

The image shows a wide, shallow river with clear water flowing through a lush, green valley. The banks are covered in dense vegetation, including tall grasses and various shrubs. In the background, rolling hills with a mix of green and brown grass rise against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful natural landscape.

# NILGIRI NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015





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# OVERVIEW



Nilgiri Natural History Society endeavours to redefine life, nature and humanity through an ecologically sound and socially responsible value system. It aims to permeate manifestations of actions and thought processes across all walks of life. Inspiration and imagination are core to the Nilgiri Natural History Society.

The Society was started in 2010 by a group of individuals who have been working in the region of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve for 20 years and more. These individuals were a part of Keystone Foundation and decided to launch the society to include people who believe that ecological societies are possible, where people and biodiversity coexist. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is a region, which is alive with these examples, and the society seeks to understand and learn from them.

# FOREWORD

**As NNHS enters its fifth year, I was reminded about a day when a team of us, after field work in the forests of Sathyamangalam decided to stop over and talk to the adivasi children in a local school close to the forest. We talked to the children about biodiversity and the need to preserve it. The children understood biodiversity but were not sure that they were also party to protecting it, after all there is a forest department and that was their role. How do we inspire more people to be part of protecting biodiversity, how could we do this as part of our work? A thread started then, many more threads converged, the threads started to be dyed in different hues and the fabric of NNHS is being woven steadily.**

Today the society has a membership ranging from students, scholars, academic institutions, businesses, civil society members, you and me make the several hues of this society. Walks, talks and trails form an important activity of our work as do programs at schools on conservation education. Our newsletter with its recent 12th volume is a collection of interesting notes on Nature and People. A wide readership ensures a steady stream of articles.

All of this is our way of contributing locally to the global dream of 'Transforming the World', the title of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) document. In the time that this report goes to press the United Nations in September at it's headquarters will have deliberated and accepted the goals of the SDG and these will come into effect January 2016 onwards. As the world unites for the next 15 years to work together for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, based on the SDG, the NNHS will be an increasingly relevant body of People for Nature.

Two women, one an urban garden specialist from the city another a local gardener from the botanical garden, met at an NNHS event. While they shared their experiences and knowledge, they also connected much deeper when they realised their profession was also their passion and at the end of the day the plants that they touched and worked with also healed them.

Connecting People and Nature will always remain at the center of the NNHS journey, and we hope this report is able to convey just that.

**ANITA VARGHESE**

President



# ACTIVITIES

## I. WORKSHOPS

### I.1 Stakeholder workshop on Human-wildlife Interactions, Periyakulam:

A stakeholder workshop on Human-wildlife Interactions, the second in the series, was jointly conducted by Keystone Foundation and Nilgiri Natural History Society. The Horticultural College and Research Institute, Periyakulam hosted the workshop on 12 March, 2015.

The workshops were aimed at increasing communication and co-operation between various stakeholders such as the Forest Department, Local Administration, media and farmers, regarding issues of conflict between humans and wildlife. The workshops provided a space for these various agencies to interact as well as air some of their concerns and limitations, while collectively trying to arrive at a more efficient solution of addressing these negative interactions.

### I.2 Stakeholder Workshop on Human Wildlife Conflict, Wayanad:

Given the trend of increase in interactions between Humans and Wildlife, it has become crucial to understand the point at which these interactions become conflict. Keystone Foundation, has been working on Human Wildlife Conflicts over the past year, and is planning on conducting a series of stakeholder workshops across the Western Ghats in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, to better understand the problem(s) as well as to provide a platform where different stakeholders would be able to express their views and concerns regarding the current trend of wildlife interactions.

Representatives of farmer groups, local administration, and the forest department participated in the 3-hour long workshop. The tone for discussion of the workshop was set by Mr Pramod Krishnan, IFS, Conservator of Forests (Northern Circle). The workshop featured a presentation by Sumin George, identifying certain key areas influencing our perception and understanding of Conflict.





## Some of the major outcomes of this workshop:

1. Increased understanding between Forest Department and the farmer groups
2. Need for Stronger Mitigation Measures
3. Greater Collaboration Required

## 2. TRAILS:

### 2.1 A trail to 6th Mile, Ooty in the month of June, 2014.

The landscape was undulating grasslands with exotic plantations of Acacia and Interspersed shola Forests. This is a birding spot for high elevation species.

