

Nineteenth **Annual Report** 2012 - 13



Annual Report

2012 - 13

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. Prasad, 1996
 Biosphere Reserves of India - wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosphere_Reserves_of_India
 Background Satellite Photo - Google Earth Pro
 Icons Outline - www.outline.world-map.com



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FOREWORD

Year of New Openings

Though I was away till mid June 2012, the number of initiatives, new openings has been like someone has opened a large door to Keystone. Rush of light, ideas, travels, fellowships, scholarships, new projects, a new organization – all came in through this opening. Like a crag that soil and nutrients find and make a niche and start the process of pathways and capillaries.

Aadhimalai – Producer Company got formed a few months ago. This gives power to tribal farmers, gatherers, women collectives, packers, bookkeepers in the village, transporters, networkers, designers, shop keepers – all of them will come to this fold and benefit one another, as a federation, to sell their natural high quality, healthy, organic foods and crafts to local communities and the public at large. The potential of this move is unimaginable. Think about the Community Forest Resources (CFR) Rights and a method, a strategy to implement this local producer enterprise model across several tribal hamlets in India. Think about Green Economy and the potential to dovetail local, indigenous ecological protocols, green marketing practices in honey, amla, bamboo, grass, gallnut and so many more NTFPs and agricultural produce.

New openings were the visit of the Cornell Team to Keystone in November 2012 and January 2013. The Nilgiris Field Learning Centre (<http://blogs.cornell.edu/nflc/>) – a project of Keystone Foundation & Cornell University is taking shape and gathering

momentum. Discussions on curriculum, research, unique class of students – community, the de-learning side of “education”, the aspect of learning from the people, from the ground and listening and reformulation of what we think we know or what we think how things should be done. This will be a long term association with mutual benefits and continuous learning from both sides.

New projects have been won. The Payment for Ecosystem Services is our new foray. Community Radio – Radio Kotagiri is up on air with tribal music, folklore and debates. The Ecosystem Alliance Project in Western, Eastern Ghats and Central India is a solid learning and engagement process.

Keystone Foundation is 20 years this November 19th, 2013. Last Forest Enterprises Private Limited, Nilgiri Natural History Society, Aadhimalai Producer Company have all emerged from the Keystone nest. Small tree fall gaps - led to stronger local partners, networks and associations. A celebration of 6 months from August 2013 to February 2014 is being planned – one of the interesting aspects is to have our monthly staff meetings in the villages – going back where we started, asking the people what is it that they expect from Keystone, what are the other new windows and doors that need to be opened or kept slightly ajar.

Pratim Roy

Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri
Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India

15 June 2013



CONSERVATION

The conservation programme focuses on the ecology, habitat and biology of non timber forest produce and other vulnerable species within the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The focus is enriched by understandings of the socio-cultural and traditional knowledge systems with indigenous perspectives as also by traditions, markets and trade. The approach is through applied research, outreach, documentation and building knowledge networks with communities, academia and voluntary agencies.

i. Conservation education

The biodiversity learning module '*where the kurinji blooms*' was released and is being used at all conservation education sessions across government residential schools, village conservation centres and field centres. The village conservation centres are located at Vellarikombei, Pillur, Punanjanur and Appankappu. The government residential schools that are being covered are located at Sigur, Pillur and Nilambur. The village elder programme is carried out in 11 villages across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Over 46 sessions were conducted over the past period and the outreach was close to 200 children. The impact assessment for the programme is due to be conducted.

ii. Biodiversity Research

a. Insect biodiversity in indigenous landscapes

Arthropods in forests offer a range of ecosystem services to agricultural landscapes. Two studies were initiated to understand the diverse functional guilds of arthropods in crops adjacent to forests. Insect groups that have a role in pollination, pest control and litter decomposition were sampled and categorised into broad functional guilds based on their feeding habit. Data from chemical and organic coffee and vegetable plots are compared, expecting a higher diversity in organic farms. The PGS sites of Keystone in Andiarai, Samegudar, etc. and coffee estates under Rainforest Alliance would find this biodiversity information useful.



b. Ecological monitoring

Local communities, for use as incense in rituals are harvesting resin of *Canarium strictum*. In Kerala, the resin is traded and is in demand by the ayurveda and paint industry. These trees are found in the semi evergreen and riparian forests of the Western Ghats. Populations of these trees are on the decline due to a number of factors that need to be carefully assessed. In the past one year we have identified 20 trees in 5 different sites and are engaged in observing their flowering and fruiting patterns. Indigenous people who live close by are carrying out this work and who are part of our community based ecological monitoring program. The observations will continue till early 2014 after which we will be able to assess what is the status of these trees and what factors are affecting their health.

iii. Workshops, visits and meetings

a. Conservation Education Network

Saneesh attended the fifth annual retreat of the Conservation Education Network in August 2012, which was held at Timbaktu, Andhra Pradesh.

b. International Society for Ethnobiology (ISE)

Anita and P. Chandran attended the Ethnobiology Conference in May 2012, which was held at Montpellier, France.

c. Society for Conservation Biology

The Asia chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology was held at Bangalore in August 2012. Anita, Senthil and Vinod attended the conference and Keystone was one of the sponsors for the event. A stall was set up at the conference selling products from the Blue Mountains.

d. IUCN World Conservation Congress

Anita attended the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2012 held at Jeju, South Korea. Keystone is also a member of the India National Committee for the IUCN. It is also noteworthy to mention that Meena Gupta (IAS Retd.) who is a trustee of Keystone Foundation got elected as the Regional Councilor for the South and South-East Asia region during this conference.

e. Mahadesha attended a gums and resins workshop held at Vishakapatnam.





f. Nithya Sadana, a humanities student from IIT Madras visited Keystone in July and helped us with relooking into the social maps that were done in the Pillur and Sigur regions to assess the changes that have occurred over the past years.

g. Staff from Vikasa in Andhra Pradesh visited Keystone in May to gain an understanding on how conservation programmes are run and implemented.

h. K.G. Ramachandran, M.Chandran, Abilash and Anita visited Periyar Tiger Reserve in June to conduct a training on sustainable honey harvesting practices.

i. Tanya Conlu from the NTFP-EP, Philippines visited Keystone in October for training on ecological monitoring and managing a conservation programme.

j. Mahadesha and Anita visited RCDC in Bhuvaneshwar for giving training on sustainable harvest of non timber forest produce.

k. Saneesh and K.G. Ramachandran visited various village forest councils under the Kerala Forest Department in March for giving training on sustainable harvest of non timber forest produce.

