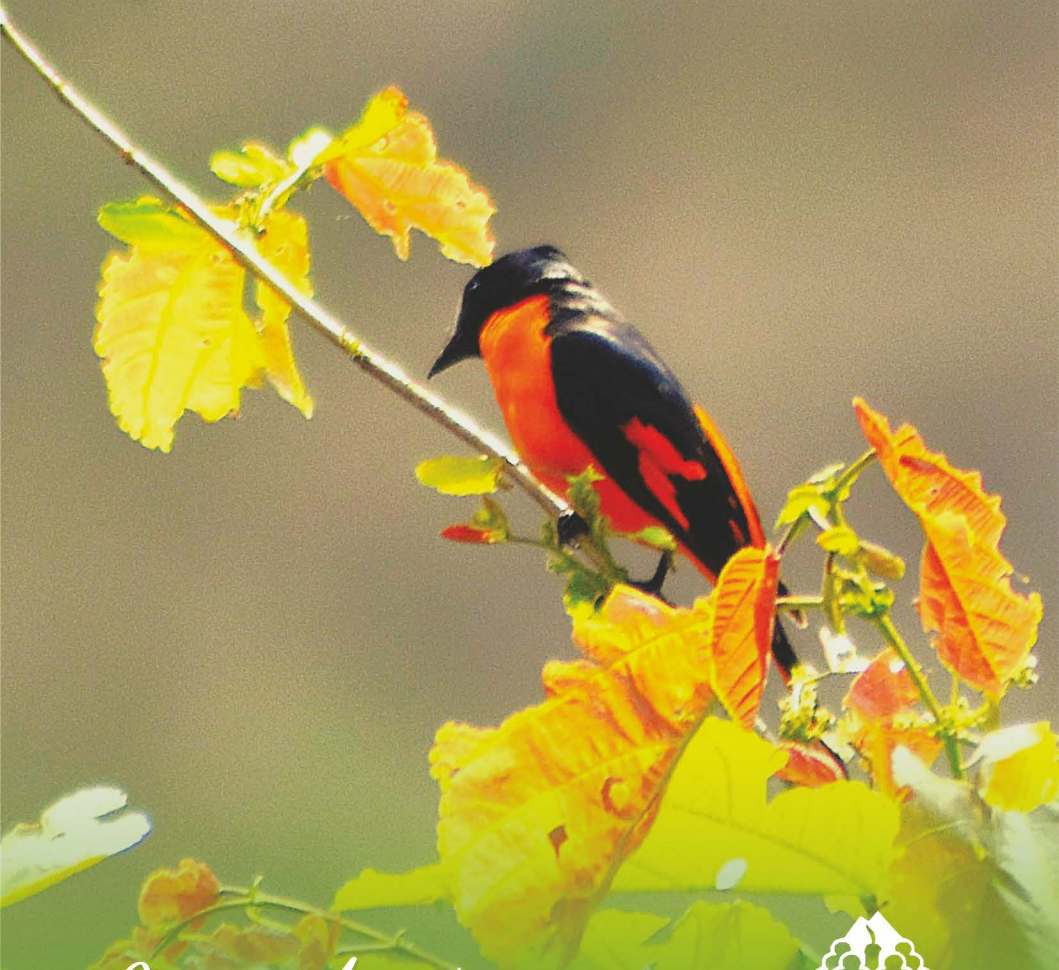


Palni Hills Conservation Council

40th Annual Report 2024-2025



Orange Minivet



PALNI HILLS
CONSERVATION COUNCIL



◆ Madurai Kamaraj University Water Expert



◆ New Community Water Tank

Palni Hills Conservation Council

The 40th Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Our 40th Year!!



In 2025 Palni Hills Conservation Council completes four decades of dedicated service to the environment and society.

Founders, members, long-time staff and volunteers all take great pride in reflecting on our journey of conservation, community partnership, and ecological restoration. **The PHCC founding in 1985 sparked** interest from organisations alert to the fact that NE and SW monsoons both serve the Palani Range. For instance, The Bombay Natural History Society with PHCC engaged in monitoring and ringing local and annual migration birds. “It was fascinating,” says founder Pippa Mukherjee, “working on netting and ringing techniques over a period of several years where the presence some Palani Range avian species were assessed at up to eleven million years old!” Science students from such as St Olaf College in Minnesota USA came to work up detailed environmental projects now in the PHCC archives. Back in the day, PHCC founder-member, George Roshan, conducted an invaluable survey of Tamil Nadu’s State Animal the endangered Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*), a report still referenced today.

A few milestones: From 1987 PHCC pursued a ten-year National Wasteland Development Board grant for Plains tree planting and watershed management. PHCC initiated a Sustainable Development Project around Elephant Corridor research, Water



Modules, Beekeeping and Tribal Surveys and The Vilpatti Village Project, with free meals and tuition for children and livelihood training for women. From 1989-2000 The Ministry of Rural Development supported tree planting and terrace formation in the Upper Hills. SIDA-PHCC initiated the Interface Forestry Project at Nilakottai, engaging 19 village committees around Kadavakurichi hills. Over the years PHCC nurtured staff and volunteers who went on to become conservation ecologists in their own right. In the early years, PHCC was key to preparing the Kodaikanal Town Master Plan, taking legal action against violations. PHCC initiated action against the notorious HUL industrial site in Kodaikanal in 2000. At least, **10,000,000 environmentally vital trees** have been planted under PHCC direction over **the past forty years**. PHCC has impacted every level of conservation: from initiation of **The Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary** to Rural and Tribal support for livelihood, involving beekeeping, water-resource awareness & development, grassland restoration, greenbelt afforestation alongside vigilance on commercial development and carrying-capacity in this heavily touristed arena.

