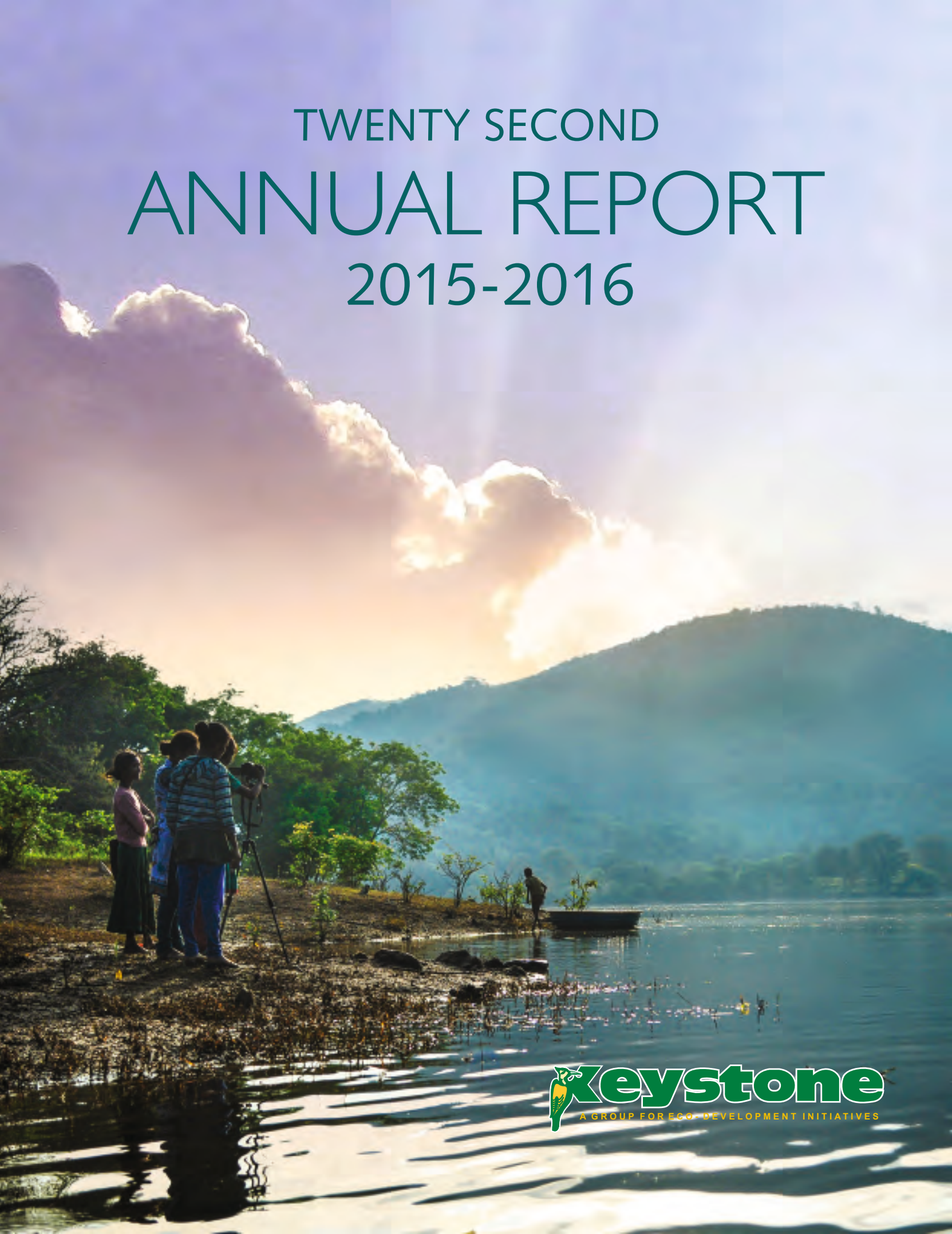
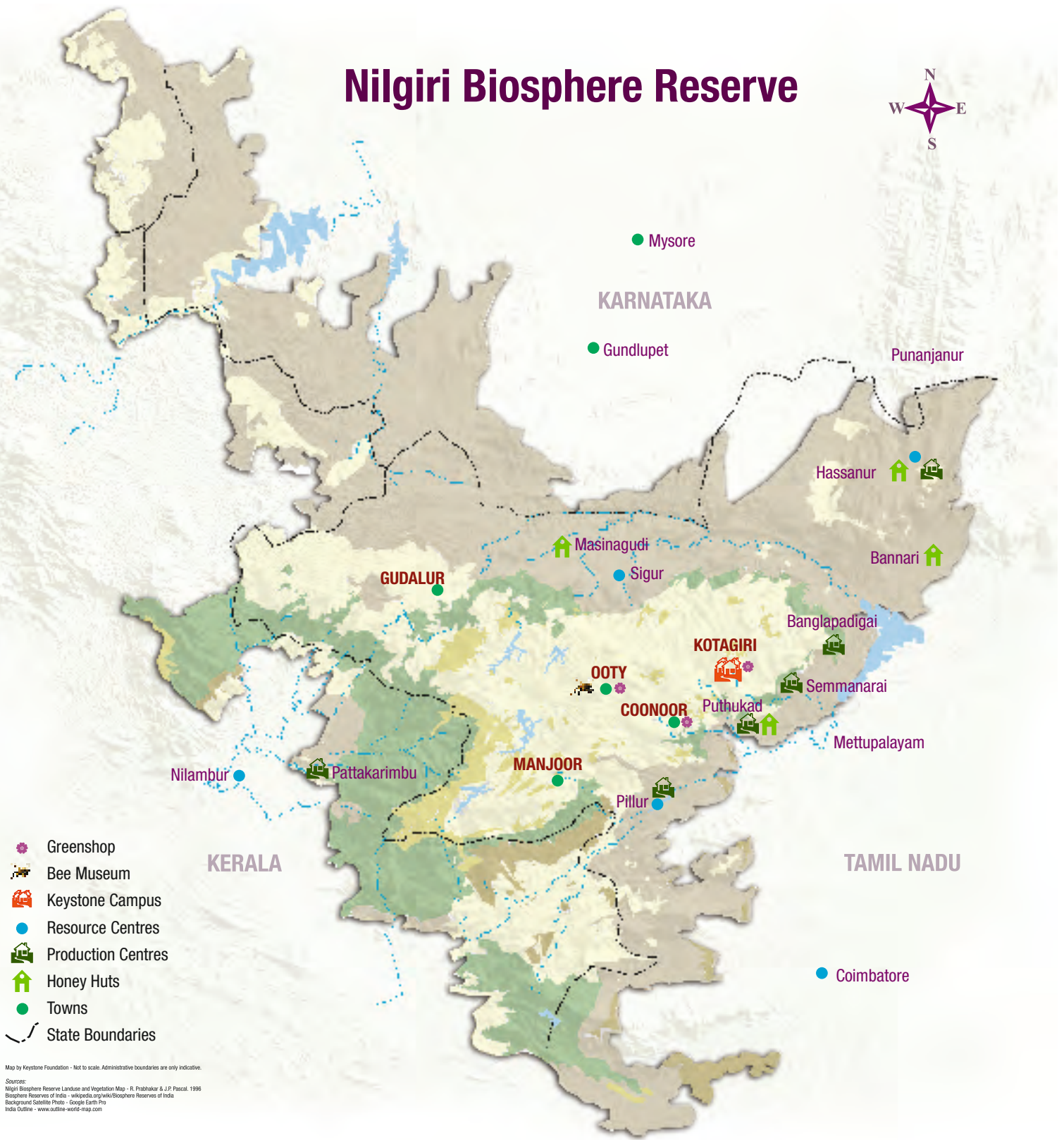


TWENTY SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016



Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve



Map by Keystone Foundation - Not to scale. Administrative boundaries are only indicative.
 Sources:
 Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve Landuse and Vegetation Map - R. Prabhakar & J.P. Pascal, 1996
 Biosphere Reserves of India - wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosphere_Reserves_of_India
 Background Satellite Photo - Google Earth Pro
 India Outline - www.outline-world-map.com

MISSION : Our Mission is to enhance the Quality of Life and the Environment

GOAL : To work on issues of Natural Resources and Rural Development, with Indigenous People in mountainous and adjoining regions, addressing the challenges of conservation, livelihoods and enterprise development, through appropriate-knowledge and action, technologies, socio-economic innovations and institutions.



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List of Abbreviations

ACWADAM	Advanced Center for Water Resources Development and Management	MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
APFW	Asia Pacific Forestry Week	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
APPCL	Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited	NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activists	NABL	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories
AT	Appropriate Technology programme	NBR	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
ATREE	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment	NCF	Nature Conservation Foundation
CDD	Consortium for DEWATS Dissemination	NEERI	National Environmental Engineering Research Institute
CFR	Community Forest Reserve	NESFAS	Northeast Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society
CFR	Community Forest Rights	NFLC	Nilgiri Field Learning Centre
CHW	Community Health Workers	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
CMS	Catalyst Management Services	NNHS	Nilgiri Natural History Society
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce
DEWATS	Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems	NTFP-EP	Non-Timber Forest Produce-Exchange Programme
EBR	Edhkehwynawd Botanical Refuge	ODK	Open Data Kit
EDC	Eco-Development Committee	PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
EDS	Ecological Development and Security	PHC	Primary Health Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
FES	Foundation for Ecological Security	PRAXIS	Institute for Participatory Practices
FOSS	Free and Open Source Software	SSC	Species Survival Commission
FRA	Forest Rights Act	STR	Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
FRRO	Foreigner Regional Registration Office	SULi	Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi) Specialist Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems	TDF	Tribal Development Fund
GoI	Government of India	TGBP	Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project
GoTN	Government of Tamil Nadu	TNFD	Tamil Nadu Forest Department
GPS	Global Positioning System	TNUSSP	Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme
IFR	Individual Forest Rights	TSU	Technical Support Unit
IIFM	Indian Institute of Forest Management	VFC	Village Forest Council
IIHS	Indian Institute for Human Settlements	VJNNS	Visakha Jilla Nava Nirmana Samithi
IP	Indigenous Partnerships	VSS	Van Samrakshyana Samiti
IT	Information Technology	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	WFTO	World Fair Trade Organisation
JFMC	Joint Forest Management Committee	WRCS	Wildlife Research and Conservation Society
KFD	Kerala Forest Department	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
LAN	Local Area Network	YELP	Youth Environmental Leadership Programme
LFE	Last Forest Enterprises		
MAWS - GoTN	Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Government of Tamil Nadu		
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme		

TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEYSTONE - A PLACE CALLED LIFE	4
CONSERVATION	6
LIVELIHOODS	10
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' PROGRAM	16
APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY	20
RESEARCH	24
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS	26
KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY BUILDING	30
WATER RESOURCES	35
POLLINATION	40
HUMAN WILDLIFE INTERACTION	42
ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE	44
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS	46
NETWORKS	50
IDEAS IN THE MAKING	56
ADMINISTRATION	60
FINANCE	62
TEAM PROFILE	67
CALENDAR	71

KEYSTONE - A Place Called Life

Rammed earth, sound of wood working machine, Gaur traffic, people from several walks of life – healers, story tellers, musicians, bird watchers, hunter-gatherers, lobbyists, officers, researchers, thinkers, artists, social entrepreneurs – at some point or the other climb up this steep hill, sit in different perches and plateaus, have a chat with their counter parts, their interest groups and roll down. This upstream and downstream of ideas, energies, exchanges is the intrinsic organic web of Life at Keystone. Who has triggered or catalyzed it? Is there a form, function or method to it – how does the institution capture this in its learning, existence, legacy and building up. All these are questions which are difficult to answer. It happens. For the past 24 years – it's been growing; emerging, sometimes some themes shrink and others expand – depending on various factors, but primarily on two things – Ecology of the Idea and People to form, play and engage with that ecology.

From the idea, thinking and process stage – let me get into specifics, but before that I have an urge to share one more in this foreword. When people from different social, educational, economic, political spaces get together – the outcome of that process is dynamic and deep. Not just one outcome – of let us say empowerment or confidence building within the marginalized communities or a rights based framework internalized. But much deeper than that. Something that is about Life and Living. About ideas and being radical in a quiet manner; about forging new paths and doing your work with depth, passion, integrity and excellence. If one is intelligent one should be able to raise resources for the kind of work

one wants to do, said a friend long ago. This intelligence is complex. We are still in the process of understanding and the nuances are rich.

At Keystone – risks are encouraged to be taken. Too much planning, calculations will never make it start in the first place. It's a real start-up and incubation for new ideas, learning and progress. For example, if we create a Language School of all the 26 different tribal groups in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve – by the communities themselves. Their language, their priorities, their accentuations and linkages – some of these ideas are still in the incubator. Imagine the world that could be created out of those insights, smells, habitats, trails, cultures and river beds and cliff edges. Each could be a field learning platform.

Two things kept me busy this year. In the beginning to learn to set up a Restaurant from scratch – how to transform the Bee Museum in a more happening place, so we curate a Slow Food Restaurant with Italian and Indian blends. In less than four months – it's up and running. A winning start-up team was formed like Navy Seals to go and get it done. Menus, equipment, people, training, décor, tables, kitchen, ventilation – that was like a crash course on local restaurant management. Now it runs beautifully, no looking back. It's called Place to Bee. (<http://tinyurl.com/placetobee>)

The second intensive occupation was to create a space for students to live and eat and make the First & Second Batch of Nilgiris Field Learning Centre (<https://blogs.cornell.edu/nflc/>) experience, engage and enjoy the adventure. We took loans from the Bank; a

beautiful space has been created in less than five months to house 20 students and a Canteen for more than 30 people to sit. With our restaurant experience in Ooty, this was fairly easy.