iv. Nursery

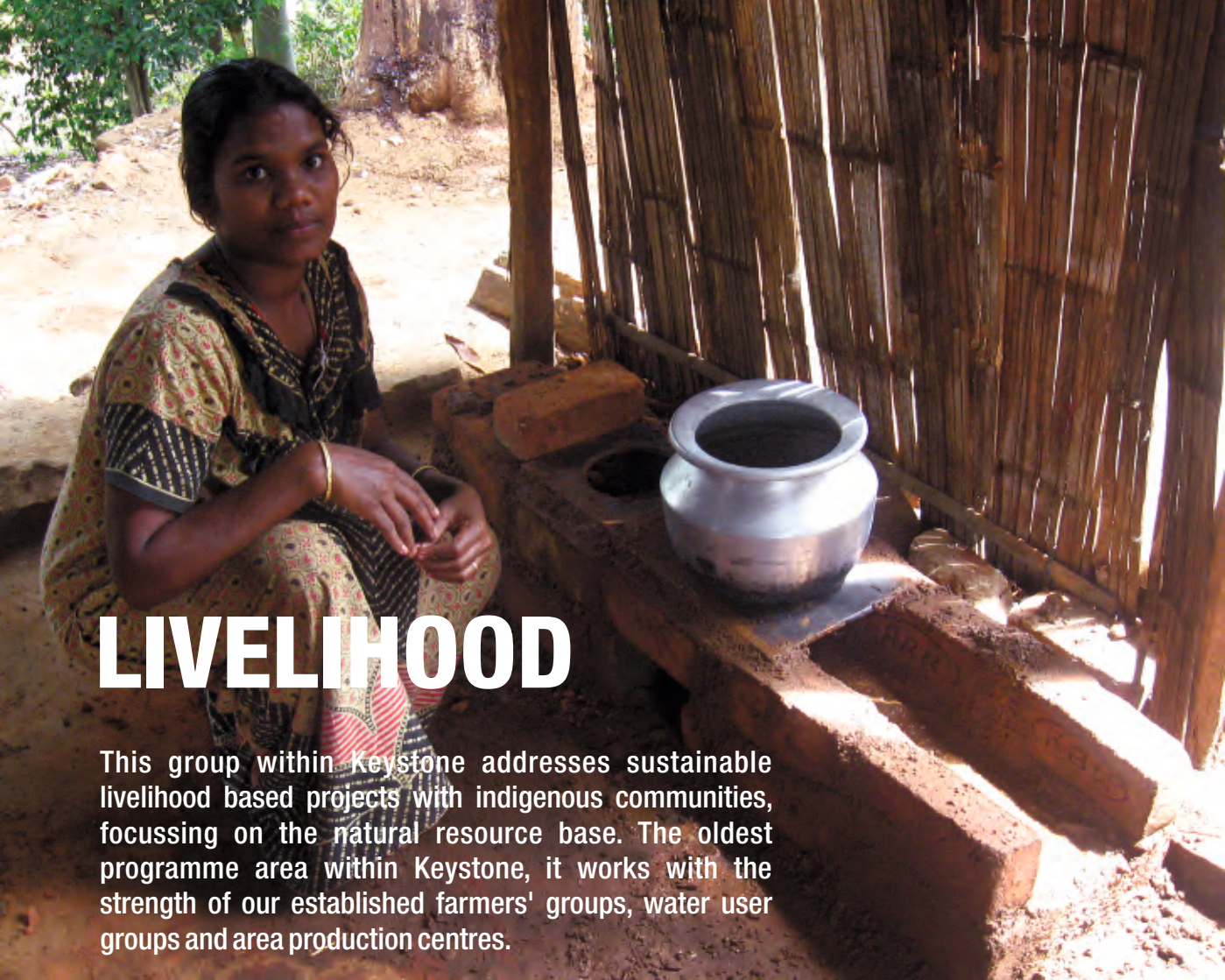
The nurseries are located at the Keystone campus, Punanjanur, Nilambur, Bikkapathy Mund, Sigur and Pillur. Apart from the campus nursery the other nurseries are small scale and are being revamped to increase the species base. Over the past period 3409 saplings were sold to schools, colleges and estates; 2114 saplings were raised and the nurseries have a current stock of 7321 saplings of 38 species.

v. Publications

Papers

A framework for considering ecological interactions for common non-timber forest product species: a case study of mountain palm (*Phoenix loureiroi* Kunth) leaf harvest, South India. Lisa Mandle, Tamara Ticktin, Snehlata Nath, Siddappa Setty and Anita Varghese.





LIVELIHOOD

This group within Keystone addresses sustainable livelihood based projects with indigenous communities, focussing on the natural resource base. The oldest programme area within Keystone, it works with the strength of our established farmers' groups, water user groups and area production centres.

I Agriculture

Keystone has 13 farmers groups across the NBR, each with a revolving fund. The programme supports bio-diverse organic agriculture, traditional agriculture and millet cultivation.

All groups undertook transactions of subscriptions, credit and repayment for various agricultural purposes. The revolving fund anchored the vegetable and millet cultivation throughout 2012. Pillur farmers were the most effective in using the credit facility eg. Papaty, an Irula women farmer has utilised funds to reclaim land and successfully repaid her loan. Nagan of

Manar invested in a diesel pump while Murugan and Velu from Korapathy invested in hose pipes.

Besides monitoring the funds and holding regular farmers groups meetings, some capacity building and land development measures were organised this year

1. Farmers from the Sigur and Pillur regions visited Ittarai and Thaddasalhatti villages of Hasanur region to learn traditional farming techniques to enhance millet yields. The knowledge of *Araganai* (a method to remove excess sprouting in a broadcast sowing method) was shared and demonstrated by the Hasanur farmers.

2. Coffee promotion activity in select villages was undertaken based on land availability and suitability of crop. Approximately 20,000 seedlings of *Coffea arabica* were raised locally and planted in the villages of Kil Koop, Banglapadigai and Kurumbadi. Coffee is promoted to support diversity of crops and provides income from many sources like jack, silk cotton, pepper which can be inter-cropped between coffee for shade.

Partnering with National Horticulture Mission

In an effort to work with government schemes and enabling benefits for the tribal community, Keystone worked with the Department of Horticulture in the Nilgiris. Some of the schemes facilitated were:

20 tribal bee keepers were trained in Konavakarai slopes and each farmer was supported with 3-5 hives by the Department. Each farmer was helped to capture bee colonies from the local areas or neighbouring farmers to begin beekeeping. Some of the farmers like Balan, Murugesh and Rasu have produced honey from hives.