Past and present leaders of PHCC include environmental champions like EC members, volunteers and staff, M. S. Viraraghavan and Girija Viraraghavan, Neville Moncher, C. Jaykaran, Zafar Futehally, Rauf Ali, Navroz Modi, R. Kannan, Zai Whitaker, V. R. Rajgopal, Madhu Ramnath, J. Nath, Clarence Maloney, Sankar Chatterjee, G Bala, Ray Meeker, Janani Krishnamurti, Alexander, Jean Pouyat, David Nagel, P. Pandian, Sunderaj, Mariammal, Duraisamy, S. G. Chandrasekhar, Ponnayya, Muruges, P. M. Mohan, Antonysamy and Sheriff, Jeyraman and Selviswari, Kariamal, Vairan and others, all who, over the space of forty years contributed to protecting and developing our environmental well-being. Palani Hills is home to Kodaikanal town and ancient Farm villages, Tribal communities, a Wildlife Refuge with Elephant and Climate Corridor – a life-giving Watershed to millions – whence the PHCC motto since 1985: “The Health of the Hills is the Wealth of the Plains”.



2024–2025 has been a milestone in our collective commitment to preserving the biodiversity and environs of this unique Range serving as a vital natural resource to the Cauvery and Vaigai basins of South-western Tamil Nadu. - PHCC evolved from a pioneering conservation movement into a model institution for community-based environmental action. This milestone year spans work from the Upper Hills of Pallangi to the Middle Hills of Adukkam and Patlankadu, across the Foothills Plains Centres of Genguvarpatti, Viruveedu, and Kuthiraiyar demonstrating that environmental stewardship & vigilance, Rural and Tribal development go hand-in-hand. **We continue our legacy** of tree planting and habitat restoration, with nurseries maintaining rare native and forage saplings turned into **Micro-forests** flourishing across the Range and Foothills. Adukkam Spring Conservation has become a living classroom for sustainable water resource management, while NTFP initiatives, wild-food preservation, beekeeping programs and workshops in Tribal/Rural livelihoods in biodiversity. **The year marked** an expansion in youth engagement and environmental education; training programs for school and college students in tree nursery techniques, spring maintenance and ecological awareness to sow cultural seeds for a new generation of conservation leaders.

Our 40th year reminds us that conservation is a lifelong responsibility. The high-altitude Palani Hills, with their unique shola forests, endemic species and human communities, continue to face many challenges, from climate change to unplanned development. PHCC remains steadfast in responding through science-based action, grassroots participation, and partnerships with government bodies, research institutions, and civil society. **PHCC only exists** due to dedication of our committee, past and present staff with PHCC for decades, to volunteers, partners, local communities and donors standing by PHCC's vision for forty years. Together, we continue to protect the Tamil heart of the Western Ghats and ensure that the Palani Hills remain a living landscape for generations to come. - With sincere appreciation, President and Executive Committee, PHCC.

Introduction

During this 40th year, PHCC implemented a wide spectrum of community-based conservation initiatives, including forest and spring restoration with the development of marsh nurseries on northern and southern slopes of the Range. Our native tree nurseries play a pivotal role in microclimatic changes through greenbelt reforestation, with millions of indigenous saplings planted within and around the Palani Range. Conservation of Rare, Endangered, Threatened (RET) flora species remains a central focus, with seed collection, nursery propagation, and replanting programs for species at higher and lower altitudes. PHCC’s collaborations with partner NGOs have lately expended through training workshops on tree nursery management, water quality testing, wild-food cultivation, organic agriculture, medicinal plants, and beekeeping; all designed to promote women’s livelihoods and empowerment. Alongside community work, PHCC supports eco-based enterprises: marketing of honey, organic coffee, organic turmeric, zero-smoke beeswax candles, and natural cosmetics produced by local groups. Afforestation, continues at the core of PHCC’s mission yielding visible results of efforts in the Western Ghats in and around Kodaikanal Taluk demonstrating successful restoration of natural water bodies - agricultural zones, and wildlife habitat.

PHCC Springs Conservation, Fortification & Replanting

Degraded waterbodies cause serious hardship to wildlife and rural communities. while weakened embankments, siltation from cyclones, and soil erosion worsen the problem. PHCC’s Springs Conservation Project restores and safeguards freshwater sources in drought prone areas vulnerable to climate change.

Key Measures:

- Masonry fortification of natural springs.
- Replanting surrounding catchment areas with deep rooted native flora.
- Preventing damage by people and animals.

Restored springs provide sustainable, safe water access to local



communities and wildlife species like elephant, deer, gaur, leopard, wild boar, and numerous other mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds.

