

Final Proceedings

A National Consultation

on

SAVE WESTERN GHATS

Converging Responses for
Meeting Common Challenges

February 8-10, 2009

Peaceful Society
Madkai, Goa

Organised by:

Prakruti/ Appiko Movement, Sirsi, Karnataka

Keystone Foundation, Nirgiris, Ooty, Tamil Nadu

Peaceful Society, Kundai, Goa.

Preamble

The Save Western Ghats movement of 1988 has long been history. Twenty one years and 5 days later, on Feb 8, 2009, over 200 passionate, concerned and searching souls got together to relive the past in order to rebuild a future to protect the grand old mountains of peninsular India. The sprawling campus of the Kundai-based Peaceful Society played generous host to the national consultation drawing participants from 7 states and 3 countries. At 30 degrees plus, the weather was unexpectedly warm but the enthusiasm was overwhelming, the number of participants continued to swell by the day.

Quipped Carmen Miranda, a native Goan who had flown in from London to be part of the congregation: 'The location is most suited with its diverse flora, as it reflects the bygone image of the Goa we had known.' Indeed, the team that had set up the event had given serious thought to the venue, the ambience and the flavor of the consultation. The idea was to *Celebrate Western Ghats*, for its colours, diversity, ethnicity, culture, music and food. Consequently, the event had done away with formal format of presentations – chairpersons, speakers and powerpoint presentations – in favor of evolving program, extempore presentations and spontaneous responses. The idea was to make the consultation evolving but intense, and amusing but engaging.

Advocate *Ritwick Dutta* could not hold himself from commenting: 'This meeting is testing our power to make a powerful point without a power point'. Indeed, the Save Western Ghats consultation made many powerful points mainly because people were asked to respond spontaneously. Every one was taken by surprise at the unpredictable nature of the program that was executed in an unpredictable fashion too. The *Toda shawl ceremony* through the three days, honoring the beacons of the Save Western Ghats Movement was the most unpredictable event that was touted as non-commercial break through the sessions, did take many by surprise.

DAY 1

Opening Session

The event opened with an all bamboo orchestra, led by its creator *Unnikrishna Pakkanar*, capturing the rhythms and echoing the concerns through the varied tones emerging from dozen instruments made from indigenous bamboo found across the region. The 12-member troupe re-created the cascading waterfalls, the jungle breeze, the chirping of birds and the howl of the wild through the amazing combination of bamboo instruments – the first of its kind, original and creative. Developed along the banks of the most dammed river in Kerala, the Chalakudy River, the music captured the pain and agony of the river as well.

Symbolic merger

Resonating the rhythms of the *ghats*, the bamboo music led to the symbolic merger of waters brought by participants from rivers in the region viz., Mandovi in Goa, Aghanashini, Kali, Bedti, Tunga, Bhadra and Saravati from Karnataka, Kabini, Chalakudy, Bhavani and Siruvani from Kerala into the decorated water pitcher kept centre stage – reflecting the need to view the region as an ecological continuum. The pitcher stayed on the stage through the event. On the last day Sunderlal Bahuguna of the Chipko fame merged the Ganges water into the pitcher, symbolising merging of Himalayas and Sahyadri.

Reminiscences of the past

'Conservation has no alternative' – *B.J.Krishnan*

Noted counsel *B J Krishnan*, who was an active member of the Save Western Ghats march and contributes immensely to the Save Nilgiris Campaign, recounted the past to provide lessons for the present. In no uncertain terms, he said: *'Western Ghats is our Walden.'* Expressing disappointment for the failure of the then movement to provide

leadership, he hoped that changing times will ensure new vigor enthused into the process. Much has changed in past two decades, Krishnan recounted, tossing up fresh challenges to preserve whatever has been left of nature in the *ghats*. Climate change and economic recession have forced a shift towards Green Economy, necessitating the need to preserve these mountains for our survival.

Kumar Kalanand Mani, a contemporary of Krishnan, recollected the consultation of environmental and social activists that had taken place at the same venue in October 1986 which had laid the foundation for the historic Save Western Ghats march. Not only was the march voluntary efforts by hundreds of activists, its problems too were contributed voluntarily. All said, the long march to save nature continues. The need for collective struggles within and outside has to be recognized, Mani added on an optimistic note.

Claude Alvares, well known writer and an important figure in country's environmental history, was taken aback when his name was announced for the honor in recognition of his services to the cause. In his brief speech, Claude reflected upon the unfinished work and called upon the youth to join hands in rebuilding the movement of the past.

Reflections on the present

After the stalwarts it was the time for the youth to reflect upon their struggles in the changing context. *Sival*, the young Irula tribal woman who has questioned injustice to nature and to the people in Attappady narrated the challenges they have been facing as a tribe since organized deforestation started in the region under the pretext of tribal development in the early 1960s. From then onwards, through the Integrated Tribal Development Project, the *Attappady* Valley Irrigation Project planned since 1970s, the Bhavani Diversion scheme planned at *Mukkali*, near development projects and welfare schemes have been imposed on them. She pointed out the huge disconnect that still prevails between what the tribals want and what gets imposed on them.

Sebastian Rodrigues from Goa had altogether another story to narrate on how indiscriminate mining in Goa has displaced people, ruined livelihoods, denuding forests and created water scarcity that was fuelling conflicts over water. Sanghya taluka has the maximum forests and an estimated 20,000 ha under mining leases, he reported! Dams being built in the catchment of mining areas are one of the biggest blunders and devastation beyond recovery can happen to Goa. Purnan kheti the unique river based agriculture is being threatened by dams. He however pointed out that inconsistencies in the movements are adding to the problems faced in the present era.

Sudhirendar Sharma who was the main person responsible for skillfully and tactfully moderating all the major sessions and keeping the tempo live throughout the three days wanted participants to ponder over their individual perceptions on why Western Ghats were important to them? Common perception was that these *ghats* were sustaining all forms of life like a mother. However, a journalist from Bangalore, *Keya Acharya*, wondered if the power of money was not changing that notion of mother-child relationship!

Cross Currents

In the following session discussions got focused on political-economy, socio-psychological and enviro-legal perspectives related to changing times. *Norma Alvares* passionately exposed the failure of the judiciary in understanding the environment. It is only the hope of the people which keeps one going after all these years of judicial experiences.

Mining cases are often wrought with failure rather than success mainly because restoration of flora and fauna is impossible in mined areas. Mining is emerging as a severe problem in the Western Ghats with mined areas in some places even 150 ft below sea level and water draining into the mined areas from surrounding wells. While admitting that FCA (1986) has been one of the best laws in the country, the EIA process is ridden with problems. Environmental Clearance for projects shall not be given unless

forest clearance is accorded. She lamented that environment clearance is sought to start the project while project proponents rarely wait for all-important forest clearance.

While *Ramesh* elaborated on the political-economy of development and the challenge that it has thrown, *Pandurang Hegde* approached the current crises from a socio-psychological position. The development juggernaut has created a sense of illusion amidst masses such that a large section, enamored by growth equations, has become apathetic towards environment conservation. Economics has created an imagined community that not only influences political decisions but presses hard for erasing the so-called 'development deficit.'

Following the honor being conferred on him, *Vijay Paranjpaye* invited the participants to get ready to face the problems under the changed circumstances. Besides current inroads into the Western Ghats, from mining, plantation development, infrastructure and urban development, the recent Indo-US 1,2,3 Agreement on nuclear development represents a fierce new challenge as it will unleash the building of new nuclear reactors and an associated scramble for plutonium, uranium and thorium, notably to be found along the coast of Kerala and Karnataka.

Having created a broad framework on the issues confronting the Western Ghats, the participants grouped at 'Converging Circles' to brainstorm on selected six issues viz., Mining, Dams and related issues, Roads and Infrastructure projects including eco tourism, wild life and biodiversity, thermal and nuclear projects and forest dependent communities.

DAY 2

Legal Challenges

Is taking more cases to the court the only solution to ensuring compliance?

The second day started off on a somber note with the above question on top of every mind. *Ritwick Dutta*, with his vast experience in judicial activism set the tone by pointing that judicial activism has to do with identifying problems. He also cautioned that 'legal' means engagement with law in different ways. Courts always look at precedence. Hence, judiciary can be a simultaneous process with on the ground movement.

