



Annual Report 2009





FOREWORD

Since the end of 2008, the new organizational structure of 4 groups – Livelihoods, Conservation, Culture & People & Organic Market Development along with the 3 cross-cutting thematic groups of Training & Information, Environmental Governance and Administration & Finance have been working together and individually like ants who travel up and down bringing in food, locating new sites and gaining more ground, intense, networked and steady in their endeavours.

Projects like the Darwin Initiative ended with an International Workshop on Biodiversity & Livelihoods in Feb 2009. In every field and group several significant milestones have been achieved ranging from Forest Rights Act implementation with tribal communities to setting up pollinator nests for enhanced pollination opportunities. Also in this canvass of eco-development initiatives have been barefoot ecologists, bee museum activities, taking school children to know about ecology and forests to a strategic training and information group which connects, synthesizes and in the future advises with the right inputs to decision makers. Organic market development has seen a growth even during lean periods – so much so that we are going to spin it out as a separate entity.

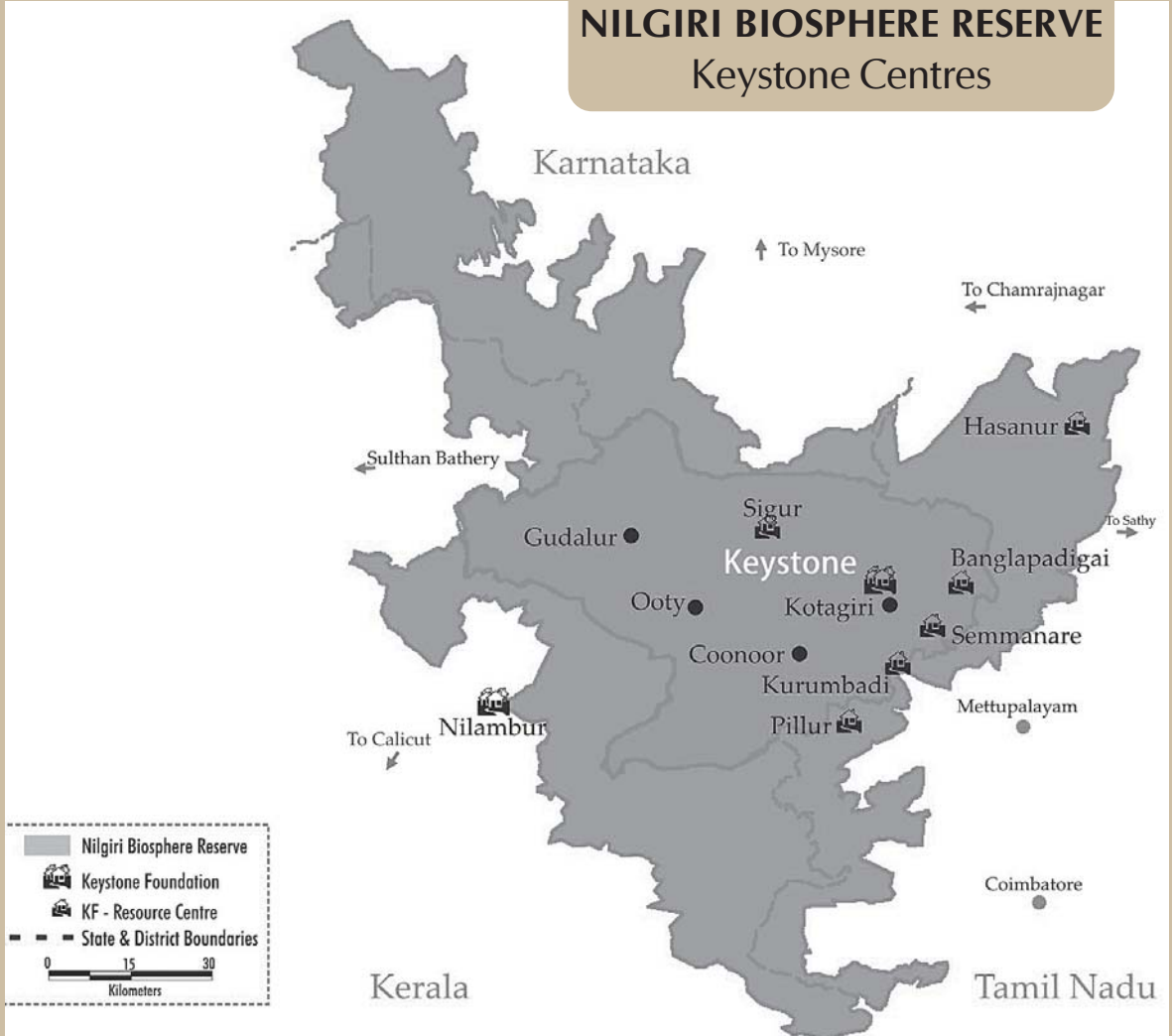
What was the learning?

- Non Timber Forest Produce Collection accounts for 30 % of their livelihoods basket.
- Elders in the community feel empowered to be guides for the young generation to teach them about forest ecosystems.
- Participatory Guarantee Systems promoting organic agriculture is accepted by the community.
- Time, process and dynamics on organizational issues to make the 7 groups work in harmony require effort and patience.
- Reflection and going back to the origins of the need to start Keystone has revealed several insights and way forward – combining local and global processes.

Pratim Roy

December 2009

NILGIRI BIOSPHERE RESERVE Keystone Centres





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CONSERVATION

NEW AGE CONSERVATION - BAREFOOT ECOLOGY

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

ACTIVITIES

Conservation Education

The program reaches out at various levels to communities in the NBR. The levels of interactions are through:

- Bee Museum
- Program in local schools
- Program at Village Conservation centres
- Village elders lead children
- Village Forest Councils
- Network meetings

The Bee Museum in Ooty aims to impart nature education to school students and citizens from all walks of life through displays and innovative workshops. The main activities in the Bee Museum include a guided visit, interaction with subject experts, presentations, films, Kurumba painting, Toda embroidery and bamboo crafts.

The Bee Museum apart from being a place to visit, serves as a hub for outreach. Every month two events are organized for which students, faculty members of schools/colleges/ other NGO's and the general public are invited. One is an activity based learning and the latter mostly a presentation/slide show by experts and amateurs who have worked in the Nilgiris. This year 9 such special talks were organised which were attended by approximately 200 people.

This activity has happened since July, 2009. Once a month a visit for adivasi children is organised and this year, 5 such programs have taken place and a total of 82 children have visited the museum. Three schools came as part of their exposure visits bringing approximately 200 children. Besides all this there were a total number of 2,700 paid visitors to the bee museum. The graph below also shows that the peak season for visitors has been February and May. The peak in February was because of a group booking. The Bee Museum has been lucky to find a full time person to manage and co-ordinate the events, Pushpinder Khajuria who joined Keystone as a volunteer is now a full time environment educator at the Bee Museum.

Three village schools in which adivasi children are studying have been part of our program, which aims at children from 5th to 9th standard. A group of 25-30 children are part of the group and meet twice in a month. The group is progressing with a plan to develop a document/ poster/booklet on the community's view on forest/conservation/ biodiversity/culture/ and geography of their area. A documentary film, posters on conservation, conservation oriented group discussions, games that evoke conservation values, paintings, skits and stories are a part of the programme. Mavanallah Tribal School in Sigur, Indira Gandhi Memorial Residential School in Nilambur, Kerala; and Geddesal

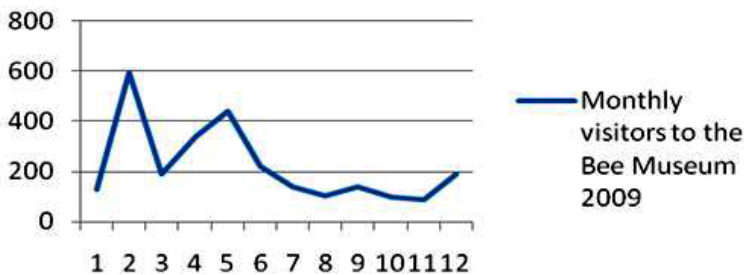


Government Tribal Residential School in Sathyamangalam are the three target schools. In 2009, a total of 26 programs were conducted and approximately 600 children have taken part.

Conservation village centres have been started up on the issue of endangered species like cycads. These centres have information pertaining to the area and on other biodiversity issues and serve as a place to conduct programs. Monthly programs are conducted in these centres for the school children. 9 such programs were organized and a total of 223 children were part of it in 2009.

During the school vacations, resident camps are organised at the Keystone campus in Kotagiri, which are topped off with a visit to the Bee Museum at

Monthly visitors to the Bee Museum 2009





Ooty. The team organizes talks, movies, games and music for the children. 40 children from all over the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve came to the winter camp.

Village elders who are traditional healers, honey hunters, NTFP collectors, and farmers from different regions are supported to take the children of the village into the forests and explain about the local biodiversity. This is done on a weekend and is one of the most interesting conservation education activities for children and elders in the village as the community elders are respected and a new generation is informed about their traditional knowledge and experience of their older generation. A total of 10 elders are part of this program- Kaliappa & Chetty from Pillur belonging to the Irula community; PunerKuttan, P.T.Kher, Kodikal Kuttan and Sunderpoo from Bikkapathymund, Kotagiri belonging to the Toda community; Veeraiah & A.K.Bhojan of Sigur belonging to the Irula community; Chenanjamma of Pulanjur belonging to the Soliga community and Vellia Raman of Nilambur belonging to the Kattunaika community. 286 children are part of this program.

Village forest councils are addressed through groups of non timber forest produce harvesters Benefits of sustainable harvesting are discussed in these forums.

Documentation and monitoring of the NTFP status are the thumb rules for this education program. A total of 5 programs have been conducted and approximately 50 people have been part of the program.

A net work of conservation educators was created in 2008; ATREE took the initiative to start this group. The first meeting of the group was in December, 2008. Main functions of Conservation Education group are to link up for ideas, resources, sharing and help. The members of the group are working in various parts of India. ATREE, Bangalore; Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore; Kalpavriksh, Pune; Zoo Outreach, Coimbatore; SACON, Coimbatore; Samrakshan, Mizoram and Mysore Amateur Naturalists, Mysore etc. are few examples of the member organizations. Keystone is also part of this group.

Biodiveristy Research

Bee nest surveys

The previous year saw the completion of the bee nest surveys in wet and dry forests on the eastern slopes of the Nilgiris. The 2009 surveys happened in the shola grassland type of forests of the upper

Nilgiris. 200 plots of 10X10m were surveyed in two forest areas. *Apis cerana* was the only honey bee species that was observed.

Pollination

Pollination studies were started off at the end of 2008 and continued into 2009 on *Sapindus sp.* also known as *puchakai* in Tamil and *ritha* in Hindi. The data collection was completed by March. Coffee and wild mango were the other two species that pollination studies were to be carried out on. Data collection in mango was completed by late April but coffee went on till January, 2010.

Man Animal Conflict Studies

This is a new area of research for Keystone. In the past, issues regarding conflict in agricultural zones was handled by providing fencing material and support for guarding against crop raiding. Inputs and guidance from Nature Conservation Foundation(NCF), Mysore has been a crucial part of this work. With guidance from the team, a very detailed perception survey across 60 villages in the NBR was conducted. This survey extended to all communities and has at a preliminary analysis level brought out some interesting dimensions to how people perceive conflict. The survey has now gone into a more detailed evaluation survey in 20 villages. Along with these evaluation surveys which are at a household level, people have been identified in the

villages to monitor the conflict on a daily basis. These people prepare an FIR based on first hand observations they make at the site when conflict happens. Dr. M. Madhusudhan of NCF, Mysore has been guiding through the process along with intensive training and analysis from Nisha Owen (PhD student at Leeds also associated with NCF). The Keystone team made a visit to Bandipur to see the intervention that NCF had made in the area to intervene in conflict.

Soil and Water Tests

The team was also involved in conducting soil and water tests at all the five resource centres. The report has been compiled and results need to be further analysed.

Studies on Wild Foods

The study was undertaken in Pillur, Dhimbham and Sigur. Inputs from Salome Yesudasan helped in a big way and the team benefited much from interactions with her.

Monitoring of *Phyllanthus indofisher* (amla)

The experiments that were undertaken on *Phyllanthus indofisher* (amla) trees in Dhimbham area are being monitored regularly with the active participation of community members. A preliminary analysis has been done and the report has been prepared.





Community Based Habitat Monitoring

The 22 volunteers from 11 villages across the NBR have been regular with their work and have also met together for three sessions in 2009. The meeting in January was a refresher and discussions were held on the methods of monitoring. In July, the whole group went out to Nilambur and were part of the first field course for Barefoot Ecologists. In December, the group met to have a feedback session and also to bring the monitoring program to an end. The session was very insightful and it was heartening to see how the team had so quickly imbibed the meaning of the process.

Student Interns

Lisa Mandle - doing her PhD in Botany is associated with Keystone and is working on Phoenix plants and



monitoring their growth and impact of fire and grazing on them. Lisa was here from May to September.

Pradheeps Muthulingam - In the summer, Keystone had an intern from the School of Ecology, Pondicherry University. Pradheeps M., undertook a study on medicinal plants of the Sigur and Dhimbham areas. A list of more than 100 plants exclusively used for medicinal purposes by the Irula and Kurumba people has been prepared. Pradheeps has come back to complete his Master dissertation on the same topic and is currently focusing on the Sigur area.

Trainings and field courses

Field Course for Barefoot Ecologists

A three day field course was organized in Nilambur for the field monitoring team. A number of group exercises were planned with the intent of understanding how indigenous people perceive the changes to the environment. Small projects were also designed and have worked in smaller teams to implement the projects. Presentations were made by the teams on their findings. This course was held so that short modules could be shared with more groups around the region.

Sustainable Harvests of NTFP

Keystone undertook a series of 5 trainings in Kerala. These were called for by the Forest Department and

covered the entire state. At these trainings the newly published Harvest Protocol (Malayalam edition) was distributed. The trainees were mainly Forest Guards and Presidents of the local Village Forest Councils. Besides these trainings regular trainings on sustainable harvests are happening from the centre in Nilambur.

Laboratory

The main activities carried out in this year are plant identification, herbarium mounting, soil and water tests, insect identification and preparation of an insect display board.

- Plant identification is the main activity in the lab. A total of 150 plant species have been identified pertains to the pictorial flora of Pillur, Hasanur areas and wild food study, of which 90 specimens were mounted in the herbarium sheets after poisoning.
- A series of water and soil tests have been carried out with the help of Forest college students in Pillur, Bangalapadigai and Hasanur areas.
- The results of water and soil tests were displayed in the Biodiversity Festival, conducted by Keystone in October, 2009.

