

# **Kalpavriksh**

## **Environmental Action Group**

Annual Report

Part A: September 1999 - August 2000

Part B: September 2000- March 2001

**Regd. Office:**

c/o Pradeep Malhotra

B 25, Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024.

(mailing address only)

**Pune Unit & Administrative Office:**

Apt.5, Shree Dutta Krupa, 908 Deccan Gymkhana, Pune – 411 004

Ph. / Fax : 020 5654239 Email: [kvriksh@vsnl.com](mailto:kvriksh@vsnl.com)

## PART A September 1999 - August 2000

Dear Members and Friends,

This is an annual report of activities carried out by Kalpavriksh (KV) for the period **September 1999-August 2000**.

This year's Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) was held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2000, in Delhi, at the Kalpavriksh (NBSAP project) office. The Pune KV unit had its AGBM on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The broad agenda for this year's meeting was:

- 1) Appointment of the Chartered Accountant for 2000 - 2001
- 2) Election of Core Group Members
- 3) Review of Activities over the last year
- 4) Planning for the year ahead
- 5) Discussion on other relevant issues

We also reviewed how best Kalpavriksh Delhi and Pune can coordinate and streamline their activities, including the possibility of staying small and consciously limiting our scale of operation. The response of the Kalpavriksh to the questionnaire on FCRA was also discussed, and a decision taken on whether to apply for the same. This Annual Report also includes the audited balance sheet for 1999-2000, a matrix of our activities this past year, and a list of persons currently with Kalpavriksh on various projects or as volunteers.

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##### **DELHI / PUNE**

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 International, National and Local Alerts  
 Anti- Plastics Campaign  
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 Pune Green Guide  
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     Eco-fair  
     Summer Training  
     Environment Education  
     Revision of Environmental Science Syllabus, Pune University

### **FUTURE / PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

Millenium Ecosystem Assessment (Pune)  
 Proposal for Envis funding for Documentation Centre  
 Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers in Amba Valley, Maharashtra with Rural Communes  
 Frogs & Toads of Western Ghats: A Pictorial Guide (Pune)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Accounts  
 Foreign funding  
 Marketing  
 KV Work Guidelines

### **20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

Corbett Trip  
 Compilation of writings on KV  
 KV History  
 Signs of Hope Lecture Series  
     Delhi  
     Pune

### **PUBLICATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

### **ACTIVITIES / WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / MEETINGS PARTICIPATED**

#### **1999**

#### **September 1999**

- ~ 01: Participation in meeting on participatory forest/wildlife management by NGOs, Nagpur
- 02-03: Visit to Mendha (Lekha) village to present and discuss final case study report
- ~ 12: KV AGBM, Pune
- ~ 16: Participation in Ford Foundation meeting on JFM
- ~ 18: KV AGBM, Delhi

21-29: Press alerts re: outbreak of measles epidemic amongst the Jarawas

#### **October 1999**

- ~ 01: Participation in BNHS Conservation Sub-Committee meeting
- ~ 13: Supportive response to alert against proposed dam in Poland
- ~ 18: Inauguration of documentation centre at KV Pune office
- ~ 20: Preparatory meeting on NBSAP, UNDP, Delhi
- ~ 21: Lecture at YASHADA, Pune, on Biodiversity Financing
- ~ 22: Slide show on communities and conservation at Conservation Course of Ecological Society

- ~ 23: KV meeting on NBSAP, Signs of Hope series, etc.
- ~ 25: Participation in National Wildlife Action Plan expert group meeting, Delhi
- ~ 27: Visit by Romulus Whitaker, Madras Croc. Bank
- ~ 29: Participation in meeting re: resettlement of Bori village, Melghat Tiger Reserve
- ~ 31: Slide show on wildlife conservation at NGO meeting, Melghat

#### November 1999

- ~ 01: Visit by M.K. Prasad, KSSP
- ~ 04: Lecture on JPAM at YASHADA, Pune
- ~ 15: 1<sup>st</sup> Pune Signs of Hope presentation by Devaji Topa and Mohan Hirabai Hiralal
- ~ 18: Lecture on biodiversity laws at Pune University Law Dept.
- ~ 18: Visit by G.V. Reddy, Dy. Field Director, Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve
- ~ 25: 1<sup>st</sup> Delhi Signs of Hope presentation by Kanhaiya Gujjar, Tarun Bharat Sangh
- 26-28: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary get-together, Corbett Tiger Reserve
- 29-30: Participation in WWF workshop on ecodevelopment
- ~ 27: Participation in a workshop on Public Interest Litigation held at the Pune Law College.
- ~ : Participation in a 10 day bird ringing training camp organised by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in Parambikulam Sanctuary, Kerala.

#### December 1999

- First week: Participation in a meeting in Port Blair in the first week of December, organised jointly by the UNDP and the ZSI for a GEF project on Coral Reef Management in the A&N islands.
- ~ 06: Slide show on biodiversity at WWF orientation course
  - ~ 10: Talk on biodiversity policy issues at Ecological Society Course
  - ~ 13: Global Ecology Course – Sirsi, Dandeli, etc.
  - ~ 18: Participation in an anti pollution programme on Pune, organised by a local NGO - Bhumata.
  - ~ 23: 2<sup>nd</sup> Pune Signs of Hope presentation by Vijay Jardhari and Raghu Jardhari, Beej Bachao Andolan
  - 22-24: Participation in a workshop to formulate a manual on 'good citizenship' specific to Pune, held by Centre for Environmental Education.
  - ~ 29: Lecture on patents and agriculture, MCAER workshop, Pune
  - ~ : Participation in a meeting at BNHS, to propose Important Bird Areas for the western Indian region.

#### January 2000

- ~ 04: Interview on AIR Pune with Sunderlal Bahuguna
- 06-07: 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the NBSAP Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG), Delhi
- ~ 10: PA Update 23 brought out
- ~ 10: Commencement of work on Pune Green Guide by KV Volunteer - Bjorn Rahm
- ~ 15: KV Internal Newsletter
- ~ 23: Slide show to BNHS course participants, Pune
- ~ 24: 3<sup>rd</sup> Signs of Hope Presentation in Pune, by Rajendra Singh, Tarun Bharat Sangh
- ~ 28: Participation in a meeting on social audit done by the group Khoj in the Melghat Tiger Reserve. This group works with the Korku tribals in Melghat and has over the past four years been focussing its work on five villages in the reserve.
- 29-30: Participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> Vidarbha Paryavaran Parishad, Amravati
- 31- Feb 2: Visit to village Saigata, which is situated in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. The villagers have been protecting the forests for over twenty years and this area is now under JFM

*Through the month: Planning and initial drafting of process guidelines for NBSAP.*

*Commencement of work on the Natural Resource Conflicts project.*

#### February 2000

- ~ 03: Critical assessment of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Bill 1999
- 07-08: 2<sup>nd</sup> NBSAP TPCG meeting, Delhi
- ~ 08: KV meeting on NBSAP, Delhi
- 09-10: Participation in a meeting of the JFM (Maharashtra) network. This was held in Jalna of Yavatmal district.
- ~ 13: Oral and written submission to Parliamentary Committee examining the PPVFR Bill 1999, Mumbai
- ~ 16: Presentation of Dubashi Memorial Lecture, on "Greening India Through Gram Swarajya"
- ~ 22: 4<sup>th</sup> Signs of Hope presentation, by Uzamma, Dastkar Andhra
- ~ 24: NBSAP Steering Committee meeting, Delhi
- ~ 25: 3<sup>rd</sup> NBSAP TPCG meeting, Delhi
- ~ 26: Help in organisation of IUCN / INTACH / Kalpavriksh National Consultation on Community Natural Resource Management, Delhi
- ~ 27: Participation in meeting of NGOs, District administration, Forest Dept., and villagers, regarding Melghat Tiger Reserve, Bori, Chimalkhedhi (Melghat)
- ~ 29: KV meeting on funding, project updates, etc.

*Through the month: drafting of various concept notes on themes, budget restructuring, etc., for NBSAP. Work on CBC sourcebook*

### **March 2000**

- ~ 02: Critical comments on Convention on Biological Diversity upcoming meeting on Article 8j (indigenous/local community rights), to MoEF
- ~ 02: KV project meeting on Natural Resource Conflicts and Resolution (SID) project
- 07-08: Participation in meeting to revise Environmental Science syllabus, Pune University
- ~ 10: Lectures at Wildlife Institute of India, on biodiversity legislation and on wildlife action plan
- ~ 11: 4<sup>th</sup> (Truncated) NBSAP TPCG meeting, Delhi
- ~ 12: Screening of video films on Bhangis, and on JFM in Uttara Kannada, at KV Pune
- ~ 16: Presentation of a paper on “Evolving an amphibious approach to education: the Andaman and Nicobar islands”, at a conference organised by CPR Environmental Education Centre, Chennai
- 17-18: Participation in a meeting on settlement of rights in the PAs of Vidarbha in Nagpur. This was followed by a "Signs of Hope" talk on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The topic of the talk was “Forests, Wildlife and People: Focus on community conservation efforts”.
- 19-20: Final meeting of partners in South Asia Review of Community Based Conservation, Delhi
- 20-21: Participation in IUCN/INTACH South Asia meeting on community natural resource management, Delhi
- ~ 22: KV meeting on films proposal, and NBSAP, Delhi
- 23-24: 5<sup>th</sup> NBSAP TPCG meeting, Delhi
- 24-25: Organisation of a meeting, press conference and a public meeting with the doctors and citizens of Pune on medical waste management. The Mumbai Medwaste Action Group was invited to Pune to take a closer look at the medical waste management currently being practiced in Pune. The participants included PMC Health Department officials, several NGOs and citizens. Later a visit was made to the incineration facility.
- ~ 27: Written reactions to new JFM order of Govt. of India
- ~ 27: 5<sup>th</sup> Signs of Hope presentation in Pune: PV Satheesh and farmers of Deccan Development Society

- ~ 30: Submission of section on Farmers' Rights to Parliamentary Committee on PPVFR Bill 1999

March end: Participation in a workshop “Knowledge and Livelihoods in the time of Globalisation”, organised jointly by Intercultural Institute of Montreal (IIM) , Montreal and Pipal Tree, Bangalore

*Through the month: Drafting and reviewing of PESA study reports*

*Through the month: Drafting and reviewing of draft JPAM brochure*

### **April 2000**

- ~ 01: Initiation of IUCN Task Force on Local Communities and Protected Areas.