PHCC Micro - Forestry Tree Planting Program

PHCC is a pioneer in indigenous tree planting initiatives across South India. In 2022–2025, PHCC sponsored many lakhs of indigenous evergreen and deciduous trees planted across a wide range of landscapes; from the northern slopes of the Palni Range near Kuthiraiyar Dam, Andipatti, and Kannivadi, to the southern reaches in Viruveedu, with areas surrounding Manjalar Dam below the Thalaiyar (Rat-tail) Falls.

Long-Term Impact. The multigenerational PHCC Tree Planting Program has expanded forest cover for a “Green Belt” around the degraded foothills of the Palani Range. These efforts aim to:

- Control soil erosion and prevent land degradation.
- Replenish groundwater and alleviate drought conditions.
- Strengthen the watershed and local water table.
- Restore biodiversity, improve wildlife habitats.
- Create favourable microclimates that support human and ecological wellbeing.

Program Highlights. Since its founding in 1985, PHCC has planted over ten million trees across the Palni Hills region, representing more than 40 native species. Raised through PHCC’s micro-forestry nurseries from indigenous seed collection to nursery cultivation, these saplings are nurtured by trained arboriculture specialists. Distributed across wildlife zones, tribal settlements, and farming communities, these saplings regenerate ecosystems and establish life-sustaining microclimates.

Subsidiary Benefits.

- Livelihood opportunities in nursery management and planting for tribal and farming communities.
- Income generation through eco-friendly, forestry-based enterprises.
- Environmental awareness and education on issues such as tree felling, poaching, and illegal wildlife trade.

Environmental Benefits. PHCC’s micro forestry initiatives are



to create self-sustaining, bio-diverse habitats to provide long - term environmental and social benefits by: • Reducing water stress through deep-root percolation: critical under changing climate conditions. • Restoring forest habitats and microclimates in foothill ecosystems. • Enhancing carbon sequestration and moderating local temperature extremes. • Maintaining oxygen-carbon dioxide balance for healthy ecological function. • Reversing habitat loss by providing nesting and feeding sites for insect pollinators, birds, and seed dispersing animals.

Wildlife Corridor Restoration. Tree planting on northern slopes of the Palani Range is vital for the survival of endangered species such as the Bengal Tiger and the Indian Elephant by facilitating restoration of ancient migratory routes. Encouragingly, mammals large and small along with associated reptiles, amphibians, birds, and insects are returning to once degraded foothill areas adjoining the Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary. This natural re-colonization, supported by community engagement and stewardship, demonstrates how protected tree planting can revive long neglected landscapes, expand wildlife habitats, and promote ecological balance and climate stability across a region.

RET Restoration (Rare, Endangered, Threatened Species). PHCC leads conservation initiatives for Rare, Threatened, and Vulnerable Plant Species (RTVPS) through its Pallangi Research Project in the Upper Hills. RET focuses on protection, propagation, and distribution of endangered native plants for afforestation and ecological restoration. PHCC’s 40-year expertise in seed collection, nursery raising, and community-based distribution makes the RTVPS Project a foremost high-altitude plant conservation effort in Tamil Nadu safeguarding fragile ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity resilience, and ensuring a generational legacy.

Report for the 40th year of functioning of the Palni Hills Conservation Council. The Executive Committee met nine times during the past year.



President	Mr Mark Antrobus
Vice President	Mr Madhu Ramnath
Secretary	Mr Ramji Srinivasan
Treasurer	Mr Sankar Chatterjee
Executive Committee Members	Ms Pippa Mukherjee Mr George Roshan Mr G Bala Ms Krishna Bauer Mr Aftab Ahmed Ms Iti Maloney Ms Ameetha Chatterjee
Membership	Life and Annual: 151



PHCC Resource Centres

Three geographically distinct Resource Centres reflect the ecological diversity and altitudinal gradients of the Palni Hills. **Upper Hill Centre** – 2000 m/6000 ft - **Middle Hill Centres** – 1000 m/3000 ft. - **Plains Resource Centres**. These centres serve as hubs for conservation, education, research, and community outreach; each focuses on region-specific environmental, social challenges and opportunities.

Pallangi Resource Centre

2000 m / 6000 ft

The PHCC Upper Hills Resource Centre at Pallangi operates in an agricultural community where intensive pesticide use remains a concern. Frequent heavy rains in this area influence pollination and beekeeping activities, often keeping bees close to their hives. PHCC advocates for organic and pesticide-free farming here, emphasizing consumer responsibility in sustainable agricultural. During the reporting period, PHCC Pallangi Nursery distributed **2675** fruiting, ornamental, and RET sholai tree species to the community with fruiting varieties such as peach and avocado

prized by local farmers. Pallangi raises and distributes saplings across 30 varieties of sholai species to support avian and insect populations - currently maintaining over 10,000 saplings, as a vital tree resource base for local residents and nearby college and schools. The Pallangi Centre is continuously replenished with plant cuttings and saplings cultivated from PHCC founder-member Pippa Mukherjee’s Garden, contributing to species diversity and community planting efforts. **Staff:** Mr Antonysamy, Ms Pothumponnu.



Adukkam Resource, Marshland Nursery

1000 m / 3000 ft

The PHCC Adukkam Resource Centre, located 27 km from Kodaikanal at 900-1100 m functions within a shade coffee estate featuring lush tropical vegetation. The Centre houses:

- A wild food garden.
- A marshland species nursery.
- A native and RET plant nursery.
- Preservation garden.

