



EQUATIONS
ANNUAL REPORT
2008-09

Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS)

415, 2C Cross, 4th Main

OMBR Layout, Banaswadi

Bengaluru - 560 043

Ph: 080 25457607 / 25457659

Fax: 080 25457665

Email: info@equitabletourism.org

Website: www.equitabletourism.org

EQUATIONS, established in 1985, is a Society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960 and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. It is also registered under section 12 A of Income Tax Act, 1961 and has obtained recognition under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Illustrations: Vishaka Chanchani

Photographs: EQUATIONS

Layout, Design, Printing: Focus Communications, Bangalore.

August 2009, Bengaluru, India

The context of our work

Displacement of people, destruction of livelihoods and devastation of natural resources has been a major cost of the development path pursued in this country. Struggles and protests across the country bring out the plight of those who are exploited, displaced, and further marginalised. Corporations seem to have taken over the tasks of planning, law and policy making, regulation and decisions in the country. Bodies like Planning Commission of India, their counter parts in the states, Parliamentary Standing Committees and the courts are increasingly making recommendations that are less about people's welfare and more about private profit.

The Planning Commission of India's Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) in its section on tourism focuses on marketing, promotion, investment, and infrastructure support required for the expansion and promotion of the tourism sector. Its complete disregard of the many recorded negative impacts of tourism development in India-the exploitation of children and women; environmental degradation as a result of unplanned and unregulated development; limiting right of access of local communities to natural resources affecting their livelihood options; substituting decentralised planning processes with tourism development plans; enclavisation etc is truly regrettable.

Land continues to be a key site of struggle the world over. Land grabs by resort and real estate developers

lack any processes of ethics or community involvement. Now "sea grabs" for the development of commercial water-based tourism activities such as cruising, boating and diving, have also become common. The rapid proliferation of mega-resorts that often include hotels, residential housing, golf courses, marinas, shopping centres, entertainment facilities and even landing strips for private jets, are wreaking havoc on the natural environment, affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and fisher-folk around the world from Latin America to South East Asia, including India. Such land grabs are resulting in significantly diverting the amount of land suitable for food production, particularly in Third World countries.

Along with policy shifts favoring investment and infrastructure oriented development, tourism projects no longer require mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The Ministry of Environment and Forests is on an over drive doing away with the meager protection that current environmental laws offer in tune with the demands of industry players. Tourism projects that are massive both in relation to land spread and investment are being floated. The Himalayan Ski Village in Himachal Pradesh had a planned investment of 300 million dollars and built up area of 133 acres. It had an initial requirement of 6000 acres of mountain ranges for skiing activities, which recently has been scaled down to 60 ha in the first phase of the project. The Lavasa tourism project in Maharashtra is spread over 5,058 hectares of forest land and aiming at investment of 8

billion dollars. In Andhra Pradesh Government Order (GO) 34, aimed at developing 972 kilometers of the coast into a Coastal Industrial Corridor including construction of industrial parks, theme parks, mega chemical complexes, amusement parks, pharma parks, tourism projects etc. Huge tracts of land were acquired and the government entered into various agreements with industries, including the tourism industry. It was feared that 2.5 crore people comprising fisher folk, small and marginal farmers, dalits, farm labourers and adivasis would be displaced. In late 2008 under severe public pressure the state government cancelled the GO. But questions remain on the status of the agreements that the government had entered into with the various industries. In Maharashtra the Urban Development Department has been empowered to declare any area at appropriate height, having suitable topographical features, for the purposes of development of Hill Station. This Notification cleared the path for the controversial Lavasa Project.

The proposal of replacing Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 (CRZ) with Coastal Management Zone Notification 2008 (CMZ) is another case in point. This is being met with vigorous opposition by fisher folk groups and coastal and environmental organisation for its clear slant towards furthering development projects on the coast with scant regard for coastal communities rights and livelihood. While the government has been extremely proactive in pushing ahead policies, plans and legislative actions that propel the agenda of privatization, this zeal has been missing when implementing measures that lead to public good. Though the Rules for implementing the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights), 2006 (FRA) was made in January 2008, the FRA remains unimplemented in most states. It is being opposed by a section of the conservationists lobby, and a number of cases have been filed in various High Courts across the country contesting the FRA. At the same time more and more Protected Areas are being opened up for tourism activities like wildlife tourism, eco-tourism, adventure tourism etc.,. The Forest Departments have also got into the business of providing tourism services directly.

With popular destinations reaching capacity and in keeping with global trends of ecotourism and nature-based tourism, the Indian government is opening up more and more fragile areas for tourism development including those areas that are long standing conflict zones. The government in short sighted and insensitive ways proclaims that with the introduction of tourism, conflicts will be reduced. In Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern states, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and many other parts of the country the theory remains to be proved. In reality, because tourism development often leaves untouched the root causes of conflict, and works with little regard for democratic and bottom up consultative processes, the situations on the ground only aggravates.

