



**KALPAVRIKSH**  
Environmental Action Group

# KALPAVRIKSH ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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**Compiled by:** Arnaz Khan

**Cover Photos:**

1. Press conference organised by Vikalp Sangam in Delhi to launch People's Manifesto 2024
2. Kids hanging their drawings by Sujatha Padmanabhan
3. Biodiversity assessment exercise in community commons at Rajaji Tiger Landscape using modern science methods and traditional knowledge, as a knowledge and skills exchange between Van Gujjar community and Dibang team from Arunachal Pradesh



## **Beginnings**

Kalpavriksh is a non-governmental organisation working in the area of environment education, research, campaigns, and direct action. It began in 1979, with a youth campaign to save Delhi's Ridge Forest area from encroachments and destruction. Starting with these roots in local action, Kalpavriksh has moved on to work on a number of local, national, and global issues. Kalpavriksh is registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1980 (No. S-17439). While its offices are currently in Pune, its members are based across India and some other countries.

## **Philosophy**

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

## **Governance**

Kalpavriksh is a non-hierarchical organisation. One of the working principles that emanated from the philosophy of the group was a democratic decision-making process. All decisions are taken during group meetings and based on group consensus.

## **Functioning**

Core functions include general administration, website administration, finance, accounts and publications. These activities are largely handled at the Pune office. Projects and activities are related to the following themes.

- A. Environment Education
- B. Conservation and Livelihoods
- C. Alternatives

## **Annual General Body Meeting**

### **Governing Body (Core Group) Members**

Neema Pathak Broome- secretary

Pradeep Chavan- treasurer

Tanya Majmudar

Shrishtee Bajpai

Sharmila Deo

Milind Wani

Akshay Chhetri

Aanchal



### **Auditor**

Paresh Sarda, CA, Pune

### **Committee for Prevention of Sexual Harassment**

Kalpavriksh has an Internal Complaints Committee in compliance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

### **Committee**

Tanya Majmudar (Presiding Officer)

Prajakta Kulkarni

Aanchal

Milind Wani



## PART A: PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES/CAMPAIGNS

### A. Environment Education

#### A.1 Children's Books

Coordinators	Sujatha Padmanbhan and Tanya Majmudar
Support Team	Tejaswini Apte-Rahm, Yashodara Kundaji, Sharmila Deo, Sanjay Sondhi
Year of Commencement	Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust (Oct 2023) Tata Trusts (Dec 2023)
Year of Completion	Ongoing
Total Funds Sanctioned	Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust: Rs.7,50,000 Tata Trusts: Rs. 16,29,000
Funding Agency	Kalpavriksh Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust Tata Trusts

#### A.1a Book Development

The following new books were published in this period:

- The Miracle on Kachhua Beach by Nandita da Cunha, illustrated by Priya Kuriyan
- The Spring of Life by Lavany Karthik, illustrated by Canato Jimo
- Why Are You So Colourful? written and illustrated by Shruti Hemani

About 48 manuscripts were reviewed in this period. Of these, the following manuscripts were selected and are under development:

1. Ila, the Mongoose by Abhisekha K
2. What Am I Good At? by Rahul Pradhan
1. My Nest is the Best by Niyatee Sharma

#### A.1b Reprints

The following books were reprinted in this period

1. The Ghost of the Mountains



2. Chitty: A Dog and Her Forest Farm
3. Travelling Seeds

### **A.1c Awards and Recognition**

The following awards were won/recognition conferred:

1. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree was on the shortlist for Valley of Words Award.
2. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree was on the shortlist for Neev Book Award 2023 Emerging Readers category.
3. The Miracle on Kachhua Beach was shortlisted for the children's picture book illustration category in the Atta Galatta Bangalore Litfest Book Prize 2023.

### **A.1d Book Reviews and Features**

1. The Miracle on Kachhua Beach was featured in eShe's list of [17 best children's books for a magical summer 2023](#).
2. Pedru and the Big Boom was featured in BK Awards' [Summer Reading List for Middle Graders](#).
3. [Review](#) of The Miracle on Kachhua Beach by Apoorva B Ashok on Instagram.
4. Pedru and the Big Boom was featured in Sustainability Next's article [Delving Beneath the Surface: Mining in Indian Children's Books](#)
5. [Review](#) of The Miracle on Kachhua Beach by Mona Agarwal for Kids Book Cafe.
6. The Miracle on Kachhua Beach and The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree were featured in [Readers are finally witnessing the much-awaited bloom of green literature for Indian children](#) by Rati Girish, published by Scroll.
7. The Ghost of the Mountains was featured in Greenlitfest article [Big Cats in a Big Bad World](#) by JoAnne Saldanha.
8. [Review](#) of The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree by JoAnne Saldanha for Greenlitfest.
9. The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street was featured on House Full of Books' list of books with great teachers for [Teachers' Day Special](#).
10. [Review](#) of The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree by Roopa Baliga of House Full of Books.
11. [Review](#) of The Miracle on Kachhua Beach by Roopa Baliga of House Full of Books.
12. [Review](#) of The Spring of Life by Roopa Baliga of House Full of Books.
13. [Review](#) of The Miracle on Kachhua Beach by Kitaab Ghat.
14. [Review](#) of The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street by Kitaab Ghat.



15. [Review](#) by a young reader and reviewer on Instagram.
16. [Review](#) of Pedru and the Big Boom by Mahita Madhusudanan on Medium.
17. [Review](#) of The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree by Nidhi Gaur, for The Book Review Literary Trust.
18. [Review](#) of Chitty: A Dog and Her Forest Farm in Current Conservation (CC Kids 17; December 2023).
19. Pedru and the Big Boom reviewed in TOI article '[6 exciting young adult books to spark curiosity and learning](#)'

### **A.1e Panels, Webinars, Conferences**

1. Tanya Majmudar participated in an online panel discussion on *Children's Literature: Today and Tomorrow* along with Bijal Vachharajani and Rohan Chakravarty, moderated by Tejaswi Shivanad and organised by Parag, an Initiative of Tata Trusts on 3rd June 2023.
2. Tanya Majmudar participated in an authors' retreat at Neev Litfest in Bengaluru on 6th Oct 2023.
3. Sujatha Padmanabhan participated in a panel discussion on *The Business of Green Books: "Is there a sustainable ecosystem for green books in India?"* along with Sivapriya R and Anita Mani, moderated by Vidya Mani at Greenlitfest, Bengaluru on 25th November 2023.
4. Tanya Majmudar participated in the panel discussion *Children's Literature: A Powerful Resource for a Fulfilling Future* along with Kumud Verma, Smita Dhruv, Kanishka Ajwani, moderated by Priya Narayanan at the Ahmedabad International Literature Festival at Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad on 25th November 2023.
5. Kalpavriksh Kids Books stall was put up at the 6th National Montessori Conference in Bengaluru, in collaboration with Funky Rainbow bookshop on January 19th and 20th 2023.

### **A.1f Book and Author Events, Litfests**

1. The Miracle on Kachhua Beach by Nandita da Cunha was launched at The Litbug Fest, Pune on 22nd April 2023 by Amrita Patwardhan of Parag Initiative, author Madhuri Purandare and Sandhya Taxale of Pratham.
2. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree book session by Tanya Majmudar at The Litbug Fest, Pune on 22nd April 2023.
3. Saahi's Quest book session by Yuvan Aves at The Litbug Fest, Pune on 22nd April 2023.





4. The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street book session by Nandita da Cunha at Oberoi International School, Mumbai on 25th April 2023, to celebrate World Book Day.
5. The Ghost of the Mountains was adapted as a play by Gillo Gilehri and staged at Prithvi Theater, Mumbai, on 11 May 2023
6. The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street book session by Nandita da Cunha in Nehru Center Library, Mumbai in May 2023.
7. The Miracle on Kachhua Beach book session by Nandita da Cunha at Bookaroo Litfest, Srinagar on June 10th and 11th 2023.
8. The Ghost of the Mountains book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan at Bookaroo Litfest, Srinagar on June 10th and 11th 2023.
9. The Poop Book! book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan at Bookaroo Litfest, Srinagar on June 10th and 11th 2023.
10. The Spring of Life book session by Vaishali Kulkarni at The Story Station, Pune in June 2023.
11. The Ghost of the Mountains book session by Vaishali Kulkarni at The Story Station, Pune in June 2023.
12. Why Are You So Colourful book session by Shruti Hemani at the Shree C.S. Virani School for the deaf and speech impaired in Rajkot on June 26th 2023.
13. The Poop Book! book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan for Class 1 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 6th 2023.
14. The Monster Who Could Not Climb A Tree book session by Tanya Majmudar for Class 2 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 6th 2023
15. The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan for Class 3 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 6th 2023.
16. Crittters Around Our Homes book session by Sanjay Sondhi (joined online), Sujatha Padmanabhan and Tanya Majmudar for Class 4 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 6th 2023.
17. The Ghost of the Mountains book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan for Class 5 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 6th 2023.
18. Something To Chew On book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan and Tanya Majmudar for Class 6 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 7th 2023.
19. Something To Chew On book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan and Tanya Majmudar for Class 7 and 8 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 7th 2023.
20. Something To Chew On book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan and Tanya Majmudar for Class 9 and 10 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 7th 2023.
21. Something To Chew On book session by Sujatha Padmanabhan and Tanya Majmudar for Class 11 and 12 students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram on July 7th 2023.
22. The Miracle on Kachhua Beach book session by Nandita da Cunha with grade 3 as a part of the Somaiya School Literary Fest in Mumbai on 1st August 2023.



23. Why Are You So Colourful? book launch and guided nature walk at Smritivan, Jaipur on 12th August 2023.
24. Why Are You So Colourful? book launch and guided nature walk at Kishan Bagh, Jaipur on 13th August 2023.
25. Saahi's Quest was included in the book club at The Story Station, Pune.
26. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree book sessions by Tanya Majmudar at Neev Litfest, Bengaluru on 7th Oct 2023.
27. The Miracle on Kachhua Beach was a part of the 7th International GetLitt! Reading Olympiad. A book session by Nandita da Cunha was held at Bombay Scottish School in November, 2023.
28. The Travelling Seeds book session was held at Bombay Scottish School in November 2023.
29. Critters Around Our Homes book session by Sanjay Sondhi at Bookaroo Litfest, Delhi, 25th Nov 2023.
30. Why Are You So Colourful? book session by Sanjay Sondhi at Bookaroo Litfest, Delhi, 25th Nov 2023.
31. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree Book Session by Tanya Majmudar at Bookaroo Litfest, Vadodara, 2nd Dec 2023.
32. The Poop Book! book session by Tejaswini Apte Rahm at The Bangalore Literature Festival, on 3rd Dec 2023.
33. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree book session by Tanya Majmudar for Grade 5, Nalanda International School, Vadodara on 1st Feb 2024.
34. Something to Chew On book session by Tanya Majmudar for Grade 6, Nalanda International School, Vadodara on 1st Feb 2024.
35. Secrets of the Jungle book session by Tanya Majmudar for Grade 7, Nalanda International School, Vadodara on 1st Feb 2024.
36. Secrets of the Jungle book session by Tanya Majmudar for Grade 8, Nalanda International School, Vadodara on 1st Feb 2024.
37. Chitty: A Dog and Her Forest Farm book session at Vasudha, The Nature Space, Ahwalwadi, Pune, by EcoExist on 11th February 2024.
38. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree book session by Tanya Majmudar at Chandigarh Children's Literature Festival, Dikshant School, Zirakpur on 9th Feb, 2024.
39. Secrets of the Jungle book session by Tanya Majmudar at Chandigarh Children's Literature Festival, Dikshant School, Zirakpur on 9th Feb, 2024.
40. Why Are You So Colourful? Book session by Shruti Hemani at Chandigarh Children's Literature Festival, Dikshant School, Zirakpur on 9th Feb, 2024.
41. Author Spotlight: Lavanya Karthik, author of Travelling Seeds and The Spring of Life - Insta Live session with Enlit Kids on 23rd Feb 2024.



42. Po Tricks His Foe book session by Sharmila Deo at Vasudha, The Nature Space, Ahwalwadi, Pune, by EcoExist on 3rd March 2024.
43. Why Are You So Colourful? book session by Shruti Hemani at Bookaroo Litfest, Jaipur on 30th March 2024.

### **A.1g Digital Distribution**

1. 3 new titles were added on the GetLitt platform.

### **A.1h Translations**

The following titles were translated in this period:

1. Chitty: A Dog and Her Forest Farm was published in Hindi by Eklavya
2. The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street was published in Hindi by Eklavya
3. Chitty: A Dog and Her Forest Farm was published in Marathi by Eklavya
4. The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street was published in Marathi by Eklavya
5. The Miracle on Sunderbaag Street was published in Kannada by Bahuroopi
6. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree was published in Kannada by Bahuroopi
7. A New Home for Ajiri was published in Tibetan by the Education Council for Tibetans in Exile, Department of Education, CTA
8. Circle of Life was published in Tibetan by the Education Council for Tibetans in Exile, Department of Education, CTA

### **The following translations are planned:**

1. The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree by the Education Council for Tibetans in Exile, Department of Education, CTA
2. The Spring of Life by the Education Council for Tibetans in Exile, Department of Education, CTA



## B. Conservation and Livelihoods

Program Coordinator	Neema Pathak Broome
Others Involved	Milind Wani, Pankaj Sekhsaria, Meenal Tatpati, Pradeep Chavan, Tanya Majmudar, Subhash Dolas, Akshay Chhetri, Rudrath Avinashi, Parvata Wanghare
Total Funds Sanctioned	
Funding Agencies	

### B.1 Community Conserved Areas

Team	Neema Pathak Broome, Tanya Majmudar, Rudrath Avinashi
Project Duration	Ongoing
Total Funds Sanctioned	INR 20,02,000 - FES (April 2023 to March 2024) INR 1,01,49,722 - TNC (Jul 2023 to Jun 2024) USD 34,000 - GGF (Jan 2023 to Dec 2023) USD 63,000 - GGF (Jan 2024 to Dec 2024) INR 3,13,574 - PHF (Oct 2023 to Sep 2024) INR 3,04,052 - GPN (Sept 23-Dec 23)
Funding Agency	Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) Global Green Grants (GGF) University of Kassel, Global Partnership Network (GPN)

#### **B1.a Strengthening Community Conserved Areas in Nagaland via Field Interventions, Technology and Policy Support**

Kalpavriksh, along with local partners Kenono Foundation and Lemsachenlok, and supported by The Nature Conservancy started an on-ground project in Nagaland focused on strengthening the ability of communities and organisations in the state to protect and manage their CCAs. The following activities were undertaken during this FY:



## **1. Documenting Current Status of Biodiversity and Human-Wildlife Interactions**

Five Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) were identified for in-depth work during the project. The spatial boundaries of each CCA were documented. To monitor biodiversity, we assessed the necessary capacity needs and material support, leading to the development of a comprehensive biodiversity monitoring plan. This plan, including data security protocols, is now being implemented by trained community resource persons. Additionally, we rolled out a capacity-building program aimed at equipping community members with the skills needed to implement the monitoring plan effectively. Key resource persons within the communities were identified and trained for the monitoring process.

