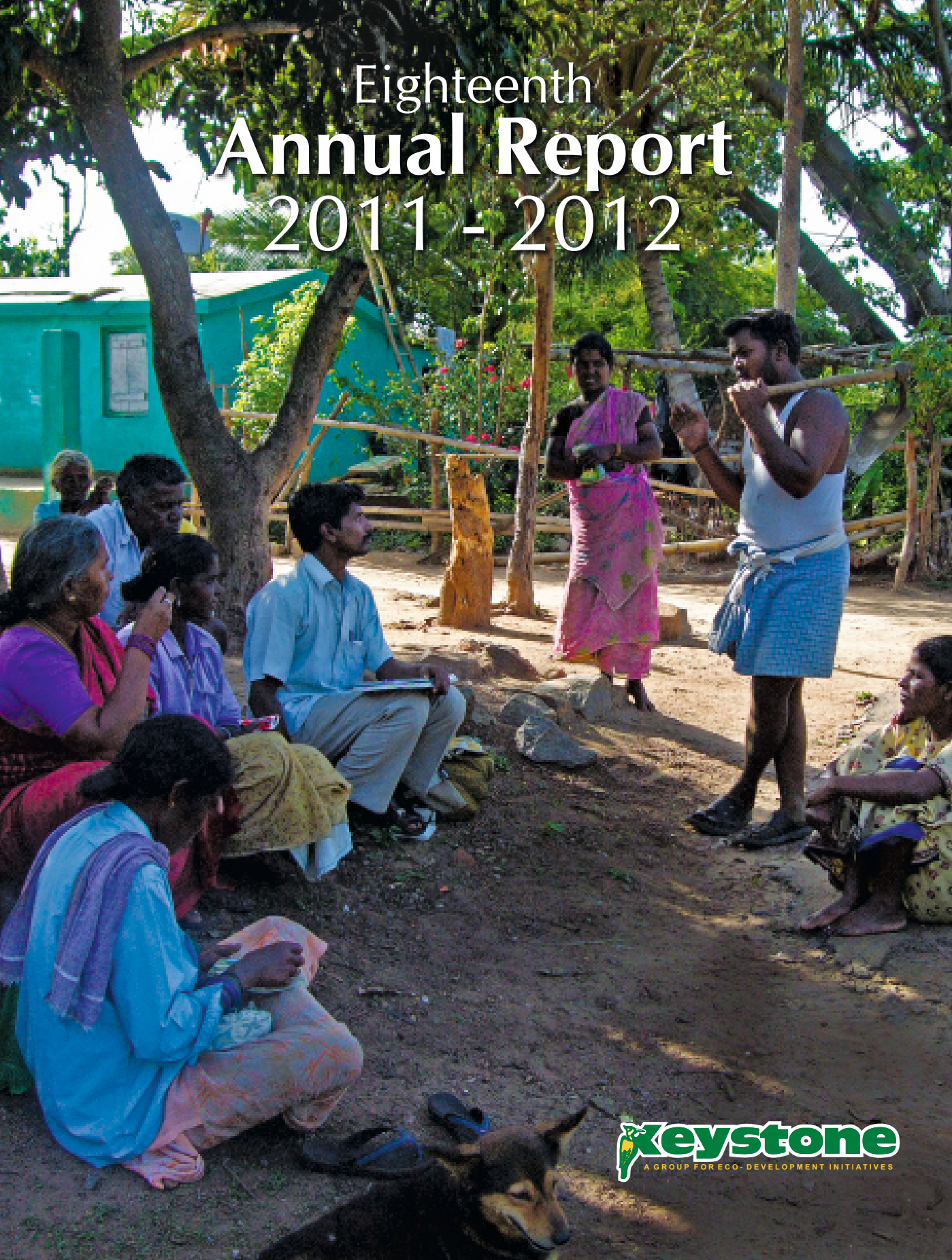


# Eighteenth Annual Report 2011 - 2012







# Annual Report 2011 - 2012

# Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve



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

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



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# FOREWORD

One more year has passed by and to know that this is the 18th Annual Report gives a feeling of joy and satisfaction – a small seed sown way back in 1993 has grown, evolved and allowed new initiatives to take shape. In 2009, it was the new organizational structure that came into being and 2010 saw the birth of Last Forest, an independent marketing company, while 2011 heralded the registration of the Nilgiri Natural History Society and 2012 is seeing movement towards the creation of a producer company, Aadimalai – all of them taking their first steps.

In all this, the funding scenario has remained a difficult one and has pressed everyone to tighten belts. Though it has been difficult to balance growth with this, nevertheless it has been an exciting and challenging journey over the past year. The Conservation group continued its conservation education and biodiversity research efforts. The Bee Museum remained a hub for many activities of the Nilgiri Natural History Society. Reviving & promoting millet and other traditional food was a priority for the Livelihoods group. Through efforts with Give India & Samhita, a number of smokeless chullahs and kitchen gardens were set up in many households. As mentioned earlier, the efforts in involving the communities to think, discuss and participate, in setting up the producer company, was noteworthy. All the best to the team as it moves forward.

The Culture & People programme had some new additions in its basket of activities. The basic work to get permissions for the community radio license has been nearly completed and some pilot programmes prepared. Craft development with the various communities has been initiated. The newspaper, Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi, entered its sixth year of publication – a commendable effort. Closely linked in many ways, the Environmental Governance initiative continued its dialogue with the government at all levels. It has played a facilitating role to strengthen village institutions for governance of their respective community forest resources.

Apart from numerous trainings, the efforts in sharing data in the public domain has been a key priority for the Training & Information team. It has been partnering with the India Biodiversity Portal and the Western Ghats portal to share information that has been collected over the years. Last Forest completed its first full year in existence and was able to squeeze in a bit of profit after meeting all expenses – kudos to the entire team. It has continued to build the platform for marketing many products from around the country.

A couple of the team disappeared – Pratim went off to Cornell on a Hubert H Humphrey fellowship for 10 months and Sumin found his space in UK through a Conservation Leadership course at Cambridge – excellent work, folks.

Many of the above activities have been made richer by the fact that Keystone continues to network with groups of similar and like-minded institutions around the world!! Just mentioning them:

- i. Non Timber Forest Produce Exchange Programme – South & South East Asia (India network too)
- ii. Ecosystem Alliance
- iii. Save Western Ghats Movement
- iv. International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
- v. Participatory Guarantee Systems – International & Domestic
- vi. Fair Trade Forum – India

One could not close this message without mentioning the foundation of any institution – the Administration & Finance team. Through all the ups and downs, they provide an unseen support that not many acknowledge. The transparency and diligence of their efforts has helped Keystone to be accepted as a member of Credibility Alliance, a small but growing number of organizations within the country that believe in setting high standards for themselves and for others to follow.

Lastly, the Board of Trustees of Keystone is a magnificent team and one could not have asked for a more energetic & dedicated group. They have helped in cutting through all the complexities and asked all the tough questions – thanks a ton.

## Objectives

The Conservation Programme focuses on the ecology, habitat and biology of non timber forest produce and vulnerable species within the Nilgiris 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 and building knowledge networks with communities, academia and voluntary agencies.

## PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR

### Conservation Education and Outreach

Children below the age of 16 years who are from the indigenous communities or from rural and urban backgrounds are part of the programmes. A biodiversity learning module for the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) has been developed with inputs from educators, village elders, researchers and many others. The module is already being piloted at three schools in the NBR.

### Village Conservation Centres

The Village Conservation Centres at Appankappu, Punanjanur, Vellarikombai, Pillur and Nedungayam strengthen the practical aspects of sustainable use of natural resources. These centers have information related to the area including biodiversity issues. Nurseries for Rare, Endemic and Threatened (RET) species are also managed there. A total of 16 camps involving 192 children were conducted during the period. Flora and fauna are being monitored at a village level here and are being documented in wallpapers.

### Biodiversity Walk with a village elder

We recognise that indigenous cultures have inherent conservation-oriented practices. Village elders who were traditional healers, honey hunters, farmers or NTFP collectors from different regions take children from the village for a walk in the forest and share their knowledge and perspective about the local biodiversity. While the new generation is informed about traditions and practices, community elders are also respected as bare-foot teachers. A total of 160 such visits involving 1,120 children participants were conducted by seven elders during the period.







### **Nature Camps**

During school vacations and weekends, residential camps were organised for children involving various field activities, games, skits etc. to increase their understanding of ecology. Seven camps were organized and 140 children from various parts of the NBR participated in them.

### **Tribal Residential Schools**

Six Government Tribal Residential (GTR) Schools and one Public School have been part of the monthly educational programmes aimed at school children in VII<sup>th</sup> to IX<sup>th</sup> standards. 67 such programmes were organized and about 1,675 children participated in these school programmes.

### **Bee Museum and NNHS**

Since its formation in 2010, the Nilgiri Natural History Society has been managing the Bee Museum. This year the bee museum has hosted 2,950 daily visitors. Apart from this, 1,514 students and 151 teachers from nine schools and six colleges, including 97 children and 11 teachers from five adivasi villages, also visited the Bee Museum. Five talks in the NBR series, a Traditional Crafts Bazaar and an intriguing workshop on cooking with local and wild edible plants were also conducted, attended by a total of 278 people. In all there were 4,893 visitors to the Bee Museum during this period. Keystone staff are closely involved in the activities conducted at the Bee Museum.

## **WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS**

### **Annual Retreat of the Conservation Education Network**

Vanastree, Sirsi hosted the fourth annual retreat of the Network in November 2011 and Sudhakar and Vinoth attended the retreat and shared Keystone's experience. Activities included exploring the local landscape, interacting with the Vanastree collective about their work, meeting environmental activist Pandurang Hegde to learn of the ecological issues faced by the Malnad region and the need for Conservation Education, and interaction with a seed leader Manorama Joshi, who works with Vanastree to promote cultivated and wild biodiversity.

### **Cycad Biology Conference**

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Cycad Biology was held in Shenzhen, China from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2011. Saneesh attended the conference and presented a paper on 'Village conservation centres: An indigenous effort to conserve *Cycas circinalis*'.

## **BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH**

### **Human Wildlife Conflicts**

The human wildlife conflict situation in 18 villages across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was monitored. After a year's monitoring, Pazhupathur emerged as a key conflict hotspot among the villages surveyed with crop loss due to elephant, wild pig and bonnet macaque being the key issue. The main crops being damaged are coconut, banana, coffee and areca nut, with the peak damage being in the monsoon season. 'Thenkuzhy





Vanyamruga Pradhirodha Committee', an Eco-Development Committee (EDC) was formed and registered with the Forest Development Agency (FDA), Waynad Wildlife Division to implement a solution to reduce the conflict. Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), the EDC and the forest department are contributing financially to install a solar fence around the village, with the EDC and the Gram Panchayat being responsible for the maintenance of the fence.

### Community Bee Reserve

The Todas are known to rear *Apis cerana* in the wild and also maintain the cavities in which these bees nest. The purpose of creating a community reserve for bees is to prevent the destruction of these cavities by people from near by villages through inappropriate harvest measures. This effort is supported by the Hill Area Development Programme, the Nilgiris District.

### Wetlands' Study

Biodiversity inventory was done for the three wetlands sites at Nedugula, Tarnadmund and Bison swamp as part of the Wetlands study programme.

### Restoration

Restoration activities were taken to a new level by increasing the number of forest species at each nursery to cater to tea estates and private areas such as schools, fallows etc. In the past year, 9,304 saplings were given to tea estates and schools. In addition to this, saplings were given to the Forest Department to aid in their afforestation

programmes. Planting was also undertaken at local schools where about 250 saplings were planted in this year. In the last year, 4,338 saplings were raised in three nurseries. The survival rate at the Happy valley restoration plot is 80%.

### Film

A documentary on the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) has been completed and covers the story of indigenous people's lives around the major rivers such as the Chaliar, Bhavani, Kabani, and Moyar. NBR is home to more than 20 indigenous communities, and the film tells the stories of the Toda, Cholanaickan, Kurumba, and Irula indigenous people. This film is being produced and directed by members of the NNHS. The film is aimed at students, naturalists, researchers, tourists – everybody who has something to do with the NBR.

### Papers, posters, films and books published

1. **Paper:** Roy, P., Leo, R., Thomas, S. G., Varghese, A., Sharma, K., Prasad, S., Bradbear, N., et al. (2011). Nesting requirements of the rock bee *Apis dorsata* in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. *Tropical Ecology*, 52(3), 285-291.
2. **Poster:** Biodiversity of Sholas for Longwood Shola Interpretation Center, Indigenous Knowledge for Conservation Centers and Lichens of Longwood Shola.
3. **Film:** The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve - A Fragile Treasure
4. **Book:** 'Where the Kurinji blooms – A Biodiversity Learning Module'

## Where the Kurinji blooms



a biodiversity learning module

## Objectives

This programme area encompasses a huge swathe of activities that Keystone is directly involved in at the village level. These include various alternatives built around sustainable use of locally available natural resources that are being managed by the indigenous people themselves. Activities include bee keeping, honey hunting, collection, value addition and sale of NTFP, improvement of water resources, seed banks, promoting organic agriculture and participatory organic certification, documentation of indigenous knowledge pertaining to wild foods etc.

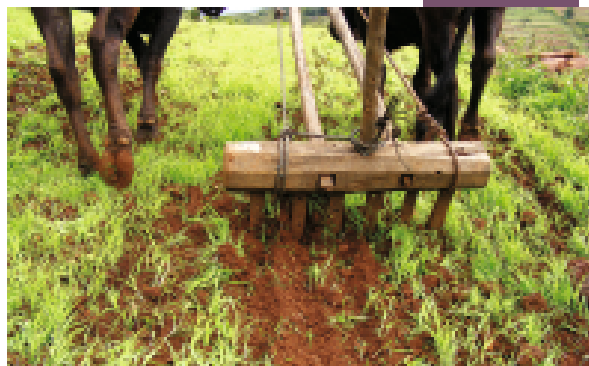
### Promoting millet cultivation

Over the last five years, the area under cultivation of millets has increased from 36 acres to 275 acres across four regions. There is a revival in growing of rare millets, thereby increasing the diversity in cropping. Intercropping with Niger, field beans, maize, and amaranth were promoted to increase diversity. Line sowing and transplanting methods were adopted by many farmers in Sigur, Pillur and Thimbam regions. This method saves seeds and labour on thinning and weeding.

