



20TH
ANNUAL
REPORT
2013-2014





20th Annual Report

2013-2014



Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve



-  Greenshop
-  Bee Museum
-  Keystone Campus
-  Resource Centres
-  Production Centres
-  Honey Huts
-  Towns
-  State Boundaries

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

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Foreword:

One for the Road

The Year has passed fast. Rapid strides and activities in several spheres, just to name a few: It feels like that I had just written a foreword and have to write again one more.

- ♦ Payment for Ecosystem Services – understanding pollination services, hydrological services of the Coonoor river basin and Non Timber Forest Produce in the Hasanur region – linking it up to users, consumers, markets and decision-makers.
- ♦ Hunter-Gatherer Initiative with Cholanaiakens – a health and diet support
- ♦ A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Cornell University establishing the Nilgiris Field Learning Centre.

This year also saw the merger of two important groups – Livelihoods & Environmental Governance. This gives more focus and relevance to the policy advocacy efforts through the Forest Rights Act and Community Forest Rights and directly working with farmers.

Conservation group has delved into interesting biodiversity research, such as understanding the world of insects and pollinators, “*the little things that run our world*”.

As I write this foreword (delayed, Aug 12th, 2014), a number of youngsters have joined us in Communications, Livelihoods & Governance, Conservation and Administration & Accounts. Few have left and new ones have joined. We also had a fair share of issues and problems to deal with since September 2013. On the whole it feels like a balanced meal – of plain, bland, good, delicious, healthy and spicy dishes. The wash of all this initiatives in these hills and NBR region is through an experiential learning which is like a good drink. One for the road is for the journey and excitement to go on, without getting derailed or distracted too much – the foraging and stopping, here and there, the slowing down, the picking up, all this is part of the process which gives us that feeling of a year well spent in reflection and questioning.

This year ended with our 20 years celebration, a separate section is written on that; very humbling and one feels that one has just started the course and food intake has just begun. One for the road is an unending adventure, learning and de-learning of our work on eco-development initiatives through so many institutions, villages and people in a dynamic and changing ecology and political environment.

We thank all of you – our Trustees, Donors, Government, NGOs, CBOs, Well wishers, Partners, Friends, Villagers from the NBR, Network Partners for being with us, giving us support, for being with us, and guiding us through difficult times. We look forward to a fantastic new year ahead. Lots to do, more distance to cover. One for the road is needed to make this another interesting journey.

Pratim Roy

12th August, 2014,
Keystone Foundation,
Kotagiri, The Nilgiris, India.



Conservation

The conservation programme addresses questions concerning ecology and management of endemic and economically valuable species, vulnerable habitats and species in the NBR. The focus is enriched by understandings of ecosystem services and linkages between ecosystems, traditional use and indigenous perspectives, and markets and trade. The approach involves applied research, restoration efforts, outreach and knowledge networks with communities, academia and voluntary agencies.

The year in the conservation group set tone to an increased level of interactions with the 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.



Traditional Knowledge Fair at Kotagiri

Conservation education

The conservation Education component is one of the main activities of the conservation programme. The education activities are carried out in the villages through village elders, in schools and at the field centres of Keystone. The village elder programme is currently being carried out in 12 villages; there have been 99 sessions over the year. 36 sessions were done across 5 schools and 11 camps were held at 3 field centres. The conservation education programme will be undergoing a process of impact assessment and evaluation for which Nimesh Ved, a freelance consultant will be consulting with us.

Biodiversity Research

a. Biodiversity and resilience

A study to unravel the arthropod diversity in chemical vs organic agricultural farms lying adjacent to forests was conducted in three distinct geographical regions of the NBR – Sigur, Hassanur and Kotagiri. Findings suggest that there is high diversity of parasitic wasps, an important group of bio control agents in organic as well as chemical farms. Nine families of spiders, a critical group of predators of pests, were obtained in the sampling. In the chemical farm near Kotagiri, bee

fauna was depauperate while organic farms held high bee density with 9 species of Halictid bees.

As part of the global pollinator study of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the pollinator deficit protocol was employed to assess pollinator deficit in coffee holdings of indigenous people in the Kotagiri slopes. There was also a socio-economic evaluation of pollinator-friendly practices.

b. Ecological monitoring with Village Naturalists

Ecological monitoring is currently done across in nine villages across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve by village naturalists who have been trained in monitoring and recording data on forest usage by communities and the changes that have been observed in the forests. This activity is a continuation of the pilot done in 2009 and will be continued as a long term monitoring programme and will be extended into other villages in due course.

c. Human Wildlife Conflict in the Western Ghats

The human wildlife conflict project envisages to explore the various perspectives that are present in any instance of human wildlife conflict in the Western Ghats in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Identifying the various stakeholders and agents of change in incidents of conflict is one of the main thrusts of this project.



Damage caused by elephants in Sigur

The study not only accommodates perspectives towards human wildlife conflict, but also perspectives towards the demarcation and designation of wildlife corridors, existing compensation mechanisms and the possibility of forming a group of people who would be participating in the mitigation of human wildlife conflict. We aim to achieve the above by collaborating with various agencies who work in diverse areas of human wildlife conflict in the Western Ghats.

d. Human Gaur Conflict in Kotagiri

The human gaur conflict project is one of the more exciting studies being conducted by the conservation group. The study aims to map and monitor the movement patterns of Gaur around Kotagiri town, using video Recordings and GPS. The possibility of having local residents participate in the project by making observations or by reporting any observations to the Community Radio Station is being explored. The findings from the study will be used to mitigate Human Gaur conflict.



Honey hunters meeting in Punanjanur

e. Payment for Ecosystem Services

The pollination component of the PES project of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is in its pilot stage. Loss of forest cover (bee nesting habitats) and pesticide use on bee foraging agricultural farms can lead to a decline in bee diversity and abundance, and this is the conservation premise. The project is exploring what potential transactions would ensure the flow of pollination services to small farmers and estates, and what incentives would help promote organic. In this vein, dialogues have been initiated with private estates and the State Horticultural Department.

Workshops, events visits and meetings

- a. Anita attended a workshop on 'Grass Root Conservation' conducted by the Sloth Bear Foundation in Bangalore on 26 & 27 April 2013.
- a. Sumin attended the Ravi Sankaran Fellows Meet and the Students Conference on Conservation Science in September 2013 at Bangalore.
- b. Trisha Gopalakrishna, an engineering student from Bangalore interned with Keystone from January to March 2014 and she worked on the barefoot ecology programme.
- c. The Traditional Knowledge Fair was held in February 2014 at Nehru Park in Kotagiri. The event had over 100 children from more than 20 villages across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The two day event had a footfall of over 1000 people.
- d. A series of trainings on sustainable harvesting were done by K G Ramachandran in Kerala for the Kumbalappara harvesters, Kothamangalam FDA*, Mananthavady FDA, Muthanga EDC** and Konni FDA
- e. Febina Thottatil, a Master's student from the Pondicherry University did her master's thesis field work from Nov-April 2014 exploring pollinators in agricultural landscapes.

*FDA – Forest Development Agency

** EDC – Eco-Development Committee

Nursery

The nursery programme took a new approach this year, focusing its efforts on the centralised nursery at the Keystone campus. The nursery is meant to cater to the local demands from estates and schools for forest species. Over the year we have raised 1078 saplings of seven species and we have sold 189 saplings. The sales of saplings hit a record low owing to the erratic monsoon. At present the nursery has a stock of 3300 saplings of 37 species. In addition to the centralised nursery, there are nurseries at Punanjanur in Karnataka and in Nilambur in Kerala that are focused on raising and rejuvenating the Cycad population in the region.

Publications

Booklets & Papers :

- ♦ **The Little Thing That Runs The World.** A brief, non-technical guide to insects and the diversity of critical ecosystem functions they perform. Manju V Sharma, Rufford Grant Foundation.
- ♦ **Indigenous farms and Resilience:** a case from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. Manju V Sharma, Robert Leo and Mathew John. Submitted to Farming Matters.
- ♦ **Montane swamps of the upper Nilgiris, Western Ghats, India:** a case for conservation Shiny M Rehel, Arun Kanagavel, T Aradukuttan, B Mahadesha, Archana Sivaramakrishnan and Manju V Sharma. Submitted to Current Science.



Nursery in Kumblapara, Kerala



Livelihoods & Environmental Governance

This year saw the merging of two of our programme areas – the Livelihoods programme and the Environmental Governance Programme. This merger situates livelihoods within the larger ambit of environmental governance and strengthens the focus on rights of indigenous people to livelihood resources. The combined programme area will continue to work towards strengthening livelihoods based on the natural resource base, in particular while developing appropriate non farm livelihoods as well, while strengthening spaces for indigenous people in decision making.

The other major change in our strategy this year has been our attempt to delink area teams from particular programme areas. This enables area teams to function with a focus on area development and address cross cutting issues between livelihoods, conservation, culture and enterprise.

