

## India

### Healthy forests, healthy people, healthy climate: An initiative for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in the North Western Ghats

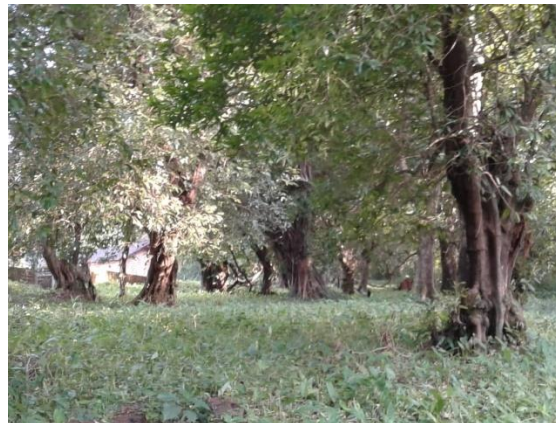
#### News from the Field

**November 2018**  
**Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF)**  
**Conservation International**

- \* This project was carried out by the Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF), an Indian NGO

#### Community meetings on Conservation Agreements

The AERF field team signed conservation agreements with the villages of Katavali and Devade in the Sangameshwar block. The agreements cover 76 acres (30 hectares) and benefit three families. Meetings were also held in the villages of Sayale, Washi, and Nive Budruk to promote the Conservation Agreement approach. Progress has been slow because villagers have been busy with paddy cultivation and decisions by the villages can only be made when everyone from the family is available. We hope to sign more Conservation Agreements next quarter.



Community members and a forest patch in Nive Budruk

#### Planting of native species for forest restoration

Since it is the monsoon, the best season for forest restoration activities, we planted saplings of native trees in the sacred grove of Kosumb, Vighravali, and Kulye. Saplings were also planted in the community forest area of the villages of Kalamabste, Kosumb, Muchari, and Angavali. A total of 921 saplings in 33 species were planted by the AERF team and these were surrounded by a protective fence. So far this year, a total of 4,500 saplings in 33 species have been grown in the nursery.



Forest restoration through planting of native saplings in the Kulye sacred grove

### Bio-stove demonstration and distribution

The AERF field team conducted two bio-stove demonstrations in the villages of Wanjhole and Ambavali. The successful demonstration in Ambavali was attended by 30 villagers (mostly women) and ended with orders for 12 stoves. Seven households bought the stoves at the subsidized price of INR700 (USD \$10). The engagement of a women's self-support group was instrumental in making this initiative successful.



Bio-stove demonstration in Angavali; discussion with a village leader

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