Community-led comprehensive biodiversity surveys are being conducted using camera trapping and interview methodologies. Through the analysis of this data we hope to get key statistics providing valuable insights into the biodiversity of the CCAs. Furthermore, we are conducting questionnaire-based surveys to evaluate community perceptions of human-wildlife conflict. The amount and type of prevalent human-wildlife coexistence and conflict will be identified, which can feed into targeted interventions in future.

## **2. Evaluating Social Equity in CCA Management**

We completed a general analysis of social equity in Nagaland, specifically in the context of CCAs and natural resource management. This analysis led to the identification of specific methods for incorporating social equity into project activities, which are now being implemented. Periodic capacity-building programs with a focus on social equity and gender sensitivity were undertaken for the field staff.

## **3. Evaluating Management Plans and Sustainable Funding Mechanisms for CCAs**

We evaluated existing CCA management plans to ensure they meet the current needs of conservation and communities, including equity considerations. Necessary modifications to existing management plans are being developed. An annual budget estimate for the activities identified will also be developed, and potential funding sources identified, along with strategies to address any budget shortfalls.

The project will also focus on identifying opportunities for financial mechanisms to support CCAs, considering community aspirations, local market conditions, and potential to meet budget shortfalls.

## **4. Strengthening NCCAF's Technical Assistance to CCAs**



To enhance the technical assistance provided by the Nagaland Community Conserved Areas Forum (NCCAF) to communities, we identified and developed guidance documents on three key topics: CCAs and Community Reserves, Carbon Markets and Community Self-Documentation.

## **5. Upgrading Portal Documenting 30 CCAs**

We incorporated a webGIS map module into the CCA portal, added additional spatial layers, and implemented a customizable dashboard. A beta version of a microsite featuring CCAs of Nagaland was successfully deployed. This upgraded portal now serves as a vital resource for aggregating and disseminating information on CCAs in Nagaland.

Local resource persons were trained to anchor the documentation process, and a complete set of data, including spatial boundaries and other relevant information, was collected and entered into the CCA portal. This initiative has significantly enhanced the database of CCAs in Nagaland, making crucial information accessible to stakeholders.

## **6. Future Plans**

Along with completing the ongoing activities described above, we will be organising an event to hold a visioning exercise for CCAs in Nagaland to set the direction for future initiatives and reinforce our commitment to sustainable CCA management.

### **B.1b CCA Web Portal**

The CCA web portal was ideated upon and developed with the following objectives:

- To increase the recognition of CCAs and highlight their importance vis-à-vis community well-being, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and climate change
- To create a repository of local knowledge that enables learning and exchange of information
- To serve as an evidence-base for community-led approaches to conservation and impact the global policy sphere

In the last FY, several advancements on the portal were made, both in terms of technical features as well as a huge increase in the number of documentations.

## **1. TECHNOLOGICAL OUTPUTS**

- a. **Microsites:** a dedicated space to highlight collectives/organisations working on defending, sustaining and documentation of CCAs. In the current phase, two microsites were developed.



- i. [Seva Mandir](#): an NGO working with local communities in southern Rajasthan towards strengthening local governance systems and improving livelihoods
  - ii. [Nagaland Community Conserved Areas Forum \(NCCAF\)](#): a state level forum led by indigenous peoples and local communities to facilitate learning and sharing exchanges on laws, policies and any other issue relevant to CCAs in the state
- b. **Dashboard**: Data analytics of all the CCAs that are documented on the portal. The information is shown through charts and includes the state wise distribution of documented CCAs as well as CCAs listed by ecosystem type, motivations, land ownership, social impacts, and threats and challenges.
  - c. **Geospatial layers**: an overlay of Protected Areas in India, Census data, Forest cover, Ecoregions, Biogeographic zones, Tiger landscapes, Key biodiversity areas, Protected areas and OECMs were incorporated on the CCA portal to give a broader socio-ecological and political context to CCAs in India
  - d. **Resources**: a section on the relevant laws, policies and toolkits for CCAs was designed and curated.

## **2. DOCUMENTATION**

Different kinds of methodologies are used to document CCAs on the web portal depending on the scale of documentation and depth of knowledge that the team strives to cover for CCAs. In this FY, we documented 400+ CCAs in total covering different regions across India that includes numerous in-depth documentations spanning regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Kerala, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh etc.

The core team of the CCA web portal has undertaken a few capacity-building workshops for various organisations on the objectives and use of the portal vis-à-vis mapping, documentation as well as data entry.

### **B.1c Outreach and Information Exchange on CCAs**

- Over the past year, we have had several conversations with UNEP-WCMC and contributed towards enhancing the ICCA registry. Discussions with various stakeholders have also centred on collaborations that bring visibility to respective platforms.



- The CCA web portal team from Kalpavriksh presented at a webinar on Digitisation of Maps and Databases of ICCAs organised by Working Group on ICCAs, Indonesia for ICCA News Myanmar.

### **B.1d Strengthening the CCA Network in the Region**

Several interventions were made towards this particular aspect of our work that spans across local, national and international levels.

#### **1. NATIONAL-LEVEL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS**

An in-person National-level workshop on Community Conserved Areas was organised by Kalpavriksh and ATREE on behalf of the National Working Group on CCAs in India. The workshop took place in Bengaluru, India from 6th to 8th December 2023.

The agenda along with the logistics for the workshop was discussed and decided with members of the National Working Group. The workshop began with an ice-breaker by engaging the participants towards creating a human map with introductions and a purpose of showcasing the diversity within the group. Additionally, there was also a cultural evening where some members of the Soliga tribe from BR Hills came together for a mesmerising band performance and all the delegates joined in.

There were three objectives of the workshop as follows:

- Learning and sharing with each other about the challenges CCAs face and opportunities towards their support
- Understanding and gaining clarity on the current legal spaces for CCAs, various financial mechanisms and the politics of research and documentation
- Understanding the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, its implications for CCAs in India and strategising towards the future to implement this framework nationally.

The sessions during the workshop aimed to deep dive into the following topics:

- CCAs and its diversity in terms of ecosystems, governance, conservation practices and challenges
- Introduction to ICCA Consortium
- Management plans
- Various financial mechanisms (including a discussion on demystifying carbon rights and markets)
- Social inclusion and equity
- Relevant legal provisions
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework





As a collective of more than 60 delegates that included community leaders, researchers, civil society organisations and experts across the country, there were discussions on developing future strategies based on the priorities that emerged from the workshop.

## **2. STATE-LEVEL WORKSHOP ON INDIGENOUS VISIONS OF DEVELOPMENT AND COLLECTIVE WELLBEING FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

The workshop/meeting was held on 15-17 December 2023. It focused on the Indigenous People of Arunachal Pradesh, a state in northeast India. It was a unique meeting where young Indigenous People from different ethnic groups of the state gathered to share their perspectives on a multitude of issues, such as governance systems, notions of development, role of non-humans in their present and future, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and understandings of land and forests rights.

The overarching idea was to have a deep discussion about how the ongoing ‘development’ articulates with Arunachal’s Indigenous People’s traditional worldviews, what is the collective vision of wellbeing and sustainability, and how they see their lives and lands fitting in with the ongoing climate and biodiversity extinction crisis.

### **Learning goals of the circle**

1. To create a space for bringing together diverse Indigenous communities of Arunachal and facilitate sharing of perspectives, lived realities, and diverse forms of cultural expressions that enable knowledge generation and sharing.
2. To develop a shared understanding of threats and challenges on ground and articulation of various ways to deal with it as a collective.

### **Conceptualisation, preparation and agenda setting**

The meeting was conceptualised via a discussion between some members of Kalpavriksh and some native youths of Arunachal Pradesh. It was followed by formation of an organising committee and rounds of discussions among the committee to turn the idea into an event. The committee was composed of representatives of Kalpavriksh and indigenous youths of Arunachal Pradesh from different ethnic groups, and from different professional backgrounds.

### **B.1e On-Ground Support to CCAs**

Kalpavriksh secured funds to continue on ground fellowship support for self strengthening of CCAs in Uttarakhand. Four people from Van Panchayats and three Van Gujjars were supported from Holdeen funds reported in B.2.



## B.2 Protected Area Governance

Team	Meenal Tatpati, Akshay Chettri, Ishika Patodi, Neema P. Broome
Project Duration	Ongoing
Total Funds Sanctioned	INR 3,60,000 - PHF INR 28,00,000 - Holdeen INR 1,15,046 GPN
Funding Agency	Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) Holdeen University of Kassel, Global Partnership Network (GPN)

### B.2a Engagement with Laws and Policies on Protected Areas

The team undertook various engagements for outreach and networking to highlight the potential challenges of Advancing Target 3 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in absence of strong human rights based approaches. These included:

- Engagement with Target 3 with the Convention on Biological Diversity with the Women’s Caucus: Meenal Tatpati
- Engagement with co-writing a Policy and white paper on Human-Elephant Coexistence with the Coexistence Consortium: Meenal Tatpati and Neema Pathak Broome
- Presented a paper titled, ‘Protected Area Expansion in India: Impact of land rights and tenurial security of local communities-experiences from Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Corbett Tiger Reserve at the Land and Development Conference (Land-People Relations: Diversity and Transitions)-Meenal Tatpati and Akshay Chettri
- Organised a consultation with Lokhit Pashu Palan Sanstha, Rajasthan to discuss the proposed tiger reserve at Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary: Meenal Tatpati
- Field visit to Phulwari Ki Naal, Todgarh Raoli and Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuaries and Jawai Bandh Conservation Reserve to look at the issues of proposed tiger reserve: Meenal Tatpati and Ishika Patodi
- Engagement with groups in Maharashtra and government officials (especially from the Department of Tribal Development) on Target 3 and the status of PAs, OECMs and Critical Wildlife Habitats in Maharashtra.



### **B.2b Mapping of Conflicts in Protected Areas**

- Internal Protected Area meeting with CITARA dept of IIT Powai for discussions on collaborations to take the Protected Area website work forward: Meenal Tatpati and Akshay Chettri
- Compiled three case studies-Palamau Tiger Reserve, Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Corbett Tiger Reserve for the PA webpage-Meenal Tatpati, Akshay Chettri and Ishika Patodi

### **B.2c Legal Interventions and On-ground Investigations**

- 26th Feb-8th March: Field investigation into the awareness of villagers about the proposed Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, the Supreme Court order on consolidation of deemed forest land and issues around Protected Areas. Visited Puhulwari Ki Naal, Todgarh Raoli and Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuaries and Jawai Bandh Conservation Reserve: Meenal Tatpati
- Supported local community-members with evidence collection, advocacy strategies and visits to gram sabhas in Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Van Gujjar Landscape Intervention:
  - Kalpavriksh has been collaborating with the Van Gujjar Yuva Tribal sangathan with a focus on strengthening of community institution, documenting traditional governance systems of the Van Gujjar, revival of cultural afforestation festival- Sela Parv, conservation of the Van Gujjar inhabited landscape, with a focus on youth and gender inclusivity. The project includes activities like trainings and workshops, meetings, research and documentation.
  - Meetings and Workshops:
    - The training programme on Organisational development focusing on finance and accounts keeping took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023. The venue for the meeting was in Sidhdhrodh, Haridwar Forest Division. The resource person for the training was Mr. Himanshu Sati, who has had experiences of working on issues related to forest conservation and was also informed about the Van Gujjar community. The meeting was attended by more than 20 individuals.
    - The training programme focusing on laws and policies relevant to the Van Gujjar community took place in Gujjar Basti, Haridwar forest Division, on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2023. The meeting was facilitated by Pranav Menon, Phd scholar at University of Minnesota, and who is also a legal consultant for the Van Gujjar Tribal Yuva Sangathan. The training began with tracing the history of Van Gujjars, looking at archival documents relevant to the community, and towards



tracing forest and wildlife conservation laws, focusing on criminalization of the Van Gujjars.

- The National Working Group on Community Conserved Areas- chapter of the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas global Consortium (ICCA Consortium), a conservation and livelihoods learning and exchange visit was organised between the Van Gujjar community residing in Uttarakhand, and communities residing around the Wular Lake, Kashmir. The visit was funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation and was organised from 21<sup>st</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, in Wular Lake and five youth members of the Van Gujjars participated in the exchange visit.
- A one day meeting was organised in Gujjar Basti, on 28<sup>th</sup> October to discuss issues on gender inclusivity within the traditional governance system of the Van Gujjar community. The meeting focused on the lack of women's participation in decision making processes of the community, and strategies of addressing the issue. The meeting also led towards discussions on the need for facilitating more meetings of the sort, in order to provide a space for women to discuss the challenges that women face in inclusive governance.
- A three day exchange visit program was conducted in Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple Tiger Reserve in Karnataka from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Four Van Gujjar youth took in the exchange program - Neema P. Broome, Akshay Chettri
- A workshop on womens' health was organised at Kathyari, Gujjar Basti, District Haridwar on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. The discussion was facilitated by Ms. Priyanka Sati, a medical practitioner at AIIMS, Rishikesh.
- A series of workshops, meetings and trainings were organised between 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. The week-long program included participants from the Van Gujjar community, Himal Prakriti (Munsiari, Uttarakhand), Dibang Valley (Arunachal Pradesh), Maldhari Mahila Manch (Gujarat), Holdeen Foundation.
- Van Panchayat Munsiari:
  - The local team of four members have been working on the history and current status of ownership, management and the use of the natural and cultural resource base of 3 Van Panchayats.
  - Initiated the development of a participatory biodiversity inventory of the Mushrooms and wild flowering plants of the monsoons and medicinal herbs and plants of the cool temperate region of the Gori valley as well as the formulation of a management plan with a focus on climate change adaptations.