- An insect display board was prepared after the identification of all bees, which were collected during the last year and it was displayed in the Bee Museum, Ooty.

Nursery

Keystone raises nurseries to conserve forests, raise awareness about diversity of forest species and increase the diversity of plants on homesteads. For the nurseries, seeds are collected from easily available sources and saplings are raised. We have taken up planting in schools, temple lands and nearby forest areas in the villages in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. There has been active participation and interest from the villages. The Forest Department also understands the work and has granted permission to plant forest species in degraded parts of the forest and in sacred groves belonging to the community.

As a result of this, 16,853 saplings have been planted in Sigur including Mavanallha school, Bokkapuram school, Chokanalli temple, Aanaikal temple. Planting has also been undertaken in other areas like Sathyamangalam and Kotagiri. The survival of the planted species is being monitored. More than 45 varieties have been planted by us. Keystone has a total of 10 nurseries and will be adding one more

Nursery location	No. of plants in nursery	No. of species	No. of new species added in 2009	No. of plants raised	No. planted
Sigur	13,056	38	6	1,520	957
Bangalapadigai	-	-	-	-	927
Kotagiri campus	2,666	14	10	2,265	2,560
Bhaviyur – Sacred Grove	3,349	9	6	2,520	2,320
Bikkapathy mund	550	2	2	440	0
Hasanur	4,348	24	3	3,010	116
Galidhimbam	13,475	16	15	10,430	6,468
Ettarai	8,736	16	6	2,693	2,011
Pulanjanur	6,004	14	14	6,004	600
Nilambur	365	1	-	-	-
Kotada-Sacred Grove	-	-	5	-	520
Banagudishola-Sacred Grove	-	-	5	-	375
Total	52,549	-	-	28,882	16,854



ACHIEVEMENTS

One of the highlights for the year was the Nilgiris Biodiversity Festival, 2009. It would not have happened with only the participation of the conservation group. It was proposed and initiated by the group but in every way possible was a festival of the Nilgiris and Keystone Foundation was out in its best to show the world, the richness of the Nilgiris. Every person in Keystone participated with a lot of commitment and contributed to the overall success of the event. It gave the district a chance to look at itself for its natural and indigenous richness.

In July 2009 Keystone Foundation opened the Interpretation Center in Sathyamangalam in co-operation with the local Forest Department. An MoU was signed with the DFO, Sathyamangalam, Mr. S. Ramasubramanian, IFS allowing Keystone to use one of their abandoned buildings for the purpose of an Nature Interpretation Centre. The Elephant Valley Eco-Tourism Nature Interpretation Centre was formally inaugurated on July 20th by the Conservator of Forests, Erode.

Another highlight of the year was the Conference on Bees, Biodiversity and Forest Livelihoods which was held in March, 2009, bringing together social scientists and biologists to a common forum to

present discuss and debate findings of the three year Darwin Initiative funded research.

The first conservation prize was given out from Keystone Foundation. This year the prize went to the Sigur resource centre. A prize application had to be prepared in which the team brought together data with regard to all the conservation activities undertaken at the centre. The teams also presented unique ideas of what they would do with the prize money.

A dialogue was initiated with the Kerala Forest Department on the damaging methods of harvest that the resin trees were being subjected to in Kerala forests. The case of *Canarium strictum* was highlighted. The presentation got mixed responses



but overall, was well received. Issues with regard to the access, ecology and restoration of the species were brought up and the department has put the ball into our court by asking Keystone to come up with a joint proposal for the whole of Kerala to come up with a management plan for the species.

Winning the CEPF grant for working on outreach activities was another highlight of the year and it means that the launch of the Nilgiris Natural History Society would be possible!

Opening an office in Karnataka at Puananjur, Chamrajnagar was also achieved this year. The office was inaugurated on the 14th of December 2009 by the District Collector, Chamraj Nagar and the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chamraj Nagar. This office will be used to launch many of the conservation outreach and training programs.

IMPACT FACTORS

Addressing issues of sustainability of harvest in NTFPs has made an impact this year. Keystone was called to train all the Vana Samrakshana Samitis all over Kerala in sustainable harvest of NTFPs.

The Forest Department in Kotagiri has requested Keystone to supply *Cycas* and *Canarium* saplings for their special program on planting rare endangered and threatened species.





Village elders are coming forward willingly to take children into the forests and farms to talk about biodiversity.

The Community Habitat Monitoring Group in Sigur area is being recognized by the Forest Department for the monitoring work they undertake. The group themselves have taken up the work and mentioned that they would like to continue this work even without supporting wages.

WAY FORWARD

2010 promises to be the year of outreach, with a target to reach out to a number of stakeholders across the NBR. The Bee Museum will become the hub for the same. The Nilgiri Natural History Society will be launched and anchor many of the outreach programs. A process of identifying villages that have conservation practices has begun and they will be selected for awards that will instil a sense of need to sustain or continue their good work. The work on man animal conflict will become an important area of work moving from research into a more organized implementation project after the management plans are made.

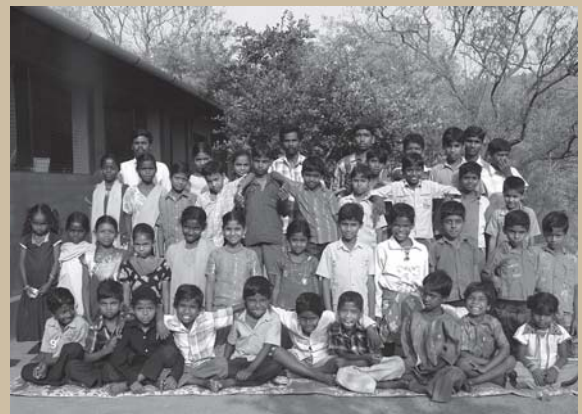
This year will also be the time some team members will be taking a sabbatical. This will be a time of strengthening and renewal. The hope to go from

strength to strength is alive and this year will also be a time when strategic partnerships are made with other groups within Keystone to achieve linkages and more effectively.

NETWORKS, MEETINGS, VISITS, TRAININGS, LEARNINGS

Vietnam

The NTFP-EP (South and South-East Asia) network was held in September 2009 at the Nai Chua National Park in Vietnam. The event was hosted by the Centre for Biodiversity and Development (CBD), Vietnam. Sneha and Sumin from Keystone attended this meeting. The meeting involved reviewing the work of the network partners and visiting project sites of CBD.



Eastern Ghats meeting

The consultation on the Eastern Ghats was held during the month of May 2009 at Ananthagiri, Vishakhapatnam. The event was hosted by Samata, an NGO based at Vishakhapatnam. The main focus of the meeting was to discuss the issues that confront the Eastern Ghats and to arrive at possible solutions to address the issues. The meeting was attended by various NGOs in the region working on environmental issues, research and tribal welfare. A presentation was made on the work in the Sathyamangalam region in Tamil Nadu which forms a part of the Eastern Ghats.

GPS training to Bastariyas

Saneesh visited Bastar from 20th-23rd of February, 2009 to train the local team of LEAF in the usage of GPS. This program was organised by LEAF, a grass root level NGO working in Bastar, Chattisgarh. The group is planning a long term ecological monitoring of the forest of this region. The team of Iqbal, Hari, Nagji, Bhudram, Vikku and Vasanth from LEAF accompanied Saneesh to two villages in the area. In this visit, only field level operation of GPS was shared. More than 20 people from the village learned how to use a GPS by taking a perimeter of a



sacred grove, measuring the length of a village road and by marking important trees like the Mahua.

Visit to the North East

In February, Anita was invited to be part of a team that was visiting Nagaland. The team of Rita Banerjee and Payal Molur have been involved in filming the hunting gathering lifestyles of the people of the region. They have also been involved in conservation education activities to discourage the hunting of rare and highly endangered animal species of the area. The team wanted some one from Keystone to go along to talk about interventions with NTFP. The visit to North East Network, Chizami, Nagaland –a local NGO there, was very interesting and time of learning and sharing. Enroute to Chizami, she also visited Samrakshan in Meghalaya to see the work they are doing. The visit to Samrakshan has led to a





more focused NTFP program being developed in their area. Subsequently the team from Samrakshan has also visited Keystone and have been trained in various aspects like nurseries and value addition with NTFPs.

YETI

The YETI (Young Ecologists Talk and Interact) is a conference for students and researchers working in the discipline of ecology in India. The event was meant to serve as a friendly and inspiring platform for ecologists, early in their career, to present and discuss their work, exchange ideas, and even strike up collaborations with contemporaries across the country. YETI was unique in being organized entirely by student volunteers from Bangalore and Mysore. Sumin and Sudhakar had attended this meet and the meet was interesting and was helpful in keeping tab with the current advances in the field of ecology and the research that is going on across various parts of India, meeting researchers, students and listening to inspiring talks were some of the highlights of this event.

PUBLICATIONS

i. Books

- a. Forest Plants-Northern NBR.Keystone Foundation.2009.
- b. Protocols for Harvest of NTFPs.Keystone Foundation.2009.

ii. Articles

- a. Wild Breads – Newsletter of The Cycad Society.2009.
- b. *Cycas circinalis*- Botanical Review, NYBG. 2009 (in press).
- c. *Cycas circinalis*- Current Science.2009 (in press).
- d. Wild edible plants of the NBR.Voices from the Forest, Newsletter of NTFP-EP.2009.
- e. Important IBA of Kerala-New Amarambalam Valley, Nilambur. MISTNET, BNHS.2009.

iii. Papers

- a. Social bees and food plant associations in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. *Tropical Ecology*.2009.
- b. Characteristics of trees used as nest sites by *Apis dorsata* (Hymenoptera,Apidae) in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. *Journal of Tropical Ecology*.2009.
- c. Dependency of Cultivated Plants and Non Timber Forest Products on Pollinators. *Conservation and Society*.2009.

iv. Posters

- a. Area Posters, Sathy, Coonoor, Kotagiri, Nilambur.2009.
- b. Information center posters-Sathyamangalam.2009.
- c. Posters for the Biodiversity and livelihoods conference, Coonoor.2009.
1. Honey from the hills – An ecological detail on the honey bees of Chamrajnagar.
2. The limitless expanse of the Giant Rock bee –An ecological perspective from the Blue Mountains.
3. Contribution of non timber forest products to livelihoods; a study from Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
4. Dependency of cultivated plants and non timber forest products on pollinators.
5. Honey bee densities in forest types across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats, India.
6. Bee diversity and floral preferences in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats, India.
7. Honey hunting patterns in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
8. How much money bees make for us? – A case study of *Sapindus trifoliatus*.



CULTURE AND PEOPLE

CHALLENGING YEAR

Culture & People program area is still submerged in the issues facing the communities in the Kotagiri and Coonoor regions with medical emergencies and forest rights related work. Glimmers of good work have been in the support for education and the village environmental education programs. The mandate to work with all communities in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve has seen partial success with areas of Pillur, Sigur, Hasanur, Pulinjur and Nilambur being covered with *Nilgiri Seemai Suddhi* reaching out to all areas except Nilambur which received more support in health and education. This was a crucial year for the Forest Rights Act implementation which required many trainings and meetings to bring about an understanding within the indigenous communities about the implications of this historic act.

ACTIVITIES

Nilgiri Seemai Suddhi

This indigenous newspaper has found its place among all communities in the NBR (Nilambur being the odd one out) with volunteers from all communities working back and forth to collect news for the month and carrying the newspapers to their respective regions and communities. The enthusiastic team of volunteers who are dedicated to their work and the effort put, in terms of time and energy needs mention here. Janaki, Mahendran and Mahadevan who are the senior members in the team of volunteers bring in the flavor of traditional knowledge and

understanding of the communities. One thousand prints are doing rounds every month out of which about 350 are sold at present. Highlights of this year's news are vegetable rates, wildlife attacks, produce for sale, important information about implementations done by other NGOs in the region, employment opportunities and government schemes. Publishing the history of ancient places of worship has generated considerable interest among the communities. So far, 33 monthly editions have come out with exclusive news of adivasi communities, which we hope to strengthen in the coming year by looking for yearly subscriptions.

Volunteer meetings

Community meetings for Kota and Toda communities were conducted this year and it was a challenge to understand as to which language is best suited to understand the needs of these communities. Efforts are being made to understand what the essence of their conversation is and what their views are. Issues related to Forest Rights Act and HADP Housing design were discussed with Kurumba, Irula and Jenu Kurumba, Toda and Kota communities. The frequency of these meetings and the attendance and composition of the members are still a concern.

Bamboo House and Culture Education for children

To inculcate the importance of indigenous culture and the richness of the traditions, three programs were conducted at the Bamboo House in Baviyoor which provides the perfect backdrop for the children to understand the glory of the bygone eras. Traditional institutions, rituals, music, dance, traditional medicinal practices, traditional food, sacred groves, indigenous knowledge, stories, songs, riddles were the aspects covered. A place to know each other for these school students who otherwise would never know about their culture, other clans and details of the rituals. Events have happened organically evincing interest among the young school students whose conventional education is alienating them from their own land and culture.

Similar activity has been carried out in Sigur and Pillur effectively after realizing the success of this program with the spontaneous participation of elders enriching the experience for the young participants.

Traditional Stories and Riddles

Storytelling and solving riddles have been the prime vehicles of transfer of knowledge orally among the communities in the NBR. An effort to document them and capture them in visual media has started last year and the stories have been documented in writing for Kurumba, Irula, Kota, Toda and Sholiga communities. This will be published as a book in the coming year. Visual documentation of the stories will help in documenting the tradition of story telling which is yet to happen. This activity will be fulfilled when the Adivasi Centre is constructed in the campus.

Hubba of the year

Folklore was the theme of this year's hubba. The stage was set for the Hubba during February with the active participation of 10 communities. The stories evoked all emotions from humor to deep remorse. Each year, the event has gained significance among the communities and is equally awaited by members of Keystone. The younger generation participated in more numbers which is a positive sign in terms of cultural revival.





Indigenous Calendar

This year, rituals and festivals of Kurumba, Irula, Kota, Toda, Sholiga, Bettakurumba, Mullukurumba, Jenu Kurumba, Kattunayakan, Cholanayakan, Aranadan and Paniya communities were added to the indigenous calendar making it a kaleidoscope of culture. The communities have provided the details, some of which were long forgotten or not done due to various reasons now appearing in the calendar, is a standing testimonials to their revived interest. The hope is that through this effort, communities will again begin to celebrate/ observe these festivals.

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

Celebrated every year on the 9th of August, this year the event was a show of solidarity with the South Indian Adivasi Association. This has evoked mixed reactions due to the poor preparation and organization lapses combined with the heat of the Coimbatore city.

