

ANNUAL

REPORT
2017-18

President message

Arulagam started in the year 2002 and we have completed 16 years by the end of June. We are happy to record that judgement has come in favour of the restriction of multi dose vials of Diclofenac drug. This may be one of the important milestone in vulture conservation. We appreciate our secretary, Bharathidasan's individual efforts on this. We feel proud to

acknowledge the fact that our friends from Arulagam have been contributing significantly to its growth and development even though they live far and wide. The demise of Mr Kalidas from Dharapuram, a supporter and a bird enthusiast from Arulagam, puts us in great pain. We also owe our sincere gratitude towards the members and volunteers of Arulagam, and Government and donors who have been giving us valuable contributions for being a great part in conservation. It is indeed our pleasure to present to you the annual report for the year 2017-18.

Karthika Rajkumar
President, Arulagam

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.



Highlights

✓ Arulagam played a role in challenging the interim order against banning of diclofenac Multi Dose Vial.

✓ Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) - A consortium for vulture conservation has chosen 'Arulagam' as its associate partner (IInd term) as a gesture to recognise the matchless endeavours undertaken by the organisation.

✓ Mr. S. Bharathidasan, the secretary, Arulagam has been chosen as an overarching coordinator for Vulture Conservation Working Group- South India.

✓ Arulagam's campaign against single use plastic yield result. The Nilgiris district administration has taken welcome decision that a women's committee to be set up and green tax to be collected and the collected fund could be donated to the process of abolition of plastic litter.

A voice for the voiceless ✓

A Great Victory over Diclofenac Multi Dose Vial case

The central government passed an order in the year 2015 that no more than 3 ml of the drug should be produced. Opposing which, a drug company received an interim embargo from the High Court of Madras. Concerned about the fact that this embargo will cause a recession in the efforts that we have been taking to save vultures, Arulagam's Secretary impleaded himself in the hearing of the case and acted as a guiding light towards the attainment of a positive judgement from the court by providing the court with authentic scientific information. The justice had also appreciated the tireless efforts undertaken by the enthusiastic volunteer Mr. S. Bharathidasan in his judgement. Please read. <https://www.arulagam.org/publications/articles/74-legal-battle-to-remove-the-stay-on-the-ban-on-multi-dose-vials-of-diclofenac.html>.

Policy level change

Arulagam has played a very significant role in inhibit purchasing of the drug 'ketoprofen' for the Department of Animal Husbandry, Tamil Nadu state in 2015. This has been regarded as a significant initiative on a national level. We felt extremely proud when we heard from a representative from Bangladesh observed that they have taken Arulagam's order copy as precedence and have successfully banned the drug in their country. We take pride in acknowledging the fact that effort by Arulagam has been a forerunner in framing another country's policies.



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COIMBAT

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COIMBATORE

FRIDAY 27.10.2017

HC verdict on vulture killing drug welcomed

Court extends ban on multi-dose vials of diclofenac

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Coimbatore

ARULAGAM, an NGO involved in conserving vultures, has welcomed the Madras High Court judgment upholding the ban on multi-dose vials of human diclofenac, to protect its illegal use by veterinarians.

Chief Justice Indira Bannerjee and Justice M Sundar have refused to interfere with a gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on July 17, 2015, amending certain provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules of 1945, thereby making sure that diclofenac (a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) injection for human use is sold only in single dose packets containing a maximum of 2 ml in a vial.

The High Court dismissed a petition filed by two pharmaceutical companies challenging the Centre's ban on the sale of 'multiple dose packets' of the drug.

Vulture populations have fallen by up to 95 percent across the country due to use of diclofenac to treat cattle. Vultures are exposed to the drug when they feed on carcasses of livestock treated with it.

"The two-year battle has come to an end with the judgment,"

said Arulagam secretary S Bharathidasan.

"I had submitted the entire scientific evidence in the court to the court. The Deputy Drug Controller from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation supported us enormously," he added.

"The two companies had demanded substantial evidence to prove that diclofenac was used as a medicine for cattle. Though it is a common practice in the western region, it was difficult to fix hidden cameras in pharmacies and farmers' houses to find whether they were using it for cattle. Besides, we did not have parts of vultures' carcasses to submit in the court. We highlighted precautionary principle in our argument. The judges said they were adopting the precautionary principle advanced by the solicitor and that the lack of decline in the vulture population post 2012, as claimed by the petitioners, was insignificant," said Bharathidasan.

