



21st Annual Report

2014- 2015





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Foreword:

A Year through the Web of Life

The year has been a humbling experience. We have won new projects and brought in a new donor but got rejected in several of them – in spite of good alliances and partnerships. One of our oldest Irula staff, an avid beekeeper, committed suicide. Alcohol, domestic violence. City life has mainstreamed the tribal hinterlands. Not that you wanted to stonewall these impacts and influences – but one realizes the importance of these lifestyles and in the rich complexities are getting eroded by petty, common issues. It's another case where good, strong alliances don't seem to work at the end.

I have a theory: the need and importance of mainstream is urgent – because only islands of excellence become vulnerable ecosystems. Unless we know why things don't work, how things work, what are the perceptions, what is the politics that is changing – then our actions and thoughts become one – time. Mixtures, combination, cooperation, collaboration and partnership are here to stay. One can't be an individual too far or too long. Engage, exchange, learn, de-learn then its' fun and vibrant.

The year was a like kaleidoscope – one event, one trend did not stay for long. Things changed. fast. One had to keep up with it, if one wanted to. Or live with memories of people, processes and outcomes. Let me list out a random combination:

- Anita completed her PhD in record time at University of Hawaii on Traditional Indigenous Knowledge of resin tappers.
- The World Indigenous Day celebrations in Kotagiri gets into rough weather as communities fight over being mentioned as Indigenous. Though the Gaur festival and dancing by several communities was superb.
- The Nilgiris Field Learning Centre starts the first batch – Class of 2015 – 7 Cornell students and 6 Keystone students. The possibilities are immense. It's like opening a treasure trove.
- Mathew balances home and office front – navigates the IFOAM and LFE balance sheets.
- Bawa – donates 7 cents of land next door and signs a 5 year agreement for sale of his 82 cents of land – a new expansion plan for students, researchers, interns and courses
- Keystone School of Art & Integrated Design – a dream of Kavita & Pallav
- Sara and Leo keep working with lawyers, courts, officials on court cases and litigations.

Finally, looking back Keystone needs to re-invent itself in several ways. Projects like before are far and few. Private sector and enterprise mode of working is one of the approaches. Negotiating with Governments to mainstream their programmes and build creative partnerships is need of the hour.

Pratim Roy

14th April, 2014,
Keystone Foundation,
Kotagiri, The Nilgiris, India.



Conservation

The conservation programme addresses questions concerning ecology, human wildlife interactions, diversity of pollinators, economically valuable species, vulnerable habitats and species across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR). The approach involves applied research, restoration efforts, outreach and knowledge networks with communities, general public, administration, academia and voluntary agencies.

The focus during the last year was primarily on understanding human wildlife interactions in both rural and landscapes; pollinator diversity and deficit across agricultural landscapes and understanding forest usage by communities.



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 government tribal residential schools and at the field centres of Keystone Foundation. The education activities have been classified into school programs, village elder programs and others such as camps, center visits, and wallpaper making. The village elder programme is currently being carried out in 10 villages; there have been 67 sessions over the year. 26 sessions were done in 3 schools and 8 sessions at the field centres.

Biodiversity Research

a. Ecological monitoring with Village Naturalists

Community Based Ecological Monitoring or “Barefoot Ecology” is a project initiated, as the name suggests, to involve individuals from various indigenous communities in the NBR to monitor changes in their local environment, as well as keep a tab on the nature of forest use. We worked with indigenous naturalists from across 9 villages in the NBR (3 in the Sigur region, 3 in the Pillur region, each from Chamrajnagar and Bikkapathy mund).

The results were quite amazing to behold. Apart from documenting the forest use and the different regions from which these communities also extensively documented their local biodiversity in their local language. Meetings were also conducted to share our findings in all the villages after a year’s worth of data was collected and analysed.

b. Human Wildlife Conflict in the Western Ghats

Conflict between humans and wildlife is a pressing issue around the NBR. The conservation group has been working on studying and understanding human wildlife interactions, conflict in particular. Our study area has been the Western Ghats across the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The conservation group, in association with NNHS has been interacting with stakeholders across the study area, and has conducted stakeholder workshops in Theni and Wayanad so far. Forest Department officials, elected members of administrative bodies, farmers, and media personnel participated actively in these workshops and aired their concerns and perspectives towards the problems they faced during their interactions with wildlife.

Given the crucial role the media plays in informing and influencing public opinion about wildlife and instances

of conflict, we are also in the process of documenting and analysing the various reports that have been published concerning conflict between humans and wildlife, in regional and national dailies.

Stakeholder workshops for the Nilgiris, Palani Hills and other areas of interest are also being planned.

c. Human Gaur interactions in Kotagiri

Gaur are a common sight around Kotagiri. The increasing interactions between humans and gaur in this landscape provided us with a unique opportunity towards pre-empting conflict in this region. We identified 5 distinct herds, and closely observed 2 herds in this landscape.

While observing gaur, we also observed the different avenues of interactions between humans and gaur, in various settings. While most people were not perturbed by the presence of these animals around their area of domicile or work, there were instances where we had to explain, comfort and convince residents/workers, that no harm would come to them, as long as they did not go about provoking the Gaur. We also worked towards sensitising people towards the needs of Gaur, and provided guidelines for behaviour and preventive action to be adopted around them.

To increase awareness and promote the idea of co-existing with these majestic creatures, we also organised a 'Gaur Festival' or 'Doddu Habba', which provided a platform for artists, artisans, storytellers, musicians to share their perspectives about the gaur, as well as promote tolerance and consideration towards these animals. The programme was well attended by a diverse audience, ranging from school children and teachers to the general public, farmers, and representatives of the local law enforcement agency as well. The festival not only promoted awareness, but also facilitated a platform where issues concerning these animals could be discussed and ideas and thoughts shared.

d. Payment for Ecosystem Services

- A total of eight vegetable farms (categorized into near forest vs. away from forest) were surveyed for pollinators between October 2014 and March 2015. All the pollinators that were observed have been identified into morpho-species and the data set is being used

to develop a model that will predict the influence of forests on the diversity of pollinators that frequent agricultural farms.

- A coffee estate in Wayanad, Kerala has shown interest in the PES 'rent out' scheme for growing organic coffee in a small area of the estate.

- Sticky-trapping to identify pollinators of a few important NTFP species is to be completed during this flowering season.

e. Pollinator deficit study in Coffee growing landscapes of the NBR

The coffee floral data as well as pollinator observation data was collected from the ten designated sites during the flowering period (Feb-Apr 2014). The fruit harvest of the respective coffee fields were collected at each harvest during the entire harvest cycle (Oct'14 - Jan'15). The floral data sets were shared with colleagues working on this project. The harvest data (in terms of percentage of normal beans, pea berries and damaged beans) has been collated for each site and the final collation of the data as a whole is pending completion. A poster on the pollinators observed on coffee flowers has also been designed.

f. Apollo Tyres Foundation

The Apollo Tyres Foundation, the corporate social responsibility entity of Apollo Tyres Limited, Gurgaon has engaged Keystone to design and conduct a biodiversity assessment study of their plant in Chennai and a buffer of 5km² around their plant. The objectives of the study are to prepare a status report of the biodiversity in the region; to identify species of concern; assessing the impact of the company on the biodiversity and to prepare a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan. The conservation group has currently completed one season of assessments in the core and buffer zone.

f. Tamil Nadu Forest Department

The conservation group completed an assignment for the Nilgiris North Division during the current year. The assignment was under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity & Greening Project of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. It involved assessing the effectiveness of wildlife proof barricades in the division; monitoring of human wildlife conflicts in the division and to train the forest

department on human wildlife conflicts. The training was conducted in May 2014 in Ooty with assistance from the Nature Conservation Foundation team from Valparai.