This has been supported by traditional seed keepers and seed bank organised locally. Traditional cultivation practices with traditional tools were revived, and knowledge was shared. Soil & Moisture conservation activities have covered some of the lands under millter cultivation.

The cultivation of millets has increased food security amongst tribal households. There is increase in nutritious food availability in the village, especially benefiting women and children.

A millet processing machine installed in Thadasalatti, Thimbam region, has motivated more farmers to cultivate millets. There are plans to procure a blower destoner for Samai.



### The Araganai story:

Asasamy, village Gowda (traditional village headman) describes the story as heard from his great grand father in Ittarai village, Thimbam region. Centuries ago, in a hamlet, two brothers cultivated a large millet field by practising slash and burn. One day a small quarrel between their children developed into a family feud and the two brothers became estranged. In his anger, one brother ploughed the newly germinating millet field, grazed out the millet with buffaloes and damaged the field as much as he could and left the village with his family. An elderly man in the family fenced this field and protected it hoping that the angry brother would one day return to claim his field. To their surprise, the damaged millet crop grew very fast, with many tillers, yielding well developed crowns and many ear heads. This incident was the precursor to this cultivation practice.



### Revival of traditional granaries in tribal villages in Thimbam Region

The history of the traditional granaries such as *Ragi Kuli* and *Kanara*, their structure, building techniques, and traditional knowledge and practices pertaining to these operations were discussed amongst the farmers' group. Revival of such structures has been achieved with six farmers in Ittarai, Kalithimbam and Gedesal villages in Thimbam region.

### Documenting diversity in bean varieties

The tribal communities across the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve have been cultivating 68 varieties of beans for their unique shape, colour, sizes and flavours.



They are eaten as fresh vegetables or in their dried seed forms. They grow as shrubs, perennials, annuals and climbers. They also have fodder value. Over the years, genetic diversity is slowly eroding due to various reasons. Many local cultivators are interested to cultivate such varieties to keep these varieties from disappearing. With the help of 11 farmers, 32 varieties have been revived in Thimbam and Sigur regions.

### PGS Evaluation

An internal study was proposed by IFOAM to evaluate the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), which is being practiced since 2007 in 13 villages across our project sites. Dr. Salome Yesudass and Mr. Velan were the external evaluators. They conducted individual interviews, a group discussion, social mapping and group grading. It was a refreshing event and also an opportunity to explore the certification of more crops like Pepper, Silk Cotton and Millets.



### Individual donations

We have implemented 34 smokeless chullahs and 16 kitchen gardens for poorest families with support channeled through Give India and Samhita. They have both been well received and the impact of the interventions on the lives of the people is clearly visible. There is now increasing demand to scale up these interventions. Initially there was reluctance to adopt kitchen gardens due to lack of rains, but by using waste water from the kitchen this problem was overcome. These gardens provide nutritional inputs to the family and also additional income as a variety of greens, fruits and vegetables are being produced.



### Coffee

The arrival of a new coffee roaster is a huge leverage to increase procurement from farmers across Kotagiri and Coonoor talukas. The new roaster from Probat ensures that our coffee is of good quality and day-by-day the demand is increasing.

Coffee plants were raised in nurseries and farmers encouraged to plant them in order to regulate future supplies and extend biodiversity, as coffee is seldom planted in a monoculture. 8,960 coffee plants were raised in Bangalapadigai nursery and supplied to 21 farmers in Arakode region. The seedlings were planted in the month of September on their traditional lands.

### Farmers' groups

14 revolving fund groups of tribal farmers have been formed through our livelihood initiatives and are engaged in organic agriculture. The groups are primarily involved in diverse farming systems with traditional practices. Members of the farmers' group in Sigur have begun weekly savings. The farmers' group in Pillur is the best performer among all the groups in terms of savings and utilisation of the funds. Compared to the last year, farmers are investing more on irrigation equipment like pumps and large size hose pipes. Millet and vegetable cultivation in Arakode came to a halt due to crop raiding by elephants.

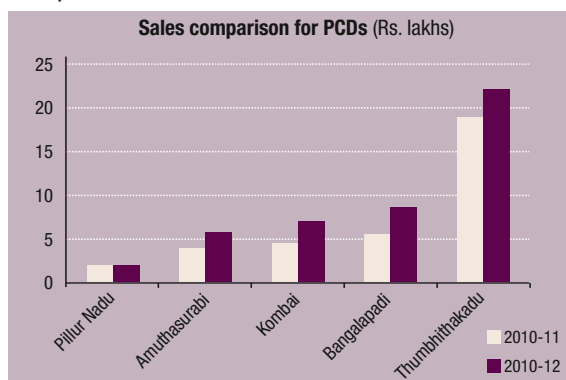
The demand for training on beekeeping and for bee hives, bee colonies and beekeeping tools are gradually increasing among farmers in the Nilgiris, Coimbatore and Erode districts. Indigenous Cultivars Bee Conservation and Development Fund supports indigenous peoples' and farming community's interests in this area.

### Farmers' Stall at the Vegetable Show

The theme of our stall was diverse farming for food security, nutritional security, and uncultivated naturally grown eatables. 68 different edible greens, 11 different millets, 7 types of grams, 4 kinds of oil seeds, 14 kinds of fruits, 7 different spices, 7 types of tubers, 19 types of vegetables and 19 value added farm and forest products were displayed along with nutritional information. There was a mini display of community seed banks and agricultural tools along with posters in Tamil and English, that highlighted their nutritional values. There was also a prominent display on the Participatory Guarantee System and benefits of local certification. Many local farmers and tourists were surprised to observe the diversity of crops and nutritional values existing in traditional agriculture practised by the indigenous farmers in the Nilgiris.

### Producers' Company

There are five production centres in the Nilgiris – established through projects of Keystone, which are adding value to NTFPs and organic agriculture produce at the local level. These production centres also act as multi-nodal training and capacity building centres. During 2011-12, the total turnover of all these centers was Rs. 44.34 lakhs, a 30% increase over the previous year. At present, the centres are not legally recognised and most of their operations are managed by the staff of Keystone. Within the next two years we wish to create a producer company which will have a federation of all these and many more centres of value addition spread across the three states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.



## Objectives

Culture and People Programme is mandated to work with all the indigenous communities of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) to strengthen culture and traditions especially when indigenous people are unable to continue them. The group aims to strengthen the conservation oriented lifestyle of the indigenous groups and help them to reclaim their rights over the forests, to establish the identity of each community and instill pride in their vibrant culture and to ensure that indigenous communities develop abilities to deal with the modern world. The programme is involved in various activities such as restoration of sacred groves, conducting population surveys, documentation and conducting festivals, meetings and awareness camps. The programme also provides specific support for health, education and accessing government schemes.