Group Building and Institutional Development

The programme is committed to working with and through a variety of village organizations in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. During the year, we worked with 14 indigenous farmer's groups, 13 groups working under the aegis of the Participatory Guarantee Systems, 43 joint forest management committees (both Village Forest Committees in Tamil Nadu and Vana Samarakshana Samitis), two Community Forest Resource management committees, one water users' group, one Ecotourism Management Committee and two women's self help groups.

The focus of our work with the groups this year has been to facilitate independent decision making within the groups and to build capacities for documentation and accounting.

Support to Agriculture

Almost a half of the agricultural lands in possession by the indigenous people lies fallow in the Reserve. The contributing factors to name a few are – lack of agricultural credit, high risk of wildlife raids and inadequate marketing support for traditional varieties and uncertain monsoons. This programme has been encouraging indigenous people to cultivate traditional millet varieties that are largely drought resistant while at the same time make an important contribution to the family nutrition.



Farmers group meeting

The farmers' groups offer members loans for land clearing, ploughing, seed purchase as well as purchase of fencing and temporary housing material. Seed banks located in each area offer available seed to be returned in kind.

During the year, millet and other traditional crop cultivation by 95 farmers was supported in over a total of about 144 acres. of land. The support was in the form of provision of seeds as well loans towards ploughing expenses. 48 varieties of seeds including those of finger millet, foxtail millet, little millet, horse gram, pigeon pea were procured from farmers and made available to the area level seed banks. Farmers also carried some of these seeds to a seed exchange programme organized by the Nilgiri Natural History Society in order to highlight the importance of communities as stewards of a critical agricultural gene pools.



Exposure visit to Timbaktu, Andhra Pradesh

Ten coffee farmers were helped to prepare land, pitting, planting, trenching for 7000 coffee seedlings under the coffee development programme.

5. vermi –compost units (Pre fabricated-HDPE vermin-compost bin) were supplied and installed in Aracode, Kilcoupe and a three day training was conducted for five farmers.

The other uses which farmers' groups used their revolving fund for include loans for buying of a coffee pulper by the Dhoopamara Farmers' Group, purchase of poultry by the Melseemai Farmers' group and cultivation of about 60 cents of jointly owned land by the Nedungayam Farmers' Group.

Kitchen Garden

Our relatively small but important initiative on promoting kitchen gardens continued this year. About 15 varieties of seeds were supplied to about 50 families through the year.



Farmers from the Sigur region represent their requirements for millet cultivation to the Collector, The Nilgiris

An information stall was set up at the Annual Vegetable Show organized by the District Administration in Kotagiri. The stall carried information on traditional crop varieties of the Nilgiris, their traditional growing zones and nutritional value. A food stall was also set up nearby to serve some of these traditional food varieties. The stall attracted over 400 people over two days.

Participatory Guarantee System

The annual review of farmers' groups under the participatory guarantee systems was conducted. A total of 13 groups with 89 farmers in total are now part of the PGS facilitated by us.

Partnering to National Horticulture Mission - Beekeeping

Introductory beekeeping training was conducted for 32 indigenous tribal farmers in Kotagiri taluk, 100 beehives were issued to promote pollination services under the scheme of National horticulture Mission. 32 epis cerena colonies were organised through dividing, capturing and transferring from village apiaries to them. Four centrifugal honey extractors were issued for four regions; Aracode, Semanarai, Banangu-di Shola and Kilcoupe.

Value Addition

Capacity building on value addition of agricultural and forest produce is an important livelihood strategy that we promote. With the registration of the Aadhimalai Pazhankudiyinar Producer Company this year, five of the production centres heretofore functioning under the Livelihoods Programme are now part of the Producer Company.

The centre in Sigur is still relatively new and needs further handholding. This centre functioning from Anai-katty village has 320 members from 7 villages in the region. The centre produces spice mixes such as sambhar powder, rasam powder, biryani mix, several kinds of pickles and amla candy. The centre has an outlet in Masinagudi town near Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

Vocational Training and Skill Development

A series of training programmes targeted towards

vocational and skill development of tribal youth were organized across the year. The programmes focused on life skills, book keeping and financial management, carpentry, crochet, jewellery making, ironsmithy, plumbing and mechanical skills, vermicomposting techniques, ecotourism and tailoring. A total of 62 training sessions were conducted in which 810 persons participated.

The women's group who received training in crochet has now organized themselves into a group called Manali Poo with three members earning an average supplementary income of Rs. 4000/month from crocheted articles. A follow up training on book keeping and financial management was conducted for members of the Aadhimalai Pazhankudiyinar Producer Company. This training was held with the support of staff volunteers from the Barclays Bank who designed an easy to use ERP programme for the purpose. The Bank also supported the hardware required for the training.

Eco-tourism

We continued to support eco-tourism in a collaborative project with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department – The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project. The project involves evolving an eco tourism circuit in the Kotagiri area including the villages of Banagudi, Kodanadu and the Longwood Watch Dog Committee. An Eco-tourism Management



ecotourism management committee election meeting

Committee was constituted with representatives from all stakeholders. A microplan for activities under the project was submitted during the year. Several capacity building programmes and a publicity campaign was organized to strengthen the project.

Exposure visits

Four exposure visits were organized for community members during the year to encourage peer learning as also inputs from resource persons.

- 10 members from Banagudi and Kodanadu visited the Avalanche Eco tourism Management Committee in Avalanche in Nilgiris South Division.
- 10 farmers from Pillur visited Mr Mohan Kumar, an organic farmer in Talawadi to discuss issues of organic certification



Exposure visit to Parambukulam

- 24 members including Keystone staff visited Timbaktu Collective to discuss the implementation of Participatory Guarantee Systems in their working area.
- 20 members including community members from Banagudi, Kodanadu, Longwood Watchdog Committee and staff from the Kotagiri Range and Keystone visited Parambukulam Tiger Reserve to see eco tourism activities being organized there.

Supporting Community - based Forest Governance

In this context, there are two highlights for the year. The first is that we supported the submission of claims to community forest resources by the villages of Sengalcombai, Kavalcombai and Joghicombai.

The second is our support to the Hosapodu Gram Sabha in Punanjanur, Karnataka to help them set up a value addition centre invoking their forest rights that have been formally recognized. This process includes dimensions of capacity building on value addition,

sustainable harvests and forest monitoring. For more details on capacity building initiatives for forest monitoring, please refer section on Conservation. Unfortunately, local politics led to the seizure of over a



Talking about forest rights in Barliyar Grama Sabha

tonne of honey by the Punanjanur Forest Range Officer from the Grama Sabha. At the resolution and request of the Grama Sabha, we helped them seek legal recourse and retrieve their produce with a successful representation to the Chamarajnaragar Court. The Court found the ownership of the honey to rest with the Grama Sabha and directed the Range Officer to return the honey. In this case we worked closely with the Soliga Abhivridhi Sangha who has been instrumental in successfully lobbying for this recognition.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) Forum

The PVTG are among the Reserve's most marginalized people. With declining populations, low rates of literacy, high morbidity, these communities are often overlooked due to scattered nature. Even though they are only about 2% of the total population of the area, 7 of India's 75 PVTG reside in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve. Even dedicated government funding often does not reach them. A forum called the PVTG Forum has evolved over the last couple of years to address this issue. Over the last year, we supported the Forum, particularly the Alu Kurumba group file applications for various schemes available to them as also facilitated participatory planning and monitoring of the funds due to them.



Culture & People

The Culture & People programme area endeavours to revive and restore indigenous culture and knowledge and help the communities bridge the development gaps with active participation in sharing of traditional knowledge and educating the younger generations. The programme uses mass media like a monthly newsletter and Community Radio to reach out to the community. Documentation of culture and traditions and imparting knowledge to younger generations is also an important area of focus.

Nilgiri Seemai Suddhi

Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi, the monthly indigenous newsletter is entering its eight year and is steadily gaining in popularity. Birth, death, marriages, festival and rituals are reported regularly. Some new features added this year include news regarding government schemes and facilities for indigenous communities.

A major change effected in the format is the addition of sections in Kannada and Malayalam which carry news from Punanjanur and Nilambur respectively. One thousand copies of Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi are printed every month of which 300 are distributed in Kotagiri

region. Coonoor and Pillur regions get about 120 each for distribution, Hasanur region gets 100 copies, Sigur region distributes about 130 copies. 100 copies are distributed among the Toda community and the Kota



Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi reporters

community gets 125 copies. As this is a monthly newsletter, the newspaper also gets circulated among the villagers and read by more than one person on an average.

News items have become more interesting as many issues related to the indigenous communities have been reported and some action has been taken. Among the major issues reported by the community this year pertained to the absence of the school teacher in Semmanarai village school. The teacher does not go to the school regularly forcing students to join other schools. Some students have even dropped out. This was published in the newspaper and the school teacher after hearing about this, has called the editor to warn her that he will put a case on the newspaper and advised her to limit the reporting to birth death and festivals. The editor requested him to give his response in writing which he did not do. But, he started going to the school regularly. He also reported the lack of toilet facility and drinking water in the school which was published in the newspaper.

