

# KALPAVRIKSH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP



## **Annual Report**

April 2004 - March 2005

Registered Under The Societies Registration Act (1980)  
Registration No. S-17439

[www.kalpavriksh.org](http://www.kalpavriksh.org)

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### **About Kalpavriksh**

Kalpavriksh (KV) is a voluntary group working on environmental education, research, campaigns, and direct action. It began in 1979, with a students' campaign to save Delhi's Ridge Forest area from encroachments and destruction. Starting with these roots in local action, Kalpavriksh has moved on to work on a number of local, national, and global issues. KV is registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1980 (No. S-17439). The Delhi unit works in conjunction with the Pune unit.

**KV** believes that a country can develop meaningfully only if ecological sustainability and social equity are guaranteed. To this end its activities are directed to ensuring conservation of biological diversity, challenging the current destructive path of 'development', helping in the search for alternative forms of livelihoods and development, assisting local people in empowering themselves to manage their natural resources, and reviving a sense of oneness with nature.

### **FCRA Registration**

Kalpavriksh has got registration under the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act), which now enables it to receive funds from foreign sources. Registration No:- 083930431

### **80 G**

Kalpavriksh got its income tax 80G number renewed which enables an individual donor to claim income tax exemption on donations given to KV.

Registration No:-PN/CIT/80-G/172/2004-2005/2242

### **Funding**

Kalpavriksh is also in the process of formulating a funding policy, under which criteria is being set up which will help facilitate discussions on accepting funds. Members in Pune have used these criteria to put together information on funding agencies before sending project proposals to them.

### **Membership Criteria**

A decision has been taken that no new members will be inducted to the group till criteria for membership are put in place. All individuals who have been KV members in the past can continue to be members.

### **Core Group**

The Core group of KV Delhi is Kanchi Kohli, Ajay Mahajan, Prabhakar Rao, Nidhi Agarwal and Madhurima Sen Bose and KV Pune is Neeraj Vaghlikar, Neema Pathak, Sharmila Deo, Shantha Bhushan, Manju Menon, Anuradha Arjunwadkar and Sujatha Padmanabhan.

## THIS YEAR

The year 2004-2005 has been an action filled year for Kalpavriksh. KV has been strongly lobbying against the National Environment Policy not only for the content but also the process of drafting and lack of public participation in this process. This year, it has actively tried to get attention to the spate of hydel power projects in the Northeast that will impact the fragile biodiversity rich areas. Kalpavriksh has also been working to bring attention to the way development and other projects have been given environmental clearance. The dilutions are evident in the number and kind of amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification under the Environment Protection Act. KV has also been actively lobbying against some of the provisions of the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act (2002) and has been raising concerns on the provisions regarding the new categories of Protected areas (namely Community Reserve and Conservation Reserve) which involve local people in conservation. It has also been working towards better Rules under the Biodiversity Act (2002) and towards this objective organized a rally in New Delhi, which was attended by people from various groups and regions. Post the Tsunami disaster, Kalpavriksh worked towards networking with other groups in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Kalpavriksh has worked with other groups in Pune on various issues that pertain to environment and development. A lot of environmental education work has been done especially focusing on informal and creative means. Members are trying to reach out to children on environmental issues by writing for various newspapers and magazines such as Chandamama, Maharashtra Herald and Hindu Young World.

**We would like to express gratitude to our donors for supporting our work through their generous contributions.**

Abhijit Gandhi  
Aditya Kulkarni  
Anand Sathe  
Anchal Sondhi  
Anshu Dorairaj  
Anuja Sharma  
Anupam Bhatia  
Anuradha Arjunwadkar  
Arun Phatak  
Asheeta Gupte  
AVM (Retd) Kuldip Rai  
Deepak Dalal  
Dileep Gupte  
EITHER OR  
Erica Taraporevala  
Gabriella Hostettler  
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Geeta Hosmane  
Ghazala Shahbuddin  
Janaki  
Kalpana Shah  
Kanchi Kohli  
Krishnendu Bose  
Kshama Rahirkar  
Lalithasankaran  
Lata Shastri

Madhu Sarin  
MAHINDRA COLLEGE  
Maithily Irande  
Maya Yajnik  
MB Athreya  
MB Patil  
Milind Wani  
Murali Padmanabhan  
Pirthvipal Sehmbey  
Rahul Deo  
Rajeev Goyal  
Rajeev Wadekar  
Rajendra Gokhale  
Rajnish Domalpalli  
Ramesh Krishnan  
Ravi Agarwal  
Ravi Chellam  
Rekha Shenoy  
Ritwick Dutta  
S. D. Bapat  
Samir Patel  
Shantha Bhushan  
Shirish Kaulgud  
Sujatha Padmanabhan  
Sweta Sorab  
Tasneem Balasinorwala

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## **PART A - Projects and Activities**

### **1. Mining**

*Co-ordinator:* Neeraj Vagholikar

*Year of commencement:* 1999

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

Kalpavriksh has been working on the destructive impacts of mining on wildlife, protected areas and ecologically sensitive areas. A reprint of the March 2003 Kalpavriksh report: 'Undermining India: Impacts of mining on ecologically sensitive areas' co-authored by Neeraj and Kaustubh was made available for distribution/sale in April 2004.

### **2. Protected Area Update (PA Update)**

*Coordinator:* Pankaj Sekhsaria

*Year of commencement:* 1994

*Funding Agency:* Foundation for Ecological Security (FES).

The PA Update is a compilation of news items pertaining to various Protected areas in India and South Asia. The PA Update (earlier called JPAM Update) reaches out to a large varied audience including Forest Department, NGO's, activists, conservationists and educators.

#### **Activities**

- Production and Printing of *PA Update* 49 (June 2004).
- Production and Printing of *PA Update* 50 & 51 (October 2004).
- Production and Printing of *PA Update* 52 (December 2004)
- Production and Printing of *PA Update* 53 (February 2005).
- Production and Printing of *PA Update* 54 (April 2005)

### **3. Onge (Andamans) Case**

*Coordinator:* Pankaj Sekhsaria

*Year of Commencement:* 1999

*Year of Completion:* Ongoing

#### **Activities:**

1. Efforts continued to impress upon the local administration and the court that the orders passed in May 2002, remain unimplemented.

2. Communications were also directly sent to the A&N administration for this purpose.
3. An informal meeting was held with Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission and Member In Charge of the Island Development Authority. She was briefed on the situation in the islands and the status of the SC orders
4. The andamanicobar egroup continues to be very active. There are now about nearly 650 members on it and it is helping to keep a larger number of people informed of the developments in the islands.
5. The main development in the case was that the May 2002 orders of the Supreme Court were relaxed as requested by the A&N administration, to help in the relief and rehabilitation work in the aftermath of the tsunami that hit the islands on December 26, 2004. Some of the points were agreed to by the Central Empowered Committee and the SC allowed for certain relaxations with conditions and for a period of six months.
6. An affidavit in response was filed by us towards the end of January 2005 expressing certain concerns about the relaxations and stressing the need for the full and sincere implementation of the May 2002 orders as well.

#### **4. A&N Tsunami Related Work**

*Co-ordinator:* Pankaj Sekhsaria

*Year of commencement:* 2004

In the aftermath of the earthquake and the tsunami of December 26, 2004, Kalpavriksh has been involved in the following work:

1. The andamanicobar ediscussion group played an important role of providing information and facilitating activities and initiatives by a range of individuals and organizations including the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), ActionAid, Oxfam and Association for India's Development (AID).
2. Kalpavriksh also got a small grant of Rs. 30,000 from FES for the compilation of news reports related to the islands immediately after the tsunami. The final product was 'In the Aftermath of the Tsunami - Press Reports from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands - 27/122004 to 31/03/2005'. This is compilation of nearly 100 pages that has about 250 news reports from various newspapers.

#### **5. Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)**

*Co-ordinator:* Ashish Kothari

*Associate Members:* Manisha Sheth Gutman and Tasneem Balasinorwala

*Year of Commencement :* 2000

*Year of Completion :* 2005

**Introduction:** The *Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)*, was set up in the year 2000 by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP) of the

World Conservation Union (IUCN). TILCEPA seeks the full and effective recognition of the rights and responsibilities of local communities in the development and implementation of conservation policies and strategies that affect the lands, waters and other natural and cultural resources that they relate to. Kalpavriksh currently houses the coordination team of TILCEPA. It has been instrumental in bringing participatory conservation into the centre of international policy on wildlife and biodiversity, including in the official programme of work adopted by countries that are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Activities :** World Conservation Congress (WCC), Bangkok, Nov' 04.

