

Episode (Saplings)

Title:

Rebuilding forests

Context:

- India has a forest cover of around 68 million hectares, 42% of which is degraded primarily because of deforestation.
- A large number of forests are cleared each day to accommodate the country's growing industrial needs and expanding population.
- Despite the damage, over two thirds of our land can be reforested, which has paved the way for several environmental movements that encourage the planting of trees at a basic level.

Green Champion

Location:

Suzi, Karnataka

Mentor:

Parvathamma heads an environmental movement in order to protect the hills and fauna of the Western Ghats, which was fast declining due to deforestation.

Time:

4 hours

Task Overview:

In the given time, the teams have to:

- Create powerful messages and encourage locals to participate in the task of planting saplings.
- The saplings that each team has to plant will be locked behind fences protected by Godrej locks. The teams have to find hidden keys to the locks through a treasure hunt.
- The teams would have to assemble the tools and start planting as many saplings as possible.

Criteria of judgement:

A tally of

Episode (Saplings)

Title:

Rebuilding forests

Context:

- India has a forest cover of around 68 million hectares, 45% of which is degraded primarily because of deforestation.
- A large number of forests are cleared each day to accommodate the country's growing industrial needs and expanding population.
- Despite the damage, over two thirds of our land can be reforested, which has paved the way for several environmental movements that encourage the planting of trees at a basic level.

Location:

Sirsi, Karnataka

Mentor:

Panduranga Hegde, an environmentalist who initiated the popular Appiko movement, in order to protect the flora and fauna of the Western Ghats, which was fast depleting due to deforestation.

Time:

4 hours

Task Overview:

In the given time, the teams have to:

- Create powerful messages and encourage locals to participate in the task of planting saplings.
- The saplings that each team has to plant will be locked behind fences protected by Godrej locks. The teams have to find hidden keys to the locks through a treasure hunt.
- The teams would have to assemble the tools and start planting as many saplings as possible.

Criteria of Judgement:

A tally of-

- Level of creativity in communicating with locals.
- Number of volunteers gathered.
- Number of saplings planted.

Task Breakdown:

1. The anchor introduces the show and welcomes the contestants.
2. The anchor and judge then introduce the mentor of the episode, Mr. Panduranga Hegde.
3. We cut to an AV that profiles Mr. Hegde, with him speaking about his work.
4. The mentor then reveals the task and explains the judging criteria.
5. Team leaders are chosen based on the previous episode's best performers.
6. The teams are divided accordingly.
7. The anchor flags off the task.
8. First, the teams must gather volunteers:
 - **Gathering volunteers:** The contestants must quickly create banners with creative messages and visit different homes of a village to convince the villagers to plant saplings in their locality. They must gather volunteers who'd help them in the task. More the volunteers, more saplings planted.
9. Once the teams have gathered their volunteers, they must unlock saplings that need to be planted as part of the task:
 - **Unlocking saplings:**
 - ❖ The contestants are briefed by the anchor about a small challenge they must undertake in order to begin the final task.
 - ❖ The saplings required for the task are placed in two separate fences for the two teams.

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- ❖ Each fence is protected a Godrej lock, the keys to which are placed in two Godrej lockers that lie next to the fence.
 - ❖ Now, in order to get those keys and unlock the saplings, the contestants need to find the combination code of the lockers.
 - ❖ Each combination code contains 4 numbers. For instance, 1234.
 - ❖ The teams are given 2 riddles each.
 - ❖ Every riddle, if solved correctly, will give the solution to two numbers that will form the combination code. For instance, riddle one will give the solution to the numbers 1 & 2.
 - ❖ The contestants must solve both riddles correctly, in order to obtain a 4 digit code that would help them unlock the locker. For instance, riddle two will give the solution to the numbers 3 & 4.
 - ❖ The teams must try different combination codes until they find the correct code that would help unlock the locker.
 - ❖ Once the lockers are unlocked, the teams must quickly use the key inside the locker to unlock their sapling fences.

10. Once the subtasks of gathering volunteers and unlocking the saplings are completed, the contestants begin to plant saplings.
11. The saplings must be planted using the right technique and within a designated time.
12. The buzzer goes off and the task comes to an end.
13. The contestants are judged on basis of the criteria.
14. The elimination process follows.
15. The entire task and elimination is interspersed with Video Diaries of contestants recounting their experience.

