



Kalpavriksh
Environmental
Action Group
Annual Report 2007-08



About Kalpavriksh



Beginnings

Kalpavriksh is a non-governmental organization working in the area of environment education, research, campaigns and direct action. It began in 1979, with a youth 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. Kalpavriksh is registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1980 (No. S-17439) and is based in Delhi and Pune.

Philosophy

Kalpavriksh believes that a country can develop meaningfully only when ecological sustainability and social equity are guaranteed, and a sense of respect for, and oneness with nature and fellow humans is achieved.

Governance

Kalpavriksh is a non-hierarchical organisation. One of the working principles that emanated from the philosophy of the group, was a democratic decision making process. All decisions are taken in group meetings and based on group consensus, where all members are encouraged to participate and voice their opinion, regardless of how old or new they may be to the organization. Consequently, arriving at a decision is often time consuming but the process ensures transparent, participatory and democratic decision making that is valued by the group.

Meetings are held regularly. The AGBM is held once a year and is an opportunity for all members to meet. Occasionally, EGBMs, or Extra General Body Meetings are called for when policies need to be decided or special issues crop up which need discussion.

Functioning

Barring a few minor differences in Delhi and Pune, following is the general way of functioning in Kalpavriksh

The overall functions are divided into two categories:

a) Core functions, which include administration, finance, accounts, and publications. These activities are largely handled at the Pune office. The core staff at Pune includes an office administrator, an office assistant and an office helper. Publications department is looked after by a publications in-charge while the accounts are handled by a part- time accountant. Kalpavriksh is responsible for the honoraria of the staff carrying out these core functions.

b) Projects and activities are related to the following themes:

1. Conservation and Livelihoods
2. Environment and Development
3. Environment Education and Awareness
4. Urban Environment



Annual General Body Meeting 2007

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) was held in Pench Tiger Reserve, between 16th and 18th November 2007. Following are the important decisions taken, regarding office bearers and associated functionaries.

Auditor: Mr. Anil Jalihal

Secretary: Sujatha Padmanabhan

Treasurer: Anuradha Arjunwadkar

Core group: Prabhakar Rao, Seema Bhatt and Kanchi Kohli (Delhi).

Sharmila Deo, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Erica Taraporevala, Neema Pathak, Manju Menon, Neeraj Vagholikar, and Milind Wani (Pune)

This annual report has been prepared by Meenakshi Kapoor with editorial inputs from Pankaj Sekhsaria



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PART A

Internal Activities

The Kalpavriksh Annual Activity Seminar was held in Mumbai from 7th to 9th January 2008.

I. Administration

Co-coordinator: Rohan Joshi

Team: Govind Khalsode, Prajakta Kulkarni

The Kalpavriksh administrative position saw change of hands a couple of times during 2007-2008. Firstly, Sharmila Deo, who looked after the function for three years, handed over the task to newly employed Anjali Date. Anjali handled the task from April 2007 to August 2007 and later resigned for personal reasons. Rohan Joshi took over the charge of administration from August 2007. Rohan is presently handling administration of Kalpavriksh.

Donations to Kalpavriksh are eligible for benefits under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act. In February 2008 we renewed our registration under section 80 G (No. Pn. / CIT – I/ 12 A (a)/ 80 G/ 279/ 2007 – 8/ 6029 dated 25.2.2008). This is valid for three years from 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010.

II. Website

Co-coordinator: Manisha Gutman

The objective of the Kalpavriksh website www.kalpavriksh.org is to increase outreach to various people/ groups interested in the core issues that Kalpavriksh works in. The website grew steadily in content this year. The number of visitors went up from 4604 in April 2007 to 7389 in March 2008. The increase in traffic to the website was partly due to the links set up with various other websites like wikipedia and sites of other NGOs.

III. Publications

Co-coordinator: Anuradha Arjunwadkar

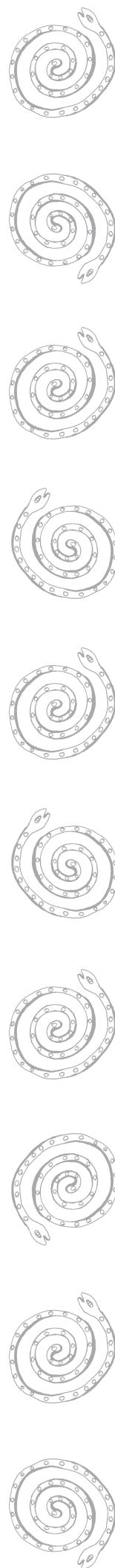
Developments in this year

New Books published and distributed by Kalpavriksh:

- Third and last title of our Biodiversity Infopack set: A Guide to the Bio Diversity Act 2002 was published
- A new title 'Alternative Power Planning' was brought out in collaboration with Prayas Energy Group, a Pune based NGO.
- Forests Alive!, a handbook for educators developed in the course of one of our Education projects (at B R Hills, Karnataka), was brought out in the form of a CD-ROM.

Information dissemination work continued over the year.

During this year, we have repaid the loan taken two years ago from Anchal Sondhi, Sujatha Padmanabhan and Sharmila Deo for reprinting the title Birds of Pune.



PART B

Projects, activities & campaigns

Theme 1: Conservation & livelihoods

Team: Seema Bhatt, Erica Taraporevala, Ajay Mahajan, Farhad Vania, Manju Menon, Milind Wani, Neeraj Vagholikar, Neema Pathak, Pankaj Sekhsaria, Prabhakar Rao, Shantha Bhushan, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Saili S. Palande, Ashish Kothari, Kanchi Kohli, Mashqura Fareedi, Tasneem Balasinorwala.

Non- members associated: Persis Taraporevala and Arshiya Bose

This has been one of the key issues that Kalpavriksh has been involved with for long. The greater objective of this programme is to strike a balance between conservation and people's livelihoods. The activities under this programme include research, documentation and advocacy.

The table given below is indicative of work done over this year under the C&L program. (There may be overlaps and sometimes an activity may fit into more than one category, so this table only gives an overview of the work done.)

Field Research & Documentation	Advocacy and networking	Policy analysis	Education & Awareness	Regional work
Directory of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)	National Level Advocacy	Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Rules 2007	Biodiversity Infopack	Underlying cause of deforestation and forest degradation in Orissa
Field Research & Documentation	Consultation on the Future of Conservation	Wildlife Conservation schemes of the proposed 11 th five year plan	Documentation & Outreach centre community based Biodiversity conservation	Regional work
	IUCN Theme on Indigenous/Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)	Policy analysis	Protected Areas Update	
	Exploring possibilities of peoples participation in management of Bheemashankar Wildlife sanctuary		International Honours Programme on Rethinking Globalisation	
	Advocacy and networking		People in Conservation Newsletter	
	Campaign for community control over Biodiversity		Education & Awareness	
			Three sets of advocacy material on laws and policies	

1. National Level Advocacy

Coordinator: Ashish Kothari

Team: Neema Pathak, Neeraj Vagholikar, Tasneem Balasinorwala, Seema Bhatt, Erica Taraporevala, Shantha Bhushan, Tejaswini Apte

Year of commencement: Ongoing

Year of completion: Ongoing

Total funds sanctioned: No funds

Funding agency: NA

Developments in this year:

- Finalisation of review paper on Displacement from Protected Areas, (May 2007) (Antoine Lasgorceix and Ashish Kothari)
- Filing of application to Supreme Court on NTFP ban and malnutrition in Orissa's Protected Areas (Ashish Kothari and Neema Pathak)
- Comments on Karnataka Biodiversity Rules (Campaign for Community Control over Biodiversity team & Ashish Kothari)
- Follow up activities to project on impact of conservation policies on livelihoods of people in protected areas (UNESCO sponsored), including letters to Centrally Empowered Committee, MoEF, and others (Ashish Kothari)
- Investigation into forest fires and ban on NTFP collection at Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Sanctuary, Karnataka; follow up meetings with local NGOs in Bangalore; release of report and dissemination to central/state governments, NGOs, and others; draft of joint NGO letter to Karnataka Government Principal Secretary (May-June) (Ashish Kothari, Milind Wani, Saili Palande)
- Comments on the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules 2007 (July 2007) (Ashish Kothari, Erica Taraporevala, Neema Pathak, Neeraj Vagholikar)
- Initiation of process to track Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 (Ashish Kothari, Arshiya Bose)
- Critiquing MoEF's new version of the NBSAP report, comparative assessment of this report with the Kalpavriksh-coordinated one and a 1999 MoEF macro-plan on biodiversity; meeting MoEF Secretary and other officials regarding this, and circulating information to NBSAP partners and participants to lobby MoEF (July-August 2007) (Ashish Kothari)
- Comments on Wildlife conservation schemes of the proposed 11th 5-Year Plan, to Pramod Krishnan, Deputy. Director. (WL), MoEF (July 2007) (Ashish Kothari, Neema Pathak)
- Note to Secretary, MoEF, regarding impacts of NTFP ban in protected areas (11 August 2007) (Ashish Kothari)
- Preparation of simple notes on wildlife, biodiversity, and tribal rights laws with help from Symbiosis College students (Neema Pathak, Ashish Kothari, Tejaswini Apte)
- Letter to Andhra Chief Minister expressing concern about reported tree-felling in Kawal Sanctuary, related to Forest Rights Act, 3 October 2007 (Ashish Kothari, Arshiya Bose)
- Letters regarding conservation and livelihood recommendations for Ladakh protected areas, to J&K Chief Minister, MoEF, etc, following up on October 2007 visit and workshops, in collaboration with Snow Leopard Conservancy, Ladakh Ecological Development Group, Nature Conservation Foundation, and WWF-India (Ashish Kothari, Sujatha Padmanabhan)
- Letter to Prime Minister's Office regarding ways to bring wildlifers and human rights groups together regarding Forest Rights Act, (13.11.2007) (Ashish Kothari)
- Comments on National Tiger Conservation Authority draft note on monitoring





(prepared by subcommittee chaired by Madhav Gadgil) (Ashish Kothari)

- Comments on report on Indian marine protected areas, prepared by International Centre for Support for Fishworkers (Ashish Kothari)
- Advisory help in developing the proposal for the creation of Conservation Reserve in Nashik, Maharashtra (Neema Pathak)



2. Directory of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)

Coordinator: Neema Pathak

Volunteers: Tejaswini Apte, Seema Bhatt, Ashish Kothari, Sharmila Deo, Saili Palande, Arshiya Bose

Non KV members associated: Madhuvanti Anantharajan, Vidyadhar Gadgil, Aparna Watwe, Persis Taraporevala

Funding: Rs.10,000 (donation) and Rs.40,000 as loan to KV



Developments in this year:

- Editing, design and layout of the directory
- Correspondence with the state chapter and case study writers
- Updating of information
- Creation of maps



Other activities related to CCAs in India

1. Many journalists have done articles on CCAs in the national media using information from the Kalpavriksh database. This includes newspapers such as Loksatta, Indian Express and the Hindu.
2. Vigyan Prasar an autonomous government body established for science propagation has carried some news on CCAs and has expressed an interest in making some films on some of the CCAs as part of their "Year of the Planet" campaign next year. Details are being worked out.
3. Maintaining and updating databases on Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves and Community Conserved Areas



3. Consultation on the Future of Conservation and its Follow up

Coordinator: Ashish Kothari

Team: Arshiya Bose, Seema Bhatt, Neeraj Vaghlikar, Prabhakar Rao, Erica Taraporevala, Neema Pathak,

Year of commencement: 2006

Year of completion: ongoing

Total funds sanctioned: None

Funding agency: NA

Reports submitted: Statement and Report of Consultation prepared and circulated



Developments in this year

As a follow-up of the Future of Conservation meeting in March 2007, following activities were carried out:

- Final recommendations to Rules Committee of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, on 20th April '07
- Coordination of Future of Conservation network initiatives on critical wildlife habitats, including: Guidelines on Critical Wildlife Habitats under Forest Rights Act. The note was submitted to National Tiger Conservation Authority in September 2007, and



- Comments on MoEF Guidelines on Critical Wildlife Habitats (December 2007)
- Participation in Civil Society Organisation steering committee meeting organized by WWF-India. This included formulation of projects on Future of Conservation network, implementation of Biodiversity Act, and environmental governance issues.

4. Exploring possibilities of peoples participation in management of Bheemashankar Wildlife Sanctuary

Coordinator: Neema Pathak and Saili Palande

Team: Sharmila Deo, Ashish Kothari, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Swati Arjunwadkar, Milind Wani.

Non KV associates: Renee Borges, Ulhas Rane and Mr. Parihar (ex-CCF) as advisors to the process

Year of commencement: September 2006

Year of completion: NA

Total funds sanctioned: 80,000 (for June to December 2007)

Funding agency: Birdlife International

Developments in this year:

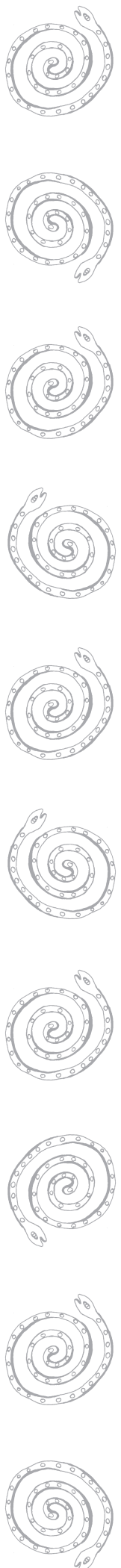
Initially the Exploration phase started with the following activities:

1. Meeting with a number of agencies working in Bheemashankar to identify the role Kalpavriksh could play.
2. Education team put together a proposal to carry out environment education programme in two of the ashram shalas (residential schools).
3. A research proposal was prepared.

During the exploration process it was found that much action has been happening in Bheemashankar through many government and non-government agencies and individuals. However, most actors seem to be working independent of each other with their own visions, goals and programmes. Exploration indicated that none of these activities had resulted in bringing out a marriage between conservation and livelihoods objectives together. A need had emerged during our exploration to bring together various agencies working in Bheemashankar for a coordinated action in the sanctuary. Kalpavriksh proposed to take a lead on trying to bring groups together, which has been well accepted. It has been visiting the sanctuary and villages, including for the inauguration of a community centre by Renee Borges. A need for a conflict resolution forum where government agencies, villagers, and others would have regular discussions and dialogues was also felt. The Kalpavriksh role in this was emerging as a coordinator to facilitate this process. In the meanwhile an anti-plastic campaign and clean up of the temple area was organized during the month of Shravan. The temple trust, the forest department and the local villagers participated in the activity apart from volunteers from Pune and Khed.

The exploratory phase came to an end in November. A report had been prepared and circulated to the group. As per the explorations it appears that KV needs to focus on the following:

- Facilitating a process by which activities of various NGOs working in the sanctuary area could be coordinated with each other.
- Facilitation of coordination of government activities in the sanctuary
- Participation in one or two on ground activities, including exploring possibilities of facilitating an eco-tourism plan
- Tracking and participation in the implementation of the Tribal Rights Act in the sanctuary and
- Education programme in some of the villages in the sanctuary.