The TILCEPA team in Pune, attended the WCC that was held in Bangkok in Nov' 04.

TILCEPA organized several events at the WCC. These include:

1. Workshop on 'Community Governance for Conservation: Moving Forward',
2. Training session on 'International Agreements on Protected Areas and Community Based Conservation'.
3. Workshop on Human-Wildlife Conflicts.
4. Workshop on Mobility, Livelihoods, and Biodiversity.
5. Dance for the Earth performance.
6. Workshop on Institutional and policy responses to the link between poverty and conservation within the context of the Millennium Development Goals.
7. Panel on 'Poverty and Parks - A global assessment of the social impact of protected areas'.
8. Press conference on 'Can Communities Replace Guns, Guards, and Fences? : The Trend towards Community Based Conservation' .
9. A resolution on Community Conserved Areas put together by TILCEPA was also passed/accepted at the Members Business Assembly at the WCC.

To mark the end of the four year term of the Theme group, a TILCEPA members' meeting was held to evaluate performance of TILCEPA and to chart out future directions for the next term. Overall, members felt that there is now a need for TILCEPA to actively engage at the regional and national level, and collaborate more with other agencies and Indigenous Peoples' and local community groups.

After having considerably influenced International Policy, TILCEPA is now working to ensure that these policies get implemented at the local and the national level as well. With the IUCN current programme of 2005-2008, a number of activities are being proposed and put together by members. TILCEPA coordination will most likely move away from Kalpavriksh later this year, as Ashish has signalled his desire to step down as co-chair.

#### **Publications and other outputs**

1. A compilation of 150 papers, presented at the "Community and Equity" theme of the Vth World Parks Congress, into an interactive website [www.tilcepa.org](http://www.tilcepa.org) and a CD package.
2. A revised set of briefing notes on Community Conserved Areas, Mobile Indigenous People and Governance.
3. A publication entitled *Sharing Power: Learning by Doing in Co-management of Natural Resources Throughout the World*.



4. A book entitled *Can Protected Areas Contribute to Poverty Reduction?*
5. The IUCN special issue on *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, Vol 9 No. 4.
6. The IUCN and Cardiff University Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines No. 11. on *Indigenous and Local Communities and Protected Areas*.
7. The IUCN-CEESP *Policy Matters*, 13, special issue on *History, Culture and Conservation*, 2004.
8. A publication entitled *Participatory Conservation* in collaboration with Kalpavriksh.

## 6. "Learning for life": Conservation Education in the VGKK school, B.R.Hills, Karnataka"

*Co-ordinators:* Sunita Rao and Sujatha Padmanabhan

*Associates:* Yashodara Kundaji, Vivek Gour-Broome, Madhuvanti Anantharajan, Philip Mathew

*Year of Commencement:* Jan 2004

*Year of Completion:* June 2005

*Funding Agency:* Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra (VGKK)

**Introduction:** A 16-month programme to build up a localized conservation education package was begun in January 2004, in the tribal school at the Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra (VGKK) campus, B.R. Hills, Chamrajnagar District, Karnataka. The work is a collaborative effort between ATREE, VGKK, and Kalpavriksh. The VGKK campus is situated in a revenue pocket within the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary.

The programme reviewed all past, and ongoing environmental education inputs into the school/campus, tested new ones over one academic year (2004-2005). This involved working closely with the school staff, students, other Soliga community members, researchers, and others. The team began to put together an information package that covers relevant issues and could be used by the teachers for the primary, middle, and high school levels. Work was begun on a manual (with information, illustrations, and activities) which will be a reference for the teachers to use as a classroom companion.

**Activities:** The period April 2004 to March 2005 involved the following:

1. 5 field trips were made to BRT Wildlife Sanctuary to be able to work in the school and record information.
2. The manual outline that was developed earlier, was further fleshed out, and detailed subtopics added. Work began on getting information for the various chapters, writing draft chapters, getting illustrations done, and developing a set of resource material (maps, flash cards, fold out charts, song booklet, web of life cards, etc). Additional resource material (books, field guides, craft material, posters, games) was also sourced and bought to equip the Environmental Resources section of the school.

3. ATREE volunteer, Shalene Jha, helped develop a "tree walk" activity, with an illustrated leaf index and pictorial map. This was to encourage the teachers of VGKK to identify some of the trees found near their campus.
4. Teacher training sessions were conducted in May-June 2004, to introduce them to the "learning for life" approach. As part of this, Leo Saldana and Bhargavi Rao from Environment Support Group, Bangalore, engaged the teachers in a lively discussion on current environmental issues from the global, national and local perspectives over two sessions. Later, the teachers went through introspective exercises about learning for life, and arrived at some reasons for the need for an environmental education programme for their school. A film on waste management was shown, and will become part of what will be shown to the students each year.
5. The drafts of various chapters of the manual were regularly circulated to the teachers for review, comments and feedback. As part of this, sessions were conducted with teachers and students (including activities for World Environment Day 2004), and feedback recorded.
6. Yashodhara Kundaji joined the BRT programme in September 2004 to put together appropriate, graded activities based on the units in the manual, and to comment on the chapters. Vivek Gour-Broome worked on posters and cards related to different wildlife aspects. Madhuvanti Anantharajan, an artist who has been commissioned to do the artwork for the manual, joined us in November 2004. Both Yashodhara and Madhuvanathi visited BRT Wildlife Sanctuary. Philip, a young volunteer, helped to develop a set of images for the Web of Life game.
7. Initial plans for phase 2 of the BRT work were made. This is to include rendition of the manual in Kannada, a series of orientation workshops with the teachers, and production of some non-textual material.
8. The manual will be ready by the end of June 2005 after which it will be sent out for comments.

## 7. Safe Holi campaign

*Team:* Manisha Sheth Gutman, Sunita Rao, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Anchal Sondhi, Shantha Bhushan, Erica Taraporewala, Tasneem Balasinorwala

*Year of commencement:* 2002

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

The "Safe Holi" campaign to encourage the use of natural colours to celebrate the festival of Holi, reached its fourth year of activity.

**Sale of colours:** Colours made by the Malnad Seed Exchange Collective, Sirsi were marketed successfully for the second consecutive year. A volume of 450 kgs, packed in 3000 packets was sold, mainly through the Foodworld and Dorabjees outlets. Smaller amounts were also sold through various other shops around Pune.

**Awareness drive:** A special event was organized in the week prior to Holi entitled 'Phoolon ke Rang se' in which Madhumita Puri of the Society for Child Development spoke about their work in using leftover flowers to make natural colours as an activity for mentally disabled people. This event helped to connect the issue of natural colours with the field of disability.

Several disability organisations who attended the event. There have been requests for training and help in starting similar work in Pune.

**Education:** Several lecture demonstrations were also organized in schools to talk to children about the issues around Holi and to teach them how to make their own colours. Several slides on natural Holi colours and playing safe Holi were shown in Cinema theatres and through this we were able to reach a large audience.

**Poster Campaign:** A set of three posters on the issue, was designed in collaboration with Toxics Link and Center for Environment Education. These posters were also translated into Marathi by "Envirovigil" of Thane and were distributed to more than 350 schools in Delhi, Mumbai and Pune.

**Songs:** A song on the subject of natural colours was composed, set to music, and then sung by a choir of blind girls from Bal Kalyan Sancstha. This song was sung at the event, recorded professionally and then broadcast on Akashwani radio on the day of Holi.

**Future:** Preparations have begun for the Safe Holi campaign next year with the hope of increasing the volume of sales with the help of mainstream business entrepreneurs. With the Holi project set on track, we are now exploring the possibility of including Ganesh Chaturthi into a larger Safe Festivals campaign.

## 8. Organic Food Marketing

*Co-ordinator:* Manisha Sheth Gutman

*Year of commencement:* 1998

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

Kalpavriksh has been actively promoting organic food in Pune, by various methods, including lectures, workshops and helping in marketing of organic food products.