Radio Kotagiri – 90.4 Mhz.

Our community radio which is the first in the Nilgiris district has completed its first year of broadcasting on the 16th of February 2014. Over this year, we have broadcast some memorable content. The duration of broadcast, beginning with an one hour original broadcast every day and a repeat performance in the

afternoon of the same content, is now upgraded to 3 hours and 30 minutes of original content and a repeat for a total of seven broadcast hours at present.



Radio recording

Radio Kotagiri has a reach of about 15 Kilometres radius on the Coonoor direction, about 15 kilometres in the Kil Kotagiri direction, upto Doddabetta peak in the Ooty side, and upto Aravenu on the Mettupalayam direction. Interestingly, it reaches a far away place of Sevur in the neighbouring Tirupur district which has found some interesting listeners to the radio. Considering the hilly terrain, the listenership has not been clearly ascertained and a detailed survey around the villages need to be carried out in the near future.

People's participation has been good and needs improvement as people visiting the studio are few and far between. This area requires more work and additional staff to realize the full potential of the community radio.

Radio Kotagiri brings out programs under various topics which include Thought for the day, weather report, local bus timings, vegetable prices in the Kotagiri market, procurement price of coffee and pepper, let us know, food is medicine which are broadcast in the Tamil language followed by Kota, Kurumba, Irula and Toda songs. Your opinion counts, learn the language, shall we meet?, time for women, chutties – kitties – a program for children, traditional medical information, awareness on laws and legal rights are the programs which are broadcast during 11.30 AM to 1.00 PM. This is followed by a light entertainment of Badga and folk songs. The last 30 minutes are dedicated to cooking recipes, our agriculture, beauty tips, learn science, a look at the animals, short stories and conclude with



Logo of community radio: The logo was officially unveiled by Ms. Supriya Sahu, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. Of India on the 16th of February 2013.

tribal music and songs. In between the programs, fillers are broadcast about importance of the day like World Water Day, Earth day and also about participation in election process.

Health support

We support only medical emergencies for the members of the indigenous communities. During the year 20 women and 25 men were supported at a total cost of Rs. 2,18,910.00. The ailments included appendicitis, cancer, gangrene, ulcer, typhoid, diarrhoea, gynaecological problems, eye problems, complications in liver and kidney, sickle cell anaemia stroke. Post accident treatment was also supported.

All of the people supported by the Health support could not get treatment under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance scheme due to non coverage under the scheme and for those who could not get the card due to various reasons.

Education Support

There is a rising demand for education support as more and more indigenous community youngsters are seeking education opportunities at various places. This year education support was provided to 59 students (26 female and 33 male candidates) at a total cost of Rs. 2,38,667.00 for courses like BTech, BCA, B.Com CA, B.Sc Computer Science, Catering, Civil Engineering, Diploma courses, Electrical and Electronics engineering, M.Phil, M.A Economics, M.Sc Computer Science, Nursing course and Teacher Trainings courses.

The criteria laid out for the education support was modified this year to give priority to deserving candidates instead of first come first serve basis. Widow's children get priority over others as also orphans

The Hunter Gatherer Initiative with Cholanaicken

The Cholanaicken are a very small community numbering below 200 individuals still living in relative isolation in the forests of Nilambur. The community has been designated as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group. Anaemia is prevalent in the community and almost all the members of the community are underweight and weak. The Public Distribution Systems supplies them with rice, oil, sugar, dhal and salt, but this does not provide them with requisite nutrition. Their collection of wild foods from the forest is also on the decline.

Keystone Foundation decided to work with the community on the nutrition front and started a collaborative effort with Accord whose health extension specialists Geetha and Ravi came forward to work with the community. They have since been visiting the Cholanaicken community every Wednesday of the week starting April 2013 with help from Integrated Tribal Development Program and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups promoters. The team visited the women and children along with some youth having one on one meetings explaining the importance of personal hygiene, nutritious food and supplements. They people who came to the camp were given eggs and dried fish along with a health drink made with small millet and jaggery. The women were taught how to prepare the porridge and also given training on cooking without



Irula sacred grove

nutrition loss. The importance of wild food were discussed with the community who have almost stopped the practice of collecting wild food. The results of the initiative are evident as the community has started attending the camp regularly especially the pregnant women and children who have shown considerable improvement in malnutrition status from Grade III to Grade I after six months which is remarkable. 23 children benefitted from this effort. The weight of the newborn babies have shown tremendous improvement from 1.5 kgs to 2.5 kgs with the simple addition of egg, dried fish and millets.

The community has understood the importance of nutritious food and the change it can bring about, has started buying dried fish themselves to supplement their diet. The team has put in considerable effort in reducing the use of white sugar and rice and replace them with millets and jaggery.

The current situation is precarious with suspected maoist presence in the area which is hampering the effort due to lack of access. This effort has demonstrated the role of healthy foods in bolstering the health status of communities. We are committed to continuation of this work through strengthened collaboration with government departments.

Craft Development

Craft is primarily a cultural identity of the people but it also signifies an exchange of products and services. Many communities in the Reserve face the issue of meeting the demands of the market without compromising on the cultural symbolism of their craft. The Toda community is finding it difficult to adapt to the changes required for bringing their products to the market, while the Kota community women are unable to fulfill the demand for the traditional use for their pots which are ritually important for all the communities in the area. The Irulas have difficulty in continuing with their bamboo craft which is replaced by plastic to a large extent. The Kurumbas have not been able to find appreciation for their paintings and musical instruments in the local market and depend on niche segments which help keep the traditions alive.



Pottery

This year, the programme partnered with the Toyota Foundation to make credit support accessible to artisan groups. Another important focus of work this year was the successful advocacy for getting the Geographical Indicator mark for Toda Embroidery. We are now in the process of obtaining Craft Mark for all the community crafts.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

We have been celebrating the International Day of the World's indigenous People since 2007. The festivities bring together indigenous communities including those who have historically been antagonistic to each other. This year, more than 600 indigenous people with a good number of children took part par taking in the celebrations. A team of indigenous community representatives from across the globe led by Mr. Phrang Roy of the Indigenous Partnership Fund addressed the gathering and reinforced the strength and cultural importance and relevance of the indigenous way of life in the present day world. The festival has sent out a clear message to the all the indigenous communities the need to unite and connect to the tribal communities around the world and exhibit their pride in keeping their age old traditions alive.

An important feature of the event this year was that gathering and celebrations were conducted in eight local areas in the run-up to the celebrations in Kotagiri. All regions celebrated the day with traditional food and

music with a positive atmosphere to discuss their issues in an atmosphere of cordiality and trust.



World indigenous peoples day celebration, 2013

Collaborations with government

This year among the major consultations with the government was with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of Tamil Nadu, which called for a workshop to discuss the usage of a script for all the tribal dialects. Though interesting, it has not generated much interest and the implementation is yet to start.

The other major collaboration is with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj which has awarded a work order to produce 20 programs for Radio Kotagiri to broadcast and promote the Panchayati Raj in the local area. The production will start during July 2014 and will be broadcast for a period of one year.

Documentation

Sacred groves: Part of cultural revival and documentation of ancient culture and practices, a study of 12 sacred Groves and ancestral worship sites of the Irula community were taken up this year. This study covered the Irula sacred sites of the Kotagiri region and is a preliminary sample survey covering nearby sites. The study has brought to light many interesting facts and stories associated with each village and clan which have ownership of these “*Thoga*”, the sacred groves and “*Koppe*”, the burial sites. A report is being made currently and will be given back to the community as cultural information.

Songs & Stories: Radio Kotagiri has documented around 50 songs and 15 stories of Kurumba, Irula, Kota and Toda communities. Almost 10 hours of traditional music has also been documented for the radio. Recipes of wild food and millets were also documented and broadcast in Radio Kotagiri.

Calendar 2014: This year’s calendar came out with a theme of millets and traditional food of the indigenous communities with intent to remind the communities about their rich and nutritious food crops on an every-day basis. The calendar carries the usual details of festivals of the communities which are culturally important. About 9000 copies were printed and distributed to all the regions of the Reserve.



Badga sacred grove in Jagathala

| Name of group | No. of members | Community | Craft practiced | Total Loan issued in 2013-14 | Income generated |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Ajilebottu | 7 | Kurumba | Kurumba painting | Rs.25,000/- | Rs 15,000/- |
| Kota Pottery | 20 | Kota | Kota pottery making | Rs.1,00,000/- | Rs 50,000/- |
| Toda Embroidery | 32 | Toda | Embroidery | Rs.95,000/- | Rs 50,000/- |
| Manali Poo | 6 | Kurumba | Woollen items Crochet | Rs.10,000/- | Rs 15,000/- |



Toda sacred grove - Kannagi Mund



Information & Communication

The Training and Information programme area was reconceptualised as ‘Information and Communication’ during the year. This change lays emphasis on the critical role data and information play in supporting decision making by village communities and other stakeholders in development processes. The philosophy of ‘open data’ underlies all aspects of our 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.