The Govindarajan Committee on Industrial reforms became the starter for the new EIA notification and the new NEP which drastically altered the clearance and compliance mechanism in India. The forest diversion has been reduced to a mere numbers game and compensatory afforestation to Net Present Value! Between two meetings of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), *some 104 sq. km of forest areas is being cleared for projects, reported Ritwick* to a shocked audience. This, he remarked, doesn't include forest areas below 40 ha that are being diverted at the State government's level.

While the EIAs are totally inadequate and projects are often publicly opposed, official documents only refer to 'public consultation has taken place', without mentioning opposition expressed in such public hearings. MoEF acts in violation of Constitution by not acknowledging the powers of Panchyat Raj (local self government bodies at village level). There is as yet NO project which has been rejected by the MoEF as a consequence of public opposition while we realize that wild life corridors are non-negotiable even with NPV! Displacement debate due to dams and other development projects like in the case of mega projects like Narmada do not apply to the Western Ghats due to the high value of forests and highly dispersed nature of the habitats. *Hence even a small number of*

displacement should matter. In this globalised world where we do not have any rules we need to develop citizens EIAs to counter and set the rules.

Research Priorities

With even research priorities and inferences getting diluted and manipulated apart from the judiciary and the executive, the next session on what should be the research priorities for the Western Ghats was indeed significant. The session saw heated debates between researchers and activists on what should be the stance taken by researchers in the case of development projects affecting forests and critical wild life corridors. *Lalitha Vijayan* from SACON made an interesting observation that the ecosystem services of wetlands is more than the total budget of Kerala state. Even very common species of birds were becoming rare pointing to the need for their systematic documentation through educational institutions.

While species are being given prominence in research studies we have little information on habitat – species - ecosystem interactions. And new research priorities need to focus on these. The lacuna of research on lower forms of organisms like fungi and invertebrates was also pointed out. The need for integration of social- natural researches is the need of the hour was the stance taken by *Nitin Rai* from ATREE. Presently institutions were looking very narrowly at forest interactions. Speaking from the experience of working for ten years in the species focused regeneration work in the BR Hills Sanctuary, one understands that while local history of the land and the people are very important one has to deal with the larger economic drivers changing the landscapes as well. And the number of variables to be dealt with in Western Ghats conservation is increasing.

After all these years of working and talking passionately for conservation, we need to remember that 400 sq.km area in the Nilgiris is under exotic species. What are we lacking? This disturbing question was posed by *Mohan Raj* from WWF who was of the opinion that after 21 years we have weakened and are losing ground in research. We keep

looking for new knowledge not using the already available knowledge. Action based on already available research is the need of the hour.

A fitting conclusion to this session was given by one of the oldest participants when she reminded the audience that the very ancient 2,000 year old *Khazan* system of tidal ecosystem based agriculture that was prevalent in Goa was fast disappearing – *inspite of so much knowledge being generated* (words not spoken but heard by all) – so are not we truly losing ground? A young researcher tried to pacify all by suggesting that this is the time for ecosystem approach and community based research in the Western Ghats.

Power Corridor

'There is no need to crucify all the forest and environment officials', opined the three valiant government officials who spoke in the session on power corridors. Administrative hassles and political pressure were the biggest obstacles. However, there were officers utilizing the available space to take decisions in favour of conservation. The young Wild Life Warden *Manoj Kumar* from Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary even found time to carry out his own research on the hornbill – habitat interactions out of self interest without official compulsion. K S Reddy, from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, was bit apologetic for not doing as much and yet contended that their heart was in the right place. 'Count us in your activities,' he reiterated.

The system doesn't allow as much liberty to exercise one's conscience and yet there exists scope to 'follow the rules to make an impact'. The officials were appreciative of the civil society concerns and committed themselves to do their best in supporting conservation actions in the Western Ghats. The fact that some officials did come to hear voices from the ground and contribute their opinion on the matter was appreciated by the participants.

Counting Faith

In the afternoon, no one was prepared for the session on what had faith to do with Western Ghats! However, *Rakesh Bhatt* with his deep philosophical outlook on life started off the moderation with a remarkable statement on the meaning of the urdu word *Khaleefa; the one who relates to other species other than himself*. The two speakers *D.K.Mishra* and *Vinay Aditya* quoting from the ancient scriptures took back the audience into an era when hills, forests and rivers were looked upon with reverence and considered as the symbols of prosperity and fame to the rulers who protected them. Even the Himalayas and the Western Ghats are connected culturally. *Ganga snaan* (bathing in Ganga) is not complete without *Tunga snaan*. The name of the river Mandovi in Goa is also the name of King Bharat, the younger brother of Lord Rama *Presently the skills of our engineers and the resources of the government are the most fatal to our natural resources*. However, *Madhu Ramanath* countered that too much emphasis on the ancient Hindu tradition of faith and reminding the audience about the tribal world view which must have been much more ancient and closer to nature.

Media Watch

After exploring the untainted power of faith for building empathy it was time to talk about the role of media in promoting conservation in the Western Ghats. Seasoned freelance journalist *Bharat Dogra* gave the classical example of *Shankar Guha Niyogi* – union leader of Mine workers who held a press conference in the problem area and helped to break the silence of the media and involved them in the issue. The movements always have to be alert to the changes in the media and seek how the issues can get a better space in media. The media in turn has to maintain constant contact with the researchers and activists. In spite of their limitations, the challenge lies in how the media can be used for press coverage without alienating the press. The speaker recommended the systematic up-scaling of the press coverage from local to the state to the national level.

In these times of media overkill and fatigue, generic press releases do not get picked up. In such movements and campaigns one would need hard facts – *after the FCA Act 1988, at least 11.5 lakh ha. of forests have been diverted all over India out of which more than 1 lakh ha. are from the Western Ghats, informed Kanchi Kohli.* Media can be successfully used to bring out and expose secret policy documents of the government as well as to build relationships with the government. In a country like India inspite of its limitations there is still space to write your mind compared to other countries, opined *Keya Acharya*, a freelance journalist. However, stature of the editor in Indian media has diminished due to the market-driven agenda. The TV media in the Indian context still has scope of being used effectively. She warned that ‘with us or against us attitude won’t work in the media’.

While agreeing to the state of the present media and its limitations the general question raised by a section of the audience was, ‘How to use the media for the cause of the Western Ghats inspite of its limitations under the changing circumstances is the challenge we face. A session that evoked interesting discussion tosses up several ideas: start media dialogues at various levels; engage with business interests; researchers must communicate with media; media fellowships for Western Ghats; stakeholders activism to be considered; and engage children with the media.

DAY 3

Farm Crises

Though not scheduled the organisers felt that there was need to discuss the farm crises. Consequently, a session was squeezed in, and it turned out to be intense and engaging. No wonder, the country has seen over 160,000 farmers’ suicides in past ten years. Causes of the decline are manifold but can be summarised in terms of trade, ecological degradation, erosion of traditional systems and climate change: Trade in palm oil import, a trade dominated by politicians, leads to demise of coconut oil – falling prices and health

problems. Rice imports from Vietnam, Brazil and Myanmar leading to depressed farm gate prices in India.

Farming crisis also needs to be looked at from the climate change perspective. Due to erratic rainfall pepper has not flowered in many places in the Western Ghats, and hence not harvested. Similar problems are faced in case of coffee. Opening up of forest canopies has been leading to decline of cardamom and tea productivity. Farmers in many high range areas are shifting cardamom to coffee due to the changing climate and water scarcity. The problems of erosion and water scarcity are on the rise in the Western Ghats. Massive out migration of farmers and plantation workers in many regions has impacted farming in the region. Water scarcity in upstream catchments has started affecting water availability of farmers in the downstream plains – need to open up dialogues with farmers in the plains on the importance of Western Ghats as the most important provider of water and nutrients.

Vegetable cultivation in the Nilgiris has been severely affected by pesticide and fertilizer application. Ground water depletion is also on the rise, 3,000 year old farming practise in the Nilgiris is being affected along with the labour crisis. Traditional crops (millets) are disappearing.

Organic farming alone may not solve the crisis. Integrated approaches wherein landscape level land husbandry practises with eco-restoration as the foundation is the need of the hour. Remedies include re-focus on a more diverse agriculture alongside encouraging people to become more independent from the market for one's basic needs by growing one's own food with surplus for the local market. Important is to link farmers again to their land and enable them to maintain their knowledge – in view of the fact that many farmers increasingly depend on hired labour. Current

Converging Circles

Group 1: Mine but not 'mine'

Mining is environmentally and socially unacceptable activity that has resulted in loss of livelihoods and has affected local food security. Common across the Western Ghats, but with serious proportions in Goa, mining is ravaging forest and agricultural lands without suitable rehabilitation of people. There is a need to build critical mass of people against it; use RTI to dig out facts; generate researched information on its impact; sensitize *panchayats* to exert their constitutional rights and press for comprehensive EIA could be some of the actions.