## ACTIVITIES

### Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi

Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi is entering its sixth year of publication and continues to carry news related to health status, birth, death, traditional festivals, conflicts, agriculture etc. This year we have selected 20 women volunteers who will share different kinds of news from their respective villages. This is a different model from the current set of 11 volunteers who are collecting news from different regions. Capacities of volunteers have improved in gathering news from villages and institutions like panchayats, primary health centers etc.

and writing it up. As a strategy to meet at least a part of the costs, an annual subscription fee is being collected from readers and more than 70 people have joined already.

### Tribal Advisory Committee meeting

We have organized a meeting of the Tribal Advisory Committee at Keystone campus in Kotagiri. More than 30 members of the indigenous communities from the NBR joined together and discussed about Forest Rights Act related work, Village Forest Councils, Non-Timber Forest Produce collection through Forest Rights Act, encroachment on river banks near Barliar etc. In the same meeting, we also discussed the difficulties faced by women in working as reporters for Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi.

### Community Radio

Volunteers and staff have contributed by collecting interviews, traditional songs, stories and group discussions on various issues for the proposed community radio. We have prepared a pilot programme of one hour duration to get feedback internally. We have also received an



equipment and training grant from UNESCO for setting up the community radio station.

### **Craft development**

We have started a group called *Nilagiri Paluirszhal Mandala Palankudiyenar Seemai Makkal Kalasara Kuzhu* so that in future the activities of the Culture and People programme can be taken forward by the people themselves. This *Kuzhu* has opened a savings account to receive and use the craft revolving fund and the Seemai Sudhi subscription collection. Working capital is being provided from the revolving fund for Kota potters, Kurumba painters, Toda embroiderers and Cholanaicken bamboo craftspersons. In order to revive pottery by the Kotas, pottery wheels were fabricated and provided to them. Training programmes have also been conducted to support the adoption of these livelihood options.



### **Sacred Groves**

We have organized a meeting of *Seemai Mothalis* to understand the ancestral boundaries and selected Sengalcombai, Thoddatty, Johicombai and Kavalcombai sacred groves for intervention. We have documented the biodiversity in these Sacred Groves and shared this information with the people connected to each sacred grove. Once a month, a village elder is taking children on a biodiversity walk in the sacred groves. Apart from this people have started growing millets on a small scale for *Gumba Deva* festivals inside the sacred groves. Work has started on the documentation of sacred groves of the Toda community also.

### **World Indigenous Peoples' Day**

August 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 was a big event at Keystone campus in Kotagiri. More than 600 people from various communities across the NBR joined together for the celebration. The Village Conservation Award ceremony and the inauguration of the *Manda Arae* (Adivasi Resource Center) were the highlights. The day long celebration showcased the dance and music of the indigenous communities.

### **Usha Silai School**

Keystone Foundation and Usha International jointly provided Usha Sewing machines and basic training to 20 women in Kotagiri, Coonoor, Sigur and Pillur areas. Some of the participants are training others and earning money and some of them need further training.

### **Indigenous Calendar 2012**

The theme of the Indigenous calendar for 2012 was Indigenous Craft. Crafts like Ajile bottu (Kurumba painting), Kota Pottery, Toda embroidery and Bamboo craft of Cholanaickens were depicted pictorially. We printed 10,000 copies of the calendar and distributed them throughout the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. We appreciate the efforts of Via media in designing this calendar for us free of charge.

### **Meetings, Trainings and Workshops**

Selvi had gone to Delhi to attend the Community Radio Awards programme organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This was a two day programme and people from all over India and abroad participated in it. The forum was useful to network with other radio stations and to know about the processes involved in running a Community Radio Station (CRS).

Selvi and Manikandan had gone to Dahanu for a three day training programme on Community Radio organized by UNESCO and Nomad. The training covered both technical aspects of equipment assembly and maintenance as well as production aspects of programming, editing and use of the community radio equipments.

Selvi had gone to Raipur in Chattisgarh for a meeting of the NTFP-EP network with Sneha and Rajendran.

## Objectives

The objective of the programme is 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 dicourse. One of the major focus areas of the programme is 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.

## ACTIVITIES

### Facilitating Community Institutions for Community Forest Resource Governance

With several villages submitting claims to Community Forest Resource under the FRA, we have been working with these villages to strengthen institution building processes for governance of the respective CFR. The work to strengthen CFR processes in the region focussed on three clusters of villages – Baviyur, Metukkal, Godhaghur and Kambaiyur, Banagudi and

The cluster of four villages – Baviyur, Metukkal, Kambaiyur and Godhaghur planned to extend a road linking the cluster to the metal road emerging from the adjoining estate. The work was planned under the MGNREGS and work began with a record number of people joining the work force of their own volition. The work ran into trouble when a 700 m patch of land about 2 m wide was discovered to be part of the Reserve Forest patch. The Forest Range Officer called a halt to the work. The people were dismayed and decided to invoke Sec 3(2) of the Forest Rights Act and advised the Village Panchayat accordingly. The Forest Range Officer was unaware of the provision and was made aware of it by the Forest Rights Committee. The proposal for diversion was brought to the notice of the DFO, who immediately agreed to it. In the midst of the negotiation, the District Collector visited the work site, which by then was the topic of discussion in many government offices for the determination of the workers to finish the work. The work of the FRC and the community as a whole was appreciated and the proposal accepted. This instance paved the way for three other villages to invoke the relevant provision of the Act.







Kalloor and a third group – Sengalpudur, Sengalcombai, Joghicombai and Kavalcombai. The processes that evolved in each CFR group were eventually determined by the priorities of the respective villages.

#### **Baviyur, Metukkal, Godhaghur and Kambaiyur**

These four villages, comprising of Alu Kurumba and Irula tribal communities, fall in the Kengarai Panchayat of Kotagiri. The cluster decided to form a special tribal gram sabha for the purpose of claiming forest rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The process of claiming forest rights has had a wide spread impact on these communities in terms of collective action. The idea of community-led forest governance has enthused the cluster to use the platform to revitalize the idea of village governance. A range of issue from systems of patrol of the CFR idea to a system of collective marketing to break the indebtedness trap are being discussed.

The Panisolai Vana Padukaapu Kuzhu (Panisolai Forest Protection Group) was formed in April 2011 as a Sec 5 committee under the Forest Rights Act. The Kuzhu quickly conceived of several ideas for strengthening collective action around the forests.

#### **Banagudi and Kalloor**

Located close to Kotagiri town and adjoining the tourism circuit of Kotagiri town and Catherine Falls, the small Shola patch between the villages of Banagudi and Kalloor has been facing the influx of

tourists during the season. This influx has been through a sacred grove of the community with many tourist being unmindful of the sanctity of the forest. Among the first points of discussions of the Kalloor Seemai Vana Paadukaapu Kuzhu (Kalloor Forest Protection Group) was the need to regulate this inflow of tourists. Discussions are now on in this group on the potential for the community to evolve a system of eco tourism.

#### **Sengalpudur, Joghicombai, Sengalcombai and Kavalcombai**

This set of four villages in the Hulical Town Panchayat of Coonoor have been facing the issue of drinking water scarcity and lack of electricity. Last year, the gram sabha approved a proposal to divert forest land for the provision of piped drinking water and electricity to Sengalpudur. This process followed a meeting of the FRC with the Town Panchayat to discuss the development priorities for the four villages. A visit was organised by the community for the DFO to the old settlement of Kavalcombai. Members of the gram sabha accompanied the DFO and explained their relationship to the settlement and the circumstances of their current residence outside the settlement.