Last Forest Enterprises Private Limited, a social enterprise company incubated by Keystone Foundation has made profits finally this year. It's a proof of our vision of making the markets work for people and nature. Today, with 25 local persons, it stands on its own feet.

Aaadimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited (APPCL) is a tribal-led, tribal-formed, Producer Company incubated by Keystone for several years under the Production Centre Development (PCDs). Today, 1609 proud shareholders form the backbone of this company. They have the power to determine their fair prices, returns, give back to the community, set up outlets and forge an equitable producer company – first of its kind in India.

Keystone Foundation through its several years of work with Both ENDS and Dutch donors have been made a small grants facility called the People and Nature Fund. This Fund will be for start-ups, invisible, small efforts that need seed money- support and will work through different parts of the country where tribal-forests issues are co-existent.

A visit to Sweden for the Glocal Development talks was interesting. Swallows – our oldest and most faithful partner since 1993 organized a series of Development Talks called Glocal – where they brought together Swedish Academia, Parliamentarians, Thinkers, Scholars and Activists with local NGOs from across India & Bangladesh. The format of the meeting was interactive, a conversation amongst all of us. (<http://tinyurl.com/glocalreport>)

Indigenous Terra Madre, 2015 was a grand show in Meghalaya, hosted and organized by Indigenous Partnerships. A delegation of tribal

people and their families went from here to show case their culture, listen to other groups from India and globally. This was a first for several people and could be an annual gathering.

Our work in the hills has been now on for 23 years. During this year we have also moved to the plains, to the city – Coimbatore which is the nearest big city from the Nilgiris. Trade, economics, culture, intellectual exchange, local traditions, upstream and downstream issues of water – all these are embedded in to our new step and approach towards this. A more in depth treatment of the project: TNUSSP – Coimbatore: Our foray into The Urban is found inside.

We sincerely thank all our donors Both ENDS in Amsterdam, Swallows in Sweden, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund in US, Arghyam in Bengaluru, Cornell University in US, IIHS in Bengaluru, and Apollo Tyres Foundation in Chennai. We would like to thank the District Administration of the Nilgiris District and Coimbatore District, Government of Tamil Nadu for all the support and collaboration; the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for collaborating with us in our different projects – be it Ecotourism in Kotagiri or Barefoot Ecological Monitoring in Sathy hills.

We are grateful to our Board of Trustees – Shipra Gupta, Rev. Mulley, Meena Gupta, Somnath Sen, Anju Sharma, John Kurien, Suprava Patnaik and Rita Banerji – all of them are part of this Life. I would like to thank all the team members without whom this place would not tick and Life would not be possible. Keep enjoying the journey; we still have no maps on where we are going!

Pratim Roy

Keystone Foundation,
Kotagiri, Nilgiris
4th April 2016

CONSERVATION

This year, the conservation group set the tone for an increased level of interaction with indigenous communities, decision makers and other stakeholders; through the barefoot ecology programme, exploring payment for ecosystem services, understanding pollinators in agro-ecosystems and human-wildlife interactions. The conservation group set out to explore the cross-linkages between the programme areas at Keystone in order to achieve effective conservation action.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation awareness and education activities were conducted as school programs, Village Elder Programs, summer camps, and exposure visits. These activities are held in the villages, in government tribal residential schools and at the field centres of Keystone Foundation.

The Village Elder Programme is currently being carried out in 10 villages and there have been 45 sessions in the past year. The whole conservation team is involved in this activity with additional support from the Nilgiri Natural History Society.



BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH

Forest and Beauty Case Study

N'TFP-EP, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN), conducted case studies on forest resources that are used for beauty products in the cosmetics, personal care and perfume industries.

Wild turmeric or *Curcuma aromatica* (Salisb.) and soapberry *Sapindus emarginatus* were chosen by Keystone as subjects for study in India along with the 12 other case studies being conducted across the region. The findings of the study were shared at the Asia Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) held at Manila in February 2016.

The Forest Spa was one of the introductory and promotional events for the mini-seminar on Forests and Beauty held at the APFW. The case studies were undertaken by Anita Varghese and Shiny Miriam Rehel. Shiny also participated in the result sharing event held in Manila as part of the APFW.

Dammer Bee study - Honey desk

A study was conducted to understand the nesting habits and nest structure of the stingless bees. This was carried out in Punanjanur, Pillur valley and Sigur plateau in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) from September to November 2015. Indigenous information on honey harvest and the threats to the bee population was gathered.



One important result is that the honey gatherers have perceived that the bee colonies have reduced in recent years as nesting sites are fewer and they have noticed that climatic variations are affecting bee populations. This study was conducted in the field by Shivanna and Mahadesh and facilitated by Shiny.

Biodiversity Enhancement

The Apollo Tyres Foundation, the corporate social responsibility entity of Apollo Tyres Limited, Gurgaon had engaged Keystone Foundation to design and conduct a biodiversity assessment study in the buffer zone of 5 sq km around their plant in Chennai. After many field trips to the site and assessment of the biodiversity, the Conservation team prepared a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan.

After the submission of the final report, the Foundation gave us another assignment to understand the ecological requirements and management strategy for enhancement of growth and quality of teak plantations in Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu. These are plantations set up by the company. This work was supervised by Sumin George Thomas and undertaken by the whole conservation team.





Exploring Cultural Imaginations of Landscapes through Folklore

While conservation activities seek to promote co-existence, incidents of negative interactions between humans and wildlife are on the rise. This project attempts to explore imaginations of landscape of different indigenous communities within the NBR. The Paniya community from Nilambur and Sholigas from Punanjanur are the communities in which these imaginations are being explored.

The project also hopes to create an archive of folklore and indigenous knowledge



from these communities, as well as form a network of storytellers from within the community and maybe across communities as well. This folklore would help us gain a historical perspective towards understanding how people and wildlife have co-existed as well as the different uses of landscapes they might have. This project is being headed by K R Abhishek.

Youth Environmental Leadership Programme (YELP!)

YELP was conceptualised to enable individuals to use different skills and modes of communication to talk about the environment and other issues from their respective areas. The first phase of the programme was a month long wildlife photography and nature filmmaking workshop conducted in collaboration with Dusty Foot Foundation and Green Hub at Hasanur in February 2016.

Rita Banerji, Nitin Das, Sudeep Elamon, and Vijender Sharma were instructors from these organisations who helped students through their intensive routine. Sanjay Barnela (Srishti School of Design) was also instrumental in providing directions and comments towards the final edit of the film.

Eleven students from Pillur, Sigur, Dhimbam and Punanjanur participated in the workshop. The schedule was an intense one, with the students being kept occupied from early in the morning to late in the evening. As part of the workshop, skills required for photography, filming and editing were imparted. Along with this technical skill set, participants were also provided information and training on how to understand birds, plants and reptiles better.

All eleven students completed the workshop successfully, and for their final assignments each group was asked to make a 5-minute film, resulting in three films which were conceptualised, shot and edited by the students themselves. Seven students were picked from this group and have been asked to conceptualise another story/issue which they feel deserves attention and produce a 10-minute film.

Anita and Sumin were instrumental in getting the program off the ground, Abhishek played an important role of the actual implementation with support from Gali Prudhvi (Nilgiri Natural History Society), Nithya and Varghese (student interns from Center For Learning, Bangalore), Shiny and B. Mahadesh.

NURSERY

The native species nursery is located at the Keystone campus in Kotagiri, Punanjanur and Sigur. Over the year, around 3456 saplings of 25 species were raised in the three nurseries. About 103 saplings were planted in Karimara and Hubbathalai (Coonoor) as part of wetlands/spring restoration work this year.

Saplings have also been given to individuals to be planted in their land. Pollinator-friendly plants have also been raised in



WORKSHOPS, EVENT VISITS AND MEETINGS

- Aradukuttan, Shiny and Sumin attended the Indigenous Terra Madre in Shillong, Meghalaya from November 11-20, 2015.
- Shiny attended the Asia Pacific Forestry Week in Manila, February 20-27, 2016.

the nursery to develop a pollinator garden or bee/butterfly/insect forage plants to improve the insect diversity in an area. The programme also trained forest officials and set up nurseries for individuals. Aradukuttan remains in charge of nurseries with support from Shivanna and Shiny.

LIVELIHOODS

In 2015-16, Livelihoods focused on forest rights as well as ensuring gender balance in decision making in community-based activities. Building village level institutions and strengthening new and existing groups were also priorities.



GROUP STRENGTHENING

One of the main aims of the Livelihoods programme is to strengthen village groups and progressively make them independent. The programme has been working with groups such as the Village Savings Groups, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) farmers' groups, JFMC/VSS/EDC groups where community members play an integral role.



This year, apart from the groups that we have worked with in the past, support has been given for forming Gram Sabhas as per Forest Rights Act. A 'Gram Sabha' includes all adult members in a village as defined under the Forest Rights Act. A simple majority of 'Gram Sabha' can take all important decisions in connection with the rights conferred upon them under the Act. Strengthening this institution will enable independent decision-making in a more democratic manner in community-related issues and developmental aspects.

Various government departments play crucial roles in verifying and giving entitlements to community members under Forest Rights Act. By strengthening groups with regard to independent decision making and equipping them with documenting and accounting skills, we can ensure the community is ready to take informed decisions whenever the need arises.

VILLAGE SAVINGS GROUP

There are several village-level saving groups formed and run by community members themselves across all the working areas in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Such groups are self-sustainable and help to bring more security to each individual and build the capacity of the group as they work towards the development of their own villages.

During this year, the programme has facilitated the formation of 42 village saving groups in 75 villages with 632 members, more than 50% of which are women. The groups have a total savings of Rs. 3 lakhs between them.

LAND USE MAPPING

In all our working areas, community members have been capacitated to prepare land use maps so as to analyse land use



patterns. This was with support of village coordinators from indigenous communities working part time with Keystone Foundation for skill development and capacity building of community members.

Land use maps of 52 villages were developed covering approximately 3,000 acres of land. It was then understood that more than 60% of available land had been left fallow for various reasons. We have since begun to promote commercially viable crops such as pepper, coffee, nutmeg, cinnamon and others in such lands lying unused over a long period of time.

SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURE

Support to agriculture included distribution of seeds, loans for ploughing and seed procurement, training and distribution of organic soil enrichers, distribution of polythene sheets and mobilizing government schemes.

The continuous effort to encourage traditional farmers to revive their fallow land found success this year with 137 families across 24 villages beginning cultivation on 120 acres which had been lying fallow for years. This is an increase of 50 families and 20 acres over last year's fallow lands development initiative.

The Livelihoods programme also facilitated and distributed 13 different varieties of seeds to 50 farmers and coffee seedlings to 46 farmers holding around 70 acres of land. More than 30,000 coffee saplings were planted in seven villages in Konavakkarai area during this year.

For the first time in Nilambur area, a total of 35 farmers cultivated Tapioca in seven acres of land where their claims were recognised under the Forest Rights of 2006.

YIELD ESTIMATION

We did a simple exercise of yield estimation on *ragi*, *thenai*, *samai*, *avarai* and *keerai* in four of our working areas - Hasanur, Pillur, Konavakkarai and Aracode. Yield was calculated based on per kilogram of seeds sown in the land. No loss was recorded due to wildlife conflict and weather conditions.

The study showed that the millet yield in Hasanur area was low as compared to other areas. We deduced that the productivity of land might have come down due to the fact that the Hasanur lands have been under constant cultivation for a long time while the other land areas chosen for study were relatively newly cultivated lands.



SEED BANK AND KITCHEN GARDEN

Strengthening village level seed banks is another important objective of the Livelihoods programme. This year, a seed bank was set up in Samaigodal village in Aracode area which has provided services to farmers from Vakkanamaram, Banglapadigai, Kokkode and Samaigodal.

In five working areas of Pillur, Nilambur, Sigur, Aracode and Konavakkarai 79 indigenous families have planted and maintained kitchen gardens this year. 12 varieties of vegetables, such as lady's finger, brinjal, chilly, pumpkin, amaranthus, bitter gourd, bottle gourd, cucumber, etc. were harvested and used at household level.

The harvests from the gardens were sufficient to meet not only the needs of the family but also to exchange for other vegetables with other families. Many of these families have maintained part of the harvest to replant during the next season. This practice has been encouraged.

Maintaining a kitchen garden ensures that the family is provided with an important source of nutrition, thus addressing one main issue contributing to the reduced wellbeing of indigenous communities.



BEE KEEPING

In the past one year, we have worked with 62 beekeepers across 30 villages in eight working areas of Kotagiri, Punanjanur, Hasanur, Nilambur, Pillur, Sigur, Aracode, and Konavakkarai. These beekeepers have installed and are maintaining a total of 115 bee boxes.

PGS

The Livelihoods team was given a half-day training on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) in order to better understand the concept of organic agriculture and the benefits of being certified by PGS. Held in the Keystone campus, all field personnel from different working areas attended the training.

This special session aimed to bring about a cooperative effort to revive the functioning of existing PGS farmers' groups across the working areas. The programme plans to focus more on PGS initiatives in the coming years.



VALUE ADDITION

Keystone recognises that capacity building on value addition of agricultural and forest produce is an important livelihood strategy. The community members in Sigur area think along the same lines and have passed resolutions in village meetings in favour of incorporating the Sigur value addition centre into Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited.

