

# Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group



## Annual Report 2008-09

Apt. 5, Shree Dutta Krupa, 908, Deccan Gymkhana, Pune 411004, Maharashtra, India.  
Tel: 020-25675450/25670979 Fax: 020-25654239

134, Tower 10, Supreme Enclave, Mayur Vihar Phase 1, New Delhi 110091, India.  
Tel: 011-22753714.

## 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 organization. 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:**

These are broadly divided into the following themes:

1. Environment Education and Awareness
2. Urban Environment Issues



3. Conservation and Livelihoods/ Communities
4. Environment and Development

### Annual General Body Meeting 2008

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) was held in Anandwan, Maharashtra between 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Following are the important decisions taken, regarding office bearers and associated functionaries.

**Auditor:** Mr. Anil Jalihal/Anita Limaye  
**Secretary:** Erica Taraporewala (resigned 30/11/09) / Sharmila Deo (w.e.f. 1/12/08)  
**Treasurer:** Anuradha Arjunwadkar (resigned 30/11/09) / Milind Wani (w.e.f 1/12/08 )  
**Core group:** Prabhakar Rao, Manju Menon, Seema Bhatt and Kanchi Kohli (Delhi). Sharmila Deo, Erica Taraporewala (resigned 30/11/09), Neema Pathak, and Milind Wani (Pune)

**A retreat to discuss implication issue of Institutionalization for Kalpavriksh was held in Delhi in January 2009**

This annual report has been prepared by Milind Wani with editorial inputs from Pankaj Sekhsaria & Sujatha Padmanabhan



# REPORT OF WORK DONE IN 2008-2009



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## PART A: INTERNAL ACTIVITIES



### 1. Publications

Coordinator: Anuradha (Swati) Arjunwadkar

#### Developments in the mentioned period

We have stopped selling / collecting contributory amounts for copies of our publications, following the change in Income Tax rules starting 2008 - 09. But free distribution of various titles published by Kalpavriksh continues.

#### Recent Publications:

1. The title 'The Green Vein: A citizen's guide Conserving the health of Pune's foliage' (Early in 2008 - 09 )by Tasneem Balasinorwala was brought out by Kalpavriksh and Pune Tree Watch.
2. The title 'The Ghost of the Mountains' is the title of the other publication, a storybook by Sujatha Padmanabhan, based on a true incident in Ladakh. The title '*6 Years of the Biological Diversity Act in India* ', published in early 2009, is a Status Report on the implementation of the Biological-Diversity Act.

#### Future titles:

1. A directory of Community Conserved Areas by Neema Pathak will soon be published.
2. 'Nought Without Cause- Almost everyone's guide to the *Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the era of neoliberal globalization*' is the title of Milind Wani's new book, also to be published in the near future.
3. 'The Jarawa Tribal Reserve Dossier Cultural and Biological diversities in the Andaman Islands, Co-edited by Pankaj Sekhsaria and Vishvajit Pandya. Published by UNESCO, Paris.

### 2. Administration

Rohan Joshi (resigned 30.3.09)/ Mr. Ramchandran (w.e.f 1.4.09)

Team: Govind Khalsode, Prajakta Kulkarni, Sarnamma

#### Developments in the mentioned period

Annual Financial Audit of Kalpavriksh was completed in June-08. Mr. Anil Jaliha, Chartered Accountant, presented the final Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure statements to the group in the first week of July. During the AGBM, held at Anandwan, the financial reports were discussed and approved by the group. Mr. Anil Jaliha had expressed his inability to continue to render services to Kalpavriksh in the financial year 2008-09, due to other professional commitments. Hence, Mrs. Anita Limaye was appointed as Chartered Accountant for 2008-09.

Ms. Sheetal Joshi, CA, was appointed as internal auditor for the financial year 2008-09. Though Ms. Sheetal Joshi reviewed accounts for one quarter, she however conveyed her inability to review the accounts for the remaining quarters. Group decided not to appoint another internal auditor for the year.



Subsequent to the circular issued by Central Income Tax department, restricting NGOs from conducting any commercial activity, 'Publications' of Kalpavriksh witnessed major uncertainties during the year. The group decided to seek experts' advice on the issue. A team was formed to discuss the issue with chartered accountants, tax consultants and Heads of other NGOs in the city. As a part of this, Sheetal Joshi and Rohan Joshi attended a meeting organized by Bombay Chamber of Commerce to discuss various aspects of the new income tax rule and its implications on the activities of NGOs. As a result of all this it was felt that the activity of selling books can be construed as a business like activity for which Kalpavriksh could be liable for tax deduction on its income. Hence, Kalpavriksh took the decision to discontinue selling books.

Mr. Ramchandran was appointed as a new administration in-charge of Kalpavriksh.

### **CBD Alliance**

(An ongoing process in which Kalpavriksh has been part of the CBD Alliance, an international network of civil society organizations working on the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was earlier on the Steering Committee of the Alliance. Since 2007, Kalpavriksh hosts the Alliance, servicing its funds).

- Team: Rohan Joshi, Ashish Kothari
- Year of commencement: 2008
- Year of completion: 2009
- Total funds sanctioned: 5,09,907.13 SEK
- Funding agency: SwedBio
- Reports submitted: (see below)

### **Developments in this year**

KV serviced the participation of indigenous and civil society persons chosen by the CBD Alliance, to a number of CBDrelated meetings including ABS-6 &7, SBSTTA-13 & 14, COP-09.

Additionally, KV members actively facilitated civil society coordination and advocacy in preparation for and during the 9th Conference of Parties of the CBD, held in Bonn in May 2008.





## PART B: PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND CAMPAIGNS

### 1. Environment Education and Awareness

#### I. Raising awareness through writing for children in the media

The Hindu Young World series called “Good Earth” began during the NBSAP project in May 2003 and continued to July 2008. Over this period 61 articles appeared in the series. This series was coordinated by Kanchi Kohli. The list of articles that appeared during the last few months is as follows:

15<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Hero of the woods: *Mashqura Fareedi*

[www.hindu.com/yw/2008/04/15/stories/2008041550030200.htm](http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/04/15/stories/2008041550030200.htm)

10th June 2008

Wheels does it! *Ashish Kothari*

[Www.hindu.com/yw/2008/06/10/stories/2008061050020200.htm](http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/06/10/stories/2008061050020200.htm)

8<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Fascinating world of millets: *Kanchi Kohli*

[Http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/07/08/stories/2008070850560200.htm](http://www.hindu.com/yw/2008/07/08/stories/2008070850560200.htm)

#### II. Snow Leopard Conservation Education Programme, Phase II



- **Coordinator:** Sujatha Padmanabhan
- **Team:** Sharmila Deo, Yashodara Kundaji
- **Year of commencement:** Jan 2006
- **Year of completion:** Nov 2008, extended to June 09
- **Total Funds sanctioned:** Rs. 4,75,794 (year 1) and Rs. 11,84,480 (years 2 and 3)
- **Funding agency:** Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC - USA), and Association for India's Development - Columbas and Portland chapters
- **Any reports submitted:** Three year report submitted to the funders.

#### Developments in the mentioned period

The Snow Leopard Conservation Education programme was initiated in more schools in the year 2008-09. The number of schools covered by the programme so far is 15.

An attempt was made to extend the reach of the programme through collaborations. Collaboration was started with the field office of WWF- India in Leh. The programme was initiated by the WWF staff with the help of SLC educators in three schools in Changthang.

The programme was also initiated in two remote schools in Nubra and in a government run hostel in Leh for children from remote villages. The programme in the hostel however had to be abandoned. Special sessions were also held on invitation at the Moravian mission school and the Spituk monastery in Leh.

A garbage management project was initiated in Hemis-Shukpachan village by the children of the school, community members and home-stay providers. Two sites were chosen, one in the school compound, and the second outside the community centre. Segregation at site was planned. The children painted a number of sign boards to guide the segregation.

A long distance educational trip was organized for 40 children from the three Shang Valley schools and from Hemis-Shukpachan to the Tso-kar basin from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 08.

A film-maker volunteer from AID, the funding agency, visited the programme in May 08 and filmed what she saw as a report to the funders. She used the footage to produce a short film on the programme titled, "Learning in Ladakh".

A story book for children titled "The ghost of the mountains" was written by Sujatha Padmanabhan, based on a true incident where the life of a snow leopard was saved by one of the Ladakhi boys who worked as an educator on the programme. The story book was published jointly by Kalpavriksh and Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust. A review of the book appeared in the Hindu Young World.

Considerable time was spent during the year in finalizing a handbook for educators based on the programme which will be published for wide dissemination.



### III. Environment Education Programme in the Bheemashankar Wildlife Sanctuary Area

- **Coordinator:** Sharmila Deo
- **Team:** Neema Pathak, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Saili Palande, Anuradha Arjunwadkar, Bina Thomas
- **Year of commencement:** April 2008
- **Year of completion:** Ongoing
- **Total Funds sanctioned:** Rs.3,01,720/- by Concern India Foundation, Rs.3,34,518/- by Ruffords Small Grants Foundation
- **Collaborators:** Maharashtra Arogya Mandal





#### Developments in the mentioned period

After an exploratory phase, Kalpavriksh started the Bhimashankar Environment Education programme in the Bhimashankar sanctuary area in collaboration with a local NGO Maharashtra Arogya Mandal (MAM). The programme was started in two schools, the *Ashramshalas* of Terungun and Tokawade with permission from the Dept of Tribal Affairs.

The main objectives of the programme have been to instill in the village school children the knowledge and appreciation of their rich natural biodiversity; encourage children to understand the importance of harmonious co-existence between humans and wildlife; spread awareness on the issues of wildlife and the sanctuary, and discuss possible solutions; plan steps for concrete action towards conservation with community participation. The content of the programme focuses on the geographical, ecological, cultural aspects of Bhimashankar, along with the basic concepts of environment.

Four workshops were conducted in each of the schools during the year. The workshops included classroom sessions various indoor and outdoor activities (like card games, physical games, movies, quiz, plant identification field trips, songs, bird watching excursions, art and craft). These were conducted by the KV team and two local persons who are being trained to be local educators. Resource persons were also invited to conduct sessions which was a good value addition to the programme.

Some of the children of Terungun School participated in an awareness programme during *Mahashivratri*, when thousands of pilgrims visit the sanctuary temple. They appealed to the pilgrims to not use plastic bags for the temple offering. They exchanged paper bags with the plastic ones which the pilgrims were carrying. They formed groups shouting slogans and singing songs. Two kids dressed up as plastic monsters and mingled with the crowd.

Three educators training sessions which were planned during the year did not happen due to various issues with the educators and the collaborating NGO. Material development for the workshops has been ongoing since the commencement of the project.

The programme runs into its second year in Apr 2009. There is a possibility that it would require one more year to be able to hand over the programme to MAM. Finding the right educators for the programme is proving to be a challenge. But the response from the children and their enthusiasm keeps the motivation and hope towards conservation efforts on.

#### IV. BRT Environment Education Programme

- **Coordinator:** Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sunita Rao
- **Team:** Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sunita Rao, Yashodhara Kundaji
- **Year of commencement:** 2004
- **Year of completion:** Dec 2006 (work being carried out beyond project phase)
- **Total funds sanctioned:** NA as work is being carried out beyond the project phase.

## Developments in the specified period

*Forests Alive!*, the English version of the handbook for educators that was produced under this project was rendered in Kannada as *Vana Sanjeevana* by well known journalist and writer Nagesh Hegde. This was published by Navakarnataka Publishers and was released on June 15, 2008 in Bangalore. During the year the BRT team made efforts to help Navakarnataka market the book to interested groups and individuals. *Forests Alive!* was reviewed by Teacher Plus, a magazine for educators and teachers.