WESTERN GHAT MEETING AT 2014 CHORLA

Resolution of People for Western Ghats

We the people of Western Ghats who have gathered at Wilderndest, Chorala Ghat on Oct 28-29, 2014 reiterate to the protection, conservation and restoration of ecologically sensitive western ghats for ourselves and future generations.

Our focus is on maintaining intergenerational equity for the protection of Western Ghats considering serious hazards in the name of development over the decades.

We shall work on the ways and means to establish a holistic way of life that establishes a harmonious relation between nature, society and culture by asserting community rights over natural resources.

We further commit our selves to chalk out specific and thought out action plans for the future keeping in mind the following.

- ◆ A rational approaches to both Dr. Gadgil and Dr. Kasturirangan the reports identifying the grey areas in each of these reports. Issues in both the reports, engaging decision makers for the protection of Western Ghats for the future generation.
- ◆ Defining the actual geographical area of the Western Ghats beyond the area which has already been defined in the two reports not reducing its size.
- ◆ How do we go beyond the Mining ban? By adequately addressing the restoration, rejuvenation, reclamation of mining sites in terms of life, livelihood, property based on available alternative.
- ◆ Mining should be labour intensive and governed by local peoples organization or through co-operatives. We should work on extending the ban on mining where such initiative is not yet actualised. Mining should be strictly regulated.
- ◆ We want to ensure the democratic process for granting the clearances for developmental projects in Western Ghats and strengthening community involvement through public consultative process.
- ◆ We will ensure identification of all vulnerable ecologically fragile areas, corridors of wild life as well as community involvement of ecologically sensitive zones and community reserves.

- ◆ Developing guidelines and policy for the engagement with the stake holders.
- ◆ Focus on a holistic development that establishes a harmonious relationship between nature, society and culture by asserting community rights on natural resources.
- ◆ Local communities play a very important role in protecting the Western Ghats, their culture, experience, skill and wisdom shall be respectfully en-cooperated all levels of governance, education, sensitization as all levels of decision making in conservation and implementation.

Resolution of People for Western Ghats

We the people of Western Ghats who have gathered at Wildernest, Chorala Ghat on oct 28-29, 2014 we attract to the commitment for the conservation and restoration of ecologically sensitive western ghats for our self and future generation.

Our focus is on maintaining intergeneration equity for the protection of Western Ghats considering many serious hazards that has continued in the name of development over the decades.

We shall work on the ways and means to establish a holistic way of life that establishes a harmonious relation between nature, society and culture by a certain community rights over natural resources.

We further commit our self to pick specific and wealth out of action plans for the future keeping in mind the following, a rational approach to both the reports identifying the value gray areas, issues in both the reports engaging decision makers for the protection of Western Ghats for the future generation.

Second what is the actual geographical area of the western Ghats beyond the area which has already defined in the two reports.

How do we go beyond the bans is the third point by adequately addressing the restoration, regeneration and reclamation of mining site by accounting the community life in terms of life, livelihood, property based on available alternative.

Mining should be labour intensive and governed by local people organization example: co-operative we should work on extending the ban on mining where such initiative is not yet actualised.

We the people want to ensure the democratic process for granting the clearances for developmental projects and strengthening community involvement through public consultation.

We will ensure identification of all vulnerable ecologically fragile areas in wild life corridor as well as community through means of ecologically sensitive zones and community reserves.

Developing guidelines and policy for the engagement with the stake holders.

Focus on a holistic way of life that establishes a harmonious relationship between nature, society and culture by asserting community rights on natural resources.

Local communities play a very important role in protecting the western Ghats culture, experience, skill and wisdom shall be respectfully en-cooperated all levels of governance, education, sensitization as all levels of desiccation making and conservation.

RESOLUTIONS:

Janardhana G L

Awareness among plain area people those who are living outside WG

Kumar Kalanand Mani

- One day in a week for SWGM
- Peaceful society will share the expenses of SWGM upto 1lakh/year
- Ready to be part of core group but not in any key role

Hosatii B

- Working on conservation – sloth bear in doraji wildlife sanctuary
- Work on conservation of *Pavocristatus* in Karnataka
- Presently working on protected area network in Karnataka

Sujit Kumbalkar

I can help by through photography to save WG

LingarajJagajampi

- Will monitor Bhimgad Sanctuary and will do bit to reduce any kind of harm to the Sanctuary
- Will spread awareness through social medi
- Will try to get CSR funds to save WG