- Organised the ‘Himal Kalasutra’ festival which included birds, butterfly and moth festival, Mesar Kund Mela, movie and documentary screenings. The festival was attended by school children, researchers, community members, tourists amongst other attendees.
- The local team has built a village level library to generate more awareness on issues of environmental protection and human-nature relationships.
- The team have also been conducting plantation drives in the Van Panchayat forests.

### B.3 Bhimashankar Conservation and Livelihoods Programme

Project Coordinator	Pradeep Chavan
Team	Subhash Dolas, Parvata Wanghare, Suvarna Bhomale, Usha Bhokte, Ganesh Madge, Seema Kakade, Sunil Wagh, Sunil Bhokte
Others involved	Neema Pathak Broome, Milind Wani
Project Duration	2008 - ongoing
Total Funds Sanctioned	INR 11,44,563 (Mar 2023 to Feb 2024) - Misereor INR 5,85,600 (Oct 2023 to Sep 2024) - PHF EUR 50,000 (Jan 2023 to Dec 2024) - TDH
Funding Agency	Misereor Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) Terre des Hommes (TDH)

#### B.3a Empowerment of Vulnerable Communities

In Maharashtra, there are three Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): the Kolam, Madia, and Katkari communities. Some Katkari families reside in the villages of Bhomale, Bhorgiri, and Kharpuj. These families often migrate in search of livelihoods, resulting in a lack of essential government records and documents, such as Aadhar cards, ration cards, PAN cards, and caste certificates.

After extensive follow-ups and discussions with the Tahsildar and the Project Officer of the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), we successfully organised a camp on March 28, 2023. This camp aimed to provide the necessary government records to these underserved communities. Over 150 individuals, including 96 from our project villages and others from surrounding areas, received caste certificates and other essential documents during the camp.



### B.3b Workshops and Training Programs

1. **Bhivegaon SHG Workshop:** On April 14, 2023, we organised a workshop for the Self-Help Group (SHG) members of Bhivegaon village. The workshop focused on the Gram Sangh process and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), with 33 women participating.
2. **Kharpud and Mhasewadi SHG Workshop:** On May 11, 2023, we conducted a workshop for SHG members of Kharpud and Mhasewadi villages on the Gram Sangh process and NREGA, attended by 26 women.
3. **Training on Processing Local Produce:** On May 28, 2023, a training session on simple processing and product-making from Karvanda, fig, mango, and Jamun was held for SHG members of Kharpud, Mhasewadi, and Khopewadi villages. A total of 48 women participated.
4. **Rajgurunagar Convergence Committee Meeting:** We successfully convened the Rajgurunagar Convergence Committee Meeting on August 14, 2023, at Panchayat Samiti, Rajgurunagar. During this meeting, we discussed the process for drafting management plans and arranging forest transact walks to better understand the various needs of the forest and village. We also explored possible funding support available through different schemes and programs.

Despite our extensive follow-ups to ensure the continuity of these efforts, we faced challenges in maintaining the momentum. Repeated attempts to schedule another meeting of the Rajgurunagar Convergence Committee with Mr. Balvant Gaikwad, Project Officer, and Mr. Pimple from the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) were unsuccessful.

5. **Eco-tourism Livelihoods Training:** We organised two livelihoods training programs on eco-tourism from August 17-19 and October 10-12, 2023.
6. **Bhorgiri Training on Local Grains and Fruits:** In collaboration with Bhorgiri Gram Panchayat, we organised a training program on August 29, 2023, focusing on processing and making products from raagi, varai, and fig. This session had 45 women participants.
7. **Bhorgiri Women's Workshop:** On September 7, 2023, with the support of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), we conducted a workshop with Bhorgiri women on the Gram Sangh process and the next steps for utilising received funds. This workshop was attended by 46 women.
8. **Livelihoods Training in Bhomale:** We organised a livelihoods training program for 12 women in Bhomale (Upper) on blouse stitching from January 15 to February 15, 2024.



9. **Study Tour for CFR Management:** On January 22nd and 23rd, 2024, we organised a study tour for village leaders, members of Gram Panchayats, and CFRMCs from Bhomale and Kharpud villages. The tour aimed to deepen understanding of the Community Forest Rights (CFR) management process and sustainable practices. Participants visited villages where CFR has been granted, namely Tokawde, Dahiwadi, and Mohagaon in Murbad Taluka of Thane district, Maharashtra. These villages have demonstrated exemplary efforts in actively managing and restoring their CFR forests. The exchange visit proved to be a valuable learning experience for our participants. Following the tour, there has been increased engagement in the micro-planning process of CFRs, reflecting a commitment to sustainable forest management and community-led conservation efforts.
10. **Bhomale Village Training on NREGA:** We organised a small training for women in Bhomale (Upper) village on the importance of Women Gram Sabha and effective NREGA implementation on February 18, 2024, with 45 women present.
11. **Local Seed Bank Study Tour:** On February 29, 2024, we conducted a study tour for local women to the seed bank of Rahibai Popere. Rahibai is a Padma Shri recipient and is also known as “Beej Mata,” in Kombhalne village, Akole Taluka, Ahmednagar district.

### **B.3c Celebrating Local Culture and Sustainability**

1. **Wild Vegetable Festival in Bhorgiri:** On September 17, 2023, in collaboration with Koteswar Women Gram Sangh, Bhorgiri, S. M. Supe Memorial Foundation, and BAIF organisation, organised a vibrant Wild Vegetable Festival at Bhorgiri. The festival received generous funding support from PHF and S. M. Supe Memorial Foundation, Pune.

This community event attracted over 400 participants, including locals and tourists alike. The festival commenced with a colourful procession showcasing a variety of wild vegetables, accompanied by traditional Bhalari folk music and songs. The event celebrated local culture, promoted sustainable practices, and fostered community engagement in the conservation and appreciation of wild vegetation.

2. **Sahyadri School Wild Food Festival:** On September 22, 2023, Sahyadri School near Darakwadi organised a wild food festival for their students, where Bhomale women showcased various wild vegetables used in their diet.
3. **Wild Vegetable Festival in Kharpud:** During the reporting period, in response to the demand from local women of Kharpud and Mhasewadi, we organised a Wild Vegetable Festival at Kharpud on October 23, 2024. This event was a collaborative effort with Kharpud Women Gram Sangh, S. M. Supe Memorial Foundation, Pune,



and Gram Panchayat, Kharpud. The festival received financial support from PHF, S. M. Supe Memorial Foundation, and Gram Panchayat, Kharpud.

The festival was attended by over 300 people, including locals and tourists. The event commenced with a procession of wild vegetables accompanied by traditional Dhol Tasha Pathak folk music, creating a vibrant and culturally rich atmosphere.

### **B.3d Meetings and Advocacy Work**

- 1. Review of Rejected CFR Claims:** During the reporting period, we were informed by a Divisional Forest Rights Committee (DFRC) member, Mr. Kiran Lohakare, that Yelavali, Garbewadi (Bhorgiri), and Bhivegaon CFR claims had been rejected. We followed up with him to review the unlawful rejection of three CFR claims. DFRC had a meeting on November 21, 2023, directing the District Level Committee (DLC) to review these claims.
- 2. Women Confluence in Bhorgiri and Bhivegaon:** With the help of Koteshwar Women Gram Sangh, Bhorgiri, we organised a women's confluence of Bhorgiri and Bhivegaon on February 4, 2024, with 33 women participating.
- 3. Women Confluence in Kharpud and Mhasewadi:** We facilitated a women's confluence of Kharpud and Mhasewadi villages with Kharpud Gram Panchayat on February 5, 2024, attended by 73 women.
- 4. Challenges and Advocacy in Kharpud Village:** Despite Kharpud village obtaining its Community Forest Rights (CFR) claim in January 2020, the Forest Department has continued to conduct forestry activities without the Gram Sabha's permission. Moreover, they have been hiring workers from outside the community, disregarding local employment opportunities.

In February 2024, the Forest Department initiated the digging of new water holes within the Kharpud CFR area without seeking prior approval from the Gram Sabha. In response, villagers, including women and youth, intervened and halted the work. They promptly requested a face-to-face meeting with forest officials to address the issue.

Initially, the Forest Department attempted to persuade villagers to allow the completion of ongoing work and made unfulfilled promises of future funding for projects suggested by villagers. However, the community remained steadfast in their demand for dialogue with higher authorities.

On February 19th, Forest Guard Mr. Lokhande met with villagers to discuss the matter but was urged to arrange a meeting with Range Forest Officer Mr. Kank from Chakan Range. This meeting, held on February 22nd, saw local women assertively





voicing concerns over the quality of forestry works, the utilization of traditional local knowledge, the specific needs of the area, and the livelihood requirements of villagers.

The outcome of this meeting included assurances from the Range Forest Officer to foster a collaborative relationship with the community, emphasizing forest conservation and local livelihoods. This engagement highlighted the proactive role of Kharpud villagers, especially women, in advocating for their rights and sustainable forest management practices.

5. **Cultural Heritage and Women's Rights Confluence:** On February 20, 2024, we organised a confluence for Kharpud and Mhasewadi women on cultural heritage protection, women's unity, effective agitation for rights like CFR and NREGA, and the importance of Mahila Gram Sabha, attended by 74 women.
6. **Women's Initiative at Enercon Windmill Project:** In the vicinity of Kharpud, the Enercon Windmill Company has undertaken a project, with promises of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding for the repair of Mhasewadi ZP School. Despite assurances, the funding and repairs did not materialise.

Frustrated by the lack of action, local women decided to take matters into their own hands. On February 20th, 15-16 women staged a demonstration at the Enercon windmill site, halting repair work until their demands were met. Although Mr. Sharma assured them work would commence by February 26th, this commitment also went unfulfilled.

In response, the women intensified their agitation. They submitted letters to the local police station in Rajgurunagar and blocked the windmill road, staging a two-day sit-in on February 27th and 28th, 2024. Despite facing threats of arrest and persuasion from various quarters, including village men with vested interests and company officials, the women remained resolute in their protest.

Finally, on the evening of February 28th, the windmill company sent a lorry loaded with materials for school repairs. Upon the lorry's arrival, the women ceased their demonstration. This incident marks a significant milestone as it showcases the women's determination and perseverance in advocating for their community's educational infrastructure, despite facing considerable challenges and opposition.



### B.3e Ongoing Projects and Initiatives

1. **FRA Implementation Support:** We are assisting Parsul village with FRA implementation and following up with SDLC for CFR rights. We continue supporting Kisan Sabha in Ambegaon Taluka for effective FRA implementation and helping individuals from nearby villages (Ahupe, Nigdale and Undekhadak) with individual forest rights claims.
2. **CFR Management Plans Drafting:** We have initiated the process of drafting Community Forest Resource (CFR) management plans for Kharpud and Bhomale (Upper) villages. This involved conducting several meetings with villagers to gather input and ensure community involvement.

As requested by the Project Officer (PO) of the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) office in Ghodegaon, we drafted and submitted rough management plans for these villages. Despite our numerous meetings and follow-ups with the ITDP Ghodegaon office to conduct trainings for the CFRM committees and organize transact walks in the CFR areas, their participation was not forthcoming.

Undeterred, we decided to proceed independently. We conducted two transact walks in both villages to better understand the area and assess the needs of the local community. In Bhomale (Upper), we carried out a transact walk and village map drawing exercise with local residents on February 18, 2024. Similarly, we conducted transact walk exercises in the Kharpud CFR area on February 19 and March 4, 2024. To complete the assessment, three more days of transact walks are needed in the Kharpud CFR area.

3. **District Convergence Committee Nomination:** At the request of ITDP, Ghodegaon, we nominated Kalpavriksh Member Mrs. Neema Pathak-Broome as an NGO representative on the Pune District Convergence Committee.
4. **Women's Active Participation in Gram Sabhas:** In Kharpud and Bhomale, women actively participate in Gram Sabhas, addressing issues like water and sanitation, women's health, Gram Sangha process, employment opportunities, women empowerment schemes, and pension plans for widows, aged, and single women. Monthly meetings of Bhorgiri and Bhomale Women Gram Sangh continue regularly.
5. **Village-Level Meetings and Trainings:** We organised various village-level meetings, training, and workshops to raise awareness about legal spaces and government schemes, empowering villagers, youth, and women to become more participatory, transparent, and self-sustainable.



6. **Facilitating EVDC, JFMC, SHG, and Women Gram Sangh Meetings:** We facilitated meetings of EVDCs, JFMCs, SHGs, and Women Gram Sanghs in Yelavali and Bhomale.
7. **Organic Kitchen Garden:** Near Kalpavriksh's Bhimashankar field office, we started a small organic kitchen garden using local seed varieties and organic fertilisers.
8. **Facilitating NREGA Implementation:** We have been facilitating the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in Kharpud and Mhasewadi villages. Our efforts included organising several meetings to raise awareness about NREGA and its potential to alleviate unemployment. This year, we assisted the Kharpud Gram Panchayat in submitting various work proposals under NREGA, including cement bunds, Panand roads (access roads to water bodies and agricultural fields), two ZP school compounds, de-silting of two Pazar talavs (percolation dams), and a nursery. However, the process stalled due to a lack of support from the Panchayat Samiti and Tahasildar office. Despite this setback, we continue to follow up with the Assistant Program Officer (APO) of NREGA at the Panchayat Samiti in Rajgurunagar to improve NREGA implementation.

In August and September 2023, we held two joint meetings with the Block Development Officer (BDO) and Tahasildar to urge the implementation of NREGA in tribal villages. Unfortunately, the BDO expressed opposition to Kalpavriksh's involvement, citing claims from a previous Gram Sevak that Kalpavriksh was negatively influencing local people against government agencies.

9. **Establishing Eco-Tourism Campsite:** We successfully established an eco-tourism campsite run by Katkari tribal youths at Bhomale (Upper). This small-scale business generated approximately Rs. 1,10,000 within four months.
10. **Youth Meetings:** Under the TdH-supported project, we conduct meetings with youth on local governance and livelihoods and hold sessions with school children on their environmental child rights. We also organised three workshops on governance and ecology for the youth.
11. **Supporting Independent Research:** We assisted Baba Mayaram, an independent researcher from the Vikalp Sangam process, in writing a story in Hindi on Yelavali village, focusing on environmental and livelihood protection. This story is available on the Vikalp Sangam website [here](#).
12. **Advocacy for Forest Land Allocation:** For the past two years, our team member Mr. Subhash Dolas has been advocating for permission to allocate forest land for Yelavali's new road construction. This issue has been raised at various levels of government departments, including the Forest Department's wildlife wing, the Public



Works Department, Pune Collector office, ITDP office, Pune Zilla Parishad office, and with local MLA and Panchayat Samiti members.