BGVS (Bharatiya Gyan Vigyan Samithi) organized a one year long enrichment programme for teachers of 22 tribal schools of Chamrajnagar district in Karnataka. Sunita (with inputs from Sujatha and Yashodara) helped with planning the EE component and introduced *Vana Sanjeevana* to the group. She was the resource person for the EVS component for their training programme.

### V. Networking

Atree organized a meeting of conservation educators on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> '08 at Bangalore. Over 20 educators from different NGOs working in different parts of the country attended. The meeting was an excellent opportunity for a small group to share experiences, ideas and to debate issues in conservation education. As a result of this meeting, a network of educators has been formed, including an e-group which was started by Kalpavriksh.

A three day retreat was held in Huthina Beta in Sirsi which was attended by Yashodara, Sunita, Sujatha and Madhuvanti. The retreat was used to take stock of the education work that each one of us was involved in, either through Kalpavriksh or individually. Experiences were shared, ideas and opinions debated, plans for the future made. It was a useful exercise in that it gave us the time to take stock of where we were as a group.





## 2. Urban Environment Issues

**Team:** Tasneem Balasinorwala, Prabhakar Rao, Rahul Priyadarshi, Shantanu Pai, Sharvari Barve

### I. Pune Tree Watch

- **Coordinator:** Tasneem Balasinorwala
- **Team:** Shantanu Pai, and Sharvari Barve
- **Year of commencement:** 2005
- **Year of completion:** Ongoing
- **Total funds sanctioned:** 4,08,003 INR
- **Funding agency:** AID and individual donors
- **Any reports submitted:** Monthly updates have been submitted to those individual donors who have wished for regular updates.

### Developments in the mentioned period

#### 1. Meetings/Seminars

##### **April '08**

Participated in a meeting was called by the Pune Municipal Commissioner, Mr. Pardeshi on 2<sup>nd</sup> of April to address certain issues with the Tree Authority. The meeting was interactive and members gave various inputs for the same. Co-organised a Seminar on Tree Policy with the Environment Cell of the Promoters and Builders Association of Pune. The aim was to spread awareness of the new tree policy to the builder community, and to explain the need for trees and green aspects for the city. It was also to create a platform to discuss issues & facts in the field regarding the Tree Plantation norms, processes etc.

##### *Meeting with JNNURM, April 23*

PTW had a meeting with Mr. Deshpande, JNNURM road department with the garden department. The meeting was good, and they gave complete no-nos to a couple of roads which had huge tree cover, suggested design changes to save the trees. They also requested Mr. Deshpande to issue a circular to all engineers and consultants about the tree line. In the end they did a visit to Ganesh khind road where 55 trees were at stake. Mr. Deshpande was of a very strong opinion that the trees have to go. The garden department had given permission for just the ones that were dying or diseased in any case.

PTW requested the GD to put up boards to display the number of trees cut, that to be transplanted or saved and also the new plantations. GD agreed, but the road dept, JNNURM said that it is not possible for them and they are ready to cover the costs for the same.

##### **May'08**

Participated in a meeting held at Maj. Tathawade Park, Karve Nagar, to identify the interested citizens, members, areas for plantation, responsibilities

and action plans. This was for the new idea for Participatory Plantation that was started by the municipal commissioner

Attended the Mayor's Conference, Ninth Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Bonn May 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>. Inputs were given and accepted by the Bonn Call for Action.

#### **June '08**

Organized a plantation meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> of June with members of Pune Tree Watch. The aim for this meeting was to understand the helping hands for plantation of trees and another was to introduce the government officials to these citizens.

Organized a meeting with the NMT (Non Motorized Transport) cell In Charge Mr. Dinesh Girolla and Mr. Ranjit Gadgil of Janwani. PTW was asked for the species selection for particular planters.

Organized a plantation meet by Pune Tree Watch at Warje. It was attended by the Municipal Commissioner, Garden dept and Forest dept.

Attended a meeting regarding the contradictions between the Tree Policy and Parking Policy. This was organized by the Bhanuben Nanavati College for Architecture full form? College. The meeting was to get all the concerned people who are going to get affected due to the two policies.

#### **August '08**

Organized a meeting with City Engineer Mr. Waghmare regarding the Non-Implementation of Tree Policy for Building constructions plans at PMC main Building, 1<sup>st</sup> of August. This resulted in swift action and the Tree Policy is now being implemented.

Attended a public hearing for the letter of objections and recommendations that was sent to Mrs. Sadhana Naik from Town Planning Department, on the Baner-Balewadi development plan.

#### **Oct '08**

Organized a PTW meeting in the University campus, at the Shivaji Udyan. This meeting was amongst PTW members to discuss regarding future plantation planning and its maintenance. The Tree officer from the Garden Department also joined in.

#### **Mar '09**

PTW attended meeting against the Bund garden proposed bridge and river road proposal. The proposed road would go along the river bank and would affect three gardens.

Organized a meeting with the Chief Information Officer of PMC to make the docket more user friendly with a sort option area/ward wise; timely; allow extrapolations like tree felling counts and the possibility of translation to another language if possible

Tasneem is also a member of the Pune Tree Authority of the Pune Municipal Corporation and has attended most meetings and site visits on a regular basis.





## **2. Letters**

### **April '08**

A letter was addressed to the municipal commissioner regarding the non-compliance of the tree policy

A letter was written to the municipal commissioner to pass an order / resolution/rule as the TA chairman to disallow any tree from being felled to build PMC gardens and adhere to a higher standard of plantation for parks and gardens.

### **May'08**

A letter was sent to the municipal commissioner urging the PMC to save the Dhanori Lake, which is slated for being constructed over.

### **June '08**

A Letter of request to not to cut trees were sent to various army officials heading the Pune Cantonment Area. The letter is available on the website [www.punetreewatch.org](http://www.punetreewatch.org) . A signature campaign was also conducted from Individuals and organizations. Over 200 individuals and 50 organizations signed onto the letter.

### **Oct '08**

A letter from the PTW group, representing its membership of more than 200 members, was sent to Ms. Sadhana Naik, Deputy Director, Town Planning Department, to object and recommend upon the current changes made in the Development Plan for Baner and Balewadi Sector by the State Government. The group mainly focused on the public garden spaces, biodiversity parks and the roads.

### **Dec '08**

A letter was sent to the CEO of Pollution Control Board Mr. Sardana with a copy marked to the Commander Pune Sub Area (Army Southern Command), Brigadier Sharma to introduce rules for tree felling, protection and preservation for the Cantonment area; and the inclusion of experts and representatives from the NGO sector to balance the composition of the Garden Committee, which was formed for the same.

### **Jan '09**

A letter was written by PTW to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Ashok Chavan to protest against the alleged usurpation of the 40 acre Empress Gardens in Pune. Many other groups and citizens have written to the CM too.

## **3. Action/Site Visits**

### **April '08**

A number of site visits for road constructions were made during this period. Most of the road work was in preparation for the common wealth games. The site visits were made to the following areas Yerwada, Alandi Road, Ganesh khind Road and Nehru Road. At all these sites design changes were suggested to save as many trees as possible and to make space for new trees.

Illegal tree cutting in Baner was reported by Reena Ginwala, a member of PTW. Twenty five trees were cut along with some shrubs. There were 80-85 trees in the plot, and could possibly be saved with timely intervention and design modifications in the plan. A formal complaint was lodged. Some members of



the Baner group of citizens, who had been cleaning and greening Baner Hill, Ramnadi and Nalas visited the site as they were already in contact with the GD regarding sites and spaces for the roadside trees to be transplanted due to widening of Baner Road.

Member Sanjay Deshpande had a meeting with Chief Engg, MSEB and he raised this issue improper of cutting of branches for overhead wire protection. The Chief Engg acknowledged the problem and assured all kind of co-operation and asked a solution from us. He also he would provide a list of all the locations where he plans to cut the branches, which are disturbing his overhead cable network. Sanjay told him what he discussed with Mr.Khaire about offering assistance from garden dept and he agreed to get all the trees cut by garden dept.

**PTW wrote to the commissioner** urging him to pass an order / resolution/rule as the TA chairman that states

- a) No tree would be cut to build PMC gardens and;
- B) That the tree cover for every garden shall follow a standard of one tree per 20 sqm area recommended by the Directorate of Town Planning & Valuation, Maharashtra, Pune.

A letter was sent to the Commissioner on 9th of April regarding the Dhanori Lake urging stopping of filling up the Dhanori Lake and pumping water from it. The commissioner instructed the city engineer to organize a site visit with relevant officers, and stop the illegal draining of the quarry. The Dhanori campaign was initiated with the Dhanori Citizens Forum. PTW conducted site visits and also participated and organized meetings to bring citizens together for this.

### **May '08**

Ms. Dimple Rai spotted a huge cloud of smoke above the Kirkee area near the Holker Bridge. According to her it was garbage of some kind that was being burnt and the cloud of smoke could be seen from the Bund Garden Bridge. She contacted PTW and we put her in touch with the media.

The group was informed by Mrs. Chinoy of continuous tree felling happening within the premises of a society in Koregaon Park. The group helped with the procedures of lodging. Two site visits were also conducted.

Member Elaine Kochar complained to the group about the illegal dumping happening on the forest area in Wanowrie. The forest department officials claimed that they were not responsible for this patch of forest. It is a forestland but the forest officer mentioned it being under social forestry. Elaine requested the officer to prevent the builder from dumping the cement on the trees. She tried to arrange few people to help with the follow up work and plantations, as this forest was manmade and before 20 years it was barren.

### **June'08**

PTW campaigned against the felling of 190 trees along the Sir Maneckji Mehta (MM) Road. A site visit was held on c camp to analyze the proposed tree felling of 190 trees for road widening proposed by the Pune Cantonment Board and Army. Pune Tree Watch along with intelligent pune organized an exclusive Vatasavitri Puja of Banyan tree on Maneckji Mehta road. An appeal was made to women of Pune to save Banyan trees on the occasion of VATA SAVITRI. As follow up to the Maneckji Mehta Road campaign, Pune Tree Watch (PTW) along with the help of other groups and individuals (PTTF, INTACH, and Nagrik Chetana Manch) put together an alternative proposal to save the trees from getting felled. A couple of meetings were also held with the army officials wherein we

presented our stand and rationale against the felling of over hundred trees in this case. In August we were informed that the army has stalled plans for road widening and in the future if the need arises to widen the road then the concerns and recommendations put forth by PTW will be considered.

Site visit to Ganesh khind road to look into the issue of tree cutting for road widening. Many trees were saved with a recommendation of design changes.

A meeting cum site visit was held jointly by members from NSCC (National Society for Clean Cities) and Pune Tree Watch. The main aim behind this meeting was to draw an action plan towards saving the lake.

Mr. Roy, an Aundh Resident along with PTW met up with the builders of an upcoming construction in Aundh and managed to get the trees slated for construction in nearby open space areas. The builder has agreed and gave full support for transplanting on these sites with proper permission from the owner of the land.

#### **July '08**

Conducted site visits in July, along with Garden dept officials on Deccan College road (From Dr. Cheema Garden to Deccan College Library); St. Gyaneshwar road; Road connecting to St. Gyaneshwar road with Loop road (Next to Golf Course) and Jail road (From Golf Course to Airport road).

A site visit was organized to review the encroaching slums at the Pirangut hills. No action has come off this though.

