

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2018-19



### Objectives

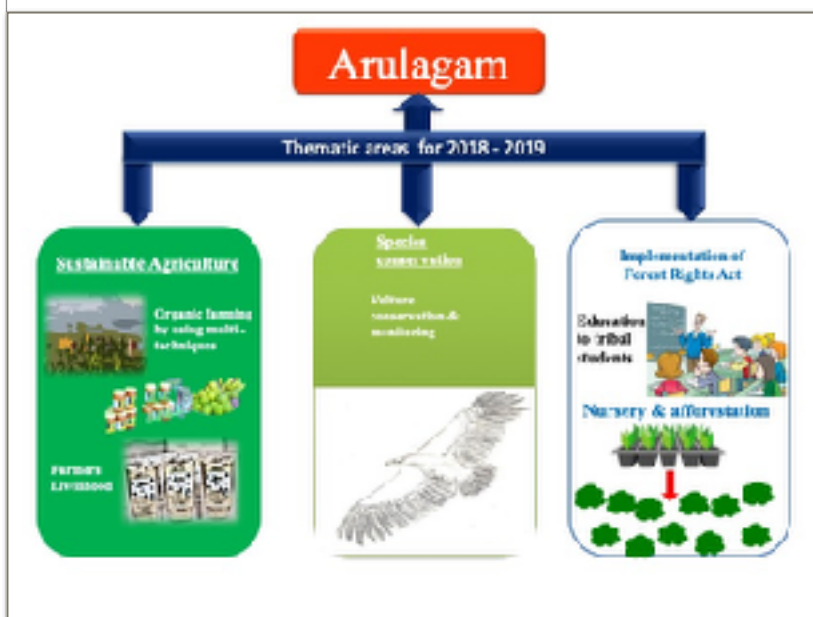
'Arulagam' is keen to understand the grassroots issues and echo the voice of the voiceless; and endeavours to conserve flora and fauna and its habitat in South India by crafting science-based solutions with traditional wisdom. 'Arulagam' believes in holistic approach by involving targeted stakeholders in participatory action programs.

### Vision

To Visualising environmentally conscious society that protects flora and fauna for the benefit of nature and generations of the future

### Mission

Conservation of nature with people's active participation through field-based action, research, education and advocacy efforts to ensure sustainable development.



### Thematic Areas

#### UN Sustainable Development Goals

"Arulagam" strives to support following universal goals in the project areas.

- Goal 2: Zero Hunger
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 7: Affordable&Clean Energy
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 17: Partnership for the goals

## Home gardening training for Women

Goal: To grow vegetables for their own consumption.

To learn seed production methods in order to share the seeds with their neighbours

Beneficiaries: 55 women

## Value addition of farm produce

Goal: To earn more income from farm produce by value addition

To build a Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) in the long term

Beneficiaries: 40 youths

## Seed production and distribution

Goal: To produce and distribute quality native seeds of millets, lentils and other vegetables to fulfil local demands

Beneficiaries: 30 farmers

## Zero Hunger

## Agro ecology training in association with Amrita Boomi

Goal: To transform the chemical intensive agricultural farms into natural farming by using agro ecological methods.

Beneficiaries: 40 farmers got trained and started practicing agro ecological farming in their respective farms. Encouraging results are coming from the farmers field. Field observation is going on and results will be updated.

Training conducted to 30 Community Resource Persons (CRP) on Zero Budget Natural Farming for Karnataka State at Amrita Bhoomi Agro-ecological farm.



photo 1 : training on multilayer Kumaraswamy vegetable model



photo 2 Training on seed selection and saving



photo 3 Training on bean seed conservation



photo 4 one page pictorial training map of Kumaraswamy vegetable model for women gardeners to practice

## Attended - Farmers' organisations in South Asia - Regional Meeting, New Delhi, India



Farmers' organisations in South Asia, 3 days regional meeting held at New Delhi from the 30 March - 01 April, making a collective commitment and to also strengthen the international solidarity across continents. Members from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and India took part in the meeting. Discussions were held to strategise and formulate an action plan for the region. The youth and women members of the South Asia also

held a brainstorm session on increasing the gender and generational parity within the leadership of the organization in the region. Decisions were taken to create equal representation at all levels and to ensure that younger people are trained politically to take forward the several inter-regional and inter-continental farmers issues. Fair price to farm produce, collective sale, value addition, cold storage and other options were discussed.