Gopi Krishna

- I can join the task force on livelihood and can support the local group in capacity building and sustainability of such interventions
- I look into livestock – forest interaction and support the protection of livestock diversity

Terence Jorge

- Helping local communities
- Spending 1hr / week spreading WG issue among people

Sameer S Kankbary

Organizing people and getting funds to save WG

Shraddha Bharatiya

I will educate myself on WG and spread awareness among people

RajkumarDevarajeUrs

I wish to commit all my time to educate on saving WG

S R Hiremath

For next 1 year I will devote regular (1/6th time) time for strengthening the group of WG of Jan Sangram Parishath in Jarnataka and work restoration of 1,65000 acres of forest land in WG

Subodh Kulkarni

- Studying WG
- Engage with people
- Keep watch and visit any activity making impact on WG
- Work as facilitator and catalyst related to save WG

Amrut Charantimath

- Education on WG
- Wish to give banners on save WG

Gangadharan M

- Shall conduct 3 camps for selected college students of waynad on the importance of saving WG
- Shall cooperate with organization called Mahilasamakhya to empower and educate tribal students

Prabhu S Y

Awareness program for school and college

Vivek Coelho

Commit to making the invisible visible to strengthen the protection of WG

Sooter D Souza

- Will share and create awareness through social media on WG
- Will write articles and columns on WG in newspapers

Manikanandan V

- Visit, learn, document - write stories of different people and initiatives
- Online content management - web, blog, online group, etc

Mvni Chandran

Continue to do what I am doing - working with the community and towards preserving the environment in whatever manner I can.

Rachita

Already running a public mobilization campaign with Araaz.org and 350.org and Sanctuary Asia. Will continue this and help out in other ways possible.

Nyla

Engage with a community of at least one village of the Western Ghats area in Belgaum district to understand their way of life.

Vijay

Work on a resource (website, blog, news or other) highlighting the importance of the Western Ghats to the life, you being and sustenance of communities not just residing in the WG but outside as you. THE WESTERN GHATS AND YOU.

Katrina Fernandez

Ecological research of riverine ecosystems with particular emphasis on small carnivores.

Nithin Peter

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This is my first meeting, do not know what to say. I am just watching people and talks, its total different than my work. In future or coming days in initiate awareness about our western ghats this is promise but need help from you people.

Vaishali Patil

I am committed to support local community who are struggling to save their livelihood in Western Ghats, specifically in Konkan region my support would bring local leadership in front.

Pandu

- Coordinate review of CRS funding in WG
- State level WG meet (Karnataka) in Bandipur
- Two meetings in Bangalore with IT sector

Mridula Vijairaghavan

- To help in every possible way with the legalities involved
- To raise awareness about the WG in every way possible

Girish Punjabi

- I shall increase the knowledge by researching species and habitats in the WG and publish findings in the public domain to aid in conservation of the landscape
- I will engage with various groups of stakeholders to disseminate this knowledge, build capacity to monitor, and contribute in policy level activities for prioritizing protection of the WG.

Deepankar Patil

- Publicity of the campaign, eco-fest, word of mouth, street plays, general awareness in schools etc.
- Fund rising – from CSR of cooperate giants

Bhaskar Acharya

- communication and networking
- sharing infofrmation

Report P4WG:

Date:28/10/2014 Time:2:38PM Place: Wildernest

Pandu –

- introduction of the group and how, why it was formed was explained
- Later self introduction of the participants

Nirmal takes over –

- he gave us the brief note on Wildernest
- initially it was a open area 16-17 yrs ago – next to the Wildernest there is a rubber plantation of about 250 acre – now this place has become a crucial area to construct corridor – now Mhadei research centre is setup which works in 7 villages across 3 states (Karnataka, Maharastra,Goa) where small patches are owned wherein sustainable farming is enhanced. Till now 3 species of amphibians are described from this area and the researchers are carrying out outreach program also.

Pandu takes over –

- note on Wilderness and their arranging, management of the meeting.
- Continuous with the question, what is the future? How is the future? Save for what? – to answer this question people from WG from different walks of life will involve and initiate and try to understand what is happening and what can be done – ends his talk with a small story about conservation from a farmer.

Claud takes over –

- Talks about eco-sensitive zone and its management – and different committees and their note on conservation of WG
- Untill 1897 WG as not under any protection – now protection has been increased and people do not know about that – instead of talking or cruising of any report, some thing is protected in WG from these reports.
- Talks about GM crops – it is not ethical, he is against GM crops and introducing them in WG – topography of WG is known for organic farming so we should initiate it more than the GM crops.