Forest Rights Act

The team's time and effort had gone into establishing the foundation for implementation of the FRA. Conducting village meetings, talking to community leaders, sensitizing villagers about the need for full participation has been our work this year. The highlight of this work is the establishment of Tribal Gram Sabhas in areas where there are no Tribal Panchayats. The district administration has taken special interest in this direction by issuing a GO to this effect. (Refer Environmental Governance for full report on Forest Rights Act)

Emergency Medical Support

This year was tough for this activity due to increase in number of cases seeking help. Support is being given for emergencies like surgery, caesarean deliveries, diarrhoea, eye and heart operations and blood donations. Vehicle support is provided in Kotagiri, Coonoor, Sigur, Hasanur, Nilambur and Pillur where Government/private hospitals are far away from the villages. Private hospitals are preferred over government medical facilities since, the

communities are not comfortable with the way they are treated in the government hospitals and the crowd in the hospitals deters them from going there. Most of the time, the approach by people are made when all other means have failed and the patient is in a serious condition. This adds to the expenses and the duration of treatment. Plans are being made for preventive health education, along with tight vigil on the conditions of people with life threatening illnesses. The following is the list of support provided for various emergency conditions.

A policy for the emergency health support and criteria and amount of money to be shared is being evolved after analyzing this years' spending.

Tribal health support

Emergency	No of Cases
Child Care	5
Womens' health	35
Surgery	9
Funeral/(ambulance)	4
Mens' Health	22
Vehicle support	11

The total amount disbursed was INR 251,577

who want support is growing. Students studying in 12th and 10th standards who appear for public examinations are provided with study materials and fees for coaching classes are paid. In the lower classes, support for uniforms or books in some deserving cases have been provided. A list of students who have benefitted from this support is analyzed and given below. Support for vocational trainings is also being provided through this fund.

Through the *Nilgiri Seemai Suddhi* volunteers, a survey of school/college going students - a list of school dropouts with reason, is being conducted. This will help decide the deserving students who need support. A list of village youth who need vocational training is also being collected. A proposal has been submitted to Hill Area Development Program (HADP) for providing vocational training to indigenous youth is still

Tribal education support

Male students	12
Female students	20
College Fees	21
Teachers' Training Fees	3
Vocational Trainings	6
School support	2
Educational Survey	1

The total amount disbursed was INR 199,040

Support for Education

As more students are aspiring for higher education in private colleges (government institutions are not preferred due to poor standards of teaching and poor living conditions in the hostels), which is expensive but helps them complete their studies with good marks. This is the first generation of students in some communities who require financial support. The criterion for selection is aptitude to study or poor economic condition (who are unable to complete their studies due to lack of money). At the college level either the semester fees or hostel fees are supported fully/partially after the necessary details are provided by the colleges. In the current year, it is decided to pay the semester fees alone which is for the current semester as the number of students



awaited. The limited amount available for this fund is forcing a relook into the criteria for selection with care and based on merit.

WAY FORWARD

In 2010, the focus will be on the following activities to:

- Growth of Health & Education Fund – Criteria for support to be refined . This is only for emergency support for those affected by critical illnesses like cancer, surgery and anemia. Preference will be given to pregnant women and children. Under the education fund we will try to provide counseling for higher studies, support for degree and vocational studies students, and educational material for 10th and 12th students.
- Indigenous Information centre to be constructed.
- Kota pottery to be developed and separate counter space to be provided at Green Shops.
- Ajile Bottu – expand the product range .
- Nilgiri Silver Jewelry to be popularized.
- Sign Boards claiming sacred groves as places to be respected to come up for other communities to understand and respect the culture of indigenous people.

- Training of volunteers in news gathering, writing, film making.
- Documentation of music and dance.
- Counseling for health and education to be conducted especially for girls – counselors to be trained.
- Planning and monitoring of PTG fund allocation by district administration.

These are apart from the regular activities which will be improved.

Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi – publication and circulation

Traditional stories – brought out as book

Posters – indigenous information

Calendar – before end November

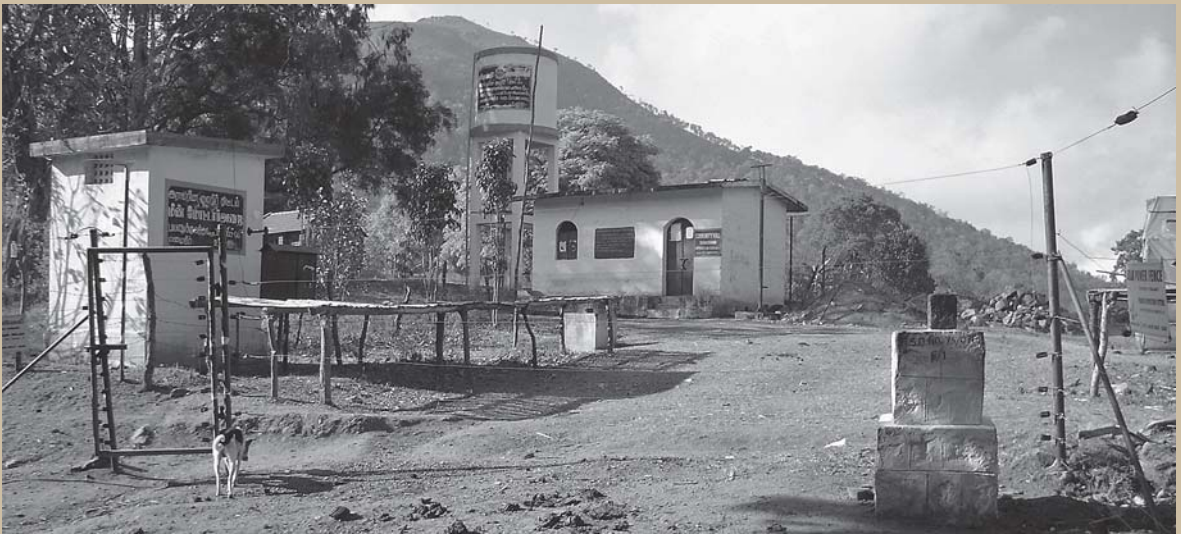
Indigenous Day celebration on August 9th

Theme festival – Hubba of this year

NETWORKS, MEETINGS, VISITS, TRAININGS, LEARNING'S

Selvi visited Future Earth, between October 8th to 26th in Sweden as part of the programme 'Learn from South 2009'. She went to schools, universities, public places to present about indigenous people's livelihood and cultural aspects in the Nilgiris.





RAMARANAI

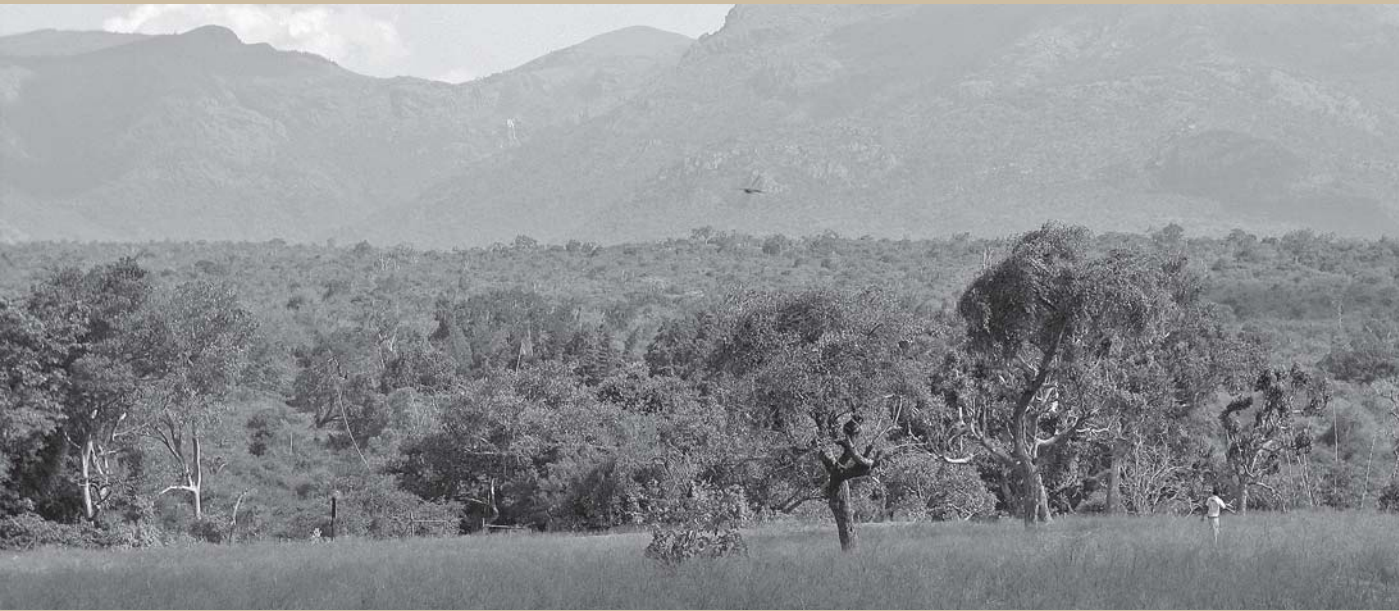
The story of administrative apathy and alienation at home!

Strange it may sound that the name Kurumba has caused the people of Ramaranai to lose their roots and relationship with the Kurumba (Alu Kurumba?). Kurumba community in Erode district is not in the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST) whereas in the Nilgiris, Kurumba is recognized as a Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG). The Kurumba community, in the past, have moved far and wide in the Nilgiris hills (not the political boundaries) from Attapadi in Kerala to Ramaranai in the Melseemai (Talamalai) and have settled in different Seemai (Kurumba ancestral domains).

For all their rituals and ancestral worship, the people of Ramaranai still come to the Nilgiris. Though, for centuries the people of Ramaranai have marital relationships with the Kurumba of the Nilgiris, the issue of the classification in the Erode district has denied them their PTG status and the community certificates issued by the government for accessing various schemes and benefits have been denied in the post independence era.

Efforts to correct this anomaly have proved to be tough as there were no proper records or evidences, that are material, could be produced. The households numbering 17 and at the farthest end of the Talamalai range, has not been a cause for concern to administrative machinery. Series of efforts have been made to present their case to the Erode district collector with a family tree of the village and their relations with the Kurumba of the Nilgiris. A study done by UPASI shows the Kurumba settlements in all of Nilgiris include the Kurumba of Melseemai has also been given as evidence.

The broader classification of the Kurumba of Melseemai, who are unique to their place and status is getting blurred into a grey classification of Kurumba in Tamil Nadu. The denial of their PTG status is proving costly in terms of availing the benefits and schemes and most importantly the rights provided through Forest Rights Act will be a blatant social injustice done to the people of Ramaranai.



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

ACTION REALITY

The objectives of the Environmental Governance was to support the implementation of the Forest Rights Act towards securing tenurial security for indigenous families as well as to facilitate their participation in conservation of their traditional forest resources.

This year's objective is in the context of the newly formed programme area's objective to strengthen environmental governance mechanisms in the NBR with a multi-stakeholder approach focussing on decentralized community based resource management. The programme endeavours to engage with academicians, government at various levels as well as business interests in an attempt to mainstream environmental governance in the development paradigm.

ACTIVITIES

The activities for the year include were focussed on forest governance in the NBR. While supporting the implementation of the Forest Rights Act in Tamilnadu, was the main activity, there was also a study of Village Forest Councils to study the existing co-management mechanism in the State. These activities are detailed below:

Strengthening awareness of the Forest Rights Act at various levels

With the implementation of the Forest Rights Act still in its nascent stage in many parts of the NBR, among the main focus areas across the year was to strengthen awareness regarding the provisions of the Act at various levels including the indigenous community groups in village panchayats of Kotagiri and Coonoor and the district and sub-divisional administration.

Facilitation of Special tribal Gram Sabhas

Given the dispersed nature of tribal habitations in the Nilgiris, the nature of village panchayats gram sabhas is heterogenous with tribal populations more often than not, forming the minority. Using the provisions of the Forest Rights Act for formation of gram sabhas at village level, the district administration facilitated special tribal gram sabhas at the level of clusters of tribal habitations. 53 such special tribal gram sabhas have been formed in the district. The forest rights committees have also been formed at the level of these special gram sabhas. Support has been given to gram sabhas in Kotagiri (9) and Coonoor (9) in their deliberations over claims to forest resources.

A day's orientation was facilitated along with other NGO partners in the district for the nodal officers appointed for the conduct of these special tribal gram sabhas.

Capacity Building of Forest Rights Committees

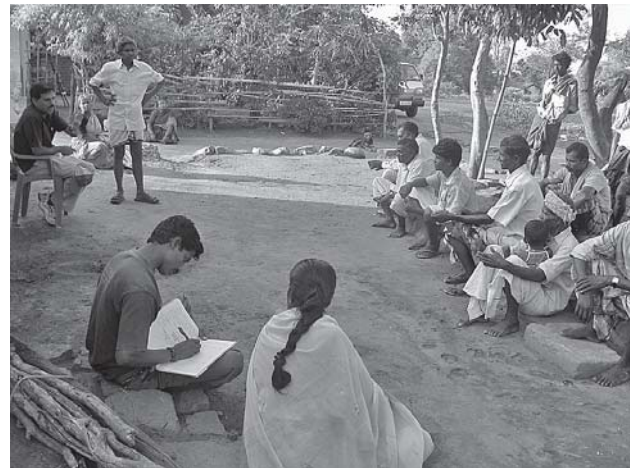
Over the latter half of the year, there was involvement in various activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of the forest rights committees. Apart from regular village meetings, a concerted training programme was held for the Forest Rights Committees of 5 Special Tribal Gram Sabhas of Garikkiyur, Kumuramuti, Baviyur, Kurukundah,

Kadasolai in Kotagiri in October. The programme included an overview of the procedural steps to be followed in receiving and processing the individual forest right claims.

Thereafter, the support has been in the nature of support for clarification of land categories, facilitation of inter-village meetings, mapping of community forest resources and procedural details of claims submission.

In the Pillur region of the NBR, the Forest Rights Committee of Nellithurai and Kemerampalayan have been supported in receiving individual and community claims to forest resources. This process included facilitating a series of meetings with village elders and Forest Rights Committee members in ascertaining the extent and nature of their claims over community forest resources. A process of mapping these resources and identifying overlapping areas of shared user regimes followed. Subsequently, our support was also sought in facilitating the process of verification of village settlement boundaries. With this complete, a total of 404 claims over approximately 1076 Acres of land have been submitted to the Sub-divisional level committee.

In the Sathyamangalam region, support has been provided in 6 tribal habitations in the Talamalai village panchayat for the mapping for community forest resources.



