Nilgiris.

Last year too, our Administration group worked with our team based in Nilambur & Wayanad to provide relief materials to marginalized and indigenous communities affected by the floods that have occurred second year in a row.

BEYOND THE NORM

This year, the team took some time to indulge in other activities other than their habitual functions. The entire team made a two-day field trip to one of our field sites in Wayanad. Given their roles, they heard - in detail about the work that takes place at each of our field sites. Spending time with our field staff and witnessing what takes place at the ground was a refreshing experience for them.

In November, the team accompanied our community stewards – Ranganathan & Moorthy - to visit a boys and girls club in Chennai. The club is an initiative by the HCL Foundation in collaboration with the Police Department of Chennai to keep marginalized kids/youth productive and engaged in sports. They visited their facilities, met with the police personnel and the kids that were a part of these interventions. The idea is to see if the same can be replicated within a community set up in areas we work in.

Most significantly, Sabitha, Prakash & Rajendran (our woodcraftsman; associated with Keystone for more than two decades) took a plane for the first time during this trip. Generally, their job roles are inestimable that it confines them to stay glued to the Nilgiris. This trip gave them a pleasant change from the usual.

Likewise, Sujithra went on her first International trip to Leipzig, Germany for an exchange program by Eine Welt – on responsible production and consumption – a two week programme that brings together youth to discuss and experience how the Eine Welt concept is driving change across the globe.



OUR CAFETERIA – A PLACE WE LOVE NOT JUST FOR THE FOOD

Our cafeteria is the one spot on campus where people come together to cherish and be laid back. Staff come together to catch up with each other, share or joke about the current affairs; snack on a light meal or sip on some hot beverage - and as usual, a few of them continue to discuss work and its intricacies.

Over the past years, the team has adopted sustainable practices not just for food – but also for managing different kinds of waste. The waste food from the plates in the canteen is put into buckets which are taken to the compost. After recycling, the biodegradable waste material is used as compost in our garden. Similarly, the greywater channeled from the canteen is stored and used for our nurseries and toilets.

Though it has been hard to equate the expense and income of the canteen, the team continues to procure and use organic produce as much as possible. Besides our own staff that eats here on a regular basis - meals were served for close to 400 individuals or visitors in the last year.

SLOW FOOD 2020

We began the New Year on a festive mode. On January 3rd and 4th, we celebrated Slow Food Day on our campus. As usual, at Keystone – a festival is not complete without the people from the communities we work with. Indigenous folks, local communities, and people from the town area of the Nilgiris partook in this event.

An array of local dishes – Avarai Kolambu, Thenai Ladoo, Samai Biriyanis (Little Millet) & Samai curd rice, Amaranthus grains with honey, Ragi Kali (Ragi balls), Sammai Payasam and



traditional fish curry were served at the festival. In addition, there were stalls set up showcasing local food grains with which savouries were made for people to taste.

At the festival, communities cooked shared and cherished local traditional recipes. Moreover, it provided the scope to discuss and inform people about the importance of eating locally grown food and its benefits.

A HEALTH CAMP FOR THE POOR

In the month of September, Keystone Foundation and ESOINDIA (Stomach Gastric Cancer Awareness Help Group), Chennai organised to spread awareness on general health & well-being. A team of seven doctors led by Dr. S.M. Chandramohan and 10 volunteers from ESOINDIA worked with the members of the Keystone team to organise the event. Sri Ramachandra Medical College Hospital, Chennai, rendered institutional support during this event. Close to 1000 people got free consultations for hypertension, diabetes, and hemoglobin levels. Women were screened for signs of breast and cervical cancer.

ESOINDIA was founded and headed by renowned senior surgical gastroenterologist Dr. S M Chandra Mohan. He is widely known for his compassion to treat poor patients free of cost for almost three decades.

His vision always included carrying out community outreach programme for the poor. His sudden death, last month is a huge loss to all of them that knew him. As an organisation we respect and admire this compassionate healer and his achievements. We are truly grateful to have conducted an event in the Nilgiris under his supervision.



PEOPLE AND NATURE CENTRE

PURPOSE

The People and Nature Centre (PNC) is being envisioned as a living archive and repository which would facilitate the transmission of knowledge from the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve - indigenous, ecological & cultural knowledge - as well as enabling communities to create their own knowledge pools to access, retrieve & practice aspects of their intrinsic lifeways.

VISION / MISSION

To provide a space for the indigenous communities to practice and have historical evidence of their belief systems, arts, crafts and techniques; encourage community participation & ownership in terms of knowledge and associated practices.

STRATEGY

To offer a space for endangered knowledge and an information hub on thematic areas such as language, food cultures, seasonality & biodiversity, agricultural patterns, festivals and social gatherings amongst others.