### 2.2 Shola Trail in Glen Morga:

NNHS organised a shola trail around Glen Morgan area on 25th January, 2015.

At 25 km North west of Ooty is situated Glenmorgan which was then very famous for the Tea estate. The beautiful lake at the foot of this estate constitutes the fore bay for the Pykara power house which is above 3 km down the hill at Singara. The Incline near the German point is so perpendicular that this stretch of the track, have, to a length of 300 meters, makes difficult ascent and descent.





## 3. TALKS:

### 3.1 Diversity of wild plants of Nilgiris district

A talk on the diversity of wild plants of the Nilgiris was given by Mr. Jeevith, a research fellow at the institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding Institute, Coimbatore. This talk was on the 25th of October at the Bee Museum, Ooty.

### 3.2 Future of Wildlife in the Nilgiris

A talk on the wildlife of the Nilgiris was given by Mr K. Mohan Raj, a consultant with World Wide fund for Nature- India on 7th November, 2014. The talk focused on the biology of Asian Elephants and the issues in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The talk was attended by School children and other members of the Society.

### 3.3 Fireside Talks- series 1:

The first series of the fireside talk series was held at the Bee Museum on the 18th of December 2014. The topic of discussion was Sustainable Planning for Ooty- Prospects and problems on the road ahead. The event witnessed the participation of over 25 people. The project Director of the Hill Area Development Programme, Mr. Srinivasa Reddy, IFS was the chief guest for the talk and the session was moderated by Mr. Pratim Roy, Director-Keystone Foundation.

### 3.4 Fireside Talks- series 2:

The second series of fireside talks was held at the bee museum on 21st January, 2015. The topic of discussion was Sustainable Planning for Ooty- Prospects and problems on the road ahead. About 25 people participated in the discussion. Mr. Jabraj from Clean Coonoor campaign was the moderator for the second series. There were representatives from Ooty municipality, Ooty taxi association, Ooty guide association, Ooty traders association present at the talk.

### 3.5 Fireside Talks- series 3:

The third series of fireside talks was held at Bee Museum on the 27th of February, 2015. The topic of discussion was Sustainable planning for Ooty- Prospects and problems on the road ahead. About 10 people attended, with Anita Varghese being the moderator. Representatives of the Guides Association, Taxi Association, Municipality of Ooty were present at the talk.



## 4. Conservation Education:

- Lawrence School
- Perkside School
- CSI CMM School
- Doddabetta Government Residential School
- Mavanalla Government Residential School
- Bee museum had 556 visitors in a period of six months till the December of 2014

## 5. Events:

### 5.1 Quiz on the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve:

- The society announced a series of quiz events for Schools and the topics were water, forest produce and pollination with reference to the Nilgiri Biosphere reserve.
- One was held at St. Theresa's High School, Ooty on 5th December 2014.
- The second one was held at Braeside School, Ooty on 10th December 2014.

### 5.2 Wetland Painting Competition:

- February 2nd of every year is celebrated as International Wetlands Day. The Nilgiris has wetlands which are unique in its composition but are facing destruction due to Urbanization, exotic and to certain extent tourism. To focus on these issues we would like to put the spotlight on wetlands and help increase awareness among the citizens for Nilgiris to their fast disappearing wetlands. Towards this end we organised a painting competition for the schools in Ooty on 11th February, 2015.



# NILGIRI NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

144A, Sargan Villa, opp Hill Bunk, Ooty -632001

## BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2015

PARTICULARS	31.03.2015 INR	31.03.2014 INR
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>		
<b>Capital Fund</b>		
Opening Balance	-1,06,430	6,32,765
Add: Excess of Income over Expenses	3,193	-7,39,195
<b>Total</b>	-1,03,237	-1,06,430
<b>Life Membership Fee</b>		
Institutional	86,000	66,000
Individuals	1,38,000	1,26,000
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Audit Fee Payable	2,500	2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,23,263	88,070
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>		
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Computers and Accessories	7,976	19,938
<b>Current Assets</b>		
i. Advances	7,903	35,992
ii. TDS	38,415	13,415
iii. Cash and Bank Balances		
Cash in Hand	3,324	7,504
Cash at Bank	65,645	11,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,23,263	88,069