Group 2: Living Rivers

The movements against dams should be focused towards ensuring 'ecological flows' based on riparian rights and ecosystem functions. Electricity boards must be held accountable for under-achiever projects and failed power projects. RTI should be used to revitalize the Western Ghats Rivers Network for negotiating Integrated River Basin Management approach. Western Ghats river valleys be placed under REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) and Adaptation.

Group 3: Wild Calls.

The calls of the wild are growing as accountability, transparency, corruption and politics take centre-stage in so-called development. It's a pity that Kudremukh is lone example of maximum impact. However, concerted action needed for pre-emptive planning, monitoring EIA, creating network of people with different skills, and preparing a 'State of the Western Ghats Biodiversity' report. Need to take urgent action on SESA – Sahyadris Ecologically Sensitive Area declaration, Hubli-Ankola Rail link, Neutrino project, Mahadeyi River Diversion, Siriyur- Sathyamangalam road through Mudumalai etc.

Group 4: Speed Kills

Muthanga Elephant Corridor in Wayanad is under threat from the inter-state highway linking Bangalore with Calicut passing through this corridor. The SWG calls for a ban on all activities in core and buffer zones of protected areas; environmental and social feasibility of the project should be assessed after due consultation with the local communities.

Group 5: Forest Communities

Centralised policy on tribes has been a problem. The new FRA has inherent problems. Too much focus on cash in NTFP collection results in forgetting the sustenance uses. Value systems affected by NGO interventions among forest communities – recognize and respect it 95 % of non forest dwellers dependent on forests while the attention is

focused on the 5% as either degraders of forest or most impacted both are incorrect approaches. The sense of community is non-existent in non-tribal or urban areas.

Local communities and youth have always formed the backbone of the Save Western Ghats movement. It is important to fully engage and support them. Essential to involve women, and through them young children, when they are still receptive to ideas. Open up more communication channels to communities. Support for groups aiming to get Ecological Sensitive Areas formerly declared. Engage youth groups and youth bodies such as NCC and NSS.

**this captures summary of the discussions*

Government's emphasis on 'food for work' programmes is at expense of investment in farming and biodiversity. This mismatch needs to be addressed.

Money Matters

A special session was dedicated to assess trends in (international) financial flows (e.g. climate funding) for work, notably grassroots actions, in the Western Ghats. It was observed that private foundations suffer from financial crises and have fewer funds at their disposal whereas ODA assistance is on the decline. Further, international development banks (World Bank, European Investment Bank, Asian Development Bank) are keen to regain part of their market share and are consequently laying more emphasis on infrastructural investments. Donors have a tendency to dispose larger sums of money to fewer applicants to lower 'transactions costs'. While bureaucracy in fund applications and reporting has been overwhelming, a sizeable amount of money is parked with institutions/projects that are often distanced from the grassroots.

The house felt the need for more support for grassroots activists in Western Ghats Long term financial strategy: trust funds and small grants mechanism should be established to harness the growing potential for small actions. It was also mentioned that support for young individuals must be worked out in the form of fellowships. Private sector must be encouraged to see value in such engagements at the grassroots.

Over to Ooty

Padma Vibhushan *Sunderlal Bahuguna* released a pictorial book 'Sahyadri – Reminiscences and Reflections' to mark the closing stages of the event. The book captures the paradise that is Sahyadri through wildlife photographer *N. A. Naseer's* lens, and the hell that has been let loose on it through a series of writings collected over two decades and edited by *Sudhirender Sharma*. While releasing the book, Bahuguna came with a clear reminder, "The subtle, yet, significant connects between the Himalayas and the Sahyadris need to be comprehended at several ecological and socio - political layers".

Bahuguna emphasized the need for more crusaders to save what remains in the Western Ghats because 'mountains are towers of water'.

Pandurang Hegde gave a closing summary of main findings and actions for follow up. It was formally announced that the next year's Save Western Ghats meeting will be held at the Keystone Foundation in Kotagiri, Ooty. Hegde informed the house that an attempt will be made to bring out a 'Citizen's Report on the Status of the Western Ghats' before the next meeting.

The modest follow up actions that have emerged are;

- 1 Bring out Status Report on Western Ghats**
- 2 To strengthen the Campaign by involving youth, women and children**
- 3 To lobby towards declaring Western Ghats as Sahyadri Ecologically Sensitive Area**
- 4 To establish a network to strengthen the grass root actions/to influence policies**
- 5 To meet once in a year to share and celebrate Western Ghats as Sahyadri !**

Prepared by A.Latha with inputs from Paul Wolvekemp, and Sudhirendar Sharma

**We all come from the forest
Unto her we shall return
Like a drop of rain
Flowing to the ocean ...**

(An American Indian song that the participants sang in chorus on the final moment)

was what

Citizen's manifesto on

WESTERN GHATS

15th LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

2009

(To be adopted by all candidates contesting elections irrespective of party affiliation)

Preamble

Western Ghats, like the Amazon, form the 'girdle' of the earth to maintain ecological balance, invoke monsoons and provide cushion for climate change.

The mountainous corridor along the west coast is a distinct ecological continuum that is nature's best gift to the country. Called Western Ghats, this narrow 1,700 km strip that stretches from the mouth of Tapti in Dhule district of Maharashtra to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu is nature's unique evolutionary laboratory still at work. It is **monsoon gateway** to the sub-continent when its ecological riches pull the strong oceanic currents to offload their first showers on the landmass.

Western Ghats, older than the Himalaya, is one of the 16 Global Hotspots of Biodiversity – flora, fauna, landscape and ethnicity.

Western Ghats is replete with bewitching locations that are home to 4,050 type of plants, 121 species of frogs, 508 bird species, 6 types of turtles and terrapins, 87 species of snakes, 63 types of lizards and a wide variety of large mammals. No wonder, this region is to South Asia what Amazon is to South America, providing reliable carbon sinks. It is under UNESCO's active consideration to be declared a **World Heritage**.

Issues

Shrinking Water Towers

The forest cover in Western Ghats, as per scientific guidelines, should be 66 per cent of the total geographical area in the hilly region. Unfortunately, the forest cover in the Western Ghats hill region is less than 35 per cent. This has had adverse impact on the water security of the peninsular India. As most of the catchment of rivers like Cavery, Krishna, Tunga Bhadra and Periyar originate in Western Ghats, it is essential to conserve these forests to secure water security of south Indian states. Care needs to be taken for **conservation of existing natural forests and regenerating natural forests with indigenous tree cover** rather than monoculture plantations of exotic species.

Man-Animal Conflicts

In forests live wildlife and any encroachment of their habitat accelerates man-animal conflict. Forest conservation and wildlife protection go hand in hand but erroneous perception is that priority to wildlife triggers such conflicts. Both are complementary to each other and the need of the hour is to instill confidence among the forest dwelling tribes that their livelihood is secured through conservation of wild animals and habitats. This enhances the natural capital as well as provides ecological security for the human beings and wildlife. There should be no resettlement of villages from the National Park or Sanctuary. People should be given access to Non Timber Forest Produce.

Dam induced destruction

Silent Valley struggle created history by stopping the hydro dam for saving forests and wildlife in the Western Ghats. Nevertheless there is renewed attempt at harnessing each of the flowing rivers in Western Ghats to generate hydro power by building dams. Several dams across the rivers exist in Western Ghats, from Koyna in Maharashtra, Supa, Sharavati in Karnataka and Idduki in Kerala. There is an urgent need to review the performance of these dams before building any new structure. Dams impact wildlife by causing infringement on animal corridors.

Eroding agriculture diversity

Agricultural crisis in Western Ghats need to be addressed differently as it has distinct zones - coastal, hill terrain and the edge of the ghats - requiring special attention. The impending climatic change calls for a system of agriculture that is resilient to such changes. Western Ghats has cultivated diversity of farm and plantation crops that need to be promoted at the expense of high yielding varieties, for securing local food security and for providing sanctuary to birds/ animals. Being sensitive to chemicals and genetic manipulation and for home to rich biodiversity, Western Ghats need to be declared GM FREE.