A large part of Keystone's work is based on taking the importance and viability of indigenous knowledge back to the communities which have faced a rapid devaluation of their traditional systems at the behest of intense modernization. Along with the envisaged larger purposes, the PNC would also serve as an institutional archive of Keystone Foundation.

The centre is envisaged to disseminate information about the unique characteristics of local knowledge systems to people from mainstream communities, reaffirming the need to understand sustainability related aspects embedded in indigenous knowledge systems viz-a-viz modern knowledge systems.

INSTITUTIONAL ARCHIVES

The institutional archives at Keystone Foundation is an effort at consolidating programme contents and resource materials into a searchable database, primarily for internal use and access to network partners. The activities of the institutional archives include - engagement and review of materials generated through project activities, digitization and cataloguing of critical physical holdings such as maps generated through Participatory Resource Appraisal (PRA), field diaries, posters and charts amongst others.

Furthermore, it aims to develop archival collection sets based on the programme working subjects of Keystone Foundation. This is being

carried out through training workshops around data handling and data tagging with members of Keystone Foundation, Aadhimalai and Last Forest Enterprises.

This material itself is in a range of formats covering thematic areas such as Bees, Biodiversity, Water & Sanitation, Agriculture & Forest-based Livelihoods, Culture & People, Environmental Governance and others that will be relevant for internal re-use and of interest to the larger Nilgiris community.

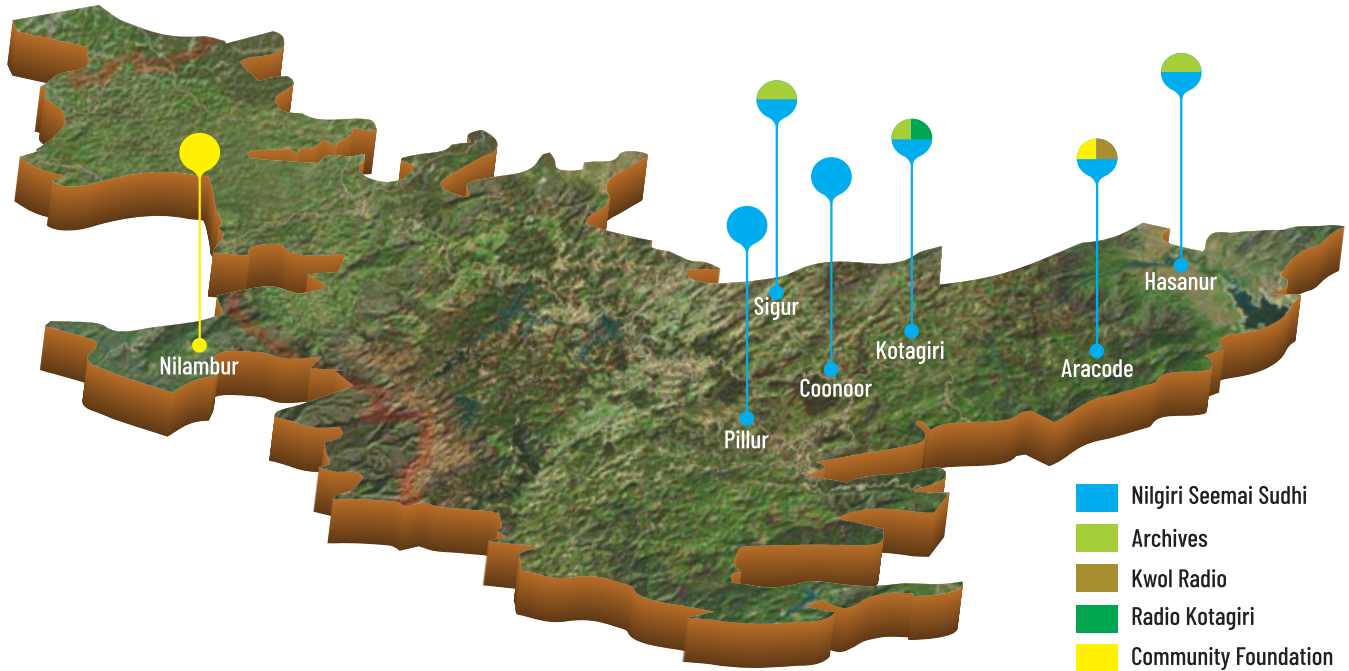


01
INSTITUTIONAL
ARCHIVES

02
FELLOWSHIPS FOR
COMMUNITY
RESEARCHERS

03
COMMUNITY
MEDIA

04
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS



FELLOWSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS

Fellowships granted to researchers from within communities have led to new possibilities of engagement with community-held knowledge. The fellows are encouraged to select themes of importance within their respective communities or regions and document them through interviews with elders, group discussions, exhibitions and other participatory methods for building community ethnographies.