- 13. Facilitating Local Committee Meetings:** Our team members Suvarna Bhomale and Subhash Dolas actively participate in meetings of the Bhomale Joint Forest Management Committee and Yelavali Eco-village Committee, respectively. They are involved in discussions regarding the usage of funds received under the Dr. Shamaprasad Mukherjee Yojana.

### **B.3f Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development**

- 1. Nature-Based Livelihoods Training:** On 17th and 18th August 2023, we conducted a two-day Livelihoods Training Programme focused on Nature-Based Livelihoods. This training covered topics such as nature-based tourism, guide training, tour operating, and hospitality. A total of 29 youths participated in this programme.
- 2. Eco-Tourism Training:** From 10th to 12th October 2023, in collaboration with Shivneri Trekkers, the Forest Department (WL), Pune, the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Ghodegaon, and the Maharashtra Tourism Department, Pune, we organised a three-day training on Eco-tourism. This training saw the participation of 47 youths.
- 3. Exposure Visits:**
  - The first exposure visit was organised to Hivare Bazaar and Patoda villages in Ahmednagar and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (initially known as Aurangabad) on 11th and 12th March 2023. These villages are well-known models of local and sustainable governance in Maharashtra. A total of 45 persons, including six Kalpavriksh staff, participated in this visit.
  - The second exposure visit for 37 youths was organised at the nearest eco-tourism campsite in Mhatarbachi Wadi in Ambegaon Taluka of Pune District on 17th and 18th November 2023. This campsite is managed by the Mata Varsubai Tribal Women Self-Help Group of Mhatarbachi Wadi.
- 4. Ecology Workshop at Arala River Camp Site:** We organised a two-day workshop on Ecology at the newly established Arala River Camp Site. This campsite is a result of our previously mentioned tourism trainings and was started by Katkari (one of the three Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Maharashtra) youths of Bhomale (Lower) under the guidance of Kalpavriksh. A total of 92 youths participated in this workshop.
- 5. Arala Valley Campsite Initiative:** Twenty youths from the Katkari tribe have started the “Arala Valley Campsite,” an ecotourism centre, under the support and guidance of Kalpavriksh. These youths expressed a strong interest in starting the ecotourism centre and requested Kalpavriksh’s assistance. To support this initiative, we conducted



a series of meetings and discussions with the youth group and their families. We provided basic supplies such as tents, carry mats, solar tent lights, and blankets for their ecotourism centre. It is a matter of pride that this group successfully managed two training programs conducted by Kalpavriksh and hosted two tourist groups at their campsite. They are performing exceptionally well.

6. **Ongoing Youth Engagement:** We conducted monthly meetings with youth groups from seven villages to discuss and support various initiatives and activities.
7. **Child Rights Education:** On 27th February 2023, we conducted a session on Child Rights with students of Kohinde Ashram School. Mr. Digambar Birajdar from Dignity Academia Foundation, Pune, served as the resource person. Additionally, on 28th July and 13th September, we conducted three sessions with 7th and 8th standard students on Children's Environmental Rights.
8. **Celebrating United Nations Child Rights Commission Week:** In November, we organised fun games, including some traditional and local games, with children from six villages to celebrate the United Nations Child Rights Commission week.

#### B.4 Protected Area Update Newsletters

Project Coordinator	Pankaj Sekhsaria
Others Involved	Reshma Jathar
Year of Commencement	1994
Year of Completion	ongoing
Total Funds Sanctioned	1,13,500 (PHF)
Funding Agency	Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF)

#### B.4a Protected Area Update

The following issues of Protected Area Update were printed:

- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 2 April 2023 (No. 162)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 3 June 2023 (No. 163)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 4 August 2023 (No. 164)



- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 5 October 2023 (No. 165)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 6 December 2023 (No. 166)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXX, No. 1 February 2024 (No. 167)

#### **B.4b Maharashtra Protected Area Update (Marathi)**

The following issues were produced and printed in this period:

- Maharashtra Sanrakshit Kshetra Vartapatra, Vol. 4, No. 2, April 2023 (No. 13)
- Maharashtra Sanrakshit Kshetra Vartapatra, Vol. 4, No. 3, July 2023 (No. 14)
- Maharashtra Sanrakshit Kshetra Vartapatra, Vol. 4, No. 4, October 2023 (No. 15)
- Maharashtra Sanrakshit Kshetra Vartapatra, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2024 (No. 16)

#### **B.5 Other Engagements**

Three members of the team (Meenal Tatpati, Akshay Chettri and Rudrath Avinashi) participated in a year-long course on Carbon Rights.



## C. Alternative Practices and Visions in India: Documentation, Networking, and Advocacy

The Alternatives programme continued its work on documenting, making known, networking and doing advocacy regarding alternative initiatives and visions across India, and linking these to global initiatives. This update is in two sections: activities and networks within India, and global activities/networking.

### C1. ACTIVITIES IN/RELATING TO INDIA

**Project:** ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES AND VISIONS IN INDIA-Documentation, Networking, and Advocacy  
**Coordinator:** Shrishtee Bajpai  
**Support Team:** Ashish Kothari, Aanchal, Arnaz Khan, and Chandramouli Sharma  
**Year of Commencement:** Jan 2023  
**Year of Completion:** December 2023  
**Funds Sanctioned:** 4,265,148 (2023)+ 12,00,000 (Until March 2024)  
**Funding Agency:** Heinrich Böll Stiftung, India Centre

#### Stories by Media Fellow

Media fellow documented eight stories in Hindi over the last one year. These stories can be accessed online. The last three stories are in the process of finalisation while writing this report.

**1. पर्यावरण के साथ आजीविका की रक्षा- 29 मई को प्रकाशित (ON ENVIRONMENT AND LIVELIHOODS)**

[HTTPS://VIKALPSANGAM.ORG/ARTICLE/PARYAVARAN-KE-SAATH-AAJEEVIKA-KI-RAKSHA-IN-HINDI/](https://vikalpsangam.org/article/paryavarana-ke-saath-ajeevika-ki-raksha-in-hindi/)

**2. हरियाली से स्वावलंबी बनता गांव, 27 जून को प्रकाशित (ON SELF RELIANCE AMONG INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES)**

[HTTPS://VIKALPSANGAM.ORG/ARTICLE/HARIYALI-SE-SWAVLAMBI-BANTA-GAAV-IN-HINDI/](https://vikalpsangam.org/article/hariyali-se-swavlambi-banta-gaav-in-hindi/)

**3. जंगल को कैसे बचा रहे हैं छत्तीसगढ़ के कमार- 27 सितंबर को प्रकाशित (ON PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION BY INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES)**

[HTTPS://VIKALPSANGAM.ORG/ARTICLE/JUNGLE-KO-KAISE-BACHA-RAHE-HAIN-CHHATTISGARH-KE-KAMAA R-IN-HINDI/](https://vikalpsangam.org/article/jungle-ko-kaise-bacha-rahe-hain-chhattisgarh-ke-kamara-in-hindi/)

**4. पौष्टिक खेती की ओर लौट रही हैं भीली किसान 25 नवंबर को प्रकाशित (ON HEALTH AND ORGANIC FARMING)**



[HTTPS://VIKALPSANGAM.ORG/ARTICLE/JUNGLE-KO-KAISE-BACHA-RAHE-HAIN-CHHATTISGARH-KE-KAMAA  
R-IN-HINDI/](https://vikalpsangam.org/article/jungle-ko-kaise-bacha-rahe-hain-chhattisgarh-ke-kamaar-in-hindi/)

**5. जीवन शिक्षा के साथ पर्यावरण शिक्षा 4 दिसंबर, 2023 (ON ORGANIC FARMING AND LIVELIHOODS)**

[HTTPS://VIKALPSANGAM.ORG/ARTICLE/JEEVAN-SHIKSHA-KE-SAATH-PARYAVARAN-RAKSHA-IN-HINDI/](https://vikalpsangam.org/article/jeevan-shiksha-ke-saath-paryavarana-araksha-in-hindi/)

**6.केरल में उम्मीद का संगम (IN HINDI) (ON VIKALP SANGAM GATHERING)**

[HTTPS://VIKALPSANGAM.ORG/ARTICLE/KERALA-MEIN-UMMEED-KA-SANGAM-IN-HINDI/](https://vikalpsangam.org/article/kerala-mein-ummeed-ka-sangam-in-hindi/)

**7. क्या है गनियारी का स्वास्थ्य मॉडल? (ON PEOPLE'S HEALTH MOVEMENT)**

[HTTPS://VIKALPSANGAM.ORG/ARTICLE/KYA-HAI-GANIYARI-KA-SWASTHYA-MODEL-IN-HINDI/](https://vikalpsangam.org/article/kya-hai-ganiyari-ka-swasthya-model-in-hindi/)

STORIES BY STORY FELLOWS

**1. Dalit women reclaiming their narratives through community media by Arnaz Khan**

<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/dalit-women-reclaiming-their-narratives-through-community-media/>

**2. Yusuf Meherally Centre: Fostering the Rural in an Urbanizing India by Chandramouli Sharma**

[https://vikalpsangam.org/article/yusuf-meherally-centre-fostering-the-rural-in-an-urbanizing-i  
ndia/](https://vikalpsangam.org/article/yusuf-meherally-centre-fostering-the-rural-in-an-urbanizing-india/)

**The Gatpo of Spiti: Current Traditional Governance system- A case study**

Over the last three years, through this project we have been involved in documenting the traditional governance system in Ladakh called the *Goba* system/*yulpa* system. The intention of the study in Ladakh was to understand the current relevance of the system in the context of socio-cultural, economic, ecological and political transformations taking place in the region. Through our interactions with and reading the studies of the Nature Conservation Foundation team that has been working in Spiti valley for over two decades, we were informed of several similarities between the goba system in Ladakh and local governance in Spiti (Murali et al, 2021)<sup>1</sup>. Especially, in the context of the traditional system still being quite intact with *gompa*,

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<sup>1</sup> Murali R., Bijoor A., Mishra C. (2021). Gender and the Commons: Water Management in Trans-Himalayan Spiti Valley. Ecology, Economy and Society—the INSEE Journal 4 (1): 113–122, January 2021, India.





*nambardar* (goba equivalent) and local deities all playing a role in polycentric governance (Carlisle and Gruby, 2019)<sup>2</sup>.

This study focuses on Kibber village which is an agro-pastoral village, the last one on the traditional trade route to Ladakh and Tibet. One of the members of the core team of this project undertook the trip to Spiti in March 2023 to document initial findings. Due to floods in Himachal Pradesh, it was not advisable to visit the field in October as per the plan. Hence, the team is planning to visit next year in 2024.

This study is a collaboration between Kalpavriksh, and Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF). The team will publish its report next year.

The presentation with initial findings can be seen here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/12EEq6aPFsnyaPRLTqDuoS1lq8bA5540xQs5IWe1Rwh4/edit#slide=id.p>

## **Vikalp Sangam activities**

### **Vikalp Sangam Film on Alternatives Transformation Framework**

Churning the Earth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8ajoGL8jII>

In the face of widespread ecological destruction, social injustice, economic deprivation, there are powerful countercurrents. 'Ordinary' people in several parts of India are resisting the disruption of their lives, as also constructing alternatives in the form of sustainable farming, community-led ecotourism and conservation, revival of crafts, activity-based learning, decentralised water harvesting, local governance and direct democracy. They illustrate various petals in a 'Flower of Transformation', with a core of ethical values like solidarity, diversity, freedom, self-reliance, and respect of the commons.

### **Three short films on Alternatives in India**

We also made three short films on Vikalp Sangam in Nagaland, Aarey and Gadchiroli.

### **Crafting the Future-Nagaland**

The revival of craft, food and agriculture traditions in Nagaland, spearheaded by North East Network, is leading to stronger livelihoods, women's empowerment, and conservation of

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<sup>2</sup> Carlisle, K., and R. L. Gruby. 2019. "Polycentric Systems of Governance: A Theoretical Model for the Commons." *Policy Studies Journal* 47 (4): 927–952.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12212>



biodiversity. An inspiring example of community-led, intersectional transformation that helps meet the objectives of social justice and ecological sustainability.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ji2dMTEP8>

### **Songs of Resistance: Aarey**

Warli Adivasis including Prakash Bhoir and the hip-hop crew Swadeshi unite in 'The Warli Revolt' to resist tree felling in Aarey forest (Mumbai) for a metro car shed. Resisting powerful forces, their music and activism persist, challenging mainstream development narratives and advocating for environmental justice and Adivasi rights.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00tsqyD7cCY>

### **Korchi: Towards Adivasi Self-governance**

The resilient Adivasi communities of Gadchiroli, Maharashtra and their unique initiative of a Maha Gramsabha - a federation of village assemblies - challenge extractivist development and advocate for indigenous rights to the forest and their territory. They strive for environmental conservation, cultural identity, and gender equality, forging a path towards a sustainable future, through collective activism and their quest to speak against historical injustices.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YU8tvye8U>

### **Vikalp Sangam Facilitation Team Meeting**

The Vikalp Sangam Facilitation team gathered at Serene Eco Village for three days (9-11th June 2023) to work on the tasks taken up during the last CG meet, discuss important proposals and catch up. True to its name, the venue offered a refreshing stay amidst nature with evenings spent watching fireflies. Participants brought offerings of food, fresh ideas and new perspectives, which resulted in a truly connecting and joyful gathering, renewing bonds of affection. This year's meeting was built upon last year's foundation, and went a long way into reaffirming our vision for better facilitating the VS' varied activities and goals.

### **Vikalp Sangam Core Group meeting**

The Vikalp Sangam General Assembly (formerly known as the VS Core Group) met at Farmers' Share, Shoranur, Kerala from 3rd to 5th November. This visit was full of inspiration, our conversations made rich by the participants not only representing their respective organizations, but also bringing in their own personal experiences to deepen our dialogue. The meeting was joined by 30 VSCG organisations and discussions were held on



topics such as VS objectives, internal governance, VS manifesto, plans for next year among others.