Awareness about Forest Rights Act has been on the increase at the community level and over the last year we have discerned more enthusiasm about the potential of community-led systems of forest governance. Given the High Court stay on the issue of titles, the actual fruits of the legislation are yet to



be realised with respect to provisions under Sec 3(1). However, the provision for diversion of forest land for basic amenities under Sec (2) has been put to good use by four villages. We have helped the gram sabhas of Sengalpudur, Garikkiyur, Baviyur and Kolikorai consider and clear proposals for diversion of forest land for the purpose of roads. In all four cases, the roads are vital for the safe and easy passage of people from their villages. Although the process is detailed out by the Rules to the Act, there is considerable apprehension especially at the level of local governments regarding proposals involving diversion of forest land. The successful invocation of the legislation by these gram sabhas has proved to be a precedent for other tribal habitations in the area.

### **Work with VFC**

Our work with Village Forest Councils received a setback this year. In Garikkiyur where we had supported the collection of broom grass by the VFC, the process of re-election of the Executive Committee took precedence. In Coonoor, some members of the Jadayancombai and Bambalacombai VFCs have chosen to work with financial support from an external party. The process of negotiation is unclear to most of the NTFP collectors in the constituent VFCs.

### **Engagement with the District Level Committee**

P Chandran is a member of DLC constituted under the FRA in The Nilgiris district. This year, he has raised issues pertaining to the survey of the lands claimed under the FRA, the problems in getting

community certificates and the need for the DLC to invest in the capacity building of Forest Rights Committees.

### **Village level discussions**

Over the year we carried on the process of village level discussion particularly in the villages of Oonjalaracombai, Mooperkadu, Nedugalcombai, Veeracombai and Niralacombai to help the community visualise the post-rights scenario (i.e., once the rights have been conferred under the FRA) and engage in land use planning for the area to which rights would be granted.

### **Wetlands**

We have initiated a dialogue with the villages of Nedugula and Tarnad Mand to understand the process of individual and collective decision making over the use of the common wetland in either place. This process complements a parallel process of making an inventory of the biodiversity in these locations.

### **Sacred Groves**

A project on revitalising sacred groves in the region has been initiated. The focus of the project is to use an eco-cultural approach to understanding these important CFR. We have been engaging with villages in the Coonoor region to facilitate the demarcation of CFR boundaries around the sacred groves and in strengthening discussions of community-led governance systems around these.

### **Networks, meetings, visits, trainings, learnings**

Archana participated in the Indigenous Terra Madre – A world meeting of Indigenous Peoples organised jointly by the Slow Food Sapmi, Sweden and Slow Food International. The themes for the three day meeting were climate, land rights, food, traditional knowledge and the preservation of agrobiodiversity connected to Indigenous Peoples' experience of the traditional use of natural resources. Archana and Selvi shared our experiences of working with indigenous communities here in the NBR and the challenges of securing community tenure over natural resources. It was a deeply enriching experience of understanding similar issues in vastly different geographical contexts.



**Objectives**

Keystone has over 15 years of experience in the field of conservation, livelihoods and enterprise development. Trainings and information exchange have been an important aspect of our work since inception. Over the years we have given numerous training to various villagers, NGOs, government departments etc. on several topics ranging from sustainable honey harvesting practices, beekeeping, value addition of NTFPs, organic farming to ecologically sustainable harvesting of NTFPs. We are also committed to share in the public domain, the data and information gathered by us over the years.

**Sharing data in the public domain**

Knowledge being possibly the only resource that grows the more we share it, it is only fitting that the modes of sharing knowledge (as well as information and data) be amenable to sharing widely without undue restrictions. During the year we have taken a few important steps in moving towards embracing the open data philosophy and putting it into practice. In 2009, when we updated our website (<http://keystone-foundation.org>) we adopted the Creative Commons License in order to share the information in an open manner with everyone. Further our new publications are all brought out under Creative Commons Licenses so that the knowledge that we wish to share with others is not bound by restrictive copyright laws.

We are also partnering with the India Biodiversity Portal and the Western Ghats Portal to share the biodiversity information that we have collected over the years in the public domain. To begin with data on 264 plant species including photographs was shared with the portals. Other data sets built up as part of our work over the years have been identified and would be gradually cleaned up and documented for dissemination via these portals.

In the coming years, it is hoped that by sharing various datasets on these portals, others would also be encouraged to follow suit and that we would have free access to a diverse set of data on various aspects related to our work.

We have brought out two volumes on the 'Forest Plants of the Nilgiris' in the past. Work on three more volumes covering different regions of the Nilgiris was carried out during the year. These volumes are an invaluable resource of information for a wide range of audience. We felt that being available only in the form of books would restrict the extent to which the information is disseminated. To this end, we have published the information in the first two volumes online at <http://opendata.keystone-foundation.org>, for free access by the public at large.

Open data



### Coonor River Basin Study

During the year we initiated a project to analyse the downstream impacts on livelihoods and ecology of the variety of human interventions that are taking place in the catchment of the Kallar river that passes through Coonor town. This will measure and prove the need for conservation action and protection of upstream shola-grasslands and wetlands/swamps landscapes for downstream continuity of water resources for people, wildlife and nature. The project will include quantification and valuation of hydrological benefits provided by upstream shola grasslands to downstream communities/landscape. The assessment would also gauge the impact of land use patterns/practices on the water resources.

The findings of the study would be shared with various government departments involved in land use and water management and other fields that affect the water resources, the Coonor municipality, Panchayats in the catchment of the Coonor river, tea estates, citizen's groups, schools etc. We hope that this would improve in better

understanding of the impact of each others' activities on the common water resources of the region, in turn leading to better planned interventions.

### Trainings

Keystone staff routinely support other organisations as resource persons in the above mentioned subject areas. Apart from the staff, the people associated with the NTFP value addition centers also provide trainings to other community groups on various aspects related to their work. The main focus areas of training programmes conducted during the year were as follows.

- Bee Keeping
- Organic farming and bioinputs production
- Value addition of NTFP
- Sustainable harvesting practices of NTFP
- Forest Rights Act for indigenous communities, Forest Rights Committees and line departments
- Introduction to GIS & GPS
- Book Keeping and costing of products in NTFP value addition





It seems that every year turns out to be an exceptional year!! Isn't that a nice feeling to have! Yes, 2011-12 turned out to be a great year in many ways for Last Forest Enterprises. It was the first full financial year of its existence. It began operations on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2010 and that was a difficult year as two identities had to be constantly kept in mind. The last year allowed people the freedom to set out their goals at the beginning of the year and to constantly track their performance.