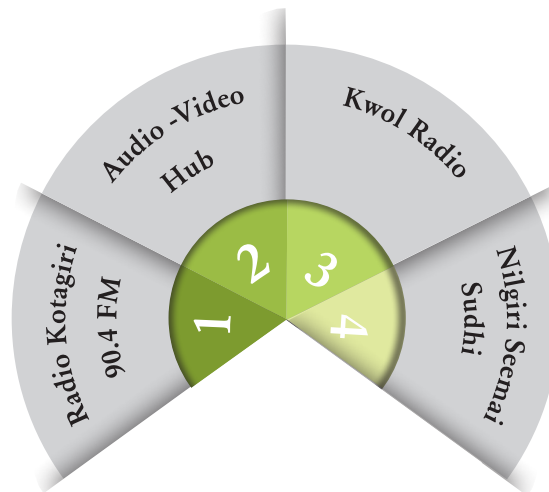
Fellowships towards the purpose of community archives facilitates a secure space for indigenous communities of Nilgiris to represent their identities, stories, narratives and lived experiences with complete control over their objects, documents and media of significance. Engagements so far have been carried out with members from the Kota, Kurumba, Paniya, Kattunaickan communities through interviews, annotations, recordings of songs, stories, folklore.



COMMUNITY MEDIA

Previously, this component was a part of the Community Wellbeing programme - especially, the Radio Kotagiri & the Nilgiris Semmai Sudhi. Midway through the year, after much deliberation, it was shifted to the PNC programme on the basis that these mediums are indigenous community-based-owned media initiatives and were essentially devised to serve the interest of communities.

The community media initiatives are manifested through films, community radio, community newsletter, social media groups etc. This initiative has three main goals – exchanging news and information across geographic landscapes;

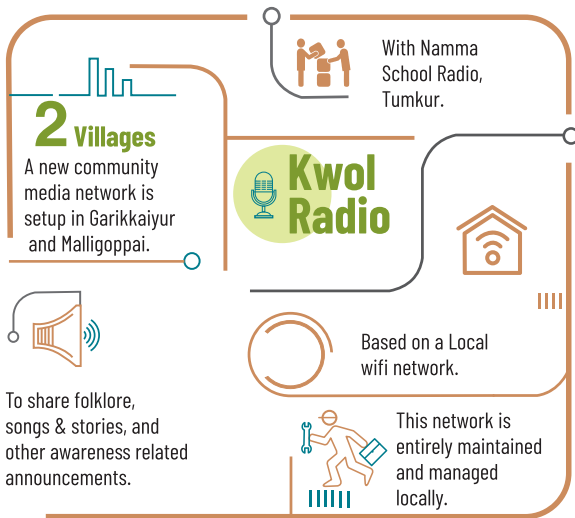


increase community agency; control in information & media-generated about them; facilitate and encourage more local indigenous storytellers in different mediums - covering a variety of issues ranging from community wellbeing to forest livelihoods and rights.

A NEW INITIATIVE

A new Community Media Network (CMN) initiative has been set up in Garikkiyur and Malligoppai (Aracode) - in collaboration with Namma School Radio, Tumkur. The entire system is based on a local wifi network, on which programmes and information can be shared, broadcast and retrieved. We used smart phones devices, a customised bee-box radio and other basic infrastructure to set this radio. At present two villages in the radius on 1 kilometre have been using this technology for increased communication amongst themselves – especially in the absence of mobile network. The Kwol Radio initiative brought together a different range of residents in the two villages to share their folklore, songs and stories, important announcements related to government schemes and farmer groups; wildlife movements and health awareness, etc. This network is entirely managed, maintained and run locally. This has enabled creation of local programmes in indigenous languages.





COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Community Foundations is part of a global movement through which we are facilitating better understanding and utilisation of local assets, capacities and trust of Indigenous Communities to enable stronger agency, representation and governance. The process is through formation of groups that identify their own needs or agenda through community engagement. Currently there are two groups we work with who have gone on to form their own foundations.



Thoduve: A community foundation based in Nilambur, Kerala. This group works with indigenous communities of Nilambur region who are dependent on forest produce for their livelihoods. Currently, this unit has been operational for about a year and focuses on linking communities to livelihoods and better markets.

Pori Varai: A community foundation based in Garikiyur, Aracode. This group initially started with a focus on music, musical traditions and instrument making. Currently, they have diversified into creating - bio-inputs for agriculture, forming their own apiary, have

their own localized network based radio and still continue their engagement with music and musical traditions. This group has been active for about two years now.



WATER AND SANITATION

01
WATER SECURITY
PLANS

02
ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE

03
HILL
SANITATION

PURPOSE

The water programme addresses questions related to water resource management in the Nilgiris and strives to ensure safe & sustainable water for human and environmental needs.

VISION / MISSION

The programme strives to increase the awareness and knowledge on water management among the communities dependent on these water sources in their everyday life.