## Quality Education

### Tribal Education

- Education program started for the benefit of school-going tribal children for easily understanding the subjects.



- This was initiated in Pandalur taluk of Nilgiri District at November 1st 2018
- 1st Phase, 10 Adivasis Hamlets selected and ten tutors were appointed
- Environment based curriculum developed
- Evening tuition centre is functioning well and nearly 100 children are benefitting.
- Art for Nature programme conducted in 12 Schools

## Affordable and Clean Energy

### Bio-gas Construction

- Constructed 14 Gobar-gas units by using cow dung with the support of District Rural Development Agency in Karur district in Tamil Nadu.





## Life on Land

### Species Conservation

'Arulagam' is working to revive back the critically endangered vulture population in Nilgiri landscape with the support of various funding agencies for the past ten years



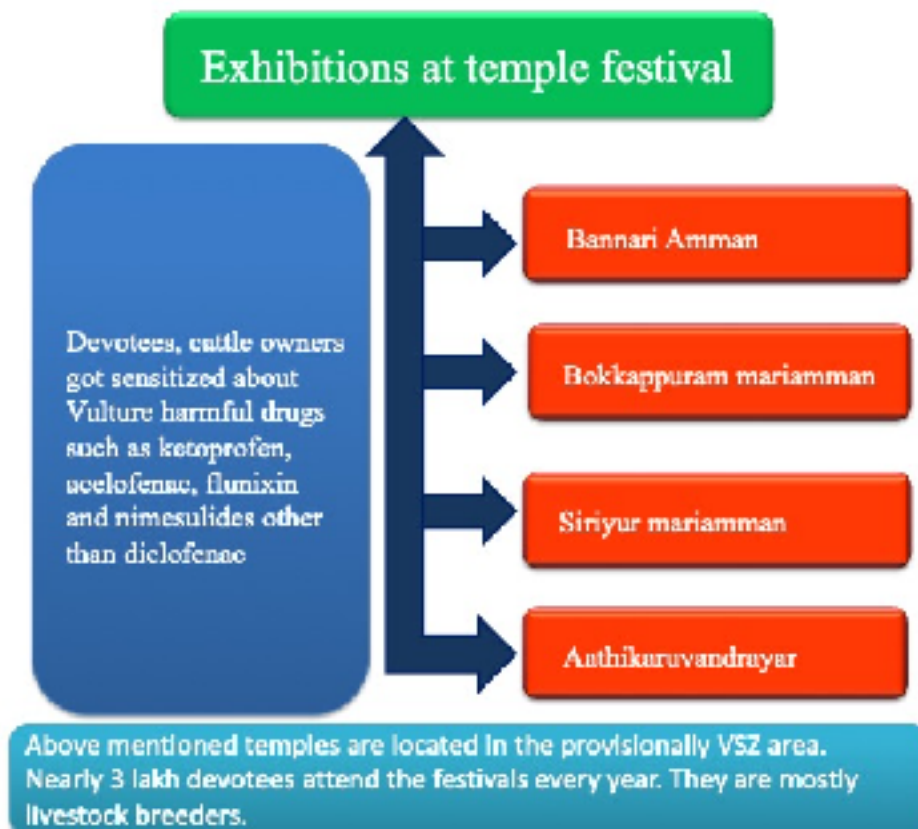
### Target Species

- White-backed vulture, (Cr)
- Long-billed Vulture, (Cr)
- Red-headed Vulture (Cr)
- Egyptian vulture (En)

### Stakeholders



## Way of sensitising the Stakeholders



## Exhibition at Horse Fair

'Horse Fair' is organized every year at the time of Sri Gurunatha Swamy temple festival in the 4th Wednesday in Tamil month of *Aadi*. It is believed that it was organized right from Tippu Sultan's time. Nearly 15000 people were witnessed between 8<sup>th</sup>, August to 12<sup>th</sup> August. 'Arulagam', utilised this chance and spread the conservation message among the cattle owners. Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID)s are heavily used in horses and it is used for mastitis in cattle.'In order to convey the ill effects of NSAIDs, 'Arulagam' displayed a board and appealed to the cattle owners on not to use the drugs which are harmful to vultures such as diclofenac, aceclofenac, ketoprofen, nimusulides, flunixin by distributing pamphlets.