A meeting of all the NGOs working in the area was organised and it was decided that these groups will meet on a regular basis to work out detailed long term plan for the sanctuary and its surrounds. Aparna Watwe a Pune based ecologist has offered to work on a programme to create a web based interaction space for all wanting to work in the sanctuary area. She is developing a proposal related to the same.



5. Tracking Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006

Coordinator: Ashish Kothari

Team: Arshiya Bose (non member), Neema Pathak, Erica Taraporevala

Year of commencement: August 2007

Year of completion: August 2009

Total funds sanctioned: US\$ 20,000

Funding agency: Rights and Resources Group, USA



The following documents were prepared in partnership with organizations under the Future of Conservation Network:



1. Proposed Guidelines for Identification of Critical Wildlife Habitats in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 were submitted by Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Council for Social Development, Foundation for Ecological Security, Himal Prakriti, Kalpavriksh, Samrakshan, SHODH, Vasundhara, Wildlife Conservation Trust, WWF-India (December 2007).
2. Comments on 'Guidelines to Notify Critical Wildlife Habitat including Constitution and Functions of the Expert Committee, Scientific Information Required and Resettlement Matters incidental thereto' issued by MoEF (November 2007).
3. Comments on the 'Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, Rules' issued in January 2008.



These documents were submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, PMO, National Tiger Conservation Authority and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.



Ongoing activities:

1. Networking with NGOs, civil society organizations working on implementing the Act in various states.
2. Seeking information regarding the implementation of the Act via newspapers and print media as well as through communication with groups.
3. Disseminating information via forestrights and nathistory e-lists.
4. Recording information collected in an "Impact Matrix"



6. IUCN Theme of Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)

Team: Ashish Kothari, Tasneem Balasinorwala and Seema Bhatt

Year of commencement: 2000

Year of completion: 2008

Total funds sanctioned: 10500 Swiss Francs for the year 2007

Funding agency: IUCN (WCPA and CEESP)

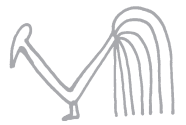
Reports submitted: An annual report was submitted to IUCN.



Workshops organised and participated in:

- A **Capacity Building Workshop: on "Governance and Categories Assessment"**, Sabah, was organised from 23rd to 27th April 2007 by ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB); IUCN-WCPA SEA, WWF and BirdLife International.





- **“Regional Conference on Managing Protected Areas: Shifting Paradigm”** in Kathmandu from 22nd to 25th April 2007 which focused on PAs in South Asia. This was organised by *National Trust for Nature Conservation, IUCN-Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, ICIMOD, and WWF-Nepal*.
- Inaugural meeting of the Asian part of the IUCN/WCPA Task Force on Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihoods, in Bangkok on 19th & 20th June 2007.
- Steering Committee of the World Commission on Protected Areas of IUCN, in Yellowstone National Park (USA) on 17-20th September, 2007.
- Workshop on “Strengthening Community Conserved Areas—lessons, needs & recommendations for policy and practice” which took place in the Küre Mountains National Park, Turkey in the first week of October 2007.
- South-East Asian Regional Workshop on Community Conserved Areas, organised on 27-30 November, 2007 in Coron, Philippines. This was put together by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, with inputs from TILCEPA. Participants included relevant government officials and NGOs from 6 of the region’s countries, some regional institutions, and community representatives from the Philippines. During this time, they also visited a couple of villages inhabited by the Tagbanwa people in the Coron island which is a CCA. The islanders have organized themselves into the Tagbanwa Foundation of Coron Islands to manage and protect their territory.
- Hundred Days to COP9: An International Dialogue Forum "100 Days to the UN Conference on Biodiversity in Bonn", organised by the German Forum on Environment and Development, in Berlin, on 7-8 February, 2008. The Forum came out with a civil society statement aimed at governments, urging them to take various steps to meet the international target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.
- Convention on Biological Diversity, Second Ad-Hoc Working Group On Protected Areas, Rome, Italy (11th Feb-15th Feb '08). As part of the meeting TILCEPA organised a Joint Civil Society meeting with the International Indigenous Peoples Forum for Biodiversity and CBD Alliance, various side events, civil society meeting on Community Conserved Areas and the CBD Protected Areas Programme of Work, organised the CBD Alliance proceedings and edited the ECO newsletter. TILCEPA also facilitated one meeting to start a dialogue among indigenous peoples, local communities, and conservation NGOs on 12th February, as the beginnings of what could hopefully be a meaningful ongoing process that could help deal with issues of contention in the creation and management of protected areas.
- Co-organised an Asia-level Workshop on Important Bird Areas and Local Conservation Groups; Legal/Policy and Equity/Livelihood Issues with BNHS, KV, and Birdlife International, Mumbai, India (3-4 March 2008). The workshop was linked to a meeting (held on 1-2 March) of the State Coordinators of the Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN), which is co-ordinated by BNHS, the BirdLife Partner Designate in India. This meeting discussed legal and policy issues relating to IBAs or Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in India, particularly at sites outside the formal protected area system.

Papers and other developments

1. From March to August 2007 there was an interesting discussion going on TILCEPA and TGER list- serves on **various aspects of CCAs: how to conceptualise them, how to classify different kinds, how to support them, how to build them into national legal/policy systems, and so on**. A summary paper had been prepared and is available on request from Seema Bhatt (seemabhatt@vsnl.com).



2. In many parts of the world, protected areas are facing degazettment or denotification. In many 'developing' countries, there has been an escalation in degazettment, without any or adequate public transparency and consultation on the reasons and implications of such a step. To address this, a preliminary note prepared by Ashish Kothari and Ali Kaka on degazettment of protected areas, has been submitted to the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Chair.
3. A global project on CCAs - Understanding, Strengthening and Promoting Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) - is being undertaken by TILCEPA. As part of this project following regions/countries are being documented - Eastern Himalaya; Mesoamerica, with a particular focus on Mexico, Belize and Guatemala; Eastern Africa including Tanzania, Kenya, and Zambia; SW China Biodiversity Hotspot; and the Arctic tundra region (Canada, Russia, Scandinavia). Based on the positive results coming through Phase I of this proposal, a second proposal for Phase II (Jan-Dec 2008) has been developed - From regional studies to informed & careful policy implementation.
4. TILCEPA has been exploring spaces for networking with the GEF Small Grants Programme staff spread across the globe, on activities related to Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) given that SGP is now giving a special focus to CCAs in its programme.

- **Publications**

1. A Governance Briefing note titled "Governance as key for effective and equitable protected area systems" was prepared by Grazia for TILCEPA and TGER. It is available at http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/TGER/Governance_of_Protected_Areas_for_CBD_PoW_Briefing_Note_08.pdf
2. Chapters inside the Publication: Protected Areas in Today's World: Their Values and Benefits for the Welfare of the Planet. CBD Technical Series No. 36, published by the Convention on Biological Diversity, TILCEPA core group members contributing were Lea M. Scherl, Ashish Kothari.
3. Contribution by TILCEPA members to the brochure on "The Value of Nature: Ecological, Cultural and Social Benefits of Protected Areas" published by the Convention on Biological Diversity
4. TILCEPA also printed a revised brochure on itself for outreach and information.

7. Campaign for Conservation and Community Control over Biodiversity (Erstwhile called the 'Campaign for Community Control over Biodiversity')

Carried out in coordination with GRAIN

Team: Kanchi Kohli, Ashish Kothari and Mashqura Fareedi. (In collaboration with GRAIN)

Year of commencement: 2004

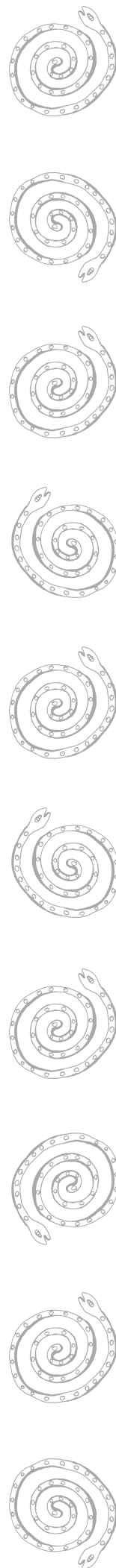
Year of completion: Ongoing

Funding agency: IIED and Global Greengrants Fund (from June onwards)

Reports submitted: (1) Report on the Workshop on Biodiversity Regulation – 'Legality and Reality' held at Bir, Himachal Pradesh on the 17th and 18th of May 2007 (2) Report on National Consultation on Community Control over Knowledge held in Pastapur, Andhra Pradesh on the 8th and 9th of August 2007.

Developments in this year Workshops Organised

Workshops in this phase were mainly focused at spreading awareness and debate at regional levels on the provisions and issues of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and related legislation. Participants in the workshops were mainly representatives of peoples' movements, community based organizations, activists, researchers and in some, representatives from Government bodies like the State Biodiversity Boards.



- **'Legality and Reality': Workshop on Biodiversity Regulation for Northern India**

The workshop was organized by Kalpavriksh in collaboration with GRAIN and with support from IIED. It was held on the 17th and 18th of May 2007 at the Deer Park Institute in Bir, Himachal Pradesh. About 25 persons from the northern states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Delhi were present in the meeting.

- **'Documenting Diversity, Documenting Diversely' – National Workshop on Community Control over Knowledge**

This workshop was held at Pastapur, Andhra Pradesh, on the 8th and 9th of August. The workshop mainly focused on the issues of documenting biological resources and related knowledge through Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBRs) as part of the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. The workshop was attended by participants from ten states and by members of two State Biodiversity Boards (Andhra Pradesh and Kerala). As follow up of the workshop, a press release stating that the Government would be warned of the dangers of documenting peoples' resources and knowledge was issued on the 13th of August 2007. A letter to the Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), was also sent by all the members of the workshop stating concerns and recommendations regarding the documentation process implemented by the Govt. under the Biological Diversity Act.

- **'Strategic planning meeting of the Campaign**

A Campaign meeting was held in Pastapur, Andhra Pradesh on the 9th of August 2007 between Kalpavriksh, GRAIN, Deccan Development Society (Andhra Pradesh), ECONET (Pune), RANWA (Pune), Beej Bachao Andolan (Uttarakhand), Farmers' Action Together (Meghalaya), Thanal (Kerala) and Kheti Virasat Mission (Punjab). In the meeting strategies by which the Campaign could be strengthened were discussed like involving farmers' associations, compilation of dissemination notes, regional meetings, dialogue with the MoEF and NBA etc.

- **'Biodiversity Regulation: Legality & Reality': A Western Region Workshop on Biodiversity Law**

A western region workshop on Biodiversity Regulation was held on the 6th – 7th of September 2007. The meeting was hosted by Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), Jaipur. The participants were from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan itself.

CECOEDECON and Kisan Sewa Samiti Mahasangh also wrote a letter to all 200 MLAs/ 32 MPs from Rajasthan (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BioDWatch/message/67>) so that the issues discussed could be taken in the session of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly which got underway on 18th September.

- **'Biological Diversity & Intellectual Property Rights: Issues Of Control & Conservation': An Eastern Central Regional Workshop**

The workshop was held in Bhubaneswar, Orissa on the 16th and 17th of December



2007. It was coorganised by Living Farms/ DRCSC and Kalpavriksh in collaboration with GRAIN. Participants were from the states of Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh.



Action Alerts and Campaign Notes/ Analysis

- Press Release at International Biodiversity Day, 22nd May
As follow-up of the Workshop on Biological Diversity at Bir, press releases were issued in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.



- 'Guidelines for International Collaboration Research Projects Involving Transfer or Exchange of Biological Resources or Information relating thereto between institutions including government sponsored institutions and such institutions in other countries' (Ministry of Environment and Forests Notification, New Delhi 8th November 2006) : Analysis

Though Collaborative research deals with access to and transfer of biological resources or related information of the country, it does not fall within the ambit of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. These guidelines are very inadequate and have been perceived as a leeway for easy and unrestricted access to resources and knowledge. The analysis of these guidelines is underway.



- Simple note on the Biological Diversity Act 2002
Simple notes on various conservation and livelihood laws were prepared by students of Symbiosis Society's Law College students. The Campaign team helped finalise the simple note on the Biological Diversity Act 2002.



- Comparative table on Conservation Laws
A comparison between the Biological Diversity Act 2002, the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act 2006) on the aspects of Resource Conservation, Traditional Knowledge and Community Control is underway. The comparison will be a useful tool to evaluate Government policy's present leanings with respect to conservation and community control over resources and knowledge.



- BMC FAQ
A simple document consisting of 22 basic questions on the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) has been formulated. This document will be used for wide dissemination across regional groups, community based organizations, NGOs etc. Through the FAQ, an attempt has been made to highlight gaps within the Biological Diversity Act 2002 especially in envisaging decentralized power and control over biological resources and knowledge in such a way as to empower the communities to conserve and regulate use of the same.

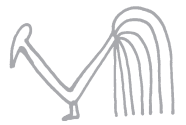


Inputs into Ongoing Government of India Processes

- Comparison of State Biodiversity Rules and Recommendations to the Karnataka State Biodiversity Board (SBB) on revision of its State Rules to the Biological Diversity Act

The state Rules of Karnataka were notified in 2006. A comparison between the Central Rules and those of Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh (MP) highlighting areas in which Karnataka Rules could be revised to emulate progressive clauses of MP (which enhance community participation and control in resource management) was sent to the Karnataka SBB and to the Member Secretary, National Biodiversity Board, Chennai. There has been no response to the recommendations however.





- Recommendations to the Kerala State Biodiversity Boards on its draft Biodiversity Rules

On the request of Dr. V. S. Vijayan, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board (SBB), the draft rules of the Kerala SBB were studied and compared with those of Sikkim and Madhya Pradesh.

- Inputs to P.V.Satheesh, Member, Andhra Pradesh SBB

The campaign team on two occasions gave inputs to P.V.Satheesh, who is an expert member on the Andhra Pradesh SBB. This primarily dealt with the range of issues that the SBB could focus on and take forward including State Biodiversity Rules. We had suggested that in order to look more deeply into the content it is important that the draft Rules be opened for public scrutiny and comments.

- Comments on the draft Kerala traditional knowledge and IPR policy, to Kerala Law Minister and others (8.10.2007)

- Letter to the National Biodiversity Authority Chairperson on his comments on GE
The Biodiversity Campaign team along with other organizations and networks like Thanal, Deccan Development Society, South Against GE, Living Farms, Khedi Virasat Mission and GRAIN drafted a letter to the NBA Chairperson against his pro GE speech at a workshop in Chennai on the 18th of January 2008 (National Seminar on Biodiversity, Bioresources and Biotechnology for Sustainable Livelihood of the Rural Community). This letter was endorsed by groups and individuals across 13 states of the country and was sent to the Chairperson on the 26th of January with copies to the PM, the Secretary, MoEF, the Member Secy. NBA and the Chairpersons of all the State Biodiversity Boards.

- Response to the format released by the NBA on Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)

A "simplified methodology" for PBRs has been put up on the website of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) for public comments. This methodology will be used to document biological resource and related knowledge by the communities. Request for comments to the methodology were sent to Ashish and Kanchi. A letter highlighting concerns on behalf of the Campaign was prepared to reiterate issues with this process of documentation.