Threatened tribal livelihood

The forest dwelling tribes in Western Ghats represent a unique diversity of cultures that co-habit within forest ecosystems. Their resource base of natural forests is shrinking at a faster rate, affecting the livelihood opportunities like collection of Non Timber Forest Produce. In order to provide livelihood security, the Forest Right Act needs to be effectively implemented. Community control over forest resources, in addition to rights over land, can guarantee livelihood

security with the added benefit of forest and diversity conservation. NREGA need to be implemented specifically for ecological rehabilitation in Western Ghats.

Thermal Power Plants

There are attempts to establish a series of thermal power projects along the coastal belt of Western Ghats to generate captive power. Though it might be strategically important to locate these power projects on the coast due to cheap import of coal and raw material, it will be counter-productive to the ecosystem fragility in Western Ghats in the long run. Given the distinct ecosystem that is Western Ghats, any such attempt will alter micro climate, weaken the ecosystem resilience and lead to the destruction of the famous *alphonso* mangoes from Ratnagiri in Konkan and the spices from Western Ghats, among other irreversible changes. It will have serious impact on aquatic diversity and fish catch in the estuaries and on the coast.

Destructive infrastructure

The host of infrastructure projects like building new roads, rail lines, SEZ, widening the existing highways in the forests, location of heavy industries in the region is bound to cause damage to the existing natural resources. It is essential to review the entire infrastructure projects and prioritize those which have least impact on the eco-systems and those do not displace people, pollute the river systems and destroy the existing forests.

Diverting rivers

There are numerous attempts to link and divert rivers flowing in the west to be linked to the east flowing rivers. This kind of engineering of the rivers, diverting their course is bound to cause hardship to people and forests on the west coast. It is essential to reconsider and halt such diversion of rivers in Western Ghats.

Mindless mining

The mining is one of the major causes for destruction of tropical forests in Western Ghats. It has not only caused choking of rivers and river courses, but it has destroyed the regenerating capacity of the land and forests. There is a need to do fresh thinking on extension of mining leases and whether we need to identify the sites that can be used for mining without damaging the environment, for instance in those areas where there is no forest cover, or near the rivers. It must be made mandatory for the lessee to rehabilitate abandoned mines.

Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

The forest ecosystems in three states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala represent a unique ecosystem. In order to address the emerging issues in this fragile region, it is essential to revive the concept of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The present status is that of apathy from all the state governments who are least interested in NBR. It is very crucial that this region be made a model Biosphere Reserve which will help towards maintaining the ecological security of these three states.

Demands

- Contesting candidates are seized of the global significance of Western Ghats as a rare repository of biodiversity and resolve to protect the same through development of pro-poor and pro-environment policies and regulations for it to achieve the status of World Heritage.
- Once elected, peoples' representatives will withhold 'community' concerns in protecting peoples' rights to resources and livelihoods. They will work towards compliance of regulations to protect the natural flora and fauna conducive to the protection of livelihoods of the poor and the tribals.
- Candidates vouch to raise the stature of Western Ghats in policy processes and work jointly (with MPs from other parts of Western Ghats) towards declaring the region as Sahyadri Ecologically Sensitive Area at the earliest to protect further destruction of the Western Ghats.
- As Members of Parliament, the representatives of the Western Ghats will campaign to have the ecological corridor come under a newly constituted Western Ghats Conservation Authority and will demand the existing environmental laws given special provisions (teeth) for the protection of the region.

The Western Ghats Manifesto has been released for and on behalf of Save Western Ghats Campaign, a civil society coalition striving to rebuild concerns to save the ghats.

*Letter to be signed by the prospective candidates contesting Lok Sabha form
Western Ghats;*

Dear People of Western Ghats,

I understand the importance of the Sahyadri or Western Ghats as a source for providing ecological security to the millions of people in India. Recognising this fact, once elected to the Parliament I shall strive to work towards evolving a holistic policy towards the Sahyadri mountain range. In order to attain this I shall try my best to work on the following issues:

1 Will try to conserve the remaining natural forests, flora and fauna in the region

2 Will try to bring policy changes towards establishing Western Ghats Conservation Authority, vested with powers to initiate actions to protect the fragile ecosystem

3 Will not support any actions, policies that will lead to destruction of the natural resources like forests, wildlife, river or coastal areas

4 Will protect the livelihood base of forest dwellers, without destroying their natural resource base

5 Will work towards reduction of conflicts between man and wildlife

As I am one of the persons who is part of Western Ghats, it is my duty to be the messenger of these mountains which is voiceless. I assure you that I shall be the spokesperson for this Sahyadri in the Lok Sabha.

For Sahyadri

Yours truly,

Name

Address and Phone NO:

Report on Meeting
“Save Western Ghats Movement”



*January 28-30, 2011, Alva's Health Centre, Mijar,
Moodabidri, Karnataka*

Daniel Sukumar, Ramesh Belagere

&

Dr. Ashok Kundapur and Prateek Bhowmik



SAVE WESTERN GHATS

CONVERGING RESPONSES FOR MEETING COMMON CHALLENGES

January 28-30, 2011, Alva's Health Center, Mijar, Moodabidri, Karnataka

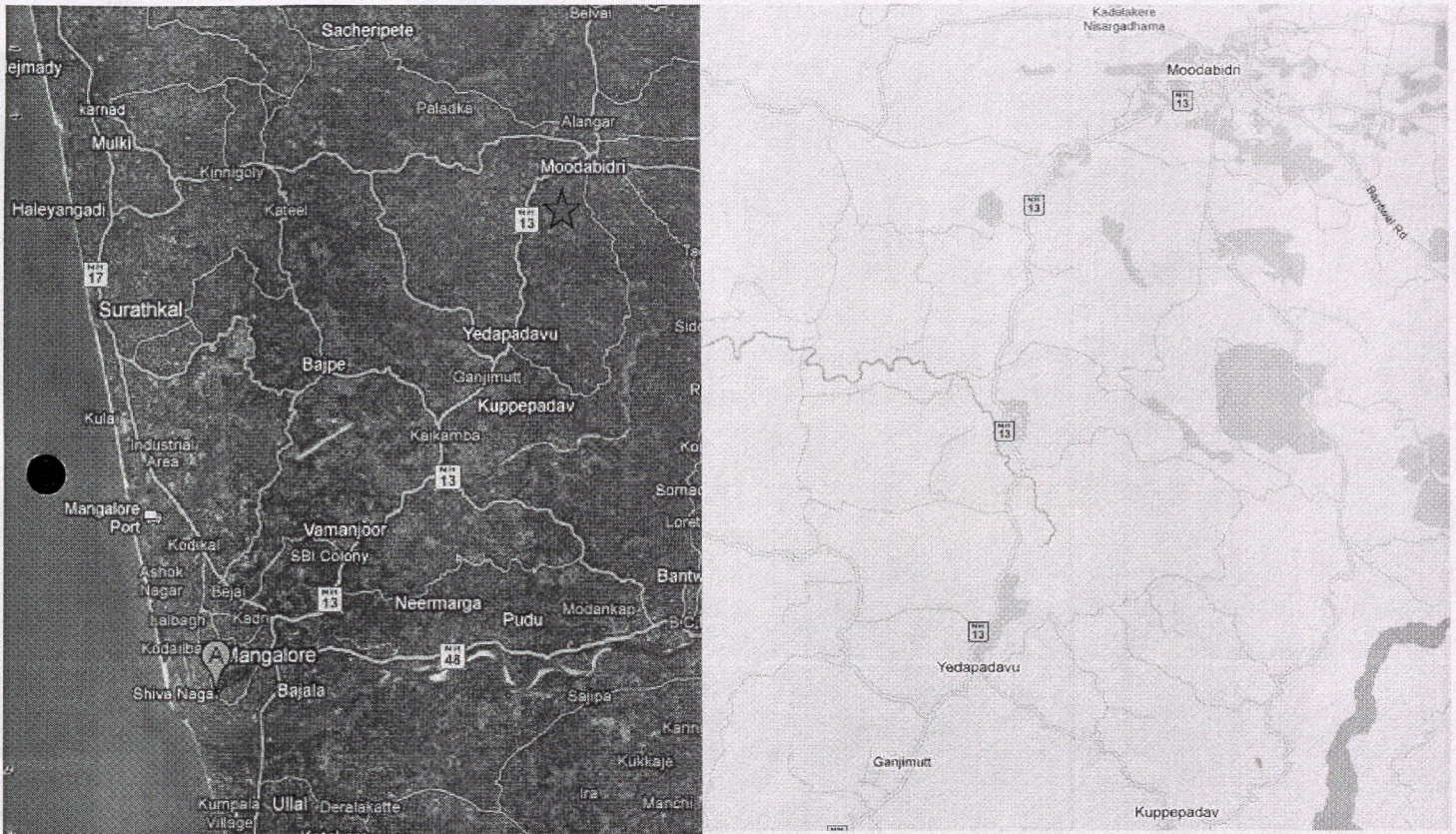
The **Save western Ghats movement** have forced the Ministry of Environment & Forests to set-up a Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel to put a foundation for setting up the Western Ghats Ecological Authority. The panel has been engaged in **public consultations** over past couple of months to collectively review its functioning and actions.