Highlighting operational difficulties at various sub-divisional fora and district fora

The operational difficulties faced by the forest rights committees were highlighted in the meetings of the sub-divisional committee in Nilgiris and Sathyamangalam. Among these have been the issue of community certificates, which are mandatory for claiming rights under the FRA. There are still a large number of families who do not possess these certificates. The mappings of village lineage of Ramaranai, in Sathymangalam were done to help the community establish their tribal identity.

Study of Village Forest Councils

The study of 3 village forest councils (JFM) in three Forest Divisions of the NBR was part of a multi-part research on Community Based Ecological Monitoring of non-timber forest produce in the NBR. The component on the VFCs was designed specifically to understand the existing mechanism of forest management with some community participation through the joint forest management programme. The sampled VFCs are Anaikatty - Siriyur VFC (Nilgiri North division, Kilsengalur (Mettupalayam) and Galidimbam (Bhavani Sagar). As a next step, a sharing of learning's across the VFCs as well as with the respective division officers is envisaged. We expect that this will lead to a collective deliberation on good practices for community involvement in forest governance.

IMPACT FACTORS

A highlight of the work regarding the Forest Rights Act has been the evolution of a planning forum with the district administration and other NGOs like ACCORD, MYRADA, WWF and NAWA and CBOs like Talavadi Adivasi Munnetra Sangam and the Chengalpudur Kalachara Sangam, for efficient implementation of the Act at the village level. While the forum is still in its nascent stage, we hope that it will continue to infuse momentum and synergy in our efforts at supporting the implementation of the Forest Rights Act.

WAY FORWARD

In the coming year, work would continue to support the implementation of the Forest Rights Act through active support to tribal communities and their representative bodies. It is so that in some villages, this work will enter its next phase, with villages/groups of villages starting to formalize localized forest governance systems. These systems will necessarily draw on existing traditions of conservation and resource management. The revitalization of these dimensions will be facilitated, while providing support in resource assessment, evolution of protocol for sustainable harvest of NTFP and monitoring mechanisms. Thus, envisaging that the work will be in close tandem with the other programme teams at Keystone.



NETWORKS, MEETINGS, VISITS, TRAININGS, LEARNING'S

Vazhandu Kaatuvom Sharing

In the middle of the year, members of the Village Poverty Reduction Centres from 5 districts in Tamilnadu were met, to share with them the ongoing work on the Forest Rights Act in the Nilgiris. The day's workshop included an overview of the Act and its potential to strengthen livelihoods and self-governance amongst forest dwelling communities.

Visiting Community Forestry

In the midst of the growing momentum around the Forest Rights Act here in the NBR, a group of 20 took off to visit community groups engaged in community forestry in Orissa. Their discussions on the FRA with the villages has thrown up the opportunities opened up by community rights over forest resources - to both access and govern these. But for many villages here, this possibility seemed to be not just novel but also too good to be true. So they thought it would help to speak to communities who have been governing their village forests.

Vasundhara, a Bhubhaneshwar based NGO working on forestry issues, had organized visits to meet groups in Nayagarh, Sambalpur and Deogarh. Over a week, the group met and spoke to the Ma Maninag Jangal Surakhya Parishat, the Banaja Baniya Sangha and the Badrama Vikas Parishat – all community organizations engaged in forest governance. They also listened to stories of how forested hillocks had been rendered barren both by government policy and local negligence. And how villages, in some instances on their own, and in others with adjoining villages had resolved to start protecting and regenerating their forests for their needs. The group shared their systems for management, institutionalized over the years – of *tenga pali* – the rotational system of each household taking up the forest protection beat, of rules for fuel wood collection for daily use and special occasions and of sanctions for transgression of rules.

The visit to the Sambhalpur coincided with the day, land titles were being distributed under the FRA, in Kuchinda. Here, the Badrama Vikas Parishat talked to us of the experience of tribal communities within



a wildlife sanctuary and of their efforts to reclaim their access to the forests. The Banaja Baniya Sangha shared with us the working of their cooperative enterprise to collectively negotiate for a better price for their rice as well as sal leaves and seeds, that they collected as NTFP.

Back in Bhubhaneshwar, the group shared with Vasundhara, our context of forest based livelihoods and the processes of FRA implementation here in the NBR and discussed the processes going on in Orissa. It has been a most invigorating experience for all of them. They are grateful to the communities who have shared with us their experiences and what is possible through collective effort.

Visit to Biligiri Rangan Hills

Early in the year, there was a visit to Biligiri Rangan Hills to understand the work of the Sholiga Abhivridhi Sanga with the ATREE team on the Forest Rights Act. It was a learning experience to see the meticulous documentation of Sholiga conservation traditions along with their ancestral domains and the use of it as a basis for staking claims to forest resources traditionally used and protected by this community.

Visit by former Secretary MoTA and MoEF

Ms Meena Gupta, former Secretary at the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and friend of Keystone, was on a three day visit to Keystone this year, specifically to lead a brainstorm on the strategic directions for the environmental governance programme. She stressed on the role of non-governmental organizations as much in demonstrating models of development as in providing feedback to the State on governmental initiatives and underlying policy.



LIVELIHOODS

KEEPING ALIVE TRADITIONS

Livelihoods opportunities/securities are a basket of activities for the indigenous local communities in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. This is crucial as these communities are adapted to living in different ecological conditions and their life is dependent on agriculture, livestock keeping, gathering forest produce and supplemented by wage earnings. The traditional land extent is an important resource yet less productive due to steep slopes, completely rain dependant and poor soil depth.

OBJECTIVES

1. To improve quality of life
2. To increase and improve avenues for steady income through diversification of activities linked to natural resources
3. To improve and create nutritional security and food sovereignty
4. To provide appropriate technological interventions and new methods in all sectors
5. To increase capacity amongst community members to take decisions and manage their resources
6. To strengthen community enterprises, production standards & skills and competence in marketing their produces

ACTIVITIES

- Agriculture support systems for cultivation, irrigation facilities, seeds, provide and training

them to prepare organic inputs and crop protection through appropriate community level fencing.

- Support millet growing, retrieve traditional lands, organize regional level community seed banks.
- Strengthening farmers' knowledge and capacity building for organic practices - pollinator studies, wild food documentation, PGS groups and farmer exchange programmes to learn and share.
- Supporting beekeepers to raise their own stock, stop collecting colonies from nature and supply colonies to beekeepers from apiaries.
- Retraining beekeeping groups, also supplying sugar feed as well as relevant tools.
- Retraining production center staff and enhancing skill for new products and centre management.
- Usage of effective renewable energy in processing.

Apiculture and honey gathering

Working with native bees, promoting beekeeping had two perspectives—firstly as an income generating activity for the farmer which includes various components such as training, make avail of equipments, tools, appropriate intervention in wild gathering.

Secondly, the conservation of relevant bee populations, documentation and necessary field studies on species diversity, density, impacts of wild colony gathering and awareness of pollination benefits both for agriculture and forestry.

Village beekeeping system was to sustain the activity, to make it more self dependent from the day to day maintenance of the bee hives by the field staff. The beekeepers were given an incentive of INR 20 per bee box maintained on a monthly basis.

Bee hives and results: Village beekeeping and extension activities were promoted in Sigur, Pillur, Dhimbam and Kotagiri region. *Apis cerana* rearing was successfully carried out with top bar in brood and frames in super chamber which resulted in easier management and women folk participation in the activity.

Apiaries and queen rearing: The beekeeping teams have established strong apiaries in all regions to cater to colony requirements. Stock selection and queen rearing became a strong component for Justin, Rajendran and Ayyasamy. Apiaries in Dhimbam are managed by Ayyasamy, and have been associated with Justin and Chandran M. for trainings.



Training and networking became effective measures to refresh and sharing of experience for the beekeeping team. The organizations and people with whom we are associated in this regard are as listed below.

1. Thulir, Dharmapuri; 2. Green Foundation, Bengaluru; 3. Aries Society, Virudhachalam; 4. VPRC-Theni, Salem, Dharmapuri; 5. Horticulture Department, Coimbatore; 6. Isha Foundation, Coimbatore; 7. Burnside estates, Kotagiri; 8. Balmadi Organic estates; 9. Lake view hotels, Ooty; 10. Balakrishnan, Gudalur; 11. Babu, Deenatty; 12. Karuppayya, Alangombu; 13. Ada Mund; 15. Hasanur area.

A revenue of INR 91,750 has been generated through trainings and supply of equipments.

Beekeeping in Punanjanur (Karnataka) and Nilambur (Kerala) was given priority, in terms of providing training and periodical inspection. Capturing of wild *Apis cerana* colonies was not encouraged. The colonies that were raised in apiaries through colony division and queen rearing methods have helped to conserve the natural stock. This year had lesser incidents of TSBV virus attacks. The apiaries and villagers had collectively lost 28 *Apis cerana* colonies which is less than 7% of the overall colony sizes.

Visitors: Ann and Peter, elderly British couple had visited our beekeeping sites in Sigur, Vazhathottam, Kotagiri, Bangalapadigai and Hasanur region during 7th - 12th March, 2009.

Colony production in apiaries

- Sigur: 18 to 31 %
- Pillur: 13 to 20 %
- Dhimbam: 9 to 11 %
- Kotagiri campus: 5 to 9 %
- Wild capturing is stopped for the apiary
- 32 colonies were given to tribal beekeepers from apiaries

- 8 colonies were sold to farmers from apiaries

Agriculture revolving fund-millet extension

The programme's objective was to help in attaining social and economical equities through organic agriculture and creating a market with fair trade principles.

The major activities that were undertaken by Farmer's revolving fund groups were:

- a. Land reclamation and cultivation support through activities like leveling/clearing of land, marking boundaries, ploughing expenses, soil testing and weeding.
- b. Irrigation support through construction of micro check dams, canals, diversion of water from streams, sprinklers, poly lined tanks and drip irrigation.
- c. Soil and Water conservation through trenches, bunds and gully plugs.
- d. Soil fertility and conditioning through promoting compost & vermi composting, organic pesticides.
- e. Establishing seed banks for conserving traditional and make available locally: To start community seed reserves at village level, regionally and individually. These traditional seeds are exchanged and refreshed through cultivation. Seed festival is celebrated in order to retain interest and to revive in new areas
- f. Appropriate crop protection measure by supporting farmers to erect battery operated electric fence and digging trenches to prevent animal menace and crop raiding.

Nature of support	No of units
Land cleaning	80 acres
Fencing support	43 acres
Pump-set for irrigation	5nos
Hose pipes for irrigation	8,750meters
Seed support	INR 41,200

Livestock keeping	5 units
bee hives	107 hives
Seed banks	3 units
Solar lamps-field watch	1 unit

Sustainable harvesting practices and value addition

Production Centre Development (PCD) - Dhimbam, Kurumbadi, Pillur, Semmanarai, Bangalapadigai, Cherupuzha and Pattakarimbu.

The community enterprises were initiated to process forest produces like Nelli (Gooseberry) *Phoenix* leaves, soap nuts and gall nuts. Gradually the value addition process extended to farm produce such as pepper, coffee, silk cotton and fruits.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The accounts of all PCDs (Bangalapadigai, Semmanarai, Kurumbadi, Hasanur, Pillur and Nilambur) were audited.
- All centers have invested in stocks like silk cotton, coffee, bees wax and honey.

capacity building to PCD members were regular.

- Bangalapadigai centre produces paper bags with screen print on it.

- Pattakarimbu (Nilambur) begun production process an extension, supplies to eco-awareness centers run by Kerala forest department.
- Pillur centre was strengthened with new trainees.
- Pattakarimbu community production centre began to function from July with temporary infrastructure. The Kerala Forest Department has agreed to repair an old building; it will function as a permanent production and training place for the community.

Relooking at traditional agriculture practices in the Dhimbam region

The Using Diversity project led to initiating concrete steps towards purifying crop varieties, crop improvement, multi-cropping especially with pulses and niger. The vegetable cultivation for organic bazaar and for self consumption were intensified in the region. Training and capacity building on crop purification aspect was an important intervention in the midst of low yields and high weed infestation.

The exchange programme

Learning and sharing of organic food crop cultivation happened in Ittarai and Thadasalhatti villages in November. Farmers from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka,





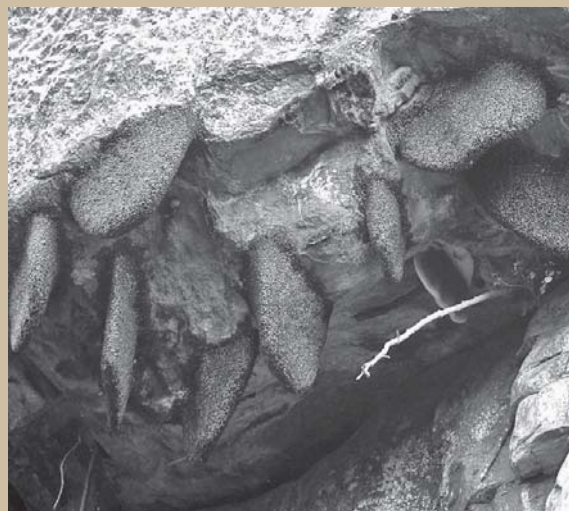
Kerala and Tamilnadu had participated in this event. This exchange programme was a part of effective revival of traditional mixed farming systems within indigenous communities in Dhimbam region, supported by the Using Diversity South East Asia Network. Five tribal farmers from Dhimbam had visited and interacted with farmers in Udayarplayam (Kollegal taluk). As a part of this programme Ragi (finger millet-*Eleusine corocana*) cultivation was carried out in an experimental basis by farmers in Ittarai village. The farmer led crop improvement and establishing community seed bank were features of the Using Diversity programme. The popular *ragi* cultivation method - Guli *ragi* was started by Murugan and Ayyasamy earlier this year with help of Jayppa, a farmer from Thali. This activity has been strengthened with inputs from the net work partner's farmers group during the visit. The Ittarai community seed bank was formally inaugurated by the network partners and seeds were exchanged.

Community seed banks were started at different regions, namely in Vazhaithottam to cater to the Sigur region, Pillur dam for Pillur region, in Galidhimbam and Ittarai villages for Dhimbam

region and in Bangalapadigai for Aracode region. The following table gives the diversity and stock for the farming community

IMPACT FACTORS

- The revival of millet cultivation in new areas and retrieval of Manaliyada lands.
- Increase in the agricultural activity in the Sigur region especillay in the Chemmanatham village.