### **Activities:**

On Earth Day, 2004 an organic food mela was organized in Kalyani Nagar to demonstrate the potential of organic food. Following this, a system of a delivery van was explored along with Gita Deshmukh of "Shristi" (an Organic food shop). This had to be abandoned after several months of trial. However after several requests from residents of Kalyani Nagar a meeting was held where about seven organic food suppliers / farmers discussed possibilities with several residents. This revived the interest in creating a door to door delivery system and currently a regular delivery of organic vegetables has been set up along with Eknath Karale and Vipin Shah of the "Samriddh Krishi Pariwar". Alongside this, a small network of residents also receives seasonal fruits and supplies from Gita Deshmukh. We are currently exploring the possibility of a fortnightly supply of grains and other provisions as well along with the expansion of deliveries to other parts of Pune.

## 9. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

*Coordinator:* Ashish Kothari

*Team:* Kanchi Kohli, Seema Bhatt, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Elizabeth Thomas, Bansuri Taneja

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* 2004, with post-project activities extending into 2005

The NBSAP final national report was moved into formatting and design stage, following the understanding between KV and MoEF that it would be published as a Final Technical Report. It was readied for printing, and then in May MoEF orally informed KV that they would not be publishing it. Since then KV has been lobbying intensely to get MoEF to approve and publish the document, including holding discussions with the PMO, Planning Commission, some MPs, and the National Advisory Council. Unfortunately the Secretary MoEF has stuck to his stand. Some movement appears to be taking place in MoEF. However, with more than a year having gone by since submission of the final report, KV has decided to go ahead with publishing the report itself. The Summary will be printed, and alongside this a CD containing the full report, as also all other key outputs of the NBSAP, is being produced. The latter activity is being helped by Centre for Environment Education (CEE).

As a promising follow-up, the western region partners of NBSAP have organised two planning meetings (October 2004 and January 2005). They have set up a Western India Biodiversity Network (WIB-Net), and prepared a proposal for getting funds to follow up. KV is continuing to give them inputs. KV is also providing a regular update on NBSAP's follow up activities (several are happening in different parts of India, despite the above set-back; but also at many sites there is no sign of implementation). This is the base for a regular NBSAP page in *CEE News*.

Presentations on NBSAP have been held at various locations and to various audiences, including the Maharashtra Forest Department, the East Coast Yatra, and others. KV also helped CEE prepare an exhibition on the key outputs and recommendations of the NBSAP process, which was put up at an International Conference on Education for a Sustainable Future in Ahmedabad.

## 10. Environmental Governance campaign

*Team:* Ashish Kothari, Neeraj Vaghlikar, Ravi Agarwal, Manju Menon, Kanchi Kohli, Erica Taraporewala, Tasneem Balasinorwala, Bansuri Taneja, Shantha Bhushan

*Year of commencement:* 2004

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

KV coordinated a series of "Open Letters" to highlight the severe decline in environmental governance over the last few years, and in particular over the last 2-3 years. These letters were in the form of statements, which were drafted by KV and circulated to a large number of NGOs and individuals for their signatures. The final statements were then sent to MoEF, with copies marked to the PMO and other agencies, and released to the press.

The three Open Letters sent in the year were:

*"Why is the Government Systematically Undermining the Environment"*, signed by over 50 organisations and individuals, 3 September 2004.

*"Why is the Government Continuing to 'Clear' Critical Wildlife Habitats"*, signed by 40 organisations and individuals, 4 October, 2004.

*"Will The Draft National Environment Policy Really Safeguard India's Environment?"*, signed by 90 organisations and individuals, 29 October, 2004.

A fourth one, on the composition of the environmental clearance expert committees in MoEF, was being prepared in March 2005.

It is not clear what impact these letters are having on MoEF or other parts of the government. At one point the office of the Minister for Env. and Forests called to ask for copies of the letters to be faxed immediately, saying the Minister was keen on considering them. However KV has not subsequently heard from MoEF. Soon after the UPA government came to power, a critique of its Common Minimum Policy (CMP) was also prepared and sent to the PMO and other relevant government agencies. This critique focused on the inadequate environmental focus of the CMP.

## **11. Campaign on the draft National Environment Policy**

*Team:* Kanchi Kohli, Ashish Kothari, Ravi Agarwal, Bansuri Taneja

*Year of commencement:* 2004

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

In mid-2004, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) put up a draft National Environment Policy. This draft came in for heavy criticism from groups around the country. KV was instrumental in formulating a detailed critique, and bringing together (through email) almost a hundred organisations to jointly protest the draft. It also intensely lobbied against the draft with MPs, the National Advisory Council, and in the media. A national meeting was organised by KV and other groups, in Delhi, to work out a joint campaign approach. The campaign is continuing into 2005, and seems to have had the effect of forcing MoEF to have a dialogue with NGOs, and to acknowledge some key shortcomings in the draft. Whether the campaign will result in a much better Policy draft, will only be known later in 2005.

## **12. CCA documentation and advocacy**

*Coordinator:* Neema Pathak

*Team:* Ashish Kothari, Tasneem Balasinorwala, Anisha Shankar, Shantha Bhushan, Seema Bhatt and Nidhi Agarwal.

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

Much time this year was spent looking for funds to publish the CCA directory (work on which has been going on since 2000). Meanwhile, Neema, Anisha and Tasneem are working on the database and the case studies that we continue to receive.

KV has been regularly interacting with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to start a consultative process towards drafting the guidelines for community and conservation reserves under the WLPA. We have submitted to them a draft set of guidelines to use as a base for discussions as also text of the required amendments in the Act pertaining to these two categories. The MoEF has recently circulated these draft guidelines to all the state governments and asked for their comments on it. Some states like Maharashtra have already called a meeting on the issue (although in a most non-consultative manner, with the participation of only one NGO).

**Activities:**

1. In April 2004, a trip was organised to *Durgabai cha Killa*, a sacred grove in Junnar taluka near Pune. A trek across the crestline through a stretch of the Western Ghats into Ajevali sacred grove was organized in Aug 2004, where some M.Sc. students worked for a year under guidance from KV. Their work involved understanding the local social, economic and institutional arrangements that have led to an active protection of this grove even today.
2. On September 4<sup>th</sup> 2004, we had a meeting at WTI (Wildlife Trust of India) with participants from Wildlife Trust of India, Kalpavriksh, National Conservation Forum, ATREE (Ashoka Trust), and Nadi Ghati Sangharsh Morcha. We decided to form a core group for pushing the process of guidelines on Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves, for amendments to the Wild Life Act relating to these categories, and to maintain a database on proposed and declared Community and Conservation Reserves. The members of the core group agreed to be regularly in touch with each other through a yahoogroups e-list.
3. Discussions with the Forest Department (FD) in Pune on Community Reserves resulted in the revival of a proposal to declare a stretch of Mula-Mutha river, as either a Community Reserve or a Conservation Reserve. The FD sought our involvement in declaration of such reserves where controversies don't exist. Discussions and work is currently on for this in collaboration with Centre for Environment Education, Pune.
4. Mahindra College, situated on a plateau outside Pune, also requested KV's help in assessing whether a part of its campus would be a suitable candidate to be declared a Conservation Reserve. Two trips were made by KV members to advise on this, the conclusion being that it would not be appropriate as a Conservation Reserve, but that the college could on its own declare it a biodiversity conservation site.
5. Ashish and Neema are currently working on a short term study for IUCN on "How decentralisation works for biodiversity conservation". In this connection, Neema, Bansuri and Ashish visited Mendha village. Later Neema and Ashish visited three other CCAs, namely Lekha village in Gadchiroli, Satara Tukum and Saigatha in Chandrapur. During this trip, in October 2004, there were discussions with the

villagers, local NGOs and forest officials about the constraints faced by in these sites. Tasneem, Nidhi, Ashish and Neema also made visits to some community conserved sites in Orissa and Chilika Lagoon. Shantha, Ashish and Neema visited a number of CCAs in Nagaland, and one in Meghalaya. A state level meeting was also organised at Kohima to discuss the future of CCAs in Nagaland. The report of the field visit to Nagaland is ready and will be circulated soon. A full report of the IUCN project is under preparation and will be circulated.