This would add about 600 more shareholders to the producer company. Discussion regarding issues related to their membership is continuing and we hope to have a positive outcome as soon as possible.



SUPPORT TO AADHIMALAI PAZHANGUDIYINAR PRODUCER COMPANY

Livelihoods team assisted APPCL in collecting the members' list from Sigur area in order to facilitate distribution of shares. While collecting the membership list, we emphasized on getting the women's name included so that the individual share even in a joint ownership is recognised.

The list of premium prices that APPCL is paying for organic as well as PGS-certified products has been included as an agenda item of group meetings with farmers in the villages.

WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT TBGP-EDS

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation by improving ecosystem and the management capacity as well as undertaking tree planting outside the recorded forest areas. In collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, we have assisted the project with data collection on 418 households from eight villages for the microplan.



This year, the programme provided 18,000 saplings of pepper, 3,000 of clove, 9,000 of nutmeg and 2,400 of cinnamon to farmers of three villages (Dhalemokkai, Kolikkarai and Kunjapanai) through the TBGP. Two water tanks with a carrying capacity of 2,000 liters each, a 2-inch diameter and 2,000 meter long hosepipe were purchased for facilitating irrigation needs of these villages.

Seven coffee pulper machines were also made available to seven villages as part of this project. An exposure visit was facilitated for 29 persons from Sathyamangalam and Kotagiri regions to Uravu in Wayanad district of Kerala for learning about bamboo crafts.

TBGP – Ecotourism

Another major component of the TBGP is community-based ecotourism. Under this programme, two traditional Toda style huts and a toilet were constructed at Koditheni Mund to accommodate tourists. Discussions were held regarding logistics with the Forest Department. The programme received support from Appropriate Technology for designing and executing the structures.

MGNREGS

Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 16 acres of land belonging to 14 families was developed in Banglapadigai village for cultivating mixed crops. The programme is looking to reach out to other villages across NBR under this scheme.

Tamil Nadu Forest Department

TNFD supported broom grass harvesters in Aracode and Garakiyur VFC and around 5.1 metric tons of broom grass was harvested by 29 families in the area. 26 women and 33 men were engaged in the

collection of broom grass and a total of 305 workdays were made available to the community members in Aracode area.

Tribal Development Fund – NABARD

A survey was completed with the support of community members as part of selection of beneficiaries for the development of fallow land within the tribal patta lands in select villages of Nilgiris. It is expected that 250 farmers in 17 villages will benefit from this project.

Trainings

This year, Archana and Ramachandran from the Livelihoods team attended a Training of Trainers workshop in Delhi on the concept of Right(s) Way Forward and sustainable development conducted by Forum Syd, a Swedish organisation working on sustainable change at global level.

Subsequent to this workshop, Keystone was entrusted with the responsibility of training organisations like Hand in Hand and Friendship Association of Social Services in Tamil Nadu on similar lines. The trainings were successfully conducted in two phases – the first phase was at the Hand in Hand campus in Kanchipuram and the second one at Keystone campus in Kotagiri.



TRADITIONAL FOOD FEST, ERUTTUKUTHI (NILAMBUR) 23RD JANUARY 2016

Even today, indigenous communities across the world possess the richest of food cultures and it is the same in Nilambur where the high use of uncultivated food resources and the richness of knowledge regarding the same bear witness to the deep relationship between indigenous people and the environment. In the rapidly changing socio-economic structure of life across the world, gathering and consumption of traditional foods has reduced considerably in recent times.

As the new generation of tribal children spend their formative years in government residential schools, traditional knowledge on food gathering becomes irrelevant to them and is hence forgotten. In this setting, traditional food festivals play an essential role in reasserting the significance and values of traditional food among the indigenous community. A Traditional Food Festival is an opportunity to get together, exhibit, and learn about the tradition, culture and food.

The Traditional Food Festival-2016 in the Paniya settlement of Eruttukuthi on the banks of the Chaliyar river was the first of its kind in the Nilambur area. The fest was attended by more than 400 people from 16 different tribal hamlets. The venue boasted a pavilion with an exhibition of food items, posters and banners. There were four tables were filled with about 30 different traditional cooked food items of uncultivated food resources like tubers, leaves, fruits, roots, stems, fish, crab, etc. Many raw food materials also decorated the display table.

The 'tasting point' offered participants the excitement of different tastes. Three different tubers belongs to Dioscorea sp, locally called Kavila, Naara and Nooram, were voted the most delicious in combination with indigenous fish curry. Locally grown tubers like Kappa (Tapioca), Vella Kachil (Greater yam) and Neela kachil (Purple yam) were the main items served at lunch along with kanthari chammanthi (side dish prepared with an especially pungent small green chilly, coconut oil and salt) and curd.

Baburaj, a Kaattunaickan youth from Mundakkadavu hamlet summed up the general sentiment when he said, "This has been an unforgettable experience for me and my wife and I feel more proud of my community now."

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' PROGRAM

The objective of the program is to bring forward initiatives from the peoples' perspective to promote social cohesion, integrate social, cultural and economic realities and build knowledge about health and wellbeing, and at the same time, to also promote the communities' advocacies on these issues.



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi is an indigenous peoples' newsletter that shares news within the communities in the Nilgiris. The newsletter celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016. The reporters, hailing from a diverse range of communities - Kurumba, Irula, Kota, Toda, Urali, Vettakadu Irula and Kasavas, have all gathered many different news items for the newsletter.



The Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi reports news about births and deaths, rituals, stories, agriculture, human wildlife conflict, government and NGO activities, and is published quarterly with right-based information as inserts. In this way, the paper has spread information about legislative acts for Forest Rights, Right to Information, Women's Rights, Child Rights and Consumer Rights, as a way to create awareness in the communities about their rights and how to make use of them. 1000 copies of the newsletter are printed and distributed to the communities, where the reporters read the articles aloud in groups whenever necessary. Subscribers pay a nominal amount for the newsletter and share it with the neighbourhood. Once, the Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi used to be published monthly but due to inadequate funding, it has been published quarterly since 2014. We conduct reader feedback surveys to know how many readers we have and what news is relevant to them.

We have undertaken a survey of single women in our working areas of Konavakkarai, Aracode, Coonoor, Sigur, Pillur, and Hasanur. Similarly, a survey on migration among indigenous communities was conducted. The results show that a few have migrated to nearby towns and cities for the employment or to facilitate children's education. The third survey was conducted on next generation farmers and we found that a large number of the farmers' children would like to be farmers themselves.

COMMUNITY RADIO

Radio Kotagiri (90.4 MHz) entered into its fourth year on 16 February 2016. We now broadcast seven hours a day, from 10 am to 5 pm. Our broadcasting is carried out in indigenous dialects, Tamil and Badaga



with interviews, songs, stories, agriculture information, and discussion on various topics, programmes for women, children, youth, health information and food recipes. Radio Kotagiri had undertaken a project on Free Democracy by Ideosync Media Combine. This was a one year project and its aim was to help first time voters to understand the nuances of a democracy: how to vote, what are the roles and responsibilities of the parties, how to be enrolled for voting, why this is important, etc. For this project, Radio Kotagiri had interviewed elected representatives like Panchayat leaders, Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and government employees related to the election process. We organised a one-day awareness event for school students who



would be first-time voters in the state election in May 2016 to give them an idea about election procedures. Leaders from different panchayats, and election commission staff shared their experiences with the students. As part of this project we surveyed 250 people on their knowledge about democracy and voting rights.

VISITS

Selvi Nanji, participated in Future Earth's Regional Network Assembly and Extraordinary Regional Assembly meeting in Sri Lanka and Delhi. The network partners from South and North India and Sri Lanka participated and discussed plans for the next five years, i.e. 2017-2021.

Selvi also participated in the Community Radio Sammelan in Delhi between 18-20 March 2016 organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. On 21 March, there was an orientation workshop on Science for Women's Health and Nutrition and Radio Mathematics



organized by Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia.

HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT

Higher education support has been given to students who have been studying in colleges. Children who are being raised by a single parent are eligible for the support. Last year, the programme supported 17 female students and 13 male students from Kurumba, Irula, Kota, Toda, Urali, Sholiga, Kasavas, and Vettukadu communities. The support for a student starts from Rs. 2,400



for government colleges to Rs. 5,000 for private colleges. We have seen that female students are increasing every year. This year the total support provided for higher education was Rs. 1,44,543.

EMERGENCY HEALTH SUPPORT

The programme provides financial support in the case of medical emergencies such as gangrene, complicated delivery, anaemia, heart problems, accidents, surgery, kidney and liver problems. Support for conducting funeral rites have also been provided. This year 26 males and 20 females have been supported and we have also included mental health treatment under the health support this year. The support ranged from Rs. 240 to Rs. 5400 this year. Total support provided over this year has been Rs. 31,152.



APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

The Appropriate Technology (AT) programme promotes designs, applies and builds capacity for appropriate technologies; the aims being sustainable livelihoods, social enterprise development section and natural resource conservation to improve quality of life and environment among indigenous and rural communities in the NBR and across the country. The guiding principles are efficient use of human labour, cost effectiveness, relevance to grassroot applications and the use of renewable energy.



Our current work on appropriate technology is focused on skill development to rural youth, demonstration of new technologies in processing and value addition of forest and farm produce, farming skills and conserving pollinators. The important tasks undertaken in the year gone by are as follows:

RURAL SKILL LEARNING CENTRE - PATTARAI

The Construction Rural Skill Learning Centre, locally called Pattarai, was completed and inaugurated in June 2015, with support from the Shri Jamnalal Bajaj



Award towards technology intervention. This workshop was designed and built to give vocational training to indigenous youth in carpentry, fabrication of processing equipment, assembling renewable energy kits, irrigation tools, crop protecting fences and appropriate building technologies.

Bee boxes and honey extractors provided by Keystone are fabricated here. Equipment such as soap presses, cutters, solar tunnel dryers and ferro-cement (metal wire mesh layered with cement) application and alternative building materials are tried and provided here.

APPROPRIATE STRUCTURES FABRICATED

Portable solar tunnel dryers were designed and fabricated and supplied to Bangalapadigai and Pillur community production centre to enhance productivity and to assure hygiene. These driers are being used to dry nellikai or Indian gooseberry (*Phyllanthus emblica*) and banana. A rack drier has been designed and is operational at Pudukad centre for value addition of nutmeg peel.

TECHNICAL- LIFE SKILLS

- 1 A week-long training was conducted in electrical maintenance and plumbing for nine tribal youths from Sigur region during June 2015.
- 2 A week-long training was also conducted in electrical maintenance and plumbing for nine tribal youths from Pillur, Punanjaur and Hasanur region. A set of tools for the work was provided for Rs.950 where the trainees have contributed Rs.350. This indicates their interest in going ahead with this acquired skill and turning it into their livelihood in their respective habitations.
- 3 A two-week training in carpentry was conducted for nine tribal youth and a set of carpentry tools were provided to them for Rs.1,550 where the trainees have contributed Rs.350; again, indicating their intention to use this skill as a livelihood.
- 4 A three-day training was organised on fabrication of solar driers at the Hasanur Production Centre. During this process, one drier for processing fruits, herbs and nuts was actually built and tested by the trainees. The quality of dried product met with the approval of the quality control personnel at the Centre.
- 5 A single-day training was conducted on garbage segregation and compost making at Keystone campus and the dormant compost unit on campus was revived.

BEEKEEPING TRAINING AND EXTENSION:

- Two day hands on training were conducted to a group of organic farmers in Kadvaur, Karur district. The farmers were informed about bee colony management and colony multiplication as well as the importance of bee pollination in organic farming.
- Indigenous Malayali tribal farmers of Jawadhi hills were trained in beekeeping at the People's Craft Training Centre, an NGO based in Tiruvannamalai.
- A three-day beekeeping refresher training was conducted at the Hasanur center which was attended by tribal beekeepers from Geddesal, Kanagere, Bejelhatti, Ittarai and Mavanatham villages. These farmers have appealed for an apiary to be set up to supply bee colonies to beginners as well as to add to their stock.
- Kunjapanai: Two beekeeping trainings were conducted for 12 farmers through Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
- Nilambur: Training with eight single-day sessions with two followup sessions on 24 modules was conducted for nine Paniya, two Kattunaickan and two general community members under Jan Sikshan Sansthan, (Nilambur), with the support of Ministry of Human Resource Development
- One day introductory beekeeping training was conducted for the staff of Datri Foundation, Andhra Pradesh.
- Melur Meadows: An introductory training on beekeeping was given to the residents and staff of Melur Meadows retirement home in Annur Road, Kumaran Kundru.
- ITC: An Introduction to beekeeping and pollination was given to the staff of ITC, Thekkampatty, Mettupalayam. Four colonies of bees were subsequently supplied for pollination in the campus groves.
- A six-day training was organised for a team from National Bee and Honey Mission, Nagaland. They were trained in value addition of beeswax into cosmetics and personal care products and packaging different types of honey. Later, a set of equipment was fabricated and supplied to Nagaland.
- A series of trainings on beekeeping skills were conducted for indigenous communities in Pillur, Chitteri hills, Jawadhi Hills and Arur all of which were organised by TVS Srinivasan trust and TRIFED along with Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

The appropriate technology team generated a total revenue of Rs. 1,27,100 for its projects through sale of 42 bee colonies and bee hive boxes and tools. Rs 32,000 was generated as training fees for all the trainings conducted through the year.



To enhance beeswax candle production in Bangalapadigai community centres, use of the wax melter (steamer) has been revived and a new dipping board has been fabricated. Training was also provided to the production team to hone their skills.