The white-backed vulture, slender-billed vulture and long-billed vulture are facing extinction. They were pushed to the verge of extinction more quickly than any other species (perfect correlation between visceral gout and diclofenac residue in vulture tissues), he added.

Govt action on diclofenac

Withdrawal of licences to manufacture diclofenac issued on 11 August 2006

Anti-dumping tax imposed in June 2008

Gazette notification against selling, distributing and prescribing diclofenac issued in July 2008

The statement 'Not for veterinary use' made mandatory on the package in August 2008

Multi-dose vials of diclofenac banned on 17 July, 2015, amending certain provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules of 1945

Ban confirmed on 25 October, 2017

I had submitted the entire scientific evidence in the court to the court. The Deputy Drug Controller from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation supported us enormously

S Bharathidasan

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THE NEW
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Fri, 27 October 2017

e-paper.newindianexpress.com/c/23233888



Immediate Action to Curtail Cattle Mortality

A severe drought was recorded in all over Tamil Nadu state in the year 2017. Our project area such as Pootha Natham, Siriur, Anaikatti, Moyaru and Mavanalla were also severely affected and experienced mass cattle death during summer. Our team, produced a live report and brought attention to the higher officials. It was well taken by the Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and made arrangements for cattle feed to the needy farmers. Reporting the impact of the drought, organisations inclined towards the welfare of animals



volunteered to do field work. However, the needs surpassed the expectation. For sensitising the cattle owners, 3000 leaflets with information on 'How to safeguard the cattle during the summer', were distributed to 12 villages covering the Mudumalai sanctuary buffer zone. Please read the news report.

Thematic Areas

"Arulagam" strives to address and attain following universal sustainable goals in the project areas.



Goal 2 : Zero Hunger
Goal 15: Life on Land
Goal 17: Partnership for Goals

Zero Hunger

Under these category, 'Amrita Bhoomi' in association with 'Arulagam' carried out activities in two major areas:

1. Training
2. Seed production and distribution.

TRAININGS

About five training workshops were conducted for farmers- including women and youth on various themes related to zero budget natural farming, local seed diversity conservation, agroforestry, and also policies.

Here are some examples:

1. April 2017: A two-day training class was organized at Amrita Bhoomi on zero budget natural farming:



budget natural farming:

<https://amritabhoomi.org/intensive-two-day-bootcamp-on-zero-budget-farming-ongoing-at-amrita-bhoomi/>

2. Youth trainings: Workshops to train both urban and rural youth on agrarian issues have taken place.

- a. April 2017 : Training Tomorrow's Peasant Movement Leaders

<https://amritabhoomi.org/training-tomorrows-peasant-movement-leaders/>

- b. Jan 2017: What do love letters have to do with farming?

<https://amritabhoomi.org/what-do-love-letters-have-to-do-with-farming/>



SEED PROGRAM

The conservation of native seed biodiversity is critical for our food system. Many of these varieties are being lost very fast. Most of the seed market is controlled by patented seeds and seed companies making the seeds very expensive. This adds to farmers debt. On the other hand native seed variety are hardy, adapted to local climactic conditions. They are easily available and easy to produce. They cut farmers costs. It is important to revive farmers seeds, train farmers on the ways to conserve them, and also make seeds available in a timely manner for sowing season.

Amrita Bhoomi launched its seed program with a vision to solve the aforementioned problems. Training programs on seeds, as well as producing and distributing local seed varieties organised . We have conserved over hundred seed varieties of paddy, millets, vegetables, and others. Here is a list of some of the activities undertaken as part of our seed program: -

Collecting seed varieties and beginning vegetable seed production at Amrita Bhoomi:

Our seed program leader- Vasantha, has been traveling across the state and linking up with all the major farmer seed savers. She has already collected the varieties of paddy, vegetables and many other plants. Currently millets and vegetables seeds are being produced.



Seed Packaging, Distribution and Education:

Started a small-scale packaging and distribution of seeds. There is high demand for our local seed varieties,

Below is a photo of the seed packages.



Farmers regularly visit 'Amrita Bhoomi' for seed collection.

Photo of a farmers visit where Ms.Vasantha, the seed coordinator of 'Amrita Bhoomi' gives them an educational tour.