### **Dialogue/meeting at PipalTree Fireflies Intercultural Centre on the Social, Ecological, Cultural and Religious dimensions of Pluralism.**

The three most important challenges besetting humanity are:

1. The potentially devastating effect of climate collapse that threatens large scale species extinction.
2. The atmosphere of mist-trust and intolerance between communities from various/different religious denominations threatening cultural, social and civilizational breakdown.
3. The “othering” (based on ethnicity, race, caste, gender etc) and persecution of “those not like us” becoming a norm rather than an exception (and conversely the drive towards homogenizing of identities by denying “pluralities” of life choices and world-views).

As a first step towards finding solutions, in the month of July 2022 a Vikalp Sangam (funded by donor agency Misereor) was held at the Pipal Tree (Fireflies Intercultural Centre) in order to discuss the various dimensions of the above challenges. The meeting was attended by a cross section of participants including young people, social activists, feminists, peace builders, researchers, environmentalists, story-tellers, academicians, artists, spiritual practitioners, and teachers. All agreed that the crises humanity faces are not only of social, political and ecological nature, but also of moral and spiritual dimensions. It is impossible to address the above challenges within the ambit of a toxic mix of fossil-fuel based economy on the one hand, and the ascendancy of extreme polarization (cultural, ethnic, racial etc) on the other.

It was thus felt that the conversations initiated at the July 2022 Vikalp Sangam needed to be carried forward to influence the larger world in order to better strategize for meeting the above-mentioned challenges faced by humanity. However, it was also felt that in an international scenario which is marked by the shrinking space for discussions and which is increasingly repressive and intolerant of plural imaginations for a socially just and ecologically sustainable world, the Fireflies July 2022 discussions can only be taken forward by first addressing and taking into consideration the challenges faced by humanity vis-à-vis the issue of emerging intolerance of “pluralities” [a plurality of world-views and life choices]. Given this scenarios it was felt that as a second logical step to take the July 2022 dialogue forward, a dossier celebrating the idea of “pluralities” is the need of the hour. With this in mind, a meeting was held in Fireflies in 2023 together with a dossier exploring the intersections between the issues and themes mentioned below:



- a. Ecological resilience, climate crisis and biological diversity,
- b. Multiculturalism, pluralism, heterogeneity and social harmony
- c. Multiple spiritualities - Inter-faith dialogue and religious tolerance
- d. Constitutional pluralism and secular ethic
- e. Sexual pluralities and gender justice
- f. Democracy, human rights and justice
- g. Role of culture and art in fostering plural and utopian imaginations for a better world

### **Bioregionalism Working group: a broad overview**

#### *Broad Overview of the Group*

The group conducted two public events to disseminate its work and create a discourse around bioregionalism. New members joined, and there are discussions ongoing about organizing physical gatherings in the coming year. Other groups from the region have expressed interest in learning from and exchanging ideas with the Group.

The group convened monthly or bi-monthly meetings throughout the year. Anticipated for the next year are more action-oriented outcomes, as the group evaluates its work and strategizes for the upcoming steps.

#### Public Launch of the reports

The group organized release events as part of its ongoing launch series for in-house outputs. These events included in-depth discussions on coastal bioregions and the Teesta Multi-hazard mapping.

1. Coastal bioregions - [https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Webbing-A-New-Net\\_Report-Bioregionalism.pdf](https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Webbing-A-New-Net_Report-Bioregionalism.pdf)
2. Teesta Multi-hazard Mapping - <https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Teesta-report.pdf>

#### ***Ongoing tasks***

1. A visioning exercise by the group of our understanding of Bioregionalism and the alternative framework that we aim to propose. This includes short excerpts from all our learning sessions so far.
2. Bioregionalism Group – Process documentation.



### ***Representing the group at other fora***

1. The excerpt on mapping bioregions was selected and presented at Finland. Requests from other groups to collaborate and converge energies with SABWG
1. Presentation by Lamia Anwar Shama and Kiran Topiwala from Kula Earth.
2. Presentation by Arjun Singh from Ecological Restoration Alliance India.

### **Vikalp Sangam Communications**

**Vikalp Sangam Website ([www.vikalpsangam.org](http://www.vikalpsangam.org))**

The website has been seeing marginal increment in visitors each month and also more engagement in terms of likes and comments on the stories. There is an increasing interest among the readers of the website to actively contribute to it either by writing stories or translating them.

The attempts to include more regional languages on the website has been materialising. Every month, the ratio of English:Regional Language stories is a good 60:40.

In the coming year, the key focus is to continue building regional language stories, either originally written or translated. The process of restructuring the website is underway. The goal is to improve navigation, reorganise the menu and include some sections to make the website more accessible to readers, especially new. We also aim to reach out to different kinds of writers to commission stories written specially for Vikalp Sangam. The attempt is to cover categories that are less covered and also spread the net to have stories from various regions.

### **Statistics:**

1. The past one year, we published 94 stories
2. The total number of stories on the website is around 2000
3. The visitors increased by 36% (301,966) and views by 29% (359, 330)



4. Statements published in 2023 until March 2024:i) MANIPUR: A STATEMENT OF CONCERN AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION

ii) STATEMENT AND APPEAL ON LADAKH'S CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS

PRESS RELEASE: URGENT NEED TO SUPPORT GOBA SYSTEM OF LADAKH- 20-21 SEPT 2022

iii) PRESS RELEASE: 25 ORGANISATIONS MEET TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES IN INDIA

iv) JOSHIMATH SOLIDARITY STATEMENT – जोशीमठ के संघर्ष को समर्थन (IN HINDI AND ENGLISH)

(This is not a statement put together by Vikalp Sangam, but we helped amplify it)

v) VIKALP SANGAM GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELEASED A PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO 2024

1. Producing articles on People's Manifesto

#### Young Hope for India in 2024?

By Shrishtee Bajpai: How many of us, young people, have this agency today in modern India to question our governments against all the environmentally destructive policies, communalism, and decisive politics?

If you want to share the link: <https://vikalpsangam.org/article/young-hope-for-india-in-2024/>

#### The Election Horizon and The Rainbow

By Delfina Kanchana Sundar: The rainbow has been a symbol of the queer community. It is natural and beautiful but it is also rare. Can we see the rainbow in India's national election horizon?

If you want to share the link:

<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/the-election-horizon-and-the-rainbow/>

By Ashish Kothari - Long piece: <https://www.meer.com/en/77943-a-manifesto-for-justice>

By Ashish Kothari - Shorter piece:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-manifesto-for-justice-that-has-sprung-from-crises/article67727814.ece>

By Thomas Franco - A piece focusing on economic/financial aspects:

<https://www.cenfa.org/where-peoples-money-should-be-spent-peoples-manifesto-by-vikalp-sangam/>



The Manifesto full document, in several languages:

<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/vikalp-sangam-general-assembly-to-release-peoples-manifesto-2024/>

### **Reports published on Vikalp Sangam Website:**

Please find relevant links for the following reports updated on Vikalp Sangam Website:

#### **1. World Social Forum February 2024 Report**

PDF: <https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/World-Social-Forum-Feb-2024-Report.pdf>

Website page: <https://vikalpsangam.org/article/vikalp-sangam-reports/>

#### **2. Alternatives Course**

PDF: [vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Report-on-Orientation-on-Alternatives-for-rural-activists-in-Maharashtra.pdf](https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Report-on-Orientation-on-Alternatives-for-rural-activists-in-Maharashtra.pdf)

Website Page: <https://vikalpsangam.org/article/vikalp-sangam-reports/>

#### **3. Pluralities Dossier**

PDF: <https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/The-Pluralities-Dossier-July-23-Meeting-Report.pdf>

Website Page: <https://vikalpsangam.org/article/vikalp-sangam-reports/>

### **Vikalp Sangam Social Media**

#### What have been the objectives?

To enhance outreach of Vikalp Sangam and related material on alternatives, to a wider audience, including and in particular, youth. Main goals and objectives include amplifying and centring stories from grassroots organizations and communities to further the main objectives of the Vikalp Sangam process (information exchange, inspiring others to innovate, cross learning and unlearning, co-creating collective visions, and building more critical mass for transformation).

To develop camaraderie with core group members. To develop a bonding and get perspective of DBA voices. To explore the relevance of ideas, ideals and principles of Indian thought leaders of the yesteryears, and see live examples of their applications manifesting around us.

#### What kind of activities, posts are you doing?



- Putting out stories, news, event-related content (relating to alternatives)
- Strategies have included a series of multimedia pieces, using tools like films, videos featuring voices of core members, memes, stories and webinars
- amplifying statements and stories, case studies and perspectives from Vikalp Sangam website repository
- Collab posts with different organizations on Instagram
- Insta live on different topics
- We are using Instagram collaborator posts as an opportunity to connect with CG and outside CG organisations. We did a collaboration with Grounded Imaginaries, Travellers University (CG member), and There is no Earth B.
- We also try to update social media from the ground by live tweeting and IG live.
- Making sure to post content on important National and International issues
- We also try to post content bilingually, Hindi and English.

The Instagram account has crossed 2700 followers, Twitter has reached 1500+ followers, Facebook page has 2.6K likes & 2.8K followers and LinkedIn has 600+ followers (June 2024)

Instagram Live:

- The Forest Conservation Amendment Bill (also did Twitter Space)  
[https://www.instagram.com/tv/CqqICxMOtpx/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CqqICxMOtpx/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)
- Save Patal Tekdi Movement (Pune)  
[https://www.instagram.com/tv/CrDmBSAIgnF/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CrDmBSAIgnF/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)
- Save Mula Mutha (Pune River Revival)  
[https://www.instagram.com/reel/CrvAymrIuEN/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/CrvAymrIuEN/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)
- Ecosophies of Freedom (Discussion on Book)
- The People's Manifesto Release - Press meet in Delhi
- A conversation on the book: Just Transformations: Grassroots struggle (Jan'24):  
[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C2hdqVioW93/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C2hdqVioW93/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)





- From Ladakh movement protest (22 April, 2024):  
[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6D\\_P5yy6B3/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6D_P5yy6B3/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)

Instagram collaboration posts with:

- There is No Earth B (on nicobar) (Non GA member)
- Shramyog event
- Aarey Forest (Art Storm) (Non GA member)
- Travellers University
- Grounded Imaginaries
- Youth for Climate India (Non GA Member)
- Farmer’s share (Non GA member)
- Margshala (GA member)
- LIB (GA member) on Ladakh movement

Other online events:

- Jan Awaaz and VS - Charcha on Gig workers (7th Aug, 2023)
- Started a webinar series From Yesterday, Towards Tomorrow: 2 episodes in October

20 Oct, 2023	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/live/fhyO55aGFjU?feature=shared">https://www.youtube.com/live/fhyO55aGFjU?feature=shared</a>
26 Oct, 2023	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/live/xT1SfqHKIHI?feature=shared">https://www.youtube.com/live/xT1SfqHKIHI?feature=shared</a>
11 Jan, 2024	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/live/Wd5JL_hc8ys?si=iZxVgFDJO4JJDLyk">https://www.youtube.com/live/Wd5JL_hc8ys?si=iZxVgFDJO4JJDLyk</a>
30 Mar, 2024	<a href="https://youtube.com/live/DbBXk6As9-g?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/DbBXk6As9-g?feature=share</a>

- Demystifying Carbon Credits (2 episodes in May and July, 2023)
- Webinar PUCL-NAPM-VS (24 March, 2024):  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/xx-zYD4hZus?si=e5jNvNIVBsMZk-WM>
- Celebratory/Awareness post on important days: Year Recap of VS’ work, Wetlands Day (Feb 02), World NGO Day (Feb 28), Women’s Day (Mar 08)
- Promotion of World Social Forum (Kathmandu, Nepal) collaboration events

YouTube channels are encouraging (Live telecast of Webinars + Recording of IG live later gets uploaded on YT) - with 1.23K subscribers



What might be the invisible impacts?

- Social media has multiple positive impacts - **recognition, engagement, and comments**. It also is a great tool to evaluate and appreciate one's work and learn from others how they are using social media for their growth.
- People have joined our on ground events - Bhimashankar wild food festival, Himal Kalasutra.
- General Assembly members now voluntarily share their programme details and information with us.
- Non GA members actively reach out to us on Instagram for collabs.



## C. 2 Documentation and Outreach Centre for Community Based Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Security

**Project No. 321-900-1795 ZG**

**Project Title:** Documentation and Outreach in Democratic Conservation Governance and Socio-ecological Transformation

**Coordinator:** Milind Wani

**Thematic:** Alternatives

**Support Project Team:** Arnaz Khan, Radhika Mule, Sujatha Padmanabhan, Pallav Das, Sushama Gaikwad (Library)

**Others involved:** Govind Khalsode (Admin staff), Prajakta Kulkarni (Accts staff), Shubhangi Gadekar (Accts staff).

**Associates (External):** Siddharth (PipalTree- Fireflies Intercultural Centre Bangalore), Ananya Bhattacharji, Aspi Mistry

**Year of commencement:** March 2021

**Year of completion:** February 2024

**Total funds sanctioned:** INR 28,78,075/-

**Funding agency:** Misereor



At the time of writing this report, following activities have been carried out.

1. One issue of the English and Hindi versions of the newsletter People in Conservation was produced and disseminated in April 2023. The special issue is focusing on the thematic of Energy Alternatives (See [/https://kalpavriksh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Eng.-Vol-11\\_Issue-2\\_Final-for-Web.pdf](https://kalpavriksh.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Eng.-Vol-11_Issue-2_Final-for-Web.pdf))
2. One issue of the English versions of the newsletter People in Conservation was produced and disseminated in February 2024. The special issue is focusing on the thematic of Radical Ecological Democracy ([https://kalpavriksh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Eng.-Vol-12\\_Issue-1.pdf](https://kalpavriksh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Eng.-Vol-12_Issue-1.pdf) )

## 2. Alternatives Course

- a. Orientation program on Alternatives for young and budding activists in rural Maharashtra: Kalpavriksh organized a course titled- “**Alternative Visions for India**” from the evening of January 29, 2024, to the evening of February 1, 2024, at The Hidden Oasis near Pune. The course was exclusively designed for young individuals from rural or semi-rural regions of Maharashtra who work in civil society organizations dealing with various social and environmental issues, and was attended by 17 participants. The sessions were conducted in Marathi and Hindi. The main objective of the course was to provide a platform for reflection on the numerous crises that India is currently facing while enabling participants to ideate on their visions for the future. The course also aimed to focus on transformative initiatives and ideas that work towards addressing these crises, and to offer participants an opportunity to re-examine and challenge their own beliefs and ideas. Over three days, the course delved deeper into issues and transformative alternatives in the spheres of conservation, gender, economy, and governance. (See for report: [vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Report-on-Orientation-on-Alternatives-for-rural-activists-in-Maharashtra.pdf](https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Report-on-Orientation-on-Alternatives-for-rural-activists-in-Maharashtra.pdf))

### Stories for the website

6 stories on alternatives were commissioned in this period, four in English and two in Hindi.