Workshops, events visits and meetings

- Poornima attended the National Workshop on Concepts and Practices in Ecology of Plant-Animal Interactions, Central University of Kerala, Nilleshwar, Kerala. May 20-27, 2014.
- Sumin attended an International Workshop on Resource Mobilisation organised by The Resource Alliance at New Delhi, 19-22 August 2014
- Abhishek attended the Students Conference on Conservation Science at Bengaluru, September 2014.
- Abhishek attended a workshop on Mitigating Human Elephant Conflict around Dandeli Anshi Tiger Reserve – 23 September 2014
- Abhishek attended a Symposium on Human Wildlife Conflict, Central University of Kerala, Kanhagad- 15 October 2014
- Poornima attended the India Biodiversity Portal Community Meet, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Kerala. Dec 12-13, 2014
- Poornima attended the 3rd Indian Biodiversity Congress 2014, SRM University, Chennai, December 17-20, 2014.
- The conservation group organised a Workshop on Community Based Ecological Monitoring, Coimbatore, 31 January 2015. The workshop was hosted by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department- Coimbatore Circle
- Aradukuttan, Poornima, Shiny visited Vikasa in Vishakapattanam, March 24-27th 2015
- Shiny & Aradukutan attended a Workshop on removal of Alien species at Crain Hill March 11th, 2015

Nursery

The nursery programme focused its efforts on the cen-

tralized nursery at the Keystone campus. The nursery is meant to cater to the local demands from estates, schools for forest species. Nurseries with smaller capacity have been maintained at the Nilambur and Punanjanur field centres. Over the year around 4032 saplings of 60 species were raised in the three nurs-



eries. 472 Saplings has been given to individual land holders, estates and CSI engineering college at Ketti. The sales of saplings hit a low owing to the erratic monsoon. At present the nurseries have a stock of 4275 saplings of 53 species.

Publications

- ♦ Field Guide - Pillur: It is the third in the series of field guides enumerating the forest plants in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve. The field guide has documented 363 species from the south eastern part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, has a wide variation of flora ranging from the dry deciduous, riparian forest and grassland.
- ♦ Field Guide – Dhimbam : It is the fourth in the series of field guides. The book has documented 294 species from the north eastern part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve has a wide variation of flora ranging from the dry deciduous, riparian forest and grassland.
- ♦ Wild food - Punanjanur: The work has documented some important wild foods consumed by the indigenous people in the region. About 65 species have been documented. Editing is under process.
- ♦ Gaur Information Kit: An information kit on the Gaur has been put together for information dissemination to schools and the general public. The information in the kit is based on the work done on human gaur interactions in the town of Kotagiri.



Livelihoods & Environmental Governance

This year, the programme has been extensively working towards building institutions in order to make them self sustaining and independent. To achieve the goal, the programme started developing village level saving groups, separating them from the area level farmer's groups that existed earlier. By creating the village level groups, we aim to bring a financial security to each individual and build the capacity of the group in order to work towards the development of their own villages.

Keeping the institution strengthening in mind, the programme has been continuously making efforts to execute all its agendas through the group structure.

Group Strengthening

The main aim of the programme is to strengthen groups in order to build capacity in the villages and progressively make them independent. In the past year we have worked with 37 village savings groups, 13 groups registered under the Participatory Guarantee Systems, 2 Vana Samrakshna Sammiti and 43 Joint forest committees. Through these various groups, the programme has been trying to implement its manifold agendas into the working villages: made pendent decision making within the groups and to build capacities for documentation and accounting.

Village Savings Group

In an attempt to strengthen institutions at village level, the programme has built 35 village level saving groups across all the working areas in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. During the year, the programme has facilitated the formation of 37 village saving groups in 35 villages with a capacity of 738 members and a saving of nearly 3, 00,000 Rs in total

Support to Agriculture

The continuous effort to encourage indigenous farmers to revive their fallow land still persists within the programme and in the last one year, we have been successful enough to motivate and support 137 families across 24 villages covering a total of 120 acres. The support included the distribution of seeds, lending of loans for ploughing and seed procurement, giving training and distribution of bio- inputs, distribution of polythene sheets. We have also facilitated and distributed 40 kgs of coffee seeds to 44 farmers covering an area of 66 acres. We are expecting to have 800 saplings per one acre of land.



Promoting Traditional Food

Keystone has been celebrating the traditional food festival every year on the 10th December, as part of the world wide Terra Madre Day celebration. This year the concept of having a competition, in each working area emerged in order to promote traditional dishes that are being forgotten slowly.

- In Aracode area, 30 people attended while there were 4 contestants for the competition.

- In Hasanur area, 50 attended the festival and four agriculture groups contested.
- In Sigur area, 50 people came for the festival whereas around 8 different groups from 8 villages contested.



Exposure Visit

During the year, 4 exposure visits were organised in order to give farmers inputs on organic and traditional agriculture.

- 47 farmers from Pillur with Keystone staff visited 2 villages in Hasanur to look at millet agricultural fields.
- 19 farmers from Sigur with Keystone staff visited 2 villages in Hasanur to look at millet agricultural fields.
- 35 farmers from Nilambur visited Vazhachal to get an exposure of CFR form under the FRA.
- 30 farmers for Nilambur visited Waynad and Kannur to visit organic farmers.



Kitchen Garden

We expanded our initiative to promote kitchen gardens in our working areas and have achieved to give

12 varieties of seeds to 332 families across 8 working areas. Most of them have been harvested and used at household level. This ensures that there is some nutrition on the plates of the families we work with.

Bee Keeping

In the past one year, we have worked with 62 beekeepers across 30 villages in 8 various working areas. These 62 beekeepers have a total of 115 bee boxes.

PGS

The past year, the programme organised a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) workshop in order to bring an understanding of the concept of organic agriculture and the benefits of being certified by PGS which was held in the Keystone campus. There were around 50 members present in the workshop and all hailed from various farmers groups across our working areas in The Nilgiris and were told about their traditional methods of agriculture, how it had a positive impact on their health and how in the present scenario, due to chemicals and pesticides, the overall health is depleting. They were also intimated about the growing awareness and demand of organic products in the market and if they cultivate organically and become certified by PGS how they are likely to get better prices for their produce.

Value Addition

Capacity building on value addition of agricultural and forest produce is an important livelihood strategy that we promote.

a. Punajanur

With the help of the Micro grant, the project aimed at expanding its scope to the nearby village by providing them with the support for forest governance and a market linkage to their value added products. After years of struggle, the Sampige production centre was successful to launch a shop showcasing their produce and it is running successfully till date.

b. Sigur

The Sigur Value Addition Centre has witnessed a dip in the profit of Rs 17351/- until December 2014. The work there has been stalled due to some issue with

the members of production centre wanting to keep the centre in their villages where as the team had proposed to have a common production centre consisting of 7 different village in the area in order to give a livelihood option to more families. The discussion regarding the issues is still ongoing and we are hoping to have a positive outcome as soon as possible.

Support to Adhimalai Pazhankudi-yinar Producer Company

As The company decided to give out equity shares as the present production centres, which were initially Keystone led, are major contributors to the company's profits. The programme assisted the company in collecting the members list in order to facilitate the distribution of shares. While collecting the membership list, we emphasized on getting the women's name included so that the individual share even in a joint ownership is recognised.