*1<sup>st</sup> week: Report on JPAM journey over last few years.*

*1<sup>st</sup> week: Designing and publication of flyer on Conservation and Livelihoods Network*

- 10-11: 6<sup>th</sup> NBSAP TPCG meeting, Delhi
  - ~ 11: Official launch of NBSAP, Delhi
  - ~ 12: Presentation on NBSAP at Centre for Ecological Science, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
  - 13-14: KV outing in Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Sanctuary (BRT), Karnataka
  - 15-17: Organisation of and participation in 4<sup>th</sup> National Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights, BRT, Karnataka
  - ~ 17: NBSAP presentation at 4<sup>th</sup> National Consultation, BRT, Karnataka
  - ~ 18: Meeting with PCCF Karnataka, along with Dr. Bawa, Dr. Sudarshan, Mr. Saldanha, regarding the proposed joint management of BRT Press Conference on 4<sup>th</sup> National Consultation, Bangalore
  - ~ 23: Critical comments on CBD paper on Access to Genetic Resources, sent to MoEF
  - ~ 26: KV meeting, Pune: funding, updates, etc.
  - ~ 27: 1<sup>st</sup> General Communique of the Task Force on Local Communities and Protected Areas
  - 28-May 1: Participation in the first National Convention of the "mines, minerals & People" (mmP) network at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
  - ~ 29: 6<sup>th</sup> Signs of Hope presentation in Pune, by Mohan Jha, DCF Buldhana
- Through the month: Conceiving NBSAP detailed process, identifying several hundred individuals and organisations for participation*

### **May 2000**

- 03-04: 7<sup>th</sup> NBSAP TPCG meeting, Delhi
- ~ 06: KV meeting, Pune
- ~ 06: Slide show and talk on Narmada project, at Rotary Club meeting, Pune

- ~ 07: Publication of first of CBC in South Asia case study series: *Sharing the Benefits of Biodiversity: the Kani-TBGRI Deal in Kerala*, by RV Anuradha, Kalpavriksh Pune/Delhi and IIED London.
- ~ 09: Publication of South Asia CBC study book: *Where Communities Care: Community Based Wildlife and Ecosystem Management in South Asia*, by Ashish Kothari, Neema Pathak, and Farhad Vania, Kalpavriksh Pune/Delhi and IIED London
- 12-14: Help in organisation of Poverty and Biodiversity workshop at the Global Biodiversity Forum, Nairobi
- ~ 13: Presentation on Access and Benefit-Sharing in India's NBSAP process, at Global Biodiversity Forum, Nairobi.
- ~ 14: Participation in Global Biodiversity Forum Steering Committee meeting, Nairobi
- ~ 15: Presentation on NBSAP, UNEP/GEF BPSP meeting, Nairobi
- ~ 17: Presentation on Access and Benefit-Sharing in India's NBSAP, at Kew Gardens and UNDP forum, Nairobi.
- ~ 25: One day field trip to Hiware Bazaar (Ahmednagar) to observe their water harvesting systems and to organise the talk by Popatrao Pawar for the Thermax Eco-fair
- ~ 29: 7<sup>th</sup> Signs of Hope presentation by Gerard Fernandes, Goa
- 29-June2: Participation in a meeting on "Settlement of rights in the PAs of Maharashtra", organised by Yeshwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA), Pune. The meeting was attended by Sub-divisional officers (Revenue) and forest officers concerned, with all the protected areas in Maharashtra. The objective of the meeting was to review the settlement of rights process and address the problems encountered in each PA. Kalpavriksh attended the meeting and presentations were made on the national scenario of the settlement of rights process and the draft guidelines prepared by Kalpavriksh, Pune.

*Through month: Preparations for first National Workshop of NBSAP.*

*PA Update 25 brought out*

*Preliminary version of Pune Green Guide brought out*

#### **June 2000**

- ~ 01: Presentation on NBSAP at BNHS, Mumbai
- ~ 01: Slide show on People and Parks, at BNHS, Mumbai
- 02-03: 8<sup>th</sup> NBSAP TPCG meeting, Delhi
- 03-05: KV stall set up at the Thermax Eco-fair

- ~ 04: Lecture on water harvesting by Popatrao Pawar and Vijay Paranjape at the Thermax Eco-fair
- ~ 05: Slide show on Biodiversity: The Spice of Life, at Thermax Eco-fair, Pune
- ~ 10: Review of SID Project progress
- ~ 10: KV Pune meeting: updates, etc.
- ~ 16: Presentation to National Centre for Advocacy Studies interns, on Ecology and Advocacy
- ~ 17: Presentation to National Centre for Advocacy Studies interns on Community Conservation in India
- ~ Help to film-maker Dinesh Lakhnarpal, in making script for a film on Access and Benefit Sharing in the context of the CBD
- ~ 22: Publication of South Asia CBC case study no. 4: *Pelicans and People: The Two-Tier Village of Kokkare Bellur, Karnataka, India*, by K. Manu and Sara Jolly, Kalpavriksh Pune/Delhi and IIED London
- 23-24: NBSAP Inaugural National Workshop, Delhi
- ~ 26: Participation in Lokayan/SID meeting on Food Security, presentation on Biodiversity and Food Security
- ~ 29: Participation in a meeting on new water policy for Maharashtra at YASHADA Pune

*Through the month: Preparation for first National Workshop of NBSAP, and follow-up*

#### **July 2000**

- ~ 01: KV Pune meeting: updates, accounting, Pune-Delhi links
- ~ 03: 8<sup>th</sup> Signs of Hope presentation, by Yogita Mehra and Nikhil Anand, Campus Greens Mumbai
- ~ 06: Participation in a meeting on 'People Centred Forest Management in Madhya Pradesh, The meeting was called by the MP Forest Department and was attended by people from all over the country
- ~ 07: Participation in AGM of Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Mumbai
- 07-09: Participation in the "Fourth National Meeting" organised by the National Forum for Forest Workers and Forest People, Nagpur July 7-9, 2000
- ~ 10: Critical comments sent on Ministry of Agriculture note regarding FAO Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources
- ~ 11: Presentation of a slide show on "Andaman & Nicobar Islands" for Womens International, Pune
- Participation in Critical Mass cycle rally by Radicalz, Pune
- 20-21: 9<sup>th</sup> NBSAP TPCG meeting, Delhi

## **August 2000**

Publication of *Source Book on Community-based Conservation in South Asia: People, Policies, and Publications*

### **INVESTIGATIONS**

**February 11-12:** Neeraj visited the Tipeswar sanctuary in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra. The objective of the study was to understand the issues relating to settlement of rights vis-a-vis PESA, since the area is a scheduled area. The group "Srujan" (Ajay Dolke and others) works in this area.

**June 6 - June 17:** Neeraj spent about two weeks (June 6-17) at Hazaribagh, Bihar, to investigate into the current and future effects of coal mining on the North Karanpura valley and surrounds (with a special focus on wildlife corridors). This visit was in co-ordination with Sanctuary Magazine, Mumbai.

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### **DELHI**

A major portion of the work in Delhi involved administration and liaison with the Pune group. Pradeep handled this, along with editorial work on two Community Based Conservation publications (see "Publications"). Madhurima now looks after Kalpavriksh accounts in Delhi. Bansuri also helped, and is working on the NBSAP project in Delhi.

#### ▪ **Booklet on Butterflies of Delhi**

The booklet, by Dr. Peter Smetacek, funded by the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad, is now in press. Ghazala, Ranjit and now Bansuri edited and coordinated the work in Delhi.

#### • **Simple Guide on Wild Life Act**

Sanjay prepared the draft of a simple guide to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, for use by conservationists, or social activists working with local communities. The manuscript has now been sent to a publisher for review.

#### ▪ **Eco-Clubs**

Ajay Mahajan and Prabhakar Rao got some funds through Kalpavriksh to begin eco-clubs in Delhi.

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### **PUNE/DELHI**

#### **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**

In late 1999, Kalpavriksh was asked by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), GOI, to coordinate the technical execution of the UNDP-funded National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan process. KV suggested to MoEF that this could be a major

opportunity to carry out a widely participatory and decentralised process of planning, rather than the usual process of some people sitting in New Delhi and formulating a national plan. With that in mind, KV has set up a Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG), consisting of 14-15 people who are experienced in various fields of biodiversity and belong to different regions of India. The TPCG has, over the last six months, conceived of a very widespread process of planning, including about 20 local level action plans (e.g. West Garo Hills in Meghalaya), 30 state and union territory level plans, 10 inter-state ecoregional plans (e.g. Western Ghats), and 14 thematic action plans (e.g. Health and Biodiversity). All these will be stand-alone plans, but will also feed into an overview national plan. In addition, several sub-thematic reviews will be carried out, on topics such as Nomads and Biodiversity, or the Public Distribution System and Biodiversity. Also, there will be an attempt to organise Biodiversity Festivals, and encourage the use of street theatre, visual media, and other methods of attracting the maximum participation in the process. A process of regional and national meetings of adivasi groups will also feed into the NBSAP, as will a series of actions by scientific and natural history institutions. There is an attempt to get even the Armed Forces, industry, and professionals of various kinds involved.

The NBSAP was officially launched on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2000 in New Delhi, and its first National Workshop was held in June. Currently, several dozen groups are being formulated to carry out the above mentioned plan processes. KV has set up coordinating centres in Pune and New Delhi for the purpose. The entire process is supposed to take two years.

The two bottom lines of the NBSAP process are: protect the country's ecological security, and enhance the basic livelihood status of those communities who are most dependent on biological resources.

Other than coordination, KV members are also involved or likely to be involved in specific activities, such as film-making on some themes relevant to the process, participating in working groups and workshops, helping with some local level action plans, and so on.

*Persons involved* : Sujatha Padmanabhan, Bansuri Taneja, Ashish Kothari, Kanchi Kohli. Others involved in NBSAP activities: Tejaswini Apte (who also helped with coordination initially), Ajay Mahajan, Pradeep Malhotra, Krishnendu Bose, Pallav Das.

#### **Convention on Biological Diversity and Indian Biological Diversity Bill**

A number of activities were carried out in relation to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). KV members have participated in the CBD processes since 1991, including participating in each of its Conference of Parties (where all governments and

related NGOs meet for negotiations and decision-making), influencing and helping with follow up within India, and so on. Over the last six months, KV members have commented on official UN documents related to the CBD, participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) in May 2000, Nairobi helped to coordinate some NGO inputs at the COP, and assisted MoEF officials in formulating their negotiating positions at this COP. Bansuri and Anuradha prepared a detailed report for the International Institute of Environment & Development, on public participation in India's follow up to the CBD, with a focus on access and benefit-sharing provisions. They have also written about the proposed Indian Biological Diversity Bill, introduced in parliament in early 2000 (KV had earlier helped in drafting the Bill). KV is also helping a filmmaker from Mumbai, Dinesh Lakhanpal, to make a film on access and benefit-sharing in relation to the CBD. The film is funded by IUCN.

*Persons involved:* Bansuri Taneja, Ashish Kothari, R.V. Anuradha

#### **Global Biodiversity Forum**

KV helped to organise a workshop on Poverty and Biodiversity, and participated at a workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing, at the Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) at Nairobi in May 2000. The GBF is a process of bringing together people from various sectors, to discuss and debate issues of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity. A KV member is on the Steering Committee of the GBF.

*Persons involved:* Ashish Kothari, Bansuri Taneja

#### **New Joint Forest Management Order**

In February 2000, the Government of India issued a new circular on Joint Forest Management (JFM). Among other things, the circular for the first time asked state governments to extend JFM to good standing forests (not just degraded forest lands, as has been done so far), to include women in a much more active manner in JFM committees, and to give greater stress to biodiversity in JFM planning. On the other hand, it also introduced elements of uniformity in the way JFM committees (including those initiated by communities themselves) are to be treated, which could seriously undermine successful initiatives. KV wrote a detailed comment on the circular and sent it to the MoEF. KV also participated in a national workshop on JFM in Delhi

*Persons involved:* Ashish Kothari, Bansuri Taneja

#### **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill; and FAO Undertaking**

In late 1999, the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India introduced a new bill in Parliament, meant to provide for Intellectual Property Rights protection to breeders of new varieties of crops. This bill, called the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill

1999, is a follow-up to a commitment India has under the TRIPs agreement of WTO. Unfortunately, though the name suggests otherwise, the Bill predominantly favours the profit interests of the corporate sector (the big seed industry) and formal sector scientists, and does very little to protect the interests of farmers. Nor does it really protect agricultural biodiversity such as traditional seeds. KV wrote a detailed critique of the Bill, and in February 2000, presented this to a Joint Parliamentary Committee of MPs which was set up to examine the Bill. KV members also met some of the MPs to lobby them for drastic changes in the Bill, and presented a draft chapter on Farmers' Rights.