Five farmers were supported to acquire poly-vermi tubs to start vermi-culture operations.

A farmer, Palani in Arakode was successful in building a vermi-culture unit under a subsidised scheme.

A one day millet conference was organised in Balgapladigai village to revive millet cultivation. There was a large tribal farmer participation and variety of traditional millet recipes were prepared and served. The Joint Director and Assistant Director of the Horticulture Department and Union Chairman of the Kotagiri Union Panchayat and various other department personnel participated. The manufacturer of millet processing machine participated too and emphasised the importance of machineries for efficient processing. This occasion paved a path ahead to conduct a millet food celebration at the Annual Vegetable Show in Kotagiri 2013.



3. PGS certification was undertaken of in 14 PGS groups with Keystone and they have completed the annual update of appraisals. Resolutions were passed in the PGS groups to use the logo on millet, pepper and silk cotton apart from coffee, which was already in practice.

ii. Beekeeping

Promoted as an ancillary livelihood avenue for the community, beekeeping has over the years seen several ups and downs. A separate fund was created to supply beekeeping and agricultural material to farmers. This activity continued in 2012 with an emphasis on training:

- ◆ Two day training was conducted for a farmer from Coonoor
- ◆ Youth in Punjanur region of Chamrajnagar district were trained in beekeeping, for 12 days, through Punerchit, an NGO.
- ◆ Two day training was conducted on beekeeping and another two days for sustainable & hygienic forest honey collections. This was organised by Shola Trust, a Gudalur based NGO.
- ◆ One day training was conducted for farmers from Sedikkal in beekeeping, organised by Island Trust, a Kotagiri based NGO.

- One day beekeeping training was organised for EDP trainees, at Coonoor.

iii. Production Centres

Sigur water user group – New Initiative

This group in Sigur, comprising four women members have made a tremendous journey towards being independent. The effective participation of women and committed involvement is forming the backbone of a strong community enterprise. Keystone has supported this group with a revolving fund, equipment and training on value addition. Women worked to procure and process NTFP and agriculture produce locally. They made a variety of value added products like spice mixes, pickles, jams, candies and cleaned and packed local farmers' produce like horse gram and cow pea. Their sales outlet, Honey Hut in Masinagudi, proved a good avenue to sell new items. Special mention needs to be made of our staff, Lalitha and Justin Raj who overcame many challenges of local contractors, forest check posts, local traders and restricted transport to make this enterprise strong. The Water User Group also continued their usual savings and restoring potable water supply systems in villages of Sigur area.



This was also the final year of these units functioning as independent entities. After many discussions, meetings and consultations in the villages, with experts and auditors, these units were federated into a producer company. A body of adivasi leaders from different areas have been selected as directors of the company. All legal formalities have been completed and the first AGM conducted to resolve preliminary issues, create necessary documents and discuss issues related to members and production centre workers.

Aadhimali Pahzngudiyinar Producer Company

In the year 2012-13, the production centres set up earlier by Keystone performed well. See table (below) for details.



	Name of Unit	Area	Main products value added	Number of women employed	Wage Days generated	Turnover 2012-13 (INR)	% net profit/loss
1	Amuthasurabi Makkal Kulu	Konnavakarai	Beeswax, amla, green pepper	5	643	516,235	2.07%
2	Banglapadi Women's Progressive Group	Aracode	Silk cotton, shikakai, paper bag, poochakai, amla, spices, coffee	9	1,676	729,362	24.95%
3	Kombai Pazhankudi Makkal Valarchi Kulu	Coonoor	Bees wax, nutmeg, oils	10	1,963	653,245	33.57%
4	Thumbhithakadu	Hasanur	Bees wax, nutmeg, oils	10	1,963	653,245	8.76%
5	Pillur Nadu Malai Vazh Makkal kulu	Pillur	Broom grass, lemon, green pepper, oils, tamarind, grains	7	120	330,327	-1.93%



In the coming years, membership building, capacity building, support in business, stocks, accounts management and appropriate technologies aim to strengthen this company. Already,

over the year, appropriate technology for value addition processing and three different solar driers were developed to dry fruits, herbs, grains and pulses.

iv. Health and Nutrition

In an effort to address the issues related to health of women and children, two initiatives have been ongoing at Keystone. This year, several families asked for seeds for kitchen gardens to improve the family food basket and 46 additional smokeless chulahs were installed in Pillur and Hasanur.

v. Skill Development of Tribal Youth

Carpentry training was conducted at Sristi, a community workshop at the Keystone campus, Kotagiri. The training period was for twenty one days over two phases. A senior adivasi carpenter, conducted classes on wood work. The curriculum included

basic carpentry tools, measurements of wood, cutting, lathing, planning, grooving, and methods of joints, sharpening and carving. The practical sessions were on actual door and window frames, shutters, roofing, shelves, tables, chairs, stools, cots, photo frames, toys, storage boxes, desks, packaging and carvings. One set of carpentry tools were given to them. Electrical, plumbing and mechanical training for a 7 day period was also conducted.

vi. Visitors and Guests

- ◆ A group of farmers from Sri Lanka have visited to learn community enterprise and organic farming practices including a District Forest official and Forestry consultant
- ◆ Staff from Sewa Lanka, an NGO from Sri Lanka, visited to learn about organic market development and value addition of forest and farm products
- ◆ An NGO collective from Bangladesh visited to learn about organic agriculture, value addition and market building
- ◆ Students from the University of Gastronomic Sciences have visited seed bank, millets fields, community production centre and the nature interpretation centre at Asanur and Keystone campus in Kotagiri.





CULTURE & PEOPLE

The Culture and People Programme aims to help indigenous communities to strengthen their traditional culture and local governance along with their rights over land and forest. This objective will link with Livelihood, Conservation and Environmental activities.

i Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi

Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi, the monthly newsletter is entering its 7th year. Women reporters have been active to gather and share their village news for Seemai Sudhi. Efforts have been made to build their capacity to interact with government officials and other stakeholders.

One of our women reporters called Mrs. Devi from Pudukadu village, Coonoor region, has joined as a news reporter in All India Radio, Ooty.

We have covered issues of communities not getting good quality rice and other items like dhal, oil, sugar and kerosene etc through the Public Distribution System. The PDS shop keeper read the news and provided good quality rice and other items to villagers after the issue was covered in Seemai Sudhi.