Working with Government

a. TBGP-EDS

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation by improving ecosystem and the management capacity as well as undertaking tree planting outside the recorded forest areas, thereby contributing to environmental conservation and harmonized socio-economic development for Tamil Nadu.

The project entails four major components of Biodiversity Conservation: Increasing the Natural Resource



Base, Support Activities and Consulting Services. The Biodiversity Conservation component in turn adopts four strategies of Habitat Restoration, Enhancement and Management, Resource Protection, Mitigation of Human-Wildlife conflict and Ecologically Sustainable Development. The fourth strategy of Ecologically Sustainable Development includes the component of community based ecotourism.

With the collaboration from the forest department, we have helped the project with the collection of 418 household details from 8 villages for the micro plan in the past one year.

b. TNREGS

The programme has been successful in facilitating a land development project under the Tamil Nadu Rural Employment Guarantee scheme. This ongoing project is covering 19.4 acres amongst 20 families who will cultivate millets. Through this scheme we are looking forward to reach out to many other families in various



villages.

c. NHM

We have also facilitated the distribution of pepper saplings from the National Horticulture Mission to 15 farmers situated across 7 villages in the Aracode area. We expect to cover around 15 acres of land and we have distributed 400 saplings per acre of land.

c. PVTG

Under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal groups fund scheme, our programme has managed to leverage fund toward the Alu Kurumbas. Under this project the

programme has managed to leverage funds for:

- Building houses in the village of Banagudi
- Buying cattle for 25 families from 5 villages worth Rs 30,000 per household.

The programme has also managed to facilitate:

- New applications for grants for building homes for 20 families in 5 villages (have been given to the S.O)
- The village of Baviyur has been sanctioned the grant of tiller (which is yet to be received)

Gender & HR

In the last year, this programme had a new project called Gender and Human Rights which focused on the Alu Kurumba which are categorised as the particularly vulnerable tribal group with a total population of 1800. Being a marginalised population they, especially women are deprived of many basic rights that they deserve. In an attempt to support them to claim their rights the Gender and Human Right Project started work in 43 villages which were formed into 18 different clusters. The project entailed workshops and training module of issues such as gender equality, human rights, women's health, women's role in governance to name a few. The aim of the project is also to create a women's agency and a resource centre. We have been fortunate enough witness one such instance of women's agency from the village of Banagudi where for years the people tried pursuing the local government to repair the age old pipeline that ran through their village, but a group of 15 women managed to get it done within a week by just going to the local Panchayat and demanding for their basic rights. We have managed to complete the baseline study and have also had some trainings and workshops.



Culture & People

Culture & People group endeavours to revive and restore indigenous culture, knowledge and help the communities bridge the development gaps with active participation in sharing of traditional knowledge and educating the younger generations about the unique lifestyle that aligns with nature. It uses approaches like the community newsletter, community radio, documentation of culture and traditions and imparting knowledge to younger generations.

Nilgiri Seemai Suddhi

Nilgiri Seemai Suddhi completed its 9th year in May 2015. The community newsletter covers birth, marriage, festivals, ceremonies, traditional stories, riddles, death and crop damage by wild animals, articles about culturally important trees, places, plants, government schemes, NGOs' activities etc. The newspaper also covers rates for farm products and non-timber forest produces. The community newsletter has become very popular with the young generation because of the traditional stories. Due to the lack of financial support we have made a decision of publishing the newsletter

once every three months. Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi had 30 reporters which have now been reduced to 8 reporters and 1000 copies of the newsletter are printed and distributed to the people. We are thinking of continuing with the community newsletter for one more year and then planning on moving on to other media.



Some examples of the impact of Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi –

- a) The newsletter had published current millet prices during the harvest season. During purchase, when the outside middlemen buyers offered a lower price of the millet, the farmers asked for a fair price and received market prices for their produce.
- b) A teacher was not coming to work every day in the village. Our female reporter covered and published this in the newsletter. The teacher complained and claimed to have been on duty every day but the villagers protested and told the teacher that this was not true and that they have given the news to the reporter. After the incident, the teacher is coming every day to work in the village.

Radio Kotagiri – 90.4 Mhz.

Radio Kotagiri completed its 2nd year in February 2014. We are broadcasting 7 hours a day from 10AM to 5PM with three and half hours original content which is then repeated in the afternoon. The community radio covers many voices with mixed languages in different topics. Reporters from Nilgiris Seemai Sudhi have shared content in their local languages and made dramas for the community radio. The community radio team has increased and also undertakes some projects for Radio Kotagiri. Radio reporters have met many different peo-

ple and covered various stories in various topics. The Radio has increased its listenership this year.

The community radio received a project from the Ministry of Panchayat Raj and recorded and broadcasted a programme to spread awareness and share information about the ministry and its activities. During the project, Radio Kotagiri interviewed Panchayat presidents, ward members and executive officers in village and town panchayats, as well as voices from the public. We made a drama about Panchayat roles and responsibilities with the help of the reporters.

We also got a project from Reach – Axshya to spread awareness about Tuberculosis (TB). The programme was recorded and broadcasted this year. During the



project, we met doctors, counsellors, patients, the public, as well as organized awareness for our reporters.

We have taken a listenership survey from the field and many have mentioned that the radio signal is weak. Others replied that timings should be changed to early morning and evening and that the programs need popular movie songs and new innovative topics.

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 engineer-

ing, 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. Widows' children and orphans get priority over others as also orphans

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Keystone celebrated Indigenous people's day on 9th August 2014 in Selma Hall, Kotagiri. More than 600 People from Kotagiri, Coonoor, Sigur, Asanur, Pillur, Punanajanur and Nilambur, Attapadi region participated in the function. The celebration was inaugurated by the Project Director of Hill Area Development and Plan, which supported the event with Rs. 1 lakh. We felt that after many years Indigenous People's Day is now recognised by the government and celebrated in different districts and states. At the celebration we served traditional food and different communities showcased their traditional songs and dance. Communities came from different areas and regions to understand and



learn new things from each other

Indigenous Calendar

Keystone brought out an Indigenous Calendar for 2015. This year we selected water as the theme and there were Indigenous stories of rivers and streams. The stories came from the Kurumba, Irula, Kota, Toda, Kattunaicken and Paniya communities in different areas and the stories were written in different languages like Tamil, Malayalam and English. We have printed

5000 copies and distributed to all the regions.

Documentation

Keystone has begun working on mental health issues within local communities in the region to better understand the psychological stress factors that are increasingly impacting upon their lives. Our aim is to provide counselling assistance in order to help people obtain biomedical treatment, when necessary. Moreover, we are providing material assistance for the revival of traditional medicine. Parts of these efforts also involve organizing cultural festivals, sponsoring mental health awareness talks, and staging dramas in the villages. As of now, counselling has begun in two villages with discussions of having them every month between community members and community-based counsellors. Many participants in these conversations felt that sense of community togetherness has now diminished, and that influence of the outsiders in the village is causing disunity. The rise of these issues seem to suggest increased community stress factors, which are impacting mental health and wellbeing within the villages. We are trying to identify the core issues and their interrelationships with economic, cultural, and social changes in the region. Ultimately, our aim is to see how communities and individuals can learn to cope with these changes by strengthening local cultural and social practices, including traditional medicine, as well as providing resources for outside assistance, when necessary.

In this project, we are also helping to train younger generation in the practice of traditional medicine. As practice of traditional medicine is almost fading, and biomedical care is scarce, the transmission



of traditional medicine requires some financial and institutional support. This project is led by Mahalingam from Dhalamukkai, a senior Alu Kurumba healer. From Pambarai and Dhalamukkai villages we, under Mahalingam's guidance, have selected three people who have practiced some traditional medicine before. In February 2015, a three day training session was organized and the plan is to have a training session once every three months so that the students have time to practice what they learn before the next phase of training.