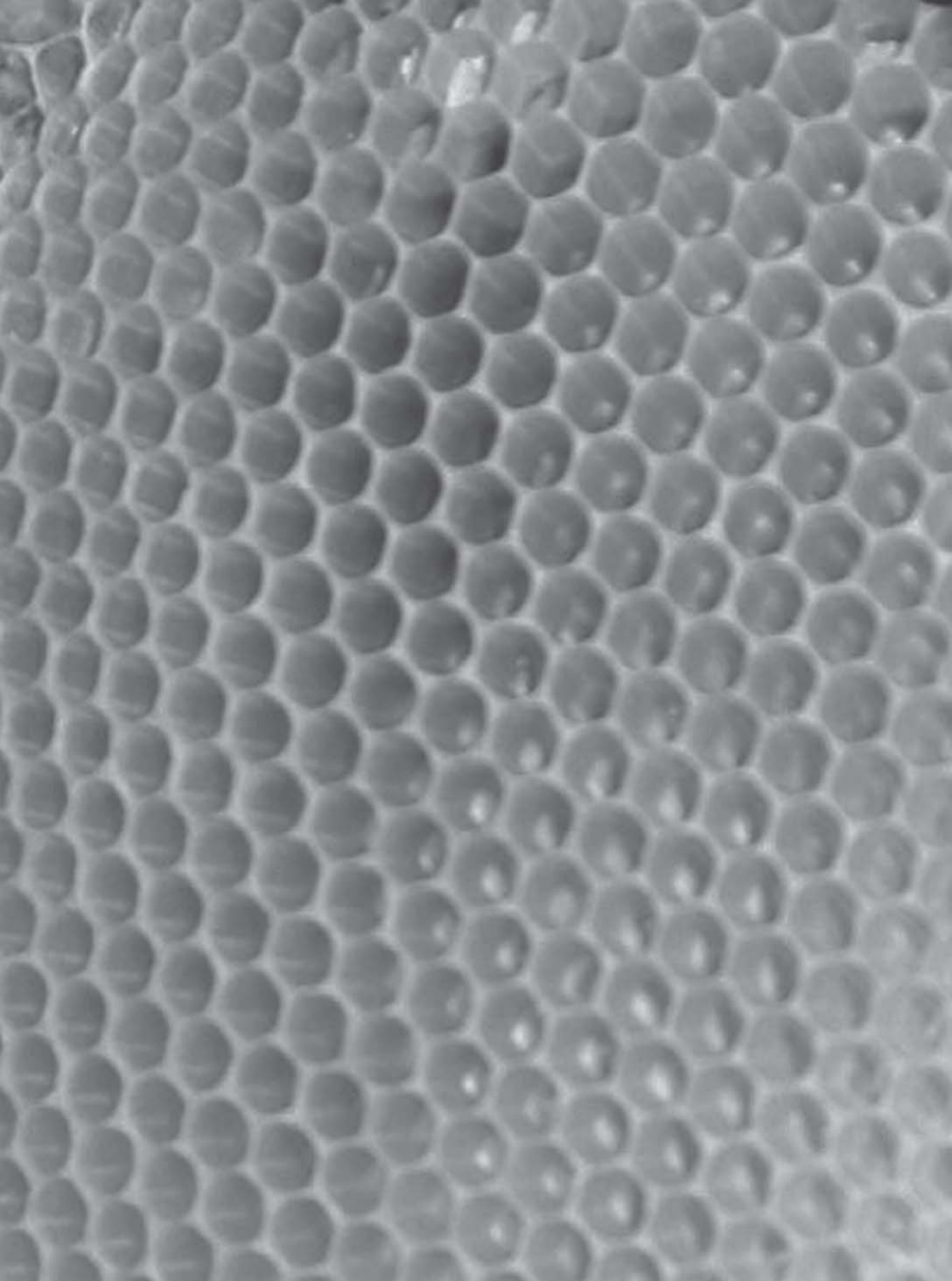


- Supporting irrigation through motor pumps in Neeradi, Poochamarathur, Mavanatham, Ittarai and Galidhimbam has improved the farmer's involvement in farming. Support through trenches and battery operated electric fence has helped the farming activity in Kilsengalur, Sithukuni and Kilpillur. Implementation of irrigation system for Ramaranai has brought in new developments in this remote tribal settlement.
- Seed banks and supplies were for wider exchange including bio-pest control preparation and composting practice.
- Profit sharing with coffee, silk cotton and honey through PCDs
- Procurement of raw materials was high at all PCD's.

CEREALS	PULSES	VEGETABLES	OIL SEEDS	TUBER	GREENS
Millets	Pigeon pea	Chillies (4types)	Mustard	Yams	Amaranthus
Barley	Green Dal	Gourds	Niger	Arrowroot	Pasalai
Wheat	Cow Pea	Lady's finger	Sunflower		Sarkaravarthi
	Black Gram	Lab lab	Sesame		Palak
	Chick Pea	Beans (11types)			
		Brinjal			
		Cucurbits			
		Maize			
		Coriander			
		Raddish			
		Chowchow			

NETWORKS, MEETINGS, VISITS, TRAININGS, LEARNING'S

NAME OF STAFF	THEME	PLACE	MONTH	
P. Chandran & Leo	Training	Sustainable harvesting techniques and Community enterprises for Mowalis of Sudarbans,	Bangladesh	March
Moorthy & Sivraj	Workshop	Farmers exchange programme-organic farming practices	Bangladesh	May
Murugan & Leo	Workshop	Documentation-crop varietal characterization and Bio diversity	Pune	May
Moorthy	Workshop	OFAI-South Asia meet in Bangalore and Visit to Thimbakktu-community banking systems		
Ayasamy & Leo	Workshop	Document Livestock diversity and Community Based Bio-diversity Management approach	Hyderabad	June
Justin & M. Chandran	Training	Beekeeping skill transfer	Salem, Theni,	
Virudachalam	February, May			September
Murugan & Sivaraj	Training	Documenting Community Based Bio-diversity Management systems and organic farming	Bangalore	October
Justin	Training	Beekeeping skills and hive designs	Sittilingi	December
Moorthy, Rajendran, Ayasamy Vasu	Training	Bio-gas technology and Installation	Kanyakumari	December
Leo & Mathew	Workshop	PGS-concepts and formation of farmer groups	Srilanka	December





TECHNOLOGICAL INTERVENTION FOR PROCESSING AND EFFECTIVE PRODUCTIVITY

WAX MELTING UNIT

Saves time. 25 kg of wax is melted in 40minutes with 8litres of water

HAND OPERATED SOAP MIXTURE

Hand operated, uniform and fine mixing, easy to handle. Stainless steel parts enhances cleanliness and quality soaps.



SOLAR HOUSE AND VALUE ADDITION CENTER

Drying area:512sqft

Free from dust, contamination, protected from external and domestic activities, rain. Helps in maintaining the temperature even at night.



CHALLENGES

- Unity among producer groups and adding new members with constructive mind set.
- Consistency in repayment by farmers against their borrowing from revolving fund.
- Low honey yields from village beekeeping. Production levels are not known as the honey is sold locally at relatively higher prices. The yield in most cases is not known to the team.

Through this holistic approach the younger generation may understand well about the possibility of resources and opportunities locally. In a long, this approach will achieve or revive traditions and culture of indigenous communities.

Local capacity building and new products

- The quality in soap making is fine and production is stable in Kurumbadi.
- Thumbithakadu builds 68% local market and has the highest turnover amongst all PCD.
- Semmanarai goes through its high and low in operation, which got sorted out later this year.
- Kurumbadi centre faced a serious threat and yet to reach an amicable state, few families from local village have been uncooperative with the extension of the centre. A number of attempts were made through leaders and community members but had not yielded positive results. There is a positive response from Pudukadu village's headman and the villagers to take up the activity.
- **Coffea- Arabica** powder is in great demand. Quality control & capacity building is being given to Krishnan - an Irula youth from Kolikari village. Break down of the roaster was also dealt with local spares.

Financial details of the production centres for the year 2009-10

(All values in INR '000)

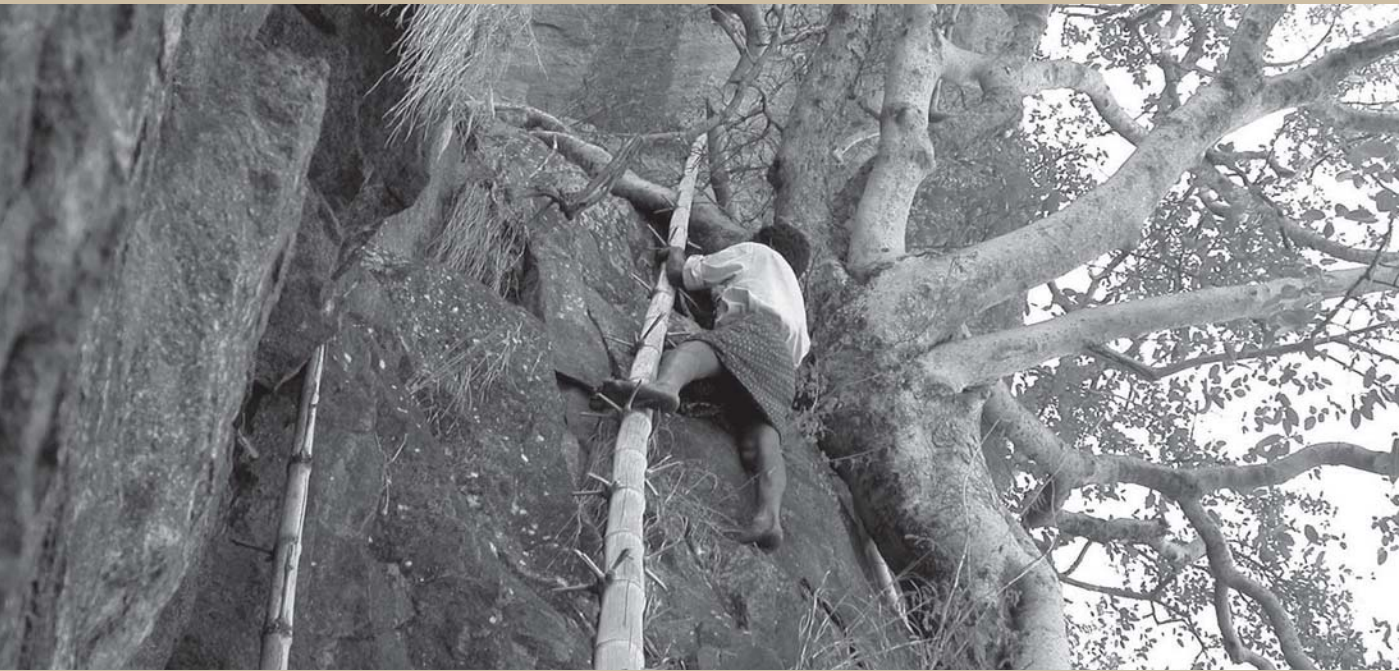
PRODUCTION CENTRE	WAGES GIVEN	SALES	PURCHASE
Amuthasurabhi	71	373	216
Bangalapadigai	135	443	499
Kombai	112	195	185
Pillur	34	203	208
Thumbithakadu	240	1269	706

- The volume of silk cotton procurement was high. It was ginned and sold locally for revolving of funds.
- Mavanatham sub centre started in November for *amla* processing. The construction of heating system is in progress.
- Construction of solar tunnels in all PCDs for drying purposes was prioritized.
- Banglapadigai women were trained in screen printing at Coimbatore, now paper bags are made with screen print on it.
- The running of sale cart at Mettupalayam had become logistically difficult for the Pillur PCD, has been undertaken by Kurumbadi PCD since July 09.
- Thumbithakadu established a sales counter at the Elephant Valley Nature Interpretation Centre at Hasanur.
- Administrative committees were constituted for all PCDs. The committee consists of village elders. The committee will meet once in 3 months to review the PCD's operations and guide them as and when required. It will pave towards conservation principles and community welfare.

WAY FORWARD

Land based activity had become a strong component of securities being created in terms of irrigation and crop protection. It is an important phase to intervene with organic farming principles and allied –livestock support system. Eventually, the environment and diversity is secured. Diverse value addition and local marketing will be encouraged. The farmers supply chain to PCD and autonomous PCD institutions will be encouraged. Interventions with energy requirements for domestic and enterprise purposes. and sanitation have to be looked at in the future.





ORGANIC MARKET DEVELOPMENT

EXPANDING DURING RECESSION

Organic Market Development has firmly emerged from the red to post some impressive figures in 2009. The expansion in Coonoor and the new Green Shop (GS) in Mysore are promising better retail sales as this report is written. With better operating margins and scale of operation, OMD is looking to achieve the objectives it has set out to do for the current financial year. Expanded product portfolio, better space utilization and improved wholesale performance have been the strategy that worked towards the recovery.

Despite the disaster that struck Nilgiris during November, which severed the road connectivity all around the district and the continued extreme weather conditions with heavy rains and landslides for a fortnight, Green Shops in Coonoor and Kotagiri achieved near normal (about 80%) of their usual turnover showing the strength of their local customer base. Though, Green Shop, Ooty performed 50% of its normal capacity, exposing the dependency on tourism, it has shown an impressive recovery during December, to top the table in terms of Green Shops' sales.

Overall turnover has risen by 18.33% from INR 60.08 lakhs to INR 71.09 lakhs with the wholesale and retail ratio hovering at 39% : 61%.

MORE SPACE AND MORE PRODUCTS

Year 2009 is memorable two more new spaces for Green Shops have been added. The first one is situated inside The Green Hotel, Mysore in association with The Green Hotel, Mysore who supported us in setting up the Bee Museum & Green Shop at Ooty. Though the space is 10ft by 12ft, it has made heads turn and is showing potential.

The next surprise came on the heels of the Mysore project which was the opportunity of expanding Green Shop, Coonoor. The space below the Green Shop fell vacant and the immediate response to that was to take it up top. The offer came from the owner of the building Mr. Hansraj, who categorically said he will look for other tenants only when Keystone

Contributions to sales from all branches are given below.