Data and Mapping

Over the last few years we have been proactive in publishing all our content under Creative Commons Licenses, revamping our websites with documents easily accessible online and partnering with open data portals such as India Biodiversity Portal/ Western Ghats Portal and India Water Portal to share data and documents. During the last year we further strengthened this by being a part of the process of developing the constitution for the India Biodiversity Portal consortium. We are also a member of various working groups within the consortium enabling us to contribute substantively to the

development of the portal consortium in future. Such a strategic partnership enables us to leverage the reach and technological platform provided by the portal for sharing the information we have with a wider audience. With the India Water Portal, the collaboration has been on data capacity building and sharing the stories around our work on water over the last two decades.

Within the organisation, we have been proving support in mapping efforts of different programme areas. We are using Qgis, a free and open source software for map making, along with Google Earth, a freeware. For the 20 years' celebrations, we produced an interesting map of our contacts from across the world in a single map that reflects the rich network of partners and supporters developed over the two decades.

Information Technology

On the Information Technology front, the Community Radio is our flagship intervention at present. We have been involved in developing the hardware and software set up for smooth operations in the studio considering the unique demands of working in a hill environment that is prone to frequent power outages and lightning strikes. It has been a challenge to work with limited resources to provide a reliable working environment for the Radio team.



India Biodiversity Portal

There was an interesting collaboration with the Barclays Bank's technical team as part of their CSR programme. They volunteered to devote some of their development time to help Aadhimalai Pazhangudi-yinar Producer Company to adopt Open ERP in their day to day functioning. As a part of this we procured and set up desktops for each production Center with Ubuntu Linux installed in them for providing a safer and more reliable working environment in the remote locations. The choice of OpenERP was also keeping in mind that it is a free and open source software that has extensive support online and can be modified in future to suit our needs without any licensing expenses or being dependent on software vendors. The training programme for users from the village centres was a hit with first time computer users being able to comfortably use the English language interface.

Bala attended a meeting of the Dryad network in London which is being promoted by the Munden Project. It is an alternative financing model for Community Forest Enterprises that moves away from carbon based financing to promote sustainable enterprises as the solution to deforestation and degradation of forests. One of the key components of the initiative is the use of ICT to generate data supporting the conservation impacts of sustainable forest based community enterprises.

Water

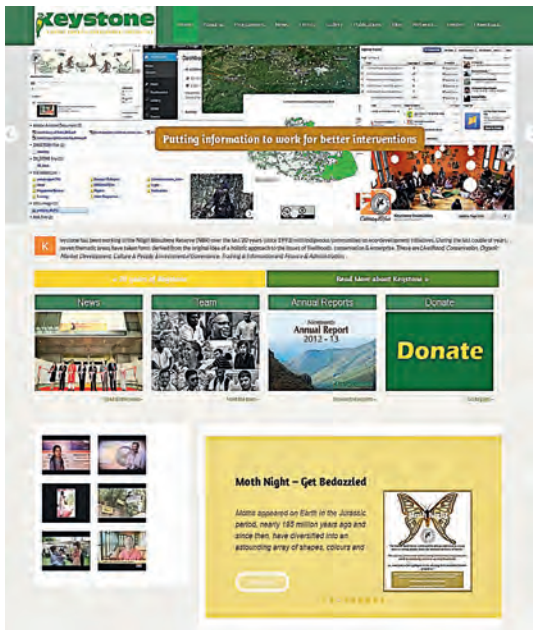
Moving ahead from the earlier studies on wetlands and water resources of the Nilgiris, we decided to look at an urban water demand and supply situation focusing on Coonoor town and surrounding areas. The intent was to demonstrate the impact of various sectors on water resources and the potential future scenarios if the current growth patterns were to continue. The choice of computer based simulation as a tool was also to enable prediction of outcomes of likely policy changes to deal with such a situation. The work on developing simulations for the Coonoor region was completed and the scenarios were shared in a meeting with the District Collector of the Nilgiris and other stakeholders in Coonoor.

The simulations underlined the need for looking at water resources in an integrated manner across



Mainstreaming presentation to District Collector

departments and the key role land use plays in determining the quality and quantity of water available in the region. Building on this work, we initiated work on a new project that intends to assess the feasibility of developing a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) model for the Coonoor town's water needs. Jagdish Krishnaswamy, ATREE, Bangalore is advising us on this project and we have also benefited from inputs from Cornell University faculty and research students during the course of the year. We have are developing a Socio ecological systems profile of the Coonoor region to better understand the dynamics in the region for developing the PES pilot.



Communications

Website

During the year, the Keystone website was redesigned to give it a fresh look and to upgrade the backend. We are also involved in managing the websites of Last Forest, Nilgiri Natural History Society, NTFP India Network and PGS-India. To be able to better manage our sites and to set up new websites on our own, Aritra attended a workshop in Bangalore on managing websites conducted by Gautham Sarang. Apart from updating the content on the website, social media accounts for Keystone and allied institutions have been created and these are also being constantly updated.

Documentation, Photos, Posters, Newsletters

We closely worked with the different programme areas to report and document events that took place through the year including photo documentation. Photography support was also extended to Last Forest Enterprises Pvt. Ltd., to document their product range and enable web based sales.

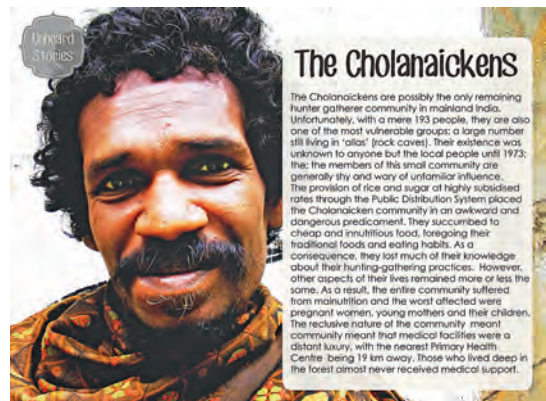


We also designed an updated Acknowledgement poster for the reception area, Timeline of 20 years as part of the celebrations, invitations, posters and brochures for Traditional Knowledge Fair, staff ID cards and extended design support for NNHS activities. We also launched the monthly Keystone and Last Forest newsletters which have received a good response from many readers.



NTFP – Unheard Stories

In May 2014, Aritra visited Orissa to document a 'Padayatra' organised by Gram Swaraj, a partner of NTFP India, and the Indigenous communities. The 'Padayatra' aimed to spread awareness of community forest management. During the visit we also documented stories for a series that NTFP India will release called 'The Unheard Stories'. The series aims to pick out unheard, unique, life changing and motivating stories from the different partners that NTFP India work with. We have collected all the stories and are now in the process of publishing this series. We also helped Gram Swaraj in setting up a communication strategy for better internal communications.



View the Unheard Stories at <http://ntfp.org.in/unheard-stories/>



Appropriate Technology

Appropriate Technology is a newly constituted programme that builds on this important dimension of our work at various levels to improve quality of life and environment among indigenous communities. The carving out of this area comes with the objective of consolidating and documenting our various initiatives while exploring new technologies that are appropriate for the various contexts that we work in.

Objective

The Appropriate Technology programme aims to design, apply and build capacities for appropriate technologies aimed at sustainable livelihoods, enterprise development and nature conservation directly in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and country wide through network partners. The guiding principles are efficient use of human labour, cost effectiveness, relevance to grass-root applications and the use of renewable energy.

Activities

Our current work on appropriate technology is focussed on demonstration of new technologies as well as skill development for innovation as well as use of demonstrated technologies. The section below lists some of the important tasks undertaken so far.

Skill Development

Technical- life skills

- A week long training was conducted in electrical and plumbing for 7 tribal youths and basic tools for the work was provided.



Training on basic tools

- A three week training was conducted in carpentry for 16 tribal youth and basic carpentry tools were provided to them
- A three week black smith training was organised especially for the Kota tribal youth. A black smith unit is enhanced with tools and raw iron.

Organic Agriculture Practices

- Trainings were held in preparation of compost yard in Arakode region of Kotagiri taluk. This included of building compost pits and preparation of compost with farm and livestock residues with 70 structures.
- Five vermicompost units were organised in Kotagiri and Arakode regions to enhance organic pepper production.
- A large scale vermi yard was established in Bangalpadigai nursery for training purpose as well as commercial venture.
- Training and demonstration of preparing Panchagavya to enhance organic vegetable and pepper production.

Design and Adaptation of Equipment

1. Portable motorised potters' wheel : Traditionally in Kota pottery, the main potter woman requires an assistant to operate the fly wheel and the wheel is quite heavy. To make this operation simpler, a portable motorised pot fly wheel was designed and fabricated with consultation of woman potters. This structure is under test trials with a small of modification by a Kota craft person.
2. Portable solar tunnel driers were designed and fabricated to dry amla and banana to enhance productivity and to assure hygiene at the community production centres.