STRATEGY

The programme works closely by developing water stewards in the communities through capacity development trainings on springshed and watershed management. The stewards then actively advocate to leverage community and Government institutions to support implementation that enables water security at the village level. Furthermore, the team works on developing water security plans in villages to address the need of equity and sharing of water for humans and wildlife.

WATER RESOURCES

Our water programme mainly focuses on improving access to clean & safe water for local communities & wildlife; increasing the knowledge base on water resources in the Nilgiris; providing inputs for advocacy for conservation of springs, hill wetlands and better governance of existing water resources.

In the past year, our interventions were carried out across three landscapes in the Nilgiris. The areas include – Kotagiri (urban & rural complex), Kokalthorai (rural - agriculture complex) and in the Aracode region (tribal agriculture & forest complex).

WATER SECURITY PLANS

A water security-action plan is an essential step in the process of addressing water crisis, management and other related issues. Last year, we developed and implemented WSP for five marginalized communities in

the urban parts of Kotagiri and rural villages of Kokalthorai. In this process, some villages received support for buying materials for infrastructure based on our assessment and paucity of amenities.

Fundamentally, to develop a holistic model, we looked into three main aspects – Water security, Sanitation facilities & Wildlife interactions at the water source.

WATER SECURITY ASPECTS INCLUDE

- Water budgeting - demand and supply
- Monitoring - water resources - quantity and quality.
- Planning and implementation of suitable interventions
- Restoration, repairing and fixing infrastructure etc. Strengthening community institutions - for operation and maintenance.

SANITATION ASPECTS INCLUDE

- Assessing the availability of individual household level latrines.
- Availability and access to functional community and public toilets.

WILDLIFE ASPECTS INCLUDE

- Observing wildlife movement and interactions at the spring.
- Creating an habitat and access to alternate water sources for wildlife.

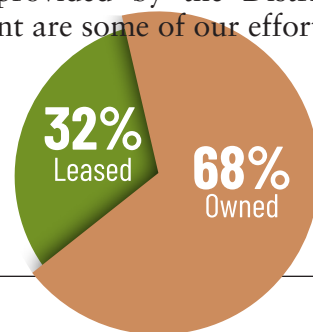


Village	Population	Benefited Households
Masakal	1000	250
Krishnapudur	780	196
Pudhukotagiri	250	65
Dhobikana	200	45
Amman Nagar	100	26
Anilkadu	35	10

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

This component mainly focuses to improve agriculture practices that will reduce the environmental pollution of water & soil. Identifying farmers and assisting them to gradually

convert to organic farming, informing farmers on the benefits of organic farming, linking farmers to organic market avenues, providing bio input trainings and helping farmers avail pre-and post-harvesting assistance provided by the District Horticulture Department are some of our efforts.



OTHER INTERVENTIONS

A stream in Kookalthorai was confined to a narrow channel of water flow due to overgrowth of invasive plants. With support from the Kookalthorai panchayat, Sanitary workers, local community volunteers, Kotagiri Citizens Collective, Providence College, etc. we were able to clean the stream bed underneath which we found-two tones of waste.

To promote the concept of organic agriculture in the Kokalthorai region, we collaborated with the local government school to set up a kitchen garden. This way, the children practically learned about the principles of organic farming – and the organic harvest was served in their school Mid Day Meals.

To address the paucity of organic inputs in the local market - we helped farmers link up with a community foundation named Pori Varai based in the Aracode region to supply bio-inputs to farmers in the Kokalthorai region. Now the farmers are able to get organic inputs and the foundation is able to expand their activities.



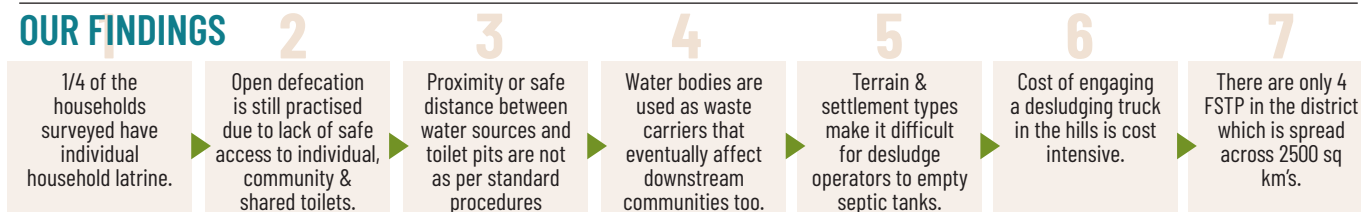
HILL SANITATION

A baseline survey has been conducted within micro watersheds of Kotagiri and Coonoor urban towns covering households of urban slum communities. The diverse settlement types in the two study areas have different practices pertaining to sanitation. Each of these habitations is established on varied slopes and has different challenges like landslide, flooding, wildlife, privacy etc. Representative and purposive sampling was conducted to ensure all

the settlement typologies were covered. The data includes...