#### **August '08**

PTW received another alert on tree felling and pruning activities on Pashan Road. A letter was written to the PMC. A site visit was conducted and they have changed designs to save many trees. Some other new members of PTW followed up on this issue as well.

#### **Oct'08**

Conducted a site visit on the Sinhagad road where trees will be cut to facilitate bigger roads. Some citizen objectors and a past member of the Tree Authority accompanied them. The site visit was along with the road department people, as part of the road committee under the Tree Authority. Fifteen trees will now be incorporated along with the road design.

#### **Nov'08**

Organized a site visit on 26<sup>th</sup> November as part of the road committee under the Tree Authority to look into the construction of Holkar Bridge. Changes have been proposed not to affect the last remaining avenue line. The work stops at one boundary and beyond that work will be taken over by the Cant board, so the consultant has agreed to work accordingly under those lines. We have also requested the saving of two more trees along that track.

#### **Dec '08**

Participated in two subsequent meetings to bring together citizens and government officials on the Holkar bridge tree felling. The meeting was pretty well attended and intense. There was good representation from the Garden Dept. (GD), political affiliates from some parties and some locals from Khadki, and other activists.

A site visit was conducted in Telco colony in light of tree felling/haphazard tree pruning incidents that have been marring the colony. PTW met with the secretary of the colony and another member, and they have understood the





concerns. They have stated that they would do the needful henceforth. A letter was written to them informing them about the same.

FTII students approached Pune Tree Watch to check the intense pruning undertaken at the FTII. A site visit was conducted and a letter was written to the Garden Department by the Student's association of Films and Television Institute of India regarding the illegal tree felling in the campus.

Tree felling was undertaken to widen the Cahun road in the Pune Cantonment Board (PCB) area. Again citizen activists were up in arms against the felling. PTW met up with the head of the PCB Garden Department to discuss the case details and the laws and policies for the PCB. A total of 22 trees are marked but only seven of them come in the middle of the road, and the rest could be adjusted at the side of the road. We were joined by a member of the MNS party. Language?

**PTW has on several occasions raised the need to nominate Pinakin Karve into the Tree Authority with reference to the high court order that Parisar has. This is however being met with severe opposition and there has been no progress so far:**

#### **Jan '09**

PTW was contacted by a citizen about a tree felling happening at the Municipal Corporation School, on Dhole Patil Road. The tree pruning was not according to prescribed standards. The felling was stopped with immediate effect.

#### **Feb '09**

Initiated action on a call from the citizen's forum to save Dhanori Lake - about five trucks full of rubble and mud ready to be dumped in the lake, some of it was already done. The dumping was stopped after a complaint was raised. Undertook a campaign to save 400 odd trees from felling for a beautification process including road widening, proposed by the University of A site visit was held at the Pune University by the Tree Authority. A meeting was conducted with the vice chancellor, and most of the trees would be saved as he withdrew the proposal of road widening. PTW is in touch with a family from Pimpri Chinchwad who called to help them save the trees in their plot threatened by a road development. The road is being pushed by the local corporators and they want to acquire further land from their (the family's) property, while they have circumvented the road plans that could have gone through their open fields. PTW helped them draft a letter to be sent to the commissioner of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation.



#### **March '09**

PTW received a request for help from Florence , Italy to save trees that will be facing the axe for development purposes. The group has incorporated some aspects of our work in their petition. They have requested that Puneites lend a hand and sign the petition which is available at <http://livepetitions.us/saveitaliantrees>



#### **4. RTIs Filed**

May 08 -Two separate RTIs were filed on May 13th

One at the City engineers office requesting information about the New Tree Policy, and the other one to the Garden Department about the felling of trees for the creation of gardens asking the following questions. According to the department, from year 2003-2008, total 397 trees were cut for the garden





work, and for the Japanese garden... it stated that, “as the Department got an empty space for the garden there was no issue of cutting trees.”

Dec '08 - An RTI enquiring the details regarding and plans of proposed commercial construction on the Green Belt from Rajaram Bridge to Mhatre Bridge has been filed. We received the information on this but any substantial action is yet to be taken

## **5. Plantations**

### **April '08**

Plantations were initiated on the at Lullanagar-camp (and Bibwewadi) road. The Lullanagar-camp plantation was stalled due to some reason was on hold but now restarted. The trigger being a *coconut vendor* who agreed to volunteer the plantation drive and take care of the trees.

A plantation drive was also done on Boat **Club Road** but without tree guards by Feroza Saran.

### **Aug '08**

A plantation drive at Ghorpadi Army Camp was organized by Sachin Walun. Continuous Contour Trenching marking was done and in next couple of days digging was completed. Around 40 army jawans were there to execute this process.

A plantation drive as part of the Participatory Plantation programme was arranged at the Kondhwa Forest Region, Survey no. 34 (approximately 20-22 ha of land), a JFMP (Joint Forest Management Project) i.e. Forest Dept and PMC together working on greening the forest land.

Pune Tree Watch participated in a site visit organized at the Law College Hill. Officials of the Pune Municipal Corporation visited the site along with other NGOs. This was to plan plantations on the hill and to restore it to some extent. The municipal commissioner ensured that they will fulfill the commitment of removing a makeshift road built to facilitate a pipeline construction and planting local species.

### **Oct '08**

A plantation drive was organized in Janata English Medium School, to encourage children's participation in growing & saving the trees. The plantation venue was near Kasturba Housing Society sentence structure? , Vishrantwadi.

### **Nov'08**

A plantation drive was organized in the Aundh army camp where the saplings previously planted had gotten burnt. A Software company Fujitstu located at Talwade MIDC, Pune donated these saplings and they came with a big group of volunteers. They also agreed to take care of watering, weeding and the looking after.

### **Jan '09**

A plantation drive was organized in association with Horizon Search (a small social group working on the Law College hills.). A total of 66 pits were dug for planting native saplings with the support of the Garden Department.



## **6. Material**

There has been initial discussion to produce advertising/ awareness material for Pune Tree Watch. The possible outputs discussed were bookmarks, stickers, and brochures to put in information of what citizens can do to save the green cover, and information about the trees that are being illustrated.

The other idea was to come up with videos and animation but this is all still in discussion.

A leaflet/flier was prepared to distribute amongst people touching on the topic of Pune Tree Watch and how help can be sought easily when citizens see trees getting cut.

## **7. A Citizen's guide - The 'Green Vein' Printed, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

The guide for the city of Pune was finally printed and ready for distribution. A donation amount of Rs. 100/- for each copy will be requested for the same.

### **II. Delhi Urban Greens**

- **Coordinator:** Prabhakar Rao
- **Team:** Rahul Priyadarshi
- **Year of commencement:** 2007
- **Year of completion:** 2009, possibility of extension
- **Total funds sanctioned:** Project Budget for September 2008 to September 31, 2009-Rs. 2,85,600
- **Funding agency:** AID, San Diego
- **Any reports submitted:** One quarterly report.

#### **Developments in the mentioned period:**

1. The Central Information Commissioner (CIC) passed an interesting order in response to RTI filed seeking information from the Public Works Department (PWD). The CIC asked the Secretary PWD to hold training classes for its Public Information Officer when the Commission found out that its PIO's lacked knowledge of the RTI Act, 2005. The Secretary has to inform CIC about the number of hours of training provided on the subject. The erring officials have been served show-cause notice.
2. Environment awareness program were held in schools and college/ university departments. The subject for awareness was- "Indiscriminate tiling of Delhi pavements - condition of trees on the pavements and park design to enhance bird diversity".
3. Tree plantation in a Delhi park, DDA Park near KV office.
4. Detailing of trees in a residential colony of Greater Kailash, N Block, with the help of residents and other NGOs, like, BNHS, Development Alternatives, Toxics Link, etc.

5. After having written letters to Municipal Corporation of Delhi for de-tiling in other areas of Delhi and a letter to Secretary Environment related to the issue of compensatory plantation on non-green pavements/central verges and to put a stop to the practice of throwing malba on the central verges, directives were sent to them from CMs office to take necessary action. Action is still to be seen.
6. INTACH Delhi, KV and other NGOs have formulated criteria for designating Heritage Trees in Delhi. Follow up action by the Parks and Gardens Society, Delhi Govt.
7. A few other activities are summarized below in a tabular form.

1. School Awareness Programme	<p>Name of the schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rishabh Public School</li> <li>2. Prayas Non-Formal Education Center</li> <li>3. Jain Happy School</li> <li>4. Sanskriti School (Twice)</li> <li>5. Department of Education, Delhi University</li> <li>6. Ryan International School</li> <li>7. Happy School</li> <li>8. Navkriti School- The audience constituted of the children's parents also</li> <li>9. Alcohn School</li> </ol>
1. Planting trees with the students and resident's involvement	<p>Name of the areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mayur Vihar Ph.1: 65 saplings were planted of various species to enhance the bio-diversity</li> <li>2. Navkriti School: Although the area is green, it lacked in shrub species. Therefore, 150 saplings of number of shrub species like Jasmine, Chameli, Raat ki rani, Clerodendron, Begonia, Boganvalia, Madhumalti, etc. were planted to enhance small sized bird diversity and butterflies</li> <li>3. MCD School, Jamdrudhpur: 9 tall fruit trees were planted with the help of school authority and student's participation</li> <li>4. Pahari Mandir: 55 tall trees were planted. Each belonging to different species to enhance biodiversity values.</li> </ol>
A. Dechoking of around 250 trees done by Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)	<p>Name of the areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N Block, Greater Kailash</li> <li>2. Mayur Vihar Phase 1</li> </ol>





<p>b. Penguin, India donated an amount of Rs.50,000 and another amount of Rs.40,000 would be released shortly. This money to be used only for plantation</p> <p>c. Pearson, a publishing house, most likely to give us donation. Interested in forging a long term relationship with KV for trees in Delhi. Meeting fixed for 8/9/2009 tomorrow.</p>	<p>Pearson has agreed to joint plantation initiatives with KV. Details being worked out.</p>
<p>Partnership with Youth Congress wing of the Congress Party which is in the process of Park adoption in which KV will do the design and selection of species</p>	<p>Filed an IA in the Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court against diversion of park land for erecting Statues in NOIDA.</p>
<p>The Liaison and Partnerships activities included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Detailing campaign became more effective</li> <li>2. Plantation drive received more visibility</li> <li>3. Media coverage on the reasons for uprooting of the trees during monsoon rains and hail storm. The roots of the trees become weak due to tiling around them and they toppled during excessive rain/water logging/hail storm</li> <li>4. Could bring to the notice of the govt. how some parts of Delhi ridge was used for dumping construction material. Forest Dept. staff came with us and we showed them the dumping spots.</li> <li>5. Some areas of Delhi near PUSA campus are completely treeless along the pavements although they have pits for</li> </ol>	<p>Name of NGOs/Trusts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trees for Delhi</li> <li>2. Development Alternatives</li> <li>3. Toxics Link</li> <li>4. Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan</li> <li>5. Sri Aurobindo Society</li> <li>6. Compassionate Living</li> <li>7. AID, Delhi</li> <li>8. WWF</li> </ol> <p>Govt. Bodies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dept. of Forest, Delhi</li> <li>2. Dept. of Environment, Delhi</li> <li>3. Parks &amp; Gardens Society of Delhi</li> <li>4. Nehru Memorial Museum &amp; Library</li> <li>5. Horticulture depts. of each municipality</li> </ol>

<p>plantation. This was again brought to the notice of Dept. of Forest as a result of which a 'Plantation Committee' is in the process of being constituted to look into such matters. There is a likelihood of Prabhakar Rao being nominated for the committee.</p> <p>6. Preparing checklist of birds in Nehru Memorial Museum Park. Visiting the park every Wednesday morning. Kalpavriksh is in the Working Group to plan for environment education to children visiting the museum.</p>	
<p>1. RTI filed with PWD and the matter taken to CIC (Chief Information Commission). The matter was related to UP-Noida Link Road widening project due to which 500 trees are being cut</p> <p>2. RTI filed with New Delhi Municipal Council. The matter was related to tiling of pavements with red sand stones resulting in mining and eco-degradation</p>	<p>In pursuance of the RTI Act with PWD and the final outcome of it, it was found by CIC that the officers in-charge of RTI case disposal were not well conversant with the Act and subsequently, the Commission has ordered the Secretary of the PWD to conduct RTI training classes and send the report to CIC.</p>





### 3. Conservation and Livelihoods/ Communities

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

#### Projects and Activities:

##### I. National Level Advocacy

- **Coordinator:** Ashish Kothari
- **Team:** Neema Pathak, Erica Taraporevala, Neeraj Vaghlikar, Seema Bhatt, Milind Wani
- **Year of commencement:** Ongoing
- **Year of completion:** On going
- **Total funds sanctioned:** No funds
- **Funding agency:** NA (funding is being explored)

#### Developments in the mentioned period

##### 1. Consultation on the Future of Conservation and its Follow up Coordinator: Ashish Kothari

- **Team:** Arshiya Bose
- **Year of commencement:** 2006
- **Year of completion:** March 2010
- **Total Funds Sanctioned:** 2, 40,000 (March 09 April 10)
- **Funding Agency:** WWF

#### Developments in the mentioned period

A brief report on activities in the period is given below.