#### English:

- 1) Ashik Krishnan: A short story on 'On the Pursuit of Livelihoods'. exploring the alternatives in being and doing which involves the pursuit of livelihoods oriented towards social, ecological and personal wellbeing, the values involved, exploring



examples of some of these livelihoods across domains and some of the spaces that are facilitating the pursuit of the same. This story unfortunately was not submitted as the author we had commissioned had some personal issues.

- 2) Aanchal: The story focuses on the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bird festival that was organized by Himal Kalasutra to encourage younger generations. The story will highlight its importance from the perspective of the spheres of transformation.  
Story uploaded: <https://vikalpsangam.org/article/yaarana-e-sarmoli-in-hindi/>
- 3) Vasudha Varadarajan: The story focuses on the work of Manzil in Delhi and show how they have helped shaped the lives of youth from marginalized backgrounds. The story will highlight their work from the perspective of the spheres of transformation.  
Story uploaded: [A School of One's Own](#)
- 4) Mugdha Trifaley: The story focuses on how the Sahyadri School of the Krishnamurthy Foundation is nourishing alternatives in education to revive students' connection to the land.  
Story uploaded:  
<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/the-hills-are-alive-with-the-songs-of-change/>

### **Hindi:**

Author: Baba Mayaram:

- 1) The story revolves around the work of the labour tribal organization of the Korku-Gond tribals in Betul district who have built ponds through Shramdaan and planting trees by taking out Hariyali Yatra for many years.  
Story uploaded:  
<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/sukhe-ka-mukaabla-kaise-kar-rahe-hain-ativasi-in-hindi/>
- 2) The story revolves around the positive impacts of bird watching.  
Story uploaded:  
<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/avsaad-ko-kam-karta-hai-pakshi-sangeet-in-hindi/>

## **Other Vikalp Sangam Engagements**

### **Statements Issued**

‘Manipur: A Statement of Concern and Suggestions for Peaceful Resolution’, issued by Vikalp Sangam General Assembly, 28 September 2023,



<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/manipur-a-statement-of-concern-and-suggestions-for-peaceful-resolution/>

‘Statement and Appeal on Ladakh’s Demands for Constitutional Safeguards’, issued by Vikalp Sangam General Assembly, 22 March 2024,

<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/statement-and-appeal-on-ladakhs-demands-for-constitutional-safeguards/>

### People’s Manifesto

In December 2023, the Vikalp Sangam General Assembly released a ‘People’s Manifesto for a Just, Equitable and Sustainable India’, in view of the upcoming general elections, as also as a tool for advocacy and use in various other contexts. Kalpavriksh anchored the preparation of the Manifesto. It was released at a press conference in New Delhi on 18 December 2023.

Available in 6 languages:

<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/vikalp-sangam-general-assembly-to-release-peoples-manifesto-2024/>

### Jan Sarokar

Kalpavriksh facilitated the participation of Vikalp Sangam in the ‘Campaign for Democracy, Diversity, Dignity and Development’, including at a Jan Mela in Ajmer, and helping to organise a dialogue in Sarmoli (Munsiari).

### Alternatives course

Kalpavriksh is anchoring a sub-group of the VS General Assembly, to prepare the template for a course on alternatives, that can be offered on site or online, for various durations and diverse kinds of participants. A draft is under circulation.

### Ladakh movement for Constitutional safeguards

Kalpavriksh is facilitating national level support for the ongoing movement in Ladakh demanding Constitutional safeguards including 6th Schedule and statehood. This includes participation in online sessions by Youth for Himalaya and Friends of Ladakh, participation in solidarity actions in Pune, putting out a statement (see D7.a above), and co-organising webinars with NAPM and PUCL for people from Ladakh and across India to speak. Dates of these events are available in the Chronology of Events below.



## 2. Activities at global levels

### REDWeb (Radical Ecological Democracy website)

Project Coordinator: Ashish Kothari  
Project Team: Pallav Das, Pooja Kishinani  
Year of Commencement: 2014  
Year of Completion: Ongoing  
Funds sanctioned: Part of Activity D2 (Documentation and Outreach Centre)  
Funding agency: Misereor

#### *Key Statistics*

Some of the key statistics for the last one year are given below:

Number of stories published – 11

Total readership – 23699

Average viewership per article – 2155

Average monthly readership - 1972

Articles fall broadly into three categories:

Alternatives – 4, Political/Social/Economic Analysis – 5, Environmental Issues – 2

The year 2023-24 turned out to be a challenging one owing to some personal issues, resulting in a fewer number of articles published, dropping down from 17 to 11. Yet, the viewership of the website almost held steady, dropping just by 3%, and, in fact, the average viewership per article increased by 35%, a welcome development, indeed. This makes us confident that this year RED will increase on its previous readership numbers.

#### *Outreach*

Two important outreach initiatives took place in 23-24. RED sponsored the participation of our Kalpavriksh colleagues in November/23 at the “Art of Freedom” conference in Basel, Switzerland, in November, organized by the “Academy of Democratic Modernity”, a Kurdish initiative. Milind Wani who attended the conference wrote an article for RED (<https://radicalecologicaldemocracy.org/bella-cio-bella-cio-hope-comes-from-the-young-for-a-world-weary-socialist/>) about the issues discussed in the conference and how they are relevant to our quest for ecological democracy. RED also sponsored another group of KV colleagues earlier in March this year at the World Social Forum in Kathmandu, Nepal. RED executed an important project this year to sharpen our communications and outreach initiatives. We hired a communications consultant to help us think through ways in which



we could engage with modern social media to increase our reach particularly with tech savvy younger readers.

Over the last few years, we have recognized that a vast section of society, which interacts with the world using social media, has minimal access to RED's message because of our sketchy presence there. And, for some time now, it has been one of our chief desires to rectify that weakness and create a vigorous and active social media presence for RED.

The 2024 Communications Strategy has pointed us in a new direction and Pooja Kishinani who joined RED earlier in the spring has started work on this new strategy, focusing on the following platforms to increase our presence and accessibility:

- Instagram
- Facebook
- Twitter (X)
- YouTube (To be explored when we host webinars)
- LinkedIn
- Google Groups/Mailing lists

#### *Future Plans*

The new Communications Strategy put an emphasis on creating a logo for RED, something we have been aware of as a lacuna on our website. The group which worked on the new strategy pointed out that a logo helps in establishing a visual recall, particularly in this age of information overload, and it would be critical to create one that sets RED apart from other visual platforms. A logo will also be a visual identity marker for social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp.

For the last few years, we have been keen to explore new formats for spreading the word on “alternatives” including creative formats like videos, the audio-visual media and also illustrated or comic books. This year, finally, we have been able to experiment with a comic book illustration of the exciting subject of fashion, which unfortunately is marked by a high level of pathos and exploitation, a continuing hallmark of market fundamentalism. The writer, Alessandra Monaco, had herself worked as a business executive in the fashion industry and her disenchantment with it is expressed quite methodically and with genuine emotion in the article. Our colleague, Shaunuk Sokey, was able to turn Alessandra's first-person narrative into a precise and pointed critique of the fashion industry.

We hope to be able to take the next step towards audio and video production and coming out with creative comic and illustrated books to make our articles attractive for a wider





Readership. We also plan to host RED webinars over the next few months, where we interview contributors and other folks who are envisioning and practicing alternatives all around the World.

In late July/early August the RED team is going to formulate a short/medium term plan for the website. We will then share it with the KV general body meeting in September in Pune.

### Global Tapestry Of Alternatives

<p><b>Project Coordinator:</b> Shrishtee Bajpai <b>Initial Team:</b> Ashish kothari, Shrishtee Bajpai, Sujatha Padmanabhan and Milind Wani. <b>Current Team:</b> Ashish Kothari, Mugdha Trifaley <b>Year of Commencement:</b> 2018 <b>Year of Completion:</b> ongoing <b>Funds sanctioned:</b> <b>Funding agency:</b></p>
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Following are the activities that Kalpavriksh members are anchoring or participating in:

Webinar series on Climate Fiction in South Asia: begun on 17 January 2024, Kalpavriksh and GTA are co-hosting a series of webinars focusing on climate fiction in the South Asian region. More information and recordings at:

[https://globaltapestryofalternatives.org/events:2024\\_climate\\_change\\_fiction\\_webinars:index](https://globaltapestryofalternatives.org/events:2024_climate_change_fiction_webinars:index)

Radical Democracy & Autonomy gathering: a group within the GTA Facilitation Team is planning for a physical gathering on this topic sometime in early 2025.

Democracy thematic working group: Formed at the GTA physical assembly in Kenya, this group is planning to organise dialogues, compile a bibliography, and prepare other materials that can feed into the proposed Radical Democracy and Autonomy gathering.

Dictionary of Terms: a sub-group of the GTA Assembly is preparing a proposal for a two year process to compile a dictionary of terms relevant to radical transformations and alternatives from around the world.

Weaving Alternatives Periodical: Every three months, a Periodical is released for the extended GTA community. The Periodical contains updates from the Weavers, the Endorsers and the Facilitation team of the GTA, along with specially commissioned articles and some re-published pieces. This year we were able to publish one general Periodical and three themed Periodicals.

GTA Mapping: We have been mapping the Endorsers and Weavers onto our platform GTAMap. Currently, cases from the three commissioned volumes (the two Resilience



volumes and the one Regeneration volumes) have been uploaded onto the map, and now all the webinars the GTA has initiated and hosted are being uploaded as well.

There is also a book being compiled of all the writings and the pieces of knowledge about the GTA's practices, narrating what the GTA has done. There has been a lot written already; this editorial group intends to bring all of this together that presents the GTA.

### C.3 Other Activities (not project-funded through Kalpavriksh)

#### **Western Himalayan Vikalp Sangam process:**

The WHVS process began in 2016 and since then has been co-led by the core member organizations such as Jagori Rural, Beej Bachao Andolan, Devalsari Environment Protection Committee, Himdhara, Maati, MAUSAM, Peoples' Science Institute, Shramyog, Snow-Leopard Conservancy India Trust, Titli Trust, Kalpavriksh and Himalayan Collective. Kalpavriksh for two years, supported the part-time coordination & facilitation of the process while the member organizations put together a comprehensive proposal for their joint activities under Vikalp Sangam process. The proposal submitted by the core team for funding has been accepted by Eicher Foundation.

**Producing Alternative Green Futures' project:** Advisory role in project 'Green Transitions' of Risikolde University (Denmark) and WITS University (South Africa), including hosting, advising, and making connections for PhD student doing fieldwork on alternative initiatives in India and on the VS process.

**Manifesto for an Ecosocial Energy Transition from the Peoples of the South:** Inputs to this document and subsequent promotion, emerging from EcoSocial Pact of the South and Global Just Transition (Institute for Policy Studies)

Members have been involved in several Vikalp Sangam related activities on a voluntary basis, including

1. Helping coordinate the framing of a policy on Grievance Redressal that could be used by the VS network on issues of harassment, inter-organisation disputes, and so on.
2. Participation in a group on increasing understanding of carbon markets
3. Participation in generating a database of key information on VS Core Group members
4. Participation in a survey assessing reasons for inadequate participation in VS activities and correspondence, and suggestions for what could be done to improve it
5. Inputs to 7th avatar of 'In Search of Alternatives' (VS's overall vision note)



6. Helping coordinate a statement on the demand for 6 th Schedule for Ladakh, 1.2.2023 (<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/statement-and-appeal-on-ladakhs-constitutional-status/>)
7. Inputs to finalisation of ‘Pandemic Resilience in Urban India’, 7 th volume of ‘Extraordinary Work of ‘Ordinary’ People: Beyond Pandemics and Lockdowns’ (<https://vikalpsangam.org/article/pandemic-resilience-in-urban-india/>)

## PART B: PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

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### A. Kalpavriksh Publications and Outputs

#### A.1 Published Books and Reports

- The Miracle on Kachhua Beach by Nandita da Cunha, illustrated by Priya Kuriyan
- The Spring of Life by Lavany Karthik, illustrated by Canato Jimo
- Why Are You So Colourful? written and illustrated by Shruti Hemani
- Tatpati, M., & Ajit, S. (2024). Raika Women Speak. In. Rodriguez, I., Walter, M., & Temper, L., (Eds.). Just Transformations: Grassroots Struggles for Alternative Futures.
- Kothari, A. and Joy, K.J. 2023. *Bharat ka Vaikalpik Bhavishya: Kuchh Jhalak*, Kalpavriksh and SOPPECOM, Pune (Hindi of Introduction and Conclusion of Alternative Futures: India Unshackled (July 2023))

#### A.2 Unpublished Books and Reports

- Avinashi, R and Tiwari, S. (2023). Sacred Landscapes of western Rajasthan. Kalpavriksh  
[https://kalpavriksh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Sacred-landscapes-of-Western-Rajasthan.docx\\_compressed.pdf](https://kalpavriksh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Sacred-landscapes-of-Western-Rajasthan.docx_compressed.pdf)

#### A.3 Newsletters and Legislation Briefs

- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 2 April 2023 (No. 162)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 3 June 2023 (No. 163)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 4 August 2023 (No. 164)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 5 October 2023 (No. 165)



- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXIX, No. 6 December 2023 (No. 166)
- Production and Printing of PA Update Vol. XXX, No. 1 February 2024 (No. 167)
- Maharashtra Sanrakshit Kshetra Vartapatra, Vol. 4, No. 2, April 2023 (No. 13)
- Maharashtra Sanrakshit Kshetra Vartapatra, Vol. 4, No. 3, July 2023 (No. 14)
- Maharashtra Sanrakshit Kshetra Vartapatra, Vol. 4, No. 4, October 2023 (No. 15)
- Maharashtra Sanrakshit Kshetra Vartapatra, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2024 (No. 16)