Ramesh takes over –

- Inform regarding threats from mining – not only mining even from eco-tourism and new technologies which are now a days used in mining in WG
- Eco-sensitive zone is filled with garbage, plastic and everything – its maintenance
- Goa government stated that, it will not maintain any buffer zone – they can only maintain 1km of buffer zone not up to 10km
- to this note Pandu talks about the impact of eco-tourism and home stays in Goa

Nyla takes over –

- talks about laws and regulation which can lead to the conservation of WG
- fighting anything regarding WG legally- is the best for long results
- Madhavgadgil report was discarded – by the way it was reported/studied. Kasthurirangan report discarded because report has been made without consulting any experts or local group/people.
- Draft notification is not enough to explain what has to be done or what is going on – we need still elaborate note which states what is been protected by the end of the day. People have to decide which one has to be considered for protecting WG – We have to get good legal protection to conserve our WG – for this we do not have sufficient data to argue – so primary thing is to document what is there and how and why WG should be protected.

Rajkumar takes over –

- He mentioned about – how collection of data is important in protecting WG.
- Highlights about road kills – road kills are higher than poaching.
- How to manage eco-sensitive zones and their effect in protecting the WG

Vaishali takes over –

- Starting with the question – what people have achieved in WG

- In 2008 March- first time a patch of land was sold to a private sector for development – 19 new power plant are approved in this belt - people say we do not want special economic zone, we want special agricultural zone.
- Minority group/local tribes are fighting for different issues regarding WG –how domestic issues are related to the climate change – inter link, connection, middle class, intellectuals, policy makers, local people have to be united – understand them the importance of WG and protect it.
- To the point of climate change Pandu ends the talk by giving the example of amla where in amla are flowering properly but fruiting is not taking place.

After this a discussion or question/answer session followed

- Evils of eco-tourism was discussed
- How to manage cooperate – their involvement in the WG conservation issues.
- What ever the green energy we have is not sufficient – we want nuclear power plant in a sustainable way to meet the demand.

Prakash Kammaradi takes over –

- Areca nut is more poisons than tobacco
- Culture is cosmopolitan - WG is facing cultural treat – farmers are not ready to live in WG

Pandu –

- Both Gadgil and Kasthurirangan report – not considered the culture/cultural issues
- We can't see WG only in a scientific way – no one are willing to address these issues
- We shall include information regarding WG from the school level itself because young generations are the one who have to conserve future
- Reports have to be drawn in local language and can be reported in media – as more or less people are dependent on media reports.

- Conservation is been enforced from above always but it should be followed or done from down and people should be given power.
- How to use the social media, different kind of approaches have to be employed for school children, cooperatives etc.

Ramesh –

- Every one have their own views, dimensions and identity regarding WG – we need to focus it down
- Following is not a desperate attempt of different ideas
- Building of communities is very much essential.
- Mass movement is essential to protect our WG.

Second day:

Date:29/10/2014 place:wildernnest

- Introduction of the new comers to the group

Kalanandhamani takes over –

- Discuss about the 10 points which has been set
- Discuss about leftover part

- Different groups are been made in concern to particular topics for further discussion. Group names were like this:

1. Mining beyond ban
2. Building common understanding quality of ownership
3. Existing challenges
4. CSR
5. Organization/structure
6. History of WG

Every one should join one or the other group of their wish

1. 1st group: minning beyond ban

- our livelihood have lost – start mining
- how to sustain mining
- political struggle
- rehabilitation process
- supplementary force
- analyze what process they are employing
- increase the area- that can be protected
- our preparedness to fight against any thing is important

2. 2nd group: Gadgil and Kasthurirangan report

- Short down the report and ensure it is delivered in local language
- By short downing it will it make easy for the people to differentiate gaps and initiatives which are dealt in the report
- Try to take best part of any report - we should not distinguish/ degrade what ever the report may be – one report cant include everything.
- Who are the primary deciding people/ group

- Who are part of WG, live along WG, work in WG those should be used- not the persons who sit away from WG and decide what, when, where should be done