These facilities contribute to the propagation of native flora suited to middle altitude habitats and to biodiversity restoration in surrounding forests.

Water Testing. As part of the Spring Conservation Project, PHCC conducts monthly water testing across thirteen (13) major springs, assessing fourteen (14) scientific parameters. Results are publicly displayed to promote community engagement and awareness of water conservation among local activists and residents around herbicides, pesticides, and agricultural runoff, discouraging contamination by both tourists and local communities.

Marshlands and Nurseries. The PHCC team maintains two marshland nurseries, cultivating twelve (12) species of aquatic flora with an inventory of around 4,000 plants including *Acorus sp.*, Marsh Mint, Wild Ginger, *Vetiver*, *Galangal*, *Juncus sp.*, *Canna sp.* etc. Regular activities include: • Spring restoration, research



and maintenance. • Village consultations. • Farmer–planter discussions on sustainable water management.

Preserving Lifelines: Water Springs of Adukkam. Nestled at 1,200 m in the Western Ghats, Adukkam’s springs are lifelines for home use, agriculture, and biodiversity. Springs once neglected, have now been identified and revived through PHCC’s Spring Conservation Initiative.

Key Functions of Springs. • Drinking water supply. • Irrigation for farms. • Support for livelihoods and local culture. • Ecological balance and biodiversity maintenance.

Restored Springs in Adukkam: Aiyer Keel Oothu – Agricultural Spring near the 10th hairpin bend (Periyakulam-Perumal Malai road). **Aiyer Mel Oothu** – Irrigation source near the 11th hairpin bend. **Aiyer Oothu 3** – Supports agriculture along the 11th bend area. **Adukkam Oothu** – Primary Spring in the village; used for both drinking and farming. **Thamaraikulam Oothu (Moolaiyar)** – Sacred Spring for the Paliyar Tribal community; for home use and sacred rituals.

Conservation and Sustainable Management in Adukkam. In January 2025, PHCC launched “Conservation and Sustainable Management in Adukkam” following a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) identifying water, sanitation, and other environmental priorities.



Adukkam Key Activities

Formation of Village Development Committee (VDC): A five member VDC was established to ensure community ownership and coordination.

Program Launch and Garbage Removal Drive: Village-wide cleanup organized to reduce plastic waste and improve sanitation.

Plastic Awareness & Cotton Bag Distribution: Cotton bags distributed to discourage single use plastics.

Cleaning and Installation of Drinking Water Tanks: Existing tanks cleaned, and two new tanks installed for access to safe drinking water.

Sanitation Drive with Panchayat Sweepers: Regular garbage collection initiated through local collaboration.

Restoration of Three Natural Springs: Springs on agricultural lands revived for domestic use, agricultural irrigation, and wildlife.

Planting of Marsh Saplings: Native marsh saplings around five existing and three restored springs planted against erosion and to enhance groundwater recharge.

Training on Water Quality Indicators: Experts from Madurai Kamaraj University conducted hands-on sessions around insect indicators for water quality and also on solid waste management, nutrition, and household plastic hazards.

Twelve dustbins were distributed for waste segregation.

Water Quality Testing Demonstration: Villagers learned to test fourteen (14) water parameters, equipping them to monitor drinking water safety.

Impact and Community Engagement: Conservation and Sustainable Management in Adukkam has yielded tangible outcomes: • Strengthening community participation through the VDC. • Improving access to safe water for drinking and farming. • Enhancing ecological health of local springs. • Increasing public awareness of sustainable sanitation. • Empowering villagers with scientific water monitoring skills. PHCC remains committed to sustainable water management, ecological restoration, and community empowerment. The Adukkam initiative serves as a replicable model for other rural hill communities across India.

Staff: Mr Sheriff, Mr Antony, Ms Geetha.



Patlankadu Resource Centre & Nursery

Located on the southern slopes, the Patlankadu Resource Centre focuses on spring restoration, water awareness, and conservation education through active community engagement.





◆ Palani Range Foothills Protected Tree Planting Region



◆ Foothills PHCC Tree Planting



◆ Palani Hills Green Calotes



◆ Camouflaged Stick Insect



◆ Sunbird in Gmelina Tree



◆ Bhoothapandi Temple Spring.



PALNI HILLS CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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info@palnihills.org | ☎ +91 78068 18737 | www.palnihills.org



SPRING TESTING REPORT

நீரூற்றுக்களின் தண்ணீர் சோதனை அறிக்கை

Name of Spring: **ARPUTHAMKADU SPRING** நீரூற்றுக்களின் பெயர்: **அற்புதம்காட்டு நீரூற்று** Date: **27.02.2025**

Parameters	pH	Dissolved oxygen	Chlorides	Nitrate	Fluoride	Ammonia	Phosphorus	Iron	Hardness
RESULT	7	6 MG/L	106.35 MG/L	—	0.6 MG/L	2.0 MG/L	—	—	40 MG/L
STANDARD PERMISSIBLE/ DESIRABLE LIMITS	6.5 - 8.5	5 MG/L	250 - 1000 MG/L	45 MG/L	1 - 1.5 MG/L	—	0.2 MG/L	- 0.3 MG/L	330 - 600 MG/L