Likewise, we covered the issue of the water pump in Banagudi village being under repair. Then villagers shared the news in Seemai Sudhi. The newspaper was distributed to the panchayat offices.

ii. Community Radio

Radio Kotagiri, 90.4 MHz – the first Community Radio station in The Nilgiris





was inaugurated in the Keystone campus on 16th of February by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Information Secretary, Government of India, Ms. Supriya Sahu inaugurated the Radio Station. Currently, we are broadcasting indigenous songs, stories, traditional food recipes, agriculture news, traditional rituals, information about Forest Rights Act and Right to Information Act. This is a good opportunity for the indigenous people from Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, to keep their traditional knowledge alive as they can record their knowledge and share this with the younger generation.

iii. Craft development

A group called Nilagiri Palluyir Suzhal Mandala Palankudiyenar Seemai Makkal Kalasara Kulu has been created to support credit needs of tribal artisans. Last year loans have been given for Toda embroidery, Kota pottery, and Ajile Bottu. People have repayed their loan as cash and the products.

iv. World Indigenous People's Day

The International day of World Indigenous People's day was celebrated across Kotagiri, Coonoor, Ooty, Asanur, Pillur, Punanjanur and Nilambur. The day was marked by traditional food like *samai* rice, *thenai biryani*, *keerai* and honey ball, *avarai*, tubers, *maradai soppu*. The day long celebrations showcased the dance and music of the communities. People have been asking us to support them to celebrate events like this in their respective areas.

v. Sacred Groves

Awareness program for village youngsters from Johicomбай, Sengalcomбай, Dhodatty and Kavalcomбай villages were organized on various institutional dimensions of sacred groves like rituals, *Seemai*, *Mothali*, agricultural practices, rituals, materials used from the forest for rituals, etc. The communities in these villages have installed seven sign boards in four sites with

help of Forest Department and Keystone Foundation.

The Dhodatty sacred grove falls within the Adderly estate. We have facilitated a discussion between the community and the Estate which has resulted in a signboard for access and the rights over sacred groves under Rainforest Alliance Certification.

We have documented 12 sacred groves of the Todas in Ooty, Kotagiri and Coonoor region and four sacred groves from the Badaga community in Kotagiri and Coonoor region to know about the status of the sacred groves.

In addition to the above, the Tribal Advisory Committee meeting was convened to elicit suggestions on the future directions for the organization.

The Emergency Health Fund supported 23 patients, including 13 women. The Education Fund supported 29 students.

The Indigenous Calendar 2013 focused on landscapes. 9000 copies were distributed throughout the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

vi. State level Tribal consultation Meeting for 12th Five Year Plan

Members from the programme participated in a meeting held by the Tribal Welfare Directorate, Government of Tamilnadu in October 2012. Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups like Irulas, Kurumbas, Kotas, Todas, Kattunaickas, and the Paniyas came together to form 5 year plans for their respective communities.



Environmental Governance

The programme area's objective to strengthen environmental governance mechanisms in the NBR with a multi-stakeholder approach focussing on decentralized community based resource management.

The programme endeavours to engage with academicians, government at various levels as well as business interests in an attempt to mainstream environmental governance in the development paradigm. This year, the focus of the programme was to support the Community Forest Resource conservation groups in the Baviyur-Metukkal-Kambaiyur-Godhaghur and the Banagudi-Kalloor clusters. It is heartening to report that the institution strengthening efforts in both these clusters have lead to community level groups that have engaged in several aspects of environmental decision making. Some of these aspects are detailed below.

i. The Panisolai Vana Paadukaapu Kuzhu

- ◆ Successfully oversaw the verification of individual forest rights claims by the Forest rights committee along with officers from the revenue and forest departments of the district administration.
- ◆ The group resolved to strengthen traditional agriculture on some of this land and initiated discussions within the village to implement it.
- ◆ The Kuzhu undertook to raise a small nursery of 10,000 coffee saplings for sale to its members.

- ◆ The group decided to run a collective marketing of coffee and silk cotton with an intent of making available fair prices for both commodities.
- ◆ A group of women in Baviyur resolved to form a self help group that would help them access credit for household expenditure and small enterprise.

ii. The Kalloor Seemai Vana Padukaapu Kuzhu

- ◆ Resolved to partner with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in an eco tourism initiative
- ◆ Undertook some infrastructure development in the form of a bamboo hut to welcome tourists.
- ◆ Requested and participated in a series of training programmes on how to conduct an ecotourism trail.
- ◆ A group of women within the village have received training in preparation of traditional millet meals and have been able to offer these to tourists.
- ◆ A training programme in crochet craft has been conducted for 9 women from the village and has resulted in a supplemental income of approximately INR 7000.00



- ◆ The eco-tourism initiative has resulted in an additional income of INR 9000.00

In addition to this, the programme supported the following :

- CFR rights submissions in Sengalpudur, Joghicombai and Kavalcombai to secure tenure in favour of communities to their traditional sacred groves
- Capacity building of members of the Alu Kurumba community in mechanism of planning and monitoring of the Particularly Vulnerable Groups fund.



Training & Information



Over the last few years we have shared our publications and other outputs in the public domain through creative commons licensing. While our website at <http://keystone-foundation.org> remains our main platform for sharing content, we have developed partnerships with the Western Ghats Portal (WGP) and the India Water Portal (IWP) to share our content in these specialised platforms.

i. Western Ghats Portal

The Western Ghats Portal has already published data on 479 plant species from the three volumes in the Series 'Forest Plants of the Nilgiris'. We have also shared 83 sightings of flora and fauna through the observations interface and also the data from the Wetlands project supported by CEPF. The partnership with India Water Portal is expected to strengthen the data management capacity as well as publishing

Keystone's water related content in the public domain.

A bioblitz was organized at Longwood Shola on 27th June 2012 jointly by Keystone and WGP. Data from Longwood Shola as well as from Mukurthi area from earlier work were uploaded on that day. Bala was invited to be one of the facilitators of a datathon organised on the sidelines of the Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) at Bengaluru 4th August 2012.

ii. Mainstreaming Conservation in District Public Policy

As part of this project, we were involved in developing a simulation model of the Coonor river basin and understanding the long term trends in water use and availability as well as the chemical load in the river water as it exits the basin. The data collection work is over and the model is in the final stages of development. Dr. Sunderrajan of INREM Foundation is supporting the model building process.



iii. Trainings

Training programmes on various themes such as bee keeping, organic farming, value addition of NTFP and farm produce, sustainable harvesting practices of NTFP, Forest Rights Act and book keeping and accounting for community enterprises

continued during the year. The discussions with Cornell University for the formation of





Networks

SAVE WESTERN GHATS MOVEMENT

Swallows in Sweden supported Save Western Ghats Movement celebrated its 25th year of the Save Western Ghats March at Mahabaleshwar organized by AERF. A large number of local communities and indigenous people participated in this gathering and also the historical marchers, speakers, researchers, activists and NGO participants. The full report of the meeting can be mailed to anyone interested. The plan to host this meeting in Mahabaleshwar was decided during the annual SWGM gathering at Moodbidri, Karnataka during 2011 January. This was a culmination of several years of this movement and several publications and reports have come forth. Noted Gandhian, Anupam Mishra spoke about the historical ecological importance in saving the Western Ghats.