- Letters and submissions to MoEF and PMO protesting MoEF's new NBSAP draft, including letter regarding problems with its placement on MoEF website (6.10.2007), and letter to PM's Principal Secretary (10.12.2007).

Regular watch on developments including by the use of the Right to Information

- NBA Watch

The primary source of information on the implementation of the BD Act is the National Biodiversity Authority website. Regular monitoring of this has helped in collection of vital information for dissemination and advocacy.

- 'BioDWatch', a list serve to share the updates related to the issues of biodiversity and agriculture

The list serve was initiated in April 2007. It has carried updates mainly on the implementation on the BD Act and other related policy and issues. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BioDWatch/message/46>



- Tracking NBA approvals including the RTI

The total information of approvals granted under the Biological Diversity Act is not available on the website which makes it difficult to ascertain aspects like geographical location (from where the resource may have / is being accessed from). This information is crucial for local groups, especially because till now these approvals are being given without local Biodiversity Management Committees having been fully set up. For this purpose Kalpavriksh has formally requested the NBA for the information. A response on this is still awaited. Simultaneously, as part of the collaboration with GRAIN, an RTI has been filed in the name of Shalini Bhutani, seeking information on the approvals along with copies of the approval letters. There was no response. After a first and then a second appeal to the Chief Information Commission, a packet containing some details on 56 approvals was received on 31st March 2008.



- Tracking the implementation of the BDA through dialogue
Communication with Dr. Venkatraman, Member Secy., NBA has been ongoing on various issues like the number of approvals sanctioned by the NBA for access to bioresources and related knowledge, status of formation of BMCs etc.

Status Report on six years of implementation of the Biological Diversity Act.

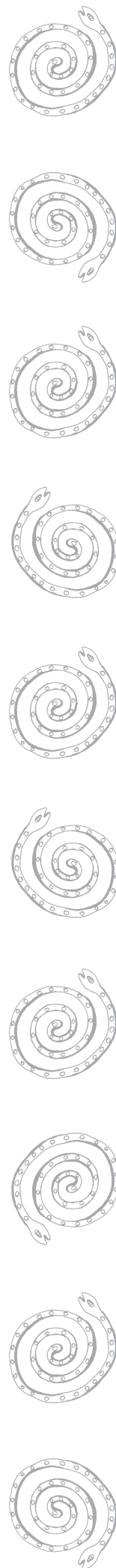
It has been envisaged by the campaign team that it would be useful to do a status report on the implementation of the Biodiversity Act, as it completes 6 years at the end of 2008. This will be used to disseminate within the network that is being developed around this issue. The process of putting together this report was initiated in 2007-08



Meeting/Workshops attended as part of Campaign

- BRT workshop on Forest Rights / Biodiversity / Wildlife Acts
At a workshop organised by ATREE, VGKK, Soliga Abirudhi Sangha and Kalpavriksh in the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Sanctuary, on 14th August 2007, a presentation was made on the implications and relevance of the Biological Diversity Act for the Soliga and for conservation of biodiversity in the area.
- Workshops to review the Draft Maharashtra Biodiversity Rules and Implementation of Biodiversity Act
The workshops were organized by Vidharba Nature Conservation Society and Forest Dept. (Wildlife), Maharashtra. Two workshops were held, the first at Van Sabhagriha, Seminary Hills, Nagpur (on 23rd & 24th October) for Vidarbha region and at SET Guest House, Pune University, Pune on 2nd & 3rd November 2007 for Marathwada and Konkan region. The participants were from the different Govt. departments (including Forest, Irrigation etc.), institutes and NGOs.
- Training Programme on Legal And Regulatory Aspects Relating To Natural Resources Management
The programme was held in Chennai in November 26-28, 2007 and was organized by Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS), Chennai. Presentations were made on the Biological Diversity Act and on issues of documentation
- National Consultation on Biofuels in India: 'Will They Deliver or Destroy?'
The Consultation was held in Village Pastapur, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, India. It was organized by Deccan Development Society (DDS) on the 3rd and 4th Dec. 2007.





- Punjab State Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation and Peoples' Concerns Held on 19th and 20th of January, 2008 in the village Talewal- Bhotna, District Barnala, the workshop was organized by Kheti Virasat Mission under the Campaign for Community Control over Biodiversity (now Campaign for Conservation and Community Control of Biodiversity). A presentation was made on the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- Workshop on Biodiversity in Jaisamand
The meeting on Biodiversity issues was organized by SPWD on 27th-28th of March '08. Kanchi Kohli made presentations on the biodiversity legislation, documentation and EIA notification provisions and implementation. The meeting participants were NGOs and community representatives from Udaipur, Jaisamand, Chitorgarh area.

Resource Support

- Inputs provided to Mr. Jebra Muchahary, Chief President, Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ICITP) from the Campaign team for the International Indigenous Expert Consultation on Access and Benefit-sharing of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Canada through 19 - 21 Sept 2007.
- Guiding Kheti Virasat Mission, Punjab at tracking the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act in Punjab.
- Information provision to Janpath, Gujarat on the effect of nuclear power plants on biodiversity and community conserved areas.
- Information provision to Mark Olden (Producer, Evolve Television) on the NBA rejecting the D1 Oil Company access to Jetropha.
- Information provision to Mr. Ravi Sankaran, SACON, Nagaland on the Biological Diversity Act.
- Participating in or conducting orientation workshops on Biological Diversity Act (and other laws) in Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Sanctuary, Karnataka (for local adivasis, and NGOs) and in Ahmedabad (for local NGOs and salt worker community). The latter was followed up by the local NGOs with a radio programme on the Act, in Gujarati, which evoked considerable response from villages.
- Information on issues of Access, Benefit Sharing (ABS) and the role of women in conservation was provided to Ms. Usha Lachungpa, Sr. Research Officer (WL), Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management, Government of Sikkim for a workshop on 'Institutional Mechanism Of Indigenous Communities For Promoting Women In Conservation Of Genetic Resources' organized by the Forest Department, Sikkim and ICIMOD.
- Material related to the Biological Diversity Act and a related issues was provided to Dr. Sunil Choudhary of the Bhagalpur University, Bihar for a 'National Seminar on Biodiversity'.
- Inputs to Gokul Chandrashekhar, PANOS for a radio programme on Biological Diversity Act.
- Assistance in drafting press note for South Against Genetic Engineering (SAGE) network on the NBA chairperson's remarks issue.

Film on the Campaign

The idea of a film on the Campaign was originally thought of by Deccan Development Society (Community Media Trust wing) which has recorded some activities of the Campaign including the Rally held in Dec. 2006 against the Rules



and a few of the workshops held in Pastapur, Andhra Pradesh. Efforts are now being made to link up all of these shots, along with photographs of other meetings, letters sent to the Government, press releases etc. to make a comprehensive film.



8. Information Pack on Biodiversity Act and IPRs

Team: Kanchi Kohli, Ashish Kothari, Shantha Bhushan, Tejaswini Apte, Meenakshi Kapoor, Mashqura Fareedi (in collaboration with GRAIN)

Year of Commencement: 2005

Year of completion: 2007



Developments in this year:

The third book of the Info Pack 'A Guide to the Biodiversity Act' finalised by Kanchi Kohli and Shalini Bhutani (GRAIN), was released and distributed during the northern regional workshop of the Campaign for Conservation and Community Control over Biodiversity. The workshop was on Biodiversity Regulation and was held in May 2007 in Himachal Pradesh. 'Understanding the Biodiversity Act, 2002 – A Dossier' and 'A Simple Guide to IPRs, Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge' have been translated into Hindi. Translation of the third book i.e. 'Guide to the Biodiversity Act, 2002' was also finalised.

Kalpavriksh received a request from College of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore to translate into Kannada the book "A Simple Guide to IPRs" which they will translate and publish at their own cost. The translation is ongoing.

Swati Arjunwadkar is approaching agricultural colleges in Maharashtra to do a Marathi translation of two of the InfoPack titles, with inputs from Tejaswini Apte.



9. Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Orissa

Coordinator: Milind Wani

Year of Commencement: July 2007

Funding Agency: Global Forest Coalition

Fund Amount: Euro 9500



Developments in this year:

- National Workshop on Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in India

A National Workshop on Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in India was held in Bhubaneshwar on 26-28th January 2008. The workshop was organized by Kalpavriksh and Vasundhara, an Orissa based NGO. It was sponsored by the Global Forest Coalition, a network of civil society organisations working to halt deforestation across the world. Two preparatory visits were made by Milind to Orissa for conceptualising and working out workshop details.

Participants at the workshop included civil society representatives from Orissa, Maharashtra, and Delhi, community representatives from Nayagarh, Sundergarh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Angul, and Koraput districts of Orissa, academics from various universities and other institutions such as the NC Centre for Development Studies (Orissa). It was inaugurated by Prof. Radha Mohan, State Information Commissioner, Orissa. The workshop discussed several case studies of deforestation in Orissa. To put the above case studies in perspective, a number of thematic papers were also presented at the workshop.



10. International Honors Programme – (IHP) in Rethinking Globalisation

Coordinators: Tasneem Balasinorwala and Sharmila Deo
Collaborating agency: Inter cultural Resources Centre, Delhi
Duration: 16th – 26th December 2007
Funds: Rs. 3,15,000/-

Developments in this year:

Kalpavriksh organized a 10 day programme for the IHP students in Pune. The programme included a series of sessions with various resource persons, to cover various topics like history and overview of biodiversity issues in India, different Conservation initiatives, links between conservation, spirituality, and art, urban biodiversity and environmental issues and traditional knowledge and IPRs.

The workshop included a field trip, and few days in Pune home stays.

11. Protected Area Update (PA Update)

Coordinator: Pankaj Sekhsaria
Year of commencement: 1994
Year of completion: Ongoing
Funding: Project Budget for April 2007 to March 31, 2008 – Rs.4, 16400
Funds Sanctioned: Rs.3, 26,000. By the Foundation for Ecological (FES)
Additional funds were raised through donations, subscriptions, other sources

Developments in this year:

Production and printing following updates were carried out in this year:

PA Update Vol XIII, No. 3, June 2007 (No. 67)

PA Update Vol XIII, No. 4, August 2007 (No. 68).

PA Update Vol XIII, No. 5, October 2007 (No. 69)

PA Update Vol Vol XIII, No. 6, December 2007 (No. 70)

PA Update Vol XIV, No. 1, February 2008 (No. 71)

Production and printing of PA Update Vol XIV, No 2, April 2008 (No. 72) was delayed and will be completed by May 2008

FES has also agreed to continue support for the PA Update for 2008-09. A total amount of three lakh rupees has been approved. The remaining one lakh rupees will be raised from different sources.

12. Documentation and Outreach Centre (for Community Based Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Security)

Coordinator: Erica Taraporevala
Team: Annie Joseph, Ujwala Shinde
Advisory team: Neema Pathak, Ashish Kothari
Year of commencement: August 2006
Year of completion: January 2008
Funding Agency: MISEREOR

Developments in the mentioned period

Newsletter and Advocacy Material

- Editing, Production and printing of the Newsletter 'Community Based Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Security – People in Conservation' were carried out in this year:

People in Conservation - Vol 1, Issue No. 2, July 2007 (No. 2) – in English

People in Conservation - Vol 1, Issue No. 2, July 2007 (No. 2) – in Hindi



People in Conservation - Vol 1, Issue No. 3, Jan 2008 (No. 3) – in English

People in Conservation - Vol 1, Issue No. 3, Jan 2008 (No. 3) – in Hindi

- Editing, Production and dissemination of 5 sets of advocacy material) in English and Hindi

Legislation and Briefing Note on STOFDA 2006

Legislation and Briefing Note on WLPA 2006

Legislation and Briefing Note on BDA 2002

Indian Policies & Action plans Relevant to Community Conserved Areas

A brochure on People in Conservation (Community Conserved Areas in India)



Documentation Centre

1. Continue to maintain and update books, magazines and reports in the Documentation Centre.
2. The Documentation Centre is kept open to all those interested in the subject matter from 10:30 am – 5 pm on all working days of the week (i.e. Monday – Friday).
3. The database of resource people and expertise available in the country on the subject matter of community based biodiversity conservation and livelihood security is continuously being updated.
4. Relevant information has also been put up on the website www.kalpavriksh.org.
5. Long distance queries requesting information on the subject matter were also catered to and information provided.



Travelling funds

The travel funds were utilised to support three major outreach processes with local communities, government officials and civil society.

- a. In Ladakh: The outreach was with villagers, concerned government officials and civil society who wanted to understand the implications, of their areas being made into protected areas and what were the legal spaces that could be used to see that while conservation was achieved, local people were not separated from their resources and impoverished. The outcome of this engagement with various stakeholders was a better understanding of the issues at hand by those present and a joint letter by several organizations (who have been engaged for many years in ecological, livelihoods, and educational work in Ladakh). Recommendations similar to those that came out of this engagement have also been taken up by the head of the Ladakh Hill Council, and backed by local political leaders and bureaucrats. It is envisaged that this will go a long way in further integrating and empowering the joint objectives of conservation and local livelihood and sustenance.



- b. In Orissa: Kalpavriksh co-organised a symposium where conserving communities and supporting NGOs and government officials had been invited and we along with our local partner Vasundhara (an NGO) facilitated an exchange of ideas between the various participants resulting in a much required face-to-face interaction between, and outreach to, people who live in far flung forests and the remote coastlines of Orissa. Three individuals from Kalpavriksh participated in the symposium. At the end of the 3 day exchange – the local conserving communities came out with a declaration to their government which pointed to their concerns regarding policies that could marginalise them even further.



- c. We sent a representative to Delhi to participate in the National Consultation on the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers



Recognition to Forest Rights Act 2006 - Organised by a network of civil society groups working on the impacts of this Indian Act – which has the mandate of righting the historical wrongs (leading to marginalization and impoverishment of the concerned communities) inflicted on the forest dwelling communities of India and recognizes both their duty to conserve the forests they dwell in and around, as well as their right to use these forests for their livelihood in a sustainable manner.

13. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Jarawa Reserve Dossier

Coordinator: Pankaj Sekhsaria

Year of Commencement: October 2005

Funding: Rs.2,00,000

Funder: UNESCO

Developments in this year:

The final draft of the Dossier was submitted to UNESCO in September 2006. First round of comments and feedback from UNESCO was received in March 2007. Discussions are on for publishing the dossier.

Sustainable Tourism Project in the Andamans

Coordinator: Pankaj Sekhsaria and Seema Bhatt

Developments in the mentioned period

Pankaj Sekhsaria and Seema Bhatt were in the Andamans (Aug.20-Sept.4), to attend the core group meeting that also included field visits, for the sustainable tourism project in the Andamans that is being coordinated by EQUATIONS and of which Kalpavriksh is also a part. Pankaj Sekhsaria and Seema Bhatt are representing KV on this, with Pankaj as the point person.