In a related activity, KV provided inputs to the Ministry of Agriculture on the FAO Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. This Undertaking is an international commitment to continue sharing plant genetic resources across countries. However, given the increasing trend in industrial countries to misuse this "free access", there has been a demand to restrict the access and to demand fair and just returns for using the seeds and other material of countries like India. There has also been a demand to include farmers' rights issues in this Undertaking. The Undertaking might also become a protocol under the CBD. India is currently formulating its further negotiating position on this, hence the Ministry had asked for inputs.

*Persons involved:* Ashish Kothari and R.V. Anuradha

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#### **PUNE**

There are currently different projects, sub-projects, and involvements (voluntary and paid) focussed on Conservation and Livelihoods Network (CLN), Community Conserved Areas, the Protected Area Update Newsletter, Biodiversity Convention, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Environment Education Programme, local Pune-based issues, and others. Please see a detailed description below.

#### **PROJECTS UPDATE:**

##### **Conservation and Livelihoods Network (CLN)**

*Coordinator:* Pankaj Sekhsaria

*Associates:* Ashish Kothari, Neeraj Vaghlikar, others

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* ongoing

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 1,20,000

*Funding Agency:* ATREE, others

Several activities continued as part of this network. Two specific PAs on which responses were directed were Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), H.P., and Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra. A protest letter was sent to the PM regarding his plan to lay the foundation stone for the Parbati project north of the GHNP, pointing out to the fact that the project had not



yet been given environmental clearance, and hence his act would be illegal. This did not stop the laying of the foundation stone, but the controversy has been raised in the Himachal Pradesh assembly, and our discussions are continuing with advocate Prashant Bhushan about the possibility of a PIL (see above, Delhi KV). A draft set of guidelines on the settlement process related to PAs was prepared for a Maharashtra Govt. meeting. On Melghat, Ashish and Neeraj participated in a joint meeting of government officials, NGOs and villagers in the Bori village inside Melghat Tiger reserve in October. The meeting was called by the Melghat NGO coordination committee to discuss the issue of the settlement of rights of the 22 villages inside the park. They also then gave a presentation on wildlife conservation issues, at a mini training session for social workers of the area, organised by the NGO Khoj.

**Great Himalayan National Park:** Several members met with Supreme Court advocate Prashant Bhushan and the Director of the GHNP, Sanjeeva Pandey, regarding the possibility of a PIL on the issue of denotification of the Park (for a hydel project) and improper settlement of people's rights process. Amita and Vasant were coordinating this from Delhi, with inputs from Pankaj and Ashish from Pune. However, of late activity on this has ceased, as no member is able to find the time to pursue the matter.

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

*Coordinator:* Pankaj Sekhsaria  
*Associates:* Ashish Kothari  
*Year of commencement:* 1994  
*Year of completion:* ongoing  
*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 1,20,000 for the financial year 1999 - 2000  
*Funding Agency:* South Asian Conservation Foundation, Kalpavriksh

The PA Update is growing and evolving.. PA Update 24, dated April 2000 was the first one that was brought as a printed version.. Financial assistance for the publication of 6 issues of the Update (25 – 30) was received from the South Asian Conservation Fund, Washington, USA. It goes out to over 1000 organisations and people, including Forest Department officials, activists, researchers, community members. It is also available on a few websites now.

#### **4th Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights**

Over the last couple of years, Kalpavriksh with other groups has been organising a national dialogue on issues relating to wildlife conservation and the livelihood rights of people residing in conservation areas. These dialogues attempt to involve community-based groups, urban conservationists, forest officials and other civil servants, researchers, journalists, and

others. The third in this series was held in Bhopal on 1-3 May, and was co-organised by Ekta Parishad. The 4<sup>th</sup> National Consultation was held in the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Sanctuary in Karnataka from April 15-17, 2000. It was coorganised by Kalpavriksh, Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra and the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment.

The topics discussed included commercial threats to wildlife habitats (especially mining), the ongoing settlement of people's rights in protected areas, relevant legal and policy changes, displacement from PAs, and networking.

Several specific actions, such as studies of mining and settlement of rights in PAs, joint campaigns, information exchange, etc., were decided upon. The resolution is available with the Pune unit at request.

#### **Mining in Protected Areas**

*Coordinator:* Neeraj Vaghlikar  
*Associates:* None  
*Year of commencement:* 1999  
*Year of completion:* No year of completion  
*Total funds sanctioned:* Approximately Rs. 17,500 (conversion from \$) have come in for mining investigations  
*Funding Agency:* Association for Species Conservation in India

Some of the mining investigations carried out by KV have been funded by the Association for species Conservation in India (ASCI). Reports of two investigations funded by them (Son Gharial Sanctuary and the forests of Goa) are now available on their website: <http://www.ee.duke/~achandra/asci.html>

We are now networking on issues related to mining with a much larger set of groups, through the 'mines, minerals & People' (mmP) alliance. This alliance had its first National Convention in April 2000 and aims to bring a diverse range of people together including communities affected by mining, mine workers and labourers, NGOs, trade unions, advocacy groups, etc. Neeraj attended the convention. An investigation was carried out in the coal belt of Hazaribagh in June 2000, to see the existing and proposed impacts of coal mining on wildlife corridors. This was done in conjunction with Sanctuary magazine and with the support of several social groups in South Bihar. It has been reported in the August 2000 issue of Sanctuary. Future investigations include a follow-up investigation to the Radhanagari Sanctuary in Maharashtra in September 2000 and Goa in November 2000.

#### **PA Book**

*Coordinator:* Roshni Kutty  
*Associates:* Ashish Kothari  
*Year of commencement:* 1998

*Year of completion:* 2001  
*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 86,240/-  
*Funding Agency:* MoEF

PA book is a directory of all protected areas in India. Largely a KV voluntary effort, MOEF has agreed to fund the printing of 1000 copies. The draft of the book has been sent to MOEF on their request. The book is likely to be printed soon.

#### **Directory of Community Conserved Areas**

*Coordinator:* Neema Pathak  
*Associates:* Roshni Kutty  
*Year of commencement:* 1999  
*Year of completion:* 2001  
*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 5,47,800/-  
*Funding Agency:* MoEF

So far about 140 questionnaires have been sent to various contacts and only 8 completed questionnaires have been sent back to Kalpavriksh. Others have promised to send in the information soon. Various people have been contacted for authoring the state and regional level chapters. These chapters will include the following:

- a) Short history of conventional and community conservation efforts in the region/state.
- b) New or old traditional systems of natural resource management.
- c) Current status of community conservation.
- d) Three case studies (3-5 pages) illustrating the major issues impacting CCAs.
- e) Listing of CCAs (a para each)

As a part of the CCA study, Roshni and Neema visited Kumaon. The study revealed (apart from some other very interesting findings) large patch of forests which has been protected by the villagers of Thapalya-mehra gaon in Naukuchiya tal in Nainital District. Neeraj visited Saigatha village in Maharashtra and Roshni visited Morjim beach turtle conservation site in Goa.

Those who are interested or know others who may be interested in taking up this study may please contact Neema Pathak or Roshni Kutty.

#### **Community Based Natural Resource Management and Conservation in South Asia**

Several activities were carried out by KV, related to the issue of community based natural resource management and conservation in South Asia:

- (i) Helping the Sustainable Use Specialist Group of IUCN, South Asia, and INTACH, to organise a national and regional consultation on this issue, both in New Delhi, in February and March, respectively.
- (ii) Beginning the publication of a series of case studies on this topic, resulting from the previous work done on this subject by

members of KV in a global project sponsored by the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED). Three publications came out in the first half of 2000, including two case studies and an overview report on South Asia. Three of the nine case study booklets that are eventually to be published, are being partially funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Funding for the others has been approved by the National Tree Growers Cooperative Federation, Anand.

- (iii) Initiating some networking in the South Asian region, to explore the possibility of producing directory or series of directories of Community Conserved Areas (similar to the one being developed for India by KV, see elsewhere in this report). Some seed funding for this has come from the Collaborative Management Working Group of IUCN.

#### **Onge Case in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

*Coordinator:* Pankaj Sekhsaria  
*Associates:* Ashish, Shantha  
*Year of commencement:* 1999  
*Year of completion:* not known

Kalpavriksh along with Society for Andaman and Nicobar Ecology (SANE) and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has filed a writ petition before Port Blair Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court regarding the illegal logging going on in Little Andaman island and the plight of the Onge tribals. Colin Gonsalves of the India Centre for Human Rights and Law, Mumbai, is arguing the case on behalf of the petitioners. Pankaj had carried out a 5-month survey of logging in Andaman and Nicobar Islands earlier this year, on behalf of KV, one result of which is this case. The matter has also been listed before the Supreme Court of the country as part of the larger forest case that is being presently heard there.

*Persons involved :* Pankaj and Ashish.

#### **Environment Education in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

*Title:* A&N Teachers' Environment Manual (Hindi)  
*Coordinator:* Sunita Rao  
*Associates:* Sushil Joshi, Pankaj Sekhsaria, Vivek Gour-Broome, Sujatha Padmanabhan  
*Year of commencement:* 1998  
*Year of completion:* 2000  
*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 3,56,000  
*Funding Agency:* Ministry of Human Resource Development

The Hindi version of "Treasured Islands: An Environmental Handbook for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands" titled "Anmol Dweep" was published in Jan 2000. The translation was done by Dr.Sushil Joshi of

Eklavya, Sunita, Vivek, Pankaj and Sujatha conducted 10 workshops for teachers. The medium of communication was Hindi. Seven of the workshops were conducted in the Andaman group and the rest were in the Nicobars. The workshops were organised in the month of January. Sujatha participated in a conference on environment education organised by CPR Environmental Education Centre in Chennai from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March. She presented a paper on the A&N Islands work, which was co-authored with Sunita. A poster "Treasured Islands: Glimpses of the environment of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands" was prepared by Sunita, Rustam, and Pankaj. Financial help was received from the Oriental Bird Club, UK. Kalpavriksh selected an Environment Educator to be based in the A&N Islands. The post is being funded by ANET, a local NGO in the islands, with whom KV has been closely working over the last 8 years. The work of the educator (which started in May 2000) will be supported and monitored by Harry Andrews of ANET and Sunita.

#### **Biodiversity of the Amba Valley**

*Coordinator:* Vivek Gour-Broome

*Associates:* Sanjay Thakur, Ashish Kothari

*Year of commencement:* 1999

*Year of completion:* 2004

*Total funds sanctioned:* (For 5 yrs) 7,88,800

*Funding Agency:* Rural Communes

Vivek and Sanjay have finished a full year of fieldwork in the Amba Valley (half-way between Bombay and Pune), in connection with watershed development work being undertaken by the NGO Rural Communes. They have found the area extremely rich in biodiversity, including, for instance, over 170 species of birds. KV's proposal that the area be listed as an Important Bird Area under a project that Bombay Natural History Society is coordinating in conjunction with other national and international groups, has been accepted. A preliminary report of the work done over the last year is available.