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

Both Ends, Amsterdam and London-based Climate Development & Knowledge Network has initiated a project in 5 countries – Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia, Philippines & India on Local Access to the

Green Climate Fund by local actors and communities. Keystone has been a long time partner of Both Ends and is involved in this project as an active CSO observer in the GCF. Two Board meetings have taken place – Berlin, Germany & Songdo, South Korea. Several papers have come out, blogs have been written and we are in close touch with the India board member – Shri Dipak Dasgupta, Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

NON TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE (NTFP) - EXCHANGE PROGRAMME, SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA

The network spread across the region achieved several specific and local successes in the field of NTFP conservation and development. Significant amongst these were the efforts to build a strong marketing avenue of products from the community. A sales outlet in Jakarta, a NTFP museum in Vietnam and enhancing the MODI (Modern Indigenous) company in Philippines were done. Emphasis was also on food from the forest, where-in work was done amongst hunter gatherer communities in Philippines,



India and Cambodia. Results were also presented in a conference at the FAO. A regional meeting was held in India on the theme of Ecological Monitoring where representatives learnt about concepts and methods, including the use of traditional ecological knowledge.

In India, the network partners worked specifically on tenure issues of indigenous people related to the Forest Rights Act. At the national level, meeting was held with the Minister of Tribal Affairs, and other policy makers with regard to NTFPs specifically, and the larger threat facing the communities from mining and other infrastructure projects. Some partners worked with peoples' rights in protected areas. Approximately 2,00,000 forest species were raised and planted across the areas by partners. A collection of 100 wild foods were recorded by some network partners and made into a small publication.

ECOSYSTEM ALLIANCE

The programme which functions like an alliance is co-ordinated by Keystone Foundation in India. The programme has 7 partners spread across the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Central India. These in turn have a series of smaller satellite efforts through micro grants awarded to CSOs. This composite group forms the alliance focussing mainly on issues related to livelihoods and forest conservation. Projects specifically address varied issues of biodiversity awareness; declaration of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA); conservation of traditional water bodies, setting up nurseries and restoration of landscapes, seed diversity, work on Forest Rights Act (FRA), environment education; eco-development, enabling producer companies; pollution aspects of large industries, etc. A large grant has set up environment response centres across the

country to address conservation problems through building capacities amongst local organisations to review EIAs and engaging in the legal route through the National Green Tribunal. The main partners of this Alliance besides Keystone are Samata, Regional Centre for Development Co-operation, PRERAK, Wildlife Trust of India, Legal Initiative for the Environment, Nature Conservation Foundation, Prakruti and River Research Centre.

ORGANIC NETWORK

a. IFOAM

It has been a learning experience for Mathew as a member of the World Board. The excitement of getting elected in 2011 over, it was soon time to be part of discussions and meetings that needed all his skills and wisdom. Many of the topics relating to certification and standards have been tough but he has been able to bring to the table, issues relating to indigenous communities, food rights and a more inclusive approach to organic. Two meetings in Bonn, Germany (Nov 2012) and Malaga, Spain (Mar 2013) have been great and the team work built between the WB members has been a highlight.

b. Participatory Guarantee Systems – India

It has been a busy year of networking and training. Leo and Samraj have been working with a lot of groups to train and prepare them. In August, 2012, a 2 day national seminar on Organic Farming was held in Trivandrum by the Dept of Agriculture. Samraj was invited to make a presentation. The Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. Oommen Chandy hoped that Kerala would be able to follow Sikkim in becoming an organic state. Another govt meeting in which Samraj made a presentation was to the Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation in Chennai. The topic was relatively new and a lively discussion on implementation of PGS



with women farmers without land holding, without entitlements, access to markets, nutritional security, local marketing and pricing mechanisms, took place.

An intensive training programme on forming Local Groups under PGS, for farmers from Mayiladutharai region of Nagapattinam district under the TEDE Trust network, was held in November 2012. Most farmers were paddy cultivators with some growing vegetables and fruits. A highlight was promotion of PGS in the North-East where efforts by Dr. Anjali Pathak and Dr. Claude Alvares finally bore fruit as a 2 day meet brought many small growers of plantation crops as well as fruits & vegetables, together. The northeast is a huge untapped area and we hope that the organic movement under PGS penetrates.

c. Participatory Guarantee Systems – International

PGS has been making waves in many meetings. PGS spokespersons have been invited in many organic forum to make presentations and talk to groups. Mathew was re-elected to the IFOAM PGS Committee for another term. The team consisting of Alice Veron (USA), Chris May (New Zealand), Eva Torremocha (Spain), Jannet Villanueva (Peru), Marc Lewis (South Africa) and Mathew, more than ably assisted by Flavia Castro from the IFOAM. There was no opportunity to meet together but constant email communication and skype chats kept the groups fully occupied. Mathew had an opportunity to participate in a workshop organized by the International Analog Forestry Network (IAFN) to look at PGS for non-timber forest products. This workshop brought together people from Latin America to discuss and highlight the main aspects to be considered in drawing a road map for PGS.

FAIR TRADE NETWORK

Fabulous news has been that Last Forest has been accepted as a World Fair Trade Organization member. After becoming an

India network member in the previous year, Last Forest worked on fulfilling the criteria of WFTO-Asia and then the world body. We hope that this process will add value to Last Forest as it seeks to expand its market. In the Indian scenario, Mathew was elected to the Executive Committee of Fair Trade Forum – India for the second time. He was a member during 2008-2010. The retail branding exercise has been slowly progressing though the potential is much more.