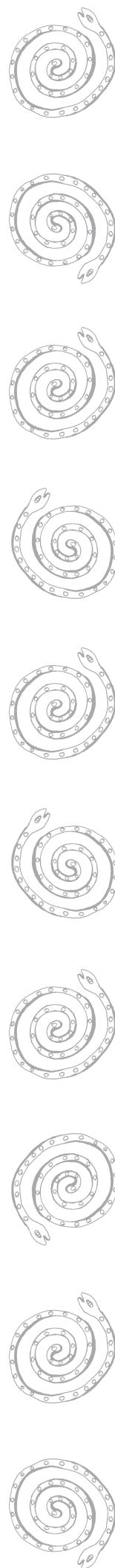
14. CBD Alliance

Coordinators: Swati Shresth

Team: Ashish Kothari and Rohan Joshi

Year of Commencement: January 2007

Kalpavriksh is a host and part of the coordination team of the CBD Alliance, a network of civil society groups engaging with and participating in processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



Theme 2: Environment and Development

The environment and development related work in Kalpavriksh has various aspects to it. A categorisation of the work is presented in the table below, and details follow:

Research & Analysis	Advocacy	Awareness and Training	Regional Support
<p>Study on compliance of development Projects granted clearance in 2003</p> <p>Independent People's Tribunal on World Bank</p> <p>Study on Ecologically Sensitive Areas (Research around the Environment Protection Act)</p>	<p>EIA and CRZ lobbying with relevant ministry officials</p> <p>Kalpavriksh-PANOS media dialogues</p> <p>Large dams and their impacts in Northeast India</p> <p>National Forum on Policy Dialogue on EIA notification</p> <p>Meeting and discussion on Himalayan hydro projects</p>	<p>Simple booklet on Public hearings</p> <p>Articles in national newspapers and websites</p> <p>Training programme in Kalimpong on environment issues</p> <p>Presentations at workshops/meetings</p>	<p>Support for environmental and people's struggles in different part of the country (e.g. Chhatisgarh, Northeast India)</p>

1. Campaign Desk for Environmental Advocacy

Coordinating team: Kanchi Kohli, Manju Menon,

Divya Badami, Sanchari Das

Year of commencement: October 2006

Year of completion: 2008

Total funds sanctioned: \$20000 (per year)

Funding agency: Marisla Foundation

Developments in this year:

- a. Letter about the EIA Consultants Registration Scheme by the Quality Council of India (QCI): The campaign team along with several partner organisations has put together a response to the EIA Consultants Registration scheme by the Quality Council of India (QCI), non-profit organisation floated by the industry sector. This scheme has been developed in consultation with the MoEF. This letter also has a fairly exhaustive compilation highlighting poor quality EIAs and the Consultants responsible for writing these EIAs. The letter was dispatched to MoEF with the endorsements, with copies marked to QCI on 19th April 2007.
- b. Use of Right to Information: Approximately 32 Right to Information applications were filed seeking information related to the implementation and amendments

to the EIA notification; clearances of specific projects; National Environment Appellate Authority; monitoring and compliance reports of existing projects under implementation; protected areas and so on. The first and second appeals were also pursued on several applications on which there was inadequate and/or no response. The campaign team is maintaining a database of the applications filed and their status. As and when required assistance was sought from the members of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information.

- c. Campaign Support Activities: As part of the national and regional campaign support the E&D team sent out alerts, letters and faxes related to impacts of several development projects and activities. Some of these were on the request of local groups and others on the initiative of the Kalpavriksh team. As part of the support work, members also participated in or helped with participation in public hearings organized as part of the environment clearance process of development projects and activities. Another aspect was research and liaison support in filing of applications before the National Environment Appellate Authority and Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court. Necessary and issue specific media advocacy was also undertaken on national level and project specific EIA and Coastal Regulation Zone issues.

Kalpavriksh members also participated in Delhi based protest and advocacy actions organized on specific projects or on collective advocacy on particular laws. We regularly provided assistance to partners to respond to environment and forest clearances process of development projects in the area. On request Right to Information (RTI) applications were filed or information was procured through direct contact with relevant government officials, including a specific meeting with the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

Apart from the actions above, the campaign team responds to email, phone and snail mail requests on support action and inputs related to environment and development issues on a daily basis.

- d) Public hearing checklist: A Checklist for Public Hearings under the EIA notification, 2006 was prepared in both English and Hindi. This is for NGOs and civil society groups in case they plan to engage with the public hearing process as per the new EIA notification. The checklist has been distributed amongst local groups in several parts of the country.
- e) Participation in Independent People's Tribunal on the World Bank: A deposition was put together on the role of the World Bank in environment governance reforms in the country (including EIA, CRZ and National Environment Policy) the Independent People's Tribunal on the World Bank. This includes the developments related to the environmental law and policy reforms; its links to the World Bank's country strategy and the Environment Management Capacity Building Project of the Ministry of Environment Forests. The entire paper and the deposition was presented before the Independent People's Tribunal (IPT) on 24th September 2007. The environment reforms session also included a deposition by Ramesh Agrawal; Gilbert Rodrigo, and Sudarshan Rodriguez. More details on <http://www.worldbanktribunal.org/>



2. Study on Compliance and Monitoring of Environment Clearance Conditions

Coordinating team: Kanchi Kohli, Manju Menon, Sanchari Das

Funding Agency: AID Austin

Amount: US \$ 5000.



Kalpavriksh is conducting a study on the compliance and monitoring of conditions imposed on development projects and activities while being granted environmental clearance.

The first quarter saw consolidating a lot of information on the specific case studies as well as the data on the monitoring and compliance of all projects granted clearance in 2003 (chosen as a reference year) . In April and May, this process required a lot of back and forth with regional offices of MoEF and we have received part of the documents needed for the analysis. The study was decided to be conducted at different levels. At the 1st level it was decided to obtain the nation wide data, including the monitoring and compliance report till date and the EC letters of the projects cleared in 2003. The process of obtaining data was done through the RTI Act. Field visits, data collection and preliminary writing was carried out during the year. Seven case studies were decided upon for the field visits along with the local partners. Other than the national level analysis, specific case studies are being looked at for in-depth investigation from various development sectors like dams, highways, industries, mines etc.

Data for various regions was complied and analysed. This was towards putting together a differential analysis of the data gathered for every region. Regional Fact Sheets are also being prepared.

3. PANOS South Asia – Kalpavriksh Media Series

Coordinating team: Kanchi Kohli, Manju Menon, Sanchari Das



Kalpavriksh along with PANOS South Asia organised a series of media dialogues on critical environment and development issues. This involved an interface of various stakeholders on these issues with the members of the media.

During the financial year four sessions were organised by the team. These are:

- a) Session 1: Coasts after Tsunami: To Manage or Regulate (25th May 2007)
- b) Session 2: Digging up trouble: Globalisation and the politics of mining (19th and 20th July 2007).
- c) Session 3: Himalayan Hydro: Challenges to Conventional dam Building wisdom (30th October 2007)
- d) Session 4: SEZ- Oasis or Mirage (26th February 2008)



Detailed reports of these sessions are all available on the Kalpavriksh and PANOS South Asia website. All the four sessions of the KV- PANOS media series were audio-recorded. These are now being digitized so that they can be uploaded as audio files on various websites so that the full sessions and discussions are freely available to people.

4. National Forum for Policy Dialogue on EIA Notification, 14th January 2008



The above meeting was organised as part of the National Forum for Policy Dialogue initiative in collaboration with Shekhar Singh at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library on the issues of the EIA notification 2006. The meeting was held on 14th



January 2008 and brought together several activists, researchers, lawyers and expert committee members as part of the same forum to discuss issues related to the EIA notification. These issues were then presented to a panel comprising of M.K. Jiwrajika, Member Secretary, Central Empowered Committee; Surya P.Sethi, Principal Advisor (Energy), Planning Commission; P. Abraham, Chairman, Expert Committee on River Valley projects; and J.C. Kala, member, National Environment Appellate Authority (NEAA). The deliberations dealt with the key issues key issues of the environment clearance process; the implementation of the new EIA regime; review of the recommendations of the Planning Commission Task Force on EIAs and next steps; and finally an open discussion between activists, researchers, expert committee members and the planning commission on the above. Based on the discussions specific recommendations were formulated. The follow up to the meeting and its recommendations is in the process and the report of the discussions has been prepared.

5. Training Programme at Kalimpong

The E and D team coordinated a training module for citizens of North Bengal after being requested by ATREE, Kalimpong, the organiser of the programme. The programme included sessions on urban environmental problems in hilly areas and environmental and social impacts of large dams. Sessions were held on the use of legal spaces for people to participate in decision making including the RTI. Case studies were presented to understand the use of the Town and Country Planning Laws and the EIA notification. Samir Mehta of BEAG dealt with the subject of urban environment issues.

6. Meeting On Himalayan Hydro on 21st November, 2007

Following the Panos South Asia and Kalpavriksh session on Himalayan Hydro, Kalpavriksh coordinated a meeting on the issue to get the local groups and NGOs at a common platform to work in partnership to deal with the problems faced by the Himalayan Hydro projects. It was decided to write a letter to the new Task Force on Himalayan Hydro pointing out the issues/ problems in the region. A letter was sent to the Task Force by all participating organisations collectively. It was endorsed by SANDRP, Intellectual Resources, Kalpavriksh, Academy of Mountain Environics, Lok Vigyan Kendra, Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment, Shekhar Singh, Matu People's Organization, WWF-India, and Pahar.

7. Study on the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) declared under the Environment Protection Act.

Team : Kanchi Kohli, Manju Menon, Meenakshi Kapoor

Year of commencement: October 2007

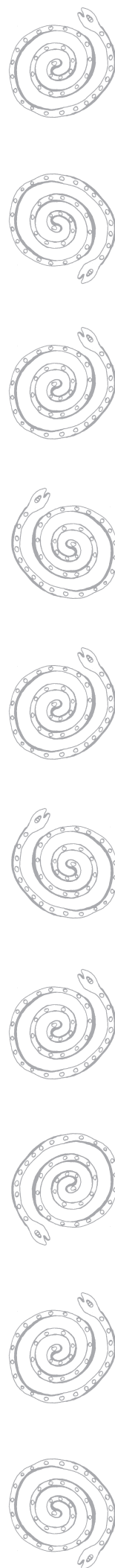
Year of completion: 2008

Total funds sanctioned: Rs. 80,000

Funding agency: WWF

Developments in this year:

A study was initiated to understand in detail the history of how ESAs were notified, both in terms of development in specific areas as well as the evolution of processes at the Government of India level. It entailed detailed interviews with persons involved in advocacy behind the issuance of these notifications as well as the relevant government officials. Detailed analysis is being undertaken in understanding the





status of implementation of the ESA notifications, the pending processes and the policy neglect of this tool for conservation. Right to Information was also used to seek specific information from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

8. Meetings Attending and Presentations



The E and D team attended several meetings and made presentations at workshops, training programmes and local level discussions during 2008-09. The details of these were reported in internal newsletters.

9. Large dams in Northeast India



Kalpavriksh has been closely engaging with social and environmental aspects of large dams in the ecologically and culturally sensitive Northeast of India since 2001. The current engagement on the issue of dams in Northeast India consists of two components: ongoing advocacy and support in this respect to local groups on environmental and social aspects of the issue; and completion of the 'Northeast dams follow-up' project which was started in 2005 and involved production of simple communication outputs and outreach activities on the issue.



Developments in the mentioned period:

The first component (advocacy and support to local groups) has been the major activity in the past two years (2006-8) and has been a non-funded activity being done by Neeraj. This continued during the year 2007 - 2008 with a primary focus on advocacy and support to groups in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.



The second part of the Northeast dams work (Northeast dams follow-up project) was continued in the year 2007 - 8 and will finish in 2008-9.

10. Northeast dams' follow-up project

Coordinator – Neeraj Vagholikar and Manju Menon

Team – Neeraj Vagholikar and Manju Menon

Year of commencement – 2005

Year of completion – 2009

Total funds sanctioned – Rs. 5,52, 000

Funding agency – Bombay Natural History Society, Association
for India's Development and International Rivers Network

Any reports submitted – N.A.



Specific communication outputs envisaged as part of the project continued in this period. While various communication outputs are currently in a draft format, the final version of one of the outputs was brought out in this period. This is a simple booklet on 'Alternative Power Planning – 20 Questions' brought out by Kalpavriksh in collaboration with Prayas Energy Group, a leading group working on public-interest power sector issues.



Theme 3: Environment education and awareness

I. Raising awareness through writing for children in the media

1. Planet Earth Booklet for Chandamama:

Team: Erica Taraporevala, Neema Pathak, Bina Thomas,
Sujatha Padmanabhan, Ashish Kothari, and Tejaswini Apte
Volunteer: Persis Taraporevala

Developments in this year:

Last year a request was received from Chandamama asking Kalpavriksh to do a special booklet on the theme of Planet Earth. The group met to work out an outline for this. This was coordinated by Sujatha. The final draft was sent to Chandamama in August 07 after Tejaswini edited it.

2. Good Earth Column

Coordinator: Kanchi Kohli

Developments in this year:

"Good Earth" is a series that appears in the children's supplement of the newspaper, The Hindu. Kalpavriksh has been coordinating this column and continued this year as well. The list of articles that appeared in Hindu Young World are as follows:

6 th April 2007	Sanctuary for Plastic: Ashish Kothari	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/04/06/ stories/2007040600360200.htm
18 th May 2007	There was a fig tree here once: Sujatha Padmanabhan	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/05/18/ stories/2007051850130200.htm
8 th June 2007	Is there wealth in water hyacinth: Manisha Gutman	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/06/08/ stories/2007060850040200.htm
20 th July 2007	Preserve the Tree of Life: Pasang Dorjee Lepcha	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/07/20/ stories/2007072050050200.htm
24 th August 2007	Bidding adieu to the king: Bina Thomas	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/08/24/ stories/2007082450020200.htm
21 st September 2007	Think before you toss: Tasneem Balasinorwala	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/09/21/ stories/2007092150070200.htm
5 th October 2007	Changing Course: Mashqura Fareedi	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/10/05/ stories/2007100550540200.htm
30 th November 2007	Javan Jewels: Shalini Bhutani	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2007/11/30/ stories/2007113050040200.htm
11 th January 2008	Juley! Welcome to my home: Seema Bhatt	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/01/11/ stories/2008011150660200.htm



1 st February 2008	We can make a difference: Maithily Erande	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/02/01/stories/2008020150550200.htm
22 nd February 2008	Feel the comfort of nature: Sujatha Padmanabhan	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/02/22/stories/2008022250080200.htm
4 th March 2008	Turtles in the night: Ashish Kothari	http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/04/04/stories/2008040450520200.htm

II. Raising awareness through special programmes

1. Sessions at Symbiosis International School

Team: Sharmila Deo (coordinator), Sujatha Padmanabhan, Anchal Sondhi

An energy audit of the school was planned with the Symbiosis International School as part of their Community Service Initiative. Through the sessions that were held at the school, the students were familiarised with the concept of Energy Audit. Students mapped three floors of their building, including the electrical fittings of each class room. An external resource person, Tejal from Prayas Energy Group was invited for one of the sessions where she did a presentation related to the topic. Details on how to read a bill were shared with the students and ideas on a presentation for the entire school on saving electricity was discussed. The children made posters on the need to save energy and also made a small presentation at their assembly.