##### 1. Moderating and keeping FoC listserve active

This list serve is fairly active. News items about where FoC may take joint action are circulated and discussed on the network. The feedback received about frequent emails was that most e-list members suffer email fatigue and are members of other e-lists such as nathistory and forestrights. The intention therefore of the FoC e-list is to discuss or seek opinion on specific conservation issues on which joint action can be taken by FoC organizations.

##### 2. Advocacy

The FoC team has been regularly following up on previous areas of FoC

involvement. This includes active follow-up with participants from the 2008 FoC meeting on issues like Critical Tiger and Wildlife Habitats, Co-management and Coexistence in various Protected Areas across the country. The FoC Network has also sent a letter to Government of India on conservation and livelihoods issues such as: *a Letter to Chief Minister of Assam regarding severe violations inside Kaziranga National Park*. Issued by Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Foundation for Ecological Security, Himal Prakriti, Kalpavriksh, Samrakshan, Vasundhara, Wildlife Conservation Trust, March 18, 2009.

### **3. Evaluating the Forest Rights Act: One Year On...**

Kalpavriksh on behalf of FoC conducted a short exploratory study in Sonitpur District of Assam (around Nameri NP and Sonai Rupai WLS). This study examined the implications of the Forest Rights Act for the region. This study is currently being finalized.

## **II. Tracking the Ecological and Social Impacts of the Forest Rights Act**

- **Coordinator:** Ashish Kothari
- **Team:** Arshiya Bose, Neema Pathak
- **Year of commencement:** 2007
- **Year of completion:** September 2009
- **Total Funds Sanctioned:** \$20,000
- **Funding Agency:** Rights and Resources Group, USA

### **Developments in the mentioned period**

A brief report on activities in the period is given below.

#### **1. Monthly Newsletter**

Kalpavriksh has published seven monthly newsletters, beginning May 1, 2008. These are a compilation of news items about major developments regarding the Act, and include news about differing State implementation strategies, incidences of conflict or cooperation vis-à-vis the Act and reports of the on-ground impacts of the Act, both positive and negative, both on India's forests and biodiversity as well as on forest-dwelling communities. In a debate that is as polarized as this, where many groups have in mind a proper implementation process, where parties have challenged the very constitutional validity of the Act, these newsletters aim to enquire into the Act's implementation by news stories as reported by media as well as local organizations working directly on the ground. The basic intention behind the newsletter is that the reader has the freedom to formulate his or her own opinions on the Act's rollout across the country. Contact details for each news item, wherever possible, are given for the reader to pursue further. The only analysis offered is the Editorial.

The newsletter is circulated as an e-newsletter on various popular email list serves, such as [forestrights@yahoogroups.com](mailto:forestrights@yahoogroups.com) and [nathistory@princeton.edu](mailto:nathistory@princeton.edu). It is also circulated to Kalpavriksh's widespread contacts built over the last couple of decades, which include national and local level conservation and social



rights organizations, as well as government officers.

Issue 1, May 1, 2008: Editorial Reflections on the First Phase of Implementation

Issue 2, June 8, 2008: Editorial Exploring Critical Wildlife Habitats

Issue 3, July 21, 2008: Editorial Numbers! Numbers!

Issue 4, September 31, 2008: Editorial One Year, but Forest Rights Act-what?

Issue 5, November 15, 2008: Editorial - Operationalizing the Forest Rights Act:  
The Role of Civil Society

Issue 6, February 21, 2009: Editorial Reflecting on one year of implementation  
of the Forest Rights Act

Issue 7, April 20, 2009: The Forest Rights Act as an election issue

### ***Feedback on the Newsletters:***

The feedback received about this newsletter has been positive, though limited. One such feedback came from a social rights activist who was instrumental in bringing about the Act. She commented that it was very refreshing and valuable to see such neutral reporting (i.e. some cases of forest-clearing due to the Act as well as cases where forest-dwelling communities have benefited) in our newsletters.

### **1. Tracking the Act via Local Organizations**

Kalpavriksh has been in regular, often daily contact with organizations working in the field to implement the Act in their states. This has been possible through informal partnerships with organizations, with whom we are continuously following up for on-ground information. This information is first documented and analyzed and then shared with other organizations working elsewhere. The newsletter is one medium of circulation. However, much of the information is been shared telephonically, in meetings or through active participation in workshops.

### **2. Review paper for the Project on Forest-Regulatory Frameworks and their Implementation in Selected Asia-Pacific Countries, IGES**

The objective of this paper is to understand the evolution of the FRA and its possible implications. This paper has been completed & sent for comments by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009. Ashish, Arshiya and Neema.

### **3. Resource Persons**

Since, many local groups in the country know about Kalpavriksh's tracking of the Act, we have been requested on numerous occasions to not only do training on the provisions of the Act but also share what is happening in various states. Our approach has always been to present the different ways in which organizations or State Governments are dealing with a various implementation issues/bottlenecks elsewhere in the country. Feedback to our role as resource persons has been extremely positive with many groups conveying that they find a countrywide awareness extremely useful, particularly for innovative solutions to obstacles in implementation of the Act.

Field trips and investigations: During this period, the FRA team has conducted many field trips as part of the project activities. This includes two field visits to Sonitpur District (around Nameri NP and Sonai Rupai WLS) in Assam to examine the implications of the Forest Rights Act for the region. A field trip was also conducted in Mudumalai NP on an invitation by ACCORD (Gudalur).

**Ongoing support:** We have continued to respond to various requests for support. This includes legal clarifications, networking with other local groups, questions about implementation elsewhere in the country and advice on strategy for implementation.







Some of the meetings and workshops attended as resource persons are listed below:

1. *Training on the Act and its Implications for Jardhargaon*, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Organized by Beej Bachao Andolan, Jardhargaon, Uttarakhand.
2. *Training on the Act and its Implications for Mendha-Lekha*, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>. Organized by Vrikshamitra, Mendha Lekha, Maharashtra.
3. *National Consultation on the Forest Rights Act*, July 4, 2008, IHC, New Delhi. Organized by Wada Na Todo Abhiyan.
4. *Claiming Community Rights under the Forest Rights Act*, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>. Organized by Vrikshamitra, Mendha Lekha, Maharashtra.
5. *Workshop on Protected Area Governance: Opportunities and Challenges*, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, SCOPE Complex, New Delhi. Organized by Indian Institute of Forest Management, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Forest Governance Learning Group.
6. *Training on the Act and its Implications for Dehanu*, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>. Organized by Kashtakari Sanghatna, Dehanu, Maharashtra.
7. *Training on the Act and Countrywide Status of Implementation*, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>. Organized by Khoj, Melghat National Park.
8. *Training on the Act, Countrywide Status of Implementation and its Implications for Gudalur*, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>. Organized by ACCORD, Mudumalai National Park.
9. *Workshop on Community Rights Provisions under the Forest Rights Act*, September 25<sup>th</sup>, New Delhi. Organized by Winrock International.
10. *Training on the Act and its Implications for Baripada*, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Organized by Vayam, Baripada, Maharashtra.
11. *Pilot Field Visit to Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary for 'Evaluating the Forest Rights Act: One Year On...' September 28<sup>th</sup> - October 5<sup>th</sup>. (See 4)*
12. *FRA Investigation in Nameri National Park and Sonai Rupai WLS, Assam January 15-30<sup>th</sup>, 2009*
13. *FRA Investigation in Mudumalai National Park, February 22-28, 2009*

### III.

#### Exploring Possibilities of Joint Protected Areas Management in Bheemashankar Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Team:** Pradeep Chavan and Neema Pathak
- **Advisory Team:** Ashish Kothari, Sharmila Deo, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Swati Arjunwadkar, Milind Wani. (Renee Borgese, Ulhas Rane and Mr. Parihar (ex-CCF))
- **Year of commencement:** September 2006
- **Year of completion:** On going
- **Total funds sanctioned:** 2,00,000 (for September 2008 August 2009)
- **Funding agency:** AID Bay Area, USA

#### Developments in the mentioned period

Kalpavriksh has decided to start work in two villages in Bheemashankar, Bhorgiri & Yelavali Pradeep joined the team in August, which was followed by a



number of meetings in these two villages to discuss processes that would lead towards a better society and environment. The local youth group in Bhorgiri called Seva Mandal had shown an interest in tourism, and using this for generating livelihood & ecological benefits in the village. However, subsequently in discussions within Bheemashankar team and other KV members, we felt that ecotourism programme may lead to conflicts within the community. Therefore it was decided not to initiate this programme immediately. The team felt that it would be more sustainable in the long run to strengthen the local youth group Seva Mandal in Bhorgiri & youth group in Yelavali to address the village level issues to achieve the objective of community based Protected Area Management. Kalpavriksh decided to devote some time and energy towards this believing that a strong institution would eventually be the back bone of sustainability of any initiative in these villages. In addition discussions were initiated related to implementation of the Forest Rights Act and Employment Guarantee Scheme. Chandrakant a villager from Bhorgiri has joined the team recently to help with local processes such as ecological and social data collection, village mobilization, environment education programme and so on. In Yelavali a process of awareness & establishing legal Rights under the Forest Rights Act has been established with the help of local youth.

#### IV. Community conserved areas in India

**Coordinator:** Neema Pathak

**Team:** Erica Taraporevala, Persis Taraporevala, Mashqura, Ashish Kothari, Milind Wani

#### Developments in the mentioned period

**1. CCA Directory:** Neema and Madhuvanthi finalized the design of the directory and the directory went to the printer. FES made maps of CCAs in India and in different states based on KV documentation. They have proposed to develop this into a programme to develop a web based mapping facility for CCAs using the databases of all willing organizations.