SLOW FOOD NETWORK

Last Forest carried coffee and honey to the Terra Madre meeting in Turin in Oct 2012. Sam and Leo accompanied Mathew and a brisk sale and enduring interest in the activity of honey hunting kept them busy for that week. A large contingent of Indian participants ensured that there was never a dull moment. Mathew was a delegate to the International Congress – one of the two from India and also gave a presentation on honey and bees. The honey from the Nilgiris has been accepted as Ark of Taste product - <http://www.slowfoodfoundation.com/ark/details/1340/multi-floral-forest-honey>.

SOUTH HUBS NETWORK PROGRAMME

Sneh from Keystone became part of the network co-ordinated in India by Development Alternatives and supported by the New Economic Foundation. As one of the 5 hubs selected, Keystone will be part of the initiative to catalyse debate and action in the Global South that promotes models of the economy that maximise wellbeing, operates within environmental limits and is capable of coping and adapting to global environmental change. Hub members will support the development of criteria against which the mapping of the new economy can take place. It is anticipated that this will capture activity at a research and theoretical level (e.g. university research programmes) and practice level (e.g. sustainable entrepreneurship initiative). We will be mapping 30 green initiatives as part of the work and taking ahead 10 for further action.

The administration and finance group works towards the following objectives

- ℓ To provide a transparent, responsive and decentralised administration system for all work units of Keystone.
- ℓ To support all the programme areas with timely information on financial aspects so as to support the implementation of projects.
- ℓ To meet all statutory requirements related to Income Tax. Foreign Contribution etc.
- ℓ To conduct all financial transactions with transparency and consistent with prevalent standards

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2013

No.	Particulars	2012-13 Amount INR '000	2011-12 Amount INR '000
1.	LIABILITIES		
	Capital Fund	49,802	47,111
	Endowment and other Funds	17,770	15,648
	Current Liabilities	1,769	1,771
		69,341	64,529
2	ASSETS		
	Fixed Assets	14,962	15,524
	Investments	1,216	1,293
	Current Assets	53,163	47,712
		69,341	64,529

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2013

No.	Particulars	2012-13 Amount INR '000	2011-12 Amount INR '000
1	INCOME		
	Donation		
	- Foreign Institutional Donors	41,013	43,002
	- Indian Institutional Donors	37	315
	- Others	273	1,958
	Other Income	3	139
		44,724	45,414
2	EXPENDITURE		
	Village Development Projects	40,380	24,306
	Other Expenses	1,653	350
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	802	4,982
		42,835	29,638
3	SURPLUS FUNDS	1,889	15,776

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2013

No	Particulars	2012-13	2011-12
		Amount INR '000	Amount INR '000
1	RECEIPTS		
	Opening Balance		
	- Cash and Bank	14,709	5,129
	Donation		
	- Foreign Institutional Donors	41,013	43,002
	- Indian Institutional Donors	37	315
	- Others	1404	1,958
	Other Income	2,270	139
	Sale of Fixed Assets		46
	Decrease in Investments	77	5,908
	Increase in Liabilities	-1	173
	Decrease in Debtors	265	104
	Revolving Fund Received		20
	Decrease in Stock		7
	Endowment and Other Funds	2,122	
		61,894	56,801
2	PAYMENTS		
	Village Development Projects	40,380	24,306
	Organic Market Development Expenses		114
	Other Expenses	289	236
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	802	4,982
	Advances Paid	763	7,788
	Deposits Paid	16,986	4,448
	Creditors Paid		6
	Endowment and other funds		214
	Closing Balance		
	- Cash and Bank	2,674	14,707
		61,894	56,801

INFORMATION BASED ON NORMS OF CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE AND GIVE INDIA
1. 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	11	2	13
10,000 to 25,000	9	3	12
25,000 to 50,000	1	1	2
50,000 to 1,00,000	0	0	0
Greater than 1,00,000	0	0	0
TOTAL	21	6	27

2 PAYMENT MADE TO CONSULTANTS DURING 2011-13

Total annual payments made to consultants (in INR)	Number of Consultants
Less than 5,000	0
5,000 to 10,000	1
10,000 to 25,000	1
25,000 to 50,000	6
50,000 to 1,00,000	4
Greater than 1,00,000	9
TOTAL	21

3. STAFF REMUNERATION [GROSS SALARY+ BENEFITS]

	Amount INR
Head of Organisation (including Honarium) - 2 persons	371,772
Highest paid full time regular staff	371,772
Lowest Paid full time regular staff	79,908

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 '000)	Sponsored
1	Mathew John	Director	Germany	IFOAM World Congress	12	Yes
2	Mathew John	Director	South Korea	IFOAM Meeting	0	Yes
3	Anita Varghese P.Chandran	Programme Coordinator Subject Manager	France		1.6 Visa Fee and Local Travel paid by Keystone	Yes
4	Pratim Roy	Director	USA	Project related travel	159.9	Yes (partly)
5	Anita Varghese	Programme Coordinator	South Korea	IUCN World Congress	13.3 Tickets cost partly paid by Keystone	Yes
6	Pratim Roy Snehlata Nath Mathew John Somnath Sen	Director Director Director Managing Trustee	ITALY	Bellagio Conference	16.7 Visa Cost paid by Keystone	Yes
7	Mathew John Robert Leo T.Samraj	Director Programme Coordinator Programme Coordinator	ITALY	Slow Food Meeting	34.2 Local travel in India paid by Keystone	Yes
8	Snehlata Nath	Director	Phillipines	NTEP-EP Board Meeting	8.9 Local travel in India paid by Keystone	Yes
9	Mathew John	Director	Costa Rica	IFOAM Meeting	31.1 Visa Cost paid by Keystone	Yes
10	Mathew John	Director	Thailand	IFOAM Meeting	0	Yes
11	Mathew John	Director	Japan and Germany	IFOAM Meeting	0	Yes

5. THE TOTAL COST OF NATIONAL TRAVEL BY BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF/VOLUNTEERS ON BEHALF OF ORGANISATION FOR 2012-13 (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE LOCAL CONVEYANCE)

INR 3,87,421

6. PROFILE OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

No	Name	Age	Sex	Location	Occupation	Position	Remuneration & reimbursement
1	Somnath Sen	49	Male	New Delhi	Consultant	Managing Trustee	0
2	Suprava Patnaik	52	Female	New Delhi	Professor	Trustee	0
3	Shipra Gupta	78	Female	Puducherry	Educationist	Trustee	0
4	Rita Banerji	44	Female	New Delhi	Film maker	Trustee	1,00,000
5	Meena Gupta	65	Female	Kolkata	Retd. Secy to Gol	Trustee	0
6	Rev. PK Mulley	66	Male	Coonoor	Presbyter	Trustee	0
7	Anju Sharma	43	Female	UK	Consultant	Trustee	0
8	John Kurien	62	Male	Tiruvananthapuram	Consultant	Trustee	0