#### A.4 Letters and Petitions

- Comments on the Forest Conservation Amendment Bill, 2023 sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee

#### A.5 Audiovisual Outputs

- Instalive Discussion on the Forest Conservation Amendment Bill (Organised by Kalpavriksh, Vikalp Sangam and Maadhyam): Meenal Tatpati
- Webinar on Challenges and Opportunities in Pastoral Territories of Life in Asia (Organised by ICCA Consortium and Kalpavriksh): Neema Pathak Broome, Meenal Tatpati and Akshay Chettri
- A Conversation on the book: Just Transformations: Grassroots Struggles for Alternative Futures: Meenal Tatpati and Shrishtee Bajpai ([A Conversation on the book: Just Transformations: Grassroots Struggles for Alternative Futures \(youtube.com\)](#))
- Carbon Series:
  - Demystifying Carbon Credits: [Bitrix24 Best CRM \(youtube.com\)](#) (Vasudha Vardarajan and Meenal Tatpati)
  - Looking at the Green Credit Programme: [S02: Looking at the Green Credits Programme \(youtube.com\)](#) (Meenal Tatpati and Vasudha Vardarajan)
  - What is Geoengineering? [What is Geoengineering? \(youtube.com\)](#) (Meenal Tatpati and Vasudha Vardarajan)



## B. Other Publications

### B.1 Books and Reports

- Kothari, A., Salleh, A., Escobar, A., Demaria, F., and Acosta, A. 2023. *Pluriversum: Ein Lexikon des Guten Lebens für alle*, AG SPAK Bucher, Neu-Ulm (German version of *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary*)

### B.2 Articles

- Tatpati, M. Target 3 of the Kunming Montreal Protocol and its implementation in India: Observer Research Foundation [Target 3 of Kunming Montreal Protocol and its implementation in India \(orfonline.org\)](https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/target-3-of-kunming-montreal-protocol-and-its-implementation-in-india)
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- Chettri, A (2023). Tiger reserved: Fiftieth anniversary of Project Tiger means little to forest-dwelling communities [Tiger reserved: Fiftieth anniversary of Project Tiger means little to forest-dwelling communities \(downtoearth.org.in\)](https://downtoearth.org.in/news/tiger-reserved-fiftieth-anniversary-of-project-tiger-means-little-to-forest-dwelling-communities)
- Chettri, A (2023): Global Biodiversity Framework and the Status of Protected Area conservation in India [Global biodiversity framework and the status of protected area conservation in India \(orfonline.org\)](https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/global-biodiversity-framework-and-the-status-of-protected-area-conservation-in-india)
- Broome, N.P, Chettri, A (2023): A decade after relocation, the lives of Van Gujjars still lack stability and security [\[Commentary\] A decade after relocation, the lives of Van Gujjars still lack stability and security \(mongabay.com\)](https://www.mongabay.com/news/india/van-gujjar-relocation-stability-security/)
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- Patodi I, Chettri, A (2023): Ambiguity on fund allocation shrouds Project Tiger and Project Elephant merger [\[Commentary\] Ambiguity on fund allocation shrouds Project Tiger and Project Elephant merger \(mongabay.com\)](https://www.mongabay.com/news/india/project-tiger-project-elephant-merger/)



### B.3 Articles / Videos / Interviews

- Kothari, A. 2023. ‘Le budget 2023 de l’Inde n’a-t-il de vert que le nom?’, *Le Journal des Alternatives*, 1.4.2023, <https://alter.quebec/le-budget-2023-de-linde-na-t-il-de-vert-que-le-nom/>
- Kothari, A. 2023. ‘Decolonising aid’, *meer.com*, 13.5.2023, <https://www.meer.com/en/73671-decolonising-aid>
- Kothari, A. 2023. ‘Democracy or demagogracy?’, *meer.com*, 13.6.2023, <https://www.meer.com/en/74147-democracy-or-demagogracy>
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- Kothari, A. 2023. ‘Gandhi ile Öcalan’ın diyalogu’, *Ozgur Politika*, 15.9.2023, <https://www.ozgurpolitika.com/haber-gandhi-ile-ocalanin-diyalogu-180825>
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## Interviews

- 'The legacy of India's imagination: Interview with Ashish Kothari' by Uday Dandavate, <https://youtu.be/mByeb22qdKA>, 24.10.2023



- Collective Dreaming for a world in crisis: New visions for a sustainable future in India – with Ashish Kothari, Meridian Episode (Berlin Center for Global Engagement),  
<https://www.berlin-university-alliance.de/media/podcasts/meridian/index.html>

- Touched by Nature: Ashish Kothari, by SystemShift (Greenpeace)

Spotify: [Click here](#)

Apple Podcasts: [Click here](#)

Soundcloud: [Click here](#)

## Videos

- *Raju Koranga, Homegrown naturalist*

Conversation with Rajendra (Raju) Koranga, naturalist of Sarmoli village, Munsiari, on how he became one of Uttarakhand's most astute naturalists. May 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlhlQbcdOs>, 25.7.2023

- *Recommoning in Germany: gASTWERKe commune*

Conversation with Chris Herrwig and Steffen Emrich about gASTWERKe commune (Escherode, Lower Saxony), one of many communal living initiatives in Germany. 2nd July 2023.

<https://youtu.be/Z1bPBdZYx3A> 29.7.2023, 29.7.2023

- *Nourshan Husain, CDC, N-E Syria, on Kurdish freedom movement*

Conversation with Nourshan Husain of Civil Diplomacy Centre, North & East Syria, on the Kurdish freedom movement, jineoloji, and radical democracy. Kenya, 8-13 August 2023.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_zTAME1kpuw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zTAME1kpuw), 11.9.2023

- *Necibe Qeredaxi, on jineoloji and the Kurdish freedom movement*

Conversation with Necibe Qeredaxi of the Jineoloji Academy, Brussels, on the Kurdish freedom movement and jineoloji. Kenya, 8-13 August 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qL1gYG5kzwQ&t=462s>, 16.9.2023

- *On Tourism in Ladakh*

Conversation with Deleks Namgyal, President of the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA), on explosion of tourism in Ladakh. Leh, 24.11.2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGzpyhDY0ms> 2.12.2023

- *Snow Leopard Man of Ladakh*

Conversation with Jigmet Dadul, of Snow Leopard Conservancy - India Trust (SLC-IT) and Snow Leopard Quest, on his lifelong obsession. Rumshu (Ladakh), 22.11.2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjjmfdoL5Tw> 26.12.2023

- *On homestays, conservation and livelihoods in the trans-Himalaya*





Conversation with Tanzin Thinlay, homestay owner and Nature Conservation Foundation member in Kibber (Spiti), Kibber, 8.3.2024

<https://studio.youtube.com/video/NwGp6tM7BNs/edit> 18.3.2024

## PART C: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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### Apr-23

- 1: Memorial for PV Satheesh (Deccan Development Society), VS, DDS, La Makaan
- 15: Participation in demonstration against road on Vetal Tekdi, Pune (Aanchal, Shrishtee, Ashish)
- 17: Keynote presentation on Environment and Development at ‘Climate Change and Human Rights’ conference, Sophia College, Ajmer (Ashish)
- 17: Participation in Jan Sarokar’s Jan Mela, presentation on climate change issues (Ashish)
- 21: Birding at Vetal Tekdi, Pune with BVEERI students and Palluyir members (Shrishtee, Ashish)
- 22 - Session on The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree at The Litbug Fest, Pune (Tanya)
- 23: Birding at Sinhagad Valley, Pune, with BVEERI students and Palluyir members (Sujatha, Shrishtee, Ashish)
- 23: Conversation on budget and environment with JAIN University students (Ashish)
- 23: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to ‘Peace in Kurdistan’ initiative (Ashish)
- 27: South Asia Bioregionalism Working Group webinar on ‘Teesta Multi-hazard Mapping’
- 27: Presentation on Radical Transformation on ‘Just Transitions in Fashion’ event by Union of Concerned Researchers in Fashion
- 29: Keynote presentation Eco-swaraj in ‘Ecological Imperative and Ethical Interdependence – Possibilities for 21<sup>st</sup>Century’ seminar by Tibet House, Delhi (Ashish)
- 29: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to network of German NGOs (Ashish)
- 30: Panelist on webinar ‘Learning from a Pluriverse of Radical Alternatives’, GTA and Ecoversities (Ashish)

### May-23

- 10: Presentation on Eco-swaraj and Alternatives Transformation Format to Textile Design students, National Institute of Design (Ashish)
- 16: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to International Association for Media and Communications Research (Ashish)



- 21-28: Participation in Himal Kalasutra and co-organising Bird festival, Sarmoli/Munsiari (Ashish, Rudrath, Akshay, Shrishtee, Sanjay, Anchal, Aanchal)
- 27: Presented at a webinar on Digitisation of Maps and Databases of ICCAs organised by Working Group on ICCAs, Indonesia for ICCA News Myanmar (Tanya, Rudrath)

### **June-23**

- 2: Conversation on Biodiversity Convention and Indigenous People's Rights, with Geneva Graduate Institute students (Ashish)
- 3 - Online panel discussion on Children's Literature: Today and Tomorrow organised by Parag, an Initiative of Tata Trusts (Tanya)
- 7: Presentation on Climate Crisis and Children, to CRY (Ashish)
- 9-11: Meeting of Vikalp Sangam Facilitation Team, Pune (several members)
- 10-11 - Book sessions on The Ghost of the Mountains and The Poop Book! at Bookaroo Litfest, Srinagar (Sujatha)
- 13: Webinar 'We – Nosotrxs – Crossing Worlds and Galaxies, GTA
- 14: Panelist on 'Growth, Degrowth, Post-growth' session in 'Politics of Degrowth' workshop, University of Sheffield (Ashish)
- 15: Anchoring webinar 'Webbing a New Net: Envisioning Bioregions for Coastal Area of India and Adjacent Ocean', South Asia Bioregionalism Working Group (Ashish)
- 19: Conversation on Radical Ecological Democracy with students of Bewegungsakademie, Germany (Ashish)
- 20: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to students of 'Theories of Global Political Economy and Development', Kassel University, Germany (Ashish)
- 22: Panelist on 'Post-growth, Law, Human Rights and Development' webinar, SOAS London (Ashish)
- 25: Discussion on Indian alternatives, GTA etc, on visit to Fuchshmuehle commune, Waldkappel, Germany (Ashish)
- 26: Spoke on sustainable living at a national youth workshop organised at Lonavala (Pradeep)
- 27: Presentation on Food Sovereignty and Radical Ecological Democracy, Ecological Agriculture Sciences course, Kassel University, Germany (Ashish)
- 28: Presentation on Radical Ecological Democracy to students of Post-development, Kassel University, Germany (Ashish)

### **Jul-23**

- 2: Visit to gASTWERKe commune, Escherode, Germany (Ashish)



- 3-5: Keynote presentation on Eco-swaraj/Radical Ecological Democracy, and organizing session on ‘Flower of Transformation’ for participants in ‘Decolonising Development’ Summer School, Kassel University, Germany (Ashish)
- 6: Discussant on webinar ‘Autonomous administration of North and East Syria, civil society and direct democracy in Rojava’, by Talaat Younis, Jazeera Autonomous Administration, N-E Syria (Kurdistan), South-South Dialogue on Sustainability, Global Sustainability University (Ashish)
- 6-7 - Nine sessions across different age groups for students of MatriKiran School, Gurugram (Sujatha, Tanya, Sanjay)
- 7: Presentation on Radical Alternatives and International Cooperation, GIZ, Eschborn, Germany (Ashish)
- 10: Presentation on Eco-swaraj/RED at Humboldt University’s Asia-African Studies, Berlin (Ashish)
- 12: Commentator on ‘Energy Transition in India’ scoping study, Heinrich Boll Stiftung, Berlin (Ashish)
- 12: Presentation on Eco-swaraj/RED to North-East India Forum, Berlin (Ashish)
- 12: Presentation on Eco-swaraj/RED to Global Partnership Network, Kassel University, Germany (Ashish)
- 14-15: CFR Governance Workshop in Nagpur organised by TISS, Mumbai and Kalpavriksh (Meenal, Neema, Subhash Pradeep)
- 25: Conversation on Radical Ecological Democracy with 52 Parindey (Travellers’ University) batch (Ashish)

### **Aug-23**

- 4-13: Physical gathering of Global Tapestry of Alternatives – Core Team, Assembly, and meeting with Kenyan NGOs, Kenya (Ashish, Shrishtee)
- 8-10: Participated in the Capacity Building workshop organised by Terre des Hommes at Mumbai (Subhash, Pradeep)
- 12-13 - Two book Launch events of Why Are You So Colourful? in Jaipur (Tanya)
- 26: Panelist on ‘Understanding Nuances of Climate Change in Indian Subcontinent – Impacts and Way Forward’, IMPRI (Ashish)

### **Sep-23**

- 4: Presentation on Eco-swaraj and Justice, in seminar on ‘Justice in Economy and the Earth’, World Communion on Reformed Churches, Delhi (Ashish)
- 5: Conversation on an environmentalist’s journey, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Delhi (Ashish)
- 6: Panelist on ‘Shared Green Deals: Voices from the South’, GIZ (Ashish)



- 7: Presentation on Eco-swaraj and Adivasis, at ‘Tribal Economy: Envisaging an Alternative Economy’, Tribal Research Institute, Ranchi (Ashish)
- 8: Presentation on Eco-swaraj and Global Cooperation’, at launch of ‘Beyond Growth: Alternative Models for Economic Development’ Reader launch, GIZ (Ashish)
- 12: Panelist on ‘Restorative Economies: Redesigning Economies to Thrive Through Regeneration and Distribution’, r3.0 network (Ashish)
- 13: Panelist on ‘New Economies: Beyond Eurocentrism’, Partners for a New Economy (Ashish)
- 14: Webinar on ‘The Goba in Ladakh: Relevance of Traditional Governance System in India’, KV, SLC-IT, NCF, LAMO, and Local Futures
- 16-17: Sessions on environment and alternatives, and birding, with students of Sahyadri School, Rajgurunagar (Ashish, Mugdha)
- 17: Wild vegetables festival, Bhorgiri, Bhimashankar (several members)
- 20: Presentation on Eco-swaraj/RED to University of Padova, Italy (Ashish)
- 22-24: KV AGBM, Velhe
- 25: Presentation on Radical Ecological Democracy to ‘Eco-Justice: Voices from India’, Okumenische Arbeitsstelle Weitblick Hamburg (Ashish)
- 29: Webinar ‘Pedagogy of Travel’ by Travellers’ University, GTA, PeDAGoG, Ecoverstities (several members)