#### **Global Ecology Programme - December 1999**

Sunita coordinated a 2 week programme in Uttara Kannada (Karnataka) for 30 American students, as part of an effort called the Global Ecology Programme where they travel through 6 countries over 9 months (like a travelling classroom). Sujatha, Vivek, Ashish, and Sanjay Thakur were also involved as resource persons. The emphasis was on strong theoretical/conceptual inputs, backed up by intense practical work. Apart from home stays in villages in the area, the students were also taken to the Karwar coast, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Yan and other areas in the Western Ghats.

#### **NTFP Collection in Adilabad**

*Coordinator:* Sushruti Santhanam

*Associates:* None

*Year of commencement:* 1998

*Year of completion:* 1999

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 95,000

*Funding Agency:* Society for the Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD)

Sushruti began a study of sustainable non-timber forest produce (NTFP) collection and use (specifically of natural dyes) by the traditional collector communities in the forests of Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh. She worked closely with Dastkar Andhra, Hyderabad on this. Interaction with both the artisanal (weaver) and collector communities (the Koya) has provided valuable insights into the socio-dynamics of their age-old relationship. The transformation of this relationship due to changing ownership of forests (and its products) was investigated. Threats and problems jeopardizing the sustainable use of forest products have been documented. Specifically, the problems of alienation of forest dependent communities from forest land and their rebellion against this alienation have been studied. The work uses a case study of the weaver-Koya interface to delve into the complex issues of community linkages in NTFP resource use. The final report is still under preparation.

#### **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act –1996**

*Co-ordinator :* Neema Pathak

*Associates:* Neeraj Vaghlikar, Shantha Bhushan

*Inputs:* Ashish Kothari, Pankaj Sekhsaria

*Year of commencement:* 1999

*Year of completion:* 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 75,000 (honorarium)

*Funding agency:* Lokayan

The Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act –1996 is a new revolutionary legislation which provides tribal communities in Scheduled areas with substantial powers to manage their own resources including their natural resources among other things.

This project aims to study the conflicts and complementarities between PESA Act and other environmental laws. The study is done in four parts. The first part deals with comparison of PESA Act to the existing laws and acts like the Wildlife Protection Act (WLPA)- 1972, the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) – 1980, the National Forest Policy – 1988, and the Joint Forest Management Resolution among others. Indian forest Act, Wildlife Protection Act, National Forest Policy, Joint Forest management circular etc. The second part studies the amended Panchayat acts of states in Schedule V areas in the context of the Central Act. The third part studies the harvesting of Minor Forests Produce in Schedule V areas. It also involves

comparing the acts that the various states have enacted as mandated by the central PESA. Neeraj will also be reporting on the state of awareness of PESA among activists. The project is scheduled to be completed soon.

*Persons involved:* Ashish, Neema, Pankaj, Neeraj and Shantha.

### **Conflicts Over Natural Resources and Their Resolution**

*Coordinator:* Tejaswini Apte

*Associates:* Shanta, Neeraj, Pankaj, Neema, Ashish, Bjorn

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:*

*Funding agency:* Society for International Development (Rome) and Planning Commission (India). Partially subsidised by KV, Pune and Lokayan. Funds also received from Ministry of Rural Developments (Self-rule project)

The project will be presented as a 250-300 page book, organised as a Theoretical Framework, Overviews of Main Themes, Detailed case studies within each theme and Matrices which give a broad picture of conflicts and resolutions within different eco-systems. The focus of the project will be the documentation of Resolutions. The main themes are conflicts related to: Conservation laws and policies; Intra community conflicts; Inter community conflicts; Commercial and development pressures; Global and market forces; Urbanisation. Much of the work will be based on existing literature and fieldwork will therefore be limited.

### **IUCN Task Force on Local Communities and PAs**

*Title:* Task Force on Local Communities and PAs

*Coordinator:* Ashish Kothari

*Associates:* Manju Menon

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* 2003

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 67,625

*Funding Agency:* IUCN

In 1999, IUCN's WCPA and CEESP gave formal approval to the proposal for setting up an inter-commission Task Force on Local Communities and Protected Areas. The objectives of this Task Force are:

1. To promote understanding of on-going initiatives of/with local communities relating to management of protected areas;
2. To catalogue and classify approaches currently in use with a view to improved understanding and use of more consistent terminology;
3. To promote wider application of approaches which enhance the participation and support of local communities in the establishment and management

of protected areas, and to foster similar involvement of protected area managers; and

4. To provide leadership in the organisation of a workshop at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Parks Congress in 2002.

The Task Force is headed by Ashish and has 34 members representing West Asia, South Asia, South America, North America, Oceania, Europe, Australia and Africa. The major tasks that the group has taken up are as follows:

- Building up a database of: (i) PAs where local community participation is being attempted; (ii) Individuals and organisations working on this in a substantial way (some representative listings from various countries); (iii) laws and policies that are progressive in this respect.
- Examining the issue of local community participation in relation to the IUCN PA categories. A very interesting e-mail discussion is on between the members regarding whether there should there be a separate and new category on Community PAs, or should community participation become a cross-cutting approach in all existing categories or should there be a combination of both? The IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, Jordan, October 2000) would provide a forum to consolidate the ideas that have come forth through these discussions.
- Evolving a set of guidelines on local communities and PAs, for use by IUCN members and others.
- Highlighting a set of "best practice" cases from various countries, that may already be available or can be studied in future.

The Task Force plans to have an informal session at the Amman Congress, for members and other participants. The above tasks, and preparations for the workshop at the World Parks Congress, are to be discussed further, at this session.

### **Joint Protected Area Management Booklet:**

This is a booklet intended to give an introduction to Joint Protected Area Management. Tejaswini has written this based primarily on Ashish's writings, with critical inputs from Pankaj and Neeraj. This booklet is now ready.

**Human Rights and Environment** (Project: To develop a dossier on the topic of 'Human Rights and Environment')

*Coordinator:* Anuprita Patel

*Associates:* Ashish Kothari

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* 2000

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs 30,000/-

*Funding Agency:* Karnataka Women's Information and Resource Centre - an activity of the Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation

*Details:* The project is part of the UGC project on Indigenising Human Rights curriculum in India and more specifically under that project's head of 'Expanding the source material for university education in human rights'. A dossier which would be a kind of file document (with an essay + a list of reading material) providing a brief on the issue, was to be evolved. The prescribed framework for the essay had been suggested and had to include social and political movements for justice in India which were basically human rights struggle and the political and the economic history of India in relation to the subject.

The essay is a basic introduction to the topic - to exemplify the inter-relation of human rights violations and environment. The reading list is vast and covers in detail most of the topics introduced in the essay.

### **International, National and Local Alerts**

In response to an Urgent Action Bulletin of Survival International, Roshni sent letters of protest to the Prime Minister of Canada to respect the rights of the indigenous people of Labrador/Quebec. No response was received. A similar letter was sent to the Government of Botswana to respect the rights of the Kalahari Bushmen. The Botswana Government responded putting forward their point.

Protest Letter (Dated June 13) sent to the Prime Minister regarding the denotification of the City Forest (now called the Salim Ali) National Park in Srinagar for the purpose of creation of a golf course and an international conference centre. Handled by Pankaj.

Letter to the Chief Minister of Karnataka (dated July 13, 2000) asking for the suspension of the mining lease to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) for iron ore mining inside Kudremukh National Park.:Pankaj

Protest letter regarding Meta-strips factory in Goa. Tejaswini sent this letter.

### **Anti-Plastics Campaign**

#### **Update on OMCB (One Million Cloth Bag) Campaign**

This is a joint effort of several organisations in Pune. The core group consists of Anchal and Shantha from KV, Sanskriti and Shrilata of CEE and Jaya Gadgil of NIE. An education kit was been developed . This consists of a set of 12 posters (A4 size), activity sheet, information and fact sheet. OMCB has made a set of 12 big posters in English and Marathi. As a part of environment education taken up by WWF, Cummins nature Club, Spectrum, these posters have been

displayed and paper bag making sessions have been organised

- 1) On 17<sup>th</sup> April, "Vasant Mela" was organised by an NGO, " Akshardeep". This organisation is funded by UNICEF and concentrates on educating street-children, especially children in red-light areas. "Vasant Mela" was organised at Nalla park (Parvati hills). Anchal Sondhi held paper bag making sessions and displayed the posters. There were about 65 children who participated in this programme.
- 2) On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Anchal Sondhi co-ordinated an OMCB session, as part of Earth Day celebrations. The venue was JE farms. There were 5 instructors and about 30 children who held discussion on the issue.
- 3) On 27<sup>th</sup> April, Shantha and Shrilata organised an activity session at Paradise Country Resort (Panshet). Mrs Namrata Shah of Green Fields Pvt had invited OMCB Campaign to hold this activity as part of Personality Development Course organised for about 60 children in the age group of 8-16.
- 4) On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May, Anchal held OMCB Campaign sessions at a Personality Development Workshop organised by Shaymolie Verma. There were about 30 children at each session in the age group 8-16. Paper Bag making and group discussions were part of the OMCB session.

In March, Anchal organised poster show and related activities at Loyola School. The children were also shown the plastic garbage generated by the school and asked to come up with solutions to this problem. The children understood the enormity of the issue and there was good feedback from the children.

In the months of June and July, Sheetal Bombale (MSc student at University of Pune) did her summer training on the issue of plastic carry bag. Shantha helped her in understanding the issue. Sheetal was able to talk and address about 200 students. She was also active in putting up the PMC notice regarding ban on thin plastics

### **Pune Bird Book**

*Coordinator:* Anchal Sondhi

*Associates:* Prakash Gole, Swati Gole, Anil Mahabal, Sanjeev Nalawade, Saleel Tambe

*Editor:* Sanjay Sondhi

*Year of commencement:* 1998

*Year of completion:* 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 1,32,000

*Funding Agency:* Centre for Environment Education (CEE)

Anchal is well into the draft of the Pune version of KV's 'What's That Bird', (originally prepared for Delhi)

having contacted most of the knowledgeable birders in Pune and obtained available information. The guide is expected to come out in 2000 - 2001.

### **Pune Green Guide**

A draft (short) version of the Pune Green Guide compilation was prepared by Bjorn Rahm, a volunteer from Germany, which was then proofread and sent for offset photocopying by Tejaswini, Dr Kharkanis, another volunteer, completed the final version. KV has applied to MoEF under NEAC for funding to print the Pune Green Guide.

### **Miscellaneous**

**KV Website:** Madhav Pai, a professional webmaster, had attended the lecture in Delhi and offered his help with KV work. He is now being contacted about helping out with updating the website. It is also planned to set up a common email account for KV, which could function as a bulletin board. Kulan offered to set it up and administer it. Meanwhile, Vipul Sangoi has set up a website for KV, which is still in formation (check it out at [www.raindesign.co.uk/kalpavriksh](http://www.raindesign.co.uk/kalpavriksh), and send Vipul comments/suggestions at [vipul@4u.net](mailto:vipul@4u.net)). Some work on this was also being done by Shantha and Pankaj from Pune.

**National Science Congress:** At a rather late request from a Pune University faculty member, KV coordinated a small NGO stall, exhibiting elements of alternative lifestyles, agriculture, organic foods, etc. at the National Science Congress, Pune, 3-7 January 2000. Various people pitched in, with Roshni and Anchal acting as the anchors. A lot of people showed interest in KV's activities, including the Signs of Hope series and the organic foods networking.