6. As part of TILCEPA (see write-up on TILCEPA), KV members were instrumental in pushing the recognition of CCAs in various international forums (following up from similar work with the World Parks Congress and the Biodiversity Convention in 2003-04). This included helping to draft a motion on CCAs, for adoption by the IUCN General Assembly at the World Conservation Congress, Bangkok, November 2004

### **13. Campaign on "Conservation and Livelihoods"**

*Team:* Prabhakar Rao, Seema Bhatt, Ajay Mahajan, Kanchi Kohli, Nidhi Agrawal, Neeraj Vagholikar, Shantha Bhushan, Neema Pathak, Manju Menon, Ashish Kothari, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Pankaj Sekhsaria, Milind Wani and Tasneem Balasinorwala.

*Year of Commencement:* 1994

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

This work is related to bringing together perspectives on "environmental protection", "human rights" and "livelihoods" and bridging the gap that exists. Over the last few years, Kalpavriksh has brought individuals and groups with extreme viewpoints together for face to face discussion called "Consultation on conservation and livelihoods". We feel that there is gradual realization that an exclusionary approach is perhaps not the right one. Most of the work on Conservation and Livelihoods was carried out in a non-project mode this year.

#### **Activities:**

1. In April 2004, a letter jointly addressed by KV and other NGOs was sent to the Centrally Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court, requesting the organisation of a multi-stakeholder consultative meeting on turtle conservation in Orissa. Members of ATREE, who initiated this move, are following up.
2. In January 2005, Neema, Ashish and Tasneem helped organise a "Consultation on conservation and livelihoods" at Bhubaneswar in Orissa. This consultation was jointly organised by Kalpavriksh, RCDC and Vasundhara.
3. In February 2005, KV helped organise a meeting with the Forest Department and Nagaland Empowerment of People and Economic Development (NEPED) on community initiatives for conservation of biodiversity in Nagaland. The meeting was attended by Ashish, Shantha and Neema.
4. Petition: A number of members were involved with the analysis of how a series of circulars and orders from the central government and the Centrally Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court, have threatened the rights and on impacts of wildlife/forest laws on people KV decided to join a proposed intervention in the Supreme

Court on this matter. A draft of this intervention was initiated by advocate Ritwick Dutta, and inputs have come from KV, Vasundhara, Madhu Sarin and others. The intervention was filed in early 2005, and is awaiting consideration by the Court. The main plea is to strike down the orders and circulars that attempt to deny any rights over non-timber forest produce within protected areas, and to allow such rights to continue as per the Wild Life Act's provisions.

5. Kv contributed to "Acts of Omission, Acts of Commission: Land and Housing Rights in India" , a civil society report to the United Nations, published by Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network on behalf of several groups including Kalpavriksh.
6. A critique of the proposed new "Ecodevelopment" project by the Government of India, was prepared and sent to MoEF . This project is to be funded by World Bank.
7. National Forest Commission: Shantha, Ashish and Neema worked on a report to be submitted to the National Forest Commission on impacts of wildlife policies on local people. Pankaj made a presentation to the Commission in Delhi based on this preliminary report. Recommendations based on this report were sent to NFC and some others.

Several articles were written in popular media and in books, on C&L issues. A section and is in concept not particularly different from existing paradigms of conservation, except that it talks of working at a landscape rather than only at a protected area level.

Ashish, Neema, Neeraj, Shantha and Manju also commented upon the draft Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill 2005. The controversy generated by this Bill is continuing into 2005; we plan to send the PMO a detailed set of comments, and write some popular articles in the media.

8. Ashish continued serving as the co-chair of the IUCN Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas, with Manisha and Tasneem on the coordination team (see section on TILCEPA). In this capacity he also continued to take conservation and livelihood perspectives into the Steering Committee of the World Commission on Protected Areas.

## **14. North East dams**

*Co-ordinator:* Manju Menon

*Team:* Neeraj Vagholikar, Kanchi Kohli

*Year of Commencement:* 2001

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

Manju and Neeraj continued their association with the issue of large dams in Northeast India, particularly from the perspective of understanding the environmental and social impacts. In 2004-2005 they were involved in compiling two case studies on the 510 MW Teesta Stage V hydroelectric project (Sikkim) and the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri hydroelectric project (Assam-Arunachal Pradesh). They undertook two fieldtrips to the Northeast for the purpose during this year.

Manju and Kanchi were involved in updating the 'Dossier on Northeast dams' which had been co-produced by Kalpavriksh and the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People



(SANDRP) in 2003. The updated dossier in print and CD format will be available by June 2005.

## **15. Allain Duhangan Hydro-power project**

*Team:* Kanchi Kohli, Ashish Kothari, Neema Pathak

*Year of commencement:* 2004

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

Kanchi, Neema and Ashish made a trip to Manali in Himanchal Pradesh as part of an independent team to facilitate preparatory meetings towards a Public Hearing for Allain-Duhangan Hydro-power project. This team submitted a report of their visit to the Public Hearing Panel, the proponent of the project and the funding agency, IFC.

## **16. Campaign for Community Control of Biodiversity**

*Team :* Ashish Kothari, Kanchi Kohli, Shantha Bhushan

*Funds:* Individual contributions received for organizing the Rally.

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

The rules made under Biodiversity Act, 2002, were notified by the MOEF on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2004 and put up for public comment. KV lobbied to get changes in the draft rules that were circulated as an open public document. A letter jointly signed by RANWA, DDS (Deccan Development Society), KV and Madhu Sarin was sent to the MOEF. A Press release was issued and got covered in some of the newspapers such as Times Of India and Maharashtra Herald.

However, the draft rules got notified in the same form, without any changes. Kalpavriksh co-organised (along with Deccan Development Society and GRAIN) a "Strategy Meeting on Biological Act and Rules" at Hyderabad on September 9<sup>th</sup>, on the issues surrounding Biodiversity Act and Rules.

As a follow up, it was decided to lobby with Members of Parliament, as the Rules had not yet been placed in the Parliament. (The Biodiversity act itself requires that rules made under this Act to be placed in the Parliament for a period of 60 days during which period changes can be made). About 250 Gram Sabhas and Panchayats sent protest letters against the notified rules.

Articles were written to highlight this issue. In Oct 2004, KV and GRAIN prepared a note entitled "The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules 2004: Concerns and Issues", which was circulated to many people (including participants of the September meeting). DDS also made a Telugu translation for dissemination in AP.

Since not much positive change had happened, KV and other groups decided to hold a rally in Delhi to get attention to the fact that Rules needed to be changed.

A Rally was organized on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec 2004, in front of Paryavaran Bhavan (Office of Ministry of Environment and Forests) to highlight the issues regarding Biodiversity Act and

Rules. This was co-organised by Kalpavriksh (Delhi and Pune), Deccan Development Society (Hyderabad), Beej Bachao Andolan (Jardhagaon), Centre for World Solidarity (Hyderabad), People's Alliance for Livelihood Rights (Raipur), Delhi Forum (Delhi), Green Foundation (Bangalore) and Gene Campaign (Delhi). A team from Kalpavriksh, Delhi Forum and PALR coordinated the Rally.

A sizeable number (about 300) of people took part in this Rally. There were participants from Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The participants included NGO representative, community representatives, leaders of local bodies (Sarpanches) and activists from all over India.

On 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, about 10 people met the Union Minister for Environment and Forests Mr. A. Raja, and submitted copies of the resolutions passed by various local bodies and a memorandum on behalf of the communities and participating NGO's. The minister assured that a clarification in the form of Rules/Guidelines would be issued to solve the communities' anxiety about the implementation of Rules.

**Future:** At the moment, the Patents Amendment Act has been passed and the Seeds Bill will be placed in the parliament soon. Seen together, it has large negative implications for biodiversity and Kalpavriksh needs to work active in campaigning and dissemination of information.

## **17. Campaign Against the construction of an Interchange/Flyover in Noida**

*Team:* Kanchi Kohli

*Year of commencement:* 2003

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

Kalpavriksh has been helping Samrakshan Trust in a campaign against the construction of an interchange/flyover in Noida. The construction of this flyover would damage an important Green space Smriti Van which is on the periphery of the Okhla Bird Sanctuary. Kalpavriksh and Samrakshan had put together a report highlighting the critical concerns and submitted it to the Noida Authority. Samrakshan Trust had also approached the Allahbad High Court in this matter. The issue had reached a point where the Noida Authority had asked Samrakshan Trust and other concerned NGOs to present an alternate to the present flyover design as well as point out as to what can be done with the construction of pillars already taken place. Basically the report highlighted:

1. Problems with the existing structure, including countering the point that Rs.17 crores being already spent and thus the flyover needs to go through
2. Looking at a possible alternate design.
3. Restoration of the damage already done.