Solar drier

3. Cabinet driers have been fabricated to dry herbs and vegetable and also adapted for curing of handmade soaps.
4. Destoner : The introduction of millet processing equipment and value added millet products have helped strengthen the assurance of marketing for millet farmers and expanded the area under millets. In this context, adaptation of a stone removing unit for millet processing has shown promising results for good quality separation of grain and stones.
5. Spice Grinder : A spice and grain grinding machine has been installed for small scale use in a value addition centre in Sigur and has helped increase cost effectiveness of operations.
3. Bee keeping equipment and trainings conducted for tribal and marginal farmers in Kotagiri taluk through Department of horticulture, Tamilnadu for National Horticulture Mission. [Bee keeping training]
4. A collaborative initiative is in progress to establish community millet processing centre at Asanur with assistance of Central Institute for Agriculture Engineering(CIAE) Regional centre Coimbatore. A set of millet de-husking, grading, de-stoning, sifter and grinding equipment are sanctioned through central assistance.

Network and sharing technical inputs

1. Sustainable and Hygienic wild honey harvest trainings were conducted for Tholia Kond tribal communities in Rayagada district of Odisha in collaboration with Living Farm, a reputed organisation promoting forest livelihood projects. Equipment for honey and bees wax processing was also designed, fabricated and installed in a Tholia Kond village.
2. A complete set of equipment for honey processing was designed, fabricated and supplied to Eco-Development committee, Wayanad Forest Division, Kerala.



Bee keeping training



Jamninal Bajaj visit

Keystone Foundation was awarded the Jamninal Bajaj award for application of science and technology in rural areas for the year 2013. The award commemorates the various initiatives for design and application of appropriate technology that we have developed so far. These include honey filters, honey driers, honey extractors (centrifugal and radial) different types of hives for bee keeping, bee tool, bees wax melter, solar wax extractors, wax foundation mill, soap press mould, soap mixture, steam wax melter, steam boiler for fruits, solar driers for fruits, herbs, greens & vegetable, soap, millet processing equipment, poly lined water tanks, water harvest systems, appropriate soil and moisture conservation techniques, packing tools,

Publication:

1. *Araganai* - a video documentation of traditional technique to increase millet crop yield
2. Posters: 5 thematic posters on nutritional facts of traditional cultivated and uncultivated edibles amongst indigenous families in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve namely greens, fruits, grains, tubers and vegetables.



Portable solar drier for Amla



Networks

Keystone as an institution networks with other Organisations of common interest and that deal with similar issues. This range of collaboration adds a certain experience in our work that Keystone does on the ground. This helps Keystone to grow in richness and vibrance.

NTFP Exchange Program – Asia Regional

The NTFP Network saw many new initiatives this year – some of them included more work with Subsistence NTFPs and cultural revival amongst communities. This mainly dealt with the Negrito communities in the Philippines and the Penan in Sarawak, amongst others. NTFP-EP has been maximizing its role in convening the CSO Forum on the ASEAN Social Forestry Network in promoting different calls on community economy, access rights, safeguards and governance mechanisms. The Programme in Cambodia had a spurt of growth. There was also possibility of expansion to a larger Mekong Programme.

In the field of conservation, NTFP-EP invested time and effort in advocating for the recognition of areas actively conserved by local communities (ICCAs). This is done while continuing to promote sustainable harvest protocols, maintaining healthy nurseries of threatened NTFP species, in promoting ecological monitoring and in demarcating sacred groves. Special attention is made in demarcating water catchment areas and other important land uses and planting of rainforest species.

With regards to enterprises, which have been supported through NTFP-EP and its network partners, Cooperative societies and other economic structures are being strengthened. Focus areas have been value addition, enterprise development, business planning, participatory certification, community livelihood appraisal and product scanning (CLAPs). Eco-textiles, essential oils are new emerging products in addition to crafts and forest honey.

NTFP-EP is also strengthening its internal systems and structure in addition to enhancing its external program. The organization is implementing its Financial Management Improvement Plan. The organization has also reinforced its board membership with experts in the field of finance and economics. Locally, Philippine and Indonesian programs have spun off as independent entities to ensure grounded programs.

2014 is filled with new learning exchanges and initiatives around community conservation, participatory monitoring, forest foods, international craft fairs, and the launch of NTFP-EP's new enterprise training arm, EXCEED.

India

In India, the network of NGOs continued to work on issues concerning Forest Rights Act, Conservation and Enterprise. One of the highlights was a nursery set up by The Legal and Environmental Advisory Forum in Bastar of over 100,000 forest plants. The India group met to learn about community based conservation measures and methods. The workshop was for the field personnel of partners, who will initiate these ideas in their field areas.

Work is ongoing on the documentation and promotion

of wild foods across the network and will result in more promotion of nutritious forest foods through festivals, awareness and publications. All the partners specialise in one NTFP category like resins, honey, sal, mahua, fibres, etc. They are formalised as *Desks*, which build information, knowledge, training and support for the whole network.

Another important issue relates to advocacy in India – specifically related to FRA, PESA and Pricing policy of NTFPs. This work, co-ordinated by Regional Centre for Development Cooperation, held a meeting in the North East to introduce this network and assess the situation in those states concerning land rights. A similar effort will be made in the north and west of India – areas where the network has not expanded until now.

Ecosystem Alliance

The India programme of Ecosystem Alliance jointly supported by Both Ends, IUCN and Wetlands International from the Netherlands is being co-ordinated by Keystone Foundation. Besides, the co-ordination role, the Western Ghats Alliance is also being held here.

For the Co-ordination aspects – grant making, reporting and follow up was done both for large and small grants. The programme, running since 2010, held its first mid-term alliance meeting in Vishakapatnam to see the progress as well as discuss future strategies. Sneha and Easwar from Keystone managed this programme with seven large alliance projects and 21 small grants, covering a total of thirty NGOs and Individuals.

Mapping Green Initiatives – South Hubs Network Programme

This Development Alternatives (DA) led initiative works with the New Economic Foundation in UK to map Green Initiatives across India. Besides DA, the India Hub has 5 partners, which are: Udyogini, CHINTAN, HESCO, TARA and Keystone Foundation. Together 150 green initiatives have been mapped across the country covering a host of subjects like construction material, renewable, waste management, organic and fair-trade products, women led businesses etc. For more details see www.map-sa.net In the second phase, the hub will support five initiatives to scale up and grow.

Ecological Sensitive Areas Planning & Environmental Governance in Tamil Nadu: First Steps towards a Green Economy

A consultation was held on the 4th of February 2014 at Chennai for a brainstorm on ecological sensitive areas planning and environmental governance in Tamil Nadu. The consultation had representations from State Planning & Special Initiatives, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Madras Institute of Development Studies, International Rivers-South Asia and other NGOs and CSOs.

Hill Area Development Programme (HADP): Need for a New Approach, Relevance & Dynamism

Inputs and feedback to the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), Nilgiris were given following a meeting with the Principal Secretary in February 2014. The inputs and feedback envisages the HADP to function as a centre of excellence for mountain development in India. Focusing its efforts broadly on biodiversity management, conservation of natural resources, implementing appropriate field based initiatives and to conduct cross-cutting action research studies.

Nilgiris Field Learning Centre

The Nilgiris Field Learning Centre became a reality this year with the signing of a MOU between Keystone Foundation and the Cornell University.

The Nilgiris Field Learning Centre is an interdisciplinary partnership to explore questions of sustainable



environments and livelihoods. The centre will pursue engaged research and teaching-learning. Beginning 2015, the NFLC will offer a study abroad programme where Cornell students will be engaged in experiential learning with local community members and Keystone team members.

Green Climate Fund

Keystone has been in dialogue with the Climate Action Network for South Asia (CANSA) and the Oxford Climate Policy (OCP) on developing a case study/framework for direct access to the funds by communities. This was an effort following a national level consultation meeting with key stakeholders on 'making India ready to access the Green Climate Fund (GCF)'. The consultation was focussed on how India could access the GCF, as GCF is expected to channel a significant amount of the USD 100 bn annual commitment made by developed countries under UNFCCC.

Participatory Guarantee Systems Organic Council

The PGSOC held its AGM and Managing Committee meeting at Timbaktu Collective's office in CK Palli, Anantpur. Another meeting took place in Bangalore just after the Biofach, at the ICRA office. Apart from regular updates and stock taking of activities over the past six months, the PGSOC decided to meet in early February 2014 for a planning and brainstorming session for a few days. The EGM was held in Corbett Creek, Marchula in Uttarakhand from 3rd to 6th February 2014. Nine Facilitation Council Members and four Invitees attended the EGM. The main agenda was to revisit the vision and mission of PGS Organic Council in view of the growing acceptance and demand for PGS certification across India and the number of new organization showing willingness to join the Facilitation Council.

The first day had lots of deliberations on the relevance and expansion of geography and size of farms among other factors that are emerging from the visibility received by PGS Organic certification. The next two days saw in depth discussion on the entire spectrum of logo use, transparency, packaging, processing, wild collection and norms for new applicant to the Facilitation Council, responsibilities and roles of all stakeholders and most importantly bring PGS branded

products into the market. This exercise provided the necessary clarity and direction for the future of PGS Organic certification process which goes to the credit of the participants. The review of the PGS Organic certification database and the revamp of the website were decided on the final day and are being implemented currently.

