

The Friends of H.O.P.E.

“Established for the relief of poverty and sickness and to advance education among the inhabitants of the Nilgiri region of India and the encouragement and promotion of the protection and preservation of the environment in the Nilgiris”

Charity Number 1083028

Beginnings

- Vanya visited Cinchona village with her mother some 16 years or so ago
- She found that no-one was working
- No-one had a solid roof over their heads
- Absolute despair
- Vanya, being Vanya returned a year later and stayed!
- Village economy turned around, people had jobs, and sustainable livelihoods programme taken on by MADP

Culture

- 5 tribal groups in area
- Spiritual, white side, black side
- When bad spirits deemed to exit, eg a situation with absolute despair, a witchdoctor can be called in to drive away evil spirits
- Have heard of a situation that involved a sacrifice – not an animal, not a baby girl but a baby boy – the ultimate sacrifice
- Infanticide is prevalent

The Friends of H.O.P.E.

- Acts as a Facilitator
- Gives grants to organisations
- Supports the work of Vanya Orr and The Earth Trust, an NGO registered in The Nilgiri Hills region of Tamil Nadu
- Established new NGO “The Cradle Trust” (which is not activated yet) re Infanticide
- The FoH have links to other charities, eg. Wells for India and Divine Onkar Mission, Nilgiris Adivasi Trust

The Friends of H.O.P.E. – The Earth Trust's work in The Nilgiri Hills

- ET relieves poverty amongst the poorest marginalised groups where there is despair and increasing suicide
- Area depends on tea
- ET encourages sustainable livelihoods vis encouraging self help (SHG's)
- ET helps provide life's skills and makes use of nature's valuable resources
- ET educates
- ET provides initial primary Health, works with HIV/Aids sufferers
- ET promotes Biodiversity and protection of environment
- Established five years by Vanya Orr and well respected
- Partner groups include NMH and FAO

The Earth Trust – the issues

- Chemical farming
- Environmental issues
- Poverty, despair and suicide
- Lack of primary health care
- Migration
- School dropouts



Cyclone in 2009

- Every year there can be heavy monsoon rains and 2010 was no exception
- But, in 2009 82cms of rain was recorded in Ketti Valley where The Earth Trust is working
- One person died in the area for every cm of rain that fell
- Severe landslides, taking away village communities overnight
- Top soil lost, as well as homes destroyed and/or damaged
- Declared national emergency, many millions £'s damage
- Earth Trust staff helping distribute food and water the morning after

Eco-clubs

- Formed in 16 of the poorest government schools
- For example 80% of students attending Attadi school come from an orphanage
- All students participating in eco-clubs are now young environmental scientists
- Many have planted organic vegetables in newly cultivated school gardens and which are used in mid-day meals programme
- Schools such as Glenmorgan involved in incoming generating projects, eg making vermicompost which they are selling

Eco-clubs

- Students learn about organic production and biodiversity
- They inform their parents and the farmers within their communities
- Conservation programmes to save endangered plant species essential to Todas, launched at Glenmorgan school
- Very few schools have sports or play equipment
- Very few schools have computers, unlike UK

Making compost at Thenali school



Eco-club mushroom production at Thenalai school



Cinchona School (near Ooty) – 2100m no heating, school children work in cold climate



Studying at Cinchona school



Teaching English - Cinchona school



This model was made by a boy with a severe speech impediment – and who used it to talk about the environment and biodiversity



Presentation about environment and biodiversity



Karancy radishes – plastic bottle greenhouse in background



The plastic bottle greenhouse – Karancy school



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Kilcowatty eco club children tending their garden – the best eco club garden!



Health

- Awareness and counselling
- HIV/AIDS counselling and clinical trials
- Traditional Siddha medicines
- Stress management, massage, quantum healing, reiki, yoga
- Training village women in primary healthcare
- Sustainable health – herbal medicines
- Links with eminent UK dermatologists
- JV with PSG hospital group in Coimbatore agreed in principle
- FRLHT seconded practitioner

Medical knowledge is exchanged between women of different tribal groups



Health Group Meeting

4 tribal groups were represented



Health Awareness meeting



Massage Techniques



Massage techniques



HIV/AIDS awareness



Cranial sacral techniques



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Farming

Local farmers are encouraged and helped to adopt bio dynamic practices:

- Model nursery at Kollimalai and Ooty
- Outreach training centres
- Bio dynamic practices and environment
- Organic production
- Producer Groups encouraged
- 700 hectares targeted for organic vegetable production
- National Horticultural Mission and University links