- Toilet practices at household level (individual toilets, shared toilets and community toilets).
- Qualitative data collection through village meetings and focused group discussions with the sanitary workers.
- Assessing the quantity/amount/unit of water used for sanitation and hygiene purposes at a household level.

OUR FINDINGS



WATER AND SANITATION

PURPOSE

Our work focuses on improving sanitation across value chain - to spread awareness and communication on public health and improved sanitation to ensure quality of living to the poorest of the households in the cities.

VISION / MISSION

To make the cities a more sustainable and liveable spaces and encourage solutions and strategies to deal with waste management and solve issues of water pollution and overuse.

STRATEGY

To work within the project scope to further the cause of total sanitation - through constant dialogue with the city administration and planning authorities to plan for a sustainable infrastructure development and empowering of vulnerable communities to access public infrastructure such as community toilets, water sources and health care facilities.

SANITATION (TNUSSP)

Keystone Foundations presence in the urban space of Coimbatore as implementing partner for the TNUSSP (Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme) project started in 2016, and has entered Phase II. The focus of our

work across the sanitation value chain geared up from preliminary research to planned interventions across the Town Panchayats of Periyanaickenpalayam (PNP) and Narasimhanaickenpalayam (NNP) in the Coimbatore District.

Increase awareness on the issue of fecal sludge management in vulnerable slums with local government bodies through focused events on the issue of safe water and sanitation.

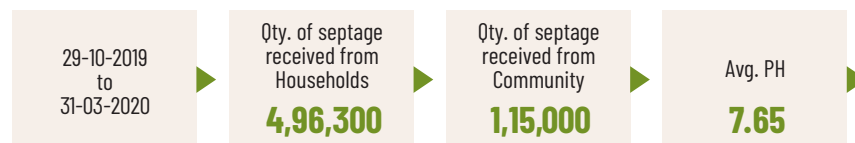
Specialised medical camps for sanitary workers, desludging operators for periodic preventive health care and monitoring services.

Support for women from Communities on livelihood trainings and exclusive consultations on Menstrual hygiene practices and reproductive health counselling.

The construction of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant in PNP, in the Coimbatore District is completed. This plant is owned and operated by the PNP Town Panchayat. This facility has a capacity of 32 kilo liters per day and has been operational since October 2019.

Septage generated at PNP and its surrounding area is desludged by private operators and transferred to the treatment facility. The desludging collection includes household and community toilets.

SEPTAGE INTAKE



ART WORK ON SITE



AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Inadequate sanitation has dire effects on public health & wellbeing. In our country, access to proper sanitation facilities is one of the leading problems - especially for urban marginalized communities. Our awareness campaigns were carried out with the objective to promote sanitation among people and to generate awareness on

good sanitation practices, mainly targeting - slum communities, labourers and government school children. Sewage maintenance, waste disposal & management, handwashing, menstrual & personal hygiene were some of the topics that were highlighted during our campaigns.



WASH Program was carried out in schools in the NNP and PNP areas. Around 663 students (Boys & girls) from 6, 7 & 8th took part in the WASH Program. Besides this, five schools were selected from the same areas for the renovation of toilet and other related infrastructures to sanitation & hygiene.



A clean drive campaign took place at Vivekanandapuram (VKP), PNP in collaboration with the Town Panchayat, local volunteer organisations and MSW students of Kumaraguru College of Arts & Science.



An Open Defecation Free campaign at VKP took place in the month of February 2020 in coordination with CMS College of Arts & Science. At the event, the students performed a skit about open defecation and its effect on our health. Community members of all ages were present.



COMMUNITY TOILET RENOVATION



TOTAL EXPENDITURE

BALAVINAYAGAR NAGAR
94,490

VIVEKANANDAPURAM
8,40,160

Toilets are essential for healthy communities and prevent the spread of many diseases. Many people, in particular women and girls, often cannot go to the toilet due to bad maintenance or unhygienic conditions of community toilets.

Good quality community toilets are the only way to provide access to safe sanitation. We renovated two community toilets in the two slum areas we work in. One in NNP and VKP area. These toilets will benefit close to 100 households in the two areas.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

- An enterprise was setup to support a women's group with livelihood opportunities and provide skill development trainings in PNP. The initiative envisages to bring out their interests towards other community activities and take up social enterprises related to sanitation and water.
- To help people address waste management issues, we helped the community at Balvinaya

nagar build a community-compost pit. While large-scale centralized facilities will undoubtedly be needed in order to reach high recycling levels, locally-based sites can be viable too and could bring many local benefits.

- Awareness of child poop management was conducted at VKP. Mothers and anganwadi workers partook in these sessions.
- Two health camps for Sanitary workers were organized in collaboration with Karapagam Hospital, Coimbatore. A total of 171 sanitary workers benefited from these camps. The sanitary workers belong to two town panchayats - PNP & Veerapandi - both located in the Coimbatore District.



