

Established as a Public Charitable Trust in 2006, in memory of late Dr. Sálim Ali, the father of Indian ornithology and conservation movement, the **Sálim Ali Foundation (SAF)**, is committed to help conserve India's biodiversity, ensure poverty alleviation, food security, cleaner air, water and food.

The activities of SAF would initially spread over a few selected areas as given below depending on the resources

Restoration of agro-ecosystem and its biodiversity

Physical loss of paddy fields and the loss of their biodiversity, thanks to the now infamous "Green Revolution", are the major factors affecting the agricultural products, both in quantity and quality. SAF of the agro-food security as well with a mission to would be one of the and spirit of the launched in 2009 would work with the Government, research institutes, corporate bodies, like-minded NGOs and farmers for the same.



proposes to bring back the biodiversity ecosystems which alone would ensure as poison free food. A focussed project "***make mothers' milk free of poison***" slogans of SAF. Implementation in letter Organic Farming Policy of the State, would ensure this blessed dream. SAF

Poison free ecologically safe Western Ghats



Another area of major activities of SAF would be the Western Ghats considering its status as one of the 8 'hottest hotspots' of biodiversity in the world, the role it plays as a 'water tank' of the States through which it passes and in making the rivers alive. Concerted efforts will be taken to help ensure that no pesticides are used and the entire activities in the Western Ghats follow green technology as recommended by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel.

Wetlands - their conservation and sustainable use

Conservation of wetlands has not yet received the importance that it deserves. As a result they disappear at an alarming rate in most parts of the country leading to acute water scarcity. The State of Kerala alone has lost 6,05,486 ha of wetlands during 2004 to 2011 and 5,66,000 ha of paddy lands since 1975, making a total of 11,71,486 ha. This is mainly because; the economic potentials of wetlands are not fully realized and harnessed for the benefit of the people. This is possible without compromising the biodiversity values of wetlands. This was demonstrated in the Kole wetlands of Veliamkod Panchayath by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board when it was lead by the Chairman, SAF. SAF proposes to continue on this.



Wetland Register

SAF proposes to help create a register for the wetlands of each Panchayath. Each wetland should be given a number, with its approximate size, location, peculiarities, ownership and other details. This would be done with the participation of the school teachers, students and voluntary organisations. The Register will be kept at the Panchayath and it would be responsible for the protection of the wetlands in its jurisdiction. A beginning will be made soon in the Vellangallur panchayat, where SAF already has a project

Environmental contamination

Our life support systems in most parts of the country are contaminated beyond tolerable limits, mainly because of the indiscriminate use of pesticides and untreated effluents from industries. A recent study shows that not even one of the 170 wetlands studied from 14 states in the country is free from pesticides and heavy metal contamination.



We intend to take up site specific projects in collaboration with established, reliable laboratories and make the results known to the public to create awareness. Apart from doing original work, focus would equally be on creating awareness among the public on environmental contamination, especially contamination of food materials.

Ecological economics

There is an urgent need to evaluate and project the intangible benefits of ecosystems and species. At least a gross estimate is to be made for each state of the country in such a manner that the values of ecosystems in terms of money could be made available to the decision makers when they contemplate to replace/damage them in the name of “development project”. For instance, the ecosystem service values of the proposed Aranmula Airport area (about 3500 acres) is estimated at 447 crores/year. This has to be matched with the benefits that the local people would get if the project comes through. Such a study would immensely help the decision makers.



Sustainable development

The inevitable need of sustainable development for our own survival has to go well down into the minds and brains of those who are involved in decision making, from legislatures and bureaucrats down to the Gram Panchayaths and Grama Sabhas. The SAF defines development as to “ensure every citizen clean air, clean water, clean food, a house to dwell, hygienic surroundings, medical and education facilities – the basic minimum requirements of a citizen”. SAF will work with the local Panchayaths from its plan formulation stage itself for introducing various development projects without destroying the forests, reclaiming the wetlands, devastating the hills and without polluting the environment; totally a green development.



It is high time that economists redefine their age old definition of GDP from Gross Domestic Products to Gross Domestic Peace as has been followed in Bhutan. SAF believes that while economic evaluation

of ecosystems is a must, creating ecological sensitivities in traditional economists is equally important

Model Panchayath

SAF proposes to take up one Panchayath and demonstrate how a Panchayath could develop with least damage to its environment and biodiversity ensuring a healthy population. Organic farming, sustainable utilisation of wetland resources, poultry with native varieties, animal husbandry with local breeds, biogas for cooking and street light, water harvesting systems, solar energy, cottage industries which are non-polluting and, many other locally feasible eco-friendly income generating projects would be tried. Most of these, whichever possible, will be made part of the Panchayath plan and those components come outside it, would seek other source of funding. We have already launched a project in this line, namely “holistic integrated, eco-friendly and sustainable development project in the Vellangallur Panchayat in Trichur District. The project is for five years and is being funded partly by the Manappuram Foundation.



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Urban biodiversity

There is a greater need for making the urban human habitats greener, healthier and more live. The SAF proposes to work with the Corporations and Municipalities, Corporate bodies, like-minded NGOs, housing colonies and societies to make the living surroundings greener and productive.