It was also a phenomenal year for other reasons – Last Forest moved into its own building. It had been a long felt need that the old space was not being able to handle the overload of products and people, and the staff had to constantly poach other office spaces to carry out their work. It also had to rent out spaces in town to hold stocks of bottles, honey and other products. It was not turning out to be efficient and management of stocks was a continuing source of concern. The team had set out a target for itself and

though it fell marginally short, a total sales turnover of Rs. 1.15 crores (\$ 231,800) was a magnificent achievement for this team that was still finding its feet as a new entity. It met all its expenses – from a pin to a plane, whether it was salaries, rents, electricity, insurance, phone or even social security benefits like provident fund and gratuity. The bottom line was that it even turned out a small profit – the earnings before taxes, depreciation and provisions was 3.5% of the turnover. Last Forest had brought both its creditors and debtors under reasonable ratios though the outstanding loan to Keystone Foundation to begin operations (purchase of all stocks and assets) was a large figure and the effort during the coming financial year would be to reduce that to a reasonable figure.

Today, Last Forest Enterprises boasts a full time staff strength of 17 persons. Importantly, Mathew will be moving full time to the company from July 2012, to provide strategic direction



and take full responsibility of overseeing all operations during the coming years.

A continuing source of concern has been the operations of Mysore. The shop has not been able to generate much footfalls and sales and that has pulled down the overall performance of Last Forest. New staff as well as a renewed effort to reach out to new customers will be the emphasis during the coming years. It has also taken time to understand the customer preferences in a growing urban settlement. The three other shops in the Nilgiris

(Coonoor, Ooty and Kotagiri) have reached a stage where they are stable both in terms of staff and sales. This has been heartening. The base operations at Kotagiri, which receives all incoming stocks, checks and distributes not only to these four shops but also to many other dealers has been a solid foundation from which everyone has drawn their strength. Suganthi, with her quiet presence has allowed both the old and new staff to settle into their routines without much of a difficulty. She has also been selected for the Cherie Blair Foundation's 'Mentoring Women for Business' programme.



Over the years, we have built alliances and working relationships with a number of like-minded organisations both within the country and abroad. Apart from working directly with them on various issues through partnerships, we are also part of various networks where we are able to come together and collectively bring about change at a much larger scale. We participate actively and often play a key role in several networks such as the NTFP-EP South and South East Asia, NTFP-EP India, Save Western Ghats Movement, Ecosystem Alliance, Participatory Guarantee System, Fair Trade Forum - India and IFOAM.

### **Non Timber Forest Produce - Exchange Programme – South and South East Asia with special emphasis on the India network**

The year 2011-12 was one of changes at the Regional office. New efforts and more focus is being given to smaller populations of Negrito groups in the Philippines on aspects related to culture and subsistence. One of the main regional events organised was the Madhu Duniya in Indonesia. Participants from Keystone went to the event, which was preceded by a workshop on Honey and Nutrition. There was a rich exchange of information and experiences with diverse perspectives of researchers and indigenous people.

Work related to CODE REDD on community adaptation to climate change, NTFP-based enterprises, setting up of special crafts network in Malaysia, the launch of the Borneo Chic shop in Indonesia and other regular work continued amongst the network groups. Collaborations with ASEAN Forestry Sector Development Programmes were high this year. Cultural revival and food festivals with the Agta and Aeta communities in the Philippines, initiated a new wave of work on subsistence and well being aspects of NTFP.

In India, the network extends over Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats and Central India with partners spread across the region. Three desks on Gums and Resins, Fibres and Honey spearheaded common activities and learning events. Most partners continued to work on the Forest

Rights Act and its local implementation ensuring tenurial rights to adivasi communities as individual and common lands in the forest. Specific work on NTFPs like Gum Karaya, Honey, medicinal plants and Kokum helped improve livelihoods of gatherers. Issues of sustainability of NTFP collection were discussed at length and measures need to be taken to ensure this, perhaps through a process of eco-certification of produce. A common network meeting was organised in Sarguja, Chattisgarh to understand the issues of that region and exchange ideas about FRA and NTFP issues. The network will be gearing up to a national workshop on issues concerning PESA, FRA and NTFPs in the coming months.

### **Ecosystem Alliance**

A new alliance forged by IUCN NL, Both Ends and Wetlands International began its work in 16 countries of the world,





including India. Keystone Foundation co-ordinates this alliance in India, which is spread across the Eastern Ghats covering Odisha and Andhra Pradesh; Western Ghats in Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala; Central India covering Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. Three thematic focus areas have been established:

1. Eco-development in Protected Areas – this initiative is based in Gondia.
2. Land Restoration in Plantations – based in Anamalais and Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
3. Environment Response Centres – based in the three regions to take up issues concerning environment impact assessments of large infrastructure projects and/or industry.

Besides these large programmes, several small initiatives have been supported through this alliance. Most of them are linked to the work of the regional hub. The programme largely addresses issues of forest degradation, indigenous people's rights and livelihoods and threats to ecosystem balance like mining and dams. It emphasises on both community efforts and policy advocacy to address these issues. A part of the programme also looks at foreign investments and trade of the resources that directly impact ecology and livelihoods eg minerals, palm oil, herbs and spices and other commodities. The Programme started in 2011 and will run for five years, till 2015.

### **Save Western Ghats Movement (SWG M), 2012**

Planning is in full swing for the 25 years of SWGM to be held in Mahabaleshwar from 30<sup>th</sup> Nov to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2012 with the theme "Practitioners' Conclave". Since the last SWGM meeting in Moodbidri in Jan 2011, there have been two

preparatory meetings – one in Mulshi and the other in Kotagiri. A detailed programme is being finalized and apart from tracing the history of the movement, there will be an intensive session on the outcome of the WGEEP report and the proposed WGEA (Western Ghats Ecology Authority). A paradigm shift in taking the views, perspectives from different sectors (business, academia, government and civil society) will be a priority.

Given the late release of the final report (enforced through an RTI petition and enforced by Delhi High Court ) by the MoEF of the Western Ghats Expert Ecology Panel (WGEEP) there have been significant discussions and small group meetings within the SWGM to understand next steps. As on 31st March 2012, we remain unclear on the fate of this exhaustive compendium (over 500 pages) report by the expert panel. The latest news is that the Ministry will constitute a committee to go through the 1500 odd comments and feedback that has been received by the MoEF on the report. The report though very detailed and containing a lot of information on the Western Ghats including the issues there, is not easy implement by the decision-makers.

An evaluation of the SWGM project is currently underway by The Swallows in Sweden. Ms. Gandhimathi from Bangalore has been selected as the consultant. Her report is expected by end of August 2012.

### **The Core Group of the Save Western Ghats Movement**

1. **Archana Godbole**, Applied Environmental Research Foundation, Pune, Maharashtra
2. **Pandurang Hegde**, Appiko, Sirsi, Karnataka
3. **A. Latha**, River Research Centre, Thrissur, Kerala
4. **Ritwick Dutta**, Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment, Delhi
5. **Somnath Sen**, Independent Consultant, Delhi
6. **Samir Mehta**, International Rivers, Mumbai
7. **Carmen Miranda**, Save Goa Campaign, London
8. **Madhu Ramnath**, Palni Hills Conservation Council, Kodaikanal
9. **Suprabha Seshan**, Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary, Wynaad
10. **Parineeta Dandekar**, South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP), Mumbai
11. **Snehlata Nath**, Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri
12. **Bhakti Nefertiti**, Vriksh, Bangalore
13. **Pratim Roy**, Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri





## IFOAM

Again a very special year, as Mathew was elected to the World Board of IFOAM (International Federation of Agriculture Movements). This happened at the Organic World Congress in Korea. This Congress happens every three years and brings together scientists, farmers, researchers and traders on one platform where they are able to present and share with each other. The 17<sup>th</sup> OWC and General Assembly had close to 2,000 participants from over 70 countries, worldwide.