2. BRT Environment Education Programme

Coordinators: Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sunita Rao

Team: Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sunita Rao, Yashodhara Kundaji, Madhuvanti Anantharajan

Year of commencement: 2005

Year of completion: Dec 2006 (work extended to March 08 beyond project phase)

Total funds sanctioned: Rs. 2,58,500.00

Funding agency: Asha for Education, Bangalore

Developments in the specified period:

A CD version of the English Handbook "Forests Alive!" was produced with help from a volunteer, Aletha Tavares. A promotional flyer was also designed. Efforts were made to publicise, get reviews and distribute/market the CD.

There were some developments regarding the publication of the Kannada version of the Handbook, "Vana Sanjeevana." The MoU prepared by the publisher, was sent to all the concerned agencies.

3. Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme

Coordinator: Sujatha Padmanabhan

Team: Sharmila Deo

Year of commencement: Jan 2006

Year of completion: Nov 2008

Total funds sanctioned: Rs.4, 75,794 and Rs. 11,84,480 (years 2 and 3)

Funding agency: Snow Leopard Conservancy - USA, and Association for India's Development - Columbas (AID - C)

Developments in this year:

The Kalpavriksh team was in Leh from April 23rd to June 17th and from Sept 3rd to October 13th to facilitate the implementation of the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme in collaboration with staff from the Snow Leopard Conservancy-India Trust. The following are the major outcomes of this period:

Recruitment of staff for the programme: We had two posts of part time environment educators that had to be filled. We conducted 13 interviews and chose two girls, Rinchen Angmo and Rigzin Chondol. SLC-IT procured additional funds for one more educator for Zanskar. Namgyal, a young man from Zangla village, was chosen.

Dissemination of posters: Three educational posters were printed in bulk in Pune and sent to Leh towards the end of 2006. The posters were placed in five bookshops in Leh and one in Padum (Zanskar), Around 900 posters have been sold so far.

Workshops held: Workshops were held at the following schools during this period: Matho, Hemis-shukpachan, Shang Chenmo, Ichar, Karsha (all government schools), Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Jamyang Ling Model School, at Raru village.

- 24th to 26th September: Three day nature-study trip to Hemis National Park.
- 29th September : Function for community members organised by the children of Matho Government School, Ladakh.
- 16th November: Parents function at Shang community centre for the schools of Shang chenmo, Nakdin and Chokdo
- The community function held was attended by about 60- 70 persons the first time and 50 persons the second time from all the three villages. The Village Education Committee members helped a lot in organising the function. The children shared, including through conducting activities like a wildlife quiz and fauna bingo, what they had learned in the programme. A film on Ladakh's wildlife was also screened at the end of the event.

Parents' function and Garbage project at Markha Government Middle School:

A special programme was held in the house of one of the Panchayat members. for the villagers of Markha. The children shared what they had learned through this programme with the community members, and conducted some of the activities of this programme: quiz, fauna bingo, web of life.

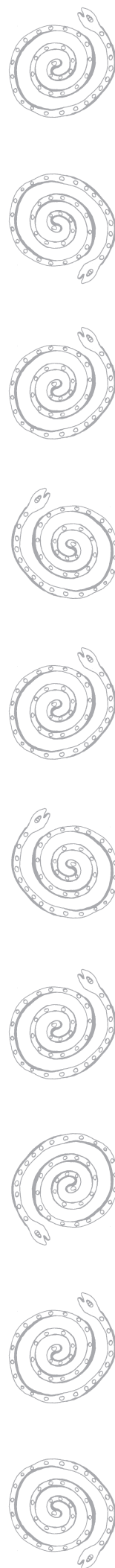
The next day we initiated the garbage project. About 20 members of the community participated in it. A meeting was first held to decide where garbage collection pits need to be made. Three sites were chosen, one near the monastery and two near camping sites. Parents and students divided themselves into three groups and spent the day digging and lining the pits with stone. One group of children spent the day in the school painting message boards in Ladakhi and English. At the end of the day these were put up at each pit.

Preservation of local cultural heritage at Matho Government High School:

The children of Matho School had chosen to white-wash the stupas around their school. Even though this had no direct conservation link, we supported their decision as it was linked to their cultural heritage. We provided the white-wash powder, the children brought buckets and brushes, and the VEC member provided fruit to all. 13 stupas were painted, and the entire school participated in this event.

Community function in Shang and in Matho:

A function organized by the children of Matho Government School was held to which all community members were invited in on 29th September. A similar function was held on 16th November at Shang community centre for the schools of Shang





chenmo, Nakdin and Chokdo. Like at Markha, the aim was to share what the children had learned through the programme with the community.

Village clean-up at Ichar village: The children and staff of the school celebrated World Environment Day by doing garbage clean up in which we participated.



Tso-kar trip: A three-day educational trip was organized to Tso-kar basin from July 16th to 18th. 43 students from the Government schools of Matho and Markha attended the trip, accompanied by some of their teachers, SLC staff and a resource person from WWF-Leh. Using binoculars, field guides, and a spotting scope, the children saw many birds including the black necked crane and little owl, and mammals like the argali, pika, marmot, and Tibetan wild ass.



Links with MUSE (Spiti) and WWF-Leh: Two NGOs, MUSE in Spiti (Himachal Pradesh) and WWF-Leh have shown interest in using our educational material and programme in the areas they work in. A team from Spiti visited Leh to attend workshops and have an orientation to the programme.



Exposure trip for local educators: An exposure trip for the three Ladakhi educators was organized from Jan 12th to Jan 28th 08. The overall objective was to provide them exposure to ecosystems other than the one they come from (the cold desert) in an effort to broaden their horizons.

During this period visits were organized to the coast (Diveagar), Sinhagad valley and Bhigwan Dam (for bird watching), Snake Park and Animal Rescue Centre at Pune, Medicinal Plant Conservation Nurseries, Kelkar Museum and Tadoba Tiger Reserve. The educators also visited and interacted with students of Vidya Jyothi, a school for children with special needs. They attended 4 sessions by Kalpavriksh members who spoke to them on conservation and livelihood as well as environment and development issues. They also made presentations on their work and on Ladakh to members of the Rotary Club, Sports City.



Proposal for story book for Ladakh programme: A proposal to raise money to publish a children's story book was written up and circulated to possible donors. The story is near finalized and has gone through two rounds of editing.

5. Education Programme at Bheemashankar Wildlife Sanctuary

Coordinator: Sharmila Deo

Team: Anuradha Arjunwadkar, Bina Thomas, Neema Pathak,
Sujatha Padmanabhan, Poornima Phadke, Saili Palande

Year of commencement: Oct 2007

Total Funds Sanctioned: Rs. 88,110/- for 3 months (Jan – March
2008)

Funding agency: Concern India Foundation



Developments in this year:

As part of the exploration for the environment education programme at Bheemashankar, a presentation was made in the Tribal Welfare Department, Ghodegaon, for the principals of Tribal schools and the department officials. The objective of the presentation was to get a feedback on the current situation in the schools with regard to environment education, the response of principals to this initiative and to collect statistical and logistical data. Thirty school principals from various districts and the Assistant Project Officer attended the presentation done by Saili Palande and Sharmila Deo.

Education material like posters, cards and games were displayed. Questionnaires



were distributed to the principals and their responses analysed. The response was positive from the principals as well as the Asst. Project Officer towards the idea of a sustained environment education programme in the area. They gave inputs into design and management of the programme.

Poornima Phadke, who is an environment educator, has joined the Bheemashankar education programme on a part time basis. A presentation was held at the Maharashtra Arogya Mandal (MAM) to seek collaboration on some of the activities in the programme. Permission from the Tribal Department was granted to carry out the programme in two schools. A second meeting was held at the Dimbhe headquarters of MAM to plan and discuss further the steps towards implementation of the programme. It was attended by the staff of both the schools. The educators who would form a part of the programme were identified from the MAM staff. The selected grades for the programme, Std 7 and 8 were agreed upon. It was suggested that more focus should be on the 'Forests' module in the content of the programme.

A visit was undertaken to one of the schools, Terungun Ashramshala, by two personnel from Concern India Foundation.

Poornima Phadke, Sharmila Deo, and Deepak (one of the local educators) visited both the schools where an informal interaction was done with the children. The objective of this trip was to get an understanding of the knowledge of children about their surroundings, their communication skills, their openness to interact with others etc to help decide the level that the programme should be conducted at.





Theme 4: Urban environment

I. Delhi



1. Urban Green Project update

Team: Prabhakar Rao, Vikal Samdaryia

Year of commencement- February 2007

Year of completion – February 2008

Total funds sanctioned – Rs.2,74,560

Funding agency - AID, San Diego Chapter



Developments in this year:

We have been able to build a strong network of NGOs to take up issues connected to urban greens. A signature campaign to save trees has been started. Around 350 prominent citizens have signed the petition with other concerned citizens. We have released this in a press conference in the Press Club. We met with the Chief Minister on tree issues. We also met with the Nobel Laureate Mathais and presented her our petition. She asked us to sign the tree growing petition at the UNEP website. We were part of an initiative to host an interactive website for trees. Youth Reach has helped to host this and has agreed to maintain it for a year. The site is www.treesfordelhi.com.



Delhi Metro:

Based on our intervention, Delhi Metro has agreed to realign a portion of the metro line that shall save a part of the Southern Ridge. They have agreed not to commercially develop the 3 metro stations close to the Ridge. We are negotiating with them to implement the whole length from Saket to Gurgaon underground. Compensatory plantation has been planned at the site itself instead of the usual practice of plantation away from the site. They have agreed to provide 5% of the cost of this corridor to the Forest Department for greening and eco restoration of the ridge. An interpretation centre at the Mehrauli station has been agreed upon to educate the commuters about the value of the Ridge to the citizens of Delhi.



JLN Marg greening drive:

We have initiated dialogue with the Delhi Government for greening of JLN Marg with the help of college students and the concerned municipality. The letters have been dispatched and the correspondence is on. We are writing to the Government to restart the dialogue with prominent NGOs on matters affecting urban greens.



School Activities:

We had written letters to five schools to give us time to interact with students regarding trees and greens. Through slide presentations and street plays the focus is to make the students aware of the importance of greens, what is the current status of green in the city and how students can make their school neighbourhood greener. We made presentations in two schools for class IX students on trees and urban greens.



Residential Welfare Association (RWA) Activity:

We have identified some neighborhood RWAs for this and we would like to involve them in our campaigns that are planned on roadside trees. We would be asking them to write to the CM regarding the pathetic condition of avenue trees and to work jointly to address this problem. We are in the process of adopting a



park from MCD along with the Resident Welfare Association. On this issue we met the area MCD counselor, the MCD director of horticulture (Shahadra South Zone) and president and vice president of RWA (Pocket-IV, Mayur Vihar Phase- I). Our idea is to demonstrate a design for parks that will enhance biodiversity values. Due to funding constraints our work shall be restricted to providing technical support only. This shall be our first attempt at developing a park.

HCBS (High Capacity Bus System) in Delhi:

HCBS is a project which envisions developing an integrated transport urban infrastructure for all class of transport system with introduction of low floor buses. This Project got clearance in 2004. Plan for HCBS was prepared in 2002 which we have studied thoroughly from environment point of view. We have found the plan did not have a dedicated tree corridor. We met with Prof Dinesh Mohan from IIT Delhi, the brain behind this whole project and shared our serious concern about loss of valuable trees and greens. We took this issue to the CM through a petition, which was signed by prominent citizens of Delhi. In response to this petition, the CM called a meeting on the issue and trees of Delhi in general. She agreed to include NGOs on the Tree Authority. She told the HCBS implementing agency 'RITES' to conduct joint survey with NGOs on trees issues. Findings of joint survey has been shared with government authorities and they have been asked to take necessary action to protect trees along the BRT corridor. The CM has also asked for our suggestions to amend the Tree Act to give it more teeth. We are preparing a list of such amendments like compensatory plantation, laws on parks and gardens etc.

Survey: We started another survey and follow up inspection for HCBS corridor to check existing condition of tree loss. After, completion of the survey we will share our findings with government authorities. During recent survey we found that after our initial intervention, agencies have saved some trees but still the condition of several trees are far from satisfactory.

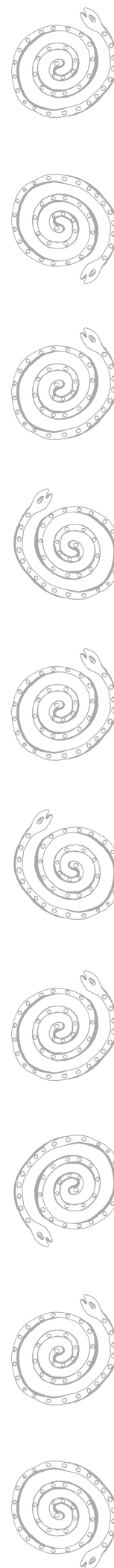
Booklet and Poster: We are working on the following portions of booklet:

- The current status of trees and greens
- The entire ecological ramification of the paving and concreting process.
- The status of parks and gardens from the point of maintaining faunal and floral biodiversity.
- The role of Forest Department and how people can effectively use the Tree Helpline.
- The Urban Ministry Guidelines on greens.

These materials could be used for public awareness, informed policy making, and aimed towards a better understanding of our city's ecological planning and policy systems.

Press Releases under Urban Green Project:

Heading of Press Release	News Paper/Magazine	Date
Civic bodies in the doc of choking trees	Times of India	4/04/07
Tree authority to check felling:CM	Times of India	11/04/07
Eka Peda Kate Ga to Das Paudhey Lagegay: Shila	Hindustan	11/04/07
Tree Authority to end rampant felling	Hindustan Times	11/04/07
Children join tree campaign	Hindustan Times	22/04/07
Green Delhi Clings to Trees Under Axe	Times Of India	22/04/07
Trees being choked as guidelines gather dust	Times Of India	22/04/07





Tree Petition in Delhi High Court:

Kalpavriksh had filed a PIL in the High Court asking for guidelines of the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation on protection of urban trees and green spaces to be given legal recognition in the form of a notification under Sub Section (1) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

In the fourth hearing, the Delhi High Court has given the final judgment in our case. In the judgment, the Chief Justice mentioned that local municipal bodies (MCD, NDMC, DDA, and PWD) are bound to follow the Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994 and Urban Development Ministry Guidelines, 2000 to protect the trees and greens of Delhi. In the judgment, the CJ gives us liberty to file application for contempt against violation of aforesaid Act and guidelines. After submission of our comprehensive report before the court, the civic agencies started detiling work in several areas and submitted their report before the court.

Environmental Play:

An independent film-maker and theatre professional, Jigyasa Taneja, and her team had organised a play with children called "Happy Feet on Indian Street" at LTG Auditorium on June 4th. She invited us to join the event. We distributed literature on Delhi greens (Delhi Ka Ridge Van, Green Books, Sultanpur National Park and Butter flies of Delhi) and flyers on current issues of Delhi greens.