◆ Arputhamkadu — PHCC Spring Report



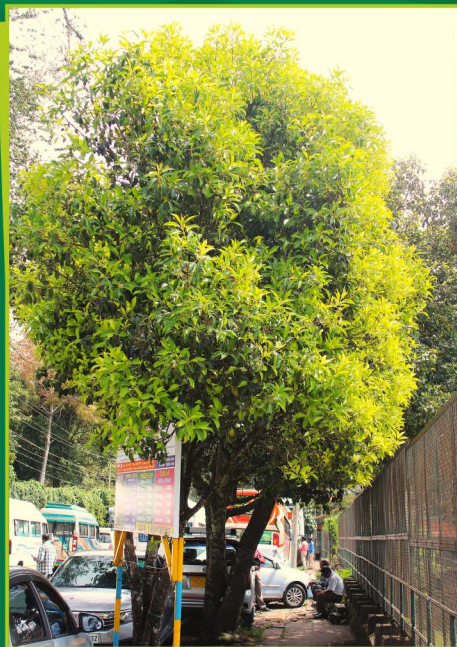
◆ 2025 PHCC Staff and Members



◆ 1993 PHCC Staff and Members



◆ PHCC Native Tree Nursery



◆ PHCC 20 yr-old Native in Kodaikanal



◆ PHCC Tree Nursery



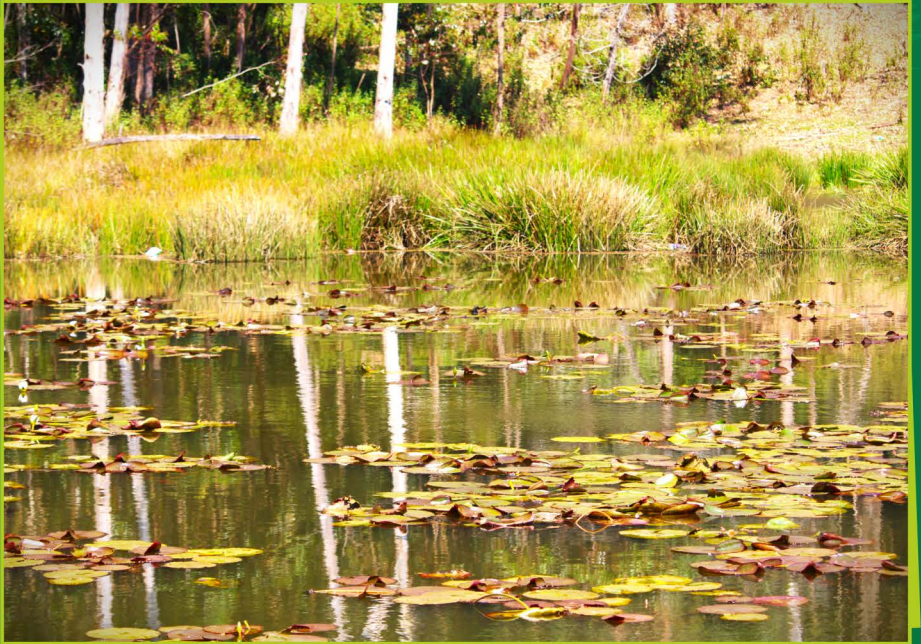
◆ Grasslands Rocky Border



◆ Nilgiri Tahr Grasslands



◆ South Facing Palani Peaks Looking West



◆ Palani Hills Wetlands



◆ Adukkam PHCC Litter Drive



◆ Adukkam PHCC Litter Drive

Nursery Operations. The nursery maintains ten (10) species of aquatic and native flora, with an inventory of approximately 5000 plants. The nursery contributes to • **Biodiversity Conservation:** Preserving native species vital to ecosystem health. • **Reforestation:** Supplying saplings for forest restoration and soil stabilization. • **Climate Change Mitigation:** Supporting carbon sequestration through tree planting. • **Community Education:** Serving as a local training hub for sustainable planting. • **Economic Upliftment:** Providing affordable saplings and promoting green livelihoods. - **The Springs of Patlankadu.** PHCC has identified and maintains several key water sources in and around Patlankadu: • **Water Spring near Patlankadu School** – Main source for residents. • **Rama Krishnan Estate Water Spring** – Used for drinking and irrigation; stone protection walls constructed by PHCC. • **Water Spring near Patlankadu Bus Stop** – Agricultural use and wildlife water source. • **Bhoothapandi Temple Water Spring** – The oldest and principal source; provides drinking water for people and wildlife; stone walls built to prevent landslides. • **New Well at Patlankadu Nursery** – A new spring discovered at 8 feet; deepened to 12 feet and fitted with a motor pump for use. • **Kaduguthadi Well** – Once potable, now contaminated by excessive chemical fertilizer use. PHCC is conducting awareness campaigns promoting organic farming. • **Kanalkadu Water Spring** – Restored by PHCC after decade-long closure by landslip.

Training Program for Government School Students, Patlankadu. PHCC organised a training program for Government School students in Patlankadu on spring maintenance and sustainable gardening.