TRUSTEES

1. Anju Sharma
2. John Kurien
3. Meena Gupta
4. Rev. Philip Mulley
5. Rita Banerji
6. Shipra Gupta
7. Somnath Sen
8. Suprava Patnaik

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

C. L. Gupta

STAFF

Anita	–	Programme Coordinator, Conservation *
Aradukuttan	–	Assistant, Nursery
Archana	–	Programme Coordinator, Environmental Governance
Ayyasamy	–	Assistant, Beekeeping
Balachander	–	Programme Coordinator, Administration & Finance
Chandran M	–	Area Manager, Konavakarai
Chandran P	–	Subject Manager, Environmental Governance
Easwaran	–	Additional Coordinator, Finance
Gokul	–	Research Assistant
Hari	–	Assistant, Campus Security
Justinraj	–	Area Manager, Sigur
Lalitha	–	Assistant, Water Resources
Leo	–	Programme Coordinator, Livelihoods
Mahadesha	–	Area Manager, Punanjanur
Mallikarjunamoorthy	–	Additional Coordinator, Livelihoods
Mathew	–	Director, Administration & Finance, Enterprise Development
Murugaian	–	Assistant, Livelihoods
Pratim	–	Director, Donors, Networking and Organisation Development
Rajendran L	–	Area Manager, Coonoor
Rajendran R	–	Assistant, Beekeeping
Ramachandran	–	Area Manager, Nilambur
Rengasamy	–	Area Manager, Assanur
Samraj	–	Programme Coordinator
Saneesh	–	Additional Coordinator, Conservation
Sarasasmeeta	–	Additional Coordinator, Administration
Selvi	–	Additional Coordinator, Culture & People
Sivagami	–	Assistant, Accounts
Sivakumar	–	Accountant, PCD
Snehlata	–	Director, Programmes
Subramani	–	Assistant, Culture & People
Sudhakar	–	Area Manager, Pillur
Sumin	–	Programme Coordinator, Conservation
Vasu	–	Supervisor, Campus

* On sabbatical



Calendar of Events

April 2012

- ◆ Leo visited Living Farms in Niamgiri, to assess status and practices of forest honey collection and trained Thalia kondhs community in sustainable and hygienic honey collection
- ◆ Scientist from Central Research institute Coimbatore have visited Hasanur for millet processing initiatives
- ◆ Mathew to IFOAM HO in Bonn, Germany for World Board meeting
- ◆ Mathew to Zurich, Switzerland visiting Helvetas

May 2012

- ◆ Archana to Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore to present a case study on NTFPs and Value addition at a workshop on Ecologically Sustainable development organized by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project
- ◆ Simone Ann Salzar, from St Xavier's, Mumbai arrives for a 2 week internship for NGO exposure.
- ◆ P.Chandran and Anita Varghese at International Society of Ethnobiology meeting at Montpellier, Sud de France.

June 2012

- ◆ Pratim returns from Cornell, US after completion of Hubert Humphrey Fellowship
- ◆ Samir Mehta & A. Latha visit to discuss the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Report
- ◆ Mentoring Plans begin for all staff at Keystone
- ◆ Nilgiri Natural History Society Executive Board Meeting
- ◆ Lavanya Suresh, researcher from Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru visits to understand forest governance work at Keystone

- ◆ Adhitya Dhanpal, alumnus from St Xavier's, Mumbai for a 4 week internship. Worked on a short term ethnography of two Kurumba settlements of Banugudi and Kolikore.
- ◆ Bioblitz at Longwood Shola in partnership with Western Ghats Portal
- ◆ Leo visited Living Farms, as follow up visit to document the practices of forest honey collection

July 2012

- ◆ Pondicherry trip for Kriti shop opening
- ◆ Shabnam Ramaswamy, Somnath Sen, Nivedita Banerjee, Rev & Mrs Mulley, Sneha, Pratim, Mathew at Pondy for the opening
- ◆ Eco-tourism workshop at Keystone
- ◆ Save Western Ghats Movement Project Evaluation by Gandhimati
- ◆ Mrs. Ramaswamy from Kolkata visits Keystone, Kotagiri
- ◆ Pratim to Delhi to discuss the CEPF proposal with MoEF/Gol; met Bharat Krishnan in Delhi
- ◆ Launch of the biodiversity learning module and NBR film at the Bee Museum
- ◆ Mr. Phrang and NESFAS members have visited Asanur and kotagiri

August 2012

- ◆ Radhika Dave, Conservation International, Arlington, Virginia, US visits Keystone
- ◆ World Indigenous day celebrations in different villages in the NBR
- ◆ Tasneem Khorakiwalla at Keystone to explore possible opportunities, field trips and discussion with Management Group
- ◆ Geeta Patil at Keystone for new product design for Toda Embroidery

- ♦ Pratim to Delhi for the National Selection Committee of Hubert Humphrey Fellows
- ♦ Archana, Bala, Anita, Vinod and Senthil at SCB Asia in Bangalore. Roaring sales of books
- ♦ M.Chandran and three Kurumba honey hunters went for four days visit to Living Farms Niamgiri, to train Thalia kondhs tribe in Sustainable and Hygenic honey collection
- ♦ Bala participated in the Datathon at Bengaluru organised by the WGP
- ♦ Workshop with Indonesia Partners on Eco-certification of Rattans and Honey
- ♦ Sneh to Manila to attend NTFP-EP Board Meeting
- ♦ Sneh to New Delhi for Consultation of NTFP –EP Network in India; including meeting with Tribal Minister K.C. Deo; Mr. Mani Shankar Iyer, Member Rajya Sabha; Dr. Mihir Shah, Member Planning Commission

November 2012

September 2012

- ♦ Sneh & Pratim visit Pune to discuss with Archana, AERF regarding 25 years of Save Western Ghats March meeting in December 2012
- ♦ Western Ghats Portal team visited Keystone and Nilgiris to promote the portal
Youth Conclave of SWGM at Keystone
- ♦ Bellagio Rockefeller Foundation Conference on “Re-discovering the relevance of Environmental Movements today”
- ♦ 9 students of MA (Development) from Azim Premji University arrive for a 10 day field immersion programme.
- ♦ Anita Varghese to Jeju, South Korea for IUCN World Conservation Congress
- ♦ Three students from St.Joseph's College, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Kerala, for their master's internship
- ♦ Three students from Matha Amritha University, Kollam, for their master's internship