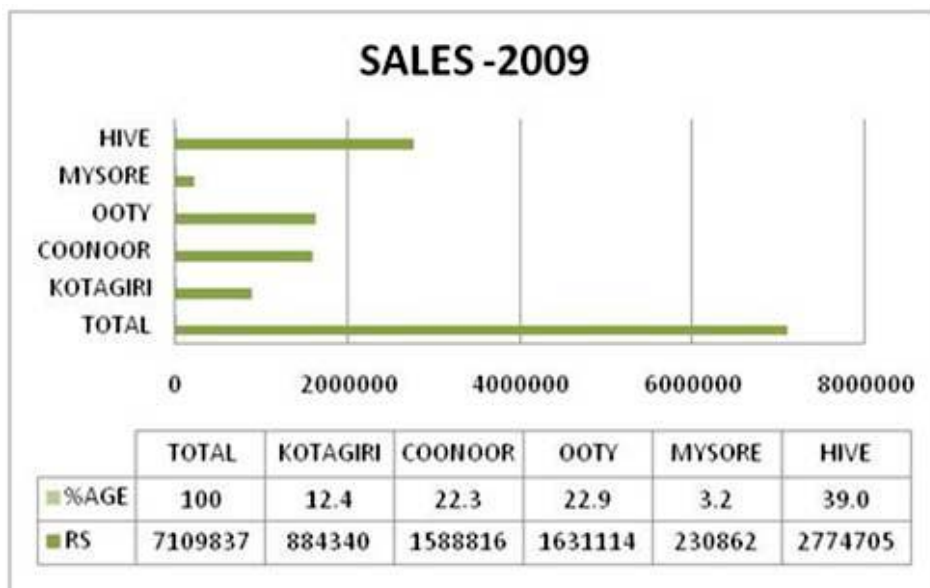
SALES ANALYSIS 2009

(All values in INR ,000)

MONTH	TOTAL	GS KOTAGIRI	GS COONOR	GS OOTY	GS MYSORE	HIVE
Jan	579.376	63.384	124.024	81.213	-	310.755
Feb	445.972	58.74	112.029	107.914	-	167.289
Mar	627.094	74.582	104.076	142.259	-	306.177
Apr	673.94	67.563	140.191	194.641	-	271.545
May	733.209	148.281	149.668	236.382	-	198.878
Jun	486.195	69.725	100.757	133.504	-	182.209
Jul	515.957	48.797	105.645	157.972	-	203.543
Aug	551.148	65.891	145.684	107.422	-	232.151
Sep	515.374	60.09	131.727	99.161	41.752	182.644
Oct	635.619	65.541	168.482	115.825	49.876	235.895
Nov	417.577	57.493	92.764	57.803	56.832	152.685
Dec	928.376	104.253	213.769	197.018	82.402	330.934
INR	7109.837	884.34	1588.816	1631.114	230.862	2774.705

declined to take the space. With no choice but to oblige (and no money to pay!) the space was reluctantly agreed to. Due to the preoccupation with bringing up the Green Shop at Mysore, nothing happened till September first week. A visit by Nivedita Banerjee from Samaj Pragati Sahayog, Madhya Pradesh changed the course of the plan. She is a crucial network partner and supplier of Kumbaya Garment and had shown keen interest to develop the new space into a Kumbaya Showroom.

Day by day, the new space is taking shape and is receiving good response from the customers. The challenge here is to set up the food counter and cater to the needs of the customers favoring organic and fair trade products. One area which needs immediate attention was putting up information on the shop floor. Focus will be on getting the information to customers in more ways during next year.





Operating Details of OMD

Top ten sellers

HIVE	GS, KOTAGIRI	GS COONOOR	GS OOTY	GS MYSORE
Honey	Honey	Honey	Honey	Pebbles Soap - Jasmine
Balm	Oil	Ladies Kurta	Ladies Kurta	Sweet Honey
Soap	Tea	Oil	Trifed Handicraft	Pebbles Soap - Lemongrass
Clove	L-Kurta	Tea	Tea	Pebbles Soap - Basil
Candle	Soap	Shawl	Oil	Tea Coaster
Glass Bottle	Coffee Powder	Mens Shirt	Mens Shirt	Candle
Cinnamon	Balm	Soap	Balm	Amla Candy
Tea	M-Kurta	Coffee Powder	Soap	Bitter Honey
Coffee Powder	Dhupa	Incense	Coffee Powder	Coffee Powder
Amla Candy	M-Shirt	Tea Bags	Incense	Greeting Card

all figures presented are for from Calendar year 1st January 2009 to 31st December 2009

Top ten suppliers

(All values in INR ,000)

S.No	Particulars	Amount
1	Kumbaya Garments	793
2	Banglapadigai	440
3	Kullu Karishma	365
4	Amuthasurabhi	310
5	Thumbithakadu	292
6	Maan Pharma	239
7	Kombai	204
8	The Ants	200
9	Unitea	198
10	Auropooja	168

New Suppliers

THI, Sittilingi

Dastkar Andhra Marketing Association, Hyderabad

Naturellement, Auroville

Samaj Sewi Sanstha, Bastar

Sasha Association for Craft, Kolkata

The Ants Store, Bangalore

Mahila Umang Producers Co Ltd, Uttarakhand

New Dealers

Indulj, NewDelhi

Manipura Kuzhu, Kodanad

Palms Spa, Ooty

Probe Hygienic, Coimbatore

Top ten dealers

(All values in INR ,000)

S.No	Particulars	Amount
1	Antony, Salem	332
2	Trifed	203
3	Auroannam	202
4	Thumbhidakadu	146
5	Todar Then Malar	127
6	Honey Hut	99
7	Modern Stores	93
8	Tantea Emporium, Ooty	86
9	Bon Appetit	80
10	Matha Amirthananda Mayi Mutt	78

Tantea Dealer, Dodabetta

The Altitude Store, New Delhi

Total Herbal, Haryana

Tulsi Tea Dealers

Baker's Junction, Coonoor

Classic Shoppe, Ooty

Nilgiri Govt Co-op Store, Ooty

The Hills Convenience Store, Ooty

Sundry Creditors: 28 Suppliers; Outstanding payable-
INR 1,132,309Sundry Debtors: 53 Dealers; Outstanding receivable-
INR 633,813

 Lost Forest



The direct and indirect expenses were INR 1,435,129 nad to highlight on the operating expenses, the following table is included. Salaries, packing materials and rent occupy the top 3 positions giving little scope for cost control. Improved performance of Green Shops and higher efficiencies at Hive are the key elements in achieving better results in the coming years.

Overheads	Expenses %age
Salaries	29.73
Packing Materials	24.12
Rent	12.71
Freight In	5.58
Shop Expenses	4.41
Marketing Expenses	3.22
Organic Bazaar	2.71
Freight Outward	2.51
Electricity	2.27
Communication Expenses	1.88
Staff Welfare Exp	1.87
Rates & Taxes	1.48
Processing Expenses	1.40
Printing & Stationery	1.26
Bank Charges	1.20

Insurance	0.57
Training Stipend	0.47
Computer & Consumables	0.37
Commission Paid	0.27
Packing Expenses	0.02

Spin off

With the new law about taxing trusts doing business of their entire turnover coming into effect from April 2011, there is little option but to spin off OMD into a separate entity. What kind of an entity remains to be seen as the final decision will be taken by the Board of Trustees. Plans are on the anvil to move Hive to a new building to be constructed in the campus. This will be designed strategically to accommodate growth and expansion. Spaces will be provided for designing new product lines , improve packaging and operating efficiencies. Ideas swirling in the mind include, another spacious Green Shop in Mysore and start a separate wholesale unit in Hive. Coimbatore Green Shop has been kept in the back burner for more than a year will gain attention after the Mysore project is up and running. Entering a new phase of strong financial growth will allow us to improve product range and quality!

GREEN SHOP MYSORE

Inside the Green Hotel, nestling in the corner in front of the Malgudi Coffee Shop, Green Shop in Mysore is doing brisk business. Inaugurated on the 5th of September 2009, Green Shop is carving a niche for itself. Though, linked to the occupancy of the hotel currently, Green Shop is always drawing discerning customers from Mysore city. The area admeasuring 120 sq ft is not enough to showcase our entire range of products, still holds the customers' attention and admiration. Done in wood and glass, the shop evokes a response which defies its size. Honey is the top selling product next to soaps and balms. In the four months of its being, Green Shop Mysore has shown tremendous potential for growth. We hope to ramp up sales and do more exhibitions and new product launches in the coming year. Sudhakar, who is managing the show all by himself proved to be an asset and his enthusiasm and follow up with Hive and customers require special mention.





TRAINING AND INFORMATION

MANAGING KNOWLEDGE

Keystone has over 15 years of experience in the field of conservation, livelihoods and enterprise development. Right from the beginning Training and Information has been an important aspect of its work. Over the years as part of the project work Keystone has given numerous trainings to various NGOs, villagers, Government departments on several topics ranging from sustainable honey harvesting practices, beekeeping, value addition of NTFPs, organic farming to ecologically sustainable harvesting of NTFPs. Keystone staff have been resource persons at various national, international institutes, networks, governmental and NGO training programmes.

During the organization restructuring last year it was recognized that Training and Information had the potential to be a Programme area by itself and the need was to develop training programmes which are self sustaining instead of being project based. This would also enable reaching out to many more interested groups nationally and internationally along with providing the regular support functions to the main programme areas.

Each year 15-20 trainings are conducted on honey harvesting and processing as well as beekeeping. 2004

onwards trainings on NTFP value addition and processing is being undertaken at various villages as well as for NGOs and Forest Department personnel. In the coming year these trainings will be standardized and offered as training courses to enable outreach to more numbers

Like the previous year's this year too, regular trainings were held on

- a. Sustainable harvest and Processing of Honey
- b. Value addition of forest produce
- c. Beekeeping

- d. Organic farming and other agricultural inputs
- e. FRA Trainings

During the impact assessment process one of the consultants, Bharat Krishnan suggested that the work already done and being planned encompassed much more than mere trainings and Information collection/ dissemination and suggested that the team work towards making it a knowledge management programme.

Moving towards the various goals many activities have been planned for the coming year

Database and Library

15 years of projects which included implementation to action research and pure research projects have generated data which can be utilized for further research, implementation or learnings. These would be made available in an easily accessible form for reference to students, researchers, other NGOs and Government officials. Archives and E-library would also be part of the database process.

Publications and documentation

Keystone has over the years published books, booklets, brochures, popular articles, research papers posters and films on varied topics aimed at generating awareness and getting the message of CEL across various ages and groups.

Training Modules

Initiating a training wing of information and knowledge on livelihoods and forest issues which caters to the target group themselves and other NGO workers and students is one of the goals.

Indigenous Resource Centre

Keystone will be geared to work as a key resource centre for biodiversity conservation with respect to indigenous communities. The idea is to make available resources on tribes and biodiversity for the community and others interested under a roof. A key function of this unit will also be strengthening the network of NGOs and government agencies to upscale and transfer knowledge and learnings.

Field University

The immense positive feedback and outputs received for the first CEL course conducted in May 2008 has convinced us of the need for further such courses which benefits NGOs, FD, Researchers and students.

The eventual aim is to take the programme area from one of training and information to that of knowledge management where Keystone develops as a field university for conservation, enterprise and livelihoods acting as the interface for theory and practice.

FRI Students visit Keystone

A group of 30 IFS trainees from the 2008 batch undergoing training at the Forest Research Institute visited the Keystone campus on a short visit on the 29th of November and included 2 students from Bhutan as well. The visit began with a presentation on Keystone's work, followed by a short interactive session. Thereafter, the visitors were given a tour of the Campus during which several aspects of the work on NTFP, Culture and People, Agriculture and Environmental Governance were discussed. The Hive, threw up discussions on the pricing of commodities, the backward linkages with community organizations.

Keystone plans to in the longer term to have short courses for Forest Trainees at its campus to bring in perspectives from the field.





ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

KEEPING TABS

The administration and finance group works towards the following objectives

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

The focus of the group has been to streamline the various processes and systems so as to better respond to the needs of the other programme areas.

ACTIVITIES

Traditionally, administration and finance are centers of information anywhere. Technology can play a disruptive role in this status quo and make

information accessible without significantly adding to the workload. A lot of effort has gone into organising the available data in various forms to easily accessible digital form and given the magnitude of the task we have just made a beginning.

With increasing scale of work, as reflected by the increasing annual expenditure over the last few years, there is a need for scalable systems both in administration and in finance. The year was dedicated to streamlining processes to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Constant improvement is the mantra and the aim is to systematise things without adding to the bureaucracy. That is where innovation plays a key role. Efforts have been initiated to adopt the norms framework of the Credibility Alliance in Keystone so as to benchmark the systems to widely accepted standards.

On the accounting front, the emphasis has been on reconciling stock positions in all the Green Shops and at Hive. The implementation of a new software solution, namely Tally Shoper 9 at all these locations took considerable amount of time. For accounts, erstwhile time consuming activities such as posting

the information to Tally Accounts and filing tax reports have been made easier by the new software thus saving a lot of time. Financial reports for monitoring on a monthly basis are also now readily available from the software.

For promoting awareness regarding local weather conditions and climate change, an electronic display board was installed at Charring Cross, Ooty. It was inaugurated by the District Collector, The Nilgiris district on 10th June 2009.

We are receiving support from CordAid to understand HIV/AIDS better and to mainstream it internally and externally. We have attended workshops on the basic concepts as well as tools to help us implement the mainstreaming agenda.

We have also provided logistical support to the following meetings/workshops organised by Keystone,

- Workshop on Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS by CordAid (25-26 February 2009)
- End of the project workshop for the Darwin project in Coonoor in (26-28 February 2009)
- Workshop on Human-Wildlife Conflict with Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore (March 2009)
- Meeting of the Core Group of Save the Western Ghats (29-30 April 2009)
- Meeting of various development actors from the Nilgiris for the Green Initiative of G.Balachander (12-13 August 2009)
- Biodiversity Festival at Nehru Park, Kotagiri (8-10 October 2009)

Foreign Contribution

To receive grants from foreign donors, Keystone is registered under the FCRA Act vide Registration no.075970103. All figures presented are based on audited accounts of 2008-2009 only, therefore many figures for the calendar year 2009 are not reflected in the table below. It is mandatory under the FCRA Act to maintain separate accounts for foreign contribution, the total foreign contribution received

was Rs. 3,01,73,309 with the major donors being Ford Foundation, CordAid, NTFP-EP, University of East Anglia .

Bankers

- Primary FCRA Account
- Standard Chartered Bank, Coimbatore
- Subsidiary Account - Syndicate Bank, Kotagiri; Axis Bank, Ooty; Union Bank, Jagdalpur

Organic Market Development: Keystone promotes marketing of organic, fair trade and Tribal products through retail shops popularly known as 'Green Shop' and wholesale marketing to other retailers is done from the Hive.

Keystone is registered under the VAT Act (2005) vide No. 33962560660, dtd. 01/01/2007 and for interstate sales it is registered under the CST Act (1956) vide No. 342465, dtd. 16/07/1996.

The total turnover during the financial year 2008-09 in OMD totals to INR 5,550,096 which is detailed below

VAT Sales	- INR 51,66,082
CST Sales	- INR 4,52,213
Sales Returns	- INR 68,199

During the year 2008-09 tax collected and paid are as detailed below

VAT	- INR 21,699
CST	- INR 3,989

Bankers

Central Bank of India, Kotagiri
IndusInd Bank, Coonoor
Axis Bank, Ooty

Rupee Contribution

This account deals with the local donations received. Donations to Keystone Foundation are exempt under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act. During the year 2008-09 the biggest local contribution is from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai for the "Eco-interventions with Forest Gatherers" Project.