**2. Support and Recognition of CCAs:** A study was conducted in three sites on effective ways of supporting and recognizing CCAs. The sites were Mendha-Lekha, Jardhar gaon, and Danel village in Narmada valley. The first two sites were chosen because of KV's long term association with them and also in an attempt to re-establish connection to see what the current status of community efforts is. The last village was to see the positive action by communities relocated by the Narmada dam. Report from Mendha and Jardhar was sent to IUCN Commission on Economics, Ecology and Society (CEESP) to feed into a set of International guidelines that are being prepared for support and recognition of CCAs.

Ashish and Neema also commented on the International guidelines that were brought together by Grazia Borrini-Fereyabend and published by CEESP.

**3. MoEF committee on recognition and support of CCAs:** MoEF constituted a committee to identify and recognize CCAs as per the 11<sup>th</sup> 5-year plan recommendations. The first meeting of the committee was organized on the 13th of September. Ashish, Seema and Neema participated in the meeting held

at the MoEF. In the discussions it emerged very strongly that the process of support recognition has to be well thought out and should not lead to cooption or disruption of CCAs. MoEF requested the participants to come out with a draft on how to do this. What would be the best way of spending the funds that have come for this? What institutional arrangements need to be in place for the same? Neema circulated a mail to all KV members and other key actors involved with CCAs asking for their suggestions on the same. A few suggestions were received and based on these suggestions, the consultations that were carried out in the above mentioned study and the directory of CCAs a draft was put together and was circulated again for comments. Since no other organizations put forward their suggestion these guidelines were discussed in another meeting at the MoEF attended by Ashish and Neema and accepted by all with some changes. Guidelines were finalized and sent to the Ministry for final approval but since then there has been no response from MoEF.

**4. Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves:** Persis Taraporevala put together a table on all the community reserves and conservation reserves that have been declared so far (to the extent that we could gather information). This table has been circulated widely. The table has been much appreciated and used by many organizations. A number of requests are now being received from many local organizations for requests on how to write proposals for CRs, and how to proceed on the management of such sites. We have been sending suggestions so far based on our experiences. Persis and Neema have also worked on a detailed questionnaire which is being sent to a few people associated with some of the CRs to understand how these PAs are being declared and managed on ground. A few trips to some of these sites will be undertaken based on availability of funds.

**5. CCA South Asia India activities:** Neema, Erica and Persis along with the coordinating team of Seema and Tasneem participated in a planning workshop for CCA South Asia project (described under CCA South Asia). Neema made a presentation on CCAs in India, criteria, definitions and issues. As part of the CCA South Asia project, Neema, Mashqura, Persis (as a volunteer) from KV and Sudipto Chatterjee (currently working with Winrock but in this project in his individual capacity) had been documenting CCAs in the NE, Narmada valley and Karnataka. The team felt a need to document CCAs in NE as it appeared through sporadic news that there are many such undocumented efforts there. These include both the traditional efforts as well as new efforts supported by NGOs. The initial process of documentation conducted by Sudipto under this project generated much interest in many groups locally and a request for a regional meeting on CCAs- NE came up. It is being suggested that this meeting should focus on issues, threats and future of CCAs in the NE. For this documentation a trip to, Baripada, Dhulia (District), Maharashtra- was organized in November and a trip to various CCAs of Tumkur District in Karnataka was organized in December.

**6. Forest Rights Act and CCAs:** A Series of field trips and discussions were carried out to discuss the possibility of using relevant provisions of Forest Rights Act for legally supporting CCAs.

- Ashish, Neema, Arshiya, Erica and Milind conducted a meeting in Mendha-Lekha (Gadchiroli),
- Ashish, Mashqura and Vikal carried out a similar meeting in Jardhar gaon.
- Ashish attended a meeting organized by PAHAR (People's Association for Himalaya Area research ) in Nainital and used the opportunity to talk about using FRA for CCAs in Uttaranchal.
- Neema and Pradeep visited Dahanu with Brian Lobo to make a presentation on role local people can play in conservation and





- provisions of FRA that can be used to give such efforts a legal backing.
- Neema and Persis also visited Baripada village in Dhule for a similar discussion with the villagers. In Baripada they also attended a festival organized by the women on diversity of species and recipes for wild vegetables.
- Neema participated in a meeting organized by Winrock on community forestry provisions of the FRA and CCAs.
- Arshiya and Neema also participated in a meeting organized by Khoj for village level workers around Melghat in Amravati district on the same issue.

**7. Community Based Conservation in the Lakshadweep:** Ashish and Neema visited Lakshadweep Islands on a request from BNHS. Dr. Deepak Apte of BNHS along with a team of local youth have been carrying on research and monitoring of marine life in the lagoons around the islands. They have also been working with and mobilizing the inhabitants of the islands towards conservation in the lagoons. After 6 years of work the local panchayats and people are now convinced that conservation programmes need to be initiated but in such a way that it does not impact the local inhabitants negatively. This meeting with the local people and various government agencies was to discuss legal spaces available that be used in Lakshadweep such that local people can effectively participate and benefit from conservation. Follow up with the local team is going on.

**V.**

**Recognition and Support to Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in South Asia and at the International Level**

- **Team:** Ashish Kothari and Neema Pathak
- **Year of commencement:** 2009 (March)
- **Year of completion:** 2010 (February)
- **Total funds sanctioned:** \$29,250
- **Funding agency:** GEF Small Grants Programme (through UNDP)
- **Reports submitted:** None yet (project initiated in March).

**Developments in the mentioned period:**

**For South Asia:** Finalization of proposal, commencement of project with identification of potential partners in other countries, framing the work plan for the year, preparation for first consultation in north-east India

**At international level:** Inputs to format of ICCA Registry at World Conservation Monitoring Centre

**VI. IUCN Strategic Direction on Governance, Communities, Equity and Livelihoods in Relation to Protected Areas (TILCEPA)**

- **Team:** Ashish Kothari, Tasneem Balasinorwala, Seema Bhatt and Neema Pathak
- **Year of commencement:** 2000
- **Year of completion:** 2008
- **Total funds sanctioned:** 10500 Swiss Francs for the year 2008  
**Funding agency:** IUCN (WCPA and CEESP)
- **Reports submitted:** (see below for salient points).

**Developments in this year:**

Meetings

Presentation at the Symposium on 'Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World: Lessons for Global Policy', held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, on 1-4 April 2008.

Participation in the steering committee meeting of the World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA), and immediately thereafter a workshop on 'World Parks Congress + 5', in Cape Town, South Africa, on 7-11<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The second meeting was an attempt to assess progress made since the Congress in 2003, and begin planning for the next Congress in 2012 or 2013.

Participation in the Ninth Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Bonn, Germany (17<sup>th</sup> May- 26<sup>th</sup> May '08). Included coordination of events related to conservation and livelihoods (including CCAs), and moderation of a dialogue between indigenous peoples, local communities, and conservation NGOs.

Coordination of session on Traditional Agricultural Landscapes and Community Conserved Areas (with case studies from various countries, and a visit to the Potato Park, an agro biodiversity CCA managed by indigenous Andean communities), at International Congress on Ethnobiology (Cusco, Peru, 25-30 June 2008)

Participation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), held in Barcelona in Oct 2008. Organization and presentations at a number of events and meetings related to governance, ICCAs, and related issues; drafting or inputs to several resolutions, including on Degazettment of Protected Areas, Infrastructural and Extraction Threats to PAs, Cultural Diversity, and CCAs.

Organizing of a Symposium "Conservation as if People Also Mattered", focusing on community based conservation at global and local levels, at Bowdoin College, USA, in November 2008.

Other Activities

Coordination of a short-term process "Valuing and Supporting Community Conserved Areas" involving grassroots consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities that are managing CCAs, in several countries. Most of the resulting reports are available at [www.iccaforum.org](http://www.iccaforum.org).





Communication to the Director-General, National Parks and Wildlife Conservation in Kathmandu to seek greater understanding and possibly help to clarify the controversy and confusion recently created around the declaration of a Community Conserved Area by the people of Khumbu / Sagarmatha National Park.

Coordination of dialogue process between indigenous peoples / local communities, and international conservation organizations (ongoing since 2007); one session at COP9, Bonn, May 2008, and another at World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, October 2008.

Inputs to section on Governance (including Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas), of IUCN's revised Guidelines on Protected Area Categories (<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>)

#### Material Produced

A set of posters on Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in India were revised and printed for display at the World Conservation Congress (WCC), Barcelona, October 2009.

Survey of legal and policy measures related to Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) in 21 countries, also published for the WCC.

Briefing note on "Recognizing and Supporting Indigenous and Community Conservation"

([http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ceesp\\_briefing\\_note\\_9\\_iccas.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ceesp_briefing_note_9_iccas.pdf)), also produced in time for the WCC.

#### Project conclusion

After 8 years of being co-chairs of TILCEPA, both Ashish Kothari and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend have stepped down in 2008. Their positions have been taken by Jannie Lasimbang, of the Kadazan indigenous community of Malaysia, currently with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation; and Nigel Crawhall, an activist from South Africa, currently Director of Secretariat of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC). Kalpavriksh will now no longer provide secretariat services for TILCEPA.

## **VII.**

### **Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in South Asia: Towards an Understanding of their Conservation and Livelihood Security Values**

- **Coordinators:** Seema Bhatt and Tasneem Balasinorwala
- **Team:** Partners from the South Asian countries. There is also an Advisory Committee. Ashish Kothari is on the Advisory Committee. Kalpavriksh will be taking on India part of the study and Neema Pathak will be coordinating this on behalf of Kalpavriksh.
- **Year of commencement:** 2008
- **Year of completion:** 2009
- **Total funds sanctioned:** Rs. 29, 66,974.46
- **Funding agency:** SwedBio
- **Any reports submitted:** A one page update was submitted to Swedbio for their annual report.



### Developments in the mentioned period

The first planning meeting for the project took place in Pune on August 25-26, 2008 where all the respective country partners met and discussed the project structure and timelines. Project coordinators and many partners met again in Barcelona at the World Conservation Congress. Through December 2008 and January 2009, Tasneem and Seema visited Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka to meet with relevant in-country people as also visit some of the selected CCA sites. Partners have completed their respective country draft reports. These have been sent for review to the Advisory Committee. The final regional workshop to mark the culmination of the project will be held in Kathmandu in August 2009.

### VIII.

#### Research and advocacy related to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Campaign for Conservation and Community Control over Biodiversity

- **Team:** Kanchi Kohli, Ashish Kothari, Mashqura Fareedi (in collaboration with GRAIN)
- **Year of commencement:** Ongoing
- **Year of completion:** Ongoing
- **Funding agencies:** Global Greengrants Fund, World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature-India.

### Developments mentioned in the period:

#### 1) Tracking Implementation

The team members in collaboration with GRAIN and other member of the campaign tracked the implementation of the legislation on an ongoing basis. This primarily looked at setting up of the institutional structure; activities of the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and various committees. Efforts were also made to look at the process of setting up of local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs). Related processes like the Indian Biodiversity Information System, types of approvals granted by the NBA and the process followed therein was also looked at.