Land at Kollimalai – before purchase



Work begins on new model nursery at Kollimalai



Kollimalai model nursery



Vanya reviewing plant health



Organic vegetable production



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K.Oranalli watershed



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Meekery organic vegetables



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Ooty nursery – NABARD visit 2010 – the invited Guru explaining the wondrous quality and flavour



The Model Nursery herb garden



Making Panchacavium – cow pat, cow urine, ghee, curd and milk – used as fertilizer, pesticide good for severe skin conditions and can be taken



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Environment and ecology

The Friends of H.O.P.E charity actively encourages and promotes the protection and preservation of the Nilgiri Hills environment

The Nilgiri Hills



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The Nilgiri landscape – view from The Nilgiris train



Nilgiri hills looking towards Kollimalai

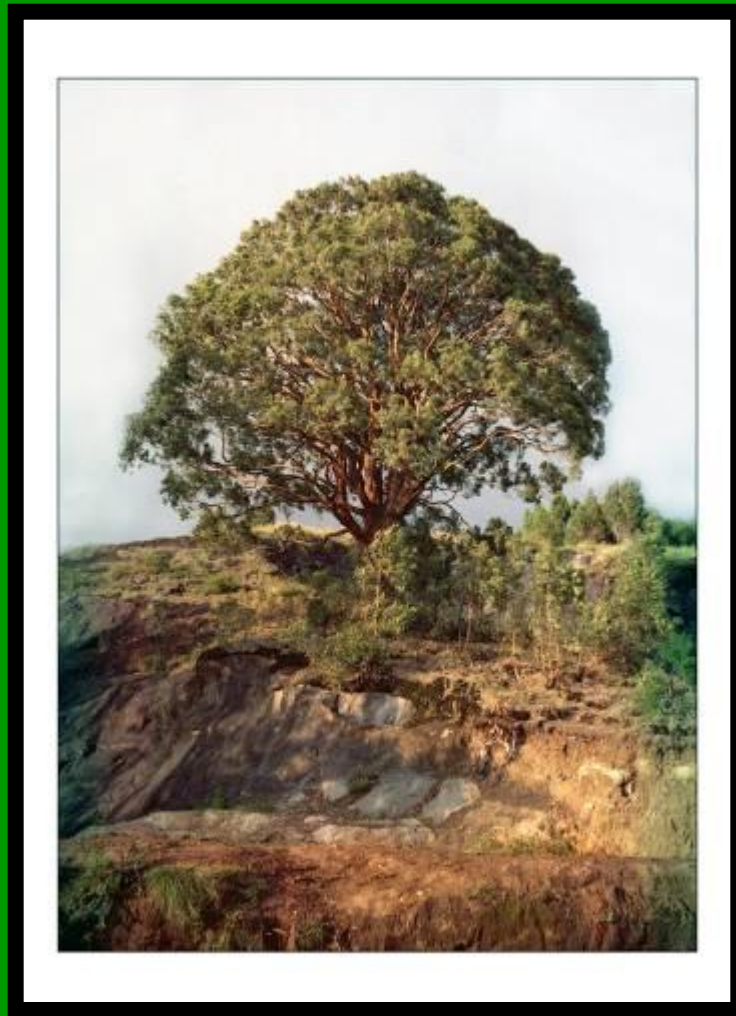


Protecting the water table



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Shola tree – this tree and its root system help to prevent soil erosion



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Wildlife – a leopard becomes ensnared in wire on a tea plantation



The leopard escapes – the ‘rescue’ does not go according to plan!



Indian elephant



Sustainable Livelihoods Project

- Making herbal medicines
- Siddha medicines, typical of Nilgiris centuries ago, over 1000 years old
- Herbal medicine units in 7 village clusters
- Kollikarai cluster is up and running
- Plan is JV with PSG Hospital group in Coimbatore for annex to be built on to proposed new hospital at Kothagiri where all raw product can be finished off, under licence, under laboratory conditions
- Up to 30,000 poor village communities should benefit
- Each woman or farmer producing herbs to benefit based upon 'co-operative principles of ownership'

Sustainable Livelihoods -Organic tea



Oreganum plants - Manjoor



Herbal medicines and cosmetics



The herbal medicines made by Kollikarai women's group – Nov 2010



Kollikarai herbal medicines – visit by UK dermatologists – Nov 2010



Site of new Kothagiri hospital and proposed JV herbal medicine unit with PSG Hospital Group Trust – Nov 2010



The Earth Trust team



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