The training, conducted at the Bhoothapandi Temple Water Spring, provided hands-on experience in water quality assessment and ecological conservation. Students collected and analysed water samples under expert guidance. Each student received seedlings for home vegetable gardens, promoting environmental

stewardship and healthy living. As part of the initiative, PHCC replaced the school’s damaged drinking water tank, ensuring access to safe drinking water. Through these programs, PHCC builds environmental awareness among youth and strengthens community engagement in sustainable conservation practices.

Staff: Mr Kariamal, Ms Rasathi.



Plains Resource Centres

**Father K. M. Matthew Environment Centre, Genguvarpatti.
- Viruveedu Resource and Beekeeping Centre. - Kuthiraiyar
Resource Centre.**

Father K. M. Matthew Environment Centre – Genguvarpatti

During PHCC’s 40th year, the Father K. M. Matthew Environment Centre sold and distributed **9727** saplings to farmers and the general public, contributing **100,000 saplings** to the overall tree planting programme.

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Project. The Centre cultivates wild food species, including twenty (20) types of wild yam and other edible wild plants, to support research on genetic viability, cultivar breeding, and sustainable cultivation techniques.

Sales Centre. The Wild Organic Honey Sales Centre markets a range of eco-friendly products, including: Organic Apis dorsata wild honey, locally grown Palani Hills pepper, Organic Turmeric, Organic Shade-grown Coffee, Organic Condiments, Natural Organic Skin-care Products etc.,

Butterfly Garden. The PHCC Butterfly Garden, located on the western side of the Father Matthew Environment Centre campus, is maintained with food plants and sprinkler systems to support research on Lepidoptera (butterflies) and to enhance pollinator diversity.

Arboretum. The PHCC Arboretum at Genguvarpatti showcases over 100 native tree species, with new additions each year.



Each tree is accompanied by descriptive signage outlining its ecological and cultural significance. The arboretum serves as a valuable resource for environmental education and research.

Endangered Tree Conservation Project. The Low Altitude Nursery (below 900m) at PHCC focuses on the protection and propagation of RET tree species including: *Diospyros ebenum*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Putranjiva roxburghii*, *Toona ciliata*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, etc.

Medicinal Plants Nursery. The Medicinal Plants Nursery maintains fifty (50) traditional herb species to promote awareness of indigenous medicinal knowledge. This initiative benefits schools, colleges, and local communities interested in Nature Cure heritage. 200 medicinal plants were distributed free of cost to local residents and educational institutions for home cultivation and health use.

Yam Nursery, Securing and Planting Wild Yam Species. PHCC successfully collected ten species of *Dioscorea* from different parts of India. These tubers are cultivated in a specialized Yam Nursery within the arboretum at Genguvarpatti. The Nursery functions as a Flora Sanctuary equipped with advanced horticultural facilities and managed by skilled experts. Each growth stage—from sprouting to maturity—is documented for research on conservation and propagation. The conservation of wild yam species is vital for maintaining biodiversity and ecological balance. PHCC’s integrated approach, combining scientific innovation with community participation, serves as a model for biodiversity preservation and sustainable management of native plant resources.

Internship. Krishna College of Agriculture and Technology, Usilampatti. Dates: 06–10 May 2024. Participants: Seven (7) students. Activities: Orientation on PHCC’s conservation strategies. Practical sessions on nursery and arboretum management. Introduction to sustainable beekeeping

Internship. Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam. Dates: 13–15 May 2024. Participants: seven (7) students. Focus Areas: Nursery management techniques. Beekeeping and honey processing practices.

Internship. IFIM College, Bangalore. 19–21 February 2024. Participants: ten (10) students (6 boys, 4 girls). Activities: Day 1: Introduction to PHCC’s vision, mission, and conservation infrastructure. Day 2: Overview of PHCC’s biodiversity and NTFP promotion initiatives. Day 3: Training on Climate Change, Sustainability, and Environmental Challenges in India.

Wild Food Workshop. 30 May 2024. Participants: forty (40) members from PHCC and SEEDS Trust operational villages: Kulathupatti, Ayyalur, Rasimalai, Kamakapatti, and Amsapuram. **Discussion Topics:** Livelihood patterns and food habits. Safe and sustainable food practices. Benefits and cultivation of yam species.

PMP College, Usilampatti – One Day Training: 10 September 2024. Participants: sixty (60) MSW students. Topic: Nursery techniques and environmental protection.

One Tree Program: 10 November 2024. Activity: Distribution of 300 saplings for planting on one acre per farmer. Cumulative Distribution: 50,000 saplings to date under the One Tree Program, with an 80% survival rate.

Training for National Service Scheme (NSS) Students – Government High School, G. Kallupatti. 27–28 December 2024. Venue: PHCC Genguvarpatti Nursery & Arboretum. Participants: Thirty (30) NSS students with Headmaster Mr Murugesan. **Program Overview.** A two-day training program enhanced students’ ecological awareness and practical skills through interactive sessions and experiential learning.

Key Topics: 1. Beekeeping: Importance of bees, hive management, honey harvesting, and livelihood potential. 2. Nursery Techniques & Plant Crafting: Seed collection, grafting, budding, layering, and plant design. 3. Environmental Issues: Climate change, biodiversity, waste management, and sustainable living. **Impact:** Students developed hands-on knowledge, environmental consciousness, and social responsibility, inspiring them to incorporate ecofriendly practices into their NSS community service. **Staff:** Mr Jeyaram and Ms Selviswari.