This information was regularly posted on an electronic list serve coordinated by Kalpavriksh: 'Biodwatch'

#### 2) Policy Research and Advocacy efforts (including National Consultation in February 2009)

Several initiatives were taken towards continually towards fresh research and advocacy with the NBA, SBBs and the MoEF. This was done through:

- a) Ongoing analysis of minutes of meetings, documents, guidelines (e.g. For Biodiversity Heritage Sites, Collaborative Research) and also approvals granted by the NBA and sharing with campaign members
- b) Proactive inputs to the NBA in the form of draft Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) guidelines (2006) and also participation in the committee on BHS set up





by the NBA (2008-09), as well as letters/submissions specifically on issues of People's Biodiversity Registers, lack of conservation focus etc. The NBA acknowledged the letters/submissions but did not take any critical measures to resolve the issues at hand.

c) Inputs to SBB members on request, and participating in state level consultations for putting together BD Rules. Specific states where inputs were given include Sikkim, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

d) Use of Right to Information Act to procure critical information from NBA and SBBs and also push for suo moto disclosure of information. A complaint was filed with the Central Information Commission (CIC) in April 2008 against provision of incomplete information. The final order directed the NBA to disclose all information regarding the approvals on its website.

e) A letter was also sent to the Prime Minister of India protesting the Indo-German experiment on ocean fertilization, in which the National Institute of Oceanography is a partner, as a violation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements. This action was taken in coordination with an international civil society mobilization on the issue. (The experiment was not recalled; however it was reported to be a failure by the New Scientist on 25th March 2009).

### **3) Developing multi-language material for information dissemination**

In the year 2008-09 specifically two brochures/pamphlets were prepared. The first was on Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs): Facts and Fears (English and Hindi), towards highlighting the mechanisms of setting up BMCs and also concerns with the powers that the law gives these bodies. This was also further translated into Telugu by local groups in Andhra Pradesh.

The other was on Disputes and redressal mechanisms available in the BD Act and whether the law enables local communities and concerns citizens to take on complaints directly. It highlighted that the current framework is centralized and alienating.

### **4) Preparation of a Status Report on the BD Act and National Consultation**

The preparation of a report on the evaluation of the implementation of the six years of the BD Act was undertaken by Kalpavriksh members, in collaboration with GRAIN. The Report covers various aspects of implementation of Act including Access, Benefit Sharing, documentation, institutional framework of the law, and issues of community control, and conservation. The Report was based on information collected over the years through the tracking efforts, using Right to Information and also through regional meetings, site visits and interaction with NBA/SBB members. Additional information was also collected through the internet.

A national level consultation was organized on 3rd February 2009 which saw the participation of the Chairman and Member Secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) as well as representatives of the SBBs. Representatives of active members of the campaign also participated in deliberations along with several individuals and groups working in biodiversity issues. The report of the meeting was prepared and a follow up letter was also sent to the Chairman of the NBA.

### **5) Media outreach and advocacy**

Media outreach on specific controversial issues and also approvals of the NBA was regularly carried out. Members also wrote popular articles in newspapers such as Hindu Business Line, Hindustan Times and websites [www.indiatogether.org](http://www.indiatogether.org). (More details in the section on articles at the end of the annual report)



IX.

**Protected Area Update (PA Update)**

- **Coordinator:** Pankaj Sekhsaria
- **Year of commencement:** 1994
- **Year of completion:** Ongoing
- **Funding:** Project Budget for April 2008 to March 31, 2009 Rs. 4, 00,000
- **Total Funds Sanctioned** Rs. 3, 00,000.
- **Funding agencies:** Foundation for Ecological (FES) & remaining being raised through donations, other sources

**Activities for (specified period)**

- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol XIV, No. 3, June 2008 (No. 73)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol XIV, No. 4, August 2008 (No. 74)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol XIV, No. 5, October 2008 (No. 75)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol XIV, No. 6, December 2008 (No. 76)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol XV, No. 1, February 2009 (No. 77)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol XV, No. 2, April 2009 (No. 78)

X.

**Andaman Islands Tourism Study**

- **Coordinator:** Pankaj Sekhsaria
- **Team Members:** Seema Bhatt
- **Year of Commencement:** 2007
- **Year of completion:** 2008 (June)
- **Total Funds Sanctioned:** Rs. 60,000
- **Funding agencies:** Equations

The project was initiated by Equations in 2007 with funding support from Action Aid and with four other collaborating partners. These were the Society for Andaman and Nicobar Ecology (SANE), the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), A&N Chapter, the Tata Institute for Social Sciences and Kalpavriksh. The main objective of the project was to create a status report of the present situation of tourism in the Andamans.

The final report titled 'Rethink Tourism in the Andamans' was released in Port Blair on June 18 and in New Delhi on June 26.



XI.

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

- **Coordinator:** Erica Taraporevala (till December 2008) and Milind Wani (from January 2009 onwards)
- **Team:** Neema Pathak, Ujjwala Nalawade, Nidhi Agarwal
- **Year of commencement:** May 2008
- **Year of completion:** April 2011
- **Total funds sanctioned:** Euros 75000
- **Funding Agency:** Misereor

**Developments in the mentioned period**

**Newsletter and Advocacy Outreach (English)** material was brought out in this period.

**1. Newsletter:**

- a. An issue dedicated to acknowledging the individuals and communities who are making immense efforts towards ensuring community based biodiversity conservation and livelihood security was brought out. Case studies from Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, and West Bengal. The issue also covered international news about the Tarevalata Tribe and information on the agriculture-driven economy of Bangladesh.
- b. The Laws and Policy section of another issue explored the status of implementation of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (TFRA), one year after its enactment. The exploration was carried out in the Nameri National Park & Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam. The section also shared with the readers some of the salient points of the National Dialogue on the Six years of the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. The second section, entitled **Community Conserved Areas** primarily focused on the findings of field based studies in South Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal). The study was a part of Kalpavriksh's ongoing effort to understand the Conservation and Livelihood security related issues in collaboration with partner organizations from respective countries.

**2. Advocacy:**

- a. English, Hindi & Marathi translations and production of the following advocacy materials were developed:
  - a. Legislation Briefing Note on the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006
  - b. The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (With Amendments made in 2003 and 2006)
  - c. The Biodiversity Act 2002 and the Biodiversity Rules 2004
  - d. Indian Laws, Policies and Action Plans Relevant to Community Conserved Areas.
  - e. FAQ on Biodiversity Management Committees





- b. An excerpted version of the briefing note entitled **Indigenous and community conserved areas** on the issue of “Recognizing and supporting indigenous & community conservation- ideas experience from the grassroots” prepared for “Theme/Strategic Direction on Governance, Communities, Equity and Livelihood Rights in Relation to Protected Areas” was disseminated for advocacy purpose. The Hindi version of the both is however pending and will be disseminated in June '09.

**3. Library** was also updated to include new titles, magazines & CDs. Appropriate records were updated to reflect the latest acquisitions. The primary responsibilities handled were:

1. Continue to maintain the Doc centre and update books, magazines and reports in the Documentation Centre. These books, reports and magazines are all available for ready reference at the Documentation Centre which is open to the general public from 10:30 am to 5 pm on all working days of the week (i.e. Monday Friday). The period under consideration saw the documentation centre enriched by:
  - a. 22 New Books were purchased
  - b. 154 New books were donated
  - c. 6 New research reports
  - d. 2 New Magazine Subscriptions ( apart from continuing existing subscriptions)
2. 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.
3. As a part of Doc center initiative- an endeavor to interest KV members into building a wider perspective that will include philosophical, economic, political and social visions vis-à-vis KV work was undertaken through what has come to be known as “Friday Talks” when some person is invited to present a topic in the above-mentioned areas. So far, 3 such presentations (& discussions!) have happened. These were:
  - i. Introduction to Philosophy Idealism and Materialism - Milind Wani.
  - ii. The place of Man and Nature in the Philosophical discourses - - Rahul Pungaliya.
  - iii. Introduction to 'Beyond Developmentality' a book by Debanjan Deb - Ashish Kothari.



## 4. Environment and Development

### I. Environment and Development Related Research and Campaigns

- **Team:** Kanchi Kohli, Manju Menon, Sanchari Das, Vikal Samdariya, Meenakshi Kapoor, Neeraj Vagholikar
- **Year of commencement:** Ongoing
- **Year of completion:** Ongoing
- **Funding agencies:** Marisla Foundation, Global Greengrants Fund, Association for India's Development, Worldwide Fund for Nature-India

#### Developments in the mentioned period:

##### a) Policy research and advocacy

During this period Kalpavriksh members participated in national level action research and advocacy efforts around the dilution of current environmental regulatory regimes. This was done specifically with reference to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notifications as well as the Forest (Conservation) Act. The research efforts fed into submissions to concerned authorities by Kalpavriksh or through national level networks such as the Campaign against CZM notification. Detailed analysis was carried out of the proposed amendments to the EIA notification and comments were sent to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Presentations were also made on environmental impacts of nuclear power projects as part of the national level network called the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace. Data on the loss of forests was also developed, analyzed and presented in various fora.

##### b) Campaign and advocacy support for local groups (including alerts, responses to relevant authorities)

Kalpavriksh members were part of solidarity actions and also lent support in ongoing as well as upcoming campaigns in the states of Orissa, Chhatisgarh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. This was both Delhi based research, media outreach, government level advocacy and networking support as well as traveling to local areas and participating in strategy development and investigations. Members also participated in national level network meetings including that of Save the Western Ghats, and those related to coastal issues.

##### c) Study on monitoring and compliance on EIA clearances

The study on monitoring and compliance of environment clearance conditions was stepped up during the year 2008-09. Several field investigations were carried out to develop the case studies. Subsequent to this the case studies

were also written and finalized. The national level tabulation of information of all the projects granted clearance in the year 2003, by looking at all the compliance reports (submitted by project authorities) and monitoring reports (to be prepared by the concerned Ministry's regional offices) was completed and a detailed analysis document was prepared. The preparation for a small brainstorming meeting and a larger discussion with the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) was also planned for during the year. Prior to this, members traveled to the regional offices of the MoEF and met with the officials' in-charge to understand their perspective on the issue at hand.

#### **d) Use of Right to Information as an advocacy tool**

Members were also able to use India's Right to Information (RTI) law extensively to track the processes at the central government level as well as gather information for local struggles, and share results with groups across the country. The information was also shared with media persons. The idea was to use this tool towards pushing the government towards greater transparency in decision making. Many of these required one to appeal to the highest authorities and procure strong orders which helped procure information which the relevant agencies were not willing to share, or orders which have a bearing on future governmental processes. Some very alarming data on 10 times increase in the grant of environment clearances etc were procured and highlighted in the media as well as several civil society forums.

During the year 35 RTI applications were filed, and follow up in the form of appeals was done for another 17.

KV members were approached by Right to Information and Accountability Assessment Group (RAAG) and National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI) to put together two case studies as part of a national assessment of the working of the Right to Information Act. The topics that we agreed to work on were the "Right to information Act and Environmental Impact Assessment Regime" and "Environment Governance of Dams in India: The Use of Right to Information Act".

#### **e) Developing an RTI clearing House website**

2008-09 also saw an effort towards developing a website to act as a clearing house of information collected through the Right to Information law and try and build a platform where many groups can collectively put together the information that they have gathered through RTI. To begin with all the information collected by Kalpavriksh since 2005 was put together on a website <http://environment-rti.org> with the help of Ajay Batra, a concerned citizen who did this voluntarily. The website was launched in April 2009 and subsequently efforts are being made to bring together information collected by other groups and individuals.

#### **f) Study on Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and related meeting/follow up**

The detailed study on the declaration and performance of the ESAs declared by the MoEF was initiated in the year 2007-08 and was continued in the current year as well. As part of this exercise field visits were carried out to select ESAs across India, interviews with government officials and key actors involved in the declaration and implementation process. A first draft of the study was completed in December 2008.

A meeting to discuss the findings was organized in January 2009, in collaboration with WWF-India, which saw the participation of the concerned MoEF officials, persons associated with specific ESAs, as well as other





individuals/organizations working on environment, development and conservation issues. Following the meeting a follow up letter to MoEF by the participants of the meeting.