FINANCE 2019 - 20

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2020

S.No	Particulars	2019-20 Amount INR '000	2018-19 Amount INR '000
1	LIABILITIES		
	Capital Fund	581.60	664.53
	Endowment Funds	195.68	193.30
	Current Liabilities	45.85	37.48
	TOTAL	822.99	895.31
2	ASSETS		
	Fixed Assets	371.54	380.01
	Investments	14.05	29.18
	Current Assets	437.55	486.13
	TOTAL	822.99	895.31

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2020

S.NO	PARTICULARS	2019-20 Amount INR (Lakhs)	2018-19 Amount INR (Lakhs)
1	INCOME		
	Donations		
	-Foreign Institutional Donors	657.52	784.52
	-Indian Institutional Donors	351.04	191.73
	-Others	31.36	28.35
	Other Income	16.79	11.49
		1,056.72	1,016.09
2	EXPENDITURE		
	Village Development Projects	1,107.98	791.45
	Depreciation	31.73	29.35
		1,139.79	820.80
3	Surplus (Deficit)	82.99	195.28

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2020

S.NO	PARTICULARS	2019-20 Amount INR (Lakhs)	2018-19 Amount INR (Lakhs)
1	RECEIPTS		
	Opening Balance		
	-Cash and Bank	317.23	129.90
	Donations		
	-Foreign Institutional Donors	657.52	784.52
	-Indian Institutional Donors	351.04	191.73
	-Others	31.36	28.35
	Other Income	16.79	11.49
	Advances Received		-
	Increase in Liabilities	8.41	9.86
	Endowment Fund receipts	2.39	2.22
	Investments Redeemed	15.13	0.45
	Deposits Matured/Pre-Closed	17.59	-
	Advances Received	12.51	
	TOTAL	1,429.98	1,158.51
2	PAYMENTS		
	Village Development Projects	1,107.98	791.45
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	23.26	34.92
	Advances paid		6.86
	Deposits made		8.05
	Closing Balance		
	-Cash and Bank	298.75	317.23
	TOTAL	1,429.98	1,158.51

INFORMATION BASED ON NORMS OF CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE (2019 - 20)

1. DISCLOSURE OF STAFF BASED ON SALARY LEVELS

Slab of Gross Salary plus benefits paid to staff (INR per Month)	No of Female Staff	No of Male Staff	Total Staff
Less than 5,000	0	0	0
5,000 to 10,000	0	0	0
10,000 to 25,000	20	12	32
25,000 to 50,000	10	9	19
50,000 to 1,00,000	4	5	9
Greater than 1,00,000	0	0	0
	34	26	60

2. PAYMENT MADE TO CONSULTANTS

TOTAL ANNUAL PAYMENT MADE TO CONSULTANTS (in INR)	Number of Consultants
Less than 5,000	1
5,000 to 10,000	6
10,000 to 25,000	6
25,000 to 50,000	5
50,000 to 1,00,000	8
Greater than 1,00,000	8

3. STAFF REMUNERATION (GROSS + BENEFITS)

Head of Organisation (including Honararium)- 2 Persons	10,76,568
Highest paid full time regular staff	10,76,568
Lowest Paid full time regular staff	145,260

4. TOTAL COST OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BY TRUSTEES/STAFF/VOLUNTEERS ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANISATION

AMOUNT IN INR '000

NO	NAME OF STAFF	DESIGNATION	DESTINATION	PURPOSE OF TRAVEL	COST INCURRED	SPONSORED
1	Pratim Roy	Director	USA	Meeting- Nilgiri in San Francisco	189	Partly
2	Sarasasmeeta	Programme Coordinator	USA	Meeting- Nilgiri in San Francisco	189	Partly
3	T.Balachander	Consultant	USA	Meeting- Nilgiri in San Francisco	189	Partly
4	Mallikarjunamoorthy	Consultant	USA	Meeting- Nilgiri in San Francisco	189	Partly
5	Shiny Mariam Rehel	Programme Coordinator	United Kingdom	Commonwealth Fellowship Program	23	Yes
6	Sujithra Velkumar	Subject Assisstant	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
7	Vinitha Murugesan	Additional Programme Coordinator	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
8	Nandan.H S	Volunteer	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
9	Frango Thomas	Voluntee	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
10	Praveen	Volunteer	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
11	Dhayal Mohan	Volunteer	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
12	Marimuthu	Volunteer	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
13	Madhusudhan	Volunteer	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
14	Justin Pauls	Volunteer	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
15	Udhaya Vahini	Consultant	Germany	Youth Exchange	74	Yes
16	H.R.Easwaran	Programme Coordinator	Japan	Indigenous Slow Food Meeting	80	No
17	Aritra Bose	Volunteer	Japan	Indigenous Slow Food Meeting	80	Partly
18	Abhishek K R	Additional Programme Coordinator	United Kingdom	Community Foundation Meeting	25	Partly
19	Shiny Mariam Rehel	Programme Coordinator	Phillippines	Honey Conference	27	Partly
20	Mahadesha	Subject Coordinator	Phillippines	Honey Conference	27	Partly
21	Robert Leo	Deputy Director	Phillippines	Honey Conference	27	Partly
22	Sunil	Subject Coordinator	Phillippines	Honey Conference	27	Partly
23	Justin Raj	Subject Coordinator	Phillippines	Honey Conference	27	Partly
24	Pandurang Hegde	Consultant	Phillippines	Honey Conference	31	No
25	Praveena Stanley	Subject Assisstant	South Korea	IFOAM Asia Meeting	-	Yes
26	Snehlata Nath	Director	Mexico	Community Foundation Meeting	-	Yes
27	Mathew John	Director	China	IFOAM Asia Meeting	41	Yes