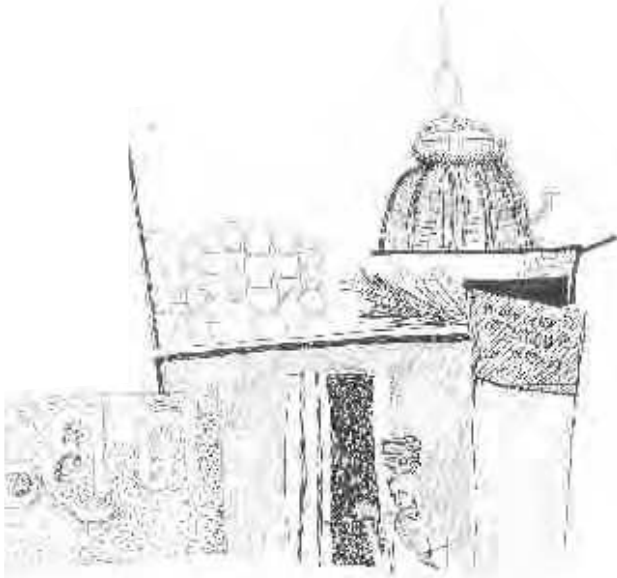
In April 2008, the High Court of Himachal Pradesh disposed off a Public Interest Litigation filed by local people against the mega project Himalayan Ski Village (HSV) in the high slopes of the Himalayas claiming they were satisfied with the state government's action of constituting a High Powered Committee to look into various aspects relating to setting up of HSV. The High Court thus abdicated its role of providing justice based on the laws of the land, handing over what should have been a judicial process to executive action. The trend for the Judiciary to privilege the agenda of private projects generating private profit, over rights of ordinary citizens and principles of natural justice is pervasive.

In a recent case, the Supreme Court of India supported the action of the Andhra Pradesh government of acquiring land for establishing an Integrated Project to make Hyderabad a major business-cum-leisure Tourism Infrastructure Centre. The Supreme Court held that it was for Public Purpose. Thus, under the pretext of legitimate "public purpose", the State can forcibly acquire land from numerous small farmers to set up private projects/ businesses, including leisure tourism centres.

International Financial Institutions have been quick to leverage windows of opportunity. The omission of tourism projects from EIA scanner has coincided with the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) push for the Inclusive Tourism Infrastructure Development Project, a

direct tourism loan for the states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. In spite of strong objections raised by the local communities, Phase I has commenced in July/Aug 2008. The trend of placing the governance of areas that the government thinks are profitable to develop and expand for tourism, under the control of Developmental Authorities/ Committees continues. The ADB in the North Eastern states, through loans for Law and Public Administration: Law and Administrative reforms, push for regulatory authorities instead of multiple local self governing institutions (LSGI) for specific regions. These authorities are armed with all administrative powers including the powers of the LSGIs.

Very little has been done to implement the 2006 ban on child labour in the hospitality industry in any sensible or systemic way. The reaction of law enforcement officials have been mostly knee jerk resulting in further harassment and abuse of children. The links between tourism and the abuse of children in the form of child labour, sexual exploitation and pornography continued to grow. The nationwide campaign by child rights groups of inclusion of child pornography in the Information Technology Act (ITA) 2000 resulted in a section punishing any one for publishing or transmitting or materials depicting children in sexually explicit acts, in electronic form and facilitating online abuse of children.



However the word child pornography has not been used causing concern among child protection groups about the effectiveness in bringing offenders to book. While the Ministry of Tourism continues to be in denial about tourism's contribution to the exploitation of children, it was heartening to see that the Eleventh Five Year Plan acknowledged tourism's role in promoting - child labour, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. This link however was made only in the Social Sector report "Towards Women's Agency and Child Rights.

In Kerala, with a series of incidents in the media glare, and pressure from organisations such as ours, the Department of Tourism (DoTK) has taken an important step. Firstly, it acknowledged the occurrence of child abuse in tourism and took lead in coordinating efforts with the home and social welfare department; industry representatives as well as the members of LSGIs at Kovalam, where the incidents were reported. DoTK has initiated the campaign 'Kovalam Vigil: Zero Tolerance on Child Abuse' and we hope this is the first step towards declaring the state of Kerala a Zero Tolerance Zone on child abuse.

Soon after the terror attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, in a media report, the Joint Secretary Ministry of Tourism & Culture, was quick to downplay the impact of the attacks on the tourism industry saying that the fall out of the incident will be momentary and the situation will soon be normal and under control. The statement not only showed a callous disregard for the many lives lost but also a naïve denial of the impact this incident would have on tourism in the country, coming as it was on the heels of the financial crisis spinning global financial systems and national economies out of control.

However the tourism industry and policy makers both domestic and global insist on continuing with their oft repeated mantra of tourism's resilience and tourism's centrality. In the recently concluded 5th UNWTO International Conference on Tourism Statistics – Tourism: An Engine for Employment Creation in March 2009 in Bali (Indonesia), the claim was reiterated that tourism industry is an important employer and contributor to national GDPs. A closer look at the

tourism development pattern in the world, however, shows that the worldwide expansion of tourism, real estate, golf, construction industry through resorts, hotels and entertainments parks were being fuelled by the corporate sector mainly from affluent countries in the US, Europe, Middle East, Far East and South East Asia. That had led to creation of a bubble that is now bursting with the global economic crisis. Most projects are likely to go bankrupt or will be delayed due to resource crunch, and new projects will not be pursued as aggressively as before. The resort and real estate industry as a whole is experiencing a setback now.