This would need to be done with the help of transport experts and landscape designers that Samrakshan Trust was already in touch with. Kanchi Kohli coordinated and compiled the information, after which it was submitted to the Noida Authority. The matter has not presently moved further due to the change of personnel in the Noida Authority. There is a

possibility of an expert group being constituted to look into the issue. This group would comprise of urban planning experts, ecologists etc.

## 18. Delhi Ridge Campaign

*Team :* Ravi Agarwal, Ajay Mahajan

*Year of commencement:* 1979

*Year of completion:* Ongoing

Ajay and Ravi have been on the Ridge Management Board and have been attending their meetings, besides being involved in field inspections to certain parts of the Ridge to verify or report violations of the Forest Conservation Act.

For two serious violations, one, the Army clearing forest and second, the DDA's construction of the shopping mall, Vikram Soni approached the officials of the CEC. The Army stated that the disputed area was theirs and categorised as A-1 which was needed to rehabilitate those who had fought in the Kargil War. Also, they made it evident, that the Delhi Master Plan did not apply to the Army. It was at this point that several of us approached the CEC in a public interest litigation. After a couple of hearings, the CEC refused to stay the construction but appointed Shekhar Singh to provide an expert opinion on the area. The MOEF opposed Mr Singh's appointment, yet, the CEC went ahead with this procedure

Dr Singh presented a report which clearly said that violation was taking place with large scale tree felling. The Forest Department also presented an affidavit that the area was indeed a forest. Surprisingly, it was the MOEF which was in opposition again on this issue. It is an unsigned letter with the CEC (not even an affidavit), the Ministry recommended that Dr Singh was not competent in this issue and that a multi-stakeholders' committee be formed to investigate the social, economic and environmental impacts before recommending that this area be declared reserve Forest under Sec. 4. The CEC questioned if there had ever been such a precedence in the entire country.

It is understood that in their report to the Supreme Court, the CEC has recommended that the area with the DDA (excluding the 92 ha) and about 300 odd acres with the army be notified under Sec.4. However, it is evidently silent on the 92 ha shopping mall, as well as the construction going on and undertaken by the Army.

The following is a news report " *New Delhi, July 16 2004 : Delhi High Court has taken a serious view of the abuse of the notified Central Ridge and directed the DDA to ensure that "the ridge is maintained as ridge only."* The court took cognisance of the fact that several paths and even a cremation ground had been constructed in the notified area of the ridge near Pusa Institute in West Delhi.

*It said it was appalled to note that even a water body had been covered up and a path constructed over it. Chief Justice B C Patel and Justice B D Ahmed directed the DDA on Wednesday that all paths - two kuchcha and one cemented - were to be turned into a green area. Observing that the area "must be maintained as a forest", the court ordered the*

*cremation sheds to be demolished and the water body to be restored.*

*The court had appointed advocate Raj Panjwani amicus curiae in the case. After a visit to the site in May this year, Panjwani had filed his report stating that from the Dev Prakash Shastri Marg gate a cemented path had been constructed by the DDA which led to two unmanned cremation sheds.*

*Two other kuchcha paths - 2.5 metres to 3 metres wide - had been made "obviously by first cutting down trees..." Panjwani had pointed out that the kuchcha path led to the R-block park in Rajinder Nagar, questioning how a park could come up in the first place.*

*The court also took note of the fact that 'malba' (debris) was being regularly dumped there. To check this practise, a fence was needed to be erected to segregate the ridge and the Ridge Management Board was asked to do the needful. DDA has been ordered to ensure that the ridge is not used as a dumping ground. All bricks and debris must be removed, the court said. "*

## **19. Application to CEC regarding Urban Greening in Delhi**

*Team: Prabhakar Rao*

*Year of commencement: 2003*

*Year of completion: Ongoing*

An application was jointly filed by Kalpavriksh and several other groups, in front of the Central Empowered Committee regarding a range of issues relating to urban greening in Delhi. This case was heard a few times, but there has not been much movement for a while. Members in Delhi are presently discussing various possible actions, including another petition in the High Court

## **20. Public Hearing of Jindal Sponge Iron plant in Raigarh**

*Team: Kanchi Kohli*

*Year of commencement: 2004*

*Year of completion: Ongoing*

Kanchi helped in preparing for a public hearing of Jindal Sponge Iron plant in Raigarh by providing information on EIA and public hearing procedure and putting together points of contention in the EIA report of the project. The public hearing was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2005, and Kanchi Kohli worked with Lok Shakti, Raipur; Raigarh Jila Bachao Sangharsh Morcha and NCAS, Pune.

## **21. Report on EIA Notification**

*Team: Kanchi Kohli and Manju Menon.*

*Year of commencement: 2001*

*Year of completion: Ongoing*

During this year, Manju and Kanchi worked on the Status Report on EIA notification, 1994. After eleven years of the notification, citizens' experience of the EIA notification and decision-making process of development projects is one of disappointment, anger and frustration. Apart from a few positive amendments and some good initiatives, the actual potential of the notification is yet to be realised. The status report attempts to take the reader through the developments in the EIA notification and its implementation over the eleven years of its existence. The information is based on experiences of communities and environmental groups across the country.

The report has six sections. These sections deal with the details of the twelve amendments to the EIA notification that have taken place over the last eleven years; issues related to the practice and implementation of the EIA notification; and also look at the institutions for redressal of environmental clearance. The first draft was sent out for comments in February 2005 and completed by March 2005.

## **22. Eco-Mela**

*Co-ordinator:* Anchal Sondhi

*Team :* Sharmila Deo, Neema Pathak and Ashish Kothari

*Year of commencement:* 2004

*Year of completion:* 2005

KV organized an Eco-Mela as part of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It was held at Empress Garden on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004. The aim of the Eco-Mela was *to create awareness about Biodiversity especially Pune's Biodiversity*. The organizers were Abasaheb Garware College ( Microbiology Dept), Academy of Development Sciences, Kasele, ANTHRA, BSI, BVIEER, CEE, Ecological Society, INORA, Kalpavriksh, ZSI.

The mela reached out to many and was a huge success. Schools programmes included Rangrekha-Rangoli, Sursangam-Songs on Biodiversity, Prashnamanch-Quiz on Biodiversity, Jagruti-Street play, Jannitrya- Dance and Story writing award session. About 15 schools took part in these competitions.

Through out the day programs included "Spot Painting", "Plant a medicinal sapling and take home", "Learn to make animals using Clay" and Display of Rangbhar-Posters

### **Event details on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004**

1. Exhibition on Biodiversity
2. Tree walk in Empress Garden guided by Dr. S. D. Mahajan, Friends of Empress Garden
3. Tree walk in Empress Garden guided by Dr. Mandar, BSI and Dr. Aparna Watve. ( Tree walks proved to be a big hit and on demand from public one extra Tree walk was organized for the next day)
4. Slide shows cum lecture
5. School programs
6. Other programs such as spot painting and clay modeling continued through the day.

## Event details on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004

7. Exhibition on Biodiversity saw a wider response due to Sunday
8. Tree walk in Empress Garden during morning by Dr. Aparna Watve
9. Tree walk in Empress Garden during afternoon by Dr. Ankur Patwardhan, Prof. at Garware college for MSc. Biodiverstiy
10. Special tree walk for the Students of Army Public school and others
11. Slide shows cum lecture

Sunita Rao and Shantha Bhushan compiled information on environmental and health impacts of many of our daily activities and produced a booklet called "Green choices for Urban Voices". This was sold at the Ecomela to get feedback on the content of this booklet. There was tremendous response to this booklet and people were interesting in exploring alternatives to harmful products. A booklet called "Biodivercity", which talks about Pune's biodiversity and the work done on conservation on biodiversity by various organization in Pune, was made available

The event was covered in various English and Marathi papers.