There were a number of side events as well as pre- and post-conference tours and workshops. It was estimated that nearly 250,000 visitors participated in all the events. What was refreshing was that there was an effort to get school children and common people involved in the activities – buses full of excited school children and families coming to the organic fair. Something unusual was an Organic Art Fair which attracted a lot of local people.

## Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) Domestic

After much debate and discussions, it finally happened. The PGS Organic Council was registered in Goa in April 2011. Due to legal

compulsions, the word 'India' had to be dropped from the name but the jurisdiction of the PGS Organic Council remains the whole of India. Subsequently, there has been a change in the logo as well.

The first meeting of the PGS National Council was held in Goa on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2011. The office bearers who were functioning on an ad hoc basis, have now been elected as the first Managing Committee.

A very unusual step has been the efforts made by the Govt of India – under the National Project on Organic Farming, an alternative organic guarantee system, named Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India) has been launched.

## Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) – International

Mathew continues to be on the IFOAM PGS Committee, which met on the sidelines of the IFOAM Organic World Congress and General Assembly, in Korea. The present members of the committee are:

Eva Torremocha – Spain

Janet Villanueva – Peru

Chris May – New Zealand

Mathew John – India

Alice Veron – USA

There is a gap from Africa as Konrad has moved on to the IFOAM Academy as the Coordinator.

In March, 2012, Mathew was in Indonesia and was part of a delegation, representing IFOAM, to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry is to shortly come out with organic regulation which would define the certification system applicable for Indonesia. In the first draft in 2009, it allowed the



development of an alternative certification system but the second draft, issued in 2011, allows only third party certification. Negotiations with the Ministry of Agriculture have helped in that they are open to the idea of PGS being included.

There was also a workshop on Rattan Eco-certification which took place in Bogor, Indonesia. Stakeholders from all along the value chain were present for this workshop. This was organized through a collaborative effort between the NTFP-EP, the Indonesian Organic Alliance (AOI) and the Consortium for Community-based Forest Management Systems. Mathew shared about PGS and the progress it has made over the past few years – examples of India and Brazil allowed a debate to take place whether such a system would fit in for a wild + cultivated produce. The concluding session had many participants agreeing that PGS seemed a logical and simple system to get communities together to revive an interest and in turn, build the market.

#### **Fair Trade Forum – India**

Last Forest Enterprises was given full membership of Fair Trade Forum – India. Since 2009, Keystone had been a member of FTF-I but with the registration of Last Forest in 2010, it was felt that Last Forest should have its own membership.

The National Convention & Annual General Body

meeting of FTF-I took place in Delhi in September 2011. Prabhu and Mathew attended the 3-day convention. In March 2012, Mathew spoke at the COMMACT (Commonwealth Network for People Centred Development) conference which took place in Kochi. COMMACT supports people-centred development organisations and projects in countries around the world. Their activities are diverse and provide, for example, education and skills, economic independence, housing, health, and family support. Mathew presented about the work of World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) in the conference.

**Retail Branding :** One of the key issues that Mathew has been involved in for some time has been the Retail Branding exercise through Fair Trade Forum – India. It had been felt that many of the FTF-I members had been slowly building their own network of shops for the domestic market. However, none of these shops were linked to each other and there was no explicit and combined effort to promote the brand of `Fair Trade`. This was felt to be extremely important also in the present scenario where the global markets had tightened up. FTF-I felt that an umbrella brand could link many of the retail shops together and make an impact in the local domestic market.

This exercise of working on the design was done by Via Media, a design group based in Coimbatore.

From building the brand logo to designing the brand manual to helping the first few shops to get their material together – it was a massive effort. The three Green Shops of Last Forest as well as SASHA (Kolkata) and Indha (Gurgaon) were the five shops that got their act together for the launch on World Fair Trade Day in May 2011. The next round of shops joined in October as the World Fair Trade Week was celebrated.



### The administration and finance group works towards the following objectives

- To provide a transparent, responsive and decentralised administration system for all work units of Keystone.
- To support all the programme areas 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 etc.
- To conduct all financial transactions with transparency and consistent with prevalent standards

#### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2012

No.	Particulars	2011-12 Amount INR '000	2010-11 Amount INR '000
<b>1.</b>	<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
	Capital Fund	47,111	27,708
	Endowment and other Funds	15,648	15,861
	Current Liabilities	1,771	1,604
		<b>64,529</b>	<b>45,173</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>		
	Fixed Assets	15,524	11,942
	Investments	1,293	7,201
	Current Assets	47,712	26,030
		<b>64,529</b>	<b>45,173</b>

#### CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2012

No.	Particulars	2011-12 Amount INR '000	2010-11 Amount INR '000
<b>1</b>	<b>INCOME</b>		
	Donation		
	- Foreign Institutional Donors	43,002	16,041
	- Indian Institutional Donors	315	1,935
	- Others	1,958	512
	Income from Organic Market Development		7,273
	Other Income	139	1,032
		<b>45,414</b>	<b>26,793</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
	Village Development Projects	24,306	22,758
	Organic Market Development Expenses	114	5,055
	Other Expenses	236	148
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	4,982	3,571
		<b>29,638</b>	<b>31,532</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>SURPLUS FUNDS</b>	<b>15,776</b>	<b>-4,739</b>

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2012**

No	Particulars	2011-12	2010-11
		Amount INR '000	Amount INR '000
<b>1</b>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
	<b>Opening Balance</b>		
	- Cash and Bank	5,129	8,663
	Donation		
	- Foreign Institutional Donors	43,002	16,041
	- Indian Institutional Donors	315	1,935
	- Others	1,958	512
	Income from Organic Market Development	-	7,273
	Other Income	139	1,032
	Sale of Fixed Assets	46	432
	Decrease in Investments	5,908	4,621
	Increase in Liabilities	173	163
	Decrease in Debtors	104	-1,941
	Revolving Fund Received	20	-300
	Decrease in Stock	7	
		56,801	38,431
<b>2</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
	Village Development Projects	24,306	22,758
	Organic Market Development Expenses	114	5,055
	Other Expenses	236	148
	Purchase of Fixed Assets	4,982	3,571
	Advances Paid	7,788	1,863
	Deposits Paid	4,448	-2,041
	Creditors Paid	6	624
	Endowment and other funds	214	1,324
	<b>Closing Balance</b>		
	- Cash and Bank	14,707	5,129
		56,801	38,431

**INFORMATION BASED ON NORMS OF CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE AND GIVE INDIA**
**1. DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF BASED ON SALARY LEVELS**