In addition, we have started monthly skype sessions with "Earth Arts" students from Ithaca, New York (USA) about life in the Nilgiris. Each session has a different theme explained by Janaki, a community leader and traditional healer. The first session was in January with an introduction by Selvi on Vellaricombai village, medicinal plants and their usages. Nine different people attended from Earth Arts students. The sessions went well and are appreciated by Earth Arts students. This practice also strengthens and supports our aims of

preserving and transmitting traditional medicine to a new generation of local practitioners.

Health support

We have supported people in need of medical emergency treatment. This year we supported 14 males and 20 females in different age groups starting from 5 upto 70. The 5 to 18 years age group have been supported for epilepsy, stomach ache and tonsils surgery. The 30 to 45 year age group have been supported for gangrene, heart attack, heart problem, stroke, fractures and tuberculosis. The 45 to 70 years age group have been supported for heart surgery, stroke, eye surgery, accidents and funeral expenses. Through this fund we have covered some of the funeral expenses for those who have died in the Coimbatore government hospital while undergoing treatment. The total amount for emergency health support for the year comes to Rs.3,73,286





Information & Communication

The Training and Information programme area was re-conceptualised 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.

Water

Over the last two decades, Keystone has worked on a number of projects that have intervened to improve access to water for communities, increase the knowledge base on water resources in the Nilgiris and provide inputs to advocacy for conservation of hill wetlands and other water resources. During the year, the water related work focused on two aspects – developing a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) model for water resource management and conservation of springs and groundwater management.

Under the PES project, we collected data on the current set up of water

sources and delivery systems, surveyed households in the Coonoor town, tested water samples and set up an automated rain gauge at Ralliah Dam. We were unable to set up a flume to measure the summer inflow into the Ralliah Dam due to site specific issues. We mapped the catchments of the main water sources that the Municipality depends on, in order to study their land use pattern. This would lead to a PES mechanism involving villages in the catchment area and the Municipality. Students from Cornell University supported this effort by reviewing international experiences in PES on water and recommending alternatives for the Coonoor context.

In the catchment area around the Coonoor town, many of the habitations are dependent on springs for their water supply. Over time with the expansion of habitations, there is ever increasing dependence on open wells to supply water. There are issues of water quality in well water due to contamination from waste flows as well as the nature of soil. The project initiated during the year with support from Arghyam, Bengaluru and ACWADAM, Pune seeks to promote better groundwater management in the region in partnership with Panchayats. The project covers five Gram Panchayats in Coonoor Taluk of the Nilgiris district. This work is also supported by a network of NGO partners working

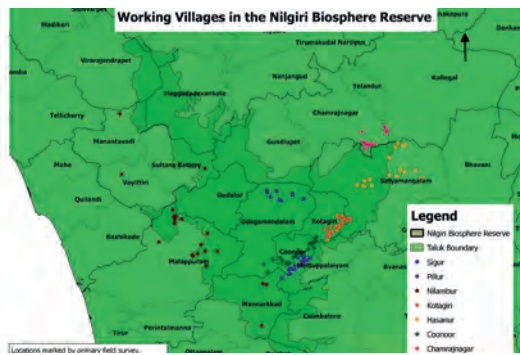


on spring conservation across the country. We have also conducted an inventory of springs in all work areas of Keystone and have identified nearly 100 springs so far.

Information Technology

We provided support to other programme areas in mapping their work, including Land use mapping for Livelihoods group and Human Wildlife Conflict mapping for Conservation group. We also developed a map layer with point locations of all the habitations that we work in. This is expected to facilitate visualisation of the coverage of our work on various aspects as well as to map any themes of interest across our work area.

We worked with the team at Gram Vaani to test their Community Radio automation software, GRINS. This Free and Open Source Software, would ease the work of the Radio Kotagiri team in running their Radio Station. We also partnered with Tech Blue, an Information Technology Company, who volunteered their time to help us set up a Linux based File Server to replace our ageing Windows Server. We found a volunteer to help us visualise the data from the census of Indigenous



people to better help in our interventions.

We conducted an in house refresher training on the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) for all staff. We also conducted a training programme for staff from the Palani Hills Conservation Council (PHCC) on the basics of GIS and GPS at our campus.

Being a member of the consortium of the India Biodiversity Portal (IBP), we attended their annual meeting.

We got an opportunity to participate in discussions on key issues related to the portal and to interact with active users of the portal from all walks of life. We also conducted a Neighbourhood Trees Campaign in the Nilgiris as a part of an effort by the IBP.

Communications

Website

During the year, the Radio Kotagiri website was designed and launched. The Radio Kotagiri website was created to give the community radio a bigger platform to broadcast the programs. Support was also given to redesign the Last Forest website and web-sales have been enabled, the Nilgiri Natural History Society website along with PGS-India website have been redesigned to give it a fresh look and upgrade the back end. We are also involved in managing the websites of NTFP India Network. To better manage the layout/theme of our websites, we have started to design our own websites instead of buying themes online; the Radio Kotagiri and the PGS-India websites have been completely designed and developed in-house. 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, NNHS and Aadhimalai Pazhaguniyar Producer Company to report and document events that took place through the year including photo documentation. Wasundhara Joshi & Sankar Subramaniam, Change Works - an Organisation Development Consultants firm from Mumbai conducted an Appreciative Inquiry process in August to celebrate the past and discover the essence of what gives life and growth to Keystone Foundation; a detailed report was compiled for the new Tree Fall Gap/Organizational Structure. Photography and designing support was also extended to Last Forest Enterprises Pvt. Ltd., to document their product range, enable web based sales and come up with a new set of labels for their products.

We have also been closely involved with designing posters for different programmes and networks. We have designed a poster talking about the uses of Eecham for the Collector's office in Ooty, a poster for



the Payment for the Ecosystem project, certificates for Traditional Food Festival and the Nilgiris Field Learning Centre, PGS manual for farmers, 2015 Indigenous calendar and locations for Gender and HR project in India. The Last Forest staff ID cards were designed and extended design support for NNHS and Aadhimalai activities was given. We also launched the monthly Keystone and a bimonthly Last Forest newsletters which

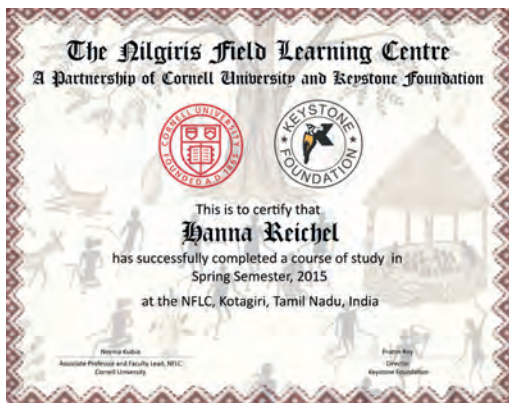
have received a good response from many readers.

Networks Communications

In November 2014, Aritra was part of the BIOFACH exhibition in Kochi and was representing the PGS-India and IFOAM Asia booth. A complete report of the exhibition along with photographs was submitted to the PGS-Organic-India council (PGSOC). There was also a PGSOC meeting in Kotagiri which was documented.

Aritra also visited Kodaikanal to work on setting up a communication plan for the NTFP India network with the help of Madhu Ramnath, coordinator NTFP India. During the visit, we also documented different plant species at the Adukkam nursery, and worked on creating a NTFP Mandala, an infographics which talks about NTFP India and its activities.