The new Participatory Guarantee Systems brochure and the Participatory Guarantee Systems manual have been finalised and the print order and translations into different languages will begin shortly.

Biofach Participation

Participatory Guarantee Systems Organic Council participated in BIOFACH 2013 in Bangalore from 13th to 16th November 2013. With assistance from WHH, New Delhi, the Council was able to put up a very well designed and organized stall and also managed farmer groups from four organizations to participate with produce and interact with consumers directly. Last Forest was able to present the PGSOC certified products from the Nilgiris. What was exciting was that some of the organization members, who had till now only heard or talked to each other, had an opportunity to meet and discuss some of their common issues.

PGSOC members Mathew John, Ashish Gupta and Joy Daniel presented at BioFACH India and PGS was very well received at the event, not just by farmers but by third party certifiers as well. It is expected that more interaction to this regard shall take place in 2014.

PGS International Committee

The IFOAM committee on PGS was able to meet physically after a gap of nearly 2 years through the support of School of Wellbeing Studies and Towards Organic Asia. The previous strategic plan was reviewed and necessary changes made for the coming few years. As the concept of PGS has become more widely spread, with its adoption by groups that are not practicing organic agriculture, the PGSC raises the issue of developing an IFOAM position regarding what can be the “IFOAM recognized PGS” and acknowledging PGS as a tool for development even outside the organic sector. The Global PGS Newsletter has been a great tool for communicating updates, strengthening

the PGS community and reaching more people. The PGS Committee also took part in a workshop on ‘International Forum on Innovating Alternative Markets - Towards Food Security and Food Sovereignty’.



IFOAM

The World Board meetings have been great opportunities to learn and participate in so many crucial decisions. As usual, the depth and intensity of discussions has been of exceptional levels. The icing on the cake came from the April 2013 meeting being organized in Malaga, Spain – at the southern end of Europe, it was a beautiful venue and very well organized by Eva. The time spent after the meeting was steeped in history as we walked around Malaga. A visit to Alhambra was memorable. The one in October 2013 was in Bonn – a lot of effort being made to build on the good practices of organic agriculture and the various challenges being faced. The next IFOAM Organic World Congress will be in Istanbul in Oct 2014.



Fair Trade Forum India

Fair Trade Forum has gone through a difficult time last year with funds being at a premium and reduced projects. However, work continued in different organizations. The World Fair Trade Day in May and the World Fair Trade week were celebrated with gusto in many places. The AGM was held in Delhi in Sept.

Work on the Retail Branding continued – now, there are close to 30 shops that carry the umbrella Fair Trade India logo. FTF-I has also now worked on its logo and built a new logo for the organization and also a variant for its members.

World Fair Trade Organization

WFTO launched the WFTO Guarantee System last year. This is a system that is available to its members only and is mandatory for all its trading members whether or not they wish to use it on its products. Membership of WFTO will guarantee a Fair Trade Organization's compliance with fair trade principles and thus all members are equally responsible for the reputation of the Guarantee System. The new system uses the Self Assessment as the basic monitoring obligation trading members need to do every 2 years. It guarantees the compliance of fair trade organizations with the WFTO Standard and the label on their products will guarantee the organization rather than the product.

Last Forest has filled up the assessment form and now awaits a Peer Review to take the process further.

Slow Food

Timbaktu was also host to the 1st ever congregation of Slow Food supporters. Slow Food is a new concept in India and it was agreed that it remains an informal network at least for the next 2 years until the end of Indigenous Terra Madre in Meghalaya (2015) - after which it will reassess the need for a more formalized structure.

For the near future, each participating organization will (voluntarily) incorporate the philosophy of Slow Food within their current and ongoing activities, wherever applicable, and gauge the response from local levels. One of the clear and outstanding needs was to introduce the concept of pleasure and celebration to our food. This aspect can put a positive spin on awareness building, advocacy and policy, health and nutrition, safeguarding bio-cultural diversity and most importantly to re-instill pride to our traditional food cultures.

The other overarching need for Slow Food in India is to serve as an umbrella and connect the dots of all like-hearted organizations that inherently follow Slow Food's philosophy of good, clean and fair food for all. The Slow Food 'global brand' can be used effectively to advocate the support of small scale farmers and high quality 'artisanal' food (as opposed to industrialized food).

Administration & Finance



Changing times at Keystone Foundation: Role & Challenges of Governance, Administration & Human Resources Development

An organisation is like the human body. It never has a constant healthy or a mal-function situation. Its inputs are varied, processes are complex and outputs are divergent. Since the past one year the Administration team has had to deal with HR issues of staff behaviour, complaints, lack of cooperation often leading to litigations in labour courts and justice issues. Many would say, that after 20 years, an organisation experiencing suddenly a spurt of these incidents, just shows a change in health status. How did all this begin and what was the trigger? Without naming the individuals who have triggered this process and exploited the situation, awareness of labour courts,

unions, rules and regulations (such as standing orders), has grown rivalry between other organizations in the same sector (playing it out through individuals), the lack of proper handling of HR issues (anger and losing patience), laxity in systems of monitoring and control (internal audits) has led to these situations.

Notwithstanding the tremendous time, effort spent by the Administration and senior management team on these issues, the opportunity for us to handle this side and start to pro-actively address HR issues, mentoring issues, clarity in systems and dealing with people and issues has led to the system being more aware, strong and holistic.

Today we have a team that has hands-on experience and capable of sighting problems and issues. This has led to a certain degree of closeness with tightening of an open system – making it more rigid with strict controls by the administration, tracking of personnel and HR issues. All this needs constantly to be reviewed and revisited, because nobody or organization is stagnant. Though our values and ethics are the core foundation, we need to be aware not to be caught in a time warp. “Those were the days, or we used to deal with it like that then”. What do you do now is most relevant and important. Present is the crucial element.

Trust, confidence, openness, transparency, forthright are the basic tenets of a good organization. At Keystone with diverse social, culture and economic groups – this has several interpretations and nuances. It takes time for people to open up and communicate freely. It’s not that they don’t believe in these values and virtues, but the context coupled with several situations makes it sometimes more complex than simple.

But as we complete this year and realize that this is an important aspect of Organizational Development, we need to factor and groom good people to couple the work with the human aspects, so that each person gets good nourishment from this place and truly grows and progress. Then the elements which do not fit this ecosystem will fall off, like they have in the past several months. Homeostasis is the ability of the system to regain, calibrate – the body does it constantly, without medicines – the organization also, like the body is consciously doing it, sometimes with some medicines and sometimes through natural healing and special diet and exercises.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2014

| No. | Particulars | 2013-14 (INR '000) | 2012-13 (INR '000) |
|-----|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | LIABILITIES | | |
| | Capital Fund | 42,236.21 | 49,802.00 |
| | Endowment Funds | 18,128.95 | 17,770.00 |
| | Current Liabilities | 1,629.21 | 1,769.00 |
| | TOTAL | 61,994.36 | 69,341.00 |
| 2 | ASSETS | | |
| | Fixed Assets | 14,292.11 | 14,962.00 |
| | Investments | 988.05 | 1,216.00 |
| | Current Assets | 46,714.20 | 53,163.00 |
| | TOTAL | 61,994.36 | 69,341.00 |

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2014

| No. | Particulars | 2013-14 (INR '000) | 2012-13 (INR '000) |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | INCOME | | |
| | Donation | | |
| | - Foreign Institutional Donors | 37,610.10 | 41,013.00 |
| | - Indian Institutional Donors | 204.20 | 37.00 |
| | - Others | 1,138.60 | 1,404.00 |
| | Other Income | 1,879.29 | 2,270.00 |
| | TOTAL | 40,832.19 | 44,724.00 |
| 2 | EXPENDITURE | | |
| | Village Development Projects | 46,915.02 | 40,380.00 |
| | Other Expenses | | 1,653.00 |
| | Purchase of Fixed Assets | 911.11 | 802.00 |
| | TOTAL | 47,826.13 | 42,835.00 |
| 3 | SURPLUS FUNDS | -6,993.94 | 1,889.00 |

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2014

| No. | Particulars | 2013-14 (INR '000) | 2012-13 (INR '000) |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | RECEIPTS | | |
| | Opening Balance | | |
| | - Cash and Bank | 2,674 | 14,707 |
| | Donations | | |
| | - Foreign Institutional Donors | 37,610 | 41,013 |
| | - Indian Institutional Donors | 204 | 37 |
| | - Others | 1,139 | 1,404 |
| | Other Income | 1,879 | 2,270 |
| | Sale of Fixed Assets | 98 | |
| | Decrease in Investments | 228 | 77 |
| | Increase in Liabilities | -490 | -1 |
| | Decrease in Debtors | 703 | 265 |
| | Endowment Fund receipts | 698 | 2,122 |
| | Receipts from Current Assets | 836 | |
| | TOTAL | 45,579 | 61,894 |
| 2 | PAYMENTS | | |
| | Village Development Projects | 46,915 | 40,380 |
| | Other Expenses | | 289 |
| | Purchase of Fixed Assets | 911 | 802 |
| | Advances Paid | 1,717 | 763 |
| | Deposits Paid | -14,299 | 16,986 |
| | Creditors paid | | |
| | Endowment and Other Funds | | |
| | Closing Balance | | |
| | - Cash and Bank | 10,334 | 2,674 |
| | TOTAL | 45,579 | 61,894 |