## International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD)- 2018

International Vulture Awareness Day was observed in Kuruthukuli village of Udthagamandalam, in association with the Animal Husbandry Department of the Nilgiris district. On that occasion, a display board on vulture conservation was unveiled by Ms. J.Innocent Divya, I.A.S., the District collector, the Nilgiris in presence of Doctor N.S. Manoharan, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, the Nilgiris.



**The district collector admired the display board and asked us to exhibit permanently in the Botanical Garden.**

## Awareness board



An awareness board was erected at Kodanad view point with the support of the Tirupur Information Technology Association (TITA). The board was unveiled by honorary wildlife warden, C. Badrasamy in presence of Mr. Sumesh Somen, D.F.O., Nilgiri South. This board was erected to commemorate the 4th year of the bike rally for the cause of vulture conservation.

## Vulture Conservation Working Group - South India (VCWG - SI) Coordinators Meeting

'Arulagam' is an overarching coordinator for the 'Vulture Conservation Working Group - South India' (VCWG - SI). To devise the priority action, coordinators meeting is convened at field station of the Wildlife Conservation Foundation, Mangala, Bandipur, Karnataka on Nov, 11, 2018. Various issues were discussed and plan of action was updated.

## Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinctions (SAVE) 8th annual meeting

'Arulagam' is an associate partner in SAVE. 'Arulagam' secretary actively took part in the 8th Annual meeting of SAVE which held at Kathmandu, Nepal on 29 & 30th November, 2018. During the meeting, Action plan - Blueprint for Conserving Asia's Vultures from Extinctions was updated.

Please visit [www.save-vulture.org](http://www.save-vulture.org) for more details.





## Value Addition of Manure by Earthworm

The cattle are reared in 'Moyar' landscape primarily for getting manure rather than for milk; And the manure has been used widely by the farming sectors, especially in raising the plantation crops. Selling as raw manure is usual practice. But at the same time, when the same raw manure is converted into vermi-compost, the income will be enhanced at least by two times. Realizing the fruition of such value addition that villagers appealed to the 'Arulagam' to help them in this regard; Their plea was provisionally accepted with a condition that the cattle owners be vigilant on vulture killing drugs such as ketoprofen, diclofenac, aceclofenac, flunixin, nimesulides, carprofen, phenylbutazone usage by the the veterinary doctors to their cattle.



- Three beneficiaries were selected and compost unit set up with the support of Cardwell Manufacturing Company. Thanks to Mr. R, Ravindran for the contribution.

### Successful outcome

- **By seeing the success of the compost unit, state government has allotted Rupees one hundred thousand (Rs 100000) to the beneficiary Mr. Basavan, S/o A.K.B. Buntan, Anaikatty village for appreciating his effort.**

## Consultation meetings with tribes

Consultation meetings organized at the 5 tribal hamlets that are located within the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) with the support of WWF-India. We chose such hamlets because of the vulture nesting sites were surrounded: cattle rearing and farming are the main activities in those villages and it could make direct impacts in the vulture population. (For detailed report, please see the Annexure)



## Other Points

- Arulagam's efforts on vulture conservation was briefed to the delegates of "Tamil Birders" Meet which held at Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu
- A radio talk on vulture conservation broadcasted and 14 articles published in different National Newspapers
- Art from Nature workshop conducted for village children in association with 'Payir'

## Nursery and Greening activities

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- Nursery activities generated the employment opportunity for 5 women and 2 men.
- 53 varieties of 1,23,000 number of saplings from Shrubs, medium to large trees, were produced
- Quality saplings are sourced from 'Arulagam' Nursery for the afforestation work carried out by Shanthi Social Service Society and Junglescapes Charitable Trust
- 15 Students from Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture got trained in nursery activity
- Arulagam's Poonthalir nursery is trying to fulfil the need of the afforestation groups and indirectly supporting for greening the earth.