Seed Displays and Education:

We have been setting up seed stalls at various farmers events, and distributing and exchanging small quantities of seeds- as well as carrying out small educational programs for women and children.



Policy level work

Indian Farmers groups Consultation on UN Draft Declaration on Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas

LVC South Asia and its affiliated member organisation in North India, the Bhartiya Kissan Union (BKU) organised a daylong consultation on the 'draft declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas' at the ISI in Delhi on Wednesday, 12th April 2017. The overall objective of the consultation was to spread the information about the draft declaration and seek inputs from various peasant groups in northern India as well as others like fisherfolk, pastoralist, forest workers, dairy workers, NGO activists and youths. The consultation was intended to mobilize support from these groups at the national level to influence the Federal Government in Delhi to maintain their positive support for the Declaration but also push for its early finalization at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) where the negotiation is currently underway. Moreover, the Delhi's consultation also deliberated for exploring possibilities for legislation at the national level for the recognition of peasants' rights on the lines of the UNHCR Declaration. Please click

<http://lvcsouthasia.blogspot.in/2017/04/report-of-farmers-consultation-at-delhi.html>

South Asia Peasant Youth Camp, Lucknow, India- May 25- May 29

LVC South Asia successfully held it's first ever peasant youth camp. Around 70 men and women youth from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Srilanka actively participated. They discussed, exchanged and listened to lectures on various subjects such as food

sovereignty, agroecology, gender, class, trade, communications and the major problems of peasant youth in South Asia.

La Via Campesina, South Asia Regional Meeting

La Via Campesina South Asian regional conference was held in Nainamadama, Sri Lanka on 14th June 2017. Member organisations from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan participated in the conference. MONLAR, our member organisation in Sri Lanka hosted this meeting. The meeting mainly focused on important internal matters of the region such as election of new representatives for the International Coordination Committee from the region. Two new potential members were welcomed and many issues concerning the region were debated and a regional declaration was passed during the meeting. Please click

<http://lvcsouthasia.blogspot.in/2017/06/regional-political-declaration-was.html>.

Pheasant rights

The South Asia region of La Via Campesina has had a vast experience of peasant right movements and agitations and with the neo-liberal model of economy coming to picture, the issue of agriculture and Peasant rights have become all the more prominent and needs imminent and immediate attention. The situation is more volatile with the farmer's suicide soaring on the one hand, the adverse policies framed by the government on the other hand. In South Asia, LVC South Asia Members are engaged in a struggle against corporate interests in agriculture and fight for food sovereignty, seed sovereignty and agroecology.

The South Asian peasants were able to win over their battle against Glyphosate in Sri Lanka, dismantling the new land ordinance and fight against GMOs in India, having made the Government to include food sovereignty in Nepal's Constitution and bringing out the concerns of global warming in Bangladesh. Our delegates also participated in major international events such as WTO MC 10 and COP21 highlighting the issues of the South Asian region.



The earthquake in Nepal made us witness major devastations but the internal strength and international solidarity seen during this tough time was commendable.

www.lvcsouthasia.blogspot.com

LVC South Asia -Regional Meeting- Nepal

The regional meeting of the South Asian region of La Via Campesina was held in Balthali, Nepal from September 10-15, 2016 . All Nepal Peasants Federation (ANPFa) was the host of the meeting. Over the period of these five days, representatives from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and India shared their struggles against agribusiness and neoliberalism. Comrades from Pakistan shared their struggles over Skype. The region is actively trying to include organisations from Pakistan as its new members.

An organizational profiling exercise was carried on before the regional meeting. LVC member organizations and ally organizations took the time to share updates from each country, have debates on the urgent actions to take forward on many of our working collectives and



themes, and prepare for the 6th Global Conference. Alongside our permanent international themes of struggle, we added a few themes which are especially relevant in our region. We had two special discussions - one on livestock and dairy, and another on caste discrimination.

LVC South Asia resolved to continue our struggle on our common platforms of agroecology and seed sovereignty, rights to natural resources, rights for migrant and waged workers, public policies for food sovereignty, and for pro-people economics.

<http://lvcsouthasia.blogspot.in/2016/10/la-via-campesina-south-asia-holds.html>

Interpretation-translation training in Nepal, March 2017

A two day skill development training on interpretation and translation organized by La via Campesina (LVC-international peasant movement) along with All Nepal Peasants Federation (ANPFa) in co-operation with Solidarity Interpretation group successfully held in Kathmandu. The program was attended by around 20 trainees volunteers who were part of the various CSOs and social movements especially working on the issue of peasantry and agriculture.