Our response

In 2008-09 EQUATIONS focussed on the cycle of research leading to campaigns and advocacy. The Planning Commission of India came out with the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12). EQUATIONS critiqued and commented on the "Tourism Section". Last year we had sent strong critique of the recommendation of the Planning Commission Constituted Working Group and Steering Committee Report on Tourism, specially the proposal of replicating the Kerala Tourism (Conservation and Preservation of Areas) Act, 2005 in other states. The said recommendation has not been considered by the Planning Commission its final version of the Eleventh Plan.

Our work has focused quite significantly at the weak laws and regulation and drawing the attention of policy makers, industry and civil society to these issues. Our statement on the World Tourism Day 'No More Holidays from Accountability! We Need Stronger Environmental Regulation For Tourism' generated responses from network partners, Secretary Tourism, Kerala and "responsible" tourism practitioners agreeing that the time had come to state these issues unequivocally.

We wrote campaign letters to the Ministry for Development of the North eastern region (DoNER) and Parliamentary Standing Committee for Transport, Tourism and Culture highlighting our concern about the proposal of promoting the North-East as a destination to

Leave Travel Concession travellers and to remove Restricted Area Permits and Inner Line Permits in the North Eastern Region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We suggested that the impacts of this decision had not helped the Andamans and therefore a relook was needed before pushing this as a strategy in the North Eastern region of India.

EQUATIONS conducted an investigation research study titled "Unholy Nexus: Male Child Sexual Exploitation in Pilgrim Tourism Sites in India: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa" (Report on Male Child Sexual Exploitation). It focused on male children in prostitution in three of India's major pilgrimage centres – Tirupati in AP, Puri in Orissa and Guruvayoor in Kerala. This paved the way to point out once again the extremely weak legislative and protection framework for children. Subsequently the investigation we lead in Kerala against a particular child abuser has resulted in the government taking serious steps in the state. We further leveraged on two international occasions the World Congress III and the ITB Berlin to take the message about child abuse in tourism into as many high level spaces as possible.

The continuation of the struggles in Kevadia, HSV, Lavasa have been important. We worked in solidarity with groups around the world to initiate a global campaign against megaresorts – pointing to the nexus between land grabs and tourism.

We have been involved in research to document community based ecotourism / nature based tourism initiatives in the country. The study focuses on the direct, indirect benefits and the benefit sharing mechanisms adopted by local communities and whether tourism contributes to conservation of biodiversity of the region.

Recognizing that tourism was surging ahead into new areas, our work in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand was important to dialogue with communities on their rights and the extent to which the entry of tourism was one more alienating factor. Further recognizing that the emphasis on community based tourism and rural tourism may end up in policy

prescriptions that do not actually embody the spirit of benefits to local communities and sustainability –we studied community based nature tourism projects in Assam, Uttarakhand and Ladakh. We also were able to review through direct visits 12 rural tourism projects around the country. These have been invaluable opportunities for EQUATIONS to learn and engage on rural tourism and interact more closely with organisations implementing tourism projects.

EQUATIONS continues to have an extended network with diverse groups and stakeholders concerned with tourism. We have been in solidarity with people's movements like the Jharkhand Jangal Bachao Andolan, who is spearheading the adivasis' struggle on FRA in Jharkhand and the National Alliance of Peoples Movements, the National Forum of Forest People and Forest Workers (NFFPW). We have actively joined the coastal networks in the campaign against the draft CMZ. Our alliances with civil society platforms and groups on child rights, women's rights, struggles and monitoring groups on SEZ, IFI's, forest rights, dams and mining, tribal rights, globalisation and trade networks in the country.

We have worked in solidarity with many international partners both in the tourism network as well as trade, environment and globalization networks in strong and active solidarity both on specific campaigns as well as broader issues such as climate change, forests, biodiversity, indigenous peoples' rights, mega resorts and engaging on collaborative research. In the World Social Forum (WSF) 2009 we presented and made critical contributions to two panels: "Tourism, Public Policy and Democratic Participation: Proposals and Challenges for the Future of Responsible Tourism" and "Community-based Tourism Networks: Alternative Models, Resistance and Social Control". The outcomes of the various tourism interventions were the Belem Declaration under the banner of the Global Tourism Interventions Forum.



Meeting with Community members, Ulley village, Ladakh

We are members of ECPAT International and this went a long way to expand our network with International partners and engage with the industry, to participate in international events like World Congress, Expert Meeting, and UNWTO Task Force on the protection of Children. Our membership of the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) was also a step to engage in a broader Asia Pacific solidarity on many common struggles.

Our engagement with central-level Ministries apart from the Ministry of Tourism, like Ministry for Women and Child Development, Ministry for Environment and Forests, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Ministry of Panchayat Raj has been ongoing. We have also initiated discussions with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. We have also engaged with the Planning Commission of India and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Tourism. Our engagement with the Department of Tourism, Department of Social Welfare, Home and Education in Kerala has been very intense. In Andamans our engagement with the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, especially Information, Publicity and Tourism have been productive.