In a Toda village called Koduthein Mund, eco-tourism promotion necessitated the construction of a toilet, which was done using alternative material. This year also saw the sourcing and installation of an oven and machinery for baking at the Hasanur Production Unit, and repairs and maintenance of grinding machines at the Sigur Production Centre.

Appropriate Technology regularly reaches out through grassroots organisations to share acquired knowledge with communities. Such training sessions are mentioned below.



USING ALTERNATIVE BUILDING MATERIALS

The AT team has field tested particle board for constructing toilets at the Kotagiri campus and at Koduthein Mund as part of the eco-tourism initiative. Particle board proved to be rust proof, termite proof, lends itself to quick fabrication and is a tough all-weather material.

Besides this, the AT team has been deeply involved in assisting with the new construction on campus and has also resolved electrical and plumbing issues at Place to Bee, Last Forest Enterprises' Italian slow food restaurant in Ooty.

NETWORKS AND SHARING TECHNICAL INPUTS

Appropriate Technology provided organisations across India with equipment for better processing and value addition of NTFP. Sets of honey filters were provided to Desert Green at Udaipur, a soap press to Gramswaraj in Odisha, and honey heater to Eco Development Committee in Kulatuphuza in Thiruvananthapuram.

Through effective networking, AT provided the farmers of Hasanur region with farming tools, grain processing and threshing implements which were supplied by Central Institute of Agriculture Engineering, Coimbatore.

Moving ahead, the programme is looking to strengthen the application of AT across all Keystone projects and, specifically, is looking to maximize utilization of solar energy in the campus. Pattarai is to impart regular appropriate training to local youth. The programme will assist Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited (APPCL) to incorporate as much appropriate tools and equipment to scale up production while reducing production costs.

The programme also hopes to facilitate a common procurement, processing and packaging centre for APPCL and Last Forest Enterprises. AT also intends to increase its reach and touch the lives of communities across the whole of Tamil Nadu.

OF BEES AND BEARS

For the last decade we have been hearing stories of bear attacks coming in from Kilcoupe, but this year, the location shifted closer to home to the Keystone campus in Kotagiri. An apiary had been set up in 12 cents (0.12 acres) of land on the western corner of our campus, fenced with chain link and eight bee colonies placed for training and multiplication purpose). Some hives were also placed in the lower campus in Happy Valley.

Two bears raided these hives and colonies and within three months, the project lost 14 colonies. In an attempt to protect the hives, they were secured with iron clamps and hung from trees, but even then, these hives were torn open by the bears. Some of these attacks were witnessed live by Keystone staff living close to the campus. Finally, the apiary had to be closed down and the colonies transferred elsewhere for the safety of Keystone staff and visitors.



RESEARCH

The Research Program in Keystone Foundation is very much in its formative stages, being just a year old. In this year, we were able to develop a research proposal, start up and implement the community based ecological monitoring program in one region of the NBR and start field ecology modules for the Tamil Nadu Forest Department staff. It has been a year of reconnaissance and testing waters as we embark on the development of this program.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

In May 2015, Prof. Tamara Ticktin from the University of Hawaii spent two weeks with us at Kotagiri to help formulate ideas and plans for the long term research. Senior Fellows from ATREE, Dr R Ganesan and Dr Ankila Hiremath were part of these discussions at various stages. The focus of the research will be to assess the resilience of Indian forests with human use and changing climate regimes. Our primary question being – under what conditions can human use and biodiversity richness complement each other.

We have selected the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) as our first field site and, in the long term, plan to expand the research to other landscapes through partnerships and partner organisations. We also worked closely with officers of the STR to submit an application to the IUCN Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program – call for proposals. Even though our proposal did not go through, the opportunity to work with the newly created STR Foundation was a good learning.



BAREFOOT ECOLOGY IN THE SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE

Since July 2015, 10 persons from the Irula and Soliga community in the villages of the STR region have been trained and engaged in the ecological monitoring of their forests. This program is jointly conducted by Keystone Foundation and Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD).

The team is conducting a survey of four pre-determined routes into their forests once a month. The information collected is hand written, later transferred to excel sheets and sent to the forest office for their records. The information gathered is also discussed and shared in local village meetings.

FIELD ECOLOGY TRAINING FOR FIELD STAFF OF SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE

As part of the teaching component of the Research Program, we have started by offering Field Ecology training to the local forest staff. This program was well attended and well received by the staff and their officers. Topics like field botany, ornithology and natural history were covered in the first phase.

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

- Meetings on Ecological restoration and Removal of Invasive Species were organised in Coimbatore by IUCN India and TNFD respectively. Following up on these meetings we also met officials from MoEFCC and local Panchayats to identify restoration sites.
- Keystone Foundation was invited to be on the Medicinal Plants Expert Panel of the National Biodiversity Authority of India and Anita Varghese is representing the organisation.
- Anita also attended the IUCN Asia meeting at Bangkok in August 2015 at which time there was an idea floated to develop a Plants of the Western Ghats species group within the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). This proposal was supported by the Chair of the IUCN, Dr Simon Stuart. We have had initial discussions on this and will be taking this up more actively.
- A proposal was developed to host a workshop in the upcoming World Conservation Congress of the IUCN to be held in September 2016 at Hawaii. This proposal was put together by Keystone Foundation with support from SULI-SSC-IUCN, TRAFFIC and NEERI and has been selected for a two-hour session at the event.
- Pratim Roy and Anita Varghese met with the Principal Secretary, Forests to GoTN to discuss the possibilities of an MoU with the TNFD to carry out our work in the forests of Sathyamangalam. The Secretary gave us a two-hour long hearing and we are following up on this matter.
- We have also prepared an MoU with the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal and are in the process of finalising this to enable work with regard to research, ecological monitoring and field ecology teaching.
- In November 2015, Anita and Archana visited Cornell University to plan ahead for the Nilgiri Field Learning Center (NFLC) of 2016 and to also explore possibilities for research networks and partners. A small research project on Gaur was developed and incorporated as part of the curriculum for 2016.
- Opportunities for collaborations have also been explored with the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University – Forestry College and with the Plant Sciences Department of the Madras Christian College.

PUBLICATIONS 2015-16

- Varghese A, Ticktin T, Mandle L, Nath S (2015) Assessing the Effects of Multiple Stressors on the Recruitment of Fruit Harvested Trees in a Tropical Dry Forest, Western Ghats, India. PLoS ONE 10(3): e0119634. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0119634
- Anita Varghese, Snehlata Nath, Robert Leo and Sumin George Thomas. "The Road to Sustainable Harvests in Wild Honey Collection" Ecological Sustainability for Non-timber Forest Products: Dynamics and Case Studies of Harvesting (2015): 103.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

This programme supports decision making by village communities and other stakeholders in development processes. The philosophy of 'open data' underlies all aspects of its work. The communication component reinforces the belief that information is not merely to be collected, analysed and documented, but most importantly it has to reach the intended audience in a form that is most readily useful for them.



MAPPING AND DATA ANALYSIS

The Livelihoods and Environmental Governance team has been facilitating the process of claiming individual titles in Baviyur and Mettukkal villages under the Forest Rights Act. We supported this effort by helping village volunteers conduct surveys of each land parcel using Global Positioning System (GPS) units and then combining the data in a GIS with revenue department's survey maps.

This has ensured that we were able to quickly produce individual land parcel maps for the revenue department with their reference markers, instead of a conventional chain survey. We hope that this method would be replicated elsewhere and help communities and NGOs save time and effort.

Another effort of the Livelihoods team, where we have provided mapping support has been in mapping and measuring farm lands for the Tribal Development Fund proposal to NABARD. Using GPS units as well as android phones equipped with GPS chips, we were able to support marking

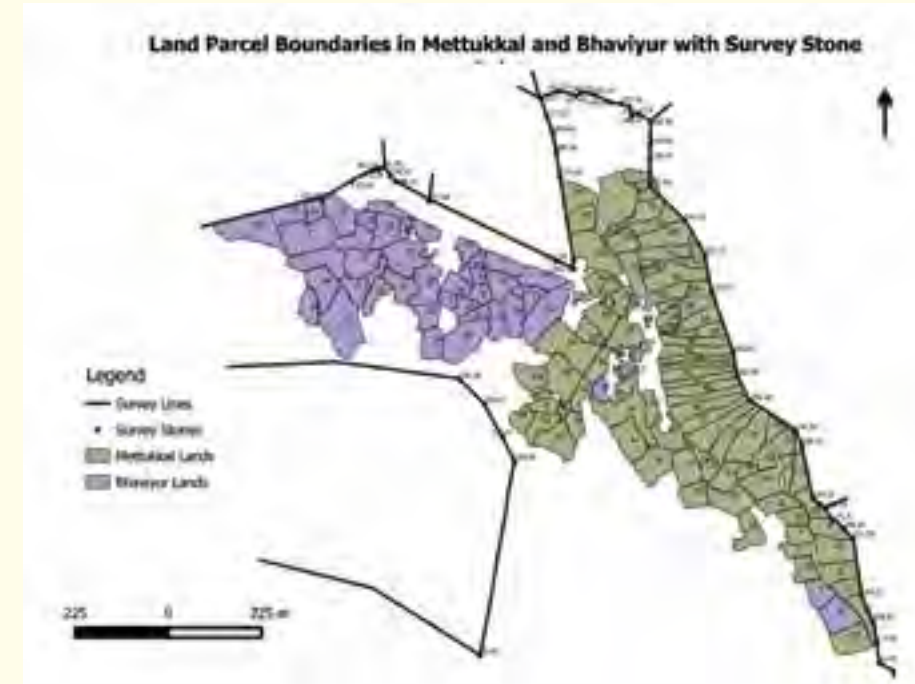
of perimeters and calculation of slope in individual land parcels.

All these maps were made using Free and/or Open Source Software such as Google Earth and QGIS. Two training programmes were also conducted for staff of Keystone on getting started with GIS using Google Earth and QGIS. One of these was for the TNUSSP project team focused on their specific needs.

During the year, we also supported the Indigenous Peoples' Programme in the design and testing of an Android app for field data collection based on Open Data Kit (ODK), a Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). The app was designed by Transerve, a commercial vendor.

This app enables the health team to convert any android device, tablets or phones, into a data collection device. The data is then synced to a server on the Keystone network for visualisation and analysis. We hope to use ODK apps in future for our field data collection efforts. Our water team already uses an ODK app for collecting data on springs as part of the Springs Initiative.

A volunteer worked on the indigenous peoples' census data and created an online visualisation platform on Shiny Apps. This would help anyone wanting to analyse the dataset to do so without the need for dedicated software or coding skills.



Balachander attended the Geo for Good User Summit in October 2015 at Mountain View, California. It was an educational experience to be part of a large community of GIS experts who are applying cutting edge mapping and remote sensing tools to address development issues and further research. Balachander presented Keystone's use of GIS in its work in a speed talk during the Summit.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

During the year, the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure was upgraded to improve the security and reliability of services provided to staff on campus as well as guests. The main file server which was running a legacy version of Windows Server was replaced with a Linux server running Active Directory.

Techblue Software, an IT firm based in Gurgaon, responded to our request for support in this process and remotely handled the migration process. They continue to provide us maintenance support as and when required. They have undertaken this as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts.





Migration to the Linux server has saved us not only licensing fees for the operating system but also recurring cost of an Internet Security Suite. With the help of an open source backup package, all our data is now safely backed up, eliminating the need for a proprietary solution we were using earlier.

The campus has grown in size with newly built residential facilities, a canteen and a workshop. This necessitated an upgrade of our Local Area Network (LAN) with fibre-

optic cables, gigabit switches and wireless range extenders. With these upgrades, we hope to be able to meet the demands placed on the network in the next few years.

COMMUNICATIONS

Updation of the Keystone website was a major focus towards the end of last year. Keystone programmes, team and networks sections have been reorganised with fresh content.

A new page for financial documents has been created which can be accessed directly from the home page. An 'Ideas in the Making' page has been created featuring the People and Nature Centre. A 'Grants' page has been created for People and Nature Fund.

Contents of the download section (324 items) have been re-sorted into appropriate categories. The design of each programme page has been redone to feature downloadable content and news articles specific to the programme.



Google analytics was set up to track effectiveness of website, which would enable us to track user response and redesign the website for effective outreach.

In compliance with Government of India regulations for non-profits, complete Audited Accounts for 2014-15 and reports for FCRA grants received for 2015-16 Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 have been uploaded to the Financials page.

Thirty six news stories on Keystone programmes and nine blogs posts were uploaded to the website. There have been 139 posts on Facebook. Total likes on Keystone's Facebook page have risen from 761 in April 2015 to 1026 in March 2016. Two videos, 'Interview with Andre Leu' and 'Traditional uses of Millets', were uploaded to Keystone's Youtube channel.

Ten issues of the monthly e-newsletter have been dispatched this year, with a break in between due to the change of personnel handling Communications. The number of newsletter subscribers rose from 437 to 551 during the year.

The third volume of 'Forest Plants of the Nilgiris – Southern Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve', 'Living with Gaur' and 'Little Things that Run the World' were brought out by the Conservation team. The Annual Report - 2014-15 and Indigenous Calendar with Honey as the theme were other publications brought out during the year.

As programme related collaterals, the Pattarai workshop signboard and five posters for TNUSSP were designed and the Springs Initiative brochure was translated from English to Tamil. Photo-documentation support was provided to programmes and events as needed.



KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Although, Keystone has always integrated capacity building into each of its programmes, this particular programme envisions a systematic knowledge sharing so as to create a bridge for indigenous knowledge and modern science to find understanding in each other. The Nilgiri Field Learning Centre is the first such project in this programme and is celebrating its second year in 2015-16.



NILGIRI FIELD LEARNING CENTRE

Established in 2015, the Nilgiri Field Learning Centre (NFLC) is a collaboration between Keystone Foundation (Kotagiri) and Cornell University (Ithaca, NY), in which, both Cornell and Indian indigenous community students engage in a unique and multidisciplinary 15-week course to explore and learn about the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR).

The primary aim of this course is for the students to be exposed to the gamut of cultures and people to whom the 'Blue Mountains' is home, and thereby, be able to develop an alternate lens to understand issues concerning environment and livelihoods in the Nilgiris.



These 15 weeks are broadly divided into two — the academic phase of seven weeks followed by the research phase. While the former seems to suggest a traditional approach to learning, it is in fact entirely different due to the blend of lectures, activities, and experiential learning through field visits.

The first seven weeks are anchored by a teaching team comprising of Keystone staff and Cornell faculty members. The curriculum was developed in 2015 and we continued with the same in 2016 too. Several themes weave in and out of the seven week schedule – Ecology, Livelihoods in Transition, Enterprise Development, Governance, Indigenous Worldviews, Health and Nutrition, Urbanisation, Water Resources and Research Methods.

There are lectures, reading groups, field visits and exercises in this phase that help to keep the rigor with room for experimentation and listening to voices of experience. The students get a week long spring break before they regroup for the research phase.

From mid March, the students are grouped into a cohort of twos (one Keystone and one Cornell student) in order to take on full-fledged research projects on diverse themes for the final seven weeks.

In 2015, the research projects were identified and had started to take shape, with the students, one Keystone member and one Cornell faculty working together. Research questions on Infant Feeding, Dietary Diversity, Community Wellness, Forest Rights Act Implementation, and Waste and Water Management were chosen as focus areas.

An initial week spent on finalizing research methods and locations gives way to a more



intensive period of research where students move to various village areas and live with community members to understand and make enquiries pertaining to their research.

Around three weeks of field work brings the students back to the Keystone campus at Kotagiri where they sort and analyse their information into results which are then communicated to Tamil and English-speaking audiences.

The research phase for NFLC 2016 which took place in April and May 2016, had the groups working on projects on diverse themes placed in different settings within the Nilgiris such as a peri-urban area, Coonoor (Water and Waste); an urban area, Kotagiri (Gaur Trails); and rural areas of Banglapadigai (Fallow Lands), Dhalamokkai (Diet Diversity), and Gumaramudi and Andhiarai (Community Wellness).





The project on Water and Waste in the peri-urban setting of Chinna Hubbathalai, Kakkan Nagar and Ambikapuram around Coonoor, sought to explore and understand the links between water used by the communities and different kinds of waste being generated, waste disposal systems, the effect of upstream settlements on downstream settlements and the impact of both on water resources. The team found that, not only were there no proper methods in place for waste disposal, but that only two out of 30 respondents were aware of waste contaminating their drinking water.

The research project, Gaur Trails, in Kotagiri builds on the conservation team's work of mapping gaur movement in the area around the Keystone campus. During the course of the study, they realized that most people understood and accepted that gaur entering human habitations is primarily because humans had encroached theirs. There was therefore a high degree of tolerance; but, at the same time, they were unhappy about the inability to maintain vegetable patches or kitchen gardens because of gaur.



While studying Fallow Lands around Banglapadigai valley, the project team realized that movement of wildlife, especially elephants, was one of the reasons accounting for the high percentage of unused land in these villages. These lands had earlier been under millet cultivation and each village was scattered over a large area.

As agriculture reduced, the villagers' dependence on local markets and public distribution systems increased, directly affecting Diet Diversity. The team studied this aspect of village life in Dhalamokkai asking a fundamental question, "Does more food on the plate translate into a healthy diet?"

The project in Gumaramudi and Andhiarai on Community Wellness builds on the NFLC 2015 project on Cultural Curative Care. Using an ethnographic approach as opposed to generating statistical data, the project attempts to understand the community's perspective on the link between food and health, their health seeking behaviour and their faith in traditional healers.

During the conversations with the community, the team was able to understand that while traditionally food itself was



considered medicine, today the two are being perceived as distinct from each other. There were a number of reasons brought out for this distinction, not the least of which being the onslaught of popular media promoting packaged foods.

The students had a chance to share their research findings at many venues. Presentations were made in the local language to people of the villages where the research had been undertaken. There was also a combined (of all five projects) presentation at Sholurmattam which was attended by more than 40 people from the community.

Community members asked questions of each presenter and gave suggestions to improve results. There was also a presentation held at the Keystone campus which was made in English again to an audience who were from Kotagiri. The students were given their certificates, thereby completing their graduation process from the NFLC.

Prof Steven Wolf was also part of the last week of the NFLC. The students were also expected to produce a paper on their

research experiences and learnings with which they officially complete their course requirements.

The NFLC 2016 was in many ways different from the 2015 one and we who taught, learnt and interacted feel we have come away with a lifetime's worth of experiences! New friends were made, old ties were renewed and we await the NFLC 2017!



CROSS-CUTTING

The new set of programmes of Keystone - Water Resources, Pollination, Human Wildlife Interactions, Environmental Governance and Health and Community Wellness - have overlaps with almost all other established programmes of Keystone.

CROSSCUTTING WATER RESOURCES

Water, being a precious resource, has always been abundant in the Nilgiris. Due to various factors like unhealthy land use practices, pressure from tourist sector and loss of traditional management practices, this resource is either depleted or polluted in today's scenario.

During this period, the Water Resources programme started its Springs project with support from Arghyam, Bangalore to look at springs which are a lifeline for the mountain ecosystem and communities. As a followup from the Payment for Ecosystem Services project in Coonoor town, we had decided to look at the upper catchments and their conservation which might automatically benefit the population in Coonoor town downstream.

This led to the selection of the five village panchayats around the Coonoor town, namely Hubbathalai, Yedapalli, Berhatty, Bandishola and Barliyar which fall under

the Coonoor taluk. A baseline survey of the water resources and their sanitation practices were done in 90 habitations to understand the situation. Then the sources of drinking water ranging from springs, wells, wetlands and streams were mapped. Keystone being a newcomer in this area, it took us some time to develop a rapport with the mostly non-tribal communities there.

Keystone is a partner in the Springs Initiative, which has as members NGOs working on springs in various parts of India. We decided to take a few stakeholders from these five panchayats for an exposure visit to GRAMPARI, one of the Springs Initiative partners working in Panchgani, Maharashtra. A group of 10 representatives from the area, along with three people from the water team in Keystone, went to GRAMPARI for a one-week exposure visit.



This was an important visit which helped the village and panchayat representatives understand the real need for springs conservation through a hydrogeological approach. On returning home from the exposure, we were able to plan the necessary or immediate interventions in their locality with the involvement of the community. A spring box was built at MGR Nagar (Pazhathottam) village in Hubbathalai panchayat for protecting the spring at source and providing clean water. Then, restoration with Shola tree species were undertaken around Chinna Hubbathalai and Karimora spring.

The monitoring of the springs started late due to the challenges in measuring spring discharge owing to the nature of the springs in the Nilgiris. The spring discharge, well



levels and water quality measurements are being periodically monitored now. In addition to this we have been discussing the water situation in the villages with the communities.

We organised a stakeholder consultation meeting this year inviting village heads and Nakkubetta Foundation. The meeting opened doors for Keystone to work in a some more villages on their springs in the Coonoor region. Nakkubetta Foundation is a civil society organisation based in Kotagiri and has a mandate of social and environmental welfare. The Foundation has shown interest in collaborating in future activities of Keystone.

The mapping of three important catchments in Coonoor namely, Guerency, Gymkhana and the Ambikapuram valley from Hubbathalai was completed as part of our Payment for Ecosystem Services project. The rapid survey of these three catchments were done by ACWADAM, Pune who are the knowledge partner in the Springs Initiative. The recharge areas which hold the key to the water supply to Coonoor town have been identified and these could form the basis of a PES arrangement in the future.

All the team members in the water programme have now completed the hydrogeology training offered by ACWADAM, and are working on spring conservation. Apart from the training at Pune, we have also been engaging with ACWADAM in our PES project which has provided opportunities for on the field training by the ACWADAM team, which has been a followup on the earlier training imparted to the Keystone team.

The data training workshop was organised by Keystone for the Springs Initiative

partners from Eastern and Western Ghats in December 2015. The representatives from GRAMPARI, VJNNS and Transerve Technologies attended the training along with the Keystone team. Arghyam team facilitated and led the sessions on universal online data platform for all the partners.

A universal data sheet on springs field data collection was made and circulated among the partners. This data training workshop also brought the expertise from VJNNS and GRAMPARI, who have immense knowledge and experience in working with springs, to our field locations to advise on planned interventions.

As part of the Springs Initiative, Gokul representing Keystone went in as a resource person for the “Training of Trainers” workshop organised by the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority in July 2015 at Shillong, Meghalaya and in March 2016 at Umiam, Meghalaya. The training was to develop Master trainers who, in turn, would train and develop parahydrologists in Meghalaya to take the Meghalaya Springs mapping work ahead.

Keystone having worked with indigenous communities around the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve has looked at water for drinking and irrigation in various projects. Now the focus will be on springs, streams and wetlands and their conservation in these areas for future water security. Putting together the knowledge and experience from the past as well as the learnings from the baseline survey in five panchayats, a framework of activities have been planned to take this work ahead.

The water programme has also worked with the NFLC and has encouraged the students to do research on linkages between Water and Waste in one of the valleys having



numerous drinking water and irrigation wells. There are some villages on both sides of hills around the valley that are dumping and channelling their waste water and other non-degradable waste into the valley.

The students have done research around these habitations and developed a report as part of their curriculum. They will be presenting it to the communities for reflection and action. This research will further feed into the Keystone’s existing work on water in the area.

The team from Keystone has also been part of the Solid Waste Management discussions by the Citizens Forum and volunteers in the “Clean Coonoor Initiative” to understand the waste situation and work on improved waste management in future.

We have also developed educational modules on springs and have conducted programmes in schools in Coonoor. We have also been part of field programmes with the Nilgiri Natural History Society (NNHS) and conservation team in Hasanur and Lawrence School, Ooty.

TAMIL NADU URBAN SANITATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME



The Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme (TNUSSP) is the newest programme in Keystone. Launched in November 2015, the programme set up a Technical Support Unit (TSU) in the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, and a TSU each for identified urban local bodies in Tiruchirappali and Coimbatore. The TSUs at the State and Cities assist the Department and the urban local bodies in the implementation of the operative guidelines for septage management (2014) in the State. A consortium of organisations led by Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), and comprising Gramalaya, Keystone Foundation and CDD Society, is responsible to



implement the programme via TSUs at the State and city levels.

This unit will support the state in improving urban sanitation throughout the state and demonstrate innovations along the entire sanitation chain in two selected model urban locations (Trichy and two Town Panchayats of Coimbatore District). The study area for TNUSSP in Coimbatore district constitutes two Town Panchayats - Periyanaickenpalayam and Narasimhanaickenpalayam, situated 17 km north of Coimbatore city. The Kousika River separates the two Town Panchayats. On the west, is a Kurudi hill range draining the rainwater falling on it creating a natural drainage system of a small river and streams passing through the study towns.

The programme has undertaken the following activities in the past financial year:

Baseline Survey

To study the current sanitation arrangements and socioeconomic conditions of the community, a baseline survey was conducted by CMS, a research firm in association with Keystone. IIHS and Keystone identified transects within the two urban areas based on household typologies for improved results. These transects were used by CMS to proceed with household survey in both the town panchayats. The survey results are being analysed. PRAXIS, in association with Keystone, organized focus group discussions (FGD) with poor households, and sanitary workers on sanitation practices. Technical support for the survey and FGDs was provided by IIHS. An exercise in Stakeholder identification and analysis is in progress.

Water sampling

Water and waste water samples were collected from selected sources and receptors in sample transects to examine possible contamination

issues from identified pathways. The spots were chosen based on data from the baseline survey that had been completed earlier. The samples have been sent to EnviroCare, an NABL certified laboratory, in Madurai for analysis.

Mapping

Mapping of the boundaries of the Town Panchayats, drainage systems, and roads are underway. Two of the team members have been trained on GIS using Google Earth Pro by colleagues within Keystone.

Study on Financial and Administrative Aspects of the Town Panchayats

Administrative processes such as building approvals, maintenance of existing public conveniences and setting up of new ones are being recorded. Additionally, data on revenue inflows including grants-in-aid from central and state governments and own source income, and expenditure by the Town Panchayats are being collated, to examine their financial situation.



CROSSCUTTING POLLINATION

In Agro-forest ecology, indigenous pollinators are important agents for the up keep of the diverse system especially in tropical countries for food, livestock fodder, medicines and livelihood security. More than 69% of plants, both forest plants including wild edibles and agriculture crops, essentially need diverse pollinators like honey bees, butterflies, wasps, ants, birds and bats.

Pollination is responsible for providing us with a wide variety of food, viable seed quality and grain quality. Crop evolution is set through appropriate pollination, which is crucial for regeneration of all plants and genetic diversity.

A week-long study was conducted in two different landscapes in Meghalaya to gain an understanding on food diversity aspects

related to the pollinator species including bees, their habitat and their interface with the local human populations. This would be followed by various interventions aimed at conservation of the pollinators, bees and their habitat, improved livelihoods and agro biodiversity.