**Eco-fair:** June 3<sup>rd</sup>- June 5<sup>th</sup> Kalpavriksh participated actively in the Ecofair organised by Thermax. The sale of numerous copies of the "Green Guide" was quite heartening. Ashish presented a slide show on Biodiversity in keeping with the theme of the fair. Tejaswini and Shantha helped in organising a talk by Popat Rao Pawar on "Water harvesting solutions in Hiware Bazar"

**Summer Training.** Two students of the Botany Department of Pune University did their summer training at KV. Sheetal worked on the anti-plastic education campaign while Minal helped in transcription of a tape (Signs of Hope) and also on terrace gardening/farming. The Protected Area Updates were also indexed by them.

**Environment education:** Several talks and slide shows were given by members in various educational institutions, like YASHADA.

### **Revision of Environmental Science Syllabus, Pune University**

KV members helped the faculty of the Environment Science Dept., Pune University, in a major revision of the MSc syllabus. In particular, KV members made inputs to make the syllabus more relevant to current issues of environment and development, conservation, and so on, and to introduce some teaching methods that would make the experience more meaningful. NP and RK have made several suggestions for the course titled Environmental Planning & Sustainable Development (Semester II course).

*Persons involved:* Roshni, Neema, Ashish

**LEAD Programme:** Pankaj has been selected for the 2 year Leadership in Environment and Development (LEAD) programme.

### **FUTURE & PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

- Millenium Ecological Assesment (MEA): Neema will take up coordination of a new project called MEA. This is sponsored by UNEP and KV will be coordinating the Indian part. The ecological, social, economic, political aspects concerning ecological and social sustainability would be studied extensively from among four to five cases.
- A proposal for ENVIS documentation centre in KV has been sent to MoEF, by Roshni Kutty.
- Involvement in a Rural Communes Project to prepare People's Biodiversity Registers for two villages in Amba Valley, Maharashtra.
- Frogs & Toads of Western Ghats: A Pictorial Guide – the manuscript by Dr. R.J. Ranjit Daniels is ready and KV has agreed to publish it. Photographs are being sought and a proposal for funding being written up.

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

#### **Accounts:**

KV accounts have been computerised, a standardised "package" of forms, vouchers and accounting guidelines distributed to the various project accounts coordinators, and an accountant appointed who will come in every month to make the entries. We have also applied for Income Tax returns and a permanent account number, following which we can apply for 80G (Income Tax exemption). The accounts from Delhi will be sent to Pune regularly to be incorporated.

#### **Foreign funding:**

Several members have responded to the questionnaire sent out on this, and all of them have been in favour of KV accepting foreign funding, but with clear conditions and after careful screening. Ghazala and Kulan collated the responses, and if the consensus is

towards obtaining relevant Govt. of India clearances. A move is also being made towards filing returns, and obtaining 80G (tax exemption) status for KV.

### **Marketing:**

Although this past year has seen many publications come out, we have not really focussed on marketing them in a big way. This will be one of our agendas for the coming year.

### **KV Work Guidelines:**

A set of simple guidelines to help with efficient work in the office is to be developed based on how the office in Pune has been running over the last 2 years. It will include topics like office logistics and how to use them, the documentation unit and its use, research ethics etc. A draft will first be circulated. The guide is intended to be a friendly one and will not seek to institutionalise or bureaucratise KV. Contact Sunita for details.

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## **20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

### **Corbett trip:**

The anniversary trip to Corbett National Park was well attended in November 1999, with about 15 members participating in what turned out to be an extremely enjoyable 3 days of nature walks and rides, discussions, and lots of reminiscing! Details of the conversation and introspection there have been written up by Ashish and Pradeep and sent to members.

### **Compilation of Writings on KV**

Letters were sent to KV members and collaborators to send in their impressions/ experiences with KV over the last 2 decades. Amita Baviskar was to edit the articles sent in by non-KV people, while Sunita was to handle contributions by KV-ites. Some non-KVites responded, but no articles were written by any of us!

### **KV History**

Rahul Ram started putting together a brief history of KV's 20 years. There has been no further progress. 194 DDA Flats, Mukherji Nagar, Delhi 110009; Tel: 7652773 (home); Email: [baviskar@unv.ernet.in](mailto:baviskar@unv.ernet.in).

### **Signs of Hope Lecture series:**

#### **Delhi:**

The first of the lecture series entitled **Signs of Hope**, being held as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, was organised on November 25, 1999, at the India International Centre. Kanhaiya Gujar of Tarun Bharat Sangh, Rajasthan, was the main speaker, on the topic of water harvesting and forest conservation in Alwar district, Rajasthan. This was preceded by an introduction to KV and to the series by Ashish. The talk was well attended, and a stimulating question and

answer session followed. Zee News covered the event. The second lecture by Mahesh Rangarajan, on December 22, 1999, had relatively thin attendance, though the discussion was lively with some people objecting to the need to consider politics in wildlife conservation. The third lecture, on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2000, by Vijay Jardhari and Raghu Jardhari of the Beej Bachao Andolan in Tehri was well attended, and ended in a lively discussion on issues related to organic and biologically diverse farming and community-based forest conservation. Devaji Topa and Mohanbhai Hirabai Hiralal made the fourth presentation on 'Forest conservation and tribal self rule in Mendha Lekha, Maharashtra'.

### **Pune:**

**SOH1:** 15<sup>th</sup> Nov "Forest conservation and tribal self rule in Mendha Lekha" Talks by Devaji Tofa, Sarpanch of Mendha and MohanBhai Hiralal. Slide show by Neema and Vivek.

**SOH2:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec "Beej Bachao" Talk and Slide show by Vijay Jardhar and Raghu Jardhari of Jardhargaoon Ashish gave the slide show.

**SOH3:** 21<sup>st</sup> Jan "Saaji Samridhhi! Water harvesting for conservation in Arwari catchment, Alwar District, Rajasthan" by Rajendra Singh, Kanhaiyalal Gujar, Tarun Bharat Sangh, Alwar. Slide Show by Ashish.

**SOH4:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February "Power to the handloom: traditional weaving and natural dyeing in Andhra Pradesh" by Uzamma of Dastkar Andhra. Slide show by Pankaj Sekhsaria

**SOH5:** 27<sup>th</sup> March "Dalit women:sustainable agriculture and story telling in Andhra Pradesh" by P.V. Sateesh of Deccan Development Society.

**SOH 6:** 29<sup>th</sup> April "Forest Conservation through People's Empowerment: The experience of Buldhana, Maharashtra by Dr Mohan Jha, Deputy Conservator of Forests.

**SOH7:** 29<sup>th</sup> May "Turtles and Tourists: a coastal village in Goa shows the way" Talk by Capt Gerard Fernandes followed by a slide show by Roshni Kutty

**SOH8:** 3<sup>rd</sup> July "Campus Greens" Talk by Yogita Mehra and Nikhil Anand of Campus Greens, Bombay

## **PUBLICATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:**

### **Articles/Books by Ashish Kothari**

Conserving Nature with Communities: Lessons from Real Life Experiences in South Asia. Paper presented at the World Conservation Congress, IUCN, Amman, 3-11 October, 2000.

### **January-July 2000**

#### **Articles**

- For Farmers or for Corporations? *Frontline*, 3 March, 2000

- Lifeline or Hangman's Noose? *The Hindu*, 23 April, 2000
- Where has all the Water Gone? *The Hindu Magazine*, May 14, 2000 (also reproduced in Hindi in several regional papers as Aakhir Sara Pani Gaya Kahan?)
- For a Natural Balance. *Frontline*, June 9, 2000 (with Pankaj Sekhsaria)
- Treading Lightly on Earth. *The Hindu Folio*, Issue on Adivasi, July 16, 2000
- India's Forests: Will Money Save Them? *The Hindu Survey of Environment 2000*

### **Books**

*Where Communities Care: Community Based Wildlife and Ecosystem Management in South Asia.* Kalpavriksh and IIED. 2000. (with Neema Pathak and Farhad Vania).

### **Neeraj Vagholikar**

The reports of the investigations carried out by Neeraj for Kalpavriksh are now available on their website:

<http://www.ee.duke.edu/~achandra/asci.html>

The reports are:

- 1) "Mining Goa's Forests" (looking at mining around Goa's PAs)
- 2) "Undermining the Son gharials" ( investigation of the illegal sandmining in the Son gharial sanctuary, )
- 3) "Saigata: a forest reborn" Hindu survey of the environment 2000.
- 4) "Of coals and corridors": Sanctuary Asia, Vol XX, No 4. Aug 2000
- 5) "Undermining a valley" : Ecologist Asia Vol. 8, No. 4 July- August 2000

### **Pankaj Sekhsaria**

- Killing the handloom industry (on the present state of the handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh), *The Hindu Sunday Magazine*, May 14, 2000.
- Turtle Tales: Sea turtles in the A&N islands. *Frontline* May 26, 2000
- For a natural balance: (on the National Consultation on wildlife conservation and peoples livelihoods rights; jointly with Ashish Kothari). *Frontline*, June 9, 2000
- A History of Alienation, (on the situation of the tribal communities in the A&N islands) *Folio, The Hindu*, July 16, 2000

### **Roshni Kutty**

- Turtle Conservation: Fisherfolk to the Rescue. *Hindu Survey of the Environment*. 2000.

### **Sunita Rao**

- A&N Islands: Environmental Education. *Hindu Survey of the Environment*. 2000.

### **Neema Pathak**

- Community Based Natural Resource Management and its Implications for Governance: Some Thoughts. For a Workshop on Decentralised Governance organised by Lokayan, Delhi, in January 1999.
- Self-Rule: Managing Resources. *The Hindu Survey of Environment 1999*.
- Joint Forest Mangement and Gender: Women's participation and Benefit Sharing in JFM in India. For ADITHI, Bihar. March 2000.