The last year also saw increased engagement with UN agencies like UNCTAD, UNWTO and UNDP with the engagements challenging some of them to look at tourism in a new light.

Kerala

Kerala Tourism Watch, Kabani – the other direction, and EQUATIONS issued a Joint Statement to close down the Trivandrum Golf Course and withdraw all proposed golf projects in the state in June 2008. The statement urged the Kerala Government to convert it as a public biodiversity park for conservation and education.

In Vagamon, continuously engaging with the groups on tourism issues led to campaign and stalling the move by the Idukki District Tourism Promotion Council's to lease the Vagamon grasslands for private parties.

EQUATIONS had challenged the move of reclamation of back waters and Pokkali paddy fields (eco-friendly farming practices of paddy cultivation-cum-prawn farming practiced in the wetlands of Alappuzha, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts) at Kumbalangi village for tourism purpose. Based on the petitions received, the Local Self Government Department asked the Kumbalangi Grama Panchayat in June 2008 to cancel the building permit given to resort project, which it did. A story on the issue was telecasted by Asianet in July 2008. The resort group filed a petition in the HC against the cancellation of the license. In January 2009 the local groups invited us to a meeting on sustaining the campaign.

Since October 2008 one of our key engagements was the investigation of a case of child sexual abuse in Chowara, Kovalam, Kerala. It involved following the legal action, advocacy measures to pressurise the government to declare Kerala a Zero Tolerance Zone for Child Abuse and encourage developing mechanisms to protect children from child abuse in tourism. EQUATIONS, Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society (KMSS) and a reporter from Indian Express, conducted an investigation about sexual abuse of children in Chowara, based on a tipoff from a Swiss tourist couple. Our investigations revealed that over 20 young boys

from poor families were being abused over the past 15 years by Jakob Spalti (a Swiss national). EQUATIONS along with KMSS lodged a complaint with the City Police Commissioner, Thiruvananthapuram based on the statements made by the victims. We also helped the victims to lodge a complaint before the City Police Commissioner, in giving statements at the local Police Station and the deposition before the First Class Judicial Magistrate Court. However Spalti secured bail and left the country on grounds that his visa had expired. The case is pending before the Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvananthapuram. Though Spalti has returned, till date he has not been arrested. Due to the consistent pressure and demand for action that we put on various departments like the Department of Tourism, Kerala (DoTK), Department of Social Welfare, Police and Child Line, these departments jointly discussed coordination mechanisms.

To pursue its goal of ensuring that Kerala becomes a child abuse free zone in tourism, EQUATIONS constantly engaged with the DoTK proposing and taking forward the discussion on Zero Tolerance on Child Abuse in the State. We collected and provided DoTK with relevant resources materials from experiences of other countries like the campaign on "Zero Tolerance on Child Abuse" and the Action Plan for Combating Child Abuse in Tourism by the Sri Lankan Tourism Board. In March 2009, DoTK made the first public move by initiating a campaign in Kovalam-'KovalamVigil: Zero Tolerance on Child Abuse' and came up with awareness materials for tourists and locals like posters, stickers and book marks for wide dissemination at hotels, resorts, restaurants and shops at Kovalam.

In February 2009 EQUATIONS raised concerns once more with the Department of Harbour Engineering and Department of Tourism Kerala on the development of the artificial reef at Kovalam. Using the funds under the Tsunami Rehabilitation Plan in an area not affected by tsunami, and the lack of public consultation have been the key issues. Other civil society groups disagreed on our strategy of calling for a public hearing as they believe it is a hollow exercise. EQUATIONS view has been that along with campaigns the demand for such democratic

spaces to be strengthened must be there. The project has not been cleared yet.

Karnataka

We participated in an International Conference on the Tangible and Intangible Heritage Issues on Hampi organised by Friends of Hampi (an interest group to promote awareness in the Hampi region to preserve the cultural heritage and represent the local voice in decision making) in association with National Institute of Advance Studies, in January 2009 at Bangalore. There were discussions around Revival and Conservation of Intangible Heritage; Region Development Plans and Sustained Growth and Education Heritage Awareness. The group recognised the threat of unplanned development that is already affecting Hampi and discussed the revival and conserving the heritage of Hampi.

EQUATIONS participated in a consultation organised by Appiko-Chipko Andolan - Karnataka, Peaceful Society -

Goa and Key Stone Foundation – Nilgiris, in February 2009 at Goa. This was to launch a campaign on ‘Save Western Ghats’ and groups from Karnataka, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu participated. We brought in concerns related to unregulated expansion of tourism in the Western Ghats.

We had the opportunity to influence industry, when the architects of a resort developer asked if we could participate in a set of discussions on making tourism more responsible. While the plan to offer a workshop on Critical Issues in Tourism to the resort developer did not materialise, their architects who are involved in green architecture and increasingly working on resort projects asked if we could do it for them instead which we accepted. Biome (Biome Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd.) is an architectural firm in Bangalore, whose work is guided by ecological principles, integrating water, energy and land-use thinking into design. We put together a workshop that was a collaborative effort of several programmes in EQUATIONS that offered perspectives on governance, law, and environment,



economic and social impacts. It was a good learning for us as this was the first time that we were interacting with a group that works as service providers to the tourism industry.