A “*home bird sanctuary*” for individual houses and “*mini bird sanctuary*” for the public, school and college gardens are being pursued. SAF will provide consultancy and also help establish the same.

Environmental Impact Assessment



SAF would undertake EIA for any major projects such as industries, river valley projects and forestry operations or any activities that would affect the biodiversity and environment.

Monitoring avian communities

SAF will conduct regular monitoring of bird communities in select habitats, representing wetlands, forests, shola forests, mangroves and agro-ecosystems. The results from such studies will help evaluate the changes in the respective habitat structure and integrity.



Advocacy and awareness creation

One of the major objectives of SAF is to inculcate and increase awareness of nature, biodiversity, farming and the contemporary environmental issues from laymen to students, politicians, bureaucrats and judiciary. Talks on these issues are being delivered at the gatherings of farmers, social workers, educational institutions, professional bodies, political meetings and religious congregations. It is also proposed to start a short-term course on ornithology and ecology for students.



General approach

To achieve the main mission of the SAF, it would work with governmental agencies, various NGOs, Corporate bodies, known experts, research organisations, farmers and all those who wish welfare of the people. In all projects of SAF, public participation will be ensured.

Student Programmes

SAF proposes to train students through various projects and encourage them to do higher studies in the field of ornithology, ecology and conservation.

Our Achievements

Yerrangadu Arboretum: This has been the major work of SAF. An arboretum with 819 plants of 270 species could be raised in a totally inhospitable ecological setting – a barren area along the coromandel coast, close to Chunampet in Tamil Nadu. A book was also produced on the arboretum. It was financed fully by Shri. C. Ramakrishna, a lawyer by profession and a nature lover.

Salim Ali – a Unique Personality” (2006): A book on Salim Ali depicting the personality of Salim Ali by his close associates, friends and students. It was sponsored by the Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals.

Guidelines for Green Development of Kerala: Draft guidelines for the development of Kerala, covering 17 various sectors such as agriculture, industry, IT, forestry, fisheries, transport with minimum or no disturbance to natural ecosystem and environment was brought out and presented to the Hon’ble Chief Minister. This was produced by the Kerala Paristhithi Aikyavedi (a group of NGOs in the State) with SAF taking the lead.

The proposed Aranmula Greenfield Airport: its potential ecological, social and economic impacts - a preliminary appraisal: SAF undertook a rapid assessment of the ecological and social impacts of the proposed airport and submitted the report to the Kerala State Legislative Committee on Environment. It has influenced the Committee to take a decision against the airport in the wetlands/paddy fields in Aranmula.



Salim Ali – Amarchitrakatha: Published for children by Amarchitrakatha. The story was provided by SAF

Gadgil Committee Report – an over view: In English and Malayalam. It summarises the 520 page report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Chairman, SAF was a member of the Panel. The book is in simple language for the consumption of common men.

Policy reviews: SAF has reviewed the following national policies and brought them to the notice of the concerned Ministries.

1. Comments on the Compensatory Afforestation Planning Authority (CAMPA) bill 2015
2. A plea to the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change against commercial release of GM mustard in India
3. Comments and suggestions on the amendments to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
4. Report of the High Level Committee to review various Acts administered by the MoEF & Climate Change by TSR Subramanian Committee
5. High level Working Committee Report on the Western Ghats 2013
6. Draft National Biotechnology Authority Bill 2009, 2010 and 2012
7. National Water Policy 2012
8. National Wetland (Conservation and Regulatory) Rules 2010

Research projects

Conservation action for the endemic, endangered Andaman Teal *Anas albogularis* (Project funded by and report submitted to The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund; M A Rajamamannan and Lalitha Vijayan, 2012)

Population status and habitat use of *Salea anamallayana* in the Upper Palni Hills, Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu. (funded by Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Chennai; S. Somasundaram and S. Babu).

Mangrove avifaunal diversity of Gulf of Kachchh with special reference to globally threatened species (Project by Ministry of Env't & Forests, Govt. of India, to be started; S. Somasundaram).

Awareness programmes

More than 200 lectures have been conducted throughout the length and breadth of Kerala attended to by students, farmers, politicians, bureaucrats, general public, focussing on nature conservation, sustainable development, biodiversity, genetically modified crops, wetland conservation, organic farming and various environmental issues. SAF was involved in educating the public the Gadgil Committee Report and the Kasturirangan Committee Report.

Staff of SAF

We have not yet appointed any staff, but had experts on consultancy basis for the Arboretum project.

It is expected to create Chairs in focal areas of SAF in the name of celebrities to pursue research and undertake field work. All studies will be of social relevance, and most of the work will be to demonstrate how development and conservation could go hand-in hand.