### Oct-23

- 5: Session on Networking for transformations, with GAIA/Earth Jurisprudence network, Africa (Ashish)
- 6. Webinar, Pedagogy of Travel’ (part 2) by Travellers’ University, GTA, PeDAGoG, Ecoverstities (several members)
- 6-8 - Author’s retreat and two book sessions on The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree at Neev Litfest, Bengaluru (Tanya)
- 8: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to coVeda learning institution, Chandigarh (Ashish, Shrishtee)
- 9-14: Workshop on the ICCA Consortium’s Strategic Action Plan (Neema, Rudrath)
- 10-24: Visit to Ladakh for follow-up meetings with Goba Association, extension of Goba study, discussions with NGOs/tourism associations re. possible activities (Ashish, Shrishtee)
- 25-3 Nov: Field visit to Nagaland (Neema, Tanya, Rudrath)
- 26: Webinar ‘Gandhi’s Relevance in Times of Crises’, Ramachandra Guha, in VS series ‘Kal se Kal Ki Taraf’ (several members)

### Nov-23



- 25th - Two book sessions at Bookaroo Litfest, Delhi on Why Are You So Colourful and Critters Around Our Homes (Sanjay)
- 25th - Panel discussion on Children's Literature: A Powerful Resource for a Fulfilling Future at the Ahmedabad International Literature Festival at Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad (Tanya)
- 25th - Panel discussion on The Business of Green Books: "Is there a sustainable ecosystem for green books in India?" at Greenlitfest, Bengaluru (Sujatha)
- 1-3: November: Participated in the 7th India Land and Development Conference (Meenal, Akshay)
- 3-6: VS General Assembly, Shornur (Kerala), including field visit to Forest Post and Vazhachal (meeting Kadar Adivasis re. CFR etc)
- 7-9: Birding, naturing at Vazhachal (Sujatha, Ashish)
- 17-23: Visit to Ladakh for follow-up with Goba Association, including participation in its first General Body meeting (Ashish)
- 18: Panelist on 'Regional Dialogue on Land Access and Agrarian Reform', IPES (Ashish)
- 24: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to Biome Environmental Trust (Ashish)
- 26: Interview on KV and an environmentalist's journey by Protect the World (Ashish)
- 27: Presentation on Eco-swaraj/RED to Political Ecology class, University of Edinburgh (Ashish)
- 28: Presentation on Eco-swaraj/RED to School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh (Ashish)
- 30: Presentation on Radical Ecological Democracy and Research/Theory, to IHE Delf Institute for Water Education (Ashish)

### Dec-23

- 1: Presentation on Eco-swaraj for Planetary Health, to 'Planetary Health Forum', Centre for Planetary Health Policy (Ashish)
- 2 - Book session on The Monster Who Could Not Climb a Tree at Bookaroo Litfest, Vadodara (Tanya)
- 3 - Session on The Poop Book! at Bangalore Litfest (Tejaswini)
- 3: Visit to Sahyadri School, Rajgurunagar, for presentation on 'Birds in our Lives', birding with students, discussions with faculty on KV collaboration (Ashish, Shrishtee, Mugdha)
- 3-5: Exchange visit between the Soliga community, and Van Gujjars at Bilgiri Ranganathaswamy temple tiger reserve (Neema, Akshay)
- 5: Presentation on Eco-swaraj/RED to Schumacher College (Ashish)
- 6-8: National level workshop on Community Conserved Areas (Ishika, Neema, Rudrath, Tanya, Akshay, Pradeep, Subhash, Meenal, Shruti)



- 7: Presentation on Eco-swaraj and Youth Action, to Ecological Restoration Alliance, MRA Centre, Panchgani (Ashish)
- 11: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to Degrowth Masters, Research and Degrowth network (Ashish)
- 12: Book launch 'Just Transformations: Grassroots Struggles for Alternative Futures', ACKnowl-EJ project and GTA (Several members)
- 15: Paper presentation on World views of the Van Gujjar in context of Tiger conservation in India (Akshay)
- 15-17: Workshop on Indigenous visions of development and collective wellbeing in Arunachal Pradesh: (Neema, Rudrath)
- 18: Press Conference to release VS General Assembly's 'People's Manifesto for a Just, Equitable, Sustainable India', Delhi (Ashish, Aanchal)
- 21: Presentation on GTA and networking, at 'Building a Global Agenda' meeting, World Social Forum (Ashish)
- 24: Participation in meeting of Pune Cycle Partnership (Ashish)
- 28-30: Participated in the 8th National Convention on Organic Farming organised by Farming Association Of India (FAOI) at Alua, Kerala (Pradeep)

## Jan-24

- 10-15- Participated in a course on understanding Carbon Markets, and Carbon Rights and Vulnerabilities, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (Meenal, Rudrath, Akshay)
- 11: Webinar 'Savitribai Phule's Relevance in Today's Feminist Movement' by Nisha Shiurkar, VS series 'Kal se Kal Tak' (Aanchal)
- 12-13: Birding trip to Bhigwan
- 13: Panelist on 'People and Peace' session of 'Towards Peace, Justice and WSF 2024' workshop, Swedish network of CSOs (Ashish)
- 17: Webinar 'Climate Change Fiction – South Asian Experience', Episode 1 of series 'Climate Change Fiction: Potential for Transformation', KV and Global Tapestry of Alternatives (Ashish, Mugdha)
- 19-20 - Kalpavriksh Kids Books stall was put up at the 6th National Montessori Conference in Bengaluru
- 20: Lecture 'Eternity in a Second: Ethics of Radical Ecological Democracy', Annual Spiritual Ecology Lecture, Tibet House, Delhi (Ashish)
- 21: Presentation on Eco-swaraj, 'Knowledge to Action Online Academy', Swissnex India, Delhi (Ashish)
- 25: Presentation on Eco-swaraj: The Pluriversal Dance, to Dancing Otherwise Network (Ashish)



- 25: Presentation on Development and Environment: Towards Radical Transformations, Universidad Simon Bolivar de Andina (Ashish)
- 30-1 Feb: Facilitation of sessions and presentation on Polycrisis and Flower of Transformation, at KV Course on Alternatives, Pune

### Feb-24

- 1 - Four book sessions at Nalanda International School, Vadodara (Tanya)
- 2: Presentation on Eternity in a Second: Towards Eco-swaraj, Schumacher College MA in Ecological Design (Ashish)
- 2-10: Exchange program between the Idu Mishmi Youth, Van Gujjars, Van Panchayat Munsiri, Maldhari Mahila Sangathan (Neema, Akshay)
- 8. Presentation on Environment & Development, to IAS/IFS officers, In-service training on 'EIA: Development Projects', EPTRI (Ashish)
- 9 - Two book sessions at Chandigarh Children's Litfest (Tanya)
- 12-13: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to, and comments on use of Alternatives Transformation Format to understand SEWA by, Textile Design students, National Institute of Design (Ashish)
- 15-19: Participation in World Social Forum, Kathmandu (Ashish, Sujatha, Milind, Mugdha), including
  - 15: Opening rally of movements from around world
  - 16: Organising sessions on Radical Democracy and Autonomy, by GTA & others
  - 16: Panelist on Peace, Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice session by WSF organisers
  - 17: Panelist in session by WSF on Transformative Economies
  - 17: Panelist in session on Food Justice, by Alliance of Agriculture for Food
  - 17: Organising session on South Asia Vikalp Sangam
  - 18: Organising session on Bioregionalism, by Vikalp Sangam and South Asia Bioregionalism Working Group
  - 18: Participation in discussion on Re-imagining Democracy, in Palestine solidarity tent

24: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to BUKO network, Germany (Ashish)

28: Climate Fiction webinar series, ep. 2 'Antecedents of Climate Change Fiction: Utopian and Speculative Narratives from South Asia', GTA and KV

### Mar-24

- 1-13: Case study on Gatpo governance system, Spiti and Shimla (Shrishtee, Ashish)



- 4-5: Participated in the International Conference on Revitalising Community Forestry on the Era of Socio-Environmental Crisis at Kathmandu, Nepal (Pradeep, Subhash)
- 7 - Session on community-based games for nature organised by The Nature Conservation Fund (Sujatha)
- 14: Presentation on Eco-swaraj to MA Rural Management, Shiv Nadar University, NOIDA (Ashish)
- 14: Lecture on 'Ladakh at a Crossroads' at Centre for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar University, NOIDA (Ashish)
- 15: West Himalaya Vikalp Sangam planning meeting (Ashish, Sanjay)
- 15: Presentation on Eco-swaraj at Kaizen Festival, IIT Delhi (Ashish)
- 17: Participation in solidarity fast for Ladakh movement, Pune, Friends of Ladakh (Ashish)
- 18: Panelist on webinar 'Understanding the Demand for Statehood and 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule in Ladakh', Youth for Himalaya (Ashish)
- 23: Presentation on Radical Alternatives at Rights of Nature course, Azim Premji University (Ashish)
- 24: Presentation and facilitation of webinar on Ladakh movement, VS, PUCL, NAPM (Ashish)
- 27: Solidarity action for Ladakh movement, Pune, Friends of Ladakh, NAPM (Ashish, Arnaz)
- 30: Discussant on webinar on Ambedkar and Environment by Mukul Sharma, VS series 'Kal se Kal Tak'





## PART D: LIST OF KALPAVRIKSH MEMBERS

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1. Aanchal Unnati
2. Akshay Chettri
3. Anchal Sondhi
4. Anuradha Arjunwadkar
5. Arnaz Khan
6. Ashish Kothari
7. Kankana
8. Meenal Tatpati
9. Milind Wani
10. Neema Pathak Broome
11. Neeraj Vagholikar
12. Pallav Das
13. Pankaj Sekhsaria
14. Parvata V
15. Pradeep Chavan
16. R. Prabhakar Rao
17. Radhika Mulay
18. Roshni Kutty
19. Rudrath Avinashi
20. Saili Palande-Datar
21. Sanjay Sondhi
22. Seema Bhatt
23. Sharmila Deo
24. Shiba Desor
25. Shrishtee Bajpai
26. Shruti Ajit
27. Shyamoli Choudhary
28. Sneha Gutgutia
29. Subhash Dolas
30. Sujatha Padmanabhan
31. Sunita Rao
32. Tanya Majmudar
33. Tejeswini Apte
34. Vandana Singh
35. Vasudha Varadrajan
36. Vipul Sangoi
37. Yashodara Kundaji



## PART E: LIST OF DONORS AND FUNDERS

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### **List of donors 2022-23**

#### **A. Alternative Work**

1. C.K.Ganguly

### **List of funders – 2023-24**

1. Heinrich Boell Stiftung
2. MISEREOR
3. Global Green Grants
4. Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust
5. Paul Hamlyn Foundation
6. Terre Des Hommes
7. Foundation for Ecological Securities (FES)
8. Sir Dorabji TATA Trust
9. University of Kassel
10. Unitarian Universalist Association – Holdeen India Program
11. The Nature Conservancy



## PART F: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SN	Particulars	Sch	(Rs) As on 31st March '24		(Rs) As on 31st March '23	
<b>A</b>	<b>Sources of Funds</b>					
I.	Trust Fund			226,314		226,314
II.	General Fund					
	Opening balance		3,059,566		2,919,474	
	Add: Surplus for the year		997,718		140,092	
	Closing balance			4,057,284		3,059,566
III.	Restricted Funds					
	Conditional Donations and Grants	1		5,959,637		4,108,858
IV.	Current Liabilities & Provisions	6		576,450		227,511
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>10,819,685</b>		<b>7,622,249</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Application of Funds</b>					
V.	Fixed Assets	2		302,550		197,827
VI.	Bank FDs & Interest Accrued	3		2,361,766		1,381,826
VII.	Current Assets, Loans & Advances	6		8,155,369		6,042,596
VIII.	Notes to Accounts	7				
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>10,819,685</b>		<b>7,622,249</b>

As per our attached report of even date

Pareesh Sarda and Company  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN.: 140714W

*Pareesh Sarda*

Pareesh S Sarda  
Partner  
M.N.: 143211  
Pune: 26th September 2024  
UDIN - 24143211BKGDHA3307



For and on behalf of Kalpvriksh

*Neema Pathale*

Member

*Neema Pathale*

Secretary





**KALPAVRIKSH**  
**Income & Expenditure Account**  
**For the financial year 2023-24**

(Amount in INR)

SN	Particulars	Total Amount FY 23-24	Total Amount FY 22-23
<b>A.</b>	<b>Income</b>		
1	Grants utilised	24,923,624	16,840,404
2	Other Income		
i	- Interest on Saving and FDs	228,478	141,705
ii	- Membership Fees	27,750	21,500
iii	- Scrap Sales	1,000	-
iv	- Royalty Received	28,242	38,602
v	- Sale of awareness books	1,298,753	969,631
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>26,507,847</b>	<b>18,011,842</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>		
vi	Staff Payments and Benefits	1,924,346	738,750
vii	Honorarium & Professional Fees (Sch4)	13,650,716	10,148,622
viii	Rent, Rates and Taxes	470,442	375,299
ix	Communication Expenses	1,281,964	1,500,888
x	Printing and Stationary	1,210,900	1,358,122
xi	Electricity expenses	19,975	13,380
xii	Travelling and conveyance expenses	4,457,670	2,027,198
xiii	Remuneration to Auditors	60,000	70,800
xiv	Other Expenses (Sch 5)	2,083,670	1,592,696
xv	Repairs and Maintenance	294,491	4,540
xvi	Depreciation for the year	55,954	41,455
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>25,510,128</b>	<b>17,871,750</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) (A - B)</b>	<b>997,718</b>	<b>140,092</b>

As per our attached report of even date

For Paresh Sarda and Company  
 Chartered Accountants

FRN.: 140714W

*Paresh Sarda*

Paresh S. Sarda

Partner

M.N.: 143211

Pune: 26th September 2024

UDIN - 24143211BKGDHA3307



For and on behalf of Kalpavriksh

*Neema pathak*

Secretary

*Nimona*

Member