Samvada, a local NGO working with urban and rural youth in Karnataka, has initiated Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) initiative for a group of local people in Ramnagaram, a tribal village in Karnataka. EQUATIONS was invited to contribute to an awareness meeting to help the local community understand tourism and its inter linkages with people and environment. We offered an overview on community-based tourism initiatives in other parts of the country.

EQUATIONS participated in a public consultation on the constitutionality, programs, influence and impact on democracy “Parastatal agencies and task forces in Karnataka” organised by PUCL-Karnataka in December 2008 at Bangalore to discuss the trends of International Financial Institutions and the state coming up with many task forces. It was valuable input in developing our research on Development Authorities/ Committees which are getting formed in most tourism areas that have tourism potential.

EQUATIONS has been involved in the issue of privatisation of lakes in Bangalore. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed before the High Court of Karnataka (HC) by a Bangalore based environment group Environment Support Group (ESG) on the issue and we have been following the case closely. In November 2008 the HC took the State government to task, observing that the government was trying to commercialise lakes by handing them over to the private parties. The HC directed the government constituted Lake Development Authority (LDA) to stop converting these public common spaces to private properties.

Tamil Nadu

EQUATIONS participated in the second meeting of “Combating Coastal Challenges – National Meeting for Joint Action for Coastal Protection” organized by Citizen, Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) under the Post-Tsunami Environment Initiative in June 2008 at

Chennai. We made a presentation on ‘Tourism & the Coast’. This meeting was organised in the backdrop of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) proposal of replacing Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 (CRZ) with draft Coastal Zone Management Notification 2008 (CMZ). The meeting served as a platform to consolidate civil society critique of the draft CMZ and focused on devising advocacy strategies. A civil society statement on the draft CMZ was brought out.

EQUATIONS also participated in the strategy meeting on proposed draft CMZ at Chennai organised by National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC) in December 2008. We contested the need for a new Notification and argued instead for strong legislation to ensure regulation and conservation of the coast. Participants resolved to demand a comprehensive legislation for the protection of the coast, rights of fishing communities and other traditional dwellers of the coast.

Network partners in TN have drawn our attention to the massive increase in tourism impacting the coast and coastal communities in the coastal stretch between Chennai and Mamallapuram. In a bid to undertake a preliminary investigation, a research framework was drawn up and a preliminary visit undertaken. This is a collaborative effort of EQUATIONS, Human Rights Foundation (Chennai) and Bangalore based Joseph Bernard an activist and film maker.

Andhra Pradesh

The Government of AP, through 'Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation invited Global Expression of Interest to plan and develop an "Integrated Tourism & Township Project" in 800 hectares of land on the banks of Penna River near Gandikota Fort in Kadapa district. We made a preliminary visit to the proposed area and collected first hand information about the project, interacted with the community and Panchayat representative to know their opinions on tourism developments in the region. The local community said that they wanted the tourism project and would tackle its impacts when needed.

We organised a workshop on 'Panchayat Rights & Tourism' in June 2008 at Vishakapatnam in collaboration with AP State Panchayat Sarpanchs Forum. Over 300 Sarpanchs participated in this workshop. EQUATIONS created awareness on rights and duties of the Panchayat, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Policy, Impacts of Tourism, SEZ/STZ issues and use of Right to Information. During the workshop Sarpanchs from East Godavari, West Godavari, Vishakapatnam expressed their concerns on the tourism developments in their area without Panchayat consultation and participation.

EQUATIONS made a preliminary visit to Nellore district which includes Nellore head quarters, Mypad region, Pulicat Lake and interacted with various stake holders in these areas. According to Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government this district has immense potential for tourism. The livelihood of the local communities of fishermen, tribals, agricultural farmers and workers are at risk due to AP Tourism Development Corporation plans to promote tourism. We interacted with community members at Mypad region and Pulicat Lake area highlighting tourism impacts. We will be following up on requests for awareness material in Telugu and of workshops.

In January 2009 EQUATIONS submitted a proposal to AP Tourism Development Corporation to work on & implement establishing Sustainable Tourism Forums at two tourism destinations in AP – Araku & Kolleru to the establishment of these forums is to help the community to understand the status of tourism in the destination, its impact and future directions through undertaking participatory research. It also meant to help build community level institutions which can feed into other institutions operating at the district level of the state. The proposal is awaiting approval from APTDC.

Other Indian States

An opportunity to review the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Ministry of Tourism (MoT) Endogenous Tourism Project (ETP)



came our way in 2008. We completed the review report, a dossier on rural tourism, and a film in December 2008. UNDP along with Ministry of Tourism had planned to release these formally in an International conference in early December 2008, but this was later cancelled (presumably because of the global financial crisis). One of the implementing agencies of the ETP, the DHAN foundation invited us to a workshop on "Mainstreaming Endogenous Tourism with Development Projects" organised by UNDP, India and hosted at the Tata-Dhan Academy of DHAN Foundation, Madurai. However it was later postponed due to short notice given to participants. In this context EQUATIONS raised certain questions to UNDP regarding the dismissal of the key learnings from the review of the ETP – as the proposed workshop did not seem to take them into account.