Currently we have a project “Holistic Eco-friendly Sustainable Development of Vellangallur Panchayat” with the seed money from **V. C. Padmanabhan Chair for Ecology and Environmental Conservation sponsored by Manappuram Foundation.**

Trustees of Sálím Ali Foundation

1. Dr. V.S. Vijayan (*Managing Trustee & Chairman*; Former Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board; Biologist, Policy maker and analyst)
2. Dr. M.K. Prasad (Retd. Pro-Vice chancellor, Calicut University; Environmentalist)
3. Dr. C.T.S. Nair (Retd. Forest Economist of Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO)
4. Dr. N. V. Joshi (Theoretical Biologist, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)
5. Dr. Nandini Rajamani (Biologist and Science Communicator, IndiaBioscience, Bangalore)
6. Prof. V.R. Raghunandan (Retd. Professor of Pharmacology, Veterinary College, Mannuthy; Environmentalist & grass-root level worker)
7. Prof. V. K. Sasikumar (Dean and HOD Biotechnology and Biochemical Engineering, Sree Budha College of Engineering, Alappuzha and, Retd. Professor of Chemical Engineering, Government Engineering College, Kozhikode).
8. Ms. S. Usha (Agricultural Expert, Policy maker and analyst, Thanal, Thiruvananthapuram)

Advisory Council

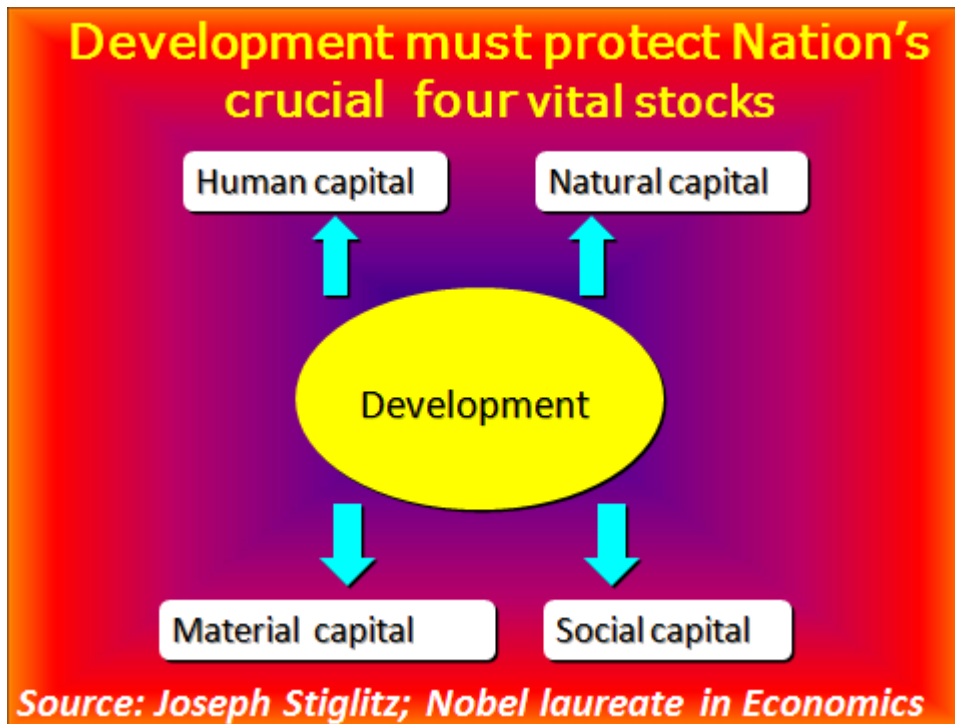
1. Mr. K. P. Geethakrishnan I.A.S. ((Retired Chairman, Finance Reforms Committee, Government of India)
2. Dr. Madhav Gadgil (Ecologist, retired Professor, Indian Institute of Science)
3. Mr. Bittu Saigal (Managing Editor, Sanctuary Magazine)
4. Ms. Dilnavaz Variava (Conservationist and Ex-Vice President, BNHS)
5. Mr. K. Jayakumar (Chairman & Director, Pesticide Action Network, India)
6. Dr. Robert. B. Grubh (Ornithologist; Ex. Director, BNHS & Director, Institute for Restoration of Natural Environment, Nagercoil)
7. Dr. Uma Shaankar (Honorary Director, Ashoka Trust for Ecology and Environment, Bangalore)
8. Dr. Md. Ali Raza Khan (Ornithologist, Director, Dubai Zoo)
9. Dr. P.C. Bhattacharjee (Retd. Head of the Department of Zoology, Gauwhaty University)
10. Ms. Sumi Krishna (Sociologist and Journalist)
11. Dr. Vasavi (Anthropologist, currently Nehru Library Fellow)

Research personnel

1. Dr. S. N. Prasad (Retd. Scientist, Salim ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History - SACON)
2. Dr. P. Vijayakumar (Retd. Scientist, Kerala Forest Research institute)
3. Dr. Lalitha Vijayan (Retired Scientist SACON)
4. Dr. Somasundaram (Ornithologist)
5. Dr. C.P. Shajee (Fish Expert – on consultancy)
6. Dr. M. Murugesan (Plant taxonomy, ecology –on consultancy)

Infrastructural facilities: The SAF is housed at “the Nest” at Kanimangalam, Thrissur. It has a library of about 500 sq ft, with around 1000 books and a hall to accommodate around 70 people. It was inaugurated at Thrissur by Hon’ble Justice Thottathil Radhakrishanan on 31 December 2011.





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Note: this would be the last outer cover