The third conclave of Save Western Ghats Movement was held under the aegis of Alva Group of Institutions at Moodabidri, Dr Mohan Alva being the generous hosts provided all the facilities at this amazing location in the Western Ghats, The previous annual gatherings were at Goa and at Kotagiri.

Moodabidire



Moodabidire



Satellite map and road map views of the Venue

As was decided in the meeting of 2010 meet held at Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri, the 2011 was held at Karnataka. The venue selected was the sprawling campus of Dr Mohan Alva at Moodabidri, a campus now famous for cultural and well as educational activities. Organization team of Karnataka comprised of Sri Pandurang Hegde, of Sirsi, Sri G L Janardhan of Shimoga, while Dr Ashok Kundapur was organizing secretary designate.

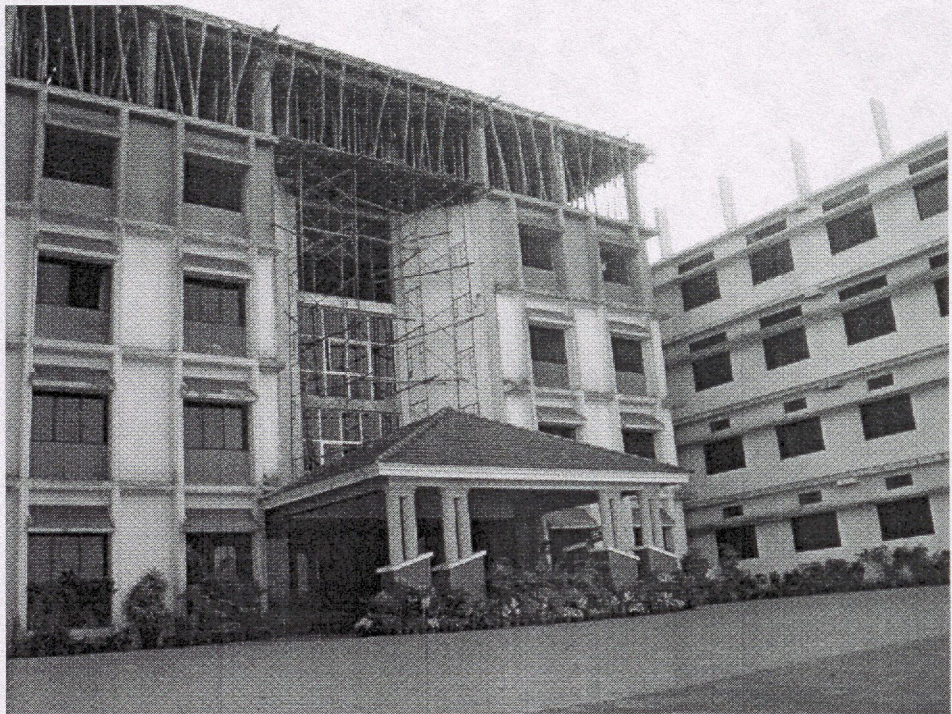
The meeting dates were selected in consultation with Dr Alva and staff members, and it was decided to have the meet on 28th to 30th of January 2011.

Delegates from Maharashtra, Goa, Tamilnadu, Kerala and different parts of Karnataka participated in the meet. As this year's meet was to focus on youth, the State leaders were requested to usher them. 20 youths from Maharashtra, 24 from Goa had come. Tamilnadu team had 16, members while 10 youth came from Kerala. Karnataka team contained 18 college students from Shimoga, Moodabidri, Udupi and Nitte a total of 88 student delegates apart from 200 other activists from these 5 states.

Participants met a day earlier on 27th and discussed on various aspects of meet as to what topics need be highlighted, and plan the strategies.

Moodabidri (also called Moodabidre), an ancient centre of Jain learning, is a small town 37 km northeast of the Dakshin Kannada district headquarters, Mangalore, in Karnataka, India. Because of widely grown Bamboo in ancient days, this place got named as Moodabidri. Moodabidri comes from two words Moodu and Bidiru. Moodu means East and Bidiru means Bamboo. This place was also known as Mooduvenupura.

Alva's Education Foundation was conceived and founded by a visionary chairman Dr. M. Mohan Alva, an Ayurveda Physician by profession and Philanthropist by heart. Alva's



Education foundation is a living dream of Dr. M. Mohan Alva to impart quality education. Accommodation and hospitality was provided for all the participants by this esteemed personality free of cost throughout the course of three days in the Engineering college campus.

DAY I

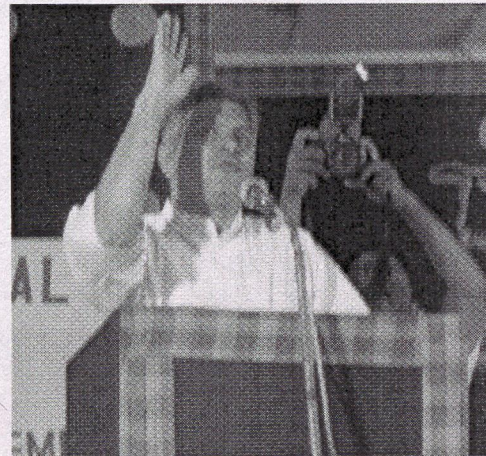
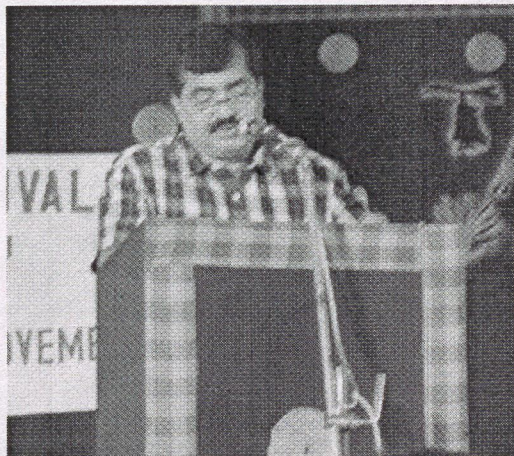
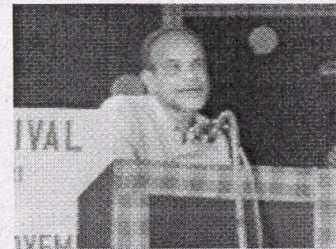
28th January 2011

Inauguration



On 28th morning, the participants were welcomed by enchanting music, played by the Bamboo Group from Kerala using simple bamboo

instruments.



From top left clock wise:

Mrs Shyla suryavanshe,
Dr. Ashok Kundapur,
Mr. Panduranga Hegde
Ananth Hegde Ashisara, Mr
Dinesh, Prof. Chandrashekar,
Dr. Mohan Alva,



The event turned out to be memorable one with the Chairman of Western Ghat Task Force of Karnataka, Sri Ananth Hegde Ashisar, chairing the inaugural session. The meet was inaugurated through the formal welcome speech by the Organizing Secretary Dr Ashok Kundapur. The meet was then inaugurated in a unique manner by watering a Tree sapling, which was then to be planted in Dr Alva's campus. Sri Panduranga Hegde traced the history of Save Western Ghat meet – the marathon march held some 20 years ago, and revival the movement through meeting held at Goa in 2009 and in Kotogiri in 2010. He gave a brief introduction about the tasks set for the present meet. Miss Shaila Suryavanshi compeered the program.