Meghalaya has a predominantly agrarian economy with about 80% of its population depending entirely on agriculture for their livelihoods. It also has a significant commercial forestry industry. The important crops are potatoes, rice, maize, pineapples, bananas, papayas, spices, etc. The state is geologically rich in minerals, but it has no significant industries.

The forest is a montane subtropical moist broadleaf forest ecoregion of eastern India. The ecoregion covers those portions of the Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia hills lying above 1000 meters elevation. A small portion of the forest area is considered and protected as “sacred groves”. A portion



of the cultivated area is under the traditional shifting agriculture known locally as Jhum cultivation.

Usually, the traditional natural landscape, traditional crop diversity, kinds of wood stocks, stumps and field watching huts constructed with bamboo have provided good habitat for numerous pollinators. Usually, these habitats are immediately occupied by solitary bees and revival of vegetation attracts swarms of social bees - pollinators.

However, change in land use, increased mono cropping and reduction in crop diversity, extensive application of chemicals in farming and deforestation affects the pollinator diversity. Pollination is critical for food production and human livelihoods, and directly links wild ecosystems with agricultural production systems.

The team applied Malaise trap and pan traps to understand the insect diversity, reconnaissance survey to observe the floristic diversity and conducted focus group discussion for the in-depth indigenous knowledge and practices on this topic. Plant-animal interaction, if any, was noted down. Foraging of insects on flowering plants were observed and noted.

Photographs of plants and insects were recorded. Insects were collected with sweep net and preserved in 70% alcohol for identification purpose. Focus group discussion (FGD) was held with farmers in the evenings. The discussion was on the insects observed by the farmers in their farms, identifying the insects, how the insects collected food from the flowers, seasonality and the farmers' understanding of insects.

Insect representatives from about 12 orders were recorded during the survey. Over 39 families were documented totalling more than 78 species. About 16 species of hymenopteran pollinators (bees, solitary and social), 7 species



of dipteran pollinators (hover flies and bee flies), and 11 species of butterflies were recorded.

There was also a splendid diversity of moths, which only a special exploration can document and a few species of flower visiting beetles and thrips were observed from the perspective of pollination services.

It is also these four groups that showcased most of the species that were recorded. The number of species mentioned is a conservative estimate since there are some species that remain unidentified.

An exploratory Network communication is in progress within the country, South East Asian countries, Africa and Mexico for effective exchange and efforts to conserve this resource.

Creating an electronic platform will enable us to network with various related groups for sharing the findings, case studies and pollinator diversity, identified as well as to-be-identified and bring ideas to strengthen the network.

A need is also felt to strengthen indigenous knowledge on pollination and pollinators for agro-biodiversity and food sovereignty.

CROSSCUTTING HUMAN WILDLIFE INTERACTION



With increasing attention being drawn towards negative interactions between humans and wildlife, understanding the nature of these interactions has become crucial. Continuing from last year, the conservation team in partnership with the Nilgiri Natural History Society (NNHS) conducted a series of stakeholder workshops in Kotagiri, Coonoor and Kodaikanal from May 2015 onwards.

The workshop in Kodaikanal, organised in association with the Palni Hills Conservation Council (PHCC), deserves special mention, due to the turnout of interested and affected people as well as

the overall participation in terms of ideas and opinions. The intent of conducting these workshops was to understand the interactions at the micro (individual/subjective) level, as well as the macro (institutional/agency) level.

The insights gleaned from these workshops were valuable and offered us many ideas on factors which could increase negative interactions between humans and wildlife, and other factors which could help mitigate the same. There were also instances of people wanting to understand how best they could mitigate negative interactions on their own.



A culmination workshop was also organised in Kotagiri in October 2015. Over 20 participants from different conservation groups including NCF, WWF, FES, WRCS, Shola Trust, Edhkwehlyawd Botanical Refuge, media institutions as well as the Forest Department (Nilgiris North, Nilgiris South, Gudalur and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve) were present.

The participants were involved in a two-day deliberation of how we understand negative interactions between humans and wildlife, as well as the best way forward. This workshop provided us with a very deep and clear insight into the areas which need to be worked on and strengthened to help reduce and mitigate conflict.

Human Gaur Interactions

With the increasing presence of Gaur around Kotagiri town, as well as an increase in the number of buildings coming up, there is a definite need to understand how animals are interacting with the landscape to better understand how to mitigate negative interactions.

As part of the Nilgiri Field Learning Centre, we have begun to look at the impact of land-use (specifically barriers) on animal movement and behaviour.

This is an exciting project for us as it would help us better understand interactions between humans and animals in urban landscapes, as well as the factors which could influence these interactions, specifically in the case of Gaur.



The area of study is currently limited to the valley around Keystone Foundation, but we plan on expanding the study to areas where Gaur movements have been recorded, and which are frequently used.

We are also documenting people's perceptions of their interactions with Gaur in this region to better understand animal behaviour.



CROSSCUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Equipping indigenous communities for better forest or environmental governance along the lines of Forest Rights Act (FRA) is an important focus area for Keystone.

Programmes were initiated where community members were trained and their capacities built through workshops and training programs in cooperation with other role players to bring about effective leaderships among the community members.

Trainings were conducted on Forest Rights and the process of claiming and mapping of Community Forest Rights (CFR) area. Support was also extended to government

institutions for mapping and filling up of various FRA claims forms as part of the process of recognition of forest rights.

In the last year, Livelihoods programme arranged for 23 villages to meet with the Forest Range Officer for verification of land parcel surveys claimed under Individual Forest Rights (IFR).

One hundred and fifty three land parcels were surveyed for Baviyur-Metukkal villages with support from Information & Communication team. Forty four IFR claims and one CFR claim were submitted to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee by the community members in Chokkanalli village in Sigur area.



The Livelihoods Programme also held several training and capacity building activities in different areas. In Nilambur, four training camps helped train more than 200 people on FRA, CFR mappings and submission of claims.

A two-day capacity building training camp on Forest Rights was also conducted for 35 villagers from two villages in Pillur area. Besides this, a one-day orientation program was also held for Livelihoods team members on the Forest Rights Act.

Exposure Visits:

The Livelihoods team also conducted the following exposure visits to strengthen the process of FRA implementation in community settlements and for facilitating exchange of knowledge on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act:

- 30 people from eight villages of Nilambur area visited Malakkappara village in Vazhachal region in Thrissur district for learning more about FRA implementations
- 33 people from six villages in Nilambur visited Hasanur and Kotagiri to learn about NTFP value addition and FRA implementations
- Eight persons from four villages of Nilambur attended a national CFR conference conducted at MES College, Kodungallur, organised by Hornbill Foundation

CROSSCUTTING HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

The Health and Nutrition programme took a leap forward in the year 2015-16. Since September 2015, the health team acquired full-fledged personnel who were involved dedicatedly in the programme. Since more than two decades, Keystone has been interacting with the indigenous communities of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Though income levels have gone up and conservation initiatives are in place, the health and well-being of the indigenous population is deteriorating. Keystone

has been running a small health fund to support medical emergencies. Apart from that, Keystone has had little information regarding the health status of the communities.

Thus, a baseline survey was designed with Cornell University as an advisory body to better understand the people's perception and knowledge regarding the issues of health and illness. Based on the outcome of the data collected, a more suitable programme may be designed.



The premise of the programme is that lack of social cohesion, and a sense of loss along with the impact of the rate of change has an adverse effect on their overall wellbeing. The health program seeks to understand the linkages of the people's health to their culture and environment in a holistic manner.

Research

Keystone-Cornell Health Survey attempts to establish the baseline on health in select communities like the Irula and the Kurumba. The health survey aims to identify the communities' perception of illnesses, risk factors, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) knowledge and diet diversity.

The research will also incorporate an ethnographic perspective to better understand the underlying factors that influence health. The research also seeks to comprehend health seeking behaviours

and mechanisms of healing from the traditional healers.

The ongoing research has covered various villages in the Aracode area and will also be conducted in the rest of the working areas in the coming months.

Health Support

The health team has also extended medical support and is following up on the care of select individuals, drawing linkages with various hospitals such as Kotagiri and Coimbatore general hospitals, Naveen Hospital, Coimbatore, and more importantly, Ashwini in Gudalur.

The team coordinates with the doctors and follows up with the patients. Till now, cases such as of anaemia, gangrene, and mental illness have been referred to various hospitals and treatments have been sought.



Mental Health

While the health team took up various tasks, it was noticed that there were quite a few individuals identified with mental illnesses. The health team then decided to collaborate with organisations working as service providers for individuals with mental health issues and collaborated with Banyan, from Chennai.

Recently, the health team arranged to conduct mental health camps in three locations over two days, which were attended by a significant number of people. The team is now following up on these camps.

Community Health Program at Nilambur Valley

The efforts of Keystone Foundation to establish a health system in six tribal settlements in Nilambur North Division under the Kerala Forest Department (KFD) has been very well supported by the department.

Four villages under Vaniyampuzha forest station limit of Nilambur Range and two settlements under Vazhikkadavu station limit under Vazhikkadavu Forest Range are the settlements in question. Three of the hamlets are of Paniyas, two are of Kattunaickans and one is of Cholanaickans.

The KFD is supporting two of the four health worker trainees with honorarium and Keystone supports the other two. Two trained community health workers from Keystone Foundation are readily available to the service of community members regarding health related issues, follow-up actions and giving necessary inputs to Community Health Worker (CHW) trainees.

The major activities conducted in the villages are identification and training of health promoters from the tribal community, mandatory village visits (once a week) and interaction with villagers, identification of patients and referral to Primary Health Centre (PHC) or other medical institutions, health education and awareness classes, health and social counselling, monthly health monitoring and following up on these activities.

Four young women have been identified as CHW trainees from four different villages under this program and have received training on health monitoring, health awareness and the implementation system.

The progress of CHW trainees is rapid and they understand their significance in the community now and perform their duties with utmost sincerity. Apart from the health monitoring work in the villages, the CHW trainees assist and support critical patients during hospital visits.

They act as a medium for patients to communicate their complaints clearly to

the doctors as part of their village visits and interact with other stakeholders like ASHA workers, pain and palliative care units, Forest Department officials, tribal health promoters, PHC, etc. in relation to health-related issues. They also conduct health awareness/education classes for community members.

Between October 2015 and March 2016, more than 200 people attended the health awareness/education classes. 129 people had attended health awareness classes in Vaniyampuzha settlements and 93 people had attended these classes in the Puchakolly and Alakkal settlements.

Even though there have been many positive changes in the attitude of the community members towards health and health-related issues, certain issues such as excessive alcohol and tobacco consumption within the community need to be urgently addressed. Issues related to malnutrition call for special attention.

Our attempt to develop village level volunteers to conduct regular monitoring of community health issues is proving beneficial. It is necessary to pursue continuous monitoring and to ensure that follow-ups continue in order for the health scenario in tribal settlements to change for the better.



NETWORKS

Keystone has always given and received information and learnings through networks of organisations and individuals having similar interests and mandates. The richness that this exchange brings percolates through to all of Keystone's programmes.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT (IFOAM):

The year 2015-16 was the second year of Mathew's second term on the IFOAM World Board. His activities during this year focussed on initiating preparations for the IFOAM Organic World Congress in 2017 in New Delhi.

The Congress Steering Committee met in Delhi at the end of May 2015 for preliminary discussions and the venue for the event was finalized. Ideas regarding side events at the Congress were also discussed. Subsequent meetings were conducted on Skype to discuss details of the event.



At the beginning of June 2015, the IFOAM World Board meeting was held in Seoul, Korea. This was in conjunction with IFOAM Asia General Assembly, where Mathew was parliamentarian. Both these meetings took place against the backdrop of pre-events to the October 2015 Organic Exhibition in Korea (Gosean Expo).

In November 2015, Mathew was at BIOFACH Kochi and made a presentation on sustainable development. In February, Mathew was invited as a special guest to the Executive Board of IFOAM at BIOFACH Nuremberg.

Later that month, Andre Leu, President - IFOAM, visited Keystone and spoke on the "Myth of Safe Pesticides" to students at the Nilgiri Field Learning Centre and Keystone staff at the Keystone Centre in Kotagiri. He also had a talk on the same subject at Place to Bee in Ooty where he addressed plantation owners and managers in the area.

It had been decided at the earlier Congress Steering Committee meetings that the

World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) would be participating in some sessions of the Organic World Congress 2017. OFAI and WFTO met in New Delhi in early March 2016 to discuss details of collaboration for the event.

PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS – ORGANIC COUNCIL (PGSOC):

In July 2015, Mathew and Samraj attended the PGSOC meeting in Bangalore where Mathew stepped down from the management committee and Samraj was inducted as the Treasurer.





Leo from Keystone attended the PGSOC Managing Committee meeting in Goa in January 2016 and also conducted a number of training programmes on PGS in Puducherry, Auroville and Meghalaya in 2015-16.

The training programmes in Meghalaya were conducted in co-ordination with North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS). The principal learning from here was that the system of organic agriculture, once recognised as the traditional method, now eroded by modern practice is looking to be revived by the introduction of the PGS initiative.

In October, Samraj was scheduled to present at the workshop on Organic 3.0 to be held alongside the Gosean Expo. The presentation was regarding the growth and spread of PGS within India, especially taking into account government support and intervention. Samraj, unfortunately, took ill before the event and was not able to make this presentation.

