

## Annual Report

April 2003-March 2004

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Dear Members and Friends,

This is an annual report of the activities carried out by Kalpavriksh (KV), Delhi & Pune units, for the period April 2003 to March 2004.

At the Annual General Body Meeting of Kalpavriksh, Pune held on July 25-26, 2003, the new Core Group was elected with Shantha Bhushan being nominated as Secretary, Madhulika Goyal as Treasurer, and Pankaj Sekhsaria, Manju Menon, Neeraj Vagholikar, Neema Pathak and Swati Arjunwadkar as the other members

The broad agenda for the AGBM was:

1. Appointment of the Chartered Accountant for 2003 - 2004
2. Election of Core Group Members
3. Review of Activities over the last year (2002 - 2003)
4. Planning for the year ahead

This Annual Report also includes the audited balance sheet for 2003 - 2004, a matrix of our work over the last financial year, including an overview of all the current projects and a glimpse at all our activities and future proposals.

This year was marked by a wide range of activities and projects. A network of consumers of organic food was started in Kalyaninagar (Pune) and now several enthusiastic people want to start similar networks in their areas. The Andaman campaign, to prevent illegal felling in the tribal reserves meant for Onges and Jarawas, is going ahead. After obtaining good orders from Supreme Court in the Andamans case, we are trying to get the orders to be implemented by Andaman Administration. Kalpavriksh has also been involved in Kataldi (Uttaranchal), to prevent limestone quarrying which is environmentally and socially destructive. Our involvement in the North East has been growing - documentation of development projects in the biodiverse rich areas of North -East India, exploring legal spaces available for people in development of their areas. Another key area of work has been, community based conservation. In the World Parks Congress, the theme on "Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas" received a lot of attention and the role of communities in conservation is being more readily accepted. In the Indian legal context, the Wildlife Protection Act has also included new categories, which gives space for communities to conserve. Kalpavriksh is continuing its efforts to lobby for better provisions and

guidelines to the provisions. Another feather in the cap has been the preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) which emerged from several plans at the local, ecoregional, thematic and state level. Kalpavriksh has also been actively working on issues relating to trade and biodiversity. Our "Signs of Hope" lecture series that began on the occasion of 20 Anniversary have been continuing in Pune and Delhi. Signs of Hope (Pune) is now a collaborative effort with several Pune based NGO's.

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1. Theme on Indigenous/Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)

Co-ordinator: Ashish Kothari

Associate Members: Manisha Sheth Gutman, Neema Pathak and Tasneem Balasinorwala

Year of Commencement: 2000

Year of Completion: Ongoing

Funds for this project were not received by Kalpavriksh. Project persons are reimbursed directly by the funding agencies.

The Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas

(TILCEPA), was set up in the year 2000 by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). TILCEPA seeks the full and effective recognition of the rights and responsibilities of local communities in the development and implementation of conservation policies and strategies that affect the lands, waters and other natural and cultural resources that they relate to. Kalpavriksh currently houses the coordination team of TILCEPA.

#### Activities

Global Biodiversity Forum, Dhaka, 16th -18th June'03

A workshop on 'Expanding the Boundaries of Conservation' held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in June 2003 as part of the 3rd regional session of the Global Biodiversity Forum, South Asia at which the issues of Community Conservation and Co-management were discussed at length. This workshop was co-organized by TILCEPA and outputs were transmitted to the WCPA South Asia meeting, also held in Dhaka in June 2003.

World Parks Congress, Durban, 8th - 17th Sept'03

TILCEPA coordinated the cross-cutting theme on "Communities and Equity", and jointly coordinated the workshop stream on "Governance of Protected Areas", at the Fifth World Parks Congress (Durban, South Africa, September 2003).