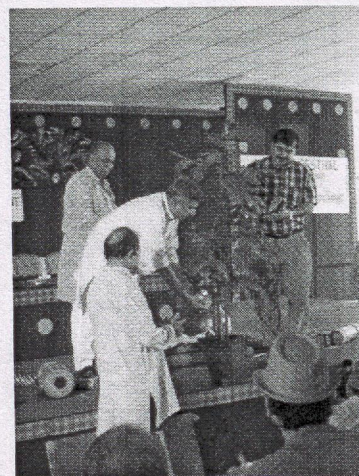
Sri Ashisar was happy about involvement of Youth; this he said would strengthen the movement. He also revealed about his recommendation to the Chief Minister of Karnataka for allocation of special funds for saving Western Ghats and also for dedicating a full fledged Research Station. He then highlighted some of the works the Task Force has undertaken and the role they have played in banning mining in the Karnataka section of Western Ghat. Dr Mohan Alva, the major sponsorer and the Chief Guest of the meet cautioned the group about the bogus environmentalist who works for fame and name. President of the meet, Sri G L Janardhan, Chief coordinator of Environment Research Center of Shimoga, assured the chief guests and the participants that the meet will strive to reach the set goals. Prof A S Chandrashekar of Shimoga proposed a vote of thanks.

Some of the strong messages from the seniors to the youth by speech were; "Plants Cannot Vote" Ananth Hegde Ashihar, "Moodabidire means the place of shooting bamboo" Mr. Panduranga Hegde, "Recognise the original and the fake people while working" Mr. Mohan Alva, "Let us be the green warriors" Prof. Chandrashekhar.

Group Sessions:

Seven groups were formed and were asked to discuss on issues among the following subjects and submit reports.

- Land use and land cover changes
- Energy consumption and conservation
- Forest and indigenous people
- Wildlife and human animal conflicts
- Mining
- Waste management
- Tourism
- Plantations
- Water resources and its conservation
- Role of media in conservation



- Population and its effects
- Governance and the policies
- Culture and environment
- Movements, struggles and good models for conservation
- Education system and restless youths
- Environmental education systems

The brief issues discussed in the group sessions were as follows:

Land use and land cover changes:

Land use no doubt has to be reduced by the human race. Population explosion leads to encroachment even in the last resorts for the wild life, "the national parks."

The farmers are prone to grow cash crops like cashew, coffee and tea instead of the food crops like paddy and ragi. This leads them to find a reach landscape that supports the growth of such crops. So control of growing cash crop in excess is much necessary. Use of excess chemical fertilizers and pesticides are major threats to the land and its fertility.

The alarming rate of increase in industrialisation leads to the purchase of cultivation for non-agriculture purpose. The revised tribal act allows tribal community to be given lands inside protected areas. The rehabilitation issues have to be critically reviewed on case-to-case bases and laws should be formulated with wildlife areas exempted from coming under the ambit of such acts.

Developmental acts like hydro and thermal power generation plants should not be permitted close to protected and eco sensitive areas. The Environment Impact Assessment should be mandatory for all such projects even if they are away from protected areas.

Energy consumption and conservation:

Energy utilisation has to be maximised with plugging the leaks in all stages. Decentralising of power generation and looking for alternative power sources at all levels – individual houses, community and town – will ease the pressure on the natural resources.

Forest and indigenous people:

The forest tribes have educated themselves and become more organised. They are following the family system as in the cities and this is a true sign of saving the tribe from extinction, as inbreeding was prevalent on most tribes of Karnataka. They are now more adapted to life of working as farm hands, though they were traditional hunters and gatherers. They have forgotten the tribal medicine, sense of smell; hearing and even most of today's younger generation doesn't

know how to climb a tree. The wildlife poachers and wood poachers, as well as the rich landlords in the fringe of the forests, exploit them. Time has come to provide them an opportunity to come to mainframe. They must be provided education and cultivable land, irrigational facility and support, medical care and also other vocational opportunities, to help them find a meaningful, sociable and equal life.

Human and Wildlife conflicts:

This is due to various developmental activities like, building of roads through wildlife sanctuaries, dams, cattle grazing, deforestation, encroachment of forests for non forest propose and tourism.

All these activities are shrinking the wildlife habitats and wood and wildlife poaching added with problems of deliberate forest fires are resulting in more overlapping of animals and human territories which is translating into Human and wildlife conflicts.

Participants from various places expressed that it is mainly due to poaching that the carnivores are devoid of their natural prey are coming out on their natural habitats in search of food, ex. Sanjay Gandhi national park of Maharashtra.

The two national highways NH 212 and 67 passing through Bandipur national park had resulted in lot of animals being killed on the road by speeding vehicles. In Rajeev Gandhi national park the developmental work like building of water holes and forest roads by the forest department had resulted in elephants coming out of their natural habitat and becoming victims of electrocutions.

In case of Bannerghatta national park the human elephant conflict is mainly due to the habitat destruction in their traditional migratory route due to human settlements and influx of elephants from Cauvery wildlife sanctuary results in overflowing of elephants from the park which is only 100 Sq Km in area.

One more view expressed was that of change in traditional crop practices by farmers in the fringe area are attracting the animals to fields. Crops like paddy, sugarcane and horse gram are high in nutrition which is grown in place of cotton and other cash crops. This is majorly due to construction of dams and availability of irrigation facility to grow more than one crop per year and also availability of water during summer.

One of the reasons mentioned in the discussion was increase in the number of both human and animal population. However the group felt with decreasing habitat no animal population can increase and it was stuck down.

It was suggested by one of the groups that the access between cities through the national parks should be stopped and alternate access should be provided.

Implementation of Supreme Court's order of creating eco sensitive zones for 10Km from the border will create the much-required buffer for wildlife.

Mining:

Various problems due to mining were discussed. The problems were area specific but the effect of mining on eco system was universal. A blanket ban on all mining and related activities inside the protected areas and in the eco sensitive zones was proposed.

Tourism:

All tourism inside the wildlife areas should be monitored and carrying capacity of each area should be scientifically determined and adhered to. Too much of tourism is creating disturbance to diurnal wildlife, it is also creating pollutions at different levels added with need for maintaining roads, vehicles and dedicated staff. However the governments are looking only at the revenue generating capacity of wildlife areas and not the disturbance or waste of resources in creating tourism to a mass, which is grossly insensitive to wildlife.

Plantations:

Monoculture in the name of afforestation has rendered the afforested area as unproductive for wild life and ecology. The commercial plantations both inside and outside of the protected areas have affected the ground water table and also the fertility of the topsoil.

In some of the protected areas private commercial plantations are creating disturbance and hence be removed with immediate effect. Ex. Coffee plantation right in the heart of BRT Tiger reserve, Encroachment of forests to make teak plantations in Bhadra Wildlife sanctuary, etc

Water resources and its conservation:

Water is the most precious resource of all, and for southern India where water all rivers are rain fed this becomes more important to conserve the water. The forests of Western Ghats are source of all rivers of south and central India. It is important to save these precious forests in order to get perennial supply of fresh water. The industrial pollutions are giant killer of most of our rivers. The un-scientific usage of chemical pesticides has resulted in contamination of rivers at their very sources. The unscientific waste management has resulted in pollutions of not only the rivers but all inland water bodies. The untreated sewage is let into these water bodies near towns and cities, killing and choking them. It is also wiping out the endemic fresh water flora and fauna. There needs to be a check to what extent the urbanisation can happen. There is gross misuse and wastage of potable water in cities. The modern toilets and increasing number of automobiles in house holds that need frequent washing are fast depleting the surface and underground fresh water reserves. If the exodus of rural and suburban populace towards cities, is not stopped by providing the much required employment opportunities and basic facilities like

electricity, education and hospitals at town and Panchayath levels not much can be done about saving the inland water bodies.

Role of media in conservation:

The media is the prime tool to bring the current affairs of conservation to the public notice. Media can educate and make people and make them aware about the facts and need for conservation of resources. Media actually reports the truth and sometime the convenient truth within its operating limits to make people aware about the issues related to conservation and environment. Media helps to put pressure on the decision making bodied to act on time and in line with the requirement.

Population and its effect:

The root cause of all the problems regarding over exhaustion of natural resources is population explosion. The population increase in cities is indirectly putting pressure on forest for resources. The human resources are under utilised and Natural resources are over harvested and wasted. The population demands more food and more basic facilities. The maximisation of available resources is not effectively carried out and there is a gross difference between the haves and have-nots.