**This Annual Report was prepared by Anuprita Patel with inputs from All Pune KV memebrrs, Pradeep Malhotra, Prabhakar Rao, and Bansuri Taneja**



# PART B

## September 2000- March 2001

This is a report of activities carried out by Kalpavriksh (KV) for the period September 2000 to March 2001. The KV Pune AGBM was held on August 11-12<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

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**2000**

**August/September 2000**

- Aug 28-Sept 2: Workshop on Legal Issues related to Protected Areas organised by CEE at Pune, presentation made on Forest legislations and PA management
- Sept 1-3: 4<sup>th</sup> Maharashtra Abhayaranya Parishad
- Sept 15: Audio-Visual presentation given on North Karanpura Valley at the WWF katta
- Sept 23: Meeting on Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats region of N. Karnataka, Goa, and Goa at Belgaum
- Sept 23: Interaction with students of environmental management at Chatrapati Shahu Central Institute Business Education and Research, Kolhapur
- Sept 25: Tejaswini had meeting with Smitu Kothari to discuss the Conflicts Project

**October 2000**

- Oct 2: JPAM Booklet sent out complimentary to the Chief Wildlife Warden of each state
- Oct 15-17: Conducted a nature camp at Hukkali village in the crestline ghats, in Uttara Kannada district
- Oct 23-28: Orientation session for the LEAD programme at New Delhi

**November 2000**

- Nov 11: Meeting with Deepika Kundagi from Auroville about traditional seed varieties
- Nov 16: Slide show on Munsiri, and on Jordan IUCN trip for KVites

**December 2000**

- Dec 6: Meeting of AP NGOs Coalition on Community/Peoples's Biodiversity Registers and Civil, Hyderabad. Presentation on NBSAP
- Dec 7: Meeting regarding courses on wildlife management that the Department of Environmental will be bringing at the Department of Zoology, University of Pune
- Dec 7: International workshop of development writers in Bangalore, organised by Pipal Tree as part the Transforming Word Programme for development writers, slide show on India's Wild Wealth
- Dec 18: Presentations on Ecology of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India's Protected Area: Threats and Challenges, EIA Notification and Public Hearings, and plastics at the Sciences Department of the University of Pune
- Dec 27-31: Conference on Human Rights and Law at Panchgani, helped organise the workshop on Adivasi and the Law, Presentation on the situation of the tribals in the Andaman & Nicobar, presentation on IPRs and biodiversity

**2001**

**January 2001**

- Jan 2: Meeting at NTGCF, Anand, to discuss KV proposals for funding as well as NBSAP
- Jan 3: Meeting with Amrita Patel, Chairperson of NDDB, regarding livestock diversity and NBSAP
- Jan 3: Meeting with Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Darshan Shankar, Manju Raju, R. Sukumar on NBSAP, in Bangalore
- Jan 4: Lectures given at ATREE Conservation Biology course, Bangalore
- Jan 6: NBSAP Maharashtra meeting held at YASHDA, Pune
- Jan 7: Meeting on Amba Valley Biodiversity project, Pune
- Jan 8: Brief note on Greater Himalayan area as a substate site for NBSAP
- Jan 9: Presentation on Kalpavriksh to a group of 20 German students who were here on an programme
- Jan 14: Inauguration of the mobile seed diversity festival organised by the Deccan Development, at village Pastapur
- Jan 14: Lectures given to students of Global Ecology course, Uttara Kannada, and visit to Dandeli with them  
Presentation on community based conservation in India for the students of Environmental in the Department of Sociology, Pune University
- Jan 20: Presentation on NBSAP at GEF Awareness workshop, Kolkata
- Jan 23: Draft letter on Power and Conservation to Suresh Prabhu
- Jan 29 – 31: National workshop on Adivasis and Biodiversity co-organised with All India Coordinating of Adivasi/Indigenous Peoples and NBSAP
- Jan 31-Feb 2: 2nd international conference on Fossil fuels, Human Rights & International Financial held in Ranchi, Jharkhand

**February 2001**

- Feb 1: Meeting called by NCAS to coordinate Pune NGOs for Gujarat relief work
- Feb 1: Special TPCG session on conservation and livelihoods as well as on of corporate sector for NBSAP
- Feb 1-2: NBSAP TPCG 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, Delhi
- Feb 2: KV meeting to discuss Pratibha's proposal on MP/Chhattisgarh PA directories, Delhi
- Feb 3: Meeting with Rajendra Kerkar regarding Goa CCA chapter
- Feb 8 – 9: Presentation at Workshop on Indigenous Traditions in Forestry, IIFM, Bhopal
- Feb 9: Environmental public hearing for the Upper Tapi Stage-II Irrigation Project bordering Tiger Reserve, held in Dharni, Amravti district

- Feb 8 – 11: NBSAP Biodiversity Festival, Dilli Haat Dastkar Nature Bazaar, Delhi; presentation on before Indian Ocean concert
- Feb 14: KV meeting on foreign funding, Pune
- Feb 14: NBSAP presentation to KV, Pune
- Feb 15 – 17: Conference on Environment and Globalisation at SNDT Univeristy, Mumbai
- Feb 17: Release of substate NBSAP for Deccan Andhra, Shamsiddunpur, Andhra Pradesh
- Feb Meeting organised by the sociology department of Pune university to possibilities of bridging gaps between academia and activism
- Feb 20: Comments sent to Sharad Kulkarni on alternative Wildlife Act draft
- Feb 20 - Mar 5: Participation in LEAD International Training session
- Feb 23: A brief note written on what NGOs could do re. the EIA farce
- Feb 24: A brief note written on crop damage by wildlife, in context of Maharashtra order on blackbuck hunting
- Feb 24 – 28: Presentation of a paper titled “Community based Conservation of Sea Turtle Nesting Sites in India” at the Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Philadelphia, USA
- Feb 27 – Mar 1: Presentations made at World Commission on Protected Areas, South Asia, meeting, Kathmandu

### March 2001

- Mar 4 – 5: Brief given to NDTV, for series on biodiversity
- Mar 5: Presentation on Wildlife and Environmental issues to students of the Indus Valley School of Architecture, Karachi
- Mar 12: Meeting with Margaret Alva on NBSAP, Delhi
- Mar 12: Interview on Star News on NBSAP
- Mar 13 – 16: Visited Loktak lake and attended NBSAP meeting at Manipur
- Mar 16: Meeting with West Bengal NBSAP coordinators, Kolkata
- Mar 19: KV meeting on north-east dams, 5<sup>th</sup> Consultation, etc., Pune
- Mar 20: KV discussion with Bittu Sahgal on north-east dams survey, Pune
- Mar 24: Workshop on “Public participation in protection of the environment” organised at the Environmental Sciences Department of Pune University
- Mar 24: Meeting with Renee Velve, Anuradha, Shalini Bhutani for proposed collaboration on IPR Issues
- Mar 24: Press conference at Pune on biopiracy, with Renee Velve of GRAIN, Phillipines
- Mar 25: KV meeting with E. Theophilus, NTGCF, regarding possible collaboration, Pune
- Mar 27 – 28: NBSAP TPCG 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, Delhi
- Mar 29: Interview on NBSAP on All India Radio

## DELHI

### **Simple Guide on Wild Life Act**

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights, held in Rajasthan, a commitment had been made by Sanjay Upadhyay to bring out a simple guide to the Wild Life (Protection) Act as relevant to protected areas. This took some time to prepare and finalise, but it was finally published in early 2001. It is co-authored by Sanjay and Ashish, published by Print World, and priced at Rs. 125. As Ashish for details on how to get copies.

### **Sind Sparrow (*Passer pyrrhonotus*) colonising Haryana and Delhi**

Suresh C. Sharma has sighted and identified an unusual bird, outside its normal range the Sind Sparrow (*Passer pyrrhonotus*). It was first spotted in the babul trees along a branch of Western Yamuna Canal near Juan village in the Sonipat district on Haryana. Successful breeding of this sparrow which is conspicuously slimmer than our House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) has been observed from 13 May 2001 to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2001 in parts of Haryana. In the month of June 2001, 3 birds of this species were seen along Delhi Canal near Harevali village in Delhi. The male Sind Sparrow can be told apart from House Sparrow's male by the smaller and neater black bib of the former besides softer and different chirping notes. Suresh C. Sharma, who is now conducting very frequent birding visits in Haryana and around Delhi, can be contacted at [suresh\\_haryana@vsnl.net](mailto:suresh_haryana@vsnl.net).

### **Greening activities**

Hope foundation: Last year's plantation of fruit trees in this rehabilitation colony of persons affected with Hansen's disease in Dilshad Garden had been a great success. The fruit trees have done exceedingly well and there was a request for more plantations this year. Around 250 trees [mostly fruit] have been planted. Street plays were held at different places in the locality by members from PRAVAH. Other agencies involved were the Forest Dept. NCT of Delhi and YOUTH REACH.

Plantations in New Friends Colony Park where MCD had given permission to the Resident Welfare Association to carry out greening. This was also in continuation of last year's efforts. The park is beyond recognition within a span of 1 year. The adjacent slum colony residents are also cooperating in this effort.

Plantations to be done in Vasant Kunj: Some delay due to the indecision by the Welfare Association in deciding on the number and species of plants to be grown.

Efforts are continuing to persuade that the guidelines of the 'green action plan for cities' as prescribed by the Ministry of Urban Development in a seminar held last year, are strictly followed at the ground level. This seminar was held at the Ministry

when I had written to Maneka Gandhi about the state of Delhi trees. She had forwarded the letter to Sh. Jagmohan who arranged for the meeting and was present throughout. Kalpavriksh had formed a 'Free The Trees Forum'-- a coming together of several NGOs in Delhi to address the concerns of Delhi trees.

Prabhakar and Ajay made presentations at the 'Development Alternatives' meet programme involving various schools in India.

#### **Bansuri Taneja writes in from London**

I have done three consultancies this year- one for IIED ( on behalf of Kalpavriksh, in which some of the Technical Working Group coordinators were invited to help out) on local methods of biodiversity assessment, one for FIELD, which in turn was doing the leg work for the UNEP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme, on how far the implementation of the different international conventions has been harmonised (I did the India case study, there were five other case studies, and an international workshop to discuss how best to encourage such harmonisation in all countries). The latest consultancy is also for the UNEP Biodiversity Planning Support Programme, on how far biodiversity concerns have been integrated in forestry in India. There will be an international workshop similar to the one mentioned above (i.e. dealing with guidance to countries on how to integrate biodiv. in forestry) for this project in August. I am also going to be doing some consolidation of the proceedings of a Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF)workshop on Poverty and Biodiversity , held last year in May at Nairobi, as background for an upcoming GBF on the same theme in October of this year. On another note, I have just returned from Bonn at the resumes COP6 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, where I went as KV, representing also the Global Forest Coalition. We (Global Forest Coalition along with Friends of the Earth International) held a small protest action on Friday 20th July, where we held up a kitchen sink with the sign 'this is not a tree' and a small tree with the sign ' this is not a sink'. We also carried these symbols in a protest march through Bonn on Saturday the 21st July.

#### **PUNE/DELHI**

#### **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**

*Coordinator:* Ashish Kothari

*Full time Associates:* Bansuri Taneja, Kanchi Kohli, Khelchandra Singh, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Bina Thomas

*Others:* Ajay Mahajan, Sudhir Agarwal

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* 2001 (extension expected)

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs.3500 per month to KV Pune, Rs 3,79,000 for KV Delhi

*Funding Agency:* UNDP

This period saw a number of executing agencies kickstart the NBSAP process in their state/ ecoregion/ local area or for their theme to begin preparations for formulating their action plans. To guide them in this process a compendium of methodological and thematic notes was produced, *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, India, Guidelines and Concept Papers* . Some agencies have been very innovative in their strategies for information gathering. For example, in the Deccan subsite, a mobile biodiversity seed festival covered 62 villages in a month, and an action plan for each village was made with the villagers. The Western Ghats ecoregional group coordinator has already conducted three meetings in Kerala, and Bangalore, to be able to invite persons from all the states that the Ghats span. The Assam Science Society, the nodal agency for the state of Assam, has initiated a biodiversity network, inviting all stakeholders to be part of it. The first draft action plan was released by the Deccan substate site at the culmination of a month long mobile biodiversity festival that traveled to 65 villages of the Medak district in Andhra Pradesh.

To make the NBSAP process known to larger numbers, the NBSAP brochure *Call For Participation*, was posted to NGOs in all the states. Advertisements that were sent out to over 150 newsletters are now beginning to appear in them. A website for NBSAP became operational in September, and five issues of the NBSAP newsletter have been produced. As a result of these efforts, we have so far responded to over 400 individuals who have written in offering to participate in the project.

About eleven subthematic review papers were commissioned to individual experts on various topics linked closely to biodiversity, including one to Neeraj Vaghlikar on Mining and Biodiversity. The process of contacting other experts for possible review papers continues. Theme, state and eco-region wise bibliography listings, based on the Kalpavriksh Documentation Centre , were prepared by Bina and sent to the relevant coordinators.