## 23. Kalpavriksh Documentation Centre

Through the years, the organization has collected nearly 2750 books and 2000 papers and innumerable magazines on various subjects related to the environment. The books primarily reflect the groups area of work and there is a lot of material on the social, political, economical, ethical and ecological issues related to biodiversity, intellectual property rights, different forms of natural resource management (this includes PAs, JFM, JPFM, social forestry, Community Conserved Areas etc.). Besides these, there are books on anthropology, globalization, indigenous knowledge, food security, gender equity, livelihoods, medicinal plants as well as those on environmental education, and environmental philosophy and history.

From the very beginning it has been our endeavour to make all this material available to researchers, students and the lay person who is interested in any of these issues. As of now, these documents are housed in open shelves and are being maintained, catalogued and available to those interested. Through the last 25 years, this has been a labour of love, with members pitching in, inspite of their heavy work schedules. Between July 2004 and January 2005, Erica and Anisha re-catalogued books in the Documentation Center and created a computer-accessible index.

However now with the increased number of books and documents, the Documentation center requires dust free storage space, a dedicated librarian and a computerized information system in order to serve well those who come to our documentation center. The Documentation Center is open to the public and all books are available for reference. We are on the lookout for funders for the same.

## 24. Environment Education (EE) Activities

Several EE activities with students, children, and other sections of the public, including: students of Pune University, Symbiosis College, ILS Law College, participants of workshops at Kolkata, Pune, etc. A full day orientation session on biodiversity was organised for senior professionals working with Indian partners of the "Terre des Hommes" a NGO based, in Pune.

## 25. Publications

*Co-ordinator:* Anuradha Arjunwadkar

The Publications division of Kalpavriksh stocks and distributes publications authored and or published by Kalpavriksh.

"*Participatory Conservation*" is the title of a new publication brought out by Kalpavriksh in collaboration with IUCN. It presents the outcomes of two recent global events: the Vth World Parks Congress at Durban and the 7<sup>th</sup> COP of the CBD at Kuala Lumpur. Another new title is "*Organic Cotton: Reinventing the wheel*", published in collaboration with Deccan Development Society, and authored by Meena Menon. Both titles have been well received.

Besides, two earlier publications were reprinted during this year, "*Undermining India: Impacts of mining on ecologically sensitive areas*" and "*Troubled Islands: Writings on indigenous peoples and Environment of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands*". A good response to both titles continues. All older titles continue to sell, in larger or smaller quantities, especially where meetings or lectures on the relevant subject are held, and where Kalpavriksh members are present. The title "*Birds of Pune*" is now out of print. It has been popular, and we considered reprinting it, but this decision has been postponed, owing to lack of funds. Some money has been raised through donations, in order to print the NAP, an output of the NBSAP process that was recently completed.

## 26. KV Outings

A number of outings for nature observation, hiking, community interaction, and just plain fun, were organised in and around Pune such as: *Durgubai cha Killa* sacred grove, Mahindra College (proposed biodiversity reserve), Ajevali sacred grove and village, Mula Mutha river (proposed Conservation Reserve) Several members of KV took part in the River clean-up organized by INTACH with IMF (Indian Maritime Foundation) on occasion of World Coastal Clean-up Day.

## **PART B- ALERTS, MEETINGS, ARTICLES etc**

### **ALERTS**

1. A letter was sent to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Arunachal Pradesh, regarding serious violations of forest and environmental laws by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) in the Lower Subansiri hydroelectric project (Assam-Arunachal Pradesh). This letter was sent following a field visit to the damsite in the first week of May, after personally witnessing the ongoing violations on 14 May 2004 by **Neeraj & Manju**.
2. A letter was sent to Minister of Environment and Forests, on Biological Diversity Rules 2004 on 6 June 2004 by **Ashish, Shantha & Kanchi**.
3. A letter was sent to the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh in protest against the illegal eviction and atrocities on Adivasis of Burhanpur dist and urging necessary action to protect the life and livelihoods of these Adivasis on 2 August 2004 by **Shantha & Tasneem**.
4. A letter to Prime Minister regarding submergence in the Narmada Valley was sent on 12 August, 2004 by **Ashish**.
5. A Protest note to IFC / World Bank regarding funding of Allain Duhangan H-E Project in Himachal Pradesh was sent on 27 August, 2004 by **Ashish, Neema & Kanchi**.
6. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Protest Note to IFC / World Bank regarding funding of Allain Duhangan H-E Project in Himachal Pradesh was sent on 22 September, 2004 by **Ashish**.
7. **Tree Felling Alerts in Pune**  
A series of meetings took place in September with the Garden Superintendent of Pune, to report the illegal tree felling activity taking place in Salisbury Park, and seek appropriate action. The issue was taken up by **Tasneem** following to a request from a resident of that locality, Mrs Marina Francis to assist in contacting this office.  
  
A massive tree felling drive in a residential society, to build a club house and a jogging track was stopped in October after complaint by **Tasneem** was registered with the Garden Superintendent's office. The number of trees that saved were about 30-40 in number.
8. A letter to Smt Vasundhara Raje was sent regarding situation in Bharatpur was sent on 30 January 2005 by **Tejaswini**.
9. A letter to Vasundhara Raje was sent regarding situation in Sariska, Ranthambore and Bharatpur was sent on 15 February 2005 by **Tejaswini**.



10. Oral and email alerts were sent regarding Sabarimala temple complex wanting much more land within Periyar Tiger Reserve, to members of National Board for Wildlife, March 2005, by **Ashish**.
11. Kalpavriksh signed onto a note of concern regarding the WTO agriculture trade framework. This letter was addressed to Tim Groser, Chairperson of WTO Committee on Agriculture, Geneva. The principle of the letter stated that each nation should have the right and obligation to produce basic foods for its own population and ensure food sovereignty. All efforts should be to reduce poverty and eliminate hunger.

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4. Kohli Kanchi, 'An Impacted Assessment Process', [www.indiatogether.org](http://www.indiatogether.org), April 2004
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7. Kohli Kanchi, 'Interchanging the Greens', [www.indiatogether.org](http://www.indiatogether.org), May 2004
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9. Kohli Kanchi, 'Himachal Power Project Under scrutiny' [www.indiatogether.org](http://www.indiatogether.org), June 2004
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26. Kohli Kanchi, 'North East: Apex Court Rules the Forests', [www.indiatogether.org](http://www.indiatogether.org), March 2005 (co-authored with Ritwick Dutta)
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- International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network on behalf of several groups including Kalpavriksh
- b. The finalisation and publication of Towards Participatory Conservation: Paradigm Shifts in International Policy, Kalpavriksh and TILCEPA
  - c. Kalpavriksh report: "Allain Duhangan Hydrelectric project: Report of a pre-public hearing focused group meeting at Jagatsukh village, May 1, 2004
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## BOOKS

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2. Kothari Ashish, Borrini-Feyerabend, G, and Oviedo, G. 2004. *Indigenous and Local Communities and Protected Areas: Towards Equity and Enhanced Conservation*. IUCN and Cardiff University Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines No. 11. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

## ARTICLES COORDINATED

1. CHANDAMAMA series by Sujatha Padmanabhan
2. GOOD EARTH COLUMN by Kanchi Kohli
  - The following stories appeared in the Good Earth Column in *Hindu Young World* between October 2004 and March 2005
  - The peacock's last dance: Lakshmy Raman (October)
  - When a tree falls: Bittu Sehgal (November)
  - Mercury in Our Backyard, Meena Subramaniam, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2004
  - Save the Fruit, Nitin Rai, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005
  - Spirit of the High Ranges, Ghazala Shahbuddin, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2005
  - Is Global Warming Real: Rajni Kumar, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005
3. MAHARASHTRA HERALD articles by Erica Taraporevala

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS ATTENDED and/or ORGANISED

### April

- 5: NBSAP presentation to Maharashtra Forest Dept., Pune- **Ashish**
- 5: Participation in discussion on draft Forest Working Plans, Pune Division- **Ashish**
- 6: Joint NGO letter to Centrally Empowered Committee, on turtles and livelihoods on Orissa coast- **Ashish**
- 7: Trip to Durgubai cha Kila, sacred grove in Junnar taluka- **Ashish, Neema**
- 30: Visit to Jagatsukh, Himachal Pradesh, to facilitate village level meetings relating to proposed Allain-Duhangan HE Project-**Ashish, Neema, Kanchi**
- 30: Session on 'Understanding the EIA notification and public hearing process' for the staff of Rural Volunteer Centre, Village Akajan, Dhemaji District, Assam was conducted.  
-**Manju, Neeraj**