Viruveedu Resource and Beekeeping Centre

Viruveedu maintains a healthy stock of 15,000 native trees, with the micro-forest showing strong growth. With the help of partners improved fencing and watering systems, now ensure survival and resilience of young trees already visited by birds and other pollinators. Honey collection from the surrounding forest areas has been reinitiated, with nearly 200 kilograms collected and processed onsite for sales at the Fr. Matthew Environment Centre. The groundwater situation has notably improved compared to previous years. The existing well now supports the mini-forest, which includes both native trees and income generating fruit species such as amla, sapota, mango, and grafted jamun, spread across approximately 15 acres. PHCC’s field team donated and planted around 2600 native hardwood and fruit trees for farmers in villages around Viruveedu, for rural greening, good micro-climates, pollinators and sustainable livelihoods. **Staff:** Mr Vairan, Ms Sumathi, Ms Rasathi.



Kuthiraiyar Resource Centre

Kuthiraiyar continues to support fifty (50) tribal families through nursery raising, tree planting, and ecological restoration initiatives. During the year, the Tribal community planted 4500 native trees from PHCC’s Andipatti and Papampatti nurseries across schools, community lands, government areas, and the Mannthittu Tribal Colony. Kuthiraiyar nursery stock comprises approximately 3500 saplings representing twenty five (25) native tree varieties. The nursery also cultivates fifteen (15) species of forest food plants, including wild yam varieties, as part of a program to preserve the wild food gene pool and raise awareness among a younger generation of the Tribal community about sustainable forest use and biodiversity conservation.

Habitat degradation and deforestation continue to pose serious conservation challenges in the region. The restoration of native flora and fauna through re-wilding efforts at Kuthiraiyar plays a vital role in stabilizing ecosystems. The multilayered benefits of tree life—from providing shade to enhancing soil fertility—help regulate the environment and support wildlife habitats. **Staff:** Ms G. Mariammal, Mr Kuppi.



Environmental Books by PHCC Members

Madhu Ramnath and Ramon Razal: *Wild Tastes in Asia: Coming Home to the Forest for Food*, NTFP Exchange Programme, 2020
Illus. <tinyurl.com/wildtastes>

Madhu Ramnath, *Woodsmoke and Leafcups: Autobiographical Footnotes to the Anthropology of the Durwa People*, Harper Litmus, 2016. Illus.

Madhu Ramnath, *A Nursery Manual*, Kodaikanal: PHCC, 2019. Illus.

Pippa Mukherjee, *Flora of the Southern Western Ghats and Palnis*, New Delhi: Niyogi, 2016. Illus.

Tamil Version: *Thenmeyrkku Thodarchi Malai Mattram Pazhanimalai Thaavaraviyal: Oru Kala Vazhikaatti*, Tamil tr Dency Michael, Chennai: Palaniappa Bros, 2023. Illus.

Trees of India, New Delhi: WWF-OUP Nature Guides, 2014.

Robert Stewart, *Meet the Trees of Kodaikanal, An Island in the Sky*, ed Jayashree Kumar, Kodaikanal: INTACH, 2019. Illus.

Satheesh Muthugopal, *Yarukkanathu Bhumi?—Earth, for Whom?* Chennai, Crownest, 2018. Illus. | *Thoovi* (2022) | *Palluyikalukaanathu Boomi* (2023) | *Paravaigalin uyirchoozhal* (2024) | *Kodaikanal Kulla* (2024) <http://ivansatheesh.blogspot.com/2019/08/blog-post.html?m=1>

www.writersatheesh.com.



PHCC's Invaluable Donors

Both ENDS, The Netherlands. | **One Tree Planted Inc.**, Vermont, USA. | **People and Nature Fund (PNF): Keystone Foundation**, Kotagiri. | **NFTP-EP: Non-Timber Forest Products**, Asia. | **Ms Nivedita Ram**, Bengaluru. | **Ms Deborah Thiyagarajan**, Chennai. | **Sownaka Finance Pvt Ltd.**, Chennai. | **Ms Pippa Mukherjee**, Kodaikanal. | **Gita Ram**, Brake India Private Limited.



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INDIAN Contributions

Palni Hills Conservation Council
State Bank of India, Kodaikanal.

Acct No. 11079329862

IFSC Code : SBIN0000799

SWIFT : SBININBB454

FOREIGN Contributions

Palni Hills Conservation Council
State Bank of India, New Delhi.

Acct No. 40108914266

IFSC Code : SBIN0000691

MICR : 110002087

Donations to PHCC from Members and Well-wishers are as always most Welcome.

“Stay Safe! Eat Healthy! Give back to Nature!”

PHCC President - **Mark Antrobus**,

[<vibusgo@gmail.com>](mailto:vibusgo@gmail.com)

[<phcckodai@gmail.com>](mailto:phcckodai@gmail.com)

Kodaikanal, November 3, 2025



MADHAVAN & ELANGO, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.
C-17, 10-B CROSS, THILLAI NAGAR (WEST), TRICHY-620018.
PH:0431-7961697,9345076200,8903076200.