<http://lvcsouthasia.blogspot.in/2017/03/interpretation-translation-training.html>

Case studies to FAO:

9 case studies were submitted to the FAO, Rome towards the documentation of successful experiences of small-scale food producer organizations in FAO Region of Asia and the Pacific to identify expertise providers for South-South Cooperation among Non-State Actors in November 2017.

LVC-South Asia Regional Meeting - NewDelhi

Farmers' organisations in South Asia, who are also members of La Via Campesina, held a regional meeting in New Delhi from the 30 March - 01 April, making a collective commitment to unify the struggles in the regions and to also strengthen the international solidarity across continents.

Members from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and India took part in the 3-day long meeting hosted by the Bhartiya Kisan Union. Representatives from Pakistan could not attend the three day meeting due to an inhuman visa regime that India and Pakistan have built against the citizens of the both countries.

Discussions were held to strategize and formulate an action plan for the region for the coming years. The youth and women members of the South Asia movements also held a brainstorm session on increasing the gender and generational parity



within the leadership of the movement in the region. Decisions were taken to create equal representation at all levels of the movement and to ensure that younger people are trained politically to take forward the several inter-regional and inter-continental struggles forward, within and outside the movement.

<https://viacampesina.org/en/lvc-south-asia-members-pledge-to-strengthen-regional-and-international-solidarity/>

Life on Land

Species Conservation

'Arulagam' is working to revive back the critically endangered vulture population in Nilgiri landscape for the past ten years. Currently we are continuing the work with the support of Rufford Foundation, Mohamadbin Zayed Species conservation Fund and Ashirvadam Foundation.



Target Species



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

Stakeholders



Finding a feeding source for vultures

Nilgiri district Animal Welfare Society in Mavanalla is taking care of the abandoned cattle. We ensured that they are not using any harmful drugs to their cattle. Arulagam approached the institution and placed a request to expose the carcass to scavengers instead of burying. Upon understanding the requirement the Animal Welfare Society agreed to cater to the same. The *Gosala* intimates Arulagam about the cattle mortality and Arulagam will dispose the carcass in an open plain for the vultures and other scavengers to feed on. On behalf of the members of Arulagam, we owe special



gratitude to Mr. Raghunathan from the Animal welfare foundation from Connoor for his valuable contributions to this project in its initial stages. We would like to state that four carcasses were transported to the forest as feed for the vultures, out of which one were consumed by the vultures. Similarly, Arulagam approached farmers who raised cattle to provide the carcass of the cattle after its demise. The farmers are encouraged with a token of Rs.1500 for the carcass provided. This

System had been accomplished in trial basis in Semmanatham and Boodhanatham village in Niligiri District. 7 cattle have been laid out in an open plain for the vultures and scavengers alike to share. Arulagam is planning to expand the trial program to wider areas to acquire greater number of carcasses for the scavengers.

Retired Livestock Inspectors Association Meeting

On 1st May, 2017, the 14th annual meeting of Retired Livestock Inspectors Association was conducted in Trichy. Arulagam had voluntarily associated with the institution for the past five years. Arulagam appealed to the members of the association to put a restriction on the drug that are harmful to vultures, such as diclofenac, ketoprofen, and aseclofenac . 400 participants took note of the key address along with the education material provided by Arulagam.

Hon president of the society, Mr. Ratnagiri made a mention of the significance of the role of vultures as scavengers and how their importance in the eco system is vital for sustenance. He also explained that the presence of diclofenac in the dead cattle will prove vicious to the scavenger and should thus be prohibited from being fed to the cattle.



South India Synergistic Meet on Vulture Conservation

Owing to severe drought, this year witnessed a record high in the number of deaths of cattle and wild animals as well. However it is a matter of deep concern that there was no presence of vultures to feed on the carcasses. Moreover, vultures were abandoning their traditional nesting site in Siriyur. To address the issue, of owing to the aforementioned disturbances, 'Arulagam' called upon for an urgent meeting on May 6th, 2017 at Coimbatore. There were 15 members from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu actively took part in the discussion. The participants represented various organizations such as Malabar Natural History Society, Wildlife Conservation Foundation, Hume's Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, Salim Ali Center for ornithology and Natural History Society (SACON), Government Arts College, Udhagamandalam, Asoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), Save Tiger First and Karnataka Vulture Conservation Trust, Ramnagara. The following obligations were put forth in the gathering that took place.