AMOUNT IN INR '000

NO	NAME OF STAFF	DESIGNATION	DESTINATION	PURPOSE OF TRAVEL	COST INCURRED	SPONSORED
27	Mathew John	Director	China	IFOAM Asia Meeting	41	Yes
28	Mathew John	Director	South Korea	IFOAM Asia Meeting	-	Yes
29	Jyotsna Krishnakumar	Programme Coordinator	United Kingdom	HDCA Conference	1.44	No
30	Pavitra Vasudevan	Additional Programme Coordinator	United Kingdom	HDCA Conference	1.44	No
31	Vinitha Murugesan	Additional Programme Coordinator	Thailand	Fecal Sludge Management-Learning Program	10	Partly
32	Vinitha Murugesan	Additional Programme Coordinator	USA	Present poster in water and health Conference hosted by Univeristy of North Carolina	176	Partly
33	Robert Leo	Deputy Director	Vietnam	NTPF Protocol Workshop	-	Yes
34	Anita Varghese	Deputy Director	Vietnam	NTPF Protocol Workshop	-	Yes
35	Anita Varghese	Deputy Director	Pakistan	IUCN Regional Meeting	-	Yes
36	Anita Varghese	Deputy Director	UAE	IUCN Regional Meeting	-	Yes

5. THE TOTAL COST OF NATIONAL TRAVEL BY BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF/VOLUNTEERS ON BEHALF OF ORGANISATION FOR 2019 -20

RS. 17,63,157

6. PROFILE OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NO	NAME	AGE	SEX	LOCATION	OCCUPATION	POSITION	Remuneration & Reimbursement
1	Somant Sen	53	Male	New Delhi	Consultant	Managing Trustee	-
2	Suprava Patnaik	56	Female	Bhopal	Professor	Trustee	-
3	Shipra Gupta	82	Female	Puducherry	Educationist	Trustee	-
4	Rita Banerji	48	Female	New Delhi	Film Maker	Trustee	-
5	Meena Gupta	69	Female	Kolkata	Retd. Secy to GOI	Trustee	-
6	Rev. P. K. Mulley	70	Male	Kotagiri	Anthropologist	Trustee	-
7	Anju Sharma	46	Female	U K	Consultant	Trustee	-
8	John Kurien	66	Male	Tiruvananthapuram	Consultant	Trustee	-

TEAM PROFILE



Abhirami
Subject Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Abhishek
Additional Programme Coordinator
Biodiversity Management and
Restoration



Agalya
Project Implementation Assistant
Community Wellbeing



Amsaveni
Subject Assistant
Finance & Accounts



Anita
Deputy Director



Aradkuttan
Subject Coordinator
Biodiversity Management &
Restoration



Asish
Project Implementation Assistant
Field Courses and Research



Beeman
Project Implementation Assistant
Biodiversity Management &
Restoration



Bhavya
Additional Programme
Coordinator
Field Courses and Research



Bijishna
Project Implementation Assistant
Community Wellbeing



Blessy
Technical Coordinator
TNUSSP



Chandran
Additional Programme
Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Chandrasekar
Project Implementation Assistant
Biodiversity Management &
Restoration



Easwar
Programme Coordinator
Finance & Accounts



Faisal
Additional Programme
Coordinator
Archiving & Research



Fazeela
Project Implementation Assistant
Community Wellbeing



Gokul
Additional Programme Coordinator
Water and Sanitation



Hari
Subject Assistant
Administration



Jayeeta
Consultant



Jenner
Consultant



Jeffery
Subject Assistant
Finance & Accounts



Jeyanthi
Subject Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Justin
Subject Coordinator
Apiculture



Jyotsna
Programme Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Kalpana
Project Coordinator
TNUSSP



Kannan
Field Coordinator
Water and Sanitation



Karthik
Technical Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Kaveri
Technical Assistant - Biodiversity
Management & Restoration