Trees for Delhi, organised a play with children called "Vriksham Sharnam Gachhamee" at Habitat Center. KV took active part in this by providing display information, literature distribution free of cost, flyers on green issues of city. About 350 – 400 people attended this play and showed their interest to join our campaign to protect greens.

Campaign:

On Environmental day, we organized protest against the cutting of over 400 trees at the Siri Fort Auditorium for construction of squash courts. This protest was joined by various concerned citizens, college students, media persons and members of various organisations.

Yamuna Riverbed Satyagraha:

Construction of infrastructure for Commonwealth games village on the riverbed is a major threat to groundwater recharge potential. This area of river has significant ecological values from biodiversity point of view. Various environmentalist and civil society groups had come together to rally support for shifting the venue of the Commonwealth Games. Kalpavriksh had joined the satyagraha and taking active part in activities. We had organised a programme in Zakir Hussain college where water activist Rajender Singh addressed the teachers and students on the crisis facing the Yamuna river. Students wrote letters to the Chief Minister on this issue. We organised programmes and events for the satyagraha in other colleges and university hostels. The message of this campaign is that "Yamuna riverside is for planting trees and not for concrete constructions". Participants of the Yamuna Satyagraha had organised a 9 day Satyagraha Yatra to carry this issue to those villages where the Yamuna is matter of livelihood and of religious and cultural significance. On 9th December we joined a meeting on the Yamuna Satyagraha, where farmers from villages in the Delhi region had expressed their serious concern about the government stand on the Yamuna and agricultural land. From Kalpavriksh we have proposed to take up this issue to school and college students under our awareness programme.

College Programmes:

We had organised an event at Zakir Hussain college which involved: interaction with farmers of Nahin Kalan village in Garhwal Himalayas; talk on scope of Environmental law in wildlife conservation and discussion on the crisis facing the river Yamuna. 45 students and 6 faculty members visited the Asola wildlife sanctuary bordering the Southern end of the city where the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has a conservation education centre.

College Protest:

Students of Delhi college of Arts and Commerce organized a protest march against construction of flats in a green belt area in Netaji Nagar close to their college. This green area is an ideal habitat for peafowls and other wild animals and birds. On invitation (from students) we joined the protest and gave tips for sustaining the campaign (like filing RTI information, media coverage etc). Saplings were planted at the protest site. We are planning to include these highly motivated students in our campaign on trees.

Work with Municipalities:

NDMC Director of Horticulture invited us to give inputs on NDMC's efforts to green NDMC areas. Along with the Director we visited various places like Talkatora Park, Ridge, avenue trees and herbal parks. We were asked to give our opinion on increasing the green cover. We evaluated their plantations in the western portion of the Ridge.

Forest Department:

During this period, we met Chief Conservator of Forests and discussed non-compliance of Delhi High Court order on trees, giving wide publicity to Urban Development Ministry Guidelines behind DTC buses and cinema halls and amendment of DPTA, 1994. He has asked us to give locality and roads names with agencies under whose jurisdiction the HC order is being flouted. We have written to the conservator on this issue.

Department of Environment

We met the senior scientific officer (SSO), Environment Department. SSO asked us to join department's plantation programme and asked us to suggest sites within the Ridge where plantation can be carried out.

II. Pune

1. Pune Tree Watch

Coordinator: Tasneem Balasinorwala

Team: Anchal Sondhi, Shantha Bhushan, Ashish Kothari,
and Saili Palande

Funding agency: AID and individual donors

Developments in the mentioned period:

The regular activities of responding to citizen alerts and tree felling applications continued throughout the year. PTW's campaign to save Pune's green spaces received widespread support and coverage from the media during the year.

One of the major highlights was the nomination of Tasneem Balasinorwala from Kalpavriksh to the Pune Tree Authority (PTA) along with other members as a result of our campaign (details given below) to get experts on the TA.





Pune Cantonment Board

Pune Tree Watch (PTW) initiated interaction with the Pune Cantonment Board and conducted a number of site visits to guide them for saving trees. The group did succeed in roping the Army personnel and land for plantations in the Pimpri Chinchwad Area.



Garden Department Automation system

Persistent Systems, PTW and the Garden Department collaborated in an initiative to automate the working of the Garden Department of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). This will enable a regularly updated internet based interface for the Garden Department with the citizens of Pune.



Draft Amendment to the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Preservation and Protection of Trees Act, 1975

Pune Tree Watch (PTW) wrote to the Under Secretary of the Urban Development Department, State Government with a set of recommendations to amend the above mentioned act. The recommendations highlighted the need to: strengthen peoples' participation; increase penalties for illegal tree cutting including a time frame for taking action against defaulters; integration of wildlife and biodiversity concerns.



Pune Tree Authority term (2007-2012)

PTW wrote to the commissioner in February 2007 urging for the nomination of civil society representatives and the true experts on the Pune Tree Authority (PTA), the main guardians of Pune's trees. After much follow-up, three civil society representatives, including Tasneem Balasinorwala of Kalpavriksh, were finally nominated on the PTA.



Tasneem has been attending most of the monthly meetings and processes as member of the Tree Authority. At one of the meeting, a sub-committee was formed to hear the objections taken by citizens against tree felling. This will be to simplify the process and optimise the time of both people and the PTA members. All the NGO members of the PTA are on this sub-committee, which will make recommendations and suggestions and present it to the larger PTA meeting.



Meeting with the Pune Municipal Commissioner to discuss discrepancies in the implementation of the Maharashtra Tree Act

A meeting was held with the PMC commissioner in June to 2007 highlighting various technical and administrative problems that the group had observed and studied vis-à-vis the implementation of the Maharashtra Tree Act, specially focusing on the construction and parking issues. The commissioner acknowledged that he was unaware that there were so many issues which need to be addressed in this respect and the group emphasized the need for him to be present for the meetings of the PTA in his capacity as the Chairman. The commissioner asked PTW to convene a committee to come up with recommendations for the construction industry including roads and other spaces wherein trees could be effectively preserved and plantations carried out.



Plantations

PTW was involved in many plantation programmes across the city in the months of June and July 2007. Detailed level planning was done to ensure a good survival rate and only indigenous species were planted.



Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

With funding from Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Pune had a lot of road widening and development on the cards, resulting in the possible axing of thousands of trees. To save the trees from the axe, a meeting with the concerned official, Mr. Deshpande was held and it was mutually decided that each road would be looked at on a case to case basis. Two meetings and a few site visits (Ganeshkhind, Khadki, Baner, Airport Road etc) were organised. PTW recommended design changes (such as looping, shifting alignments and tracks) to ensure the saving of as many trees as possible, and more space was made available for avenue plantations. Ninety percent of our recommendations were accepted and incorporated in the plans. While success is being met at the planning stage one will have to keep vigil on this through implementation as well.

Awareness material: Car sticker and Poster

A poster for trees of Pune City has been printed. The poster depicts a variety of nine indigenous trees. These trees are all transplantable and indigenous trees to India. Name of Pune city is not mentioned instead the title says " Trees of our city" so can be used for other cities also.

This poster was made possible due to Association for India's Development (AID) Bay- area chapter. Poster was designed by Madhuvanti Anantharajan and pictures were donated by Dr. Parag Mahajan, Oikos, Radhika, Saili P., Philips and Anchal. We have printed 500 copies in English and the tree name is in Marathi as well as in English. Work in ongoing for a sticker and a citizen's guide.

Save Ranibagh in Mumbai, campaign

Citizens from Mumbai called seeking help to Save Ranibagh in Mumbai. Ranibagh is a Botanical Garden in Mumbai is and under threat from Municipality as a Zoo has been planned to come up there and about 3000 trees are likely to be cut. Number of PTW members signed on the online petition to save Ranibagh.

Recommendations to incorporate environmental elements within the city engineer's realm of functioning

As coordinators of a committee initiated by the Pune Municipal commissioner, PTW submitted its recommendations to preserve trees in the development sector namely the work undertaken by the City Engineer. Inputs were taken in from various experts and also from the Promoters and Builders Association on Pune. These were accepted and a resolution/order to the effect to increase the tree plantation standard from one tree per 100 sq.m. to 60 sq.m. was issued. This was along with the specifications given by us to have specific areas as tree zones to enable this plantation.

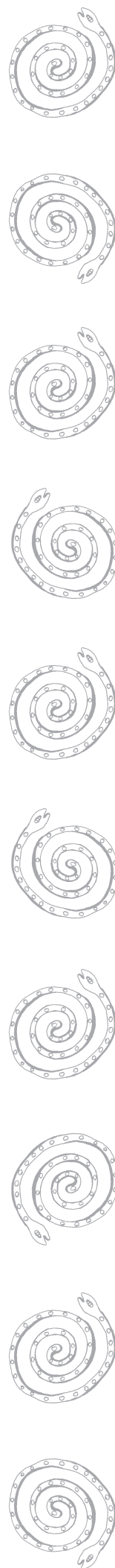
A similar intervention was made for the Parking policy for the city but not much came out of it.

Awareness material: Citizens Guide

The final text of the citizens' guide on urban green issues for Pune citizens is ready. This guide takes up the issue of greens in a city: both learning about the subject as well as knowing how to contribute for conservation of these spaces. The designing of this guide in the process and we are seeking funds to be able to publish it.

Dussehra

Pune Tree Watch also joined hands with Oikos in a unique campaign around the festival of Dussehra promoting the plantation of the Apta tree (*Bauhinia racemosa*)





and Shami (*Prosopis juliflora*) as part of the Dussehra celebrations. Members of Pune Tree Watch have sponsored saplings that were given to school children and an educational session with Rewachand Bhojwani school was held. Thirty saplings were given to Vidayanchal School in Pune, and children of VIII std. planted these in their school premises. A talk about importance of these was given by the school principal, who was oriented by Pune Tree Watch members. The school also held teacher training on the subject. Saplings were distributed to citizens belonging to the Baner Tukai Tekdi group and these were planted by them on the hill. They also distributed posters to volunteers, who came on weekends for watering the saplings planted.

Garden Fair at Sambhaji Park (16th and 17th February)

The Garden department organized a Garden Fair on 16th to 17th Feb 2008. PTW was given a stall for promotion and conservation of Trees of Pune.

2. Pune Citizen's Environment Forum (PCEF)

Team members: Ashish Kothari, Saili Palande, and Anchal Sondhi

Funder: No funding

Developments in this year:

Pune Citizens' Environment Forum (PCEF) was initiated after the discussions with Praveen Pradeshi, the new PMC Commissioner. Ashish Kothari attended several discussions of the forum to plan for the Biodiversity Park. This is part of the various lands reserved for biodiversity conservation in the city.

Biodiversity Theme, a sub theme under the umbrella PCEF is being coordinated by Anchal Sondhi.

1. Several activities had been discussed by the BD theme group in the past (including Nature Awareness Areas and Interpretation Centers, Biodiversity Vision for Pune, Output on Pune's existing gardens (suggestions for enhancing biodiversity), directory of plant nurseries of indigenous species, etc). However, the group has focused on the Baner Pashan Biodiversity Parks as that is a priority project of the PMC.
2. Several experts have been consulted for the discussions on the Baner-Pashan Biodiversity Park

Baner-Pashan Biodiversity Park

The 'Biodiversity' thematic sub-group under the PCEF is being coordinated by Kalpavriksh member, Anchal Sondhi. While the sub-group discussed a wide range of possible interventions, it decided to focus on the Baner – Pashan Biodiversity Park, which is a priority project being taken up by the PMC. On 13th Oct the Commissioner, Mayor and PMC officials along with political leaders, citizens groups and NGOs, walked together from the Pashan – Sus road to Baner tekdi to look at the proposed site for the Biodiversity Park being developed by the PMC and hold discussions on the issue.

Articles, Field Trips, Meetings, Letters and Books

Articles

Kohli, K.

1. Passing the Forest Buck, www.indiatogether.org, 28th April 2007
2. Break it up and speed ahead, www.infochangeindia.org, June 2007
3. Each Day, Eco Day, Deccan Herald, 5th June 2007
4. All Legislation No Conservation, www.indiatogether.org, 31st August 2007
5. Whittling away NPV costs, www.indiatogether.org
6. 'All legislation, no conservation' <http://www.indiatogether.org/2007/aug/env-eiabda.htm>
7. 'Who decides on biosecurity', Hindu, Businessline, 10th Oct 2007
8. Divide and Conquer with plant and port, www.indiatogether.org, 9th February 2008
9. Fail, Fail, Fail...and Pass!, www.indiatogether.org, 23rd March 2008
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3. The black buck stops here, Outlook, 9th April 2007
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5. Majestic heights, The Hindu Sunday Magazine, 27th May 2007
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10. India's environmental roller-coaster ride. The Hindu, 50th Anniversary of Independence special supplement, 15th August 2007
11. Conservationists vs. conservation. The Hindu, 26th August 2007
12. Should degraded land be leased to industry? Business Standard, 12th September 2007
13. Traditional knowledge and sustainable development. In CD with MacLean, D., Andjelkovic, M., and Vetter, T. Internet Governance and Sustainable Development, International Institute of Sustainable Development, Canada, September
14. Is there no god of small things? Hornbill, July-Sept 2007
15. Ab vanya jeevon ka dushman 'vikas', Dainik Bhaskar, 4th October 2007
16. The reality of climate injustice, The Hindu Magazine, 18th November 2007
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2. There was a fig tree here once, Hindu Young World, 18th May 2007
3. Learn local first, Teacher Plus, July 2007
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1. Forgotten Islands, The Times of India, 24th May 2007
2. Questions About a Road, Down to Earth, 31st May 2007
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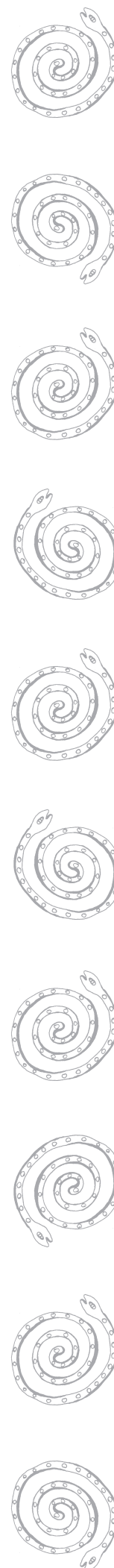
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4. A flood of dams, Himal Southasian, September 2007
5. Satyagraha for the Teesta, Tehelka, 29th September 2007
6. Walk with care in Red Panda Land, Indian Express, 20th October 2007
7. Plumbing the Teesta, The Statesman, 19th November 2007
8. Risks without enough gain, The Telegraph, 11th December 2007
9. Damned In, The Hindu, 23rd December 2007
10. 3000 MW Dibang Multipurpose project, Dainik Janambhumi, 16th December 2007 (in Assamese)
11. Undermining a biodiversity hotspot – The Lower Subansiri hydroelectric project, Hornbill, January – March 2008

Jointly authored articles:

1. Balasinorwala, T., A. Kothari, H. Jaireth. 2008. Protected area governance in South Asia: how far has it progressed? PARKS, Vol. 17 No. 1: Implementing the CBD POWPA
2. Fareedi, M., K. Kohli. Communities not in Biodiversity Act, Civil Society, August 2007
3. Kohli, K., M. Menon. Trails that Lead Nowhere, Hindustan Times, 25th May 2007
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4. Kohli, K., M. Menon. Environmental Decision Making: Whose Agenda, Economic and Political Weekly, 30th June 2007
5. Kohli, K., Menon, M., Badami, D. The SEZ Onslaught: At a critical juncture, Hindu Survey of the Environment 2007
6. Kohli, K., M. Menon. Environmental Decision-making: Whose Agenda?, Economic and Political Weekly, 30th June 2007
7. Kohli, K., M. Menon. Sabotage from Within, Tehelka, 21st July, 2007
8. Kohli, K., M. Menon. EIA: a nice formality, Down to Earth, 31st August 2007
9. Kohli, K., M. Menon. 2007. Re-engineering of India's Legal and Policy regime on Environment- The Influence of the World Bank. Deposition made to the Independent People's Tribunal on the World Bank held in New Delhi from 21st to 24th September 2007
10. Kohli, K., M. Menon. Legalised Destruction, Down to Earth, 15th February 2008
11. Kohli, K., M. Menon. Environment Protection laws reduced to a travesty of their mandates, Business Standard, 19th February 2008 (reprint of Down to Earth article)
12. Kohli, K., M. Menon. LICENSE TO DESTROY: Environmental Regulatory Framework in the Era of Economic Growth (paper presented at GFC workshop)
13. Kothari, A., S. Padmanabhan. From conflict to co-existence, The Hindu Sunday Magazine, 23rd March 2008
14. Kothari, A., N. Pathak. Community-based Conservation: Current Status and Future Prospects. Workshop on "Role of Civil Society in Forestry Sector in India", Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehra Dun, India, 10-11th October, 2007
15. Menon, M., M. Asher. Land for the Landed? Tehelka, 26th Jan 2008
16. Menon, M., M.V. Ramana, Koodankulam goes nuclear, Himal SouthAsian, August 2007
17. Menon, M., M.V. Ramana. Address local concerns at Koodankulam, The Tribune, 6th August 2007. (co-authored with M. V Ramana)
18. Menon, M., S. Rodriguez, A. Sridhar. Coastal Zone Management Notification '07 – Better or bitter fare? Economic and Political Weekly, 22nd-28th September 2007, Vol. XLII (38), pp 3838-3840





19. Menon, M., S. Rodriguez, A. Sridhar. Coastal Zone Management Notification '07 – Better or bitter fare? ATREE, Bangalore. pp 21
20. Wani, M., Kothari, A. 2007. Protected areas and human rights in India: the impact of the official conservation model on local communities, Policy Matters, 15th July 2007



Field visits

1. 16th May to 16th June: Field visit to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, North Bengal & Sikkim. The focus of the visit was dams in the Brahmaputra river basin and the trip included: discussions with local groups on environmental and social impacts; capacity building on EIA issues; presentations at different fora. Neeraj Vagholikar
2. 8th- 11th May: Field investigation to Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Sanctuary, Karnataka, regarding forest fires and ban on NTFP collection, Ashish Kothari
3. 7th – 19th October: Visit to northeastern hydropower project sites as part of the ongoing study on environmental compliance of development projects and activities, Manju Menon & Neeraj Vagholikar
4. 30th November – 1st December: Visit to Coron Island, Ancestral Domain CCA, The Philippines, Ashish Kothari
5. 15th – 22nd February: Visit to Dahanu and Bombay for ESA study, Kanchi Kohli and Meenakshi Kapoor



Talks, presentations, meetings & other events:

April 2007

3rd: Presentation on Environmental Justice to participants of Youth Yatra for Reflection and Action for Change organized by We for Yamuna, Kanchi Kohli

3rd: Meeting on Nandigram by NFIW, Manju Menon

4th: Oral and written submission to Tribal Forest Rights Rules Committee, Pune, Ashish Kothari

4th: Meeting of the Selection Committee of the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar (IGPP) – 2004, New Delhi, Pankaj Sekhsaria

10th: Visit of Sumit Sarkar and Bhaskar Nandy to discuss issues in Singur and Nandigram, West Bengal; Kalpavriksh Delhi office, Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli

11th: Lecture to students of Centre for Science Policy, JNU, on the EIA notification, Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli

11th: Meeting with Members of Nisarg Mitra and Forest Department Nashik about drafting a proposal for the declaration of Bhorgad Conservation Reserve, Neema Pathak and Saili Palande

12th: Visit to proposed Bhorgad Conservation Reserve, Neema Pathak and Saili Palande



13th: Meeting to discuss the proposed Environment Tribunal Bill, New Delhi, LIFE office, Manju Menon, Kanchi Kohli, Divya Badami

16th: Meeting At the CACIM office with Madhuresh Kumar and Nishant, on media strategies to be explored for the PANOS-KV Media Dialogues, Manju Menon, Divya Badami

22nd – 25th: Participation in “Asian Protected Areas: Shifting Paradigms”, Kathmandu, Ashish Kothari

26th – 27th: Resource person at Governance workshop of 2nd ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference & 4th Regional Conference on Protected Areas, Sabah, Malaysia, Ashish Kothari

26th – 27th: Media Briefing Workshop: Mining, Environment and People; and Stakeholder Meet on Mining, New Delhi, organised by Centre for Science and Environment, Kanchi Kohli

30th: Meeting on World Bank Projects in Karnataka organized by network of organizations in Bangalore in preparation for the IPT on the WB, Manju Menon

May 2007

1st - 5th workshop conducted at Matho Government School, Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo

3rd – 4th: 1st workshop conducted at Hemis-shukpachan Government School, Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo

7th: Meeting (individually) with Praveen Pardeshi, Pune Municipal Commissioner, regarding setting up of Citizens’ Environment Forum, Ashish Kothari

9th – 10th: Function for community members organized by the children of Markha Government School, Ladakh, Garbage Project initiated, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo

12th: Lecture on community conservation at National Centre for Biological Studies, Bangalore, Ashish Kothari

17th: Meeting (incl. other NGOs) with Praveen Pardeshi, Pune Municipal Commissioner, regarding setting up of Citizens’ Environment Forum, Ashish Kothari

17th – 18th: 3rd workshop conducted at Shang Chenmo Government School, Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan

19th: Preservation of local cultural heritage project (painting chortens around the school) at Matho Government School, Ladakh, Sujatha Padmanabhan

21st: Presentation in the Political Science Department, Gauhati University on “Politics of Environmental Governance - Large Dams in NE India”, Neeraj Vaghlikar





21st: Meetings to discuss support for the POSCO, Orissa issue, Kanchi Kohli, Manju Menon



24th – 25th: 1st workshop conducted at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan



25th: Presentation at Roing for the All Idu Mishmi Students Union (AIMSU) on “EIA process for Dams”, Neeraj Vagholikar



28th: Presentation at a public meeting organized by the Idu Cultural & Literary Society (ICLS) at Roing on “Environmental Public Hearings & the 3000 MW Dibang Multipurpose project”, Neeraj Vagholikar



30th – 31st: Presentation at LIFE & Ecosystems India workshop on RTI and Environmental Justice, Guwahati, on “EIA notification 2006”, Neeraj Vagholikar

June 2007

Action 2007 planning meeting in June 2007, Manju Menon



1st – 2nd: Public hearing and press conference related to the Koodankulam nuclear power project, Tamil Nadu, Manju Menon



1st – 2nd: 1st workshop conducted at Karsha Government School (Zanskar), Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan



4th: Meeting with Vishnu Kamat and MV Ramana for inclusion of Kaiga projects in the set of case studies for the compliance project, Manju Menon



4th: ESG's Green Tapism Book Release, Manju Menon



4th – 5th: 1st workshop conducted at Ichar Government School (Zanskar), Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan



5th: Meeting with Amalendu Jyotishi, for inputs on Shifting Cultivation aspects of Large Dams in NE India, Manju Menon



6th: Meeting with Michelle Chawla, Dahanu, to discuss possible action on the collapse of the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) committees in the light of the proposed Environment Tribunal Bill, Kanchi Kohli



7th: Lead presentation at a policy dialogue on NE dams organised by the North East Policy Forum (NEPF) and Panos South Asia on “Large Dams in Northeast India: People, Power & Policy”, Neeraj Vagholikar

7th – 8th: 1st workshop conducted at Jamyang Ling Model School, at Raru village (Zanskar) Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan

8th – 9th: Participation in meetings with NGOs on Biligiri Sanctuary follow up, Bangalore, Ashish Kothari

9th: Participation in meeting of Greenpeace India, Bangalore, Ashish Kothari

11th – 12th: Presentations on EIA 2006, RTI and legal redressal forums at meeting on Environmental Justice organized by ATREE and ICIMOD in Kalimpong, Neeraj Vagholikar.

14th: Presentation on Enviro-legal issues with respect to Sikkim dams at meeting organized by Concerned Lepchas of Sikkim (CLOS) and Sangha of Dzongu, a group of Lamas – Buddhist monks, Gangtok, Neeraj Vagholikar.

14th: Presentation on conservation paradigms, at meeting of Consultative Group on Biological Diversity, Wintergreen, USA, Ashish Kothari

16th: Presentation on the ecological issues of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands at the Calcutta High Court Judges Colloquium organized in Kolkata by the Human Rights Law Network and UNICEF, Pankaj Sekhsaria

16th: Biodiversity Significance of Chalakudy River Basin, organized by River Research Centre, Trissur., Divya Badami and Manju Menon

19th – 20th : Participation in meeting of IUCN WCPA/CEESP Task Force on Protected Areas, Equity, and Livelihoods, Bangkok, Ashish Kothari

20th: Submission of previous KV positions on Wild Life Act, to members of MoEF committee on the Act, Ashish Kothari

21st: Presentation on participatory conservation at Department of National Parks, Government of Thailand, Bangkok, Ashish Kothari

22nd – 23rd: Presentation on “Hydropower: Environmental & Social Challenges” at meeting on ‘Power Sector & Environment’ organized by CAG, Chennai, Manju Menon, Neeraj Vagholikar

25th – 26th: Dissemination of report of investigation into forest fires and NTFP ban in Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Sanctuary, Karnataka, Ashish Kothari

27th: First meeting of the Pune Environment Citizens’ Forum, Ashish Kothari

30th: Presentation on Birds in our Lives at NatureQuest, Hyderabad, Ashish Kothari

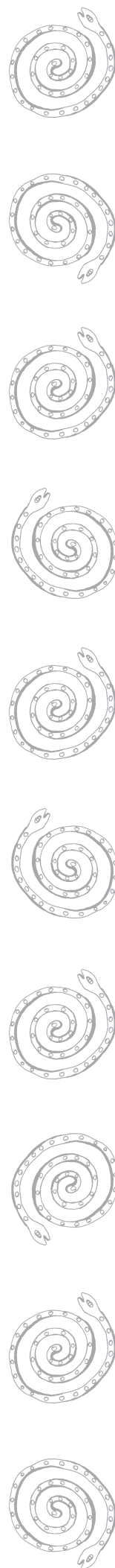
July 2007

2nd: Orientation session with staff of Vasundhara, on wildlife/tribal/biodiversity laws, Bhubaneswar, Ashish Kothari

4th : Trip to Badrama Sanctuary, Orissa, and meeting with Badrama Abhyaranya Vikas Parishad, Ashish Kothari

17th : Meeting with visiting NGOs from Gujarat (Janpath, Agariya forum), on issues of Rann of Kachchh Sanctuary and salt-workers, Ashish Kothari, Neema Pathak

17th : Introductory and planning session conducted on School Energy Audit at Symbiosis International School, Pune, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Anchal, Sharmila Deo





18th : Participation in meeting of biodiversity working group, Pune Citizens' Environment Forum, Ashish Kothari



20th: Meeting with Mr. Parihar about Bheemashankar wildlife sanctuary, Neema Pathak



26th : Meeting at Bheemashankar Sanctuary with Renee Borges, Maharashtra Arogya Mandal, Eco net and Rural Communes, Neema Pathak, Saili Palande

27th : Meeting with Meena Gupta, Sec. MoEF, regarding MoEF version of NBSAP, Ashish Kothari



28th : Presentation, with Tara Gandhi of MSSRF, to Planning Commission on ecological and social issues in the A&N Islands, Ashish Kothari

29th : Presentation of Rosalind Wilson Memorial Lecture, "Birds: Culture, Conservation and Politics", New Delhi, Ashish Kothari

August 2007



5th : Presentation on "Crisis of Environmental Governance in India", at Seminar on National Environment Policy, Jamia Milia University, Delhi, Ashish Kothari

7th : Meeting with Google.org 'scouts' re. proposed philanthropic activities in India, Ashish Kothari



8th -9th : Consultation on Documentation of Traditional Knowledge, co-organized with GRAIN and Deccan Development Society, Pastapur, Andhra Pradesh , Ashish Kothari, Kanchi Kohli, Mashqura Fareedi



13th -14th : Workshop on Implementing the Forest Rights Act and Biodiversity Act in BRT Sanctuary, co-organized with Soliga Sangha, ATREE, and VGKK, at Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Sanctuary, Karnataka, Ashish Kothari

18th : Visit to proposed Biodiversity Park site, with Municipal Commissioner, other NGOs, Ashish Kothari



18th : Meeting of Pune Citizens' Environment Forum, Ashish Kothari

22nd : Session conducted by Prayas Resource person at Symbiosis International School, Pune, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo

23rd : Meeting in Bangalore on Encouraging and supporting Community Conservation in Nagaland-A project by SACON, Neema Pathak



23rd – 24th: Workshop on 'Environmental Justice and Community's right to information' organised by Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT) and Legal Initiative for Forest & Environment (LIFE) in Gangtok, Sikkim. Two presentations on 'Environmental and social impacts of hydropower projects' & 'Environmental decision-making for development projects and activities', Neeraj Vagholikar

25th : Orientation workshop for staff and activists of Gujarat NGOs (Janpath, Agariya forum, etc), on Tribal Forest Rights Act, Wild Life Act, CRZ notification, Ahmedabad, Ashish Kothari

25th : Presentation on the ecology and history of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to students of the Diploma Course on Sustainable Development for Nicobari youth being held by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Port Blair, Pankaj Sekhsaria

27th : Meeting of WWF Civil Society Organisations' process, Ashish Kothari

September 2007

24th Aug to 4th Sept: Meeting and Field Visit as part of the Research Study on Building a Base for Advocating Sustainable Tourism in Andaman Islands. Field Trips were made to Havelock Island, to Baratang Island and Rangat on Middle Andaman Island, Pankaj Sekhsaria and Seema Bhatt

6th -7th: Meeting of Community Control over Biodiversity campaign, Jaipur, Ashish Kothari, Kanchi Kohli, Mashqura Fareedi

11th: Discussion on tracking Tribal Forest Rights Act in Bheemashankar, with Comet, Ashish Kothari, Neema Pathak, Saili Palande, Arshiya Bose

12th and 13th: 3rd workshop conducted at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan

13th: Meeting with M.K. Bhandari, Divisional Commissioner Leh, to discuss situation regarding settlement of rights process in Ladakh's Protected Areas, Sujatha Padmanabhan