Samraj conducted the PGSOC meeting in Leh in September 2015 for Future Earth partners. The aim was to educate the partners on the basics of PGS and how to create local groups as the first building blocks in the implementation of the PGS model.

In November, Mathew went to China for PGSOC meeting at Sunshine Farm (an organic farm in Chengdu). The meeting brought together groups from across China who had been experimenting with different PGS models.

During this time, a day was set aside to hold the International PGS Committee meeting. After this meeting, Mathew stepped down as a member of the International PGS Committee.

The participants were briefed on the principles of organic agriculture, PGS standards, the 'famer's pledge' and the practice of farm appraisal by peer review. These ideas were reinforced with a field visit and follow-up groups are to be registered as members of the PGS.

The training sessions in Puducherry were organised by Ekoventure between 18-20 November, 2015. Ekoventure has been involved in training in organic farming, conducting capacity building sessions, taking part in seed conservation initiatives and arranging exposure trips for the farmers and organising organic fairs.

The concept and participatory principles of group certification were briefed to the farmers and followed up with a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise to allow the participating farmers to engage with the ideas at hand and experience it first-hand.

On the last day, a farm appraisal exercise was conducted to reinforce and demonstrate the methods discussed at the workshop. This allowed for greater confidence among the farmers about the practices of the PGS.

FAIR TRADE

2015-16 was the year when Last Forest Enterprises (LFE) initiated and completed necessary process to acquire WFTO certification. In May 2015, Johny Joseph from Creative Handicrafts visited LFE to do the peer review. This visit was helpful in streamlining and preparing for the external audit. Samraj later followed up on Johny's visit and the external audit was completed in March 2016 by Ram Bhat from Bangalore.

SLOW FOOD

The highlight of our involvement with the Slow Food movement this year was the Indigenous Terra Madre, organised by NESFAS, Indigenous Partnership (IP) and Slow Food Movement where 22 delegates including 14 members of tribal communities and eight staff from Keystone participated.

Our involvement there included meetings, discussions exchanging ideas with different communities on indigenous local food systems and field trips. We also had two

stalls selling honey and some posters from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve which sold very successfully.

Another event closer home was Terra Madre Day celebrated on December 10 at Place to Bee, Ooty. This event witnessed a dialogue, discussion, drum circle and much more with Mr Pushpanath – a Fair Trade activist, who had just completed his 450-km Climate Justice and Fair Trade Walk from Puducherry to Ooty. Anjali from Mandala Apparels (a WFTO member) was also present for the celebrations along with many of her colleagues.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Pratim and Anita attended a consultation workshop India's post-COP21 agenda, Knowledge systems for Climate Adaptation organised by IIHS in Delhi in March 2016 discussing the implications of the CoP21 for India and ways forward with special reference to knowledge systems, including traditional knowledge, for climate adaptation.



Sessions at the two-day workshop discussed climate science and the water, agriculture and forest sectors including climate advisory services. The participants also discussed the role played by knowledge systems in understanding responses and adaptation strategies to climate change, focusing on livelihood-related issues.

Anita made a presentation on community-based ecological monitoring that places both knowledge and responsibility to monitor an ecosystem into the hands of the persons directly affected by changes occurring in it.

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE-EXCHANGE PROGRAMME – INDIA

The NTFP-EP network grew by some more members this year. Instead of restricting to partners in the Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats and Central India – it included partners from Udaipur in Rajasthan and a partner in UP Terai.



In the Annual Network Meeting, there were also invitees from Wildlife Trust of India from Meghalaya. During this meeting, partners shared their work and also made a plan to function without a common funded project. Means of communication, exchanges and outreach were discussed and the newsletter and website were to be the two main vehicles.

The situation of FRA and its slow implementation in most states was discussed, emphasising on Community Forest Rights. The network decided to specially assign Krishna Srinivasan additional responsibility of working with partners to keep the momentum of FRA work, besides other agendas of lobby and advocacy.

There were several exchanges and meetings last year – Several partners came to Kudhriyar in Tamil Nadu for a meeting on wild foods; Keystone and Gram Swaraj exchanged training and equipment on soap



making – in Odisha, trials were made, using mahua oil; several partners exchanged seeds, started nurseries and sold seedlings, built up women-led producer companies for NTFPs, and held smaller state level meetings. More details about the network can be found at www.ntfp.org.in

Keystone is a founder member of the network which is spread across Asia. Last year, Sneha stepped down from the Board of the regional NTFP-EP, after being there since inception. This was with the objective of giving a chance to younger people and other experts in this field.

ECOSYSTEM ALLIANCE

The network programme of Ecosystem Alliance finished this year. The programme supported nine large grants across India and 25 small grants to partners.

Addressing environmental and social issues in an eco-system approach was the

highlight of this programme – which was led by alliances of NGOs from Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats and Central India and supported by technical/conceptual support by other groups. These were mainly eco-development, restoration and legal concepts. Several allied grassroots partners supported these alliances with projects and examples of application in the field.

Keystone co-ordinated this project in India and learnt through the years aspects related to reporting, managing funds and efficiently allocating amounts. The size of the project was I million Euros over six years. We were supported in our work by Both ENDS colleagues for review, reporting and financial management. Thanks to all NGO friends and partners for co-operating through these years and for doing the great work you all are engaged with.



IDEAS IN THE MAKING

Keystone is a motherbed for ideas and initiatives in resonance with its mission to enhance the quality of life and the environment. The People and Nature Centre and Fund are the two new ideas currently taking shape at Keystone.

PEOPLE AND NATURE CENTRE AND FUND

Keystone Foundation has worked for more than two decades in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) with a mission to enhance the quality of life and the environment. The essence of the work has been to balance ecological concerns with those of livelihood development.

Early work with honey hunters and ecology of the wild bees has been at the heart of the work with indigenous people of this region. The Foundation has nurtured scholars, inspired common people, challenged people in power and served the nation by finding innovative ways to address the problems of the most marginalised people - the adivasis.



Over the years, Keystone has worked on documenting, preserving and revitalising local knowledge traditions of the region. Keystone has built relationships with civil society members, local and national governments, scientists, researchers, students and policy makers.

Keystone has built resource centres across different parts of the NBR, and its own office in Kotagiri is a Resource Centre showcasing many aspects of the work.

Over the years, some aspects of work have grown into new institutions like a Producer Company for adivasis to get better returns and make profit from their NTFP and agriculture produce; an organic marketing initiative spelling out concepts of fair-trade, organic, slow food, PGS etc.; a natural history society to engage all members of society in conservation. The Green Shops and Bee Museum imbibe these values and engage with members of society.

Keystone has been co-ordinating networks across India and the South East Asia region for over a decade. Besides working together conceptually and networking, Keystone has supported the management of large projects. It co-ordinates with NGOs and CBOs across India and facilitates work with financing, technical training and backstopping.

This has enriched and inspired us by seeing different issues across rural India and increased our resolve in grassroots action. After more than two decades of experience, Keystone is poised to take on a larger role in India. The two aspects being launched are

People and Nature Centre

This Centre will house the themes of biodiversity, landscapes and people. It will be founded in the new campus of the



Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri. The centre will house a contemporary museum, offices for resident and visiting scholars and state of the art repositories for natural science and cultural artefacts.

The centre will serve to celebrate, perpetuate and preserve the natural heritage of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR). It will serve as a learning centre, attracting students, researchers and people from all walks of life.

Through this endeavour we hope to convey the value of the Nilgiri biosphere Reserve, empower educators with information and resources outside of school, and instill a sense of respect and responsibility towards the NBR in future generations.

The model of this centre will be developed and shared with our network partners from other regions of India. Keystone will support and franchise such centres to be set up in key areas of the country which can serve as network hubs and places of innovation and action.

Land for this Centre has been acquired. We are trying to raise resources to build it and house it with treasures from the Nilgiris.



People and Nature Fund

The People and Nature Fund will be 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 recognises the important role of grassroots initiatives as communities are the key implementers of environment and development agendas. They face the brunt of adverse changes and are impacted the

most by global policies. Striving to make a change is often most palpable in the field and its relevance to the world is striking.

The People and Nature Fund was initiated with some reserves of Keystone Foundation. This will be augmented with projects from different agencies. These will include national donors, Indian business CSRs, international and individual donors.

Keystone will actively seek donations to keep this fund alive. In this set-up, a governing board decides on grants to be made. Grants are disbursed once a year, whilst the Opportunity Facility can act upon needs and opportunities as they arise.

The Opportunity Facility is a flexible response mechanism can be accessed any time. Where opportunities and needs arise, special efforts will be made (through the Opportunity Facility) to address the needs of women and indigenous communities across India.

A small administrative unit, overseen by Keystone's controller, is dedicated to administering the Fund. There is a grant



making committee that formally approves a project proposal. A Fund Manager assisted by one of Keystone's directors, prepares final proposals for submission to the grant making Committee. A network of advisors/experts scout, visit, and advise on grant making.

Calls for proposals will be sent out to partners and the information will also be placed on the Keystone website. The Fund will maintain a database of grassroots organisations and will invest in scouting for good groups performing effectively in the field.

Long association with existing partners will ensure ease in project monitoring and evaluation through field visits and meetings. A group of advisors spread across the country, will provide back up support and field information. The Fund is designed with very few overheads, so most of the resources can be used for grant making.

Two initial grants have been offered

1. Community Empowerment Support for Indian NGOs.

The thrust of work focus on capacity building, awareness raising and policy dialogue concerning natural resources, good governance, and constitutional provisions in scheduled/tribal areas and important laws such as the FRA and the PESA.

2. Green Alliance for Gender Action (GAGA)

GAGA has a vision of strengthening and unifying the women's rights and environmental justice agendas and will work with both national and grassroots groups to bridge the gap between local and international lobby and advocacy.

PEOPLE AND NATURE FUND

Fund Categories

- Micro Grants, between INR 100,000 to 500,000
- Small Grants, between INR 500,000 to 10,00,000
- Large Grants, between INR 1,000,000 to 20,00,000
- Research Grants (for research linked to grassroots action & specific CBOs)
- Student Fellowships, which are project-based
- Opportunity Facility

Eligibility

The People and Nature Fund would support most types of non-governmental organisations that can provide evidence of their non-governmental status or charitable purpose. Priority will be given to socio-environmental groups with an agenda to promote gender balance. In general, the People and Nature Fund will support the following:

- Community-based organisations
- Womens' Collectives
- Civil society collectives
- Non-governmental organisations (Trust or Societies)
- Not for profit organisations
- Para legal groups/individuals
- Independent researchers
- Student scholarship, fellowships
- Barefoot experts in all fields
- Community managed micro-enterprise Groups
- Study Grants (for studies linked to grassroots action & specific CBOs)

As a matter of policy, the Fund will not support buildings, land purchases or capital improvements. It will not support religious and/or political activities and will take a case by case approach towards emergencies and humanitarian aid.

ADMINISTRATION



THE NEW VENTURE

1993: the year the very first building “Shrishti” was built on an acclivitous hill on the Groves Hill Road. To think that it was the only existing building back in the days is astonishing.

While juxtaposing the present scenario, we were able to understand how much proliferation has happened since its inception 23 years ago. The campus at present facilitates the numerous activities that Keystone and its sister organisations indulge in.

Amongst other responsibilities, Administration at Keystone coordinates facilities, logistics and government compliance procedures for almost 130 guests, both Indian and foreign, in a year. The new dormitory and canteen now provides them with a pleasant stay and wholesome food, making it a memorable experience



Our new edifices consist of the Dormitory and Canteen built in the similar architectural style as the rest of the building in the Keystone Campus, and was put to use from January 2016. It is easy to recognize that these buildings have been established in an incredible location on the campus. The view is something that is definitely unrivalled by any of the other buildings here at Keystone.

The dormitory consists of two buildings which comprise of both 3-bedded and 2-bedded rooms with adequate bathroom facilities, with each building having two floors with two bedrooms each.

The canteen is a mere 10 steps away from the dormitory, and hosts adequate seating both inside and outside. The canteen serves three meals in a day, besides snacks and beverages. The Administration team endeavours to provide immaculate service for staff, guests and friends, and will

continue to strive to further improve their services.

We welcome and expect to host events and trainings here at Keystone Foundation with our fellow organizations and associates in the coming years.