## Other Notable Events

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- Relief materials worth of two lacks were distributed to the flood affected villages in Gudalur taluk, Udhagamandalam

## Children Bio-diversity Congress

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The purpose of the Children's' congress is to create awareness and encourage children to take action on issues related to biodiversity & to protect and use the available resources wisely. This congress was organised by **Aranya Forest Sanctuary (A unit of Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research (SAIIR), Auroville** in association with 'Arulagam' and Save Western Ghats Movement. The students got an opportunity to interact with pioneers in this field.

## Message on Wheels

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Plastic Awareness Campaign was carried out in continuation with the State Governments policy on New Year's Eve 2019 to curtail the usage of single use plastic. Ms.J.Innocent Divya, I.A.S., the district collector, The Nilgiris district, inaugurated the campaign on the occasion of Women's day, March 8th. Street play was conducted in 40 different locations to sensitise about the damages caused to mother earth by single use plastics with the support of Department of Environment and Forest.



## World Migratory Bird Day - Poster Release

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On the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day, the Forest Department of Erode along with the Vellode Mettupalayam Village Forest Committee has organised a program on (13th October) of releasing hatchlings of fish to support the migratory birds at Vellode Bird Sanctuary. 'Arulagam' joined in the event by releasing posters on the migratory birds. Poster was released by Dr.V. Naganathan, the Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve and received by poet Ms. Selvamani and K. Sakthivel of Sathyamangalam Environment and Wildlife Association.

Poster designed by K.Mohan raj (Tuno Media) was intriguing. The poster will help to create awareness on the significant ecological role of these migratory birds and State Government of Tamil Nadu is taking steps to improve the Vellode Bird Sanctuary, said by Vismiju Viswanathan, DFO, Erode. About 600 migratory birds all over India and 300 in Tamil Nadu grace our skies every year. It is sad that apart from a few species, the numbers of other bird species have been steadily declining over the years. The reasons for this phenomenon can be attributed to the reckless habitat alteration, that we do in the name of development, climate destruction and the depleting monsoon seasons said by S. Bharathidasan, Secretary, 'Arulagam'. There are nearly 36 migratory birds visits the sanctuary said by A.M.Amsa, bird enthusiast. Mr.Ravindranath, Ranger, Erode, Mr. Balasubramanian, President and members Vellode Mettupalayam Village Forest Committee, 'Arulagam' Joint Secretary Melkis Joseph, were participated in the event.



## Book Releasing Function



A book, with the title "*Paru Kalugukalum Pazhankudienarum*" wrote by the secretary of 'Arulagam', S. Bharathidasan in Tamil (vultures and the tribes - 140 pages), was released on Feb 2nd, 2019. This book was released by the noted environmentalist Mr, Kalanmani and Dr,V. Jeevanandham in presence of Dr. A. J. T. Johnsingh, Dr. Ajay Desai and Mr. Saravanan, It was received by Masters

Andril (4 years old), Narchelvi, SaiSaran, Sandy Emmanuel. And this book is dedicated to all those volunteers who strive to protect vultures allover the world, the likes of Vibu Prakash from India, Dhan Bahadur Chaudhary and Krishna Bhusal from Nepal, Uzma Khan from Pakistan, Alam Sarowar/Dipu from Bangladesh, Munir Virani and Andrew Botha from Africa, Chris bowden of Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinctions (SAVE) and all field workers of 'Arulagam'.



## Mangrove Success Story

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'Arulagam' involved in planting mangrove and associate plantation at the seashore of Idintha Karai in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu in 2007-09. We had the fortune of planting flora pertinent to coastal eco system such as *Avicennia*, *Rhizophora*, Palmyra palm seeds, *Callophyllam* and so on with the partnership of the Wetlands International South Asia. As the second phase of it, we continued the plantation activities at the back waters of *Upparu* at *Perumanal* village with the help of *Vikas Adhyayan Kendra, Mumbai* on the supervision of *Care T - Coimbatore*.