Lalitha
Field Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Mahadesha
Field Coordinator
Field Courses and Research



Mathew
Founder Director



Manickam
Subject Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Monisha
Technical Coordinator
TNUSSP



Nandhini
Technical Coordinator
TNUSSP



Narayan
Subject Assistant
Administration



Nayantara
Technical Coordinator
Biodiversity Management &
Restoration



Pavitra
Additional Programme Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Prakash
Subject Assistant
Administration



Pratim
Founder Director



Praveena
Technical Assistant
TNUSSP



Rafi
Project Implementation Assistant
Community Wellbeing



Rajendran
Field Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Rajesh
Subject Assistant
Information and Technology



Ramachandran
Additional Programme Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Ranjani
Additional Programme Coordinator
Archiving & Research



Ritwick
Subject Coordinator
Communications



Rohan
Project Coordinator
Networks



Robert
Deputy Director



Sabitha
Subject Assistant
Administration



Saneesh
Project Implementation Assistant
Community Wellbeing



Sara
Programme Coordinator
Administration



Sharadha
Biodiversity Management &
Restoration



Shiny
Programme Coordinator
Biodiversity Management &
Restoration



Sivaraj
Field Coordinator
Biodiversity Management &
Restoration



Snehlata
Founder Director



Sujithra
Subject Assistant
Administration



Sumin
Programme Coordinator
Grants



Sunil
Field Coordinator
Community Wellbeing



Thanvish
Field Coordinator
Water and Sanitation



Vignesh
Technical Coordinator
TNUSSP



Vijayan
Field Coordinator
Field Courses and Research



Vishu
Subject Assistant
Biodiversity Management &
Restoration



Vinitha
Additional Programme
Coordinator
Water & Sanitation



Wilfred
Subject Coordinator
Information and Technology

CALENDAR

NATIONAL

Abhishek & Vishu	Vishakapatnam	Video Documentation Support
Leo & Rajesh	Madhya Pradesh	WHH-Switch Asia Review meeting
Ritwick & Madhu	Kolkata	Fund Raising Workshop
Jyotsna & Ramu	Chennai	Swallows Evaluation Meeting
Leo, Rajesh & Sivaraj	Villupuram	PGS Organic Cluster Training
Leo, Rajesh & Sivaraj	Thirukalakundaram	PGS Organic Cluster Training
Anita	Ooty	Environmental Humanities Retreat
Bhavya & Justin	Chennai	International Biodiversity Day Celebration
Leo, Rajesh & Sivaraj	Vellore	PGS Organic Cluster Training
Leo, Rajesh & Sivaraj	Pudukottai	PGS Organic Cluster Training
Sneh	Bengaluru	Network Project Discussion at Dhaatri Resource Centre
Jyotsna & Chandran	Chennai	NABARD Review Meeting
Leo	Jamshedpur	WHH-Safe Food Meeting
Rajesh	Bengaluru	PGS - Annual General Meeting
Jeyanthi	Delhi	Community Radio Meeting
Jeyanthi & Kuttan	Mysore	Tribal Rights Declaration Day Meeting
Shiny & Gokul	Gujarat	HCL Grant Partners Meet 2019
Chandran, Lalitha, Rajendran, Vijayan, Amsaveni & Keerthana	Yavatmal	Exposure Visit
Abhishek & Vishu	Auroville	Visiting Svaram
Jyotsna, Pavitra & Gokul	Bangalore	Artificial Intelligence for Social Good workshop by Google
Ritwick, Sivaraj, Kannan, Jayeeta, Francis & Monthish	Jharkhand	Birsa Munda Festival
Sumin, Easwar & Madhu Ramnath	Bhuvaneshwar	NTFP-EP India Annual Meet
Sumin & Easwar	Odisha	Compliances Workshop
Manickam	Tumkur	Community Network Exchange Workshop
Bhavya & Anita	Bangalore	Karnataka Forest Department
Pratim & Sara	Delhi	HCL Partners Meet

Sneh	Trichy	Using Diversity (UD) Donors Meeting
Bhavya	Madhya Pradesh	Gender Aspects Study
Sara, Sabitha, Prakash, Rajendran, Moorthy & Ranganathan	Chennai	Visit to HCL Foundation
Anita & Shiny	Kolkata	Asian Pollinators Meet
Thanvish	Delhi	Landslip Meeting
Sara & Sumin	Delhi	HCL Grant Ceremony
Anita	Mysore	Sustainable Use India Case Studies

INTERNATIONAL

Pratim, Bala, Sara & Moorthi	San Fransisco	Nilgiris in San Fransisco
Shiny, Leo, Justin, Sunil & Mahadesha	Philippines	Madhu Dhuniya
Anita	Pakistan	IUCN Conference
Abhishek	UK	To participate in the "Pathways To Power" symposium
Easwar & Aritra	Japan	Indigenous Slow Food Meeting