TILCEPA facilitated the participation of a large number of indigenous, mobile, and other local community representatives-- the first time that community members have been so visible in an international conservation meeting. TILCEPA members and associates took the lead for the technical development of the topics and organised about 40 events (from workshops to panels, from theatre performances to book launches). The cross cut Theme and the Stream strongly contributed to the Durban Accord and Action Plan, and developed or contributed to Recommendations on governance of protected areas, community conserved areas, co-managed protected areas, mobile peoples and conservation, poverty and protected areas, protected areas in the landscape/seascape, cultural and spiritual values of protected areas, and ways to prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. It also helped develop an emerging issue on "Gender and Protected areas". Further, TILCEPA co-organised the "Community Park", a popular space in the exhibition centre where community members could showcase their activities, hold dialogues and cultural programmes, and display material.

Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) 19th Kuala Lumpur, 6th - 8th Feb'04

A 2-day workshop entitled "Poverty, Livelihoods and Biodiversity" was organised as part of the 19th session of the Global Biodiversity Forum held in Kuala Lumpur from the 6th to 8th February, 2003, immediately preceding the COP7. The workshop was divided into four sessions covering the following topics.

1. Importance of Biodiversity for Livelihood security and Poverty Reduction
2. Protected Areas, Livelihood security and Poverty: Challenges and Opportunities
3. Integrating livelihood needs and biodiversity conservation at the landscape / ecosystem management level.
4. Integration of Biodiversity and Conservation as a tool of livelihood security into national economic planning and development processes.

A statement from this workshop was read out in the final plenary of the GBF, and the key elements from it were incorporated into the overall GBF address to the plenary of the COP7.

7th Conference of Parties, CBD

In February 2004, several TILCEPA representatives attended the 7th

Conference of the Parties (COP 7) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. COP7 approved a programme of work on "Protected areas" that commits about 168 countries to participatory management, enhanced equity in conservation and fair benefit sharing. TILCEPA supported the technical development of the programme including initiating and helping to elaborate the work element on "Governance, Equity, Participation, and Benefit Sharing".

Publications and other Outputs

? A set of briefing notes in the form of 4 or 6-page pamphlets were published for distribution at various fora such as SBSTTA and the COP7, to provide simple yet clear descriptions with case studies. These are Governance of Protected Areas, Mobile Peoples & Conservation, and Community Conserved Areas. In addition, two Information Papers were brought out for similar distribution:

1. Protected Areas and Poverty: An Emerging Issue from the Vth World Parks Congress

2. Tourism: No Holiday from Accountability, by Alison Johnston

? Ten Books and Journals were published with the coordination from TILCEPA

? TILCEPA also contributed to the various articles for the CBD secretariat and to the chapters for Status of the World's Parks Report

? There are currently 7 Publications in progress by, or with strong input from, TILCEPA

## 2. Community conserved areas (CCA) Directory

Year of Commencement: 2001

Completed in: 2004

Total funds sanctioned: Rs. 6,88,000/

Received so far: Rs. 5,48,000/

Funding Agency: Ministry of Environment & Forests and Foundation for Ecological Security

Co-ordinator: Neema Pathak

The CCA directory is a documentation of the community efforts at conservation all over the country. The Directory is organized in two parts with the first part containing overviews of history and current status of community conserved areas in different states while the second part has detailed case studies. It also contains a map showing the location of CCA. This work was accomplished with the help of a number of individuals and organisations in different States.

A final report of the Directory was submitted to FES and MoEF in March 2004. Neither agency has given their comments. The last instalments of the funds have not yet been released. A proposal for publication of the Directory has been given to the Bombay Natural History Society. The report is available for comments.

## 3. NBSAP -National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Co-ordinator: Ashish Kothari

Full-time Associates: Kanchi Kohli, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Bina Thomas, Konthoujam Khelchandra Singh

Others: Seema Bhatt, Bansuri Taneja, Ajay Mahajan, Sudhir Aggarwal, Krishnendu Bose

Year of commencement: 2000

Year of completion: 2003?