There was also an organic certification workshop conducted by the PGSOC for the NTFP India network. A detailed report and photo documentation was done.



Pay for the Ecosystem

This honey is collected from the Sathyamgiri Forests by Adivasi people from the area. The honey is harvested seasonally from high cliffs and trees in the forested region. This honey is from the **Giant Rock Bee** (Apis dorsata) which plays an important role in the forest ecosystem. Bees pollinate many species of these tropical forests, thus enabling the cycles of nature. Many other plant and animal species thrive in these forests. Many springs and streams emerge from these areas – enabling the survival of all life forms. Recently, some of these areas were declared a Tiger Reserve.

If you buy this honey, you will support the symbiotic relationship that exists between man and nature.

The amount will be used to support the following activities:

1. Planting more tree species that increase raw habitats and soiliness
2. Promoting agri-beekeeping with communities in the region to increase honey production for the increasing market demand
3. Conducting training and knowledge exchange for the younger generation of adivasi to enable traditional values and sustainable harvesting methods.
4. Undertake ecological monitoring in these forests with lastforest ecologists.

Eecham Curtains

Eecham (Phosnia sp.) is a plant found in the wild, growing in the dry deciduous forests in the Nilgiris. It is extensively found in the southern slopes of the Western Ghats mountains and also found in the Sathyamgiri Forests and Pillar Forests of Coimbatore. The fruits are eaten and used by many wild animals and birds.

These people in this region collect the leaves of Eecham. The common use of Eecham leaves in South India, is to make Eecham (Shimam). These are traditionally made by many forest dwelling communities. It is now collected in large quantities and is sold for export markets.

Keystone Foundation has initiated value addition of these leaves with other communities. They now make them to make Eecham and use it as a lamp. Making has been converted to women's groups, where women have been set up to make these Eecham products.

The production of this and other value added products is managed by Sathyamgiri Participatory Producer Company - formed for supporting and value adding their produce.

ഈച്ചം (Phosnia sp.) എന്ന പച്ച മരം കാണപ്പെടുന്നത് വരണ്ട മേഖലകളിലാണ്. ഇത് വടക്കും തെക്കും ഇന്ത്യയിൽ കാണപ്പെടുന്നു. ഇത് വരണ്ട മേഖലകളിലാണ് കാണപ്പെടുന്നത്. ഈ പച്ച മരം കേരളത്തിൽ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു. ഇത് പരമ്പരാഗതമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു. ഇത് പരമ്പരാഗതമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു. ഇത് പരമ്പരാഗതമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു. ഇത് പരമ്പരാഗതമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു.



Appropriate Technology

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 in the country 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

We have been trying out basic skill development amongst women from Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producers Company who are engaged with value addition of farm and forest produce. Also, training on pre and post harvesting processing, cultivation operations, effective packaging for the market and bee colony multiplication skills are taught and practiced amongst tribal youth. The technical team is also engaged with an

institutional tie-up for effective learning and implementation for community development.

Apiculture Promotion

1. 50 tribal farmers were trained on bee colony multiplication skills in Konavakarai, Sigur and Pillur regions. These farmers have been releasing one swarm from their stock to enhance natural bee population.
2. A group of youth were trained in beekeeping skills in Kerkaiyur.
3. Apiaries were established exclusively for colony multiplication in Semanari and Vazhithottam.
4. 32 indigenous tribal farmers were trained and 100 bee hives and four honey extractors were issued to promote pollination services under the National Horticulture Mission scheme. *Apis cerana* colonies were organised through dividing, capturing and transferring from village apiaries.



Organic Agriculture Promotion

Three days training and installation of compost units (Prefabricated-HDPE vermin-compost bin) in Arakode and Kilcoupe.

Skill Development

1. Women in Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company were effectively trained in processing grains, pulses and cereals. The training was focussed on the grain texture, moisture level, grain size & importance of grading, centrifugal/pressure flows, pulverising, and retaining nutritional properties of millets like little millet, fox tail millet and finger millet.
2. Women members of the production units were trained on effective and hygienic drying of fruits and nuts with solar driers
3. Three Irula tribal youth were trained in designing and fabrication of solar tunnel drier.



Institutional collaboration

1. Central Institute for Agriculture Engineering (CIAE Regional Centre, Coimbatore. Through this collaboration, a community millet processing and demonstration centre was successfully inaugurated in Asanur Production centre. Prior to this, a team of scientists visited, interacted and valued the existing practices of pre & postharvest of grains in millet cultivation in Asanur region. The CIAE team then designed and commissioned the unit which includes de-stoners, sifter, polisher,

polybag sealer, gunny bag sealer, pulveriser and a CIAE millet de-husker under National Tribal Sub plan. We acknowledge the team especially head scientist Dr. Jackob Annamalai, Dr. Dawn Amburose, Dr. Ravi Naik and Dr. Balasubramani, members of the Bhopal unit and technicians who helped us in all the operations.



Networking for conservation of Bees in Eastern & Western Ghats

The technical team has been working with Living Farms, an NGO in Odisha in conserving *Apis dorsata* population in sustainable honey harvesting. The Tholia Khond and Dongarya Khond (Indigenous communities from Odisha) in their earlier practices, would burn the *Apis Dorsata* colonies to collect honey.

The team has been working with Kalpavriksh, an NGO in Pune in conserving the natural populations of *Apis cerana*. The team is working with members from Kholi community through assessing and promoting appropriate honey collection in Bheemasankar Wild Life Sanctuary.

2. CSI Engineering College, Ketti. A batch of mechanical engineering students visited and saw the processing operation of soap making in Pudukad unit. After interactions with the women members of the production centre, they have been working on designing a mechanical device to enhance mixing and pressing of the soaps.



Pattarai

The construction of the workshop is close to completion.

The project is supported through the Shri Jamnalal Bajaj award towards technology intervention. This workshop is built and designed to train carpentry, metal fabrication, assembling renewable energy kits, irrigation, fencing and appropriate building technologies.





Research

Action research is an integral part of Keystone's work and has helped us improve our approach and methods of work along the way. We have also engaged with the practical application of science and implemented systematic inquiries whether it be in the field of Non timber forest products (NTFP) or ecology of wild bees or sustainable agriculture. Today the research group in Keystone is poised to carve out a space for itself within the organisation.

But what is the need for a research program within an NGO one may ask? The opportunity to start a research program within an NGO is a way to get researchers closer to reality and to allow for questions to rise from the ground, answers to which, will have a bearing on the people and environment. The program has to be a process of evolution – not one that can be forced.

The program has to be a process of evolution – not one that can be forced. To garner funding, locally relevant questions will have to be balanced with questions of relevance on a broader scale. In the case of NTFP which has formed an important part of our research agenda to date, this is generally not too hard as different classes of NTFPs have so little research globally, and research examples in one area can shed light on NTFPs in general.

Some guidelines for research within Keystone from Dr. Patricia

Shanley

- Allow questions to evolve from Keystone's research and work on the ground
- Catalyze local input to questions – listen to different segments of communities (women, children, elderly).
- Document creative methods to involve women and voices that are often unheard
- Bridge scales by considering how these local issues tie into regional and global questions
- Bust myths - feel free to bust/amend/comment on them using real life examples
- Explore ways to celebrate and affirm local customs traditions and to pass knowledge across generations - this is an underutilized way towards deep seated, culturally embraced conservation.
- Explore new ground where research never treads

Since September 2014, the research program has started essentially by focussing on the community based ecological monitoring program or Barefoot Ecology, as it is commonly referred to. The project funded by CEPF through a small grant was completed on 31st January. The team of barefoot ecologists completed a 12 months of primary information collection about the quality of forests around their village and also processed data to produce result charts and tables. These results were then taken to various villages and discussed with the people. Finally, Forest Department staff from Coimbatore, Sathyamangalam, Erode and Nilgiris under the leadership of the Conservator of Forests, hosted a one day workshop on Barefoot Ecology.