Notes and significant accounting policies forms an integral part of accounts

Ooty  
31.07.2015

As Per our Report of Even Date Attached

**For M/s .Srivatsan and Gita (007177S)**  
Chartered Accountants

For M/s. Nilgiri Natural History Society  
**Anita Varghese - President**

**NILGIRI NATURAL**  
144A, Sargan Villa,  
**Income and Expenditure Account**

PARTICULARS	31.03.2015 INR	31.03.2014 INR
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donation Received	50,630	74,940
Membership Fee- Annual	1,250	3,500
Membership Fee- Associate		200
Membership Fee- Student	100	100
Special Events	15,350	6,649
Bank Interest	1,305	7,827
Consultancy Income	2,50,000	2,64,030
Excess of Expenditure over Income		7,39,195
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,18,635</b>	<b>10,96,441</b>



# HISTORY SOCIETY

opp Hill Bunk, Ooty -632001

for the Year Ended 31.03.2015

PARTICULARS	31.03.2015 INR	31.03.2014 INR
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administrative Expenses	6,305	5,120
Audit Fee	3,371	5,556
Bank Charges	393	112
Conveyance	25,703	15,059
Meeting and Workshop Expenses	24,219	2,750
Postage and Communication	3,761	17,363
Printing and Stationery	1,720	35,326
Salary and Allowance	1,40,394	1,67,817
Special Events and Meetings	35,725	40,316
Talks	3,688	6,829
Trails	5,180	15,990
Travel	14,070	
Newsletter	37,900	39,425
Conservation Education	1,050	18,287
Interpretation Centre		6,74,723
Books and Subscriptions		4,941
Museum Maintenance		5,725
Exposure Visits		6,195
Project Promotion Expenses		5,000
Depreciation	11,963	29,907
Excess of Income over Expenditure	3,193	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,18,635</b>	<b>10,96,441</b>

Notes and significant accounting policies forms an integral part of accounts

Ooty

31.07.2015

As Per our Report of Even Date Attached

**For M/s .Srivatsan and Gita (007177S)**  
Chartered Accountants

For M/s. Nilgiri Natural History Society  
**Anita Varghese** - President



## Membership & Governance:

### **Membership is invited under the following categories:**

**STUDENT MEMBERSHIP** – All those who are in the age group of 10-17 years, and identify with and are willing to contribute to the vision and objects of the society would be eligible for this. They would be eligible to attend the General Body Meetings and enjoy such privileges as may be notified by the Executive Committee from time to time. The student members would not have any voting right in the Society. The membership fee is INR 100 per year.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** – All those above 17 years of age, who identify with and are willing to contribute to the vision and objectives of the society would be eligible for this. They would be eligible to attend the General Body Meetings and enjoy such privileges as may be notified by the Executive Committee from time to time. The associate members would not have any voting right in the Society. The membership fee is INR 100 per year.

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP** – Any individual who identifies with and is willing to contribute to the vision and objects of the society is eligible to apply for membership of the Society by submitting the duly filled in membership form of the Society along with the prevailing annual or life membership fee. The applicant may become a member of the Society upon approval by the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final. The annual membership fee for individuals is INR 250 per year and the Life membership fee is INR 2,000.

**INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP** - Any institution which identifies with and is willing to contribute to the vision and of the society is eligible to apply for membership of the Society by submitting the duly filled in membership form of the Society along with the prevailing annual or life membership fee. The applicant institution may become a member of the Society upon approval by the Executive Committee. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final. The annual membership fee for institutions is INR 2,000 per year and the Life membership fee is INR 10,000.

### **Executive Committee/Office bearers**

Anita Varghese (President)

Meenakshi Venkataraman (Secretary)

Sumin George Thomas (Treasurer)

Robert Leo

Pratim Roy

Tina Jagatbir Singh

T.Samraj

Staff

T. Vinoth, Bee Museum Floor Manager

The bylaws and registration documents of the Society are available online at <http://nnhs.in>

### **ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION**

Nilgiri Natural History Society is registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies

Registration Act , 1975 (Tamil Nadu Act 27 of 1975)  
Registration No. 54/2010

### **REGISTERED & MAILING ADDRESS**

Nilgiri Natural History Society  
144-A, Sargan Villa, Club Road,  
Opp. Hill Bunk, Udhagamandalam - 643 001,  
The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu  
Ph: +914232-2441340

### **WEBSITE**

[www.nnhs.in](http://www.nnhs.in)

### **E-MAIL**

[contact@nnhs.in](mailto:contact@nnhs.in)

### **AUDITORS**

Srivatsan & Gita, Coimbatore