Total funds sanctioned: KV Pune - Rs 7000 per month, KV Delhi - Rs 3,79,000, for the full period. (want to mention that others were paid directly ??  
Funding Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan (NBSAP) started in 2000, as an action plan made in a participatory and broad based manner. Broadly speaking the National Action Plan (NAP) was synthesised from the plans made at local, eco-regional, State and thematic levels. A detailed format for the National Action Plan was formulated after a series of discussions, and work on the national action plan had begun by March 2002. The primary focus of NBSAP activities of the year was the finalisation of the National Action Plan (NAP). There were two core group meetings (April and July 2003) during which comments received on revised drafts were built into the NAP. A special Peer Group was set up by the MoEF, which also gave comments on the NAP. The Peer Group meeting combined with an inter-Ministerial meeting to discuss the Action Plan was held in May end in Delhi. Comments received during this meeting were also incorporated. The final draft of the National Action Plan (NAP) was readied during July - August 2003 and the same was subsequently sent to an external editor in September. The core group members continued to coordinate with the editor, and finalized the editing in November. It was subsequently sent for designing. Proofing and designing of the NAP continued till end of March 2004. Meanwhile, it was also presented to the National Steering Committee of the NBSAP. At this meeting, the MoEF Secretary refused to accept the draft as the national plan, but said that it could be considered the final technical report based on which the MoEF would make a smaller document for Cabinet approval. Kalpavriksh pointed out that this was a reversal of what MoEF had so far been saying, since all along it had accepted that this document, once finalised, would be the national plan. A compromise had to be arrived at, in which it was agreed that this would be a final technical report, would be an official document, and would be printed as such and distributed.

The Points of Commonality chart which basically highlights the strategies common to both the NAP and the Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (BSAPs) at the State, Substate and Ecoregional levels was also finalized and incorporated into the NAP based on all the BSAPs received as on mid-November. An analysis of the same was also revised. The note documenting the emerging implementation at different levels was also regularly updated. The first final draft of the Process Documentation was put together and is at its editing stage. Follow up with the various State, Local, Ecoregional, and Thematic level BSAPs for the submission of final BSAPs continued. As part of the NBSAP process a monthly column called the 'Good Earth' was initiated in The Hindu Young World in May 2003 and went on to March 2004. Several Kalpavriksh members and associates contributed to this column. The NBSAanP Tales in Chandamama also continued during the year.

#### 4. Protected Areas (PA) Update -

Coordinator: Pankaj Sekhsaria

Year of commencement: 1994

Year of completion: Ongoing

Total funds sanctioned: Rs. 3,29,000 for period Apr 1, 2003 to- Mar 31, 2004.

Funding Agency: Foundation for Ecological Security (FES).

The PA update is bimonthly that was begun as follow up to the workshop on "Exploring the possibilities of Joint Protected Area Management (JPAM),

organized at IIPA, New Delhi 1994. This contains news and information from Protected areas across India and South Asia.

#### Activities

- . Publication of the Protected Area Update 41 & 42 (April 2003)
- . Publication of the Protected Area Update 43 (June 2003)
- . Publication of the Protected Area Update 44 (August 2003)
- . Publication of the Protected Area Update 45 (October 2003)
- . Publication of the Protected Area Update 46 (December 2003)
- . Compilation of the Protected Area Update 47 & 48

FES has committed to the funding of the PA Update for the forthcoming financial year 2004-2005

#### 5. Onge (Andamans) Case

Coordinator: Pankaj Sekhsaria

Year of Commencement: 1999

Year of completion: ongoing

A petition was filed jointly before the apex court in 1999 by the Society for Andaman & Nicobar Ecology (SANE), the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Kalpavriksh, with the support of the Environmental Justice Initiative (EJI) and the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) regarding illegal logging which impacted the rain forest and the fragile tribes of Onges and Jarawas.

During a hearing on November 23, 2001, the court had appointed the one-man Shekhar Singh Commission "to look into the state of the island's forests and other related matters," and submit its recommendations within six weeks.