13th -14th : Chairing international jury of Vatavaran environment film festival, Ashish Kothari

17th -20th : Participation in meeting of Steering Committee of IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Yellowstone National Park, USA; including presentation on Community Conserved Areas, Ashish Kothari

17th, 18th and 19th : Meeting on Joint Forest Management in Maharashtra at YASHADA, Pune, Neema Pathak

18th and 19th: 4th workshop conducted at Shang Chenmo Government School, Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan

21st : Meeting with Jigmet Thakpa, Regional Wildlife Warden to discuss situation regarding settlement of rights process in Ladakh's Protected Areas, Sujatha Padmanabhan

24th to 26th: Three day nature-study trip to Hemis National Park, Sujatha Padmanabhan

29th: Function for community members organized by the children of Matho Government School, Ladakh, Sujatha Padmanabhan





October 2007

4th and 5th: 3rd workshop conducted at Hemis-shukpachan Government School, Ladakh, under the Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Sujatha Padmanabhan



5th : Presentation on Biodiversity Act, forest officers training programme, YASHADA, Pune, Ashish Kothari



11th : Presentation on Community-Based Conservation at Workshop on Role of Communities in Forestry, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehra Dun, Ashish Kothari



15th: First consultation on settlement of rights issues in Ladakh's Protected Areas, Ashish Kothari, and Sujatha Padmanabhan



16th : Meeting at Rumbak village in Hemis National Park regarding the settlement of rights issues in the Park, Ashish Kothari, Sujatha Padmanabhan



19th: Meeting at Chushul village, regarding the settlement of rights issues in Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, Ashish Kothari, and Sujatha Padmanabhan



20th : Meeting at Man-Merak, and Phobrang villages, regarding the settlement of rights issues in Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary , Ashish Kothari, Sujatha Padmanabhan



22nd: Second consultation on settlement of rights issues in Ladakh's Protected Areas, Ashish Kothari, and Sujatha Padmanabhan



24th : Meeting on Biodiversity Park, Pune, Ashish Kothari



26th : Bheemashankar NGO coordination meeting, Neema Pathak, Saili Palande, Ashish Kothari, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo, Milind Wani, Arshiya Bose



27th: Meeting with Maharashtra Arogya Mandal about future collaboration on education programme in Bheemashankar, Sharmila Deo, Neema Pathak



30th: Presentation on 'Environmental Governance & Himalayan Hydro' at the PANOS – Kalpavriksh media dialogue on Himalayan Hydro, Neeraj Vagholikar

November 2007

2nd -3rd : Presentation and participation at workshop on Food Sovereignty, organized by Green Foundation, Bangalore, Ashish Kothari



2nd – 3rd: Press Institute of India workshop for journalists in Northeast India. Presentation on "Large dams in Northeast India: Environmental Governance and Development Policy", Neeraj Vagholikar



12th : Meeting with Future of Conservation network partners, Delhi, Ashish Kothari



12th : Meeting with R. Gopalakrishnan in PMO, re. NBSAP, Forest Rights Act, Biodiversity Act, Ashish Kothari

20th : Meeting with PR Sinha and senior staff at Wildlife Institute of India, re. Critical Wildlife Habitats, CCAs, etc. Ashish Kothari

20th: Lecture on Future of Wildlife Conservation, at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehra Dun, Ashish Kothari

22nd – 24th Presentation on the CCAs in India at the symposium on CCAs at B'neshwar – Erica Taraporevala

27th -29th: Presentation and participation at South-East Asian Regional Workshop on Community Conserved Areas, Coron, The Philippines, Ashish Kothari

25th- 28th: Participated in the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education' organized by Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, Sujatha Padmanabhan

December 2007

2nd: Participation in meeting on monitoring in tiger reserves, at National Tiger Conservation Authority, Ashish Kothari

13th: Meeting with TKA Nair, Principal Secretary to PM, on NBSAP and Forest Rights Act issues, Ashish Kothari

15th – 17th: Meeting of the Important Bird Area programme organised by BNHS in Shillong. Presentation on 'IBAs and Development Projects: Engaging with the environmental decision-making process', Neeraj Vagholikar

18th: Presentation on biodiversity and NBSAP, to IHP students, Ashish Kothari

19th: Presentation on people's role in conservation in India (PAs and CCAs), Erica Taraporevala and Neema Pathak

26th: Presentation on 'Large dams in Northeast India – The politics of environmental governance' at the IHP programme on 'Rethinking globalisation' in Pune, Neeraj Vagholikar

January 2008

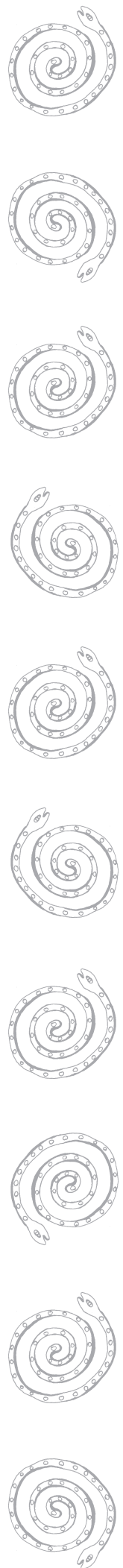
10th : Meeting on EIA by NHPC at New Delhi, Manju Menon and Neeraj Vagholikar

12th: Meeting with MAM and Tribal Department officers, Poornima, Sharmila Deo

13th: Bird watching trip to Sinhgad Valley with local educators from Ladakh, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo

14th: Meeting on Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) organised by the National Forum for Policy Dialogue (NFPD) with active inputs of the Kalpavriksh E&D group in Delhi. Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Manju Menon, Kanchi Kohli, Sanchari Das & Neeraj Vagholikar

15th : Preparatory presentation and discussion on ADB's new draft safeguard policy on environment for participants of ADB's consultative meeting, New Delhi, Manju Menon





14th to 16th : Coastal trip to Diveagar and Harihareshwar with local educators from Ladakh, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo



15th- 16th : Presentation on Industrialization and its impact on agricultural livelihoods" at meeting organised by Oxfam International at New Delhi, Kanchi Kohli



17th : Presentation on History of Wildlife Conservation to the Ladakh educators, Ashish Kothari



18th : Trip to Snake Park and Animal Rescue Centre with local educators from Ladakh, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo, Anuradha Arjunwadkar



19th : Trip to Kelkar Museum with local educators from Ladakh, Anuradha Arjunwadkar



19th: Presentation at workshop on Pune's future, Bharti Vidyapeeth, Pune, Ashish Kothari



20th: Bird watching trip to Bhigwan Dam with local educators from Ladakh, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo, Ashish Kothari



22nd : Visit to Vidya Jyothi School and interaction with school children by local educators from Ladakh, Sujatha Padmanabhan

Presentation at the Rotary Sports City Club on Ladakh and the education programme by the local educators, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo



23rd: Presentation on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Conservation issues to the Ladakh educators, Pankaj Sekhsaria

Presentation on An introduction to issues related to dams in the North-east to the Ladakh educators, Neeraj Vagholikar

24th: Talk on Communities and Conservation to the Ladakh educators, Neema Pathak, Sujatha Padmanabhan

25th to 28th: Trip to Tadoba Tiger Reserve with local educators from Ladakh, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sharmila Deo, Anchal Sondhi

26th -28th : Workshop on Underlying Causes of Deforestation, Kalpavriksh/Vasundhara, Bhubaneshwar, Ashish Kothari, Milind Wani

February 2008

1st : Workshop on Forest Rights Act, CISED, Bangalore , Ashish Kothari

7th -8th : '100 Days to COP9', international workshop on CBD, Berlin, Ashish Kothari

10th -15th : Preparatory meetings and 2nd meeting of CBD Working Group on Protected Areas, Rome, Ashish Kothari

10th : Participation in a meeting on issues related to the Western Ghats called by Appiko Andolan, Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli

11th: Lecture on conservation laws and policies and spaces for people's participation

for Ecological Society, Mumbai Neema Pathak

15th Meeting with the Collector of Pune district on the tourism plan in Bheemashankar
Neema Pathak and Saili Palande

17th: Talk by Dr George Schaller and Harish Salve at WWF, Manju Menon

19th: Meeting of NGO forum on Bheemashankar, Neema Pathak, Saili Palande,
Sharmila Deo, Erica Taraporevala, Ashish Kothari

22nd : Meeting at Dimbhe headquarters of MAM, Bheemashankar Neema Pathak,
Sharmila Deo

23rd- 24th: Participation in the National Consultation 'Critiquing the Current Judicial
Trend on Environment Law' , Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli

27th : Discussion with Dan Brockington, visiting scholar from UK, Ashish Kothari, Neema
Pathak, Neeraj Vagholikar, Arshiya Bose, Erica Taraporevala, Pankaj Sekhsaria

29th: Participation and presentation as part of the interdisciplinary panel discussion
on "Art & Ecology", NCPA, Mumbai organized by Mohile Parikh Centre for the Visual
Arts, Kanchi Kohli

29th: Site visit with funders to Terungun Ashram School, Bheemashankar, Sharmila
Deo

March 2008

1st – 2nd : Workshop on 'Important Bird Areas – Advocacy and livelihood issues'
co-organised by BNHS, TILCEPA, Kalpavriksh and BirdLife International (Asia). Ashish
Kothari, Neema Pathak, Erica Taraporevala, Neeraj Vagholikar

3rd : Visit to Terungun and Tokawde Ashram Schools, Poornima, Sharmila Deo

3rd-4th: Workshop on Local Conservation Groups in Important Bird Areas in Asia,
BNHS/BirdLife/IBCN/Kalpavriksh/TILCEPA, Mumbai, Ashish Kothari

6th: Workshop on Political Ecology at Delhi University, Manju Menon

12th : Future of Conservation network preparatory meeting on Critical Wildlife
Habitats, Bangalore, Ashish Kothari

13th : Presentation at The School, Chennai, Ashish Kothari

14th : Presentation at Seminar on India at 60: Inclusive Growth, Loyola Institute of
Business Administration, Chennai, Ashish Kothari

15th : Presentation at Dialogue on False Choices: Tribal Rights vs. Conservation, with
Tamil Nadu adivasi, human rights, and environment groups, Ashish Kothari

15th : Slide show and inauguration of book on birds, Nature Quest, Chennai , Ashish
Kothari





15th/ 16th : Turtle walk, Chennai beach , Ashish Kothari



17th : Lecture on laws and policies for participatory conservation in India for the Ecological Society Neema Pathak



17th & 18th : Participation in the International Conference on Freedom of Information in Paris, Manju Menon



18th-19th: Workshop on Balancing Conservation and Livelihood in Protected Area Context, Bhubaneshwar. Organized by FES, Angul. Arshiya Bose



23rd: Talk by Dr. Dan Brockington at WWF, New Delhi, Manju Menon



27th to 28th: Presentation on EIAs at a meeting at Jaisamand organized by Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD), Udaipur, Kanchi Kohli



Presentation on environment and development issues at "National Workshop on Underlying Causes for Deforestation and Forest Degradation in India" organized by Kalpavriksh and Vasundhara, Kanchi Kohli and Manju Menon



Participation in a meeting with Members of Parliament on the proposed Land Acquisition and R&R Bills, organized by Delhi Solidarity Group at Constitution Club, Kanchi Kohli



Reports

Kalpavriksh. 2007. Forest Fires and the Ban on NTFP Collection in Biligiri Rangaswamy

Temple Sanctuary, Karnataka: Report of a Field Investigation and Recommendations for Action. 25.6.2007. Ashish Kothari, Milind Wani, Saili Palande, Keya Acharya.



Anon. Kalpavriksh: A historical synopsis. July 2007



Kothari, A. 2007. Governance of protected areas: Paradigm Shifts in National and International Policy, and Implications for South Asia. Based on a presentation made at the Regional Conference on 'Managing Protected Areas: Shifting Paradigms', April 22-25, 2007, Kathmandu, Nepal



Letters

- Letter to Prime Minister on sedition charges against Narmada Bachao Andolan, April 12, 2007, Ashish Kothari



- Letter of concern to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister on arrest and harassment of local activists, June 4 2007, Ashish Kothari, Milind Wani

- Letter to Prime Minister on tiger crisis, with other NGOs, June 20 2007, Ashish Kothari

- Letter to Chief Justice of India on Niyamgiri Crisis, January 22nd 2008, Erica Taraporevala

List of Members

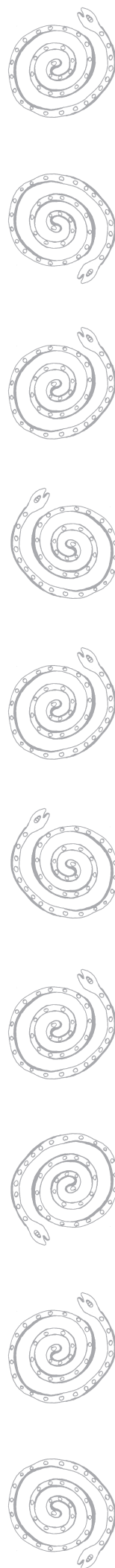
Pune

1. Anchal Sondhi
2. Ashish Kothari
3. Bina Thomas
4. Erica Taraporevala
5. Kaustubh Moghe*
6. Manisha Gutman
7. Saili Palande
8. Milind Wani
9. Neema Pathak
10. Neeraj Vagholikar
11. Pankaj Sekhsaria
12. Sujatha Padmanabhan
13. Sunita Rao
14. Anuradha Arjunwadkar
15. Tasneem Balasinorwala
16. Tejaswini Apte-Rahm
17. Vivek Gour Broome
18. Shantha Bhushan
19. Sanskriti Menon
20. Sharmila Deo
21. Anisha Shankar
22. Pallav Das
23. Sultana Bashir
24. Arshiya Bose
25. Yashodhara Kundaji

Delhi

1. Ajay Mahajan
2. Bansuri Taneja
3. Ghazala Shahabuddin
4. Kanchi Kohli
5. Krishnendu Bose
6. Kulan Amin
7. Madhurima Bose
8. Mayank Trivedi
9. Meenakshi Kapoor
10. Prabhakar Rao
11. Pradeep Malhotra
12. Pratibha Pande
13. Radha Kamat
14. Ravi Aggarwal
15. Seema Bhatt
16. Sudhir Agarwal
17. Swati Shreshtha
18. Manju Menon

* Associate Member





PART E

List of Donors

2007-08

1. Beena Thomas
2. Devendra Kohli
3. Anisha Shankar
4. Maithili Erande
5. Ramvilas Rathi Charitable Trust
6. Sunita Rao
7. Nishant Jain
8. Sujatha Padmanabhan
9. Sharmila Deo
10. Sultana Bashir
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15. Ashish Aundhkar
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19. MS Padamanabhan
20. Radha Padmanabhan
21. Erica Taraporvala
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23. Neema Pathak
24. Vijaya Gole
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26. Erica Taraporvala
27. Purnima Phadke
28. Neema Pathak
29. Padmaja and Sunil Jalihal
30. Shrikant Patil
31. Prajay Chudasma
32. Murali Padmanabhan
33. Anupama Juvekar