### May

- 8: Visit to Mahindra College, to help in biodiversity identification of their proposed reserve- **Ashish**
- 8: Participation in western region meeting on draft National Tribal Policy- **Ashish**
- 12: Greenpeace Annual meeting and Board Meeting, St. Petersburg- **Ashish**
- 23: Programme on organic food, at Open Space- **Ashish et al**
- 26: Finalising design of NBSAP volumes with designer, Delhi- **Ashish**

### June

- 9: Meeting with NCL scientists, on proposed biodiversity database project- **Ashish, Neema**

- 16: World Commission on Protected Areas, Steering Committee meeting, Savonlinna (Finland) - **Ashish**
- 25: Presentation on international trends in participatory conservation, Kevo Biological Station, Finland- **Ashish**

### July

- 9: Nature walk with students of CEE course, Vetal Tekdi, Pune- **Ashish etal**
- 9: Presentation on River Linking and Biodiversity, at CEE course, Pune University- **Ashish**
- 12: Presentation by Nitin Rai to KV, on *uppage (Garcinia gummi-gatta)*
- 12: Memorial meet for Madhulika
- 16: Discussion with Deepak Dalal on use of films for school environment education- **Ashish**
- 26: Eco-mela meeting with other partners- **Ashish, Anchal**
- 26: Workshop was attended on the Electricity Act, 2003, organised by Prayas Energy Group, Pune -**Manju, Neeraj**

### August

- 1: KV Pune-Delhi AGBM in Naukuchiyatal - **Ashish, Neeraj, Anuradha, Manju, Sujatha, Neema, Anchal, Anisha, Manisha, Sunita, Shantha, Nidhi, Kanchi, Bansuri, Seema, Milind, Ajay, Pratibha, Prabhakar, Ravi, Pankaj, Pradeep**
- 7: Presentation on A&N Islands in Bhopal at the Annual General Body Meeting of LEAD India - **Pankaj**
- 9: Eco-mela core group meeting, Pune -**Ashish**
- 16: Presentation on A&N Islands in Vasant Valley School, New Delhi - **Pankaj**
- 18: Meeting with Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning *Commission and Member In Charge of the Island Development Authority* - **Pankaj**
- 18: Eco-mela core group meeting, Pune -
- 24: KV Pune AGBM in Pune - **Ashish, Neeraj, Anuradha, Manju, Sujatha, Tasneem, Neema, Anchal, Anisha, Sharmila, Manisha, Sunita, Shantha, Erica**
- 30: TERI meeting on indicators for sustainable development in Delhi - **Ashish**
- 30: Meeting with A. Raja, Minister for E&F, re. NBSAP in Delhi - **Ashish**
- 31: Meeting on Housing and Land Rights citizens' report to the UN, organised by the Housing and Land Rights Network in Delhi - **Ashish**

### September

- 1: Meeting with Jt. Secy, Prime Minister's Office, re. NBSAP in Delhi - **Ashish**
- 1: Tracing the environmental legislation and role of Judiciary towards environmental protection - **Shantha**
- 2: Meeting with Secretary, MoEF, re. NBSAP in Delhi - **Ashish**
- 3: Press conference with other NGOs, to release Open Letter to MoEF on environmental decision-making in Delhi - **Ashish**
- 4: Meeting organised with WTI and other organisations on joint process regarding Community Conserved Areas and Community Reserves in Delhi- **Ashish, Neema**
- 4: Meeting on Community and Conservation Reserves with WTI, ATREE, NCF, Guatam Bandhopadyay and Kalpavriksh -**Neema**
- 9: Strategy Workshop on Biological Diversity Act & Rules, organized with DDS (Deccan Development Society) and GRAIN, at Hyderabad - **Kanchi, Ashish, Shantha**

- 10: Press conference on Biodiversity Act and Rules in Hyderabad - **Ashish**
- 11: Presentation on NBSAP at East Coast Yatra/Science Year meeting in Hyderabad - **Ashish**
- 18: Presentation on EIA : Public participation in environmental decision making-**Manju, Neeraj**
- 19: Field visit to Ajeevali sacred grove and village - **Ashish**
- 19: Meeting with William Lockhart and his colleague on EIA issues - **Manju**
- 25: Meeting organised by the Pune Traffic and Transportation Forum with the Pune Municipal Corporation to discuss the status and future of the Pune Municipal Transport **Pankaj**
- 29: KV activities prioritisation meeting

### October

- 1: JFM network meeting and a meeting on women and JFM. - **Neema**
- 2: NBSAP Western region partners meeting in Pune - **Ashish**
- 4: Field visit to community conserved areas in Vidarbha, Maharashtra - **Ashish, Neema .**
- 8: Presentation on A&N Islands at Nature Walk katta in Pune - **Pankaj**
- 12: Organisation of a module on 'biodiversity' for a workshop organised by Terres Des Hommes, Pune - **Neeraj, Manju, others**
- 14: Visit to Mahindra College. Presentations on Kalpavriksh and KV work in the A&N islands **Sunita, Pankaj**
- 17: Meeting organised with Toxics Link and Centre for Equity Studies, on draft National environment Policy in Delhi - **Ashish, Kanchi, Bansuri**
- 18: Godavarman case and its implications, with focus on Andaman. **Pankaj**
- 21: Meeting with YASHDA Pune on issues related to forest conservation, encroachment etc, with three members from YASHDA. Kalpavriksh was represented by **Pankaj, Ashish, Neema, Shantha**
- 24: Meeting on NEP in Toxics Link in Jaipur -**Bansuri**
- 26: Meeting on NEP in Toxics Link in SPWD in Delhi - **Bansuri**
- 30: Seed mela, Sirsi in Karnataka - **Ashish**
- 30-4 Nov : Meeting on The Access Initiative in Bangalore -**Manju**

### November

- 2: NE dams meeting in Bangalore - **Manju**
- 4: Participation in the *Wada Na Todo* Campaign meeting in New Delhi. Facilitation of the session related to 'Rights over natural resources'. - **Pankaj**
- 5: Presentation on 'Impacts of the Wildlife Act on human communities' to the subcommittee of the National Forest Commission - **Pankaj**
- 6: Participation in a meeting on "Conservation of sacred natural sites in India - steps ahead" - **Neema, Manisha, Tasneem, Anisha**
- 7: Presentation on the A&N Islands as part of the Greenpeace India organisation of seminar on marine conservation issues in Chennai. - **Pankaj**
- 10: Meeting with Maharashtra FD, Commissioner of Pune and NGOs in Pune regarding proposal to declare Mula Mutha bird Sanctuary a Conservation Reserve - **Neema, Ashish**
- 15: Meeting of the World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN in Bangkok - **Ashish**



- 18: Panel discussions, training sessions, press conference, etc. at World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, on behalf of TILCEPA - **Ashish**
- 19: Discussions with Open Space regarding future collaboration on awareness work on biodiversity Pune - **Pankaj, Neema**
- 19: NE dams meeting in Delhi - **Manju**
- 19: Participation in 'One Right Turn', a seminar on traffic organised by the Pune Traffic and Transportation Forum held in Pune - **Pankaj**
- 27: Birding trip to Mula Mutha proposed Conservation Reserve, Pune - **Ashish, Neema, Tasneem, Anchal, Neeraj, Anisha, Sharmila, Sanskriti**

#### **December 2004**

- 2: Meeting with researchers from Andhra Pradesh, on prospects of joint management of Kawal Sanctuary- **Ashish Kothari, Neema, Shantha**
- 7-9: Workshop attended on "Environmentalizing Curricular Transactions" at Port Blair - **Sujatha**
- 8: Co-organising rally against Biodiversity Rules 2004, Delhi- **Ashish, Shantha, Kanchi, Nidhi, Radha, Bansuri**
- 8: Presentations on Protected Areas, Community Conserved Areas and Biodiversity Conservation at National Chemical Laboratory- **Pankaj, Neema**
- 9: Meeting with A. Raja, Minister for Env. and Forests, re. Biodiversity Rules- **Ashish**
- 9: Meeting with Planning Commission Members re. NBSAP- **Ashish**
- 12: Participation in International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) Inter Congress in Kolkata. Theme of the Congress was Mega Urbanisation, Multi-Ethnic Society, Human Rights and Development. Presented paper 'Andaman's Tribal Reserves: Protecting Forests, Bio-Diversity and Indigenous Peoples- **Pankaj**
- 18-19: KV Eco-mela, Pune
- 26: Presentation on communities role in biodiversity conservation for Conservation Education Centre, BNHS, Mumbai- **Neema**