This commission submitted a voluminous three-part report to the court on February 18, 2002. The commission had made 25 major recommendations ranging from a ban on all tree-felling in the islands, except for the bona fide use of the local islander populations; a ban on transport of timber to any part of the country; removal of encroachments; steps to reduce immigration from mainland India; shut-down of the Andaman and Nicobar Forest Plantation and Development Corporation (ANFPDC) that had logged the forests of Little Andaman island for years; phasing out of the existing monoculture plantations of red oil palm, rubber and teak; closing down of the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) in the Jarawa Tribal Reserve areas and a stop to sand mining from the island's beaches. The Shekhar Singh committee report was accepted by the CEC in May 2002.

#### Activities:

- . Efforts have been made to impress upon the local administration and the court that the orders passed in May 2002, remain unimplemented.
- . An email discussion group '[andamanicobar@yahoogroups.com](mailto:andamanicobar@yahoogroups.com)' has been also initiated.
- . An affidavit was filed in the Supreme Court (SC) in November 2003, in response to an application by the A&N administration asking for a review of the orders that were passed in May 2002.
- . The SC appointed Central Empowered Committee(CEC) visited Port Blair between Jan 14-16,2003 and conducted a series of hearings. Samir Acharya of SANE made presentations on behalf of the petitioners in the matter
- . Hearing was held in the SC on Feb 23,2004. The court has asked the administration to file a compliance report with respect to the May 2002 orders.

## 6. Important Bird Areas -North East (IBA-NE) Project

Co-ordinators: Manju Menon and Neeraj Vagholikar

Year of Commencement: 2003

Year of Completion: 2004

Total funds sanctioned: Rs. 3,92,700

Funding Agency: Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai

This study on 'Development projects and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Northeast India' supported by the Bombay Natural History Society's IBA programme was undertaken in March 2003. This project involved documenting 'threats' to habitats and 'opportunities for conservation' for the IBAs identified in Northeast India. The primary focus in identification of threats were those faced from development projects or activities/processes (for example dams and mining). 'Development projects/activities/processes' had been identified as a focus area since they form an increasingly emerging threat to biodiversity rich areas as per the current development plans for the Northeast.

The section on 'Opportunities for conservation' was developed by collection of IBA-wise information on various projects, schemes and programmes of governments, institutions and NGOs, and many conservation related practices developed by local communities, which could be supportive for conservation. Manju and Neeraj undertook a fieldtrip to the Northeast from March 24 - May 15, 2003 to collection information, conduct interviews and site visits for the project. They visited all states in the Northeast (except Tripura) and North Bengal for the purpose.

An important part of the project was a capacity building workshop on 'Environment decision-making for development projects: Spaces for peoples participation', organised in Shillong, Meghalaya, from August 8-10, 2003. This was organised by Kalpavriksh in collaboration with the Centre for Environment Education's TALEEM programme and the Centre for Environment Studies, North Eastern Hill University. There were thirty participants from Sikkim, North Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Nagaland. The Kalpavriksh members facilitating the workshop were Manju Menon, Kanchi Kohli and Neeraj Vagholikar. Other resource people included: Ritwick Dutta, Supreme Court lawyer; Promode Kant, Senior Indian Forest Service Officer; Imtienla Ao and Dr. Vincent Darlong, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Northeastern Regional Office, Shillong.

Drafts of the report were submitted to the BNHS in May 2003, October 2003 and February 2003 (final draft).

## 7. North-East Dams

Co-ordinator: Manju Menon and Neeraj Vagholikar

Year of Commencement: 2001

Year of Completion: Ongoing

Funds : voluntary

Manju and Neeraj continued their information collation and networking with groups in the Northeast and elsewhere on the subject of large dams in Northeast India.