At the workshop, we were able to share the methods and results of our work. This was an interesting session where 56 forest officials were able to hear and interact with the barefoot ecologists directly. The workshop had a high impact and was well appreciated by the department. They have requested Keystone to share the methods with their staff and to train them to undertake this activity.

As a follow up action point, Keystone Foundation has been asked to offer a field ecology course to the field staff of the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve. The modules have been worked out and will be implemented over April, May and June. We have also been asked to start the Barefoot Ecology work in forest villages of Sathyamangalam. All discussions about this have been completed and the work will begin from May.

Work in progress:

- Discussions have been undertaken with other research organisations on collaborative research at a national level to assess the quality of forest patches under different human use regimes.
- Collaborations are also being developed to develop a repository of oral histories of people and nature of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- Concept notes are being prepared to start a field ecology course which will be open to students at post graduate level and implemented in the NBR
- Building stronger links through networks of the IUCN and SSC of the IUCN

The Research group is evolving and is gathering momentum within Keystone. Much needs to be sorted out on what should it do and who should be part of the team and what will it achieve. At this point there are four starting points which are outlined above and each of them will be strengthened. This will be the launching board to the how, where, why and what of the research program.



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

The NTFP Exchange Programme is a regional network of NGOs working on themes associated with indigenous people and NTFPs. Over the year, the regional network brought out 'Unheard Stories' of the people and their sojourn with forests. The countries of Cambodia and Vietnam built their programme further with partners. The network was represented at ASEAN for taking

the 'Voices of the People' in the policy arena. Several training events were held with partners and participants from the region. The strategy meeting was held in Vietnam and was represented by all countries – these helped in building new aims for the future and consolidate work of the past.

In India, the network has several core members across the country, who conducted their specific work with communities on honey, sal, gums, resins, bamboo shoots, etc. Mahua Banks were maintained and several enterprise initiatives with tamarind and amla initiated. Lac was emphasised in Odisha and Bastar providing income to cultivators. The issue of Minimum Support Price was addressed in the states of Odisha, AP and Chattisgarh. For tenure assurance, more emphasis was on Forest Rights Act submission of claims and discussing issues concerning Community Forest Rights. The latter needed more emphasis and working out models for community management. The network also learnt from the CFR work done in Mendha Lekha, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. Two workshops, with themes concerning Community based Conservation and Participatory Guarantee Systems for Wild Products was held for network members in Bastar and Kotagiri, respectively.

Ecosystem Alliance

The Alliance Programme spread across India is in its last year now. Through 2014-15 the seven main large programmes across regions and themes were continued to be supported. The Western Ghats alliance built on its work on Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), trained youth and helped to launch a producer company of adivasis in the Nilgiris with Keystone. The Eastern Ghats alliance held a workshop to emphasise the importance of the eco-cultural region. In Odisha, the alliance worked on conservation of forests and FRA. Central Indian alliance partners emphasised the issues of PESA, FRA and traditional knowledge. Thematic work on building Environment Resource Centres in Central India and Western Ghats was undertaken by LIFE, whereas environment education, research and eco-restoration were done by Nature Conservation Foundation. Eco-development models in the Gondia Protected Area zone was the theme for Wildlife Trust of India. Several small grants in these regions also supported the larger work by innovative and important

initiatives.

Gender and Human Rights Alliance

This alliance works with 4 national partners and 9 field partners across the Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats and Central India. Addressing the Right for Food, Water and Safe Environment, especially to women within vulnerable populations – this programme has several dimensions. Most partners address issues concerning FRA concerning land rights, which in turn will ensure Right to Food and Water. Several cases of ensuring functioning of PDS, noon meal schemes and ensuring drinking water supply have been taken up locally. In the difficult zones of Panna, Cuddapah, Bellary and Sarguja – special efforts will be taken to address violations of human rights due to issues concerning displacement, pollution of water bodies and lack of access to land resources. Field partners across the region in Andhra and at Keystone emphasised growing food through promoting sustainable and traditional agriculture.



Organic

Being part of the IFOAM World Board meant that Mathew had his share of World Board meetings – in place of the normal two, in fact there were three of them – Bonn, Istanbul (during the Organic World Congress) and then at the Biofach in Neurenberg, Germany.

The Bonn meeting also had a visit to the Botanical Garden of the University of Bonn. That was followed by a great dinner with the IOAS team as well as the IFOAM staff. It was also the last meeting of the present WB – the great news is that Mathew was re-elected to the

World Board for a second term, in Istanbul. The Organic World Congress had a unique flavour being held in Turkey – the walks, the sea cruises and bus rides across the Asian and European continents had most participants excited and thrilled. The most exciting and most anticipated event was the bid for hosting the next Organic World Congress with all the BRIC countries putting up bids. India walked away a handsome winner. It is a challenging task but OFAI brings its experience and wide network to the table and we hope to have a great event in 2017, with farmers holding centre stage.

Sam was elected to the INFO Capacity Building Programme – he was able to attend two training programmes, in Bangalore and Istanbul. An excellent opportunity to network, learn and share his experiences.

The FAO organized International Symposium on Agroecology for Food and Nutrition Security in Rome, in September 2014, an important step by the FAO in bringing together experiences from different parts of the world as well as promoting dialogue between such groups. Mathew was able to present Keystone's experiences in



using agroecological methods on a day to day basis at the community level.

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 offered a study abroad programme

where Cornell students were engaged in experiential learning with local community members and Keystone team members.

Participatory Guarantee Systems Organic Council

International: At the international front, the PGS movement continues to grow with so many groups around the world adapting the examples. It is encouraging that these things are happening with absolutely no support from anyone. Groups are reading and hearing about different efforts and they are making their own decisions. The IFOAM team regularly brings out updates through



its newsletter and the online database has been a great support to many (<http://goo.gl/gVJUR>).

National: At the national level, there was a project from Welthunger Hilfe (WHH) which supported quite a few activities – training programmes, participation in exhibitions, printing of newsletters, promotional materials, etc. This provided a much needed boost for the activities as many new groups could become part of the PGS Organic Council. Mathew is stepping back from the Council, as a Treasurer and Samraj will be nominated as a representative from Keystone. As a team, the PGSOC was very visible at the Biofach in Kochi where it shared space along with IFOAM & IFOAM Asia. It was an opportunity to explain to many interested people.

In May 2014, Sam and Mathew attended a programme organized by TEDE Trust to give the share certificates to their Local Groups. It was exciting to welcome a whole new bunch of groups who are primarily paddy growers. Many of these farmers have been farming organically

for many years and the PGS label gives them an opportunity to put their product out into the market with an organic label.

The PGS Organic Council AGM took place in Kotagiri in Aug 2014. It is always an exciting time for all members to come together and benefit from the intense discussions. The future possibilities are immense. Fair Trade Alliance Kerala and TEDE Trust were welcomed as new members

Fair Trade

In early June, 2014, there was a follow up workshop with many retail managers from different Fair Trade India branded shops. This was held in Bangalore and was very well moderated by Mr. Vijay Rego – there were presentations by Stanley & Archana (from Via Media)



and a visit to the Ants store. Frango and Revathi participated in the workshop. It was an opportunity to meet many of the other retail shop managers to exchange notes and understand where are many of the challenges – many issues are not unique but are common to many other retail spaces. Also, it helped to connect with potential partners in the fair trade network.