3. 3rd group: eco-tourism, policies, challenges

- Community rights and forest rights
- Agricultural plantation and land use change
- Hydro project, nuclear project, lot of other projects – opens up with other activities
- Cost/benefits of these projects
- Democratic clearance
- Impact of these projects has to be discussed
- EAS needs to be clarified – what activities are allowed/not allowed
- Lot of law/acts to be known – to apply them properly when and where
- Impact of media
- Impacting on local people/group
- GM crops should be banned – invasive species – managing local species and food crops
- No detailed law/rule that has to be followed
- Carrying capacity of area/use of natural resources has to deal with
- Registration/monitoring the activity is not properly done
- We need to train people –teach them properly- what/how it has to be taken further in sustainable way without effecting the ecosystem
- Is eco-tourism contributing to the nation? - every tourism has to be eco-tourism

4. 4th group: CSR- Cooperate interface

- Identification of stake holders
- Developing with cooperate help
- How to engage cooperate/ local group/ metro group
- Engage large land holders to maintain local diversity

5. 5th group: WG history, community and culture

- From 1987 we are saving WG
- Meetings were held regularly
- We have to keep on marching to save our WG
- It is the people of WG who has made everything
- Task of every individual – we try never say we have failed

6. 6th group: WG history in syllabus

- Target group – adults, villagers, semi urban youth, clubs, government service.
- Initiate conservation effects in younger generation – conservation talks, work shops etc.

Report on the People for Western Ghats (P4WG) Meeting

Dates: 28-10-14, 29-10-14

Location: Wildernest, Chorla, Goa.

Vivek Coelho, 31-10-2014.

What did I learn about myself?

I learnt about myself that,

- It is important to practice deep listening
- Always let the other person finish speaking before you can make your point
- Practice of preparation and writing important for clear and effective communication
- Practice of making committed requests, without assumptions
- Being enthusiastic to learn helps

What went well, things working and the positives?

- Willingness of all participants to come together for the protection of the Western Ghats
- Good logistics and hospitality
- Good food
- Openness to listen to participant voices and concerns
- The context of the meeting was well set
- Schedule was adhered to
- Meeting was closed in a smooth manner
- Representative participant group with diverse expertise and skill sets

What was missing?

- Adequate participation of all stakeholders of the Western Ghats (women, youth)
- Co- creating a plan that takes into consideration all stakeholders, local realities, conditions and needs
- Have open generative conversations on sensitive topics (E.g: Save Western Ghats to P4WG)
- Clarity on alternative livelihood opportunity for communities of the WG for its protection

- Back up plan
- Adequate use of the traditional knowledge and experience existing among the local stakeholders
- Focal entry point/s for the effective protection of the WG
- Identification of the points that will involve local communities for the protection of the WG's

What needs improvement/ strengthening?

- Co-creation and ownership has to be strengthened among all stakeholders
- Women's and youth involvement in planning and implementation of the protection of the WG's
- Clarity on the roles and responsibility of all stake holders towards the protection of the WG's
- Clarity in Roles and responsibilities of P4WG towards the protection of the Western Ghats
- What are the values and principles – non- negotiable's that underlie P4WG (P4WG's stand)
- What will P4WG initiative contribute to the people of the Western Ghats
- Time frame based deliverables, outputs and outcomes for the protection of the Western Ghats
- Livelihood opportunity for local stakeholders, specially women and youth
- Use of traditional knowledge, history and wisdom to set the context right
- Structure and operational strategy of P4WG for action based outputs, outcomes and deliverables

Feed back

Increase

- Grounding P4WG in what it stands for (core non- negotiable- values and principles)
- Increase involvement of all stakeholders as active participants in co-creating the plan and implementing it for the protection of WG's
- Increase field presence at community level
- Livelihood component to the P4WG initiative
- Involve Women, youth

Decrease

- Us and them conversation
- Compartmentalization of activism

Retain

- Commitment to the protection of the Western Ghats

- Openness to listen, let things emerge and involve a variety of resource people and stake holders

Components from P4WG initiative that I would like to incorporate in my project?