Slab of Gross Salary plus benefits paid to staff (INR per month)	No. of male staff	No. of female staff	Total Staff
Less than 5,000	0	0	0
5,000 to 10,000	15	2	17
10,000 to 25,000	9	3	12
25,000 to 50,000	2	1	3
50,000 to 1,00,000	0	0	0
Greater than 1,00,000	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>

## 2 PAYMENT MADE TO CONSULTANTS DURING 2011-12

Total annual payments made to consultants (in INR)	Number of Consultants
Less than 5,000	0
5,000 to 10,000	2
10,000 to 25,000	0
25,000 to 50,000	0
50,000 to 1,00,000	6
Greater than 1,00,000	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>

## 3. STAFF REMUNERATION [GROSS SALARY+ BENEFITS]

	Amount INR
Head of Organisation (including Honararium) - 2 persons	3,71,772
Highest paid full time regular staff	3,71,772
Lowest Paid full time regular staff	63,372

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

No.	Name of Staff	Designation	Destination	Purpose of Travel	Cost Incurred (INR '000)	Sponsored
1	Archana S N.Selvi	Programme Coordinator Additional Coordinator	Sweden	Slow Food Meeting	46.82 (Visa Fee and Local travel paid by Keystone)	Yes
2	Robert Leo T.Suganthi P.Chandran T.Arudukuttan	Programme Coordinator Additional Coordinator Area Manager Field Assistant	Indonesia	Madhu Duniya Meeting	30.15 (Local Travel paid by Keystone in Indonesia)	Yes
3	Mathew John	Director	South Korea	IFOAM World Congress	6.09	Yes
4	Saneesh CS	Additional Coordinator	China	World Cycads Conference	70.94	No
5	Mathew John	Director	Malaysia	ASEF Conference	14.69 (Visa Fee and Local Travel paid by Keystone)	Yes
6	Mathew John	Director	Indonesia	Eco Certification Workshop	47.98	No
7	Pratim Roy	Director	USA	HHF	No data	Yes

## 5. THE TOTAL COST OF NATIONAL TRAVEL BY BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF/VOLUNTEERS ON BEHALF OF ORGANISATION FOR 2011-12 (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE LOCAL CONVEYANCE )

Rs. 2,94,070

## 6. PROFILE OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

No	Name	Age	Sex	Location	Occupation	Position	Remuneration & reimbursement
1	Somnath Sen	48	Male	New Delhi	Consultant	Managing Trustee	0
2	Suprava Patnaik	51	Female	New Delhi	Professor	Trustee	0
3	Shipra Gupta	77	Female	Puducherry	Educationist	Trustee	0
4	Rita Banerji	43	Female	New Delhi	Film maker	Trustee	0
5	Meena Gupta	64	Female	Kolkata	Retd. Secy to Gol	Trustee	0
6	Rev. PK Mulley	65	Male	Coonoor	Presbyter	Trustee	0
7	Anju Sharma	42	Female	UK	Consultant	Trustee	0
8	John Kurien	61	Male	Tiruvananthapuram	Consultant	Trustee	0



## TRUSTEES

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

## TECHNICAL ADVISOR

C. L. Gupta

## STAFF

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

\* On sabbatical

# CALENDAR

## April - 2011

- Balachander to Hyderabad for State of Panchayati Raj Report
- CEPF Midterm Assessment Workshop
- Mathew to Chennai for PGS Meeting
- Mathew to PGS Committee Meeting
- Meeting with IUCN and BothEnds
- Sneh and Ramachandran to Trivandrum for Cordaid Meeting
- Sneh to Delhi for Cordaid Meeting

## May - 2011

- Environmental Governance Meeting with the Collector of the Nilgiris
- L. Rajendran's wife delivers a Baby Boy
- Martin Kunz from Fairdeal Trading visited Bangalapadigai
- Pratim to Goa and Kerala for SWGM Meetings
- Rajeev Ragavan, Samir Metha, and Shilpi Sharma from Coonoor visit Keystone
- Sam to Puducherry and Thiruvannamalai, Archana to Chennai, Bala to Hyderabad and Leo and Mridula to Port Blair for State of Panchayati Raj Study
- Senthil to Bubaneswar for state level meeting on Community Forest Rights
- Sneh to Bastar for NTFP-EP India
- Statutory Audit
- Team from India Biodiversity Portal visit Keystone
- Training on Coffee roasting held in the campus

## June - 2011

- Archana and Selvi to Sweden to attend Indigenous Terra Madre by Slow Food
- Archana to Chennai and Bala to Hyderabad for State of Panchayati Raj Study
- Narendra Prasad visits Keystone
- Visit by representative of NGO Awards 2010

## July - 2011

- Adrena from Swallows, Anju Sharma, Buphendra Maru, Julia from Sweden, and Steffan from Outlook Expeditions, UK visit Keystone
- Archana to Chennai for State of Panchayati Raj Study
- Inauguration of the Honey and Coffee Unit by the Trustees
- Mathew for Fair Trade branding meeting
- Mathew to Leh for PGS Meeting
- Meeting of the Board of Trustees
- Pratim to US for Hubert Humphrey Fellowship
- Probat Coffee Machine Inauguration by SAIL
- Programme Review
- Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting in Keystone

## August - 2011

- Archana and Selvi to Bangalore for CEPF Meeting
- Bala to Hyderabad for State of Panchayati Raj Study
- Easwar to Chennai for Tally Payroll workshop
- Indigenous Day and Conservation Award Celebrations
- Sam to Puducherry for State of Panchayat Raj Study
- Sara and Easwar to Chennai for India Giving Challenge Workshop
- Sneh to Bangalore for CEPF Meeting



### September - 2011

- Bala to Hyderabad for State of Panchayati Raj Report
- Leo, Suganthi, Aradukuttan and P Chandran to Jakarta for Madhu Duniya
- Mathew and Prabhu to Delhi for Fair Trade Forum Meeting
- Mathew to Korea for IFOAM Meeting
- Sam to Delhi for Rain Forest Alliance Meeting
- Selvi to Delhi for Community Radio Award Ceremony
- Sneh to Jabalpur for NTFP–EP India Meeting
- Staff Tour

### October - 2011

- Mathew to Malaysia for PGS Meeting
- Moorthy and team to Dharward for Millet Mela
- Nina Subramani visits Keystone
- Programme Review
- Sneh and Ramachnadran to Chennai for Cordaid Meeting
- Sneh to Pune for Swallows' Planning Meeting

### November - 2011

- Bala to Bengaluru for Western Ghats Portal Workshop
- Easwar and Sneh to Bastar for Planning Meeting
- Keystone's 18th Birthday
- Mathew to Bangalore for PGS Meeting
- Pratim back from US for a short visit
- Samraj to Bangalore for Rainforest Alliance's Local Indicators Workshop
- Saneesh to China for the International Conference on Cycad Biology
- Senthil and Sara to Pastapur for Swallows Meeting
- Senthil and Sara to Sirsi for Ecotourism Meeting
- Sneh, Selvi and others to Bilaspur for NTFP –EP Network Meeting

### December - 2011

- Bala to Trivandrum for 4th International FOSS





#### **ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION**

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

#### **MAILING ADDRESS**

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Fax: +914266-272277

#### **VIRTUAL PRESENCE**

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

#### **E-MAIL**

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