Governance and the policies:

The policies of the government are many a times not helping the cause of the masses as far as conservation is concerned. The human oriented projects and development of cities and urbanisation of townships at the cost of nature is resulting in wastage of precious natural resources. It is just not wasting the resources, its creation of voids and depletion of lung spaces and water sources, which are irreversible.

There needs to be a watchdog body, which can check such blatant violation of environmental norms by the government. The political will to conserve the natural resources, especially Western Ghats, which house so many endemic flora and fauna, is missing. The public should make it a point to elect the government, which is sensitive to environment related issues.

Movements, struggles and good models for conservation: There are many local moments, which are fighting issues that are eco hazardous. They are waging local battles regarding local issues. It is in the form of protests, demonstrations, legal battles and awareness programs. There is a need to take this fight in concerted manner, by bringing the entire local organisation under a single umbrella and make an impact on the government or judiciary. The best example cited for such movements to save the nature was the stopping of Kuduremukh iron ore mining. One such moment which is creating an impact on the decision-making bodies, is the Save Western Ghats moment.

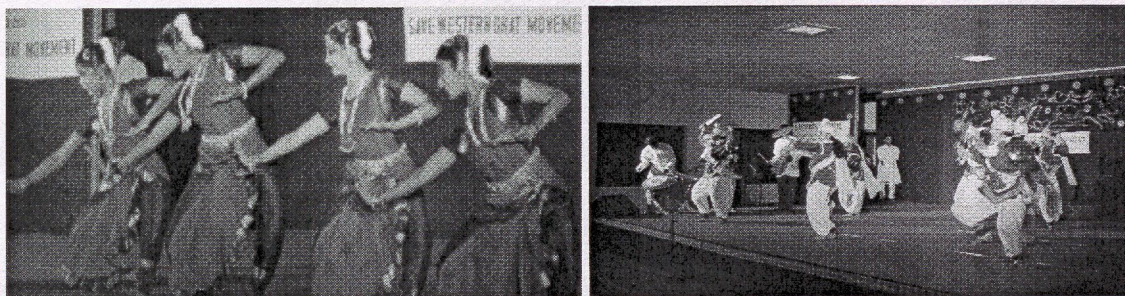
Education system and restless youths:

The education system should be changed educating the children and the modern youth generations about the nature and its importance in their lives, thus making them more concern about the conservation of the natural heritage.

Environmental education systems:

There is environment education in schools and colleges. This is there for namesake, no marks are considered and there are no dedicated teaching staffs for teaching this important subject. The government, if it is serious about saving the environment, should make efforts to make this a scoring subject and also implement projects and field visits for students to get first hand information about nature and its conservation.

Cultural Program:



Discussions continued well beyond schedule time in the evening. This was followed by an excellent cultural event presented by the students of students of Dr Alva's foundation.

The performance included two classical dances, one Bharath Natyam and at the end a group Kathak dances. Then there was a folk dance of Tamil Nadu, Veera Gase Kunita of Karnataka (a folk dance event traditionally performed by men, was rendered by all girls team) Sword Dance and Bamboo dance by students coming from north east province studying at Alva's. Then a girl student presented a very enjoyable mimicry performance. Their performance was so good, that the delegates found it hard to believe that the performers were students. The students were then complimented profusely and were given a standing ovation.

DAY II

29th January 2011

Field Visit

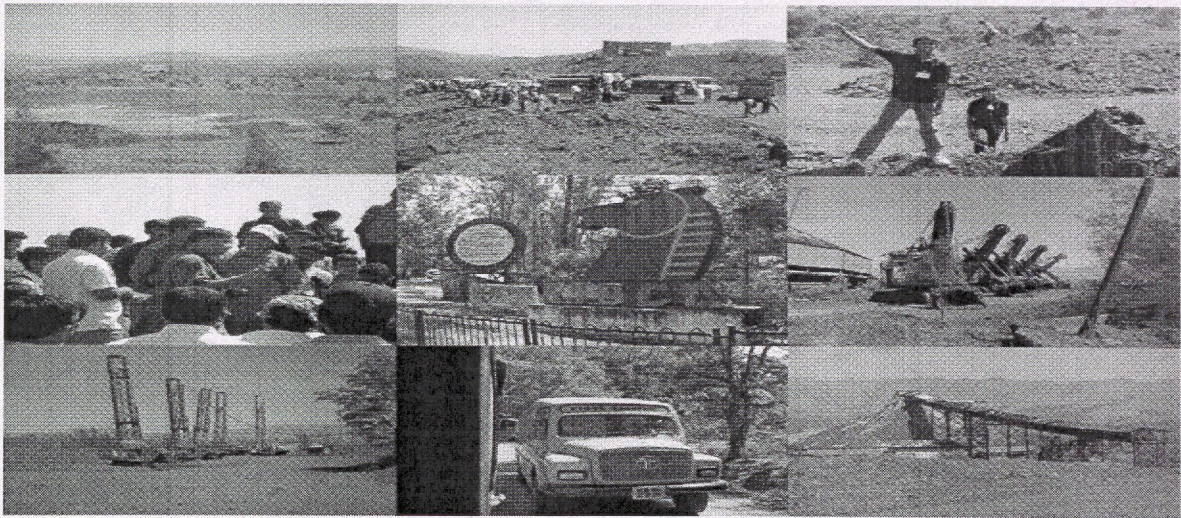


The landscape of kudremukha forest and exposed mining area

Day two commenced very early, participants lined up to board the Bus taking them to Kudremukh National Park. Karnataka Forest Departments Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dr Prakash Netalkar, could not participate, but had made all arrangements to see that the tour was successful. His staff met the party near one of the perennial falls, the Kadve Falls, and then escorted us to the Kudremukh mining site, which was kept out of public sight for a long time. Participants were flabbergasted by the devastation caused by mining. The Range Forest Officer of the area Sri Kamble, briefed the gathering about the history of the mining.

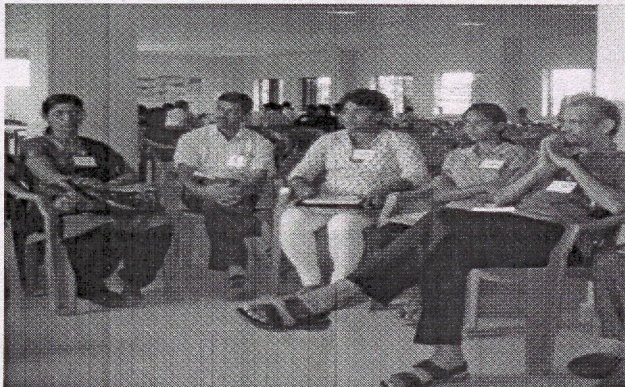
Kudremukh is a mountain range in Chikkamagaluru district, in Karnataka, India. It is also the name of a small town situated near the mountain, about 48 kilometers from Karkala, The name *Kudremukha* (as it is known by the natives) literally means 'horse-face' (in the local language Kannada) and refers to a particular picturesque view of a side of the mountain that resembles the same. It was also referred to as 'Samseparvata', historically since it was approached from Samse village.

The devastating effects of mining were predominantly visible to us as we moved through the national park to reach the nature camp. On the way the details of the mining issues and how mining was stopped in the area was explained by Mr. Ritwick Dutta who is a Supreme Court Lawyer taking the environmental issues. Mr. Panduranga Hegde explained how mining was done during Kudremukh Iron Ore Company limited (KIOCL) was functional and how the water of Lakya dam was used for cleaning the ore. Huge machineries were still resting, un functional in the vicinity of the old factory area in a hope of becoming functional again since the government is still having its hope about the case being reconsidered in court. The KIOCL is still paying its employees even though the company is non functional since five years.



Bulls waiting to compete in *KAMBLA*

After the visit participants were taken to Venur to witness local buffalo race known as *KAMBALA*

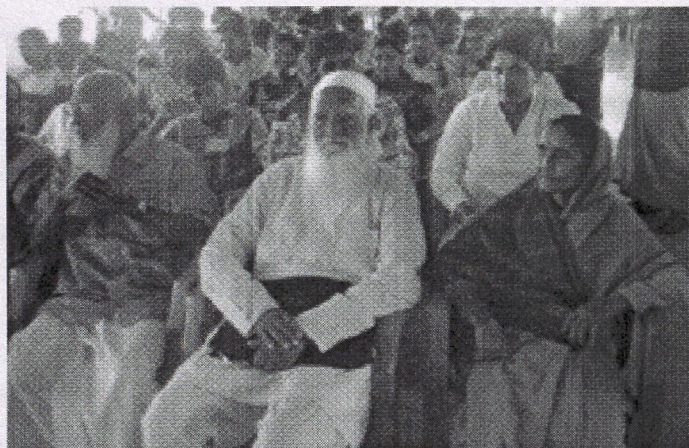


The group then moved to Bhagavathi Forest Resort and had their lunch there. Some participants walked in forest areas.