EQUATIONS was invited to handle a training programme on Critical Issues in Tourism with the focus being on sensitizing / building awareness implementing agencies about rural tourism, impacts of tourism - social, economic, environmental aspects, sustainability, concept of carrying capacities and in preparation of charters for sustainable tourism in August 2008 organised by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) at IRMA. The session on tourism was part of a broader



Members of Village Tourism Committee, Chougan, Madhya Pradesh

training workshop on Institution Building for Rural Tourism and Sustainable Livelihoods. The participants were various implementing agencies who are involved in the implementation of rural tourism projects in the country.

We collaborated with Grassroots Media (with support from HIVOS, India and Bread for the World) to bring out a short film, 'Vanishing Trails', on the lives of de-notified and nomadic tribes in India. Vanishing Trails tracks the disappearing footprints of the nomadic and the de-notified Tribes. Such tribes have a long tradition and history of performing arts and culture that is closely linked to tourism development, especially through forms of rural tourism and culture tourism today. Copies of the film have been circulated widely particularly to groups working on the issue. Two years have passed since the completion of our film – Mahua Memoirs.

Vinod Raja, the film maker, expressed the desire to screen the Hindi version of the film to the local communities and assess the changing scenario. Vinod Raja was able to travel and screen the film on a makeshift screen at the villages of Nanga Dabra, Chuyya (on the foothills of the Maikal range) and Kokdakaar (Baigas living here had fled the mountains when the mining company Balco took away their lands). Mahua Memoirs was also screened at the Goan People's Film Festival 22-29 Nov 2008, and in a special screening by noted artiste Kamala Vatsayan at the India International Centre. Vanishing Trails was screened at an international conference on Notified and De-notified communities organized by Basha.

Central Belt States

EQUATIONS was invited to the 6th Annual Convention of the Jharkhand Jangal Bachao Andolan (JJBA) in November 2008 at Ranchi, Jharkhand. JJBA has been an important network partner on issues of indigenous people's rights, forests and tourism. Our participation was an expression of solidarity to the struggles of people in Jharkhand. It furthered our understanding on the status of implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) in Jharkhand. Most members of the local communities in their presentations referred to tourism as a threat to their rights and resources.

We co-organised consultations partnering with local NGOs and groups in January 2009 on the theme of "Protection of Peoples Rights and Conservation of Forests & Wildlife in Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks at Raipur, Chhattisgarh January 2009 as well as Madhya Pradesh (Badhavgarh and Kanha). The Raipur consultation also dealt with forest rights and implementation of FRA, environmental & social issues related to tourism. The discussions also focused on the gaps in current tourism and/or ecotourism policy of the state and also future plans and proposals of the government. These consultations helped us to think about and sharpen our strategies for advocacy and campaign and further research on social, environmental and economic impacts of ecotourism.

Mountain Regions

Realizing the intensive tourism focus by both the Tourism & Forest Departments in Uttarakhand, we are in the process of developing a status paper on tourism developments along the Bhagirathi River. The research is being undertaken by Vimal Bhai, a well known activist in the state. The status paper will assess the nature, kind and volume of tourism projects being developed and proposed along the Bhagirathi River. It will also probe into related issues like land acquisitions, legal procedures, violation of rights, related legal and policy changes brought in to facilitate these projects etc.

EQUATIONS has had a series of valuable engagements with Mountain Shepherd Initiative (MSI), a community based tourism initiative in Uttarakhand. We were requested to help develop a baseline survey / monitoring framework of their activities that will focus on sustainability issues. A draft framework has been prepared.

We also had consultations at Ramnagar & Rishikesh, Uttarakhand in February 2009. The consultations brought together people's views on ecotourism development in the state, their perspective on its impacts, focus on issues of rights and conflicts with ecotourism. The discussions also revolved around the larger struggles and campaigns in the state, tourism's role in development, environmental impact of tourism in & around national parks & wildlife sanctuaries.

Our active support on the struggle of local communities against the Himalayan Ski Village, Kullu District,



Building indicators for assessing tourism impacts, Uttarakhand



Himachal Pradesh continues. A high powered government committee was slated to do spot inspection and record resident views in early January 2009. The local groups Jan Jagran Evam Vikas Samiti (JJVS) and Him Niti Abhiyan decided to boycott the inspection on the grounds that basic documents about the project have not been shared with the people in spite of repeated requests. We have also had spirited engagements with officials of the company – a forest officer on deputation to the HSV and its Managing Director. Both claimed that our investigation was not based on facts and we challenged their allegations. HSV has not been able to substantiate its claims and continues to keep its plans and documents out of the public domain. In April 2009 a consultation on Community struggles against development projects is planned in Himachal Pradesh. EQUATIONS plans to participate in the consultation as well as make a field visit to the site of the project to interact directly with community members and strategize on the future course of action.