The need for co-operation of individuals carrying out researches on vultures was insisted. Request was also put forth to compile the information so far collected so as to make it accessible to others as well. A synergistic desire to record and monitor the places of the vulture. It was proposed to conduct a synchronized survey.



The meet was an eye opener and provoked the necessity of next level actions.

Awareness Activity

International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD)- 2017

First Saturday of the month of September is celebrated as International Vulture Awareness day. Arulagam celebrated the event at Siriyur village as it has been the nesting place of vultures for many years and it was close to the village. Pongal (traditional food) was cooked and served to the village people. Get together activities for the adults and games for the children were conducted. Arulagam's volunteer Mr.Ragunath enriched the program by teaching some intricate methods of drawing. Crayons and pencils were distributed to the children. The villagers and the students felt extremely

happy and stated that this was the first ever time that such an event had been organized for tribal people there.



Awareness programs on vulture conservation

A street campaign was organised in the first week of August, to convey the message on harmful drugs to vultures. More than eight thousand general public and students were witnessed this event. The pamphlets were given to the public in relation to the protection of the vultures that are at a risk of extinction. A meeting was also held at J SS College of Pharmacy, Government Arts College, Ooty and Providence college for women, Connoor in the Nilgiris district.



Training pertaining to the Forest Rangers

A field training related on vultures was provided to the newly recruited forest officers on March 16th by Arulagam team. 30 personnels from all over India were benefitted. Current practices which are affecting the vultures were discussed during the interactive session.



Gurunadhasamy temple festival



Andhiyur Gurunandha Temple festival in Erode District is an extravagant celebration every year during the month of Aadi (July- August). The festival attracts people from the bordering states to join in the celebration. The highlight of the festival is the famous auction, where hundreds of horses and thousands of cattle will be bought and sold. This event also observes

participation of businessmen from other states.

Utilising the opportunity Arulagam organised an exhibition from 11th to 13th August 2017. Posters were displayed about the diclofenac poisoning. Educational pamphlets on the drug in usage were distributed to the visitors. Awareness on disease and measures to prevent them were created. Around 10,000 people were witnessed the exhibition.



Karuvannarayar temple

The annual Karuvannarayar temple attracts more than 40,000 devotees in the Moyar valley during the month of February. Arulagam utilised this opportunity to create awareness on veterinary drug which are harmful for vultures and to avoid one use plastic. The volunteers cleaned huge piles of plastic litter and depicted an example.

Securing Vulture Population in South India

Government Arts College, Ooty had organized a South India level meeting for the conservation of vultures with the support of Raptor Research and Conservation Foundation (RRCF) in association with Tamil Nadu state forest department. Arulagam actively associated for this event. Mr. Chris Bowden, coordinator of SAVE was invited as the chief guest. In his keynote address, he appreciated the role of Arulagam in vulture conservation in Tamil Nadu. Mr. Ramasubramanian, the Conservator of Forests also appreciated our efforts for the cause of vulture conservation.



14 resolutions were passed in this conference. 120 representatives from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra and Telangana took part in this conference. Mr. S Bharathidasan was unanimously elected as the coordinator for South India.

Nursery and Afforestation

- Forest cover is on the decline. Native species were replaced by the invasive species. To realize this, Arulagam nurtured 23 varieties of 125,000 wild tree saplings and distributed at nominal service charge to the various afforestation groups including Junglescapes charitable trust, Tree Foundation, Sakthi Masala, Shanthi Social Service Society and Noyyal Green Foundation. The added advantage that these seedlings are browsing species and as well as bird and butterfly attracting species. By this initiation of afforestation, we hope that the forest cover in our project are will slightly improve in the coming years.
- Nursery activity provided employment opportunity to 6 women and 2 men



Nursery - Training

Under the student training programme, 10 students from 'Kumaraguru Institute of Agriculture' paid a visit to 'Arulagam' to learn the organisation's functioning. They were introduced to an experiential learning on how global warming directly and indirectly affects agriculture and agriculture labours. The students had also successfully designed a greenhouse model by themselves and presented it to our nursery. This shed has been very useful in activities like grafting and growing small plants. Among the internship organizations 'Arulagam' exposure was selected as best exposure provided in the college during 2017-18.