The ESA report is currently under print.



#### **g) Media outreach and advocacy**

Media outreach and advocacy was a key component of all the above activities. Kalpavriksh members themselves contributed articles to national newspapers/magazines and websites like Hindustan Times, Business Standard, Hindu Business Line, Down to Earth, Civil Society, Tehelka and [www.indiatogether.org](http://www.indiatogether.org). Some of these articles were translated and printed in local newspapers or NGO newsletters in Hindi, Punjabi and Oriya.



Regular interface with journalists was maintained both towards working towards highlighting local struggle related and national policy and law related issues in the mainstream media. Friends in the media were also a critical aid in campaign, advocacy and research efforts.

A media dialogue on Large Dams in the North East was also organized in Guwahati in collaboration with PANOS.

#### **h) Presentations and participation in meetings**

Members participated in national and international level meetings to presents issues related to impacts of regulatory regimes, project specific impacts in local areas (primarily the campaigns being supported by Kalpavriksh), in particular on implications of EIA, CRZ and ESAs.

#### **i) 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.

The first component (advocacy and support to local groups) has been the major activity in the past three years (2006-9) and has been a non-project activity being done by Neeraj. This continued during the year 2008 - 2009 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 briefly in the year 2008 - 9 and will finish by December 2009. This has been coordinated and worked on by Neeraj and Manju. Work on specific communication outputs envisaged as part of the project continued in this period. While various communication outputs are currently in a draft





## PART C: ARTICLES, MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS AND ALERTS

### Articles and Reports

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3. Vedanta - the suspense continues. [www.indiatogether.org](http://www.indiatogether.org), 26 May 2008.
4. Challenges before our polity. *Deccan Herald*, 22 May 2008.
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6. Hidden Nexus: *From Biodiversity to Biotech*, 7 July 2008. ([indiatogether.org/2008/jul/env-div2tech.htm](http://indiatogether.org/2008/jul/env-div2tech.htm))
7. The Biodiversity Biotech nexus. *India Together*, 7 July 2008. ([Http://indiatogether.org/2008/jul/env-div2tech.htm](http://indiatogether.org/2008/jul/env-div2tech.htm))
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3. ([www.deccanherald.com/content/Jun262008/editpage2008062575341.asp](http://www.deccanherald.com/content/Jun262008/editpage2008062575341.asp))
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### Talks, presentations, meetings & other events

#### April 2008

- 1-5: *Presentation* of paper at Symposium on Sustaining Biological and Cultural Diversity in a Changing World, American Museum of Natural History, New York. (Ashish Kothari)
- 2: *Attended the protest* organized by the POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti, Orissa (Kanchi Kohli)
- 3: *Meeting* on The Politics of SEZs in India' organized by Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi (Manju Menon)
- 4: *Meeting* organized by Eco-net in Bheemashankar with panchayat heads about FRA 2006 (Neema Pathak and Saili Palande)
- 5: *Presentation* on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands at the Animal Rescue Centre, Bannerghata National Park, Bangalore. (Pankaj Sekhsaria).
- 7-11: *Meeting* on World Parks Congress + 5, and steering committee of World Commission on Protected Areas, Cape Town, South Africa. (Ashish Kothari)
- 16: *Strategy meeting* of KV Conservation and Livelihoods programme. (KV CLN Group)
- 24: *Presentation* on Challenges of Conservation in India, to IFS officials, at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun (Ashish Kothari)
- 26: *Discussion* on Forest Rights Act with civil society organizations of Uttarakhand, Nainital (Ashish Kothari)
- 26: *Presentation* of Rahul Sankrityayan Memorial Lecture on Challenges for the

Himalaya (Ashish Kothari)

**26Apr.-5 May:** *Meeting* of the IUCN Task Force on Sacred Landscapes and Category VI PAs in Yorkshire, England. Presentation on Conservation and Livelihoods work of KV (Neema Pathak)

**April-May:** *Interactions* with representatives of KCTU (Korean trade union) and Korean House for International Solidarity during their visit to India, regarding the POSCO project in India (Kanchi Kohli and Manju Menon)

#### **May 2008**

**1:** *Meeting* with the PA staff from Wales, Scotland and England at Yorkshire. *Presentation* on CCAs in India and their global implications. (Neema Pathak)

**7:** *Meeting* of the NGO coordination committee of Bheemashankar to discuss the Tourism related problems in Bheemashankar (Neema Pathak and Saili Palande)

**8:** 1<sup>st</sup> *workshop* for new children, and a two hour session on “waste” conducted for the senior students in Math Govt school, Leh district. (Sujatha Padmanabhan).

**8-9:** *Coordination and presentation* at National Workshop on Critical Tiger and Wildlife Habitats, CES/IISc, Bangalore (co-organized by Future of Conservation network, CES/IISc, and Karnataka Forest Department) (Ashish Kothari, Arshiya Bose, Pankaj Sekhasaria)

**9:** *Attended a Brainstorming Session* on bringing out a "Citizens' Report" on issues impacting Delhi citizens in the context of the Commonwealth Games 2010 (Kanchi Kohli)

**11:** 1<sup>st</sup> *workshop* conducted at Sadbhavana Hostel in Leh. The hostel has students from many remote villages in Ladakh and is currently run by the education department. (Sujatha Padmanabhan).

**14:** Garbage management project initiated in Hemis-Shukpachan village. (Sujatha Padmanabhan).

**14:** *Participation* in demonstration to protest one year of Binayak Sen's incarceration in Chhattisgarh (Ashish Kothari, Milind Wani)

**17-18:** *Participation* in preparatory civil society meeting for CBD COP9, Bonn, Germany (Ashish Kothari, Tasneem Balasinorwala)

**18:** An introductory two-hour session conducted at Moravian Mission School, a private school in Leh. (Sujatha Padmanabhan).

**19-24:** *Participation* as observer, in CBD 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (including coordination of and participation in several side events, coordination of civil society statement on protected areas, participation in daily civil society meetings, and other activities; see also report on TILCEPA) (Ashish Kothari, Tasneem Balasinorwala)

**25:** *Facilitation* of dialogue between indigenous peoples, local communities, and conservation NGOs (Ashish Kothari)

**May:** *Compiled* a Note on EIAs for the Indian delegation's presentation before UN Committee on ESCR Natural Resources and People's Livelihood, May 2008 (E & D team)

#### **June 2008**

**10:** *Meeting* with representative of Birdlife International and BNHS IBA team in Delhi (Kanchi Kohli)

**12:** *Meeting* with Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra, regarding Critical Wildlife Habitats process, Nagpur (Ashish Kothari, Neema Pathak)

**13:** *Meeting* of Pune Citizens' Environment Forum (Ashish Kothari)

**15:** *Audio-visual presentation* on “Ladakh, its landscapes and people” at Yoga Centre Pune. (Sujatha Padmanabhan)

**18:** *Release* in Port Blair of 'Rethink Tourism in the Andaman Islands' a report on the present status of tourism in the islands (Kalpavriksh was one of six organizations that has jointly produced the report) (Pankaj Sekhsaria).

**24, 25:** *Meeting* to discuss principles for appropriate coastal regulations, CAG, Chennai (Manju Menon)





**24-30:** Coordination of session on 'Traditional Agricultural Landscapes and Community Conserved Areas', in 11<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Ethno biology, Cusco, Peru; including presentation on Governance of protected areas, and visit to Potato Park (CCA of Andean indigenous peoples) (Ashish Kothari)

**26:** Release in New Delhi of 'Rethink Tourism in the Andaman Islands', a report on the present status of tourism in the islands (Pankaj Sekhsaria).

**26:** Strategies to respond to CMZ notification with CAG, ATREE, ICSF, WWF, CAT and several other groups and individuals, Chennai (Manju Menon)

#### **April June:**

- Coordinated the *editing and digitizing* of all the KV-PANOS media dialogues audio recordings for uploading on websites April to June 2008. This was done with the help of Jean Parker based in Pune (E & D team)
- *Participated* in the "No more Bhopals" dharna in New Delhi on several occasions during the period (Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli)

#### **July 2008**

**4-6:** KV Annual General Body Meeting (KV Members)

**6:** Session on Protected Area Management with students of The School, Chennai (Pankaj Sekhsaria)

#### **August 2008**

**6:** Lecture at Symbiosis Institute of Mass Communication, Pune (Ashish Kothari)

**12:** Presentation on the Snow Leopard Conservation Programme at a Conservation Education Workshop, and the BRT programme, at Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri. (Sujatha & Sunita)

**13:** Participation in MoEF Committee to prepare guidelines for Scheme on Conservation outside Protected Areas (in particular, CCAs) (Ashish Kothari)

#### **September 2008**

**3-9:** Traveled to Kaila Devi Sanctuary for first hand information on the rejuvenation of a river Maheshwari by the local Gujjar community and interact with members of community conserved areas from Alwar district. (Erica Taraporewala)

**25:** Screening of Ali Kazimi film on Narmada, and discussion, at Bowdoin College, USA (Ashish Kothari)

**27:** Participation in 5<sup>th</sup> workshop held in Hemis-shukpachan Government School, Ladakh. (Sujatha)

#### **October 2008**

**3 -10:** Participation in IUCN, World Parks Congress at Barcelona. Presentation on Mendha-Lekha village and one on Principles for Participatory Management Councils for PAs. (Neema Pathak) Attended a meeting with the consortium of NGOs and donor agencies on funding and facilitating a global Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas support programme (Ashish Kothari & Neema Pathak). Made a presentation on laws and policies related to CCAs (Tasneem Balasinorewala). Presentation on NBSAP and its implementation in India (Seema Bhatt). Two workshops on community conserved areas, TILCEPA organizational meetings, presentations on governance of PAs and on climate change and CCAs, moderation of dialogue session between indigenous peoples and conservation NGOs, initiation of global ICCA Consortium (Ashish Kothari). **13 14:** Bhorgiri & MAM office Dimbe, *meeting* to discuss ecotourism programme in Bhorgiri village in Bheemashankar. (Pradeep Chavan)

**24:** Presentation on Conservation and Livelihoods at American University, Washington DC (Ashish Kothari)

**24:** Presentation and panel discussion on Globalisation, at American University, Washington DC (Ashish Kothari)

**24 25:** Bhorgiri village in Bheemashankar, *meeting* to discuss with the Seva

mandal youth group regarding ecotourism programme. (Milind Wani, Pradeep Chavan)

**29:** *Audio-visual presentation* on Ladakh at The School, Chennai (Sujatha Padmanabhan)

#### **November 2008**

**6:** *Screening* of Krishnendu Bose's film on tigers, and discussion, at Bowdoin College, USA (Ashish Kothari)

**13:** *Presentation* on New Paradigms in International Conservation Policy, New England Aquarium, Boston, USA. (Ashish Kothari)

**13:** *Presentation* on Globalisation in India, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA. (Ashish Kothari)

**14:** *Presentation* on Indian Environmental Issues, at Harvard, Boston, USA. (Ashish Kothari)

**14:** *Presentation* on New Paradigms in International Conservation Policy, at University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA. (Ashish Kothari)

**16:** *Interaction* with conservation volunteers of Pugmarks on Environment & Development issues using Northeast dams as an example. (Neeraj Vagholikar)

**17:** *Presentation* on Birds in India, at Maine Audobon Society, Portland, USA (Ashish Kothari)

**24:** *Presentation* on Globalisation in India, at Princeton University, USA. (Ashish Kothari)

**25:** *Presentation* on Globalisation in India, at University of Delaware, USA. (Ashish Kothari)

#### **December 2008**

**3 4:** Bhorgiri & Yelavali, to discuss & take the consent of the local people to start the ecotourism programme and to explore the present situation in Yelavali village in Bheemashankar. (Pradeep Chavan, Neema Pathak)

**7:** Presentation on Community Conserved Areas to general audience as part of CMS Vatavaran programme. (Neema Pathak)

**19:** Lecture on history and implementation of Forest Rights Act to students participating in "Society and I" programme. (Neema Pathak)

**18-19:** Participation in a meeting of conservation educators at Bangalore organized by ATREE. (Sharmila Deo, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sunita Rao)

**20:** Participation in Audobon coordinated Christmas Bird Count, in Maine, USA. (Ashish Kothari)

#### **January 2009**

**57:** *Education retreat* at Huthina Betta in Sirsi, Karnataka. (Education Group-Sujatha Padmanabhan, Sunita Rao, Yashodara Kundalji)

**8:** Function for the TN Khoshoo Award for conservation, Delhi (Ashish Kothari)

**12-13:** Participation and presentations in seminar on Forest Rights Act, organized by Tribal Research and Training Institute and National Centre for Advocacy Studies, Pune (Ashish Kothari)

**12-13:** *Presentations* in seminar on Forest Rights Act, organized by Tribal Research and Training Institute and National Centre for Advocacy Studies, Pune. Title of presentation: 'Status of Implementation of the FRA across the country and emerging issues' (Arshiya Bose)

**12-13:** Workshop on Effective Implementation of Community Rights with respect to Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006. (Arshiya Bose, Neema Pathak, Ashish Kothari, Pradeep Chavan).