Consultation with local communities in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

Goa

In February 2009, EQUATIONS was invited by editors Anibel Ferus-Comelo and Frederick Noronha from Goa to contribute to a book titled 'Beyond the Sun & Sand – Understanding Tourism in Goa'-compilation of essays that looks at how tourism has transformed Goa and the renegotiations at the local-level due to global forces. We have contributed an abridged version of our study 'Weighing the GATS on a Development Scale' (November 2002) which as a Goa specific study interrogating environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts of tourism in the context of international trade agreements such as the GATS. In the abridged version we have pointed out that the issues raised in 2002 remain relevant today. We also added a brief update on some of the changes in the intervening years. A study on Israeli tourists in Goa (2008) by the seminarians of the Rachol Seminary with research inputs and support from EQUATIONS and Alternatives Goa is also likely to be published in this book.

Gujarat

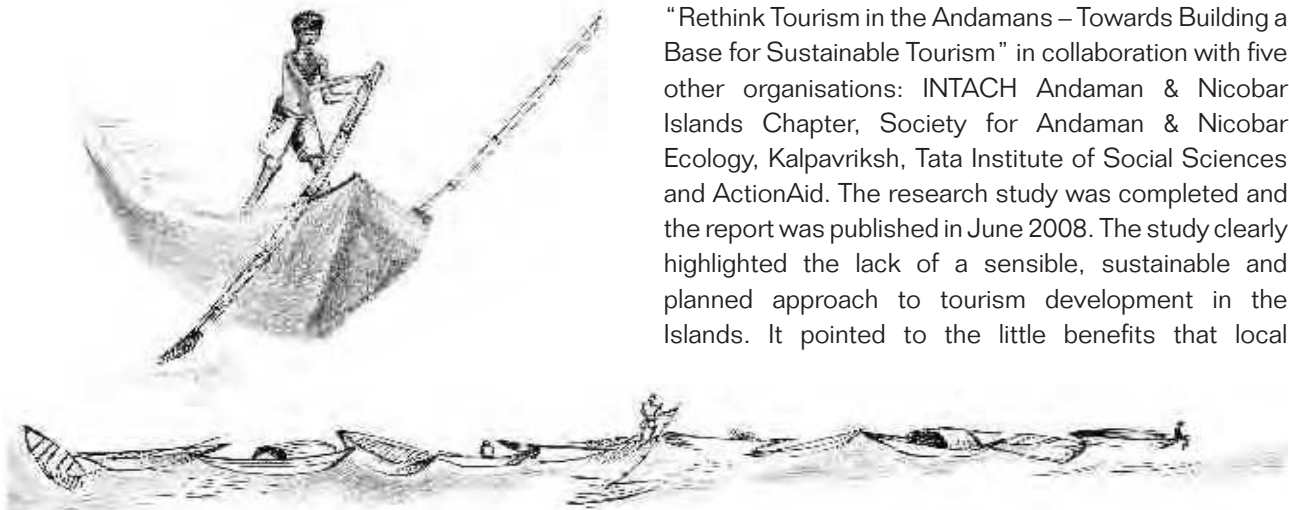
We undertook an investigation in 2007 into the proposed promotion of tourism at the site of the Sardar Sarovar Dam Project over the Narmada River in Gujarat. The government is using excess land acquired under "public purpose" as per the Land Acquisition Act for construction of tourism and entertainment facilities. The final investigation report was completed and based on demands from the ground a translation of the same was

done in Gujarati. 200 copies of this report were printed in English and 1000 copies of the report were printed in Gujarati. The report has been widely disseminated to local community, civil society organisations as well as to government officials. The findings of the report have also been covered by the local media. The local communities protesting against the same has acknowledged that the investigation report has helped in strengthening their struggle. Later, we responded to requests for translation also in Hindi. An update on developments since the investigation in 2007 was added to this version.

In November 2008 the Tata Institute of Social Sciences organised a meeting to present their study "Performance and Development Effectiveness of Sardar Sarovar Project". This reviewed and analysed the costs and benefits of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, the social, economic and environmental costs resulting further displacement of people, livelihoods etc, in the region. Our participation in the workshop furthered our engagement with many other civil society platforms on issues of displacement, the ongoing struggles of the people in the Narmada region. EQUATIONS was part of a delegation to the Planning Commission to share findings of the study, where we were able input on the tourism project planned in Kevadia, Narmada District, Gujarat.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

EQUATIONS had undertaken a research study titled "Rethink Tourism in the Andamans – Towards Building a Base for Sustainable Tourism" in collaboration with five other organisations: INTACH Andaman & Nicobar Islands Chapter, Society for Andaman & Nicobar Ecology, Kalpavriksh, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and ActionAid. The research study was completed and the report was published in June 2008. The study clearly highlighted the lack of a sensible, sustainable and planned approach to tourism development in the Islands. It pointed to the little benefits that local





Launch of the research report on the impacts of tourism in the Andamans Islands at Delhi in June 2008



Launch of the research report on the impacts of tourism in the Andamans Islands at Port Blair in June 2008

communities got, the huge pressures on the fragile ecology, the lack of consultation and participation and the minimal returns that even the Union Territory got in terms of revenue or employment generation. There were two advocacy events that were organised for launching the research report, in Port Blair and New Delhi in June 2008. The report at both events was released by Zilla Parishad member from Andaman Islands. There was participation from civil society,

tourism industry and media. However, despite invitations no representative from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration and Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MoT) or other Ministries attended.