Noted visit

- Mr. Sam Tarrent from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK, spent a month time with Arulagam for his subatological work.
- Arulagam's secretary Mr S. Bharatidasan was invited as special invitee to the inauguration ceremony of the Salem Birders Club.
- Ms. Laura from the United States of America, paid a visit to Arulagam and stayed with us for one year and had an experienced learning about the role of small scale farmers in food production.
- Mr. S. Karthi, one of Arulagam's a dedicated volunteer has been chosen to pursue his higher education on wildlife documentary, in New Zealand. To him and to Ms. Prema who is to go Sweden for higher education, team Arulagam would like to extend our heartiest wishes.



In remembrance of Arul

In fond remembrance of Mr Arul, a tree plantation program was organised on 31st October, on the occasion of his memorial day at Karuparayan temple in Pattanampudhur.

On 2nd February, as a remembrance of Arul birth anniversary and as to mark International wetlands day; a bird watching trip was organised at Singanallur tank, Coimbatore. About 12 members were participated and 45 species were recorded.

Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinctions (SAVE) 7th annual meeting

'Arulagam' is an associate partner in SAVE. 'Arulagam' secretary actively took part in the 7th Annual meeting of SAVE which held at Sunderbans, Bangladesh on 20th November, 2017. During the meeting, Arulagam Secretary was honoured for his success in the case pertaining to the ban of the drug diclofenac. He also shared valuable insights about the case in question with the audience present. Please visit www.save-vulture.org for more details.



Photo Source: www.savevulture.org

Street campaign – Abolition of one use plastic

"Message on Wheels" - Campaign on the ill effects of the plastics, was conducted in the Nilgiris district with the support of Department of Environment, Tamil Nadu, in association with Environment Amelioration Services Trust. The awareness campaign drive was inaugurated by the district collector Ms. J.Innocent Divya I.A.S at botanical garden, Udhagamandalam in presence of district forest officer Mr Rajakumar I.F.S, and Mr. Sugirdharaj Koilpillai, I.F.S. Leaflets were presented to the public after explaining the evils of the plastic. More than 15,000 people witnessed this street campaign.

Mr Srinivas R Reddy, I.F.S., Field director and CCF Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Mr P K Thomas participated in the plastic awareness program that was organized in Theppakadu and distributed cloth bag to the public to promote awareness. Through

the journey of this campaign the ill and fatal effects of plastic in cattle and animals in general through consumption of plastic was brought out to attention to the public through a street play which held from 30.07.2017 to 08.08.2017 in Ooty, Gudalur, Coonoor, Kotagiri, Masinagudi, Moyar in Nilgiris District.



Prevention is better than cure – Training on how to safeguard the cattle from diseases

Non-steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) is mostly used in cattle for treating swelling and udder infection. As it is evident some of the painkillers used by the veterinarians are proven to be harmful for the vultures. Such diseases could be avoided by taking precautionary measures and it was explained by Dr. V. Ganesan, a retired Veterinary doctor. 30 cattle rearers participated and learned the events objective. Mr. Christopher, a bird researcher discussed about vultures. Replication of similar events will increase the farmer's awareness and the health of their cattle.

Tamil Birders Meet

The 3rd Tamil birders meet took place in Yercaud in Salem district.

Arulagam utilized this opportunity to refine the vulture conservation action plan. The document was duly finalized using the best of minds in conservation. Mr. Theodore



Bhaskaran, a senior conservationist and Dr. Sreekumar, professor, Madras Veterinary college, Mr. Subramanya, of IBA coordinator for Karnataka, Mr. Shantharam for IBA coordinator for Tamil Nadu, Dr. Bathri Narayan and bird enthusiast from different parts of the state actively took part in the brainstorming session. The Kannagi Route was appreciated, that is Love towards Nature and respect for the protagonist. These are the two unique features of Tamil culture. Arulagam brainstormed and tabled the actions to be taken to protect the endangered species

News Article

[Rare Bird Alert. Co.uk.](#)

India rejects big pharma's call to carry on selling vulture killing drugs

The Indian Government has taken an important step towards preventing the extinction of Asia's Critically Endangered vultures by upholding the ban on large vials of diclofenac, a painkiller that is fatal to vultures. The judge was on the vultures' side throughout, preferring to call them "sanitary workers" rather than "scavenging birds".