During the National Convention & AGM in Sept 2014, Revathi & Frango could join Mathew to be part of the meeting. B. Narayanswamy, who is a well known figure in the world of advertising and branding, gave an opening presentation on Branding & Market Access where he challenged the gathering to start looking at markets with 'new eyes' to access 'new markets'. Revathi was one of the panel speakers in one of the sessions as to how Last Forest has grown over the last few years.



Slow Food

Terra Madre in Turin, always a place to be – the energy which flows through the event is immense and this time, Leo, Sam & Selvi were representatives from this end. It was an honour for Selvi to be one of the few to speak at the opening ceremony about her experiences as an indigenous community person.



Climate Change: Enhanced Local Access to Climate Finance Architecture

Project duration: Sept 1st 2014 to 31st March 2015

Funded by BOTH Ends, Amsterdam

Partners: Oxford Climate Policy, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), Keystone Foundation

This project is successful on several counts. Firstly that

it builds from the work done in the past on Local Enhanced Access as a case study for India, especially how does this work for communities on the ground. From the generic case study and first advocacy, this project was tailored to strategically address Enhance Access in India, to look at cross cutting institutions – Government, academia and banks like NABARD. The project started with a Delhi workshop – with CANSA hosting it and technical expertise by OCP and communities’ perspective and stake represented by Keystone. Apart from the Delhi workshop, the project team met and interacted with several key players in this field – who gave us a hearing and shared their practical perspectives on how to negotiate and create this framework.

The achievements have been to be able to meet senior people from the Government – Secretary, Panchayati Raj; Director – General of National Institute of Rural Development; Former Secretary of Ministry Rural Development, Govt of India & Secretary of the National Advisory Council; Chief General Manager – Farm Sector Development of NABARD, Independent Consultant of Social Audit & Transparency, Govt of Andhra Pradesh & Govt of Telengana, Institute of Social & Economic Change and the National Institute of Public Finance & Policy.

With each of these resource persons / organizations, our climate finance architecture for local enhanced access was discussed and tweaked to take into account their suggestions, what will work and what has not, earlier. Stakeholders seemed interested and felt the relevance of this climate finance architecture, which is decentralized and assures local enhanced access. Existing bottle necks, approaches that have been tried and tested but failed or have not reached the local stakeholders were discussed and analyzed at length.

The Devolution Report is a significant step forward to address skewed investments and lack of decentralized climate finance approach. As Local, enhanced and direct access issues will bring forth the local issues of ecosystems and biodiversity. If the policy is implemented and a framework designed for a seamless flow of funds at the local level, at the smallest ecosystem and communities of marginalized people, then the project would have a positive change. This is a first step towards that process.

<https://jusharma.wordpress.com/2015/04/11/consolidation-for-devolution-balancing-top-down-and-bottom-up-elements-of-climate-finance-governance-in-india/>

Administration & Finance



Sara and Eswar who manage our Administration & Finance are now Programme Coordinators, now elevated from Additional Coordinators. Both together bring close to 20 years of experience at Keystone Foundation.

This year the focus has been to get a proper Staff Policy and Standing Order in place. We are almost there. The usual running around for a number of situations – such as the Nilgiri Field Learning Centre students FRO registration at Ooty or the boarding, lodging and safety issues.

In Finance, Eswar has been successful in bringing in John Mathew, CA from Ooty to be our internal auditor. He has NGO / Trust / FCRA experience and is a good sounding board for Eswar.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2015

No.	Particulars	2014-15 (INR '000)	2013-14 (INR '000)
1	LIABILITIES		
	Capital Fund	40,265.85	42,236.21
	Endowment Funds	18,851.37	18,128.95
	Current Liabilities	2,120.95	1,629.21
	TOTAL	61,238.17	61,994.36
2	ASSETS		
	Fixed Assets	20,219.86	14,292.11
	Investments	1,431.65	988.05
	Current Assets	39,586.65	46,714.20
	TOTAL	61,238.17	61,994.36

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2015

No.	Particulars	2014-15 (INR '000)	2013-14 (INR '000)
1	INCOME		
	Donation		
	- Foreign Institutional Donors	41,543.61	37,610.00
	- Indian Institutional Donors	2,806.44	204.20
	- Others	826.67	1,138.60
	Other Income	1,781.38	1,879.29
	TOTAL	46,958.10	40,832.19
2	EXPENDITURE		
	Village Development Projects	47,531.60	46,915.02
	Depreciation	1,396.86	1,482.58
	TOTAL	48,928.46	48,397.60
3	SURPLUS FUNDS	-1,970.36	-7,565.42

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2014

No.	Particulars	2014-15 (INR '000)	2013-14 (INR '000)
1	RECEIPTS		
	Opening Balance		
	- Cash and Bank	10,334	2,674
	Donations		
	- Foreign Institutional Donors	41,544	37,610
	- Indian Institutional Donors	2,806	204
	- Others	827	1,139
	Other Income	1,781	1,879
	Sale of Fixed Assets	110	98
	Advance Received	6,502	- 1,717
	Increase in Liabilities		- 490
	Received from Debtors	1,348	703
	Endowment Fund receipts	661	698
	Receipts from Current Assets	104	836
	TOTAL	67,016	43,634
2	PAYMENTS		
	Village Development Projects	47,532	46,915
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	7,435	911
	Deposits Paid	3,070	- 14,299
	Investments Added	444	- 228
	Liabilities Paid	527	
	Closing Balance		
	- Cash and Bank	8,009	10,335
	TOTAL	67,016	43,634

INFORMATION BASED ON NORMS OF CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE

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	6	1	7
10,000 to 25,000	9	5	14
25,000 to 50,000	7	5	12
50,000 to 1,00,000	0	0	0
Greater than 1,00,000	0	0	0
TOTAL	22	11	33

2. PAYMENT MADE TO CONSULTANTS DURING 2013-14

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	3
25,000 to 50,000	3
50,000 to 1,00,000	5
Greater than 1,00,000	8
TOTAL	20

3. STAFF REMUNERATION [GROSS SALARY+ BENEFITS]

	Amount INR
Head of Organisation (including Honararium)- 2 Persons	5,34,552
Highest paid full time regular staff	5,34,552
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	Japan Germany	Biofach IFOAM world board meeting		Yes Yes
2	Snehlata Nath	Director	Phillipines Vietnam	NTPP- EP board meeting Strategy Meeting - NTPP	14 59	Yes Partly
3	Pratim Roy	Director	Nepal	Meeting with Community based Adaptation	9	Yes
4	Anita Varghese	Deputy Director	Germany	Visiting Partner Organisation	6	Yes
5	Archana Sivaramakrishnan	Programme Coordinator	Sweden	Meeting with Donor - Swallows	11	Yes
6	T. Samraj	Programme Coordinator	Nepal	Meeting on Participatory Guarantee Systems	42	No
7	N. Selvi	Add. Coordinator	Indonesia	Network Meeting		Yes
8	Robert Leo T. Samraj	Deputy Director Programme Coordinator	Bangladesh	Meeting on Participatory Guarantee Systems	58	No
9	Robert Leo T. Samraj N. Selvi	Deputy Director Programme Coordinator Add. Coordinator	Italy	Slow Food Meeting	10	Yes
10	Mathew John T. Samraj	Director Programme Coordinator	Turkey	IFOAM - 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 9,54,880

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, 2015



Mathew John
IFOAM World Body – intrepid
traveller



Snehlata Nath
Building Keystone Foundation



Pratim Roy
Nilgiri Field Learning Centre



Robert Leo
Courts & Workshops



Anita Varghese
Hawaii PhD



T. Samraj
Birds of passage



**Archana
Sivaramakrishnan**
Research on Livelihoods



T. Balachander
Computers & Springs



Sumin George Thomas
Marriage & Birds



Sarasasmeeta Pathy
Handling situations



Shiny Rehel
Botany my love



H. R Eswaran
Keep the change



P. Chandran
Building bridges



Sharanya Das
Learning the ropes



K.R. Abhshek
Human Wildlife



Poornima Viswanthan
Insects are everything



Aritra Bose
Meeting deadlines



Selvi
Swedish Summer



Aradu Kuttan
Toda adventurer!