## 8. Distribution of special issue of Ecologist Asia on NE dams

Co-ordinators: Manju Menon, Neeraj Vagholikar and Kanchi Kohli.  
Year of Commencement: 2003  
Year of Completion: 2004  
Total funds sanctioned: Rs. 44, 900  
Funding Agency: Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)

A special issue of the Ecologist Asia magazine on 'Large dams in North East India' was brought out in 2003. This was guest edited by Kalpavriksh members Manju, Neeraj and Kanchi. FES had given Kalpavriksh a grant to procure and distribute 1000 copies of this special issue of the Ecologist Asia magazine to institutions/NGOs/individuals within and outside the Northeastern region. This has been done and accounts submitted to FES.

#### 9. Mining

Co-ordinator: Neeraj Vagholikar  
Associate: Kaustubh Moghe  
Year of Commencement: 1999  
Year of Completion: 2003

A reprint of the report: 'Undermining India- Impacts of mining on ecologically sensitive areas' published by Kalpavriksh in March 2003 was done in March 2004. This has been authored by Neeraj Vagholikar and Kaustubh Moghe with inputs from Delhi-based environmental lawyer Ritwick Dutta.

#### 10. Uttara Kannada Environment Education Project

Project Co-ordinator: Sunita Rao  
Associated KV persons: Vivek Gour-Broome, Ashish Kothari  
Project commencement: April 2001  
Project completion: 2004  
Funds: None for the year

The Uttara Kannada Learning for Life project came to an official and financial close on March 31, 2003. However completion of fieldwork, training programmes, and other work continued. Proposals were sent to funding agencies to further develop and keep up the programme. A detailed environmental handbook outline was mailed for comments. A report was submitted to the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), the funding agency. Voluntary involvement will continue till funding for EE programme, and the completion and printing of the Uttara Kannada Environment Handbook is sourced.

#### 11. Malnad Home Garden and Seed Exchange Collective

Project co-ordinator: Sunita Rao  
Funded by : local well wishers & voluntary work  
Project commencement: 2001

The collective began in a small, modest way in 2001 as part of the Environment Education work in Uttara Kannada. The seed network was one way of looking at the kind of non-formal learning systems that exist and have potential at the community level. This soon acquired a dimension and soul of its own, and is now an independent activity. The focus is to document and develop diverse home gardens that exist in the area, while looking at food



security and nutrition issues.

In the last year, several activities took place. One of the seed leaders, Manorama Joshi began several home based enterprises - dried, semi-wild banana (boodh balay variety), Cocum (*Garcinia indica*) juice, and organic Holi colours. She is now also trying to market organic copra, turmeric, and ginger (all local varieties). This is aside from her full time work as a home maker, and seed keeper. Kalpavriksh only helped with ideas, marketing, and of course the basic philosophy. The initiative otherwise is completely independent. Major marketing happens in Pune. Manorama has also helped with establishing local contacts.

Savithri Hegde, another seed leader in the remote village of Mathighatta, made Cocum candy, herbal hair oil, and opened out her home and orchards for eco-homestays. Several groups have boarded with the family. Savithriamma also has a nursery of local tree saplings, a diverse home garden, and helps run the seed group which has members of the Siddi community.

Aside from seed saving and exchange, there is now an emphasis on tree planting - of both forest and horticultural species. A seed mela is being planned for June 2004 in Sirsi. Trainings in grafting, bee-keeping, and water conservation are being planned.

Currently there are 8 groups - some more active than the others. Several new ones are in the process of forming. Several local organizations have expressed interest in using this model with the groups they work with. This effort is completely voluntary, collective, small scale and decentralized. It was hoped that a model seed center would come up, but that has now been shelved since most home gardens (backyard patches to large forest tracts) are models unto themselves. If this continues to work in its own small quiet way, it will be a practical example of what KV has been philosophizing about now for the last quarter of a century!