The team also co-organised, with the All India Co-ordinating Forum of the Adivasi/Indigenous Peoples, a workshop on "*Biodiversity and Adivasi/Indigenous Peoples*" held on Jan 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2001, at New Delhi. About 85 representatives of adivasi/indigenous communities, and support organisations, from all the regions of India, participated.

On the media front, there were a number of outputs, like the design and printing of a calendar, and a poster., which were distributed to all executing agencies and other participants. A set of exhibition panels were also designed and produced. A biodiversity festival was organised as part of Dastkar's Nature Bazaar, held in Delhi from Feb 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> 2001, where exhibition panels, street plays, puppet shows, specially designed shopping bags etc, helped to publicise the NBSAP project. A film on the process of the NBSAP, funded by UNDP was commissioned to Mr. Vijendra Patil, of Bars and Tone Pvt Ltd, Pune. We linked with many executing agencies to help

initiate filming of events at local sites for the film. A highlight during this period was *Hindu Folio's* offer to do a special issue on Biodiversity, the guest editing of which was done by Ashish during this period (for final production in May). Technical Policy Core Group members and some coordinators/members of various groups, including 6 members of Kalpavriksh, contributed articles towards this special issue.

#### **Global Biodiversity Forum**

Ashish is on the steering committee of the Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF), a multi-organisation platform aimed at generating dialogue on the various issues related to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The GBF has become a regular feature before most major meetings of the Convention, and now also other international treaties and processes. It provides a forum for government delegates, NGOs, activists, and community representatives to debate issues, and often come up with consensus positions that are then used to lobby delegates at the formal meetings. It is currently gearing up for another 3-year phase, with possible funding from GEF/UNDP.

#### **PUNE**

#### **PROJECTS UPDATE:**

##### **Conservation and Livelihoods Network (CLN)**

*Coordinator:* Pankaj Sekhsaria

*Associates:* Ashish Kothari, Neeraj Vagholikar, others

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* ongoing

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 1,20,000 for the year 2000 – 2001. About 40% of the amount is yet to be spent and will be spent in the coming financial year.

*Funding Agency:* ATREE, others

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

*Coordinator:* Pankaj Sekhsaria

*Associates:* Ashish Kothari, Neeraj Vagholikar

*Year of commencement:* 1994

*Year of completion:* ongoing

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 1,20,000 for the financial year 1999 - 2000

*Funding Agency:* South Asian Conservation Foundation, Kalpavriksh

The Foundation for Ecological Security has agreed to provide financial support for the Update for the forthcoming financial year.

Three PA Updates have been published in this period, No. 26 (August 2000), No. 27 & 28 (December 2000) and No. 29 (February 2001). PA Update edited by PS

##### **4th Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Consultation on Wildlife Conservation and People's Livelihood Rights is being jointly organised by Kalpavriksh, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment – Eastern Himalaya Programme (ATREE – EHP) and the North Eastern Society for Protection of Nature and Wildlife (NESPON). It is to

be held at the Makaibari Tea Estate, Kurseong in West Bengal from April 8- 10, 2001.

Pankaj and Manju visited Siliguri and Makaibari in January 2001 to meet the co-organisers for the Consultation and to look at the logistics of the meeting venue.

#### **Mining Studies**

Neeraj Vagholikar started working on as sub-thematic review on Mining & Biodiversity for the NBSAP in January. He visited the Centre for Mining Environment (CME), Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad; Central Mining Research Institute (CMRI), Dhanbad; Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL); Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur; National Environment Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur; in the months of January and February, to research material for this review paper.

#### **Book on protected areas of India**

*Coordinator:* Roshni Kutty

*Associates:* Ashish Kothari

*Year of commencement:* 1998

*Year of completion:* 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 86,240/-

*Funding Agency:* MoEF

Ashish and Roshni have finalised the draft of the book on Protected Areas of India

#### **Directory of Community Conserved Areas**

*Coordinator:* Neema Pathak

*Associates:* Roshni Kutty, Shantha Bhushan

*Year of commencement:* 1999

*Year of completion:* 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 5,47,800/-

*Funding Agency:* MoEF

Due to paucity of funds other sources have been explored. Proposals were sent to MoEF and to NTGCF. A proposal for a subthematic review paper was also submitted through NBSAP. NTGCF cleared funding for Rs.2,80,000, MoEF has not responded yet.

It has been difficult getting responses from the people to whom the questionnaires were sent. In last three months also we have sent numerous reminders without much success. The final list of state/regional coordinators (who are going to write up the state/regional chapters) includes coordinators for : Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh some parts of Madhya Pradesh, some parts of Bihar, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Punjab, Meghalaya, Ladakh, and West Bengal.

The first deadline for receiving the state chapters was end of December 2000, which was extended to end February 2001. So far we have only received completed chapters from Vidarhba region of Maharashtra, Western Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Garhwal region of Uttaranchal and Punjab. Kaustubh has taken on the responsibility for putting together an annotated listing of CCAs in India.

In the meanwhile based on the analysis of three state chapters an e-mail discussion was started with all chapter coordinators and some scientific organisations and scientists about how the ecological impacts of the CCAs be assessed given the limitations of resources and time. We plan to initiate similar discussions on various issues and use the results in the final compilation of the Directory.

A workshop on CCAs in India is tentatively planned for the middle of October 2001. Winrock International –India, Indian Institute of Forest Management (Bhopal), Indian Social Institute (New Delhi) will be the co-organisers along with Kalpavriksh. The workshop will be held at IIFM, Bhopal. Venue for the workshop and accommodation for 40 participants will be provided by the IIFM. Winrock International-India will be providing approx. Rs. 2 lakhs towards the travel costs of the participants. ISI may be covering some photocopying costs. Kalpavriksh will send a proposal asking for funding of the remaining amount which is approximately Rs 3 lakhs. Neema and Shantha are involved in organising this.

#### **CCA – South Asia**

*Coordinator:* Neema Pathak

*Associates:* Manju Menon, Ashish Kothari

*Year of commencement:* July 2000

*Year of completion:* January 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 75000

*Funding Agency:* Carribean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI)

The IUCN Co-Management Working Group provided Ashish and Neema a small grant through Carribean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) for the purpose of exploring and initiating the documentation of CCAs in South Asia, and preparing a directory of the same. The initial process involved preparing a concept note, identifying collaborating partners, initiating discussions of the process and methodology to be adopted and helping the collaborators in exploring the funding possibilities.

In July 2000, about 50 partners in seven South Asian countries were identified and written to. Their suggestions and ideas with regard to such a project were sought. We also offered our suggestions and help if and when the partners needed while they explored the possibilities of putting together the Directory. To this we have received only five responses, all of which are positive. We had sought suggestions on whether such documentation was needed, the methodology to be followed, and possibilities of funding for the compilation of case studies from different countries.

The progress report on our efforts so far with regard to the directory of Community Conserved Areas of South Asia was sent to CANARI in January 2001.

#### **IUCN-INTACH compendium on case studies on the good examples of community based management of natural resources**

*Coordinator:* Neema Pathak

*Associates:* Manju Menon, Ashish Kothari

*Year of commencement:* December 2000

*Year of completion:* March 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. One Lakh

*Funding Agency:* IUCN-South Asia

IUCN had requested KV to put together the above mentioned compendium. Ten case studies were identified from different parts of the country and the final collection of case studies was sent to IUCN at the end of March. Neema will attend a meeting in Delhi on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **UNDP-GOI Sea Turtle Project:**

*Coordinator:* Roshni Kutty

*Associates:* John Swamy in Kerala, Manmohan Polei in Orissa

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs.3,20,000

*Funding Agency:* UNDP

The Wildlife Institute of India on behalf of the GOI UNDP Sea Turtle Project has approved Kalpavriksh's proposal "A Study of community participation in the conservation and management of sea turtle nesting beaches in Goa, Kerala and Orissa". The project is for nine months (from Oct 2000). Documentation of the community initiatives in Kerala and Goa is already underway.

#### **Biodiversity of the Amba Valley**

*Coordinator:* Vivek Gour-Broome

*Associates:* Sanjay Thakur, Ashish Kothari

*Year of commencement:* 1999

*Year of completion:* 2004

*Total funds sanctioned:* (For 5 yrs) 7,88,800

*Funding Agency:* Rural Communes

Vivek organised a slide show for KV and RC members in the first week of December 2000. A detailed discussion took place on the future course of action. The transect studies on the flora and fauna of Amba Valley continued. Vivek attended a CAMP workshop jointly organised by Zoo-outreach (Coimbatore), and Rural Communes, (Pune), on prioritisation of threatened species of medicinal plants. Sanjay attended a training programme by ZSI (Pune), on collection, preservation and identification techniques. A one day trip to Amba Valley was organised for Sanjay Molur of Zoo-outreach and Sekhar Giri of BNHS (Bombay), to confirm the habitat range of certain species of mygalomorphs in Amba Valley.

#### **NTFP Collection in Adilabad**

*Coordinator:* Sushruti Santhanam

*Associates:* None

*Year of commencement:* 1998

*Year of completion:* 1999 (to be completed)

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 95,000

*Funding Agency:* SPWD

A final report was sent to SPWD in early 2001, and comments are awaited. The final instalment has been sought. Barring some major comments from SPWD, the project should be treated as closed.

### **Conflicts Over Natural Resources and Their Resolutions**

*Coordinator:* Tejaswini Apte

*Associates:* Shanta, Neeraj, Pankaj, Neema, Ashish

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 69,050 available for expenditure in the period Sept.2000 – March 2001.

*Funding agency:* Society for International Development (Rome) and Planning Commission (India). Partially subsidised by KV, Pune and Lokayan. Funds also received from Ministry of Rural Developments (Self-rule project)

All commissioned writers had been contacted and some first drafts of some case studies and matrices had been completed. Tejaswini made a day trip to villages funded by Jankidevi Bajaj Trust dairy development project in Pune district and observed some farm bunding and soil conservation activity. Tejaswini also worked on the Pani Panchayat case study for inclusion in this project. For this, in February 2001, Tejaswini went on a field visit to Mahur village, Purandhar taluka, to see a Pani Panchayat project, and a Pani Panchayat training centre at Saswad. For purposes of the case study, several meetings were held with persons related to the Pani Panchayat and Adarsh Gaon Yojana, namely, Vilasrao Salunkhe (Trustee, Gram Gaurav Pratishthan), Bapusaheb Deshpande (Chairman, Adarsh Gaon Yojana), Prashant Nichal (Director, Dept of Soil Conservation), and Dr Ghare (AFARM).

### **IUCN Task Force on Local Communities and PAs**

*Title:* Task Force on Local Communities and PAs

*Coordinator:* Ashish Kothari

*Associates:* Manju Menon

*Year of commencement:* 2000

*Year of completion:* 2003

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs. 67,625

*Funding Agency:* IUCN

In March 2000, Ashish Kothari was asked to head the IUCN Task Force on Local Communities and PAs.(TFLCPA). The objective of TFLCPA is to present the message that local communities can and do play a critical role in PAs and that the emerging new paradigm for PAs worldwide, should treat their involvement in PAs as central. Today, the TF has 60 members from varied fields related to conservation.