I was very much eager to see the present condition of those planting for a quiet long time. As I was concentrating myself on value addition of Palm tree based products and vulture conservation, the chances of visiting those coastal arenas became remote; or else I may say that I have not created an opportunity for that.

Meanwhile, Dr.S. Balachandran, the noted Ornithologist, a native of Kanyakumari, conveyed me telephonically that some of those mangrove saplings which we had planted have grown up to an appreciable stature. It may be noted here that it is he who was with us during the plantation operation and who also raised his genuine doubt about its positive survival growth. An invitation of Dr. S. Balachandran, although I have planned to visit therein for a long time span that could not have materialised. Further, the news that a Cinereous vulture was rescued and nourished there, also prompted me to see that in person.

However, both these plans get delayed for a long. Finally, time has ripened. The aim of achieving both the tasks, we marched towards Kanyakumari. We reached there at twilight. I was delighted much, as and when I saw the mangrove trees in full growth at the midst of *Prosopis* trees, not only that nascent saplings also get sprouted, out of the already thriving trees therein; moreover, the fresh seeds are also about to germinate into seedlings. This scenario is really enthralled me. At that moment I thanked our staff who helped me in that planting operation.



Rhizophora saplings established well in the back waters

**After seeing the success, Dr. S. Balachandran has planned to promote the plantation activity extensively in Perumanal area in Tirunelveli district.**

## Upcoming plan

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- Monitoring of vultures harmful veterinary drugs sales at key sites
- Promoting safe alternatives
- To initiate certification system that ensure only vulture-safe NSAIDs are used
- Survey and monitoring of carcass disposal practice and livestock kills by carnivores to improve availability of safe food and minimize risks from poisoned carcasses.
- Increase the stock of the plants by 1,50,000
- Increase the native varieties upto 75
- Increasing Forest Right claims
- Bring 100 acre into agro ecological farm
- Increasing the tribal education centre from 10 to 15
- Increasing the vulture population at least by 10 % annually

## Partnership for the goals

'Arulagam' believes in collective efforts to attain the goal. This year we have been fortunately supported and partnering with various organisations.

### We were supported by

- Department of Environment, Tamil Nadu
- Van Tien Hoven Foundation
- Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Rufford Foundation
- Asoc Lurbide
- Lush Limited
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- Home Rule Globally
- Stichting Both Ends
- International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)
- Covent University
- New Venture Fund
- Cardwell Manufacturing Company
- Disney Conservation Fund
- European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)
- Tirupur Information and Technology
- Edvard D Jones and Co
- Shanthi Social Service Society
- And so many of you

### Partnering & Associating with

- Saving Asias' Vultures from Extinctions (SAVE)
- Vulture Conservation Working Group - South India
- Save Western Ghats
- Gandhigram Rural University
- Amirta Boomi
- Aranya- Auroville
- SEEDS Trust
- Payir
- WWF-India
- Sathyamangalam Environment and Wildlife Association
- Junglescape Charitable Trust
- Hindu Religious and Charitable



We deeply thank all those who have given us persistent support and look forward to their continuing support.

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2018-19

Receipts Particulars	Income Cost (₹)	Payments Particulars	Expenditure Cost (₹)
Grants from Donors	17557174	Programme expenses	₹ 88,49,252
Donations	2919137	Nursery Activities	₹ 17,80,168
Members' subscription	4300	Administrative expenses	₹ 6,91,979
Bank Interest	253395	Capital expenses	₹ 46,38,825
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,07,34,006</b>		<b>₹ 1,59,60,224</b>

(Balance amount will be carried forward to ongoing project. Detailed audit report can be availed by requesting, Auditor: John Peter Raj)

### Executive Committee Members

G.Poornachandran	Patron
M.Deva Prakash	Honorary President
Sr. T. Nirala	Honorary Secretary
Karthiga Rajkumar	President
Suryabala Ramohan	Vice President
S.Bharathidasan	Secretary
Melkis Joseph Raja	Joint Secretary
R.Arumugam	Treasurer

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### Thank you Well Wishers.

**Arulagam** is registered Under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration act 1975, Regn No; 156/02 ,

Regd u/s 12A, 80G of the IT Act;

Regd under FCRA to accept foreign donations