**21-22:** Social Dimensions of Marine Protected Area Implementation in India: Do Fishing Communities Benefit? Chennai. Workshop organized by International Collective in Support of Fishworkers. (Pankaj Sekhsaria)

**28:** Participation in core group meeting of Civil Society networking project, WWF, Delhi (Ashish Kothari)

**29-31:** All KV members attended the Kalpavriksh retreat, Delhi (KV Members)







**29:** Meeting at the MoEF for the Committee of supporting and recognising CCAs. Ashish Kothari and Neema Pathak

**30:** All KV members attended Kalpavriksh 30th anniversary reunion with old members, Delhi (KV Members)

#### **February 2009**

**2:** *Participation* in MoEF committee to devise guidelines for Scheme on Conservation outside Protected Areas (focusing on CCAs)(Ashish Kothari)

**3:** National *workshop* on Biological Diversity Act (Ashish Kothari)

**15:** Lecture for the ecological society, Pune Neema Pathak

**17-19:** *Coordination* of sessions, and presentations, at BNHS conference 'Conservation in a Globalising India', Bangalore (Ashish Kothari)

**1719:** International *Conference* to commemorate 125 years of the Bombay Natural History Society, Bangalore (Pankaj Sekhsaria)

**18:** *Presentation* on the present status of tourism in the A&N islands as part of the International Conference to commemorate 125 years of the Bombay Natural history Society, Bangalore (Pankaj Sekhsaria)

**19:** 'When Chanos became tsunami macchi the post December 2004 ecological scenario in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands': *Presentation* during the International Conference to commemorate 125 years of the BNHS, Bangalore.(Pankaj Sekhsaria)

**22:** *Presentation* on Biodiversity Act at ILS Law College, Pune (Ashish Kothari)

**23:** February 2009 Trip to Bheemashankar with AID volunteers **Pradeep Chavan and Neema Pathak**

#### **March 2009**

**2:** Pune Environment Citizens' Forum *meeting*, discussion on Environment Status Report (Ashish Kothari)

**4-5:** Meeting of NTFP Network in South Asia. **Neema Pathak, Pankaj Sekhsaria, Pradeep Chavan**

**5-6:** *Presentation and participation* in conference on Indian Forestry, organized by Rights and Resources Initiative and INTACH, Delhi (Ashish Kothari)

**6:** Day long *workshop* on environment conducted for MA Students Social Entrepreneurship, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (Arshiya Bose, Neeraj Vagholikar, and Pankaj Sekhsaria)

**6:** Day long *workshop* on environment conducted for MA Students Social Entrepreneurship, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (Pankaj Sekhsaria, Neeraj Vagholikar & Arshiya Bose)

**10-15:** Lakshadweep for a meeting on potential legal status for community based conservation in Lakshadweep. **Neema Pathak and Ashish Kothari**

**2628:** Bees, Biodiversity and Livelihoods in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Coonoor. *Workshop* organized by the Keystone Foundation. (Pankaj Sekhsaria)

**30:** Presentation on the A&N Islands at the Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri (Pankaj Sekhsaria)

#### **Field Visits**

##### **May 2008**

**30 Apr - 6 May:** Visit to Bombay and Mahabaleshwar, to collect information on Ecologically Sensitive Areas for the WWF-CSO project. (Meenakshi Kapoor).

##### **June 2008**

**1-3:** Visit to Jardhargaoon village, Uttarakhand, for dialogues on Forest Rights Act and on CCAs (Ashish Kothari, Mashqura Fareedi, Vikal Samdariya)

**9-12:** Visit to Mendha-Lekha village, Maharashtra, for dialogues on Forest

Rights Act and on CCAs (Neema Pathak, Erica Taraporewala, Arshiya Bose, Ashish Kothari, Milind Wani)

#### November 2008

**68:** Study trip to Baripada village in Dhule, Awati village in Nashik Districts of Maharashtra with Michael (University of Tasmania), Graeme (consultant IUCN and ex-forestry Department Australia). (Neema Pathak, Persis Taraporewala, Pradeep Chavan)

#### December 2008

**11:** Visit to Penobscot native reservation, Maine, for discussions on environment/rights and dam removal issues (Ashish Kothari)

**24-26:** Visit to Tumkur District, Karnataka. To explore CCAs in the district, in particular villages involved in conservation of Slender Loris. (Neema Pathak, Persis Taraporewala)

#### March 2009

**10-14:** Visit to Lakshadweep, participation in BNHS workshop on proposed Agatti Conservation Reserve, consultations with villagers (Ashish Kothari)

**21:** Lecture for ecological society, Mumbai. **Neema Pathak**



#### Alerts

##### November 2008

**23:** Letter to CCF, Nashik and CWLW, Maharashtra about potential disturbance to be caused to wildlife if tourist facilities were developed near Mangi-Tungi peaks in Nashik district along with a large Jain pilgrimage. (Neema Pathak)

##### January 2009

**9:** Letter to the Prime Minister and MoEF against ocean fertilization experiment involving National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, with German researchers, 9 January 2009. (Ashish Kothari)

#### Reports

Samadariya, V., Fareedi, M., and Kothari, A. 2008. *Jardhargaon Community Conserved Area, Uttarakhand, India: Report on a field visit and consultations with Jardhargaon's residents*. Report prepared for IUCN TILCEPA. Kalpavriksh, Pune/Delhi.





## **PART D: LIST OF MEMBERS (2008-2009)**

### **Pune**

1. Anchal Sondhi
2. Anuradha Arjunwadkar
3. Arshiya Bose
4. Ashish Kothari
5. Milind Wani
6. Neema Pathak
7. Neeraj Vagholikar
8. Pankaj Sekhsaria
9. Rohan Joshi
10. Saili Palande
11. Sharmila Deo
12. Sujatha Padmanabhan
13. Sunita Rao
14. Tasneem Balasinorwala
15. Tejaswini Apte
16. Yashodhara Kundaji

### **Delhi**

- Sanjay Sondhi  
Rahul Priyadarshi  
Ajay Mahajan  
Pradeep Malhotra  
Kanchi Kohli  
Seema Bhatt  
Manju Menon  
Divya Badami Rao  
Vikal Samdariya  
Prabhakar Rao  
Krishnendu Bose  
Pratibha Pandey  
Meenakshi Kapoor  
Mashqura Farredi  
Nidhi Agarwal

### **Others**

1. Ms Vandana Singh
2. Mr Vipul Sangoi
3. Ms Sultana Bashir
4. Mr Pallav Das

### **Associate Members**

1. Shantha Bhushan
2. Sanskriti Menon
3. Bina Thomas



## PART E: LIST OF DONORS AND FUNDING AGENCIES



### DONORS' LIST 2008-09

#### KV general Pune

- 1 Tasneem Balasinorwala
- 2 Vandana Singh
- 3 Vipul Sangoi
- 4 Rohan Joshi
- 5 Dr. Ramgopal Krishna
- 6 Chetan Patwardhan  
Anchal Sondhi
- 7 Sapna Ramkrishnan

#### Ladakh - EE

- 8 Shilpa Mehta
- 9 Harinder Dhillon
- 10 Anne Marie Bugtte
- 11 Gayatri Devkar
- 12 Vibha Kale
- 13 Nileem Shankar
- 14 Seema Bhatt
- 15 Vibha Kale
- 16 Pratibha Pande

#### NE - DAMS

- 17 Shantha Bhushan
- 18 Durgesh Kasbekar
- 19 Ashish Kothari

#### Safe - Festivals

- 30 Revachand Bhojawani

#### Education

- 31 Ayesha Mehta
- 32 Neha
- 33 Aletha Tavares
- 34 Deepak Sathe
- 35 Radha Padmanabhan
- 36 M S Padmanabhan

#### Bhimashankar Education

- 37 Anita Gandhi
- 38 Deepak Sathe

#### KV general Delhi

- 39 Ajay Batra
- 40 Erande
- 41 Shivani & Naveen Taneja

#### Pune Tree Watch

- 20 Uday kulkarni
- 21 Anil Kelkar
- 22 Vikram Bhosale
- 23 Satish Magar
- 24 Sameer Dhume
- 25 Roda Mehta
- 26 Rajkumar Tulsani
- 27 Sharmila Date
- 28 Indranil Date
- 29 Pumori Saokar



## PART F: ACCOUNTS STATEMENT

PAN: AAAAK1724G

Statement of Total Income AY 2009-10 FY 2008-09

### Particulars

Gross Income as per Income and Expenditure account	13,603,746.01	
Less: Rectricted funds included in Gross Income	<u>(11,964,152.46)</u>	
Income for the year as per section 12(1) (Voluntary unrestricted contributions)		1,639,593.55
Less Deferred Income credited to the extent of depreciation charged		<u>65,149.55</u>
<b>Sub total 1</b>		<b>1,704,743.10</b>
Statutory accumulation as per Section 11(1) @ 15% of Sub total 1		255,711.47
<b>Compulsory application (85%)</b>	<b>Sub total 2</b>	<b>1,449,031.64</b>

### Amounts applied towards Object of the trust

Gross Expenditure as per Income and Expenditure Account	13,069,267.77	
Less: Rectricted funds utilised included in Gross Expenditure	<u>(11,964,152.46)</u>	
Expenditure of revenue nature	1,105,115.31	
Less Deemed to have been applier in AY 2008-09	100,023.63	
Less Depreciation charged	<u>65,149.55</u>	
	939,942.13	
Assets Purchased (Out of Voluntary Contributions during the year)		
Computer	21,000.00	
Printer	11,250.00	
Furniture	<u>3,650.00</u>	
	35,900.00	
		975,842.13
Resultant Surplus (Deemed to be applied as per explanation 2 (ii) to section 11(1))		473,189.51
<b>Total Application</b>	<b>Sub total 3</b>	<b>1,449,031.64</b>

<b>Surplus</b>	<b>Subtotal (2-3)</b>	-
Tax deducted at source		-
Refund due		-