PALMI HILLS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, KODAIKANAL

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2025

	As at 31.03.2025	As at 31.3.2024
INCOME		
FC:		
Foreign contribution received	1074388	1074388
Bank interest	28794	71490
LC:		
Income from main objects	712260	424310
Donation	3362750	456000
Bank interest	21442	9902
	-----	-----
	4125246	2036090
	-----	-----
EXPENDITURE		
FC:		
Project expenses	649	3036979
LC:		
Project expenses	4114227	1550101
	-----	-----
	4114876	4587080
	-----	-----
	10370	-2550990
	-----	-----
Ex of exp over Income		

As per our report of even date annexed For Madhavan&Elango Chartered Accountants (F.R.N.:0054485)



R. Madhavan
R. Madhavan (M.No.:022257)
Proprietor
UDIN: 25022257BNGAZO3381

Trichy
30.08.2025

MADHAVAN & ELANGO, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.
C-17, 10-B CROSS, THILLAI NAGAR (WEST), TRICHY-620018.
PH:0431-7961697,9345076200,8903076200.

PALMI HILLS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, KODAIKANAL

CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS A/C FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2025

	As at 31.03.2025	As at 31.3.2024
RECEIPTS		
FC:		
Opening Balance	1060145	2951246
Foreign contribution received		1074388
Bank interest	28794	71490
LC:		
Opening Balance	477009	1136898
Income from main objects	712260	424310
Donation	3362750	456000
Bank interest	21442	9902
Loan	220000	-----
	-----	-----
	5882400	6124234
	-----	-----
PAYMENTS		
FC:		
Project expenses	649	3036979
Closing Balance	1088290	1060145
LC:		
Project expenses	4114227	1550101
Loan	100000	-----
Closing Balance	579234	477009
	-----	-----
	5882400	6124234
	-----	-----

As per our report of even date annexed For Madhavan&Elango Chartered Accountants (F.R.N.:0054485)



R. Madhavan
R. Madhavan (M.No.:022257)
Proprietor
UDIN: 25022257BNGAZO3381

Trichy
30.08.2025



MADHAVAN & ELANGO, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

C-17, 10-B CROSS, THILLAI NAGAR(WEST), TRICHY-620018.
PH:0431-7961697,9345076200,8903076200.


PALNI HILLS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, KODAIKANAL

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2025

LIABILITIES	As at 31.03.2025	As at 31.3.2024
FC:		
General fund a/c	4886736	4858591
LC:		
General fund a/c	593485	611260
Life Membership fee	111851	111851
Advance from Members	318000	198000
	5910072	5779702
ASSETS		
FC:		
Non-current assets	3798446	3798446
Current asset:	0	0
Cash & bank balances	1088290	1060145
LC:		
Non-current assets	417654	417654
Debtors	26448	26448
Current asset Closing balance	579234	477009
	5910072	5779702

As per our report of
even date annexed
For Madhavan&Elango
Chartered Accountants (F.R.N.:005448S)

Trichy
30.08.2025


R.Madhavan (M.No.:022257)
Proprietor
UDIN: 25022257BNGAZO3381





MADHAVAN & ELANGO, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

C-17, 10-B CROSS, THILLAI NAGAR(WEST), TRICHY-620018.
PH:0431-7961697,9345076200,8903076200.

We have audited the account of

PALNI HILLS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, ENDAHWIN, LOWER SHOLA ROAD, KODAIKANAL

Reg No 88/1985

for the year ending **31st March 2025** and examined all relevant books and vouchers and certify that according to the audited account :

(i) The brought forward foreign contribution at the beginning of the year was **Rs.1060145/-**

(ii) Foreign contribution of worth **Rs.NIL** was received by the association during the year **2024-2025**.

(iii) Interest accrued on foreign contribution and other income derived from foreign contribution or interest thereon of worth **Rs.28794/-** was received by the association at the end of the year.

(iv) the balance of unutilized foreign contribution with the association at the end year **2025** was **Rs.1088290/-**

(v) Certified that the association has maintained the account of foreign contribution and records relating thereto in the manner specified in section 19 of the Foreign Contribution(Regulation) Act, 2010 read with rule 16 of the Foreign Contribution(Regulation) Rules, 2011.

(vi) The information furnished in this certificate and in the enclosed Balance Sheet and Statement of Receipt and Payment is correct as checked byus.

(vii) The association has utilized the foreign contribution received for the purpose(s) it is registered/granted prior permission under foreign contribution (Regulation) Act,2010.

For Madhavan&Elango
Chartered Accountants (F.R.N.:005448S)

R.Madhavan (M.No.:022257)
Proprietor

UDIN: 25022257BNGAZO3387

Trichy
30.08.2025





◆ Village Environmental Meeting



◆ PHCC Village Water Resource Work



Elephant Grasslands in the Palani Hills



Palni Hills Conservation Council

(Regd. Soc. 88/1985) P.O. Box 34, W11/4053/708A,
Anna Ramasamy Nagar, Kodaikanal - 624 101, TN, India.
info@palnihills.org | ☎ +91 78068 18737 | www.palnihills.org



Grasslands View from Palampattur