- Have an interactive platform that will help share demonstrate and equip interested stakeholders with the necessary skill set to conduct Beach profiling
- Involvement of a variety of stakeholders and resource people with a variety of skill sets and expertise

Summary and observations

- Proposal for the declaration of the Sahyadri Ecologically Sensitive Area- (SESA) -Karnataka, Maharastra, Goa
- WG protection should be achieved by any means
- GM crops being introduced into the WG is a bad idea as it will threaten biodiversity
- The case studies of GM v/s Non- GM, has well established facts now
- WG topography is good for organic farming (No- till farming)
- Mining- open caste mining in WG should not be allowed
- Mining is a big threat to the WG
- Goa- is trying to push for a 1km buffer zone for mining sites- very inadequate
- Surveys for introducing eco-tourism being done all across the WG
- NGT has taken a way out to implement the Kasturirangan report
- Article 21, right to life discussed
- Application filing to strengthen petitions is a good legal strategy
- Legal protection is a good means to ensure protection of the WG
- Data helps to make a point and strengthen the case
- How are domestic workers/ labor issues related to climate change- Migration
- Linkages, inter- linkages to people, climate change, economic policies, development necessary
- Alignment and coordination with all stake holders necessary

- What is the role of the cooperate in the protection of the WG, as they have the money to invest how do you want to align and work with them
- Who are the stakeholders of the WG? Engagement and alignment with all the stake holders for the protection of the WG necessary
- Climate change is impacting all of us how will we live?
- Paddy crop in parts of Karnataka has been harvested and is wet and rotting due to un-seasonal rains
- Guidelines for ecotourism- No go areas within the WG not defined
- India does not have a eco-tourism policy, WG does not have a site specific ecotourism policy
- Who will question the label of eco-tourism and who will create site specific guidelines and certification (developing criteria and guidelines for certification)
- Goa's eco-tourism policy?
- Home stays? Definition, criteria, guidelines, terms of reference, certification
- Role of the cooperate?
- Wind power and Hydel projects, micro hydel included is a threat to WG
- Gadgil and Kasturirangan reports- how do we address the issues of the people of the Western ghats
- Political economy around onion discussed
- Claude says he has never engaged with the cooperates for money- so he has survived without engaging with the cooperates, in terms of his efforts at work- If he has managed to do it, there exists an alternative resource support source to work towards the Protection of the WG- What are the possible options and strategies?
- Importance of understanding the linkages between culture, agriculture, forests, people
- Gadgil and kasturirangan reports have not brought in the culture aspect of WG
- Culture, people, biodiversity are interlinked
- Inter-linkages and grey areas of culture and people have to be addressed in context to the western ghats
- The reports do not take into account peoples need and concerns from WG
- Gandhi's hind swaraj mentioned
- Migration issue in the context to violence (Eg: Assam conflict what is the way forward?)
- Introducing the importance of WG in school syllabus
- Importance of engaging young minds with their surrounding environment
- Syllabus based on ecological sensibilities necessary
- There was no proper response to the Gadgil report by the NGO sector working with the people of western ghats

- Alignment with all stakeholders necessary
- Media has been biased and not done justice to the western ghats issue based on facts
- Why did the Save Western Ghats Group split into two post the Kotagiri meeting in 2009?
- Bala Subramaniam report on encroachment of land mentioned
- Socio- political aspect of the WG report, need for detailed analysis
- Gadgil report emphasizing conversation using a bottom- up approach
- Media has misinterpreted the Gadgil report to the common man (E.g. No go zones- Govt used the media to tell people that NGZ meant a complete ban on development, actually it meant only no red industries)
- What are the options for emerging alternative livelihood opportunity for the people of the WG to save WG
- If we don't have food to eat what will conservation mean to me – large majority of the Indian population
- Another Appiko movement cannot happen at this point in time- Pandu
- Using social Media to re –launch appiko?
- Community feeling necessary to launch a movement
- Market is God- Ashish Nandi- How we launch community movements in these times
- Minchu group in Bangalore
- Strengthening of community feeling in the conversation necessary for WG and its people
- Syllabus with ecological sensibilities necessary
- Researchers should engage with people and forests
- Researchers should not reject traditional knowledge
- Traditional knowledge should strengthen scientific knowledge to enhance the effectiveness of research work
- School children 5th to 10th should be trained in ecological sensibilities
- All stakeholders of the Western Ghats should have knowledge, understanding and awareness which is holistic on the issues related to nature and people of WG's
- Development has reached to the village promoting individualization and destroying sense of community
- How do we engage rural folk with environmental issues
- Awareness is a big concern
- We require awareness with action and results- as output and outcomes
- How do we engage people from cities to do WG protection work
- How do we incorporate ecological sensibilities at home