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 | 3 | 14 |
| 10,000 to 25,000 | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| 25,000 to 50,000 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 50,000 to 1,00,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater than 1,00,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 25 | 10 | 35 |

2. PAYMENT MADE TO CONSULTANTS DURING 2013-14

| Total annual payments made to consultants (in INR) | Number of Consultants |
|--|-----------------------|
| Less than 5,000 | 0 |
| 5,000 to 10,000 | 0 |
| 10,000 to 25,000 | 0 |
| 25,000 to 50,000 | 0 |
| 50,000 to 1,00,000 | 9 |
| Greater than 1,00,000 | 7 |
| TOTAL | 16 |

3. STAFF REMUNERATION [GROSS SALARY+ BENEFITS]

| | Amount INR |
|--|------------|
| Head of Organisation (including Honararium)- 2 Persons | 529,644 |
| Highest paid full time regular staff | 529,644 |
| Lowest Paid full time regular staff | 82,668 |

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 | UAE | International year of Family Farming representing IFOAM | | Yes |
| | | | Sri Lanka | Presentation on PGS to WHH- Regional Asia Conference | | Yes |
| | | | Germany | IFOAM world board meeting | | Yes |
| | | | Japan | Biofach | | Yes |
| | | | Vietnam | Presentation on PGS to ADB sponsored conference | | Yes |
| 2 | Snehlata Nath | Director | Phillipines | NTFP- EP board meeting | 77 | Yes |
| 3 | T. Balachander | Programme Coordinator | UK | DRYAD Network Meeting | | Yes |
| 4 | Pratim Roy | Director | USA | Nilgiri Field Learning Centre project visit | 438 | Yes (partly) |
| | Somnath Sen | Managing Trustee | | | | |
| | Archana Sivaramakrishnan | Programme Coordinator | | | | |
| | Sarasasmeeta | Programme Coordinator | | | | |
| | Anita Varghese | Deputy Director | | | | |
| 5 | T.Samraj | Programme Coordinator | SriLanka | Future Earth Network Meeting | | Yes |

5. THE TOTAL COST OF NATIONAL TRAVEL BY BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF/ VOLUNTEERS ON BEHALF OF ORGANISATION FOR 2013-14 (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE LOCAL CONVEYANCE)

INR 4,49,184

6. PROFILE OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

| No | Name | Age | Sex | Location | Occupation | Position | Remuneration & reimbursement |
|----|-----------------|-----|--------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Somnath Sen | 50 | Male | New Delhi | Consultant | Managing Trustee | 0 |
| 2 | Suprava Patnaik | 53 | Female | New Delhi | Professor | Trustee | Rs. 24,747 |
| 3 | Shipra Gupta | 79 | Female | Puducherry | Educationist | Trustee | 0 |
| 4 | Rita Banerji | 45 | Female | New Delhi | Film Maker | Trustee | Rs. 162,643 |
| 5 | Meena Gupta | 66 | Female | Kolkatta | Retd.Secy to GOI | Trustee | 0 |
| 6 | Rev.PK Mulley | 67 | Male | Kotagiri | Presbyter | Trustee | 0 |
| 7 | Anju Sharma | 43 | Male | UK | Consultant | Trustee | 0 |
| 8 | John Kurien | 63 | Male | Tiruvananthapuram | | Consultant Trustee | 0 |

Team Profile, 2014



Mathew John

Times Now Amazing Indian, intrepid traveller, IFOAM World Board member Last Forest – First Love.



Snehlata Nath

Jamnalal Bajaj Awardee, vast knowledge yet local touch on issues concerning indigenous people & livelihoods.



Pratim Roy

Mentor, capacity builder, idea generator and chasing money and people.



Robert Leo

Quiet performer, hands-on, matured with experience of running NGOs.



Anita Varghese

PhD just returned, fresh from Hawaii, passionate about culture – ecology – Adivasi: triad shall be her road for the future.



T. Samraj

Questioning the unquestionable; engages in fair trade, PGS and trade mark issues; good observer and analytical.



Archana Sivaramakrishnan

Leading the Livelihoods & Environmental Governance Team; interested in forest governance and community processes. Deep hands-on with communities, yet comfortable with policy makers and donors.



T. Balachander

Water, Community Radio, Computers, Information and tracking systems – Bala is many aptitudes rolled into one. Seriously enjoys work.



Sumin George Thomas

Works behind the scenes; has a way with people; builds bridges and quietly understands processes. Loves the human wildlife conflict ecosystem.



Sarasasmeeta Pathy

Quiet and steady; performs at all costs; willing to stick out her neck and take blame; gets more brickbats than bouquets; heads admin.



N. Selvi

Culture & People leader; avid facebooker; understanding the delicate balance of taking everyone along.



H. R Eswaran

Accounts, tally, project finance reporting – he is behind the numbers. Ambitious and wants to progress; from the hills brings a local flavour.



P. Chandran

An urban Kurumba tribal – engages, conducts meetings, travels around and getting to know how things work. Resource person and member of the District level committee on the Forest Rights Act.



M. Chandran

Irula consultant; tribal from Keelcoupe village who now goes to Odisha and other states to teach beekeeping and honey processing.



K.R. Abhshek

Just arrived a few months ago; music, nature – man; combines with philosophy and motor cycle riding. Keen to see how the learning and unlearning goes.



Poornima Viswanthan

Entomologist and quiet researcher; tells us how moths live; interested in conservation – making it work on ground.



Aritra Bose

Excited about his new life and is an engaged communications person. Web sites, newsletters, photos, updates on facebook – he is imbibing all that comes his way.



Jayanthi

Our Radio Jockey from Radio Kotagiri – bringing the local voices to the public; talking about the social change that she wants to bring through this medium.



Aradu Kuttan

Toda adventurer; willing to take all to his village in Bikkepathimund; works on conservation issues and ecological monitoring with enthusiasm and interest.



R. Rajendran

A quiet Irula boy, who is maturing to become a local resource person. Has found a family and a new energy in Pillur, he is learning the ropes with this new environment.



M. Lalitha

A community organizer in her village in Sigur, works on value addition; with water user groups and is keen to develop the local value addition centre that makes excellent hand rolled masalas.



Justin Raj

One of the senior field personnel from Keystone; a beekeeper first and then a manager of Sigur Field Station. Justin is understanding local political issues and creating a space.



Mahadesh

Soliga Leader, thinking about the question of sustainability in forest based livelihoods. Keen conservationist and astute community mobilizer. Area manager in Punanjanur



N. Murugan

Works with farmers groups on issues of agriculture. Himself an enthusiastic farmer and ready entrepreneur.



C. Amsaveni

Scrupulous and ever responsive dispenser of cash.



K. Subramani

Alu Kuruma elder, has a ready stock of folklore and songs. Now edits the Niligiri Seemai Suddhi.



Gokul Halan

Young energetic, passionate about water and wetlands. He is eager to learn new mapping and GIS tools and is getting a good exposure.



Manju V Sharma

Pollination expert, field ecologist, learning to apply new skills and processes; good writer and documenter; organizes things behind the scenes, a good networker. Wants to broaden her knowledge of ecology to other fields, learning to appreciate and understand markets and other forces which impact ecosystem or have demands on ecological services.



G. Ramachandran

The man in Kerala with the easy grin, area manager and local resource person on tribal welfare and community based governance.



K. Sudhakar

The conservationist with a passion for pedagogy; area manager in Pillur.



L. Eswari

Young Alu Kuruma, on a sharp learning curve working with the community from within.



B. Sivaraj

Meticulous area manager in Aracode. Farmer and conservationist with a missionary zeal.



Shivanna

Shy Soliga village coordinator from Punanjanur; outspoken in matters of community development.



Vincent

Keeper of trees and plants and tea times.



Premraj Pantha

Also from Nepal like Hari, Prem loves the jungle and animals; he has a step like an ecologist or a hunter at night; fits well the security role keeping an eagle eye on movements.



Hari Bahadur

More than 10 years of service as security at Keystone; from night duty he has a day duty and assists in the office and campus. Hari brings a constant pleasantness and coolness to his work and surroundings.



A Manikandan

Mani has joined this year, though has been associated with Keystone since a longtime. Electrician, plumber and doing all odd jobs, he assists the Administration. Mani's interests are varied and takes a keen interest in several of Keystone's activities and affairs.