#### **January 2005**

- 3: Consultation on conservation and livelihoods at Bhubhaneshwar in Orissa. This consultation was jointly organised by Kalpavriksh, RCDC and Vasundhara. **Ashish, Tasneem, Nidhi, Neema**
- 4: Meeting with R. Swain, Orissa MLA, on National Environment Policy and protected area issues- **Ashish, Neema**
- 5: Field trip to Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa, as part of Consultation- **Ashish, Tasneem, Nidhi**
- 5: Meeting with SC Mohanty, Chief Wildlife Warden, regarding Community Reserves, and PA/people issues- **Ashish**
- 6: Field trip to Chilika Lagoon including Nalabana Sanctuary- **Ashish, Tasneem, Nidhi, Neema**
- 8: A workshop was attended entitled 'Internet Tools for advocacy' organised by the Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi - **Manisha**
- 9: Field trip to Ranapur community forestry sites- **Ashish, Tasneem, Neema**
- 11: A think-share workshop attended on 'Neglected dimensions of electricity sector policy' organised by Prayas Energy Group in Pune. - **Neeraj, Manju**



- 13: Interaction with the Prof. John Byrne and his colleagues from the Centre for Energy and Environment Policy (CEEP), University of Delaware, US, in the KV Pune office.-  
**Neeraj**
- 15: Lecture on Biodiversity, Symbiosis College, Pune- **Ashish**
- 15: Meeting attended on "Opportunities and challenges before the NE" organised by the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research (C-NES) and the Indian Merchants Chamber (IMC) in Mumbai. - **Neeraj**
- 18-19: Co-organising workshop on Biodiversity Communication, at International Conference on Education for a Sustainable Future, Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad- **Ashish, Sujatha**
- 19: Meeting of NBSAP western region partners, Ahmedabad- **Ashish**
- 23: Visit to the Andaman islands to assess the post Tsunami situation- **Pankaj**
- 24: Presentation on Community Conservation in India at Open Space- **Neema**
- 28: Lecture in Intellectual Property Rights, at ILS Law College, Pune- **Ashish**
- 28: Presentation on "Biodiversity: an overview" and "Legal spaces for biodiversity conservation" in a workshop for college teachers organized by CEE-**Shantha**
- 30: Presentation was made on NE dams at the 'Festival of Democracy' organised by the National Alliance for Peoples Movements (NAPM) in Pune- **Neeraj**

#### **February 2005**

- 4: Meeting with MoEF officials (including DG Forests) on Community Reserves, Delhi-  
**Ashish**
- 4: Meeting with MoEF officials on NBSAP status and Biodiversity Rules, Delhi-  
**Ashish**
- 9: Meeting with National Centre for Advocacy Studies re. potential collaboration on media fellowships and publications, Pune- **Ashish**
- 12: Presentations made at the workshop on 'Mining and Biodiversity' organised by the *Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in Raipur, Chhatisgarh, as part of its Green Governance programme*- **Neeraj, Kaustubh**
- 13: Visited the Barnawapara sanctuary along with members of the Chhatisgarh Wildlife Society for distribution of the Hindi translation of the BNHS publication 'Birds of North India' to frontline forest staff- **Neeraj, Kaustubh**
- 15: Meeting at MoEF on the National Environment Policy, called by National Advisory Council, Delhi- **Ashish**
- 19: Presentation on Crisis in Environmental Governance, at Indo-Canadian Shastri Institute workshop, Kolkata- **Ashish**
- 21: Field trip to Khonoma village, Nagaland (including to Dzukou Valley)-**Ashish, Neema, Shantha**
- 24: Co-organisation of workshop on Communities and Conservation in Nagaland, Kohima; presentation on Nagaland BSAP at this workshop- **Ashish**
- 24: Meeting with forest department and Nagaland Empowerment of People and Economic Development (NEPED) on community initiatives for conservation of biodiversity in Nagaland was organized and attended by **Ashish, Shantha, Neema**
- 24: Presentation on "Key concerns on Rules made under Biodiversity Act, 2002" at meeting on "community and Biodiversity" organized by NEPED at Kohima -  
**Shantha**

- 24: A presentation on "Relevance of Community Reserves under Wildlife Protection Act for Nagaland" organized by NEPED at Kohima- **Neema**
- 25: Field trip to Community conserved areas in Phek district, Nagaland- **Neema, Ashish**
- 28: Field trip to Sendenyu village, Nagaland- **Neema, Ashish**
- 28: Presentation at "Open Space" on "Biodiversity conservation -issues and challenges"- **Shantha**

### **March 2005**

- 2: Meeting with NEHU faculty and others, Shillong, regarding CCAs in North-east- **Ashish, Neema**
  - 2: Field visits to Mawphlang Sacred Grove, Meghalaya- **Ashish, Neema**
  - 3: Meeting with PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya, re. Community Reserves, NBSAP, etc- **Ashish, Neema**
  - 4: Meeting with Assamese NGOs and Anwaruddin Choudhary, re. CCAs and PAs, Guwahati- **Ashish, Neema**
  - 8: Presentation made at the workshop for teachers organized by Pune University, Environment Science Department on "Ecological Security"- **Ashish**
  - 8: Presentation made at the workshop for teachers organized by Pune University, Environment Science Department on "Biodiveristy-an overview and key issues"-**Shantha**
  - 8: Presentation made at the workshop for teachers organized by Pune University, Environment Science Department on "Agro-biodiveristy"- **Erica**
  - 9: Moderating session at Indian Maritime Foundation seminar on Global Warming, Pune- **Ashish**
  - 15: Slide show on Nagaland to KV- **Ashish, Neema**
  - 19: Presentation made at the workshop on NE dams at 'Blueprinting a Green Planet'-**Neeraj, Manju**  
a wildlife and environment film festival and seminar organised by the British Council in Guwahati- **Neeraj, Manju**
  - 27: Meeting with "Waste Matters" regarding waste management issues- **Erica**
  - 28: Attended a talk on TRIPS and GATT- **Erica, Shantha**
  - 29: Presentation was made at the workshop on the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri hydel project at the Rural Volunteers Centre (RVC), Akajan village, Dhemaji district, Assam- **Neeraj, Manju**
  - 30: Presentation was made at the workshop on the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri hydel project in Gogamukh, Dhemaji district, Assam- **Neeraj, Manju**
  - 30: Presentation was made at the workshop on the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri hydel project in North Lakhimpur town, Assam- **Neeraj, Manju**
  - 31: Presentation was made at the workshop on the 2000 MW Lower Subansiri hydel project in Dhakuakhana, North Lakhimpur district, Assam- **Neeraj, Manju**
  - 31: Attended a meeting called by Tekdi to discuss Hill Station development notification for Maharashtra- **Erica**
- **Please refer to the next page for full names of members associated with the above activities.**

### **Full names of above members**

Ajay - Ajay Mahajan  
Anisha - Anisha Shankar  
Anchal - Anchal Sondhi  
Anuradha - Anuradha Arjunwadkar  
Ashish - Ashish Kothari  
Bansuri - Bansuri Taneja  
Erica - Erica Taraporevala  
Kanchi - Kanchi Kohli  
Kaustubh - Kaustubh Moghe  
Manisha - Manisha Sheth Gutman  
Manju - Manju Menon  
Milind - Milind Wani  
Neema - Neema Pathak  
Neeraj - Neeraj Vagholikar

Nidhi - Nidhi Agarwal  
Pankaj - Pankaj Sekhsaria  
Prabhakar - Prabhakar Rao  
Pradeep - Pradeep Malhotra  
Pratibha - Pratibha Pande  
Radha - Radha Kamat  
Ravi - Ravi Agarwal  
Sanskriti - Sanskriti Menon  
Seema - Seema Bhatt  
Shantha - Shantha Bhushan  
Sharmila - Sharmila Deo  
Sujatha - Sujatha Padmanabhan  
Sunita - Sunita Rao  
Tasneem - Tasneem Balanisowala

This Annual Report was compiled and edited by Shantha Bhushan and Sharmila Deo