FINANCE

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2016

Amount INR '000

S.No	Particulars	2014-15	2015-16
1	LIABILITIES		
	Capital Fund	40,265.85	45,717.64
	Endowment Funds	18,851.37	18,091.38
	Current Liabilities	2,120.95	3,340.58
	TOTAL	61,238.17	67,149.59
2	ASSETS		
	Fixed Assets	20,219.86	31,922.05
	Investments	1,431.65	1,506.65
	Current Assets	39,586.65	33,720.90
	TOTAL	61,238.17	67,149.59

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2016

Amount INR '000

S.NO	PARTICULARS	2014-15	2015-16
1	INCOME		
	Donations		
	-Foreign Institutional Donors	41,543.61	50,620.35
	-Indian Institutional Donors	2,806.44	3,958.04
	-Others	826.67	1,370.46
	Other Income	1,781.38	1,024.54
	TOTAL	46,958.10	56,973.39
2	EXPENDITURE		
	Village Development Projects	47,531.60	49,314.82
	Depreciation	1,396.86	2,087.57
	TOTAL	48,928.46	51,402.39
3	SURPLUS FUNDS	-1,970.36	5,571.00

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2016

Amount INR '000

S.NO	PARTICULARS	2014-15	2015-16
1	RECEIPTS		
	Opening Balance		
	-Cash and Bank	10,334	8,009
	Donations		
	-Foreign Institutional Donors	41,544	50,620
	-Indian Institutional Donors	2,806	3,958
	-Others	827	1,370
	Other Income	1,781	1,021
	Sale of Fixed Assets	110	70
	Advances Received	6,502	1,380
	Increase in Liabilities	0	312
	Received from Debtors	1,348	0
	Endowment Fund receipts	661	623
	Receipts from Current Assets	104	6,971
	Loans Received	1,000	0
	TOTAL	67,016	74,336
2	PAYMENTS		
	Village Development Projects	47,532	48,787
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	7,435	14,384
	Deposits and Advances Paid	3,070	643
	Investments added	444	75
	Liabilities paid	527	476
	Closing Balance		
	-Cash and Bank	8,009	9,971
	TOTAL	67,016	74,336

INFORMATION BASED ON NORMS OF CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE

I. DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BASED ON SALARY LEVELS

Slab of Gross Salary plus benefits paid to staff (INR per Month)	No of Male Staff	No of Female Staff	Total Staff
Less than 5,000	0	0	0
5,000 to 10,000	7	2	9
10,000 to 25,000	10	4	14
25,000 to 50,000	5	5	10
50,000 to 1,00,000	0	0	0
Greater than 1,00,000	0	0	0
TOTAL	22	11	33

2. PAYMENT MADE TO CONSULTANTS DURING 2015-16

Total annual payment made to consultants (in INR)	Number of Consultants
Less than 5,000	0
5,000 to 10,000	2
10,000 to 25,000	5
25,000 to 50,000	4
50,000 to 1,00,000	2
Greater than 1,00,000	0
TOTAL	13

3. STAFF REMUNERATION (GROSS + BENEFITS)

	(Amount in INR)
Head of Organisation (including Honararium)- 2 Persons	5,83,128
Highest paid full time regular staff	5,83,128
Lowest Paid full time regular staff	89,556

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

NO	NAME OF STAFF	DESIGNATION	DESTINATION	PURPOSE OF TRAVEL	COST INCURRED- INR	SPONSORED
1	N.Selvi	Additional Programme Coordinator	Indonesia	Meeting		Yes
2	Robert Alexander Leo	Deputy Director	Cambodia	Meeting on Honey		Yes
3	K.G.Ramachandran	Additional Programme Coordinator	Cambodia	Meeting on Honey		Yes
4	Mathew John	Director	Costa Rica	Meeting - Regeneration International		Yes
5	Snehlata Nath	Director	Vietnam	Meeting - Non Timber Forest Produce- Network Meeting	80,858	No
6	Anita Varghese	Deputy Director	Thailand	Meeting - IUCN Asia meeting	15,073	Partly
7	T.Balachander	Programme Coordinator	USA	Meeting - Geo for Good User Summit 2015, Google	31,523	Partly
8	Pratim Roy	Director	Sweden	International Conference- Glocal	23,667	Partly
9	Snehlata Nath	Director	Phillippines	Meeting - NTFP-EP Board Meeting	10,393	Partly
10	Archana Sivaramakrishnan	Programme Coordinator	USA	Project Meeting - Nilgiri Field Learning Centre		Yes
11	Anita Varghese	Deputy Director	USA	Project Meeting - Nilgiri Field Learning Centre		Yes
12	Shiny Mariam Rehel	Programme Coordinator	Phillippines	Meeting - Asia Pacific Forestry Meet		Yes
13	Mathew John	Director	China	Meeting on Participatory Guarantee Systems		Yes
14	Mathew John	Director	Korea	IFOAM- World Board Meeting		Yes
15	Mathew John	Director	Germany	IFOAM- World Board Meeting		Yes

5. THE TOTAL COST OF NATIONAL TRAVEL BY BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF/VOLUNTEERS ON BEHALF OF ORGANISATION FOR 2015-16

Rs. 4,67,961

6. PROFILE OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NO	NAME	AGE	SEX	LOCATION	OCCUPATION	POSITION	Remuneration & Reimbursement*
1	Somant Sen	51	Male	New Delhi	Consultant	Managing Trustee	-
2	Suprava Patnaik	54	Female	Bhopal	Professor	Trustee	24,747
3	Shipra Gupta	80	Female	Puducherry	Educationist	Trustee	-
4	Rita Banerji	46	Female	New Delhi	Film Maker	Trustee	9,846
5	Meena Gupta	67	Female	Kolkatta	Retd.Secy to GOI	Trustee	-
6	Rev.PK Mulley	68	Male	Kotagiri	Anthropologist	Trustee	-
7	Anju Sharma	44	Female	UK	Consultant	Trustee	4,24,720
8	John Kurien	64	Male	Tiruvananthapuram	Professor	Trustee	-

* not in the capacity of Keystone Trustee

7. THERE IS NO BLOOD RELATION BETWEEN ANY MEMBER OF KEYSTONE FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TEAM PROFILE, 2015-16



Mathew John
Founder Director



Pratim Roy
Founder Director



Snehlata Nath
Founder Director



Anita Varghese
Deputy Director



Robert Leo
Deputy Director



**Archana
Sivaramkrishnan**
Programme Coordinator



H. R. Eswaran
Programme Coordinator



Sarasasmeeta
Programme Coordinator



Shiny Miriam Rehel
Programme Coordinator



Sumin George Thomas
Programme Coordinator



T. Balachander
Programme Coordinator



T. Samraj
Programme Coordinator



Priscilla Benita Marline
Project Manager



Gokul Halan
Add. Programme Coordinator



K.G. Ramachandran
Add. Programme Coordinator



Jeyanthi
Subject Manager



Pavitra Vasudevan
Subject Manager



T. Justin Raj
Subject Manager



Wilfred William
System Administrator



N. Selvi
Add. Programme Coordinator



P. Chandran
Add. Programme Coordinator



S. Suresh Kumar
Add. Programme Coordinator



Sharanya Das
Add. Programme Coordinator



K. Subramani
Editor - Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi



Anantha Moorthy
Environmental Engineer



Vinitha Murukesan
Environmental Engineer



Ramakannan V
Social Development Expert



Leena Fernandez
Manager - Communications



Aradukuttan
Subject Manager



B. Sivaraj
Subject Manager



K. R. Abhishek
Research Assistant



Abilash
Radio Assistant



Dinesh
Radio Assistant

CALENDAR

April 2015

- Pratim attends Wildlife Trust of India, Communities for Conservation Strategy Meeting in Guwahati
- The School KFI from Chennai visits Keystone
- Abishek, Shiny, Poornima and Aradukuttan attend Apollo Tyres Foundation meeting in Chennai.
- Keystone Board of Trustees Meeting in Kotagiri
- Sneha meets with Timbaktu Collective in Ananthpur, Andhra Pradesh
- Leo and Ram attend Madhu Duniya in Cambodia

May 2015

- Selvi and Gokul attend a Training of Trainers, Spring Initiative and an advocacy workshop at Bhimtal, Uttarakhand.
- Professor Blackburn from Cornell University visits Keystone
- Final presentations of NFLC 2015 at Keystone campus
- Climate Change meeting at Keystone campus.
- Professor Tamara Ticktin from University of Hawaii visits Keystone
- Mathew attends IFOAM Board meeting in Korea

June 2015

- Samraj and Leo attend PGSOC meeting in Shillong, Meghalaya
- Nitish from Ideosync Media Combine visits Radio Kotagiri
- Archana attends the BLINC workshops (Gender & HR project) in Bangalore and Vishakapatnam.

July 2015

- Bala and Babu attend Hydrogeology training by ACWADAM in Pune
- Bee and Honey Mission, Nagaland visits Keystone
- Samraj and Mathew attend PGSOC meeting in Bangalore
- FRA Meeting held at Keystone campus
- Gokul attends Training of Trainers, Springs Initiative in Shillong, Meghalaya

- Abishek, Aradukuttan, Shiny and Poornima meet with Apollo Tyres Foundation in Chennai

August 2015

- Dr. Ganeshan Balachander, Director Atree, visits Keystone
- Anthya Madiath from The Swallows visits Keystone
- Samraj and Leo attend PGSOC meeting in Shillong, Meghalaya
- Pratim attends Climate Change meeting in Delhi
- Keystone Board of Trustees Meeting
- Anita attends RCF meeting in Bangkok
- Snehalata attends IIHS meeting in Bangalore
- Selvi attends Livelihood and Participatory planning meeting in Hyderabad.

September 2015

- Sumin and Abhishek conduct Stakeholders Meeting for Human Wildlife Interactions in Kodaikanal
- Samraj attends PGSOC meeting in Leh.
- Archana and Ramu attend Right(s) Way Forward workshop in Delhi.
- Pratim attends Swallows meeting in Sweden
- Selvi, Gokul and Babu along with community members visit GRAMPARI in Panchgani, Maharashtra.
- Sneha attends the NTFP-EP annual meeting in Bhubaneswar

October 2015

- Human Wildlife Interaction Conference conducted in Kotagiri
- Sneha attends NTFP-EP board meeting in Manila
- Selvi attends Future Earth meeting in Sri Lanka
- Wild Foods training conducted in Sigur
- Avinash Menon from Ministry of Tribal Affairs visits Keystone
- Mid-term Programme Reviews at Keystone
- Pratim, Sneha and Leo attend IIHS meeting in Bangalore.



B. Babu
Field Assistant



M. Lalitha
Field Assistant



R. Rajendran
Field Assistant



Shivanna
Field Assistant



Ritwick Charles
Admin Assistant



Amsaveni
Accounts Assistant



Praveena S
Office Assistant



Manikandan
Facilities Maintenance



C. Sabitha
Housekeeping



K. Hari Bahadur
Campus Supervisor



Prem Bahadur
Security

- Anita and Archana meet with Cornell University in Ithaca, USA

November 2015

- Keystone team attends the Indigenous Terra Madre in Meghalaya
- Mathew attends BIOFACH meeting in Kochi
- Pratim and Sara attend FRRO meeting in Chennai
- Gokul and Vinitha attend IIHS meeting in Chennai
- Mathew attends PGSOC meeting in China
- Anita attends National Biodiversity Authority meeting in Chennai
- Pratim and Sneh attend Collectorate meeting in Coimbatore
- Sharanya and Pavitra attend community wellness meeting in Bangalore.

December 2015

- Students from Rishi Valley School visit Keystone
- Chandran and team have an exposure trip for Bamboo Handicrafts and Ecotourism to Uravu, Wayanad
- Water Resources team hosts Data Training at Keystone for Spring Initiative Partners in the South
- Keystone Board of Trustees Meeting
- Pratim and Leo attend Collectorate meeting in Coimbatore
- Archana attend Swallows Annual Meeting in Andhra Pradesh
- TNUSSP office opening in Coimbatore
- TNUSSP stakeholders workshop in Coimbatore.

January 2016

- Pratim and Tasnim attend consultation meeting with Natural Capital Enterprise in Bangalore
- Selvi attends Hydrogeology training by ACWADAM in Pune
- Sneh, Pratim, Sumin, Bala and Anita attend Payment for Ecosystem Service meeting at IIFM, Bhopal.
- New Dormitory and Canteen inauguration at Keystone
- Sneh attends Gender & HR meeting in Bangalore

- Students from University of Guelph visit Keystone
- Leo attends PGSOC managing committee meeting in Goa
- NFLC 2016 Week 1-3 – Orientation, Ecology, Livelihoods in Transition, Relevance of Markets, Business and Enterprise

February 2016

- NFLC 2016 Week 4-7 – Governance, Indigenous World Views, Health, Urbanisation and Sanitation, Livelihoods and Sustainability
- Mathew attends IFOAM meeting in Germany
- Radio Kotagiri conducts awareness program on Democracy for senior school students and first time voters in Kotagiri
- Students from University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy, visit Keystone
- Anita attends “Forest with Landscapes” workshop in Udaipur
- Arghyam Team from Bangalore visits Keystone
- Sumin attends India Biodiversity Portal community meeting in Bangalore
- Shiny attends Asia Pacific Forestry Week 2016 conference in Phillipines

March 2016

- NFLC 2016 Week 8-11 – Regrouping Research Teams, Data Management, Field work related to Research
- Shiny attends Apollo Tyres Foundation meeting in Chennai.
- Archana and Ramachandran attend Right(s) Way Forward training workshop in Kanchipuram.
- Justin conducts beekeeping training in Javadhi
- Leo attends PROCIF meeting in Bangalore.
- Leo, Shiny and Justin conduct Pollinator Survey in Meghalaya.
- Selvi attends Future Earth meeting and Radio Sannelan in Delhi
- Gokul attends Training of Trainers workshop in Meghalaya.
- Annual Programme Reviews at Keystone



ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

Keystone Foundation is registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1882.
Registration No. 1883 of 1993



REGISTERED & MAILING ADDRESS

Keystone Foundation
Post Box 35, Groves Hill Road
Kotagiri, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu - 643217, India
Ph: +914266-272977, 272277
Fax: +914266-272277

WEBSITES

<http://keystone-foundation.org>
<http://lastforest.in>
<http://nnhs.in>
<http://www.aadhimalai.in>

SOCIAL MEDIA

 <http://www.facebook.com/pages/keystone-foundation>
 <http://www.youtube.com/user/keystonefound>

E-MAIL

kf@keystone-foundation.org

AUDITORS

Srivatsan & Gita, Coimbatore
John Mathew, Udthagamandalam



Post Box 35, Groves Hill Road, Kotagiri, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu - 643217, India
Ph: +914266-272977, 272277 Fax: +914266-272277