## 12. Biodiversity Learning Programme in Kundapur, Karnataka

Project co-ordinator- Sunita Rao

Project Associates; Vivek Gour broome

Project commencement: 2002

Funded by: The Concerned for Working Children

In 2002, a "Biodiversity Learning Programme" was begun in Namma Bhoomi, the training campus of the Concerned for Working Children (CWC), near Kundapur, on the West Coast of Karnataka. CWC is an organization that is working on the issue of child labour and children's rights, and felt that the children must have some kind of environmental learning base to be able to sustain themselves. The programme was an offshoot of the work happening in Uttara Kannada (see above), and followed the same model of experiential, localized learning.

In 2003-2004, work on Namma Bhoomi campus continued. A process document and a campus handbook with activities that the staff can carry out with the children will be ready soon. CWC hopes to use this model for their work in the numerous panchayats, and in their Appropriate Education Programme. This involvement is part of our outreach work.

## 13. Global Ecology Programme (International Honours Programme): January 21-February 2, 2004

Project Coordinator: Sunita Rao

Associated KV persons: Ashish Kothari, Vivek Gour-Broome, Neema Pathak, Sanjay Thakur.

Funds for this project were not received by Kalpavriksh. Project persons are reimbursed directly by the funding agencies.

The Global Ecology Programme is a study abroad programme for students of universities in the U.S. It is currently being coordinated by Boston University. Kalpavriksh has in the past coordinated 2 weeks of the India stay (1998). Members have been involved as resource persons for the last 8 years. Uttara Kannada District is an area that the group has been visiting the last 6 years. This year too the group visited and stayed at Gubbigadhe village in farmers' homes. Prakriti, a local NGO was the host agency, and Kalpavriksh members worked directly in collaboration with Prakriti.

#### 14. Organic Food Consumers Networks

Coordinator: Manisha Sheth Gutman

Funds: none

The "Organic Food" project started with the intention of facilitating sales of organic food in Pune by raising awareness amongst consumers. Kalpavriksh has been working with Gita Dehsmukh of "Srushti" for a few years and it realized that while a fairly wide network of organic farmers does exist, the marketing of organic food needed assistance. On Earth Day, April 2003 an Organic Food Mela was organized in Kalyani Nagar. At this event a film on the impacts of the Green Revolution was shown. Four experts were invited to speak on various aspects of organic farming and a sale of organic foods followed. This event led to the coming together of a few residents who wished to start buying and consuming organic food. A bimonthly sale was set up at Manisha's residence and over the next one year almost Rs 70,000 worth of produce was sold. Kalpavriksh contribution was in terms of providing space for the sale and doing outreach for the sales. The clientele slowly grew to about 40 families. On Earth Day 2004 another event was organized to observe the completion of one year of this effort and to launch an 'Organics on Wheels' system wherein a tempo would deliver the food once a week to Kalyani Nagar. This event received an enthusiastic response from the citizens of Pune and possibilities of replicating such efforts in other parts of Pune are now being explored. The clientele within Kalyani Nagar have now gone up to 70 families. Similar awareness programmes are also being helped in other parts such as a recent event in the Open Space at Prabhat Road. A project proposal to expand this effort in a systematic manner is in progress.

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#### 15. KV-GRAIN Collaboration Report

Under the collaboration between Kalpavriksh (KV) and GRAIN on issues of biodiversity, trade and Intellectual property rights, the persons representing the collaboration and responsible for its execution are Ashish Kothari (AK) on behalf of KV, and Shalini Bhutani (SB) on behalf of GRAIN, with the former facilitating the national level work and the latter following the Asia regional level work. The collaboration also manifests itself in the sharing of office space between GRAIN and KV's NBSAP process. In June 2003, a dossier on relevant Indian issues around plant genetic resources was compiled. On 28 June 2003, a Workshop on Biolaws & Community Biodiversity Registers in Hyderabad was organized. (Ashish participated in

GRAIN's External Evaluation ??). In August ,a consultation on "Food Sovereignty & Agriculture" was co-organised, one in a series of meetings as part of the Indian country exercise leading up to the SAARC People's Forum scheduled in Dhaka, Bangladesh in mid-August 2003.