Kishore Kumar

Badaga boy from Kannerimukhu, smart and ambitious; was waiting at Nahar Wellness Spa; figured out that Keystone needs an Admin Asst. As we write this (18th Aug, 2014) he has resigned for a better option to Coimbatore; we wish him well.

Calendar

April 2013

- ♦ WGEP meeting in Kotagiri - Latha, Samir
- ♦ IFOAM World Board Meeting in Spain - Mathew
- ♦ Future Earth meeting in Colombo and Bangalore – Sam
- ♦ South Hubs meeting at Development Alternatives in Delhi - Sneh

May 2013

- ♦ PGS meeting in Bangkok - Mathew
- ♦ Keystone Participates in Vegetable Show in Kotagiri
- ♦ Pratim to Chennai

June 2013

- ♦ PGS training for farmers group in Ranchi - Leo
- ♦ Coonoor River Meeting at UPASI
- ♦ Toda Embroidery GI Meeting at HADP hall Ooty
- ♦ Pratim to Korea

July 2013

- ♦ Staff Meeting at Semmanarai- Celebrating 20 years of Keystone Foundation
- ♦ CEPF Meeting in Kotagiri
- ♦ Pratim to Delhi
- ♦ Presentation on PGS to WHH Asia participants in Srilanka - Mathew
- ♦ Meeting with State Planning Commission in Chennai - Pratim, Sneh, Leo, Archana and Sara

August 2013

- ♦ Meeting with French Institute in Pondicherry - Pratim
- ♦ Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration in Kotagiri
- ♦ PES Meeting
- ♦ Rain Forest Alliance Meeting in Bangalore - Sam

September 2013

- ♦ NFLC meeting in the United States of America – Pratim, Som, Anita, Archana, Sara
- ♦ Government Hospital Committee Meeting - Sara
- ♦ ICCOA Trade meeting in Trivandrum - Mathew

October 2013

- ♦ PGS training in Kumbakonam - Sam
- ♦ Fair Trade Forum Meeting in Delhi - Mathew
- ♦ Both Ends meeting in Netherlands – Mathew
- ♦ WB meeting in Germany - Mathew
- ♦ Training to Future Earth in Srilanka organised by Kudumbam – Justin
- ♦ NTFP EP Board Meeting in Philippines – Sneh
- ♦ Dabanda Village in Vishakapatnam to attend EA midterm review meeting – Sneh & Pratim

November 2013

- ♦ Bio Fach in Japan - Mathew
- ♦ Beekeeping Training in Arurur - Justin
- ♦ Clear Water workshop held in Mandarae, Kotagiri
- ♦ Workshop conducted by DRYAD in London - Bala
- ♦ Archana to meeting on Forest Rights claims in Pas convened by CFR-LA group in New Delhi

December 2013

- ♦ Barclays Training in Keystone
- ♦ Well being of Kotagiri - Meeting in Keystone
- ♦ BoT Meeting
- ♦ E waste Campaign in Coonoor
- ♦ Community Radio Meeting and Future Earth Meeting in Delhi - Selvi
- ♦ Meeting with the Kerala Forest Department
- ♦ Shola fellowship meeting in Kolkata – Sneh & Pratim

January 2014

- ♦ Well Being of Kotagiri Meeting
- ♦ Central India Eco System Alliance meeting in Raipur - Sneh
- ♦ NTFP EP National meeting and Community based Conservation Workshop in Bastar – Sneh
- ♦ Meeting for South Hubs Project with Development Alternatives in Delhi - Sneh
- ♦ Vikalp Sangam Meeting with Kalpvriksha in Pune - Sneh
- ♦ Pepe and Graciela visit Keystone on PES Project
- ♦ Wordpress workshop in Bangalore – Aritra

February 2014

- ♦ Traditional Knowledge Fair at Nehru Park, Kotagiri
- ♦ 20 years of Keystone celebrated on campus
- ♦ Chennai Meeting with the Environment Secretary and State Planning Commission
- ♦ Mathew and Samraj to Delhi
- ♦ Well being of Kotagiri Meeting at Keystone
- ♦ Bharath Krishnan visits Keystone for the Celebrations
- ♦ Partners meeting of SDTT as resource people for Community Based Conservation in Guwahati – Sneh & Anita
- ♦ NTFP EP meeting to introduce the network to other partners in the North East in Guwahati – Sneh (with Bikash)

March 2014

- ♦ KBA workshop
- ♦ ADB meeting on PGS in Vietnam - Mathew
- ♦ Meeting with the Governor of Chattisgarh on NTFP Market development in the state – Sneh, Mathew & Madhu
- ♦ Documenting Unheard Stories for NTFP India network in Odisha - Aritra



Celebrating 20 Years

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

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

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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](http://www.facebook.com/pages/keystone-foundation/187909314563257)
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- ♦ Visited, organized meetings and sat around the first villages – Semmanarai, Keelcoupe, Baviyoor to ask the elders and youngsters – how do they perceive Keystone after so many years? What has changed? Why has it changed? What could have been different?



- ♦ The World Indigenous Peoples' Day was celebrated in 6 different locations across the NBR, this year. The celebrations included a Tribal Advisory Committee meeting in each location in which community leaders brainstormed on area for future work. The important areas were support for agriculture, educational and health, support for tea cultivation, assistance in getting government schemes and the central purpose of cultural revival and recognition.



- ♦ We travelled by the mountain train from Ooty to Mettupalayam. That was fabulous. Because we had P Chandran, who gave us a visual, cadastral map explanation of cliffs, forests, landscapes, valleys. It was like travelling through a fly through – yet not through a computer, but in reality. Excerpts of our surveys, our first villages, the production centre sites. Train broke down just beyond Coonoor, our entire team gathered there to listen to the next plans and programmes with apt attention towards Sara. Other tourists travelling asking, who are you all? Where are you going and how come this energy?

- ♦ To commemorate 19th November, 1993 – the founding day, we were at Pondicherry where it all started. Sneha had just received the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation Award from the President – Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the trophy was in full display in the Central Hall of the Hotel. Dr. C. Gupta, Mrs. Shipra



Gupta, our advisor and trustee from the very beginning shared their happiness and excitement of 20 years. Almost everyone spoke – team members, well wishers, friends, relations – good going but miles to go before we sleep.



- ♦ From November 2013, the countdown and preparation was towards the February event. In the meantime, World Indigenous Day on August 9th, was celebrated in grand style, not only were there several tribal people from many ethnic groups, but Phrang Roy from the Indigenous Partnerships on Agro Biodiversity and Food Sovereignty shared his passion and solidarity on why it's important to keep the identity, fight for our space and retain our culture. If our language, culture goes – everything goes.



- ♦ The two days in February was planned in a good way. Rains blessed the dry season the second day, as if moved by the words, confessions and sharing of dreams and home truths. First day it started with Mathew, Sneha and me talking from our hearts, mind and soul. See link if you are interested to listen. We talked about the people who mattered, who helped, who connected, the importance of being relevant and the philosophy of Keystone – a nest that helps to build new initiatives, new trajectories, new learning and forays. Sundardevan, IAS (Retd), former Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, a native of the Nilgiris, spoke about the history, the dynamics of change and the importance of revisiting traditional systems of governance, sharing – both with natural resources and social systems. Prof. K. C Malhotra spoke about the importance of being indigenous, the history,



20 Years Celebration

Keystone Foundation

The stage was set for a huge get together and bash. The countdown for the 20 years celebration started way back in June 2013.



the movement from North to South in India, the languages, the sacred groves and threads that bind. How modernity gets shaped by the tribal folklore or the way of life.



Much to learn and de-learn.

- ♦ Guest speakers – Nicola from Bees for Development and Dinesh Mishra shared their rich experiences of bees, urbanization and the value of rivers flowing through our country side and landscapes. Both brought to this varied audience – special nuggets from their culture, from their disciplines.
- ♦ After these speeches and listening. Two interesting things happened. We divided into



several groups for a huddle to brainstorm number of important issues. Som along with the Trustees of Keystone Foundation (we had our Board meeting just before the big days), had an interesting and interactive session with the entire team. New people who had just joined to old seniors, fresh interns and researchers; anecdotal, insightful and a take home message as to how the new generation can take the organization forward.



Iconic Moments



Keelcoupe water project this established a trust with the Irulas, 1995.



Keystone 10 years celebration and brainstorm



Honey Hunters of the Blue Mountains - film by riverbank studios



Honey Hunting & Value addition of beeswax bees-wax was being wasted, now valuable.



In cintra - our first office



Amla deseeding in Hasanur



Semmanarai early times - thatched roofs, no electricity; shelter project, electricity and water supply



Land development project - revival of traditional agriculture.



Beekeeping



Women Beekeeper making basket hive



Keystone Campus Inaguration



The Hive at Cintra - the first steps to enterprise development



Rev Mulley at an Irulla Village



The first advisory board - picture of Chaman Lal Gupta



Radio Kotagiri Inauguration



The first advisory board - picture of Ramaswamy



Recces - the conservation groups long treks and transects



Rammed earth buildings - first time in the hills