During the financial year 2008-09 the total receipts of RC was Rs 26,42,088 which is detailed below

(All values in INR '000s)

SDTT	2,230
HADP	25
Individual donors	56
Training fee	87
Other receipts	244

Rupee contribution also deals with the 'Srikanth Joshi Endowment Fund' under which we support upcoming NGOs and provide scholarships for students. The fund continues to support small, diverse and interesting initiatives. In 2009 support has been extended to Raigajli Eco-Tourism and Social Welfare Society, Assam, during 2008-09

Total donation received INR 75,000

Interest and dividends INR 7,191

(Further information is available at www.shola.in)

Staff Benefits

From January 2009, a new salary structure was implemented that provided a significant hike in salary to all staff. Information on distribution of staff by Gender and Salary as on 31st December 2009 is given below,

Slab of gross monthly salary (in INR) plus benefits paid to staff	Male Staff	Female Staff	Total Staff
<5000	0	0	0
5001-10000	19	08	27
10001-25000	14	06	20
25001-50000	03	01	04
>50000	00	00	00
Total	36	15	51

Details of International Travel by Staff/ Volunteers and Board Members at the expense of the organization in 2008-09

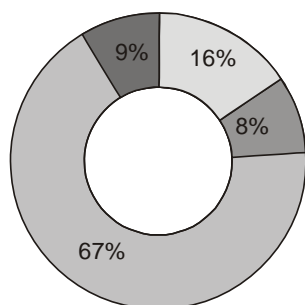
Name & Designation of Staff / Volunteer / Board Member	Designation	Purpose of Travel	Cost Incurred	Sponsored
Pratim Roy	Director	To participate in a course on Environmental Diplomacy	198	0
P . Chandran	Area Manager	To train Honeyhunters in Sunderbans, Bangladesh	30	0
Pratim Roy	Director	To the USA	23	149

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2009

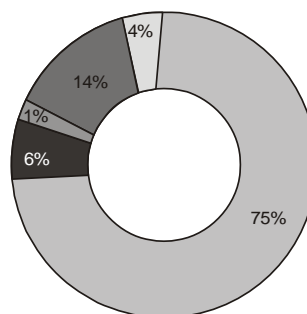
S.No	Particulars	2008-09 Amount INR '000	2007-08 Amount INR '000
1	LIABILITIES		
	Capital Fund	32,686	24,725
	Endowment Fund-Ford Foundation, USA	13,689	
	Other Funds	2,679	1,603
	Current Liabilities	1,402	905
		50,456	27,233
2	ASSETS		
	Fixed Assets	9,814	7,911
	Investments	8,766	9,166
	Current Liabilities	31,876	10,157
		50,456	27,234

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2009

S.No	Particulars	2008-09 Amount INR '000	2007-08 Amount INR '000
1.	INCOME		
	Donation		
	-Foreign Institutional Donors	30,173	23,809
	-Indian Institutional Donors	2,255	1,957
	- Others	387	385
	Income from Organic Market Development	5,550	5,433
	Other Income	1,582	1,401
		39,947	32,985
2.	EXPENDITURE		
	Village Development Projects		
	- Foreign Funded	22,492	17,602
	- Indian Funded	1,986	176
	Organic Market Development- Expenses	5,176	4,747
	Other Expenses	1,547	995
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	3,082	1,674
		34,283	25,194
3.	SURPLUS FUNDS	5,665	7,793

Expenditure by Type

Salary and Benefits
Administration and
Communication
Programme Cost
Fixed asset Purchase

Income by Donor Type

Foreign Institutional Donors
Indian Institutional Donors
Other Donors
Income from Organic Market
Development
Interest and Other Income



ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year progress has been made towards adopting simple systems that ensure transparency and help manage aspects such as purchases, repair and maintenance, managing assets etc. The discussion of the issues in the Coordination and Implementation Group to arrive at systems therein helped in broad basing the ownership.

A significant savings in time and money for transactions as well as reduction in response time has been achieved through adoption of online payments through NEFT/RTGS. This eliminates the time delay involved in writing cheques and posting them as well as saves the expenses on courier at our end and at the client end saves collection charges as well as the sometimes inordinate delay in cheques being credited.

As a part of the mainstreaming agenda, the Staff Welfare Policy was revised to include provisions related to critical illnesses including HIV/AIDS.

IMPACT FACTORS

The Coordination and Implementation Group (CIG) and Management Group meetings (MGM) were important forums for the discussion of issues related to administration and finance. These provided opportunities to highlight issues and arrive at collectively owned solutions that have a better chance of working than imposed rules and regulations.

WAY FORWARD

The administration and finance group would focus on improving efficiency and effectiveness in all its work. Embracing Information Technology is an important strategy in this regard. Organising information in databases and developing a digital archive of documents are two major areas of work in the near future. Full compliance with Credibility Alliance norms would also be achieved in the coming year as a part of benchmarking our systems with globally accepted standards.

HIGHLIGHTS

Organising the Biodiversity Festival at the Nehru Park was a highlight of the year. It was perhaps the first time that Keystone had organised a public event that saw a turnout of over 2000 people from all walks of life. The stalls put up by Keystone staff, PCD members, other NGOs and community groups from the Nilgiris and partners in the IDRC project from other states, were all a huge draw. The icing on the cake was a combination of excellent musical performances by the community musical group from Pillur and 'Vayali', the bamboo band from Kerala. The entire event was organised collectively by the staff with a lot of support from members of the community. The huge turnout was an indicator of

the potential among the people of Kotagiri and nearby areas for dissemination of information related to biodiversity and conservation.

NETWORKS, MEETINGS, VISITS, TRAININGS, LEARNINGS

Bala attended the Linking and Learning workshop on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming organised by Cordaid. This workshop brought together representatives from all the NGOs that Cordaid is working with to support the internal and external mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS. It was a good opportunity not only to learn from other organisations their experiences in mainstreaming, but also to learn some tools and techniques that can be applied in undertaking the mainstreaming process within the organisation.





NETWORKS

ACROSS BOUNDARIES

Fair Trade

At the end of 2008, Keystone (Mathew) got elected on to the Board of Fair Trade Forum of India, a network of fair trade organizations across the country. In the international structure, there exists World Fair Trade Forum – Asia, based in Manila and World Fair Trade Forum, based in the Netherlands, as the apex organization. There have been a number of discussions doing the rounds in the fair trade world to come out with a credible system of certification for crafts – for food, there exists FLO – Fairtrade Labelling Organization, which is quite established. The agreed system that is being tested is Sustainable Fair Trade Management Systems (SFTMS). As part of the PGS movement in the organic world, SFTMS seems a complicated system with no clarity on what it wants to achieve. There were some presentations at the WFTO conference in Nepal, in May 2009, of 6 experiments tried all over the world. The second round of trials will take place in 2010.

What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade started at least 50 years ago with community and church organizations in Europe and North America buying products from other community organizations in the developing world.

Today, Fair Trade is an organized social movement and market-based approach to empowering developing countries producers and promoting sustainability. Fair Trade history is strongly linked to working with small producers and farmers. Fair Trade's strategic intent is to deliberately work with marginalized producers and workers in order to help them move from a position of vulnerability to one of security and economic self-sufficiency. Its emphasis is on empowerment and development of small producers, farmers and of workers.

Fair Trade work with small producers and farmers aims to encourage them to work together and to gain the knowledge and power to improve their own situation. It works with small producer associations,

co-operatives and other such organizations as they strive for fair and responsible trading relationships. Fair trade movement also advocates the payment of fair price as well as social and environmental standards in areas related to the production of a wide variety of goods. It focuses in particular on exports from developing countries to developed countries.

Fair Trade Standards

Standard One: Creating opportunities for the economically disadvantaged producers

Standard Two: Transparency and Accountability

Standard Three: Trading Practices

Standard Four: Payment of a Fair Price

Standard Five: Child Labour and Forced Labour

Standard Six: Non Discrimination, Gender Equity and Freedom of Association

Standard Seven: Working Conditions

Standard Eight: Capacity Building

Standard Nine: Promotion of Fair Trade

Standard Ten: Environment

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

The PGS Organic India Council held 3 meetings this year – in March, it was held in Kotagiri at the Keystone campus. Then, since there were some conceptual issues that needed to be sorted out, an emergency meeting of the council took place in Fireflies, outside Bangalore. The regular meeting again took place in Timbaktu, in the first week of August.

A tremendous initiative that got off the ground during the year was the launch of the PGS Newsletter. 2 issues were published in June and September and have been extremely well received. A major decision that the group arrived at was the organization should be registered as a society, in Hyderabad, with the help of Deccan Development Society. Hopefully, this process should get completed during the early part of 2010.

The term of the International PGS Task Force came to an end in 2008 – the World Board of IFOAM took a decision that it would create a permanent

committee of PGS, beginning in August 2009, for a term of 3 years. Part of the members of the previous Task Force got selected so that there would be a continuity in the whole process – Chris May (New Zealand), Ron Khosla (USA) and Mathew. The new committee members were

Eva Torremocha (Spain)

Eva works as an independent consultant to provide support to different emerging PGS initiatives in Spain and neighboring countries. She also maintains strong linkages with the French PGS Nature & sProgrès. In addition, Eva manages a small subsistence organic farm in Andalusia.

Chris May (New Zealand)

Chris is an organic horticulturist and the managing director of Bioglobal Consultancy. In 2001-2003, Bioglobal developed “Organic Farm New Zealand,” the national PGS system in New Zealand. Chris is still involved in OFNZ as a certification manager. Furthermore, he is a PGS trainer for IFOAM with experience in Africa, India, South-Asia and the Pacific.

Mathew John (India)

Mathew has worked with the Keystone PGS in India for the past decade. Mathew is also currently a member of the PGS Organic India Council, which he helped to set-up in 2006.

Janet Villanueva (Peru)

Janet is the PGS advisor to the National Association of Ecological producers in Peru (ANPE) and is a member of the Peruvian national PGS. Janet has been involved in the development of ANPE’s PGS since its founding in 2005.

Konrad Hauptfleisch (South Africa)

Konrad is the Chief Operations Officer of the Bryanston Organic & Natural Market, for which he helped found the first operational PGS in South Africa in 2005. He is also currently serving the SAOSO (South African Organic Sector Organization), working with government bodies on an organic strategy for South Africa that prioritizes PGS.



Ron Khosla, Chris May and Mathew John have already served on the IFOAM PGS Task Force and have been re-selected by the IFOAM Executive Board. Eva Torremocha, Janet Villanueva and Konrad Hauptfleish are new members on the committee.

www.fairtradeforum.org
www.wtfo.com
www.pgsorganic.in
www.ifoam.org

NTFP Exchange Programme, South and South East Asia – Regional and India Perspectives

The NTFP Exchange Programme (NTFP – EP) operates in the countries of Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, India and Bangladesh with NGO and CBOs working on issues related to indigenous communities and forests. All the partners in the region exchange ideas and expertise and help build programmes and approaches across each other's area, the common concern being to protect tropical forests and ensure forest based communities to continue a sustainable livelihood. In 2009, several

programmes started afresh – partners in Cambodia initiated their work on crafts and honey; in Vietnam and Cambodia a study was undertaken on Resin Trade and in Philippines and Indonesia the craft and honey work expanded and became stronger. Exchanges and Trainings made the year full of learning. The Regional meeting of the Network was held in September, 2009 in the National Park of Nui Chua near the South China Sea in Vietnam. All the partners experienced field visits and discussions regarding resource management and livelihoods in protected areas. The presentations from different parts of the region generated new learning for the group. The field visit to the village allowed for a glimpse into the national park, which falls in both terrestrial and aquatic areas. From India, Sumin George, Madhu Ramnath, Deepak Pani and Snehlata Nath attended the meeting.

The board meeting of the network was also held in Vietnam back to back with the regional gathering. This allowed all staff, board members and partners to meet each other.

In India the partners – spread across the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Central India, continued to work on the programme together. Amongst the partners there were exchanges and cross trainings on nurseries, sacred groves, GPS mapping, honey enterprise, forest committees and policies. There were a few major events like the meeting on overall NTFP development in Maharashtra organized by Econet, which brought into focus the issues of the state and discussed a future direction amongst the partners. It also allowed for all the partners to discuss a common strategy and method for working in the future. During this year, a large meeting of mostly NGOs and CBOs in the Eastern Ghats was also organized in Araku Valley in May to bring forth the issues of the region

and explain the work of different NGOs. Focusing on both NTFP and advocacy issues, the meeting helped build a stronger alliance amongst partners locally and identify issues they would work on together.