R. Rajendran
Pillur resource



M. Lalitha
Voices of Women



Justin Raj
Old is Gold



Jayanthi
Radio Jockey



C. Amsaveni

Scrupulous and ever responsive dispenser of cash.



K. Subramani

Writer & Poet



Gokul Halan

Save Water!



Manju V Sharma

California and back



G. Ramachandran

Nilambur Boy



Sivanna

Punajanur Conservationist



L. Eswari

Learning..



B. Sivaraj

Holding Banglapadi Fort



A Manikandan

Electricity



Hari Bahadur

Day care



Premraj Pantha

Night alert

Calendar

April 2014

- ♦ Mathew to Bonn- IFOAM WB Meeting.
- ♦ Neema from Cornell University Visits Keystone.
- ♦ Sam and Leo to Madurai- PGS Training.
- ♦ Sneh to Hyderabad.
- ♦ Leo to Odisha-Living farms.
- ♦ Neighbourhood Trees Campaign.
- ♦ Nimesh Visits Keystone
- ♦ Pratim to Kathmandu -Climate change Meeting.
- ♦ Archana to Sweden-Swallows Meeting.

May 2014

- ♦ Vegetable show Kotagiri.
- ♦ Sneh to kodaikanal.
- ♦ Himanshu and kaustabh from ACWADAM Visit Keystone.
- ♦ Business Visitor visit Keystone.
- ♦ Jeen de Beer Visits Keystone.
- ♦ M.Chandran to Odisha.
- ♦ Exposure trip of kerala Forest Department Visit Keystone.
- ♦ Seed Training for Villagers by Shiny at Keystone.

June 2014

- ♦ Sumin and Abishek to Trivandrum- Meeting with Forest Department.
- ♦ IRFOSS Group Visit Keystone.
- ♦ Vishnu and Priya from IIHS Visit Keystone.
- ♦ Archan to Kolunji farm-KUDUMBAM Trichy.
- ♦ Bala to Panchgani, Maharashtra.
- ♦ leo and Sam to Dindukul.
- ♦ Mathew to Bangalore- Fair Trade Meeting.
- ♦ Gokul to Pune -Hyderology Training.
- ♦ Sam ,Selvi and Jayanthi to Tirpur.
- ♦ Brice from Pondicherry Visit Keystone.

- ♦ PGS Workshop in Keystone.
- ♦ Archana and Sumin to Trivandum.
- ♦ Sam to Trivandrum.
- ♦ Sneh to Vizag.
- ♦ Selvi to Erode Community Radio Training.
- ♦ Archana to Vizag.
- ♦ Sumin to Chennai.

July 2014

- ♦ Aritra to Delhi-2014 Summit on Social Media and Online giving.
- ♦ Pratim to Delhi-CRS Meeting.
- ♦ Mathew to Delhi-Fair Trade Forum Meeting.
- ♦ Dr. Inde and Mahadevan from FRLHT Visit Keystone.
- ♦ Sam to Delhi.
- ♦ Pratim to Mumbai- Organisational Development Workshop.
- ♦ Sam to Bangalore-IFAD INOFO Capacity Building Program.

August 2014

- ♦ Sam to Delhi- Future Earth Regional Coordinators Group Meeting.
- ♦ Leo and Revathi to Udaipur.
- ♦ Sharanya and P. Chandran to Vizag - Gender and Human Rights Workshop.
- ♦ Sneh to Sirisi- Meeting with Pandu.

September 2014

- ♦ Gokul to Bangalore-Praxis Workshop.
- ♦ Mathew to Pondicherry- Fair trade AGM and National Conference.
- ♦ Swallows Interns Henrick and Ida Visit Keystone for Six months.
- ♦ Sam and Leo to Bangladesh.

- ♦ Mathew to Italy- FOA meeting
- ♦ Archana to Phillipines-Learning visits on ICCA's Tenural Security.
- ♦ Selvi and Sam- future Earth Meeting.
- ♦ Sneh To Nagpur.

October 2014

- ♦ Nils from Future Earth visits Keystone.
- ♦ Sam to Istanbul.
- ♦ Mathew to Istanbul IFOAM meeting.
- ♦ Gokul to Bangalore.
- ♦ Pratim to Delhi-TARAGram yatra 2014.
- ♦ Sneh to Phillipines.
- ♦ Sam, Leo, Selvi to Italy-Slow Food Meeting.
- ♦ Pratim to Mumbai, Delhi,Bangalore and Hyderabad- Climate Fund Meeting.

November 2014

- ♦ Mathew, Sam, Aritra, Frango to Cochin BioFach Meeting.
- ♦ Anita to Germany.
- ♦ Aritra to Kodaikanal-NTFP work.
- ♦ Sumin to Chennai -Apollo tyres Meeting.
- ♦ Leo to Pune- Seminar on Social Innovation for Intensive Development Program.
- ♦ Sam to Nepal- PGS Meeting.
- ♦ Archana and Murugan to Jabalpur UD Meeting.
- ♦ Sam to Delhi -PGS Meeting.
- ♦ Mathew to Japan- BioFACH Meeting.
- ♦ Sam to Kannur.
- ♦ SWALLOWS partners meeting at Keystone.
- ♦ Eswar and Gokul to Hyderabad ARGYAM Meeting.

December 2014

- ♦ Ramachandran to Delhi.
- ♦ Selvi to Jakarta -Food Festival.

- ♦ Abilash and Jayanthi to Hyderabad-Community Radio Meeting.

January 2015

- ♦ Bala and Gokul to Vizag for Spring Meeting.
- ♦ Leo to Hasnur- Solar Dryer Training.
- ♦ Sam and Leo to Madurai-TNVP PGS Training.
- ♦ Sneh to Jhansi.
- ♦ Leo to Pune-Bee Keepers Meeting.
- ♦ Sam to Delhi -Climate Change Meeting.
- ♦ Sneh to Veitnam-NTFP Meeting.
- ♦ Leo to Pondicherry.

February 2015

- ♦ Mathew to Germany.
- ♦ Sam to Kubakonam- PGS FC Vetting.
- ♦ IFOAM WB Meeting.
- ♦ Pratim to Delhi.
- ♦ Sam to Banglore WFTO Meeting.

March 2015

- ♦ Anita to Delhi.
- ♦ Sneh to Vizag-Rich Forest Meeting.
- ♦ Sneh To Bangalore.
- ♦ Shiny,Poornima and Ardakuttan to Vizag.
- ♦ Bala to Bangalore.
- ♦ Sneh to Panna for Field Visit.
- ♦ Keystone team visits Vikasa for Ecological Monitoring Training.
- ♦ Pratim to Guwahati- WildLife Trust Of India.

