

Field Visit Brief

Biodiversity- Sustaining Ecosystems and Livelihoods

Kotagiri is a *panchayat* town in The Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu. It is situated at an elevation of around 1793m above sea level and is one of the three popular hill stations located in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR). The NBR was created with the objective of conserving biodiversity and ecological foundations of the area, through the integration of scientific research with traditional knowledge, while also ensuring effective management for creating livelihoods of local communities. Keystone Foundation has been working in this region over the last 20 years with indigenous communities on eco-development initiatives. Their work is born out of a simple ecological principle of the interdependence of natural systems and is in sync with the objectives of the Biosphere Reserve.



Last Forest Enterprise

Last Forest Enterprises is a marketing initiative of Keystone Foundation. It is a profit making, 'green' company. Last Forest, as a brand, helps spread the work, knowledge, traditions and craft of small indigenous farmers and gatherers. It also provides them a platform to promote and add value to their organic produce.



Bangalapidigai Women's Progressive Group

The value addition centre at the Bangalapidigai village is called Bangalapidigai Women's Progressive Group and is a part of the Aadhimalai Pazhangudiur Producer Company. The centre focuses on production of paper bags, coffee, beeswax, silk and cotton products. The Group promotes organic practices, improving productivity and quality in farm crops and ensuring sustainable harvest of non-timber forest products.

For more details, contact:

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