Stimulated by the youth almost demanded a late night meeting with seniors members of Core group and discussed about various aspects of conservation strategies.

DAY III 30th January 2011

On the last day groups were formed according to the states Maharashtra Goa, Karnataka, Tamilnadu & Kerala. The next generation leaders were identified and the plan of action was discussed with the expert panel. Many youngsters including Mr. Anirudh spoke in front of the panel and expressed their views and opinions.



Mr& Mrs. Sundarlal Bahugun during the event

The 3rd day of the meeting commenced with lot of expectations, because the organizers had invited more than 30 Elected representatives from different strata from Assembly to Panchayath. Sri Palimar, the Minister of Environment and Ecology Karnataka was the only person who honored our invitation, but did not spend much time nor presented his views to the gathering. The discussions continued with the youth, and senior members including Dr Parim Roy, Sri G L Janardhan, Mr Claud Alvares, Mrs Carmen Miranda spoke to the youth. In a surprising move, the youth took over the proceedings and continued the discussions up to 3.30 pm. The organizing Secretary then briefed the youth as to the tasks they can do, like visiting nearby villages, having discussion with them on aspects of conservation, enacting small plays to enthuse them, writing articles about the importance of Western Ghats, launching a dedicated Web Site,

contributing actively to it, and the like. He also reminded the gathering about some of the resolutions taken at Kotagiri meet last year.

Chief Guest of the valedictory function Padmavibhushan Sri Sundarlal Bahuguna Jii arrived on time and the function commenced at 4.00 pm. Sri Bahugunajii talked on several aspects of conservation movement and suggested several far reaching programs like launching a Chipko like movement to save the Ghats, to ban the use of chemicals, to stop mining and construction of dams in the area. He suggested that Village centered programs should be launched in the future. Bahuguna jii said if when one state government bans a specific Pesticide, why can't other states do the same? He complimented Sri Shankaracharya Bhavathpad who hailed from Kerala and united the country at a spiritual level, and wished that such a person would emerge soon to unite the Countries Environment. Bahugunajii's short presentation was followed by question and answer session between him and the eager and inspired audience.

Dr Vijayan, who presided the chair for the event cautioned the house that though the Endosulphan has been banned it has resurfaced even in Kerala as Devisulphan. He also said that the Eco service value of Western Ghats is several crores of rupees per hector per year, much more than that could be generated by any other human activity, this facts need to be brought to the notice of policy makers so as to safeguard the ever deteriorating environment.

Master Sharath Bidappa aged 10 who participated actively on all three days, was evidently stunned by the view of Kuduremukh area which was destroyed by iron ore mining, posed a question to the gathering – "What are you going to leave for us?"

We feel this question should stirrup our passions to save Western Ghats and work more towards the cause. Miss Andrea Pereira, a very talented photographer and actress, compeered the program. Dr Ashok Kundapur proposed a formal vote of thanks.

"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children."

“Only after the last tree has been cut down,
Only after the last river has been poisoned,
Only after the last fish has been caught,
Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten.”

**FORESTS
2001-2002**

Timber (cubic mtr)

	North Goa	South Goa	value (Rs.)
Govt.	299.987	82.245	4612136
Pvt.	3008.25	10148	41771094

Fire Wood (cubic mtr)

	North Goa	South Goa	value (Rs.)
Govt.	Nil	134	14070
Pvt.	10757.24	13059	2500706

2002-2003

Timber (cubic mtr)

	North Goa	South Goa	Value (Rs.)
Govt.	136.213	116.264	801614
Pvt.	5824.857	10274.652	64920483

Fire Wood (cubic mtr)

	North Goa	South Goa	Value (Rs.)
Govt.	371.295	20.201	41107
Pvt.	10649.755	13296.536	2514360

AREA UNDER FOREST

A) State owned 1224.38 sq.km

B) Private 200.0 sq.km

- The ratio is 6:1
- The ratio of Pvt. Timber (cu.mtr) to Govt. 34.32:1. The ratio of value of Pvt. timber to Govt 9.05:1 (in 2001 – 2002)
- The ratio of Pvt. Timber (cu.mtr) to Govt. 63.88:1. The ratio of value of Pvt. timber to Govt 80.99:1 (in 2002 – 2003)
- The ratio of Pvt. Fire wood (cu.mtr) to Govt. 177.73:1. The ratio of value of Pvt. Fire wood to Govt. 177.73:1 (in 2001 – 2002)
- The ratio of Pvt. Fire wood (cu.mtr) to Govt. 61.16:1. The ratio of value of Pvt. Fire wood to Govt. 61.16:1 (in 2002 – 2003).

(Source Statistical handbook of Goa.)

2003 – 2004 to 2007-2008

Beetal nut 1441.73 tonnes to 1416. Decrease by 31 tonnes.

Fertilizers 4662 tonnes to 5618. Increase by 70 tonnes

(Sources Goa Bagayatdar Ponda as on 19.08.2008)

STATE REVENUE

(In crores)

	Power	Water	No. of Tourists
2003-2004	223.89	54.66	2039497
2004-2005	225.28	54.95	2448959
2005-2006	251.76	84.70	2302146
2006-2007	261.73	85.23	2341649

	<u>Sales tax</u>	<u>Excise</u>
2003-2004	502.36	53.43
2004-2005	567.19	55.33
2005-2006	675.00	66.55
2006-2007	750.00	67.00

Age wise % of population

Age	Persons	%
0 – 4	103823	10.38
5 – 9	107390	10.74
10 – 14	<u>120013</u>	<u>12.00</u>
Total	321226	33.12%
20 – 24	142016	14.20
25 – 29	138614	13.86
30 – 34	<u>117544</u>	<u>11.75</u>
Total	398174	39.81%

(Source economic survey 2006 -2007)

- Total length of the roads 9539.25 kms. — Gr. from C.G. V13.58 times — G Area. 1.88 times
- Rivers 371 kms. — R. & B. 1.39 times

quote

Public debt of the state as on 31st march (in crores)

2003 2004 2005
2141.10 2615.17 3088.67

SHIPPER - WISE EXPORTS OF IRON ORE FROM MARMUGAO PORT						
SHIPPER	2003 - 2004 (in 000 tonnes)	VALUE (in million)	2004 - 2005 (in 000 tonnes)	VALUE (in million)	2005 - 2006 (in 000 tonnes)	VALUE (in million)
M/s. Sesa Goa Pvt. Ltd.	4449	9009.225	5527	13679.325	5448	38136
M/s. Chowgule & Co. Pvt.ltd.	3323	6729.075	2730	6756.75	3591	25137
M/s. V.M. Salgaokar & Co. Pvt.Ltd.	2838	5746.95	2746	6796.35	2769	19383
M/s. V.S. Dempo & Co. Pvt.ltd.	3151	6380.775	3431	8491.725	3216	22512
M/s Sociedade de Fomento Industrial Pvt. Ltd.	913	1848.825	1255	3106.125	1152	8064
M/s. Lindsay Int. Pvt. Ltd.	763	1545.075	1108	2742.3	486	3402
M/s. MMTC	1458	2952.45	777	1923.075	937	6559
M/s Bharat Mines & Minerals Ltd.	1012	2049.3	1139	2819.025	677	4739
M/s Timblo Pvt. Ltd.	1337	2707.425	606	1499.85	812	5684
M/s. VGM / VMCP	651	1318.275	191	472.725	48	336
M/s. V.M.Salgaokar sales international	369	747.225	622	1539.45	404	2828
M/s. Orient Goa Ltd.	393	795.825	215	532.125	201	1407
OTHERS	2285	4627.125	4370	10815.75	5573	39011
TOTAL	22942	46457.55 <i>4645.708</i>	24717	61174.575 <i>6117.4575</i>	25314	177198 <i>17719.8</i>

(45*45 - 45*55-40*175) value estimated. TOTAL VALUE 284830.125 MILLIONS

28483.0125 crores

2002 to 2003	Budget estimate in lakhs Rs. 208184.45
	Deficet in lakhs Rs. 8860.88