- How do we make concepts simple to connect with the people of WG (communities, kids, parents, family)
- Pani Adwa Pani jerwa – good example- stopping soil erosion and letting the water percolate+ planting trees
- Forest Department is the main cause for the destruction of the WG
- Social forestry and school gardens good examples
- Social forestry and reforestation using school children
- School gardens to help children relate to farming
- Youngsters should connect with the soil
- Activism is compartmentalizing the protection of the WG and leaving behind stakeholders (A mass movement is required)
- Issue of property rights- Who owns the forest?
- Community ownership discussed
- Tourism within the WG- under any form- eco- tourism, hinterland tourism, responsible tourism, conscious tourism? Policy, guidelines and certification does not exist
- Building a common understanding on the reports necessary among all stakeholders
- Collective ownership of the reports lacking among people working on towards the protection of the western ghats
- What are the existing challenges in terms of the threats and the two reports on the WG?
- How can we strengthen each other's efforts for working together to fight the threats and challenges to protect the WG?
- Do we have a common consensus and understanding on alternatives to energy requirements
- Education and knowledge for the holistic understanding of the western ghats lacking
- How are we going to restore community movements and community ownership within the western ghats
- Alternative livelihoods for community living

Topics for group discussions given below:

- **Gr 1:** From area to be protected under the SESA proposal to the area under suggested by the two reports how do we protect it? Building common understanding on Gadgil, Kasturirangan and government notifications- engagement with the government
- Legalized v/s sustainable mining
- Loss of livelihood due to mining ban
- Precautions so that judgments are sustained for long durations of time
- Restoration and rehabilitation of mining sites

- What are the methods for mining current practices v/s sustainable practices
- Shah commission report
- Declaration of Eco sensitive areas/ zones near Protected areas
- Declaration of community reserves away from Protected areas
- What are our preparedness mechanisms and strategies
- Use legal routes to back up our efforts
- Peoples participation through involvement of stakeholders
- Book that simplifies legal action and law to familiarize legal implication
- EIA – resource centre- ercindia.org
- Legal supplementation to strengthen the larger political struggle
- Alternatives livelihoods for community sustenance if mining is banned

- **Gr 2: Mining beyond the ban? Sustaining and multiplying outcomes of legal decisions- Mining- Gadgil- Kasturirangan and NGT**
- Gadgil v/s Kasturirangan report
- Simplification of the reports for effective communication to local communities and stakeholders
- Ground truthing exercise to identify gaps and enhance the effectiveness of the reports
- How do we decide what area constitutes the WG?
- 73rd Amendment
- PESA 1996
- Biodiversity act
- FRA
- Panchayathi Raj
- MNREGA
- What is the strategy to take the best of both the reports and implement them
- Ownership of the WGEEP- it was made to identify ESA/Z and monitoring mechanisms
- Purpose of both the reports should be defined clearly
- It is necessary to have an open dialogue on the Gadgil report till justice for adequate protection

- **Gr 3: Eco-tourism, Hinterland tourism, responsible tourism- rationale, guidelines and policies.** Existing challenges and our collective responses like energy projects, GM seeds, climate change, farmers plight, livelihood, tribal and dalit issues, land use patterns
- Challenges and collective action towards the threats
- Globalization
- Exploitation by the political class
- Agriculture, Plantations and land use change
- What are the systems that exist naturally (original biodiversity)
- Coffee plantations
- Ragi cultivation
- Traditional agriculture a complex interconnected structure
- Plantations – changing into large scale plantation
- Quantitative and qualitative support to legislations
- Strict regulation on commercial plantations
- Dam projects in the WG- windmill and hydro
- Democratic power for clearances necessary
- People impacted by developmental projects (eg; dams) should get livelihood benefits
- Restrictions and guidelines for developmental projects have to be created
- Peoples concerns should be taken into account while drawing up ESA's
- Through study of laws and acts should be done
- Positive efforts and initiatives should be documented as best practices
- Land use change- (Agriculture land) Paddy diverted to non-agricultural purposes
- GM –crops and invasive species- Guidelines for regulation and monitoring
- Threat to various niche habitats
- Community tourism practices, positives and negatives
- Home stays?
- No policy on tourism within the Western ghats
- Challenges to tourism within the WG
- Policy at national level on tourism necessary
- Local involvement
- Reassessment of the tourism policy very two years based on field realities and best practices