#### 16. BRT Environment Education Programme

Co-ordinators: Sunita Rao and Sujatha Padmanabhan

Year of Commencement: Jan 2004

Year of Completion: June 2005

Total funds sanctioned: Rs. 3,82,000

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

Funds for this project were not received by Kalpavriksh. Project persons are reimbursed directly by the funding agencies.

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

The programme will review all past and ongoing environmental education inputs into the school/campus and test new ones over one academic year (2004-2005), work closely with the school staff, students, other Soliga community members, researchers, and others, and put together an information package that covers relevant issues and can be used by the teachers for the primary, middle, and high school levels. A flexi-manual with information, illustrations, and activities which will be a reference for the teachers to use as a classroom companion will be put produced.

A core group of teachers of the school, Soliga members, and other resource persons was formed to guide this process. A detailed outline has been prepared, and fleshed out with all the teachers. The months from January to March 2004 were spent mainly in finalizing the work contract and budget, sourcing relevant research material from ATREE, and finalizing the outline for the manual.

#### 17. Amba valley Biodiversity Assessment

Co-ordinator: Vivek Gour-Broome

Associates: Sanjay Thakur, Kaustubh Moghe.

Year of Commencement: 1999

Funding agency: Rural Communes

Funds sanctioned for the year 2003-2004- Rs 70,000/

This project was undertaken to assess the effects of watershed work being carried out by Rural Communes, on the biodiversity of Amba valley. A thorough documentation of woody plants, herpetofauna, birds and mammals was done in an area of roughly 2000 Ha forming the upper catchment of Amba river.

Some interesting findings: Rediscovery of *Indotyphlus battersbyi* , a Caecilian which was earlier reported from Khandala; A rare, endangered and threatened plant *Bidaria Khandalense* was also found in Amba valley; Tortoise beetle *Epistictina reicheana* was documented for the first time in

Maharashtra from a small sacred grove in Amba valley, this beetle is a first to be reported to feed on a plant of family Bignoniaceae in the old world.

Activities

Field work on this project which commenced in November/December 1998 was completed in January 2004. A sum of Rs 6794 is remaining from the project, which is to be used for printing of the final report.

Peoples Biodiversity Register of Chavni Village.

This project also was a joint project carried out along with Rural Communes, Mumbai. The final report in the form of the Peoples Biodiversity Register itself in both English and Marathi was submitted to the Ministry of Tribal Welfare.

#### 18. Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act 2003

An amendment was brought about in the Wildlife Act (WLPAA), which includes two new categories of PA's, namely, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves. KV has been following the developments closely and a few informal discussions and experience of the community conserved areas that we already have information about suggested that these amendment may prove counter productive to the objective of conservation. Considering that a number of NGOs and state governments are keen to declare areas under these categories without completely understanding the implications of doing so, KV organised a meeting on the issue along with BNHS and WTI. The statement of the meeting has been submitted to the Ministry, has been sent to the CWLC wardens of all states and has been circulated to as many discussions groups and NGOs as possible. For a copy of the statement and other details please contact Neema

KV has also initiated a dialogue with the MoEF regarding the possible amendments in the Act as also framing of guidelines under the Act. An alternative text to the current one (particularly relating to these two categories) has also been submitted to the Ministry. We are continuing to push for the guidelines and have developed a draft guidelines which is open for comments. For copy of the guidelines please contact Neema.

#### 19. Noida Flyover

Prabhakar, in association with Arpan Sharma (Samrakshan Trust) has compiled a report on the possible negative consequences of upcoming flyovers, to be built through a park, Smriti Van, in NOIDA, Delhi. The comprehensive report, titled "NOIDA Park? Smriti Van - A Disaster of Unplanned Urban Growth", is supplemented with illustrative photographs and gives specific details of the havoc likely to be caused by the construction, including the effect on birds at the adjoining Okhla bird sanctuary.