The World Conservation Congress at Amman took place between October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2000. It was an opportunity for many members of the TFLCPA to meet for the first time, and to discuss the objectives, strategies and outputs of the Task Force over the next 2-3 years. As a result of these discussions, a final set of outputs of the Task Force has emerged.

The vision note of the TF has been prepared. It is a document that presents the ideology and guiding principles of the group in relation to PAs and local communities. The document is to provide a framework for the group to work towards creating a better understanding of local community rights and responsibilities amongst ourselves (and others) in the field of conservation. It lists the guiding principles of the TFLCPA, challenges/ issues to be addressed and the rights and responsibilities of the local communities in relation to PAs. The Task Force Vision note was circulated widely to the TF members and many others through the WCPA newsletter and website. The responses were incorporated into the note.

A list of articles for 'PARKS' issue on Local Communities and PAs were identified. Jessica Brown and Ashish Kothari will be editors of the issue. It has been slotted for the June 2002.

The TF has been given a slot in the Cardiff publication series. The publication will include guidelines, and case studies on local communities and PAs. The publication is due in 2003, the specific time and a coordinator for the publication are still to be determined.

Hanna Jaireth and Dermot Smyth, members of the TF will be editors of a publication titled Innovative Governance for Protected Areas and Local Communities. The publication will include the following themes; recognising property rights and customary law in protected area management, innovative governance structures & institutions, innovative sustainable development approaches, urban protected area management enforcement, monitoring and compliance, trans-boundary and international innovations and future directions.

Neema Pathak will put together a detailed listing of community conserved areas from various parts of the world.

Seema Bhatt is to present the debate and analysis (with relevant examples) on the need for a separate category of Community PAs in the list of the IUCN categories.

Besides these, the TF will be linking up with projects of the WWF & IUCN on co-management of PAs with indigenous peoples, with the Man and Biosphere Programme. Several members of the Task Force have volunteered to take on these activities.

WCPA- South Asia organised a regional workshop (February 27 to March 2, 2001) in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop brought together scientists, government officials and NGO representatives who have been active in the field of conservation and PA management. The purpose of the workshop was to review the regional action plan drafted by WCPA South Asia in light of the needs of the PAs of the region as well as the growing threats to PAs in the region. The TF was represented by Ashish Kothari and Manju Menon. AK made a presentation on the Task Force and sought the participation of those present in the activities of the TF.

## International, National and Local Alerts

- ◆ Protest letter sent on Jan 10 2001, regarding firing in Kashipur, Orissa, to President, Chief Minister, NHRC, by Ashish
- ◆ Protest letter sent on Jan 27 2001, regarding Man Project (MP), to CM, MoEF, etc. by Ashish
- ◆ Protest note sent on Feb 5 2001, on firing in Koel Karo, on adivasis protesting against proposed dam, to CM, MoEF, etc by Ashish

## Investigations

Neeraj, Manju and Kanchi visited the Radhanagari wildlife sanctuary, Maharashtra, from September 20-22, 2000, to investigate the impacts of existing and proposed bauxite mining in and around the sanctuary.

## Pune Bird Book

*Coordinator:* Anchal Sondhi

*Associates:* Prakash Gole, Swati Gole, Anil Mahabal, Sanjeev Nalawade, Saleel Tambe

*Editor:* Sanjay Sondhi

*Year of commencement:* 1998

*Year of completion:* September, 2001

*Total funds sanctioned:* Rs 1,32,000

*Funding Agency:* Ministry of Human Resources of development under EOSE scheme, funded through CEE

Designed specially for a beginner in Pune, this book simplifies birdwatching and bird identification. Beginning with simple steps for bird identification simplified for beginners, the book describes a hundred common birds of Pune. Along with a description of the bird, the book is supported with black and white, as well as colour illustrations. A simple tabular key assists in identification of these hundred birds. This book also has a description (supported by maps) of the best birding spots of Pune district, and a brief description of some of the other interesting areas. Pune's bird habitats are varied-lakes (Pashan) and reservoirs (Veer and Ujani), rivers (Mula-Mutha), grasslands (Saswad, Dive Ghat), forts (Sinhadag) and forests (Bhimashankar, Tamhini). Use the descriptions and maps to venture out on your own, or accompany one of the birdwatching organisations in Pune (listed in the book) to explore the interesting birdwatching areas of Pune district. Finally, the book has a checklist of the birds of Pune district. Records of 398 bird species in the Pune district has been compiled by inputs from publications as well as birdwatchers in Pune. The checklist, with common and scientific names, is accompanied by notes on the status of the birds. We hope this updated checklist is useful to the amateur as well the professional ornithologist.

## Pune Green Guide

A proposal for funding the publication was sent to the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC). A grant of Rs. 10,000 was awarded and the first installment of Rs. 8,000 has been received.

## Miscellaneous

- Guest editing of the October issue of the *Humanscape* issue on Lesser known people's movements for the environment was done by Pankaj. The issue was titled 'A million mutinies'.
- A link has been made with Vidya Jyothi, a school for children with disabilities down our street. Students who are in vocational training come to our office to handle the bulk mailing of the PA update. This has relieved Govind to take on other tasks, and has also given the students an opportunity to be in a working environment, pick up some work skills, and earn their vocational department a small amount of money. It has also enabled us to link with a neighbourhood ( or community!) NGO in a small way.

## FUTURE & PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

### IUCN Thematic Working Group on Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas

On behalf of Kalpavriksh, Ashish has been heading the Task Force on Local Communities and Protected Areas of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). This year, WCPA has been restructured into 5 major Thematic Working Groups. As a result, Ashish will now be vice-chair of WCPA, handling the Theme on Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas. This theme will draw from global experiences and feed into case study sites that are presently being identified, formulate a set of guidelines on community/equity issues for protected area management, engage with local partners who are involved in innovative approaches to conservation, assess progressive laws and policies of various countries, advocate the concept of community conserved areas, and carry out other activities which could help to strengthen the new participatory approaches to protected area management. Other than Ashish, Manju and Neema are to be involved.

### EE in Uttara Kannada district

A two year Environmental Education programme in the district of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka, will be coordinated by Sunita Rao. This programme has been funded by NDDB (Foundation for Ecological Security), and will be completed by May 2003. It will be based in Sirsi, with field research sites in each of the district's ecoregions: coast, malnad (ghats), and the plains. The work will involve looking at the kind of learning inputs needed by the schools, taking into account the community, livelihood options, and ecological research that can feed into a "learning for life" approach.

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### Accounts:

Overall coordination of accounts was done by Sunita, who requested to be relieved of this task from the new financial year starting April 2001. In the period after



Jan 2001, Pankaj took on some of the overall accounting tasks.

#### **Marketing:**

Efforts have been on to streamline the handling and marketing of KV publications. A number of internal meetings were held as a result of which a system of maintaining a count of books taken out of office, how many sold and how many returned was set with the help of a chart. A separate e-mail folder was made to ensure all orders were responded to. A brochure with names of all KV publications and a flyer for the set of Community based Conservation booklets was prepared. Manju handled marketing upto November, after which Anuprita took over.

### **20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

#### **Signs of Hope Lecture Series (Pune):**

**SOH 10:** 13<sup>th</sup> Nov “Medicinal Plants and Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions” Talk by Darshan Shankar, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore

**SOH 11:** 11<sup>th</sup> Nov “Farming, Learning, and Building with Nature, The experiences of Spandana” Talk by Mahabaleshwar R. Hegde, Neernalli Village, Sirsi

**SOH 12:** 20<sup>th</sup> Dec “Health Care is Self Care is Earth Care” Talk by Vijaya Venkat, The Health Awareness Centre, Mumbai

**SOH 13:** 9<sup>th</sup> Feb “Diversity that counts : Traditions, Livestock and Livelihoods” Talk by Nitya Ghotge, ANTHRA, Pune

**SOH 14:** 20<sup>th</sup> March “Seeking Sanctuary” Talk by Bittu Sahgal, Sanctuary Asia, Mumbai. A slide show was also organised for Vidya Jyothi School, Pune

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

1. *People, Parks and Wildlife: towards Co-existence.* Vasant Saberwal, Mahesh Rangarajan, and Ashish Kothari. Orient Longman, Tract for the Times 14, New Delhi.
2. *Evaluating Eden: Exploring the Myths and Realities of Community-Based Wildlife Management.* Dilys Roe, James Mayers, Ashish Kothari, and others. IIED, London.
3. *Tribal Self Rule and Natural Resource Management- Mendha-Lekha.* Neema Pathak and Vivek Gour Broome. Kalpavriksh, and IIED, London.
4. *National Parks and Sanctuaries in India: A Guide to Legal Provisions.* Sanjay Upadhyay and Ashish Kothari. Print World, Allahabad
5. *Butterflies of Delhi.* Peter Smetacek. Kalpavriksh.

#### **ARTICLES**

##### **Joint articles**

- ◆ Pankaj Sekhsaria and Kanchi Kohli. ‘**Designs on a River System**’ on the threats to the Aghanashini River in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka due

to the proposal for the construction of a minor port here. *The Hindu Sunday Magazine*, 08/10/2000

- ◆ Neema Pathak and Ashish Kothari. ‘**Communities and Biodiversity: Lessons from South Asia**’ *Biodiversity: Journal of Life on Earth*. Tropical Conservancy, Canada
- ◆ Ashish Kothari and Kanchi Kohli ‘**Planning to Preserve**’ *Sunday Herald*, 11/2/2001

##### **Neeraj Vagholikar**

- ◆ ‘**A Valley undermined**’ on the impact of coal mining in the North Karnapura valley, Hazaribagh. *The Ecologist Asia*, July/August 2000
- ◆ ‘**Of Coal and Corridors**’, *Sanctuary Asia*, Vol XX, No 4, August 2000

##### **Pankaj Sekhsaria**

- ◆ ‘**Whose Planet Whose Concerns**’ Some reflections on today’s global environmental concerns. *Butterfly Futures*, December 2000.
- ◆ ‘**South Sentinel, an Andaman journey**’, *Sanctuary Asia*, December 2000.

##### **Ashish Kothari**

- ◆ ‘**An Exercise in Conservation**’, *Frontline*, 2/2/2001

##### **Roshni Kutty**

- ◆ ‘**Turtles and Tourists - A coastal village in Goa shows the way**’ *Kachhapa* Issue No. 3 (A newsletter for the Indian sub-continent on sea turtle conservation and management)
- ◆ ‘**Community effort at Kolavipalam, Kerala**’ *Kachhapa*. Issue No. 4. WPSI. 2001 February

##### **Neema Pathak**

- ‘**Hamare gaon mein hamara sarkar**’ *Humanscape*. October 2000
- ‘**Traditional Tribal Wisdom and Informed Community Resolve Conflict**’ Paper for a Workshop on Indic Forestry Practices. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> February 2001.

##### **Interviews**

- ◆ ‘**Environmentalist Extraordinaire**’ Interview with Ashish Kothari on Kalpavriksh in *World Environment*, Singapore
- ◆ ‘**Planning an environmental blitz**’ Interview with Ashish Kothari on the Maharashtra process of NBSAP *Times Of India*, 2/1/2001
- ◆ ‘**Inspired to Conserve**’ an interview with Ashish Kothari, *Indian Express*, 29/3/2001

This Annual Report was prepared by Sujatha Padmanabhan with inputs from the Internal Newsletters prepared by Shantha Bhushan, all KV Pune members, Suresh C. Sharma and Prabhakar Rao from KV Delhi, and Bansuri Taneja from London