October 2012

- ♦ Mathew and Pratim at Conference of Parties (CoP) Convention on Biological Diversity at Hyderabad
- ♦ CEPF evaluation and partners meeting at Keystone with Valerie Hick from World Bank
- ♦ Bellagio report finalization
- ♦ Archana to Hyderabad for MoTA Consultation on Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers'(Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

- ♦ Prof. Neema Kudva, Cornell University at Keystone to discuss the Field Learning Center Project between Keystone & Cornell
- ♦ Sneh, Anita, Merab, Pratim visit Nilambur to see Kunji Mohammed, field guide from Kerala who is suffering from cancer.
- ♦ A second group of Sewa Lanka- farmers, NGO staff, Forest official visit to learn natural resource management and social enterprise
- ♦ Interviews of probable candidate for Environment Response Centre – Legal Initiative for Environment & Forests node at Keystone
- ♦ Mathew leaves for Japan & Germany for IFOAM World Board Meeting and Biofac conference
- ♦ Keystone's founding day – 19th November 1993
- ♦ International Meeting on Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Ooty & learning from NTFP-EP's 10 years of work
- ♦ Mark & Monica from Bees for Development, UK visit
- ♦ Pratim to Mahabaleshwar for the Practitioner's Conclave organized by AERF, Pune
- ♦ Sumin returns from Cambridge, after completion of his M.Phil in Conservation Leadership course
- ♦ Barclays staff volunteer team visit to commemorate their 'Make a Difference Day' with a two day training programme for Seemai Suddhi reporters on Financial Skills
- ♦ Two students from TISS, Guwhati

December 2012

- ◆ Last Forest Enterprise Private Limited increases its shareholders – invitation for investment
- ◆ Sara & Pratim to Madurai for Swallows meeting
- ◆ A group of NGO staff from Bangladesh-Friends in Village Development of Bangladesh visit to learn value addition of farm and forest produce, organic farming and marketing
- ◆ A group of Sewa Lanka NGO staff visit to learn community enterprise and marketing
- ◆ Leo visited Living farms, Odisha for value addition training with forest honey and bees wax
- ◆ Kunji Mohammed dies in Nilambur of cancer – Anita Varghese knew him since 20 years; Sneh, Sumin & Anita to Nilambur for funeral
- ◆ Arghyam – India Water Portal from Bangalore to discuss Keystone's work on water issues
- ◆ Shola Fellowship at Bodhgaya, Bihar – Rajgir, Nalanda & Pawapuri
- ◆ Field trip with D. K Mishra – River Expert in the districts of Vaishali, Madhubani, Siwan and Dharbanga to see the rivers and the floods of North Bihar – the embankment story.
- ◆ Mahadesh and Anita to Bhubhaneswar for training on sustainable harvest of NTFP to RCDC. First flight for Mahadesh!

January 2013

- ◆ Sneh & Pratim travel to North Bihar with D. K Mishra and Rajiv
- ◆ Anupama Kundoo and Nitin – architects at Keystone to discuss the design of the future guest house, training hall & dining spaces at the bottom land
- ◆ Cornell team – Lesley, Neema, Becky, Steven, Anurag and Andrew visit to discuss, learn, see, respond and interact to the ideas and plans for the Nilgiri Field Learning Centre
- ◆ Keystone Board of Trustees Meeting and interaction with Cornell NFLC Core Team
- ◆ Board of Trustees visit Nilambur Field Station

- ◆ Barbara & Nigel from Khadi Papers UK with Subbu from Hubli at Keystone
- ◆ Pratim & Sneh to Pondicherry with Lesley to see Shipra-di – Trustee and Dr. C. L Gupta, Advisor, Keystone
- ◆ Peter Hobbs, CALS, Cornell University visit

February 2013

- ◆ Pratim to Delhi to meet Shri Dipak Dasgupta, Green Climate Fund Member & Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- ◆ Meeting with Elizabeth Colebourn, Climate Development & Knowledge Network, India at Delhi on GCF and climate change issues
- ◆ Follow-up in Delhi with Shri Hem Pande, Additional Secretary, MoEF on CEPF proposal & Alok Agarwal – Director, International Cooperation, MoEF
- ◆ Pratim meets Sunita Narain, Director General Centre for Science & Environment on the High Level Working Group report
- ◆ Students from Gastroenterology, Turin visited and interacted with millet farmers in Hasanur region, members of Thumbithakadu enterprise and Keystone projects in Kotagiri.
- ◆ Tholia Kondh tribe community members and Team leader from Living farm visit
- ◆ Sneh & Pratim met Supriya IAS & Muruganandan, IAS in Delhi
- ◆ Community Radio Station National Sammellan, Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi
- ◆ Meeting and catching up with Somnath Sen, Managing Trustee in Delhi
- ◆ Radio Kotagiri – Community Radio Station inauguration by Supriya Sahu, IAS Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India
- ◆ National Workshop on Community Radio at Ooty organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India & Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri

- ◆ Pratim to ATREE, Bangalore for CEPF Selection Committee of Large & Small Projects
- ◆ IRMA Professor and students at Keystone on a Climate Change Project
- ◆ Sarah Dee Shenker from Survival International talks on Indigenous Peoples of Amazon at the Bee Museum – NNHS event
- ◆ Women of Keystone meet to join One Billion Rising against violence of all forms against women.

March 2013

- ◆ Pratim to Berlin for the Green Climate Fund Board Meeting – as Civil Society Observer.
- ◆ Pratim to Delhi – meeting with Patricia Zurita, Executive Director, CEPF – appointments with

Shri Dipak Dasgupta and Shri Hem Pande on the CEPF proposal to Gol.

- ◆ Jenne de Beer, NTFP expert visits for a month
- ◆ J P Rao , Sociologist and expert Adivasi affairs visit
- ◆ Sneha visits Nilambur with experts to develop the Hunter Gatherer Initiative
- ◆ Sneha visits Sarguja District to see the work of Margdarshak Seva Sansthan and attend Wild Food festival in Kantaroli
- ◆ Mahadevan, Subramani, Jayanthi, Ponmusk, Sampath – Content generation, editing, programming training in Radio Mattoli, Wayanad.





ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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VIRTUAL PRESENCE

<http://keystone-foundation.org>
<http://lastforest.in>
<http://nnhs.in>
<http://www.shola.in>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/keystone-foundation/187909314563257>

E-MAIL

kf@keystone-foundation.org

AUDITORS

Srivatsan & Gita, Coimbatore



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