The NTFP Exchange Programme in India continued to support the efforts concerning the Save Western Ghats Campaign and the Polavaram Dam. A meeting in Goa to revive the 20 year Campaign on Western Ghats was organized by Prakruti/Appiko, Keystone and Peaceful Society. This was very successful and resulted in a lot of momentum in lobbying towards ecologically suitable policies in the region. It was also decided that a meeting would be organized by Keystone in 2010 as a follow up.

www.ntfp.org



REWINDING- YEAR 2009

JANUARY

- Pratim, Anita and Senthil to Palghat to meet CCF, Kerala Forest Department to form a steering committee
- Talk by Antony Walker – on Todas
- Visit by Srujan, Maharashtra
- Visit by Ananth, iVolunteer
- Rajiv - discussion about resin markets
- VFC meeting at Forest College, Mettupalayam
- Mathew for Geographical Indicator workshop in Chennai
- Subbu from Kirti Papers – discussion about gift boxes for the Green Shops

FEBRUARY

- Visit by Fair Trade group, UK through Kolam Tours, Chennai
- Eco-certification workshop organized by IIFM& Keystone at Kotagiri - Proposed Certification for MAPs
- Visit by Sabeena, an architect from Masinagudi
- Internal discussions on the FRA
- Visit to Mysore to meet Hilary Blume
- Pratim, Sneha, B.J.Krishnan and Senthil to Goa for '20 years of Western Ghats Campaign' meeting
- Visit by Paul Wolvekamp and Madhu Ramnath
- Visit by Nilgiri District Collector Anand Rao Patil
- Priya and Ramu to Hosur for Programme on Livelihoods Promotion
- Mathew to Dhaka for Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change
- Pratim, Sneha, Anita and Senthil to Trissur for VSS meeting

- Visit by Paul and Aniya, UK - Aniya as volunteer
- HIV/AIDS workshop by Dr. Meera Pillai and Vinay Chandran consultants for Cordaid
- Visit by Camilla and Jonathan from Future Earth
- Anita to Meghalaya and Nagaland for visiting Samrakshan and the North East network
- Visit by Vip Kumar, consultant for IFFAD
- Folklore Hubba

MARCH

- Visit by Salomi Yesudas, consultant on Millet cultivation
- Archana and Selvi to BR Hills for FRA meeting
- Visit by Anne and Peter; Maggy and Luke from UK - beekeepers
- PGS Organic India Council Meeting at Keystone
- Visit by Madhusudan and Pavithra, Nature Conservation Foundation for workshop on human wildlife conflicts
- Visit by C.K. Sreedharan, PCCF, Tamil Nadu Forest Department
- Visit by students from the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy
- Biodiversity and Livelihoods Conference at Gateway Hotel, Coonoor
- Visit by Pankaj Seksharia, Kalpavriksh
- Visit by Madhu Sarin
- Leo and P. Chandran to Bangladesh - training of honey hunters in Bangladesh
- Pratim to Italy, Belagio Practitioner's Residency
- Mathew to Ooty for presentation on Value addition of Tribal Products - Golden Jubilee Meeting by NAWA
- Visit by Sneha to Pune for NTFP-EP India meeting

APRIL

- Mathew to Delhi for Cordaid organized meeting for future plans
- Samraj to Botswana, second phase of the Participatory Democracy Workshop
- Sivaraj and Moorthy to Bangladesh for organic agriculture training
- Installation of Tally Shoper for OMD
- IFFAD Board meeting at Yelagiri hills
- Save Western Ghats preparatory meeting – core group

MAY

- Board of Trustee Meeting
- Production Centre audits
- Sneh, Sumin and Saneesh to Arakku Valley for consultation on the Eastern Ghats
- Sneh to Amsterdam and Vienna for Cordaid visit
- Mathew to Nepal for World Fair Trade Organization meeting
- Conservation Education Camp for adivasi children at Keystone
- Leo and Murugan to Pune for workshop on documentation-Crop varietal characterization and biodiversity
- Pratim to Chennai High Court for Coastal Ecology Expert Committee meeting

JUNE

- Launch of “Forest Plants of the Nilgiris - Northern NBR” at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
- Tourist guides meeting at the Bee Museum
- Electronic weather display board inaugurated at Ooty
- Leo and Ayyasamy to Anthra, Hyderabad for livestock training programme
- Visit by Raghu, IFFAD for training community members on principles of Fair Trade
- PGSOIC meeting at Fireflies, Bangalore
- Visit by Gautham for Shola website
- Anandhi & Reshma from Earthy Goods, Delhi

JULY

- Barefoot Ecology course at Nilambur
- Inauguration of Nature Interpretation Centre at Hasanur
- Visit by Nivedita from Samaj Pragati Sahayog
- PCD group from Hasanur at Dakshina Chitra for exhibition
- Lecture by Pratim to DFTI students in Mysore
- Mathew to Delhi for Fair Trade Forum Board meeting
- Area managers training

AUGUST

- Mathew and Moorthy to Timbaktu for PGSOIC meeting at Timbaktu
- Visit by Meena Gupta, Secretary (retd.), Govt. of India
- World Indigenous People Day celebration in Coimbatore
- Blue Mountains brainstorm at Ooty organized by G. Balachander, Green Bank Initiative
- Sneh and Sumin to Vietnam for the NTFP-EP regional meeting

SEPTEMBER

- Sneh to Cambodia
- Mysore Green Shop opens
- Samita rejoins office after course in UK for a year
- Mathew to Chennai for IFFAD’s board meeting
- Archana, Selvi and Rajendran R. to Orissa for VFC study along with 16 community members
- Pratim to Apimondia in Montpellier France
- Leo and Moorthy to Ladakh through the Future Earth exchange programme
- Ajay Rastogi and Ruchi’s visit
- Sumin and Sudhakar for YETI conference at Bangalore
- Cintra passes away

OCTOBER

- Biodiversity Festival
- Visit by Dr. Charles Peters, NYBG, New York
- Future Earth – Mathew for preparatory meeting in Chennai
- Selvi to Stockholm - 'Learn from the South' programme
- Pratim and Sara to Puducherry for facilitation of SiC workshop
- Performance Assessment of staff
- Award for Sitaram Rao Livelihood Case Study at Micro Finance Summit, Delhi
- Internal workshop on HIV/AIDS
- Mathew to Chennai for Fair Trade workshop

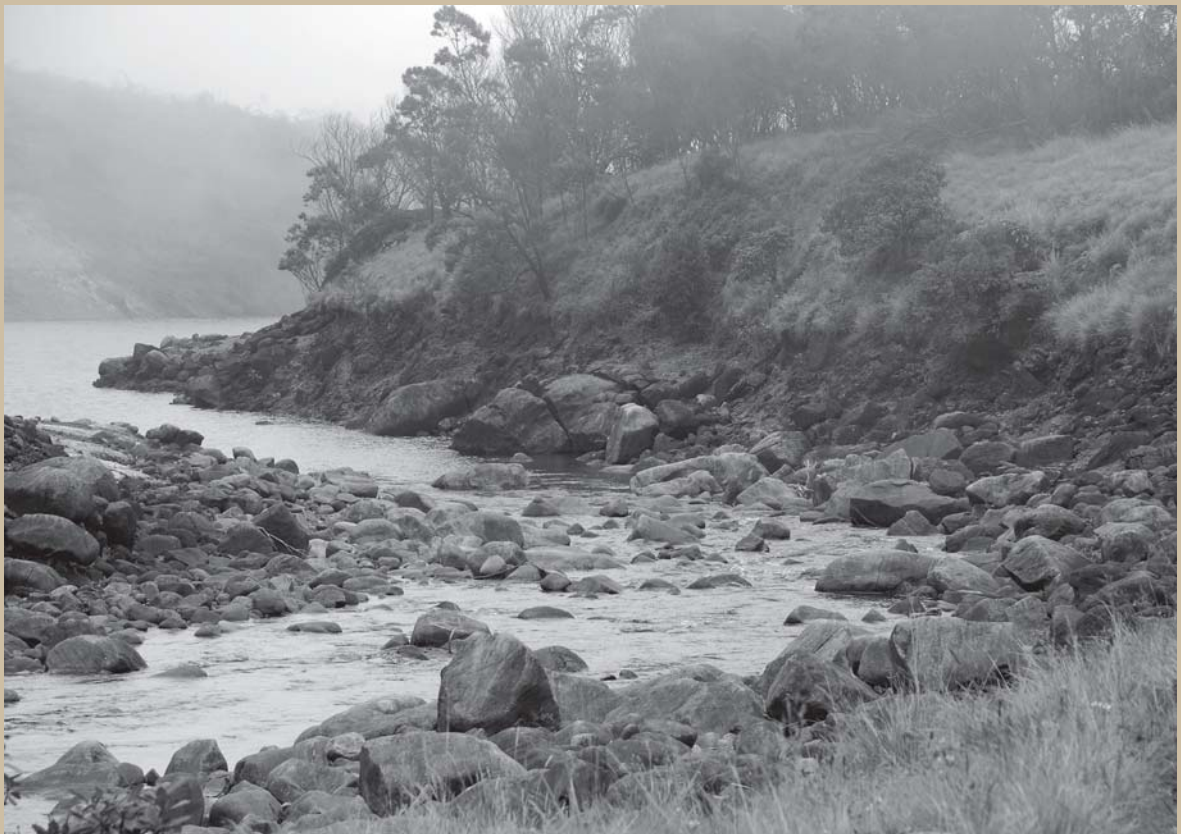
NOVEMBER

- Sneh, Anita, Saneesh and Ramachandran to Trivandrum for presentation on resin harvest to the Kerala Forest Department

- Visit by Kristin and Sandra from Swallows, Sweden
- Staff tour to Goa
- Sneh to Bhubaneswar, Kalahandi and Dogarh for RCDC project evaluation
- Mathew and Samraj to Mumbai for Bio Fach India
- Mathew to Bhopal for UNDP-GEF meeting
- Karnagopal to Chennai for organic agriculture training
- Impact Assessment starts - Bharat & Gouthami

DECEMBER

- Shola Fellowship at Alleppy
- Mathew to Delhi for Fair Trade Forum – AGM & EC meeting
- Celebration of Terra Madre Day
- Mathew and Leo to Sri Lanka for workshop to promote PGS

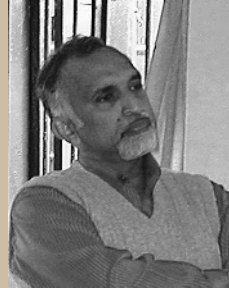


BANDWAGON OF KEYSTONE:

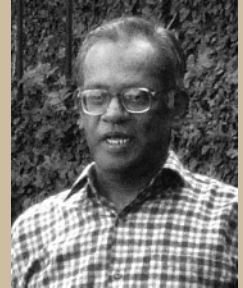
TRUSTEES



Anju Sharma



John Kurien



Rev. Philip Mulley



Rita Banerji



Shipra Gupta



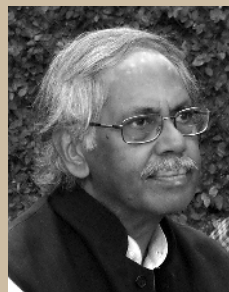
Somnath Sen



Suprava Patnaik



C.L. Gupta
Technical Advisor

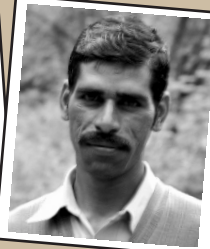


B.J. Krishnan
Legal Advisor

ADVISORS



ANITA
Programme Coordinator,
Conservation.
Will and grit to make
conservation work



ARADUKUTTAN
Assistant – Nurseries
Nurturing Nurseries and biking
through Nilgiris. A Toda who
has acquired good new skills



ARCHANA
Programme
Coordinator,
Environmental
Governance Firm
voice for action



AYYASAMY
Assistant –Beekeeping
Deep thinker, can be a
doer also



BALACHANDER
Programme Coordinator
- Administration
& Finance –Figuring out
the administration ropes
& Gadget Guru



CHANDRAN M.
Area Manager –
Konavakarai. One of
the senior staff at
Keystone – has grown
with the organization



CHANDRAN P.
Area Manager –
Konavakarai
Shifting from collecting
subscriptions to
collecting governance



EASWAR
Additional Coordinator – Finance
A natural dancer, keeps track of
accounts like a cool accountant



HARI BAHADUR
Security – Campus
The vigilant guardian
of the campus



KARNAGOPAL
Assistant – Organic Market
Development
Cheerful and helpful



JUSTINRAJ
Area Manager – Sigur
Strong in Organisational
principles and confident to
handle area issues, busy as bee



LALITHA
 Assistant - Water Resources
 Sincere, trying hard alone,
 in need of an extra pair of
 hands



KHADKA BAHADUR
 Security - Bee Museum
 The all-in-all at the Bee Museum
 and Green Shop in Ooty. Goes
 about quietly doing his work with
 a smile on his face



MAHADESHA
 Assistant - Research
 New inroads into
 familiar territory



LEO
 Coordinator -
 Livelihoods
 Solid Implementation
 that combines tenacity



MALLIKARJUNAMOORTHY
 Additional Coordinator -
 Livelihoods
 Reliable, nothing makes him
 weak-no mission impossible



MALA
 Assistant - Organic Market
 Development
 Sweet Irula accent, melodic
 laughter, works in the Hive
 efficiently



MILLER
 Assistant - Organic
 Market Development
 Shoper is haunting more
 than the Shop



MATHEW
 Director - Administration
 & Finance
 Astute and sound



MURUGAN
 Assistant - Livelihoods
 Good initiatives to promote
 organic practices



MONICA
 Accountant - Organic
 Market Development
 Learning how to cope with
 enterprise management
 processes



PRABHU
 Assistant - Organic Market
 Development
 Fast and quick! Time to
 walk the extra mile



PRATIM
Director – Donors,
Networking & Organisational
Development
Visionary beyond realms



PUSHPINDER
Educator – Bee Museum
Transcending from
military forces to natural
forces



Rajendran L. – Subject
Manager – Nursery. Trying to
find ground both for self and
the restoration work. Senior
in the conservation group



RAJENDRAN R.
Assistant – Beekeeping
Quiet, promising, concerned
and future of Sigur region



RAMACHANDRAN
Subject Manager – Eco
Certification
Taking sincere efforts –
Advocate can advocate loudly



RASINGAM
Subject Manager – Botany
Taxonomically sound from Little
Andamans Islands to Nilgiri
Mountains



RANGASAMY
Area Manager – Hasanur
Young, trying hard to handle
larger responsibilities



SAKTHIVEL
Subject Manager – Human Wildlife
Conflicts. Transition from areas to
region to understand conflicts.
Moving from Pillur to Kotagiri on
the wings of butterflies



SAMITA
Programme Coordinator
– Training & Information
Confident and clear



SAMRAJ
Programme Coordinator –
Organic Market
Development– Baba Sam,
wiser and calmer



SANEESH
Area Manager – Nilambur
Defining and accommodating
new responsibilities. Moving
from Nilambur to Kotagiri



SARASASMEETA
Additional Coordinator – Administration
Enthusiastic and confident. Her strengths
are in following up, coordination and
organising



SELVI
Additional Coordinator – Culture &
People
Local to global and working on
indigenous issues



SHEEBA
Assistant – Organic Market
Development
All smiles and fun



SENTHIL
Additional Coordinator –
Environmental Governance
Advocacy through maps, flying
through the Western Ghats



SHOBA
Assistant – Organic Market
Development
Making the Coonoor



SIVAGAMI
Assistant – Finance –
Handles cash and pitches in
with other accounts work
quietly and efficiently



SIVA KUMAR
Accountant – Production
Centre Development
The latest entrant. Bringing
order to chaos – PCD Accounts



SNEH
Director – Programmes
Finesse till the end




SIVARAJ
Area Manager – Araçode
Realising whole
responsibilities well
experienced




SUBRAMANI
Assistant – Culture & People
Keen to teach children
traditional songs and music



SUDHAKAR
Assistant – Research –
balancing conservation
and livelihoods in the
Sigur region and in his life



SUSHEELA
Well experienced,
foreseeing. Major
crossroads in life




SUMIN
Additional Coordinator – Conservation
Learning to be an ecologist – project
manager



SUGANTHIT.
Additional Coordinator – Organic
Market Development
Sorting out the piling up goods day
in and out



THETHAN
Assistant –Organic Market
Development Little world
and big struggle – family
man



VASU
Supervisor –CampusTireless
worker around the campus and
provider of the all important
energiser (Tea!) everyday!



VELLAIYAN
Assistant – Beekeeping
Silent, cool and
unfazed

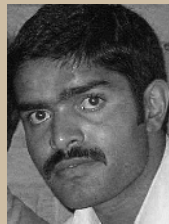
People who have moved on . . .



S. Anusha



S. Kabalan



Naresh



T.A. Priya



Shiny Mariam Rehel