Fifty five dead vultures in Assam 2015, killed after feeding on a cow carcass containing diclofenac
(© Mayur Bawri)

Despite pleas from two major pharmaceutical companies, on the 25th of October the Madras High Court upheld the ban on large "multi-dose" vials of diclofenac, of a large enough volume to be used on livestock for veterinary purposes. The illegal practice was banned in India in 2006 after years of lobbying from environmental groups like the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS, BirdLife in India) and the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK). This was after it was revealed that traces of diclofenac in livestock carcasses were triggering large-scale poisonings of vultures across the country, leading to population collapses of up to 99.9% in some species.

Yet despite the ban, pharmacies continued to sell the drug in suspiciously large 30ml multi-dose packets –allegedly for human use, but frequently diverted to animals as a slightly cheaper option than its legal, and vulture-safe, alternatives (such as

meloxicam). In 2015 the Indian Government banned these large packets too, limiting vial sizes to 3ml, and stood their ground despite the protests of big names in the pharmaceutical industry.

A "cynical" way for pharmaceutical companies to facilitate illegal use of the drug. Achieving and maintaining the ban has always been a priority for SAVE (Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction, a consortium of conservation groups including BirdLife International). SAVE programme manager Chris Bowden said:

"There is really no legitimate need for larger vials in human medicine, so the production of the larger vials has been a cynical way that the pharmaceutical companies have been facilitating illegal use of the drug."

We warmly welcome this ruling which is an important step for vulture conservation in the region, and credit to the Indian authorities for upholding this important measure."

"The court battle has taken over two years, and I have done my best to attend most of the hearings, submitting relevant scientific documents", says Bharathidasan S. of SAVE associate Arulagam. Core SAVE partner BNHS was also a vital presence throughout the proceedings.

Authoring the judgement for the bench, Justice M. Sundar highlighted *Gyps bengalensis* (the White-rumped Vulture), *Gyps tenuirostris* (the Slender-billed Vulture) and *Gyps indicus* (the Indian Vulture) as the key species that will benefit from the new law.

India, Nepal and Pakistan were the first to lead the ban in 2006, with Bangladesh following suit in 2010. Thanks to the ban, and our hard work introducing Vulture Safe Zones, South Asia's Critically Endangered vulture populations have been stabilizing, albeit at precariously low levels, since 2012. The hope is that, if India's support and pride in its vultures continues, they may soon be on the road to a full recovery. This fantastic news comes at a time when we're lobbying for an international Multi-Species Action Plan to combat the vulture crisis. 31st October 2017

Bird Survey in Kannagi Trail

Connecting historic and culture on bird watching

Silapathigaram is one of the ancient literature in Tamil. Kannagi is one of the important character in the story. It speaks about the coastal, delta, mid plains, and upper hilly region. So, we took that trail for recording the birds. Bird watchers were encouraged to travel along the Kannagi trail for bird sighting. During this trail, 120 species were documented and it was uploaded in e-bird. for the goals



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

Supported by

- Mohamadbinn Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ)
- Home Rule Globally
- Unicorn Grocery Ltd
- Assoc Lurbide
- Presbyterian Church
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- Stitchting Both Ends.
- Rufford Foundation
- European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)
- Ashirvadam Charitable Trust
- Junglescapes Charitable Trust
- And so many of you

Partnering with

- Saving Asias' Vultures from Extinctions (SAVE)
- Vulture Conservation Working Group - South India
- Amirta Boomi
- Aranya- Auroville
- Malabar Natural History Society
- Payir
- Environment Amelioration Services Trust
- International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)
- Shanthi Social Service Society
- Sirutuli
- Sakthi Devi Charitable Trust



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2017-18

Receipts Particulars	Income Cost (₹)	Payments Particulars	Expenditure Cost (₹)
Grants from Donors	3727811	Programme expenses	₹ 36,39,605
Donations	1917754	Nursery Activities	₹ 11,65,015
Members' subscription	3900	Administrative expenses	₹ 9,34,062
Bank Interest	54534	Capital expenses	₹ 87,182
Total	57,03,999		₹ 58,25,864

Detailed audit report can be availed by requesting, Auditor: John Peter Raj)

Thank you Well Wishers.

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

'Arulagam' is a registered Society 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

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