- Monitoring and evaluation of tourism initiatives
- Guidelines to set up tourism ventures
- Networking of different tourism ventures within the WG
- Tourism v/s eco-cultural values
- Linking tourism to tradition and eco-cultural values
- Carrying capacity of the tourism ventures must be defined based on policy and guidelines with legal implications
- Beach tourism assessment necessary
- Livelihood dependence on tourism – what is the % of per capita income that can be got through tourism
- Cooperate economy v/s ethical tourism
- Tour operators of tigers?
- Re- look at the current tourism model
- Draft policy on the Western ghats

- **Gr: 4:Cooperate v/s Ngo's v/s Movements**
- Cooperate interface and CSR
- Engaging with all stakeholders
- Identification of stakeholders: Agriculturists, pastoralists, tribes, fishing communities, industrialists, middle class, urban dweller, IT sector, migrant population, cooperates, seasonal and floating population, research community, development workers, govt, More can be added
- Developing policy and guidelines for engagement with cooperates- What constitutes ethical engagement?
- Examination of current models for CSR funding Eg: the national CSR hub- based on facts
- Avenues for working with CSR
- Migration
- Reverse migration- livelihood creation for local communities- What will bring them back?
- Livelihoods
- Economic reasons/ opportunity
- Local population
- Urban population- addressing the urban stakeholder
- Local livelihood support
- Linkages between WG and quality to life

- Bolivia strategy- Right of Mother earth, Right of WG
- Engagement with large land holders (Estates)- guidelines and restrictions to retain original biodiversity
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- **Gr 5: Save Western Ghats movement/ Peoples 4 WG- Organization- structure- Resources- propagation**
- Save the Western ghats movement- why the split? Renaming to P4WG
- Peoples claim over WG
- 2nd FEB – P4WG event
- Task forces
- Declaration of the rights to the people of WG
- Committed alignment necessary, keeping differences aside
- **Gr6: WG in education syllabus and revival of community**
- Revival of community
- WG history in syllabus
- Awareness to the status of WG
- Target groups
- Method for dissemination of information and knowledge
- Urban, rural
- Botanical garden
- Study tours
- Visits
- Postal stamps
- Radio- community
- Mapping
- Professional
- Scouts, guides, NSS, NCC
- Eco-fests, story telling
- Engagement with HR and CSR heads
- Unless we learn from the local community we should not teach them- it has to be a two way learning process

- Regaining common lands
- Gram panchayats should make restoration an agenda
- There is a loss in grass varieties for grazing of livestock
- Designing and deciding a method to follow up on public consultations with a proper time frame
- What was the issue when there was a split in the Save WG campaign
- Clarify what was the split
- Goa meeting 2012
- 2009 all were called for the meeting

Save Western Ghats Movement Declaration 2014 (Draft) (not same as the one read out)

We the people of Western Ghats who have gathered at Wildernest Chorla on October 28th and 29th, 2014 reiterate our commitment to the protection of the ecologically sensitive western ghats for ourselves and the future generations.

Our focus is on maintaining intergenerational equity for the protection of the Western Ghats considering the many serious hazards in the name of development over the decades. We shall work on ways and means to establish a holistic way of life that establishes a harmonious relationship between nature, society and culture by asserting community rights over natural resources.

We further commit ourselves to take specific and well thought out action plans for the future keeping in mind the following

- 1) Analysis and evaluation through ownership of both the reports with rationality to identify values, grey areas and issues in both the reports engaging decision makers for the protection of the WG's for future generations
- 2) Defining the actual physical/geographical area of the western ghats based on both the reports not reducing its size
- 3) How do we go beyond the ban? By adequately addressing restoration, rejuvenation and reclamation of mining sites, adequately addressing community life, livelihood and property based on available alternatives. Process of mining should be labor intensive governed by local cooperatives and follow up with restoration of mining sites. It should be strictly regulated
- 4) We the people want to ensure a democratic process for granting clearances to developmental projects and strengthening community voice through consultative processes
- 5) We will ensure identification of all vulnerable ecological fragile areas, corridors for wildlife and communities through ESA/Z and community reserves
- 6) Developing policy and guidelines for engagement with stakeholders

- 7) Focus on holistic development that establishes a harmonious relationship between nature, society and culture by asserting community rights on Natural resources
- 8) Local communities play the most important role in protecting the WG their culture, experience, skills and wisdom shall be respectfully incorporated into all levels of governance, education, sensitization and knowledge dissemination at all levels of decision making and implementation

Acknowledgments

Wilderness: I would like to acknowledge your hospitality

P4WG: I would like to acknowledge your openness to listen, engage, participate and let things emerge