#### 20. Green choices for Urban Voices.

Associates : Sunita Rao, Shantha Bhushan

Funds : voluntary

A compendium of common household products/practices and their toxic effects and the ecological alternatives available was put together. This was field tested in Kundapur and the feedback will be used to improve the draft. At a later stage funds may be sought for publication and wider outreach.

#### 21. Kataldi Mining.

Several Kalpavriksh members, Kanchi and others, have been supporting the people of Kataldi, to stop limestone quarrying from Kataldi village(uttaranchal). At the moment a stay has been obtained to stop mining.

## 22. Signs of Hope, Delhi

Four lectures between November 2003 and March 2004 were organised as part of the Signs of Hope lecture series in Delhi. Kalpavriksh collaborated with Lokayan for these lectures and the series came to be known as Signs of Hope/Seeds of Hope Lecture Series. The following lectures were organised:

- . "Delhi- the Vanishing Greens" by Prabhakar Rao, Kalpavriksh, Delhi. The talk was preceded by a 9 minute film on the same issue - Who is killing the Delhi's Greens? Date: November 18th, 2003
- . Apatani Wet Rice Cultivation: The Lecture with visual presentation will be delivered by Professor Ramakrishnan of the School of Environmental Science, JNU and Mihin Dollo, an Apatani from Arunachal Pradesh. DATE: 16 JANUARY 2004
- . Connecting Nature and Humans-A Himalayan Tale: A Slide-show and Talk by Ajay Mahajan and Bhupal Singh of Vividhara, Date: February 27th, 2004
- . Democratic Framework for resolution of conflicts in forests: Case Study : Tongia forest village, Shivalik" by Mr Ashok Chowdhury of National Forum for Forest people and Forest Workers along with the local activist Mr Munnilal. Date: March 18th, 2004

## 23. Signs of Hope Pune

### 24. Kalpavriksh Publications

Co-ordinator: Swati Arjunwadkar

Titles: Two new titles were released during this year:

Undermining India: Impacts of mining on ecologically sensitive areas  
Troubled Islands: Writings on indigenous peoples and environment of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Response to both titles has been good. Both titles are shortly to be reprinted. Troubled Islands has sold over five hundred copies. The compilation on "Adivasi rights, environment and the law" was updated as there have been several relevant new Acts and amendments. All older titles continue to sell, in larger or smaller quantities, specially where meetings or lectures on the relevant subject are held, and where Kalpavriksh members are present. Specially well-received and repeatedly sought after is the series of titles on Community Based Conservation and among these, Where Communities Cares is the most popular title. Besides these, the title "Birds of Pune" continues to be popular.

Sales: Cash Sales for 2003 - 2004 were Rs.70,000 and these include substantial sales of Troubled Islands by author Pankaj Sekhsaria at Chennai, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Bangalore, in addition to Mumbai at the World Social Forum in mid-January. At the World Parks Congress at Durban in September 2003, Kalpavriksh members sold a large number of our books. Credit Sales for the same period were Rs.1,10,000. This includes bulk sales of Troubled Islands which stands at about Rs.50,000, as well as the other titles. At Kuala Lumpur, our members sold copies of books worth Rs.6,500. Discount to the tune of Rs.21,000 was allowed. Through bulk purchasers of our titles including The Other India Bookstore, Altermedia, SANE, Madras Crocodile Bank, Earthcare Books and Book Point (India), our books reach a wider range

of readers and researchers. Some of the older invoices were settled during this year. The Current year's invoices pending settlement are under Rs.40,000.

Books were displayed and sold at the following events:

22 Apr. 2003 Earth Day, Organic Food Mela at Kalyaninagar.

5 Jun. 2003 World Environment Day celebration with the theme Green Spaces in Urban Places, at MES Abasaheb Garware College.

7, 8 Jun 2003 Book Fair organised by Ecological Society on Hira Baug, Tilak Road.

2, 3 Feb. 2004 "Meeting on Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves" at BNHS ,Goregaon, Mumbai.

Besides these, our books were also displayed and sold at the Signs of Hope lectures.