Under pressure from other organisations and us the Department of Information Publicity and Tourism (IP&T) called for a public consultation to discuss the Andamans Draft Tourism Policy which was released in March 2009. EQUATIONS participated in the consultation and were able to input into many of the areas, based on our research. The

Director, IP&T, has also requested us to send in our comments on the Andamans & Nicobar Islands Registration of Tourist Trade Regulation 2009 that has been promulgated by the President of India.

International

EQUATIONS has been an active voice in the international tourism debate. We send information on developments in India and also share with network partners and strategise on international interventions in order to have a strong global south perspective. We were invited by Ecumenical Coalition On Tourism (ECOT) to participate in their consultation in April 2008 in Chiang Mai commemorating their 25th anniversary. ECOT's publication Transforming / Reforming Tourism which featured EQUATIONS contribution was released on the occasion. We influenced strongly debates on climate change political positions as well as highlighted the need for organisations in the tourism debate to challenge each other but basically work in solidarity. This also provided the opportunity to meet with tim-team in Bangkok and share notes on our perspectives and strategise on common areas of concern and how we could work to build a stronger activist base on tourism issues.

At the International Conference “Making Travellers’ Philanthropy Work for Development, Business, and Conservation” organised by the Centre on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development, in Arusha, Tanzania in December, 2008. EQUATIONS presented at a session on Serving Local Development Priorities our paper titled Can Tourism Transform: Case studies on community based rural tourism in India. The consultation facilitated discussion of the tools and capacity needed for effectively running and evaluating community projects. As a requirement for travel support we received we also wrote a paper on tourism, conflict and peace that will be published by the United States Institute for Peace.

At The World Congress III in Rio and at the ITB Berlin our focus was on the issue of child sex tourism and these are reported later in the section on child and tourism. At the World Social Forum in Belem we were an active participant of the Global Tourism interventions Forum. The International campaign on mega resorts gained strength from this intervention.

Campaign Support Unit

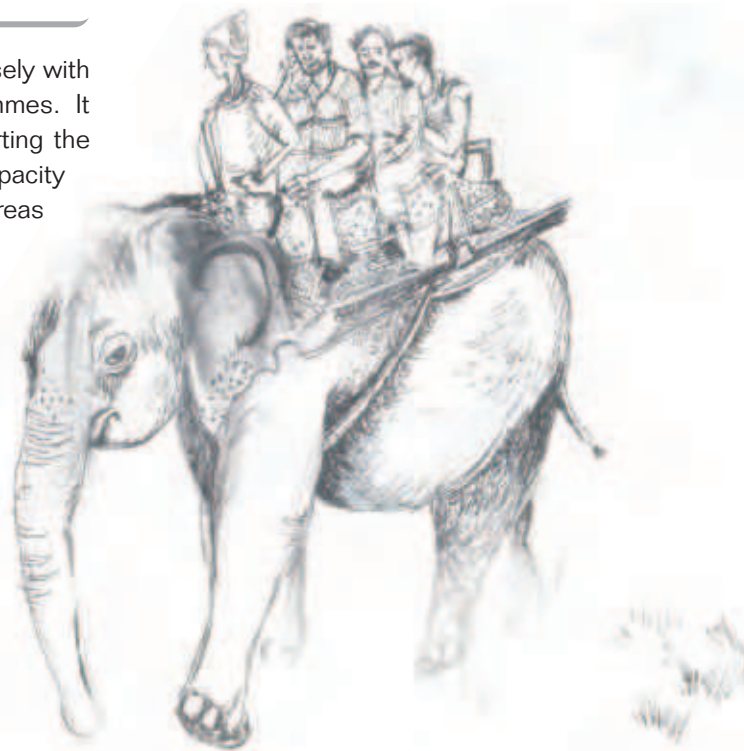
The Campaign Support Unit (CSU) works closely with theme based and state networking programmes. It plays a significant role in initiating and supporting the programmes on areas related to research, capacity building, campaigns and advocacy. The broad areas of work include:

- Strengthening the resource centre
- Wide & consistent outreach of tourism research, trends, analysis, media to strategic stakeholders we were able to disseminate nearly 5000 papers / publications /campaign letters
- Initiated and supported capacity building
- Initiated and supported timely research
- Initiated and supported mass and thematic campaigns on tourism & related issues
- Initiated and supported advocacy on tourism & related issues

Based on the demand we translated, printed and reprinted several documents. A detailed list is given in the Outputs section.

Enhancing some features further to the restructuring and redesigning exercise of our website was done for the second time with the website design and hosting vendor. To enable ease of navigation and information for the user to surf our content rich website was the goal. We worked out a very detailed architecture for the website, which has been finalized and is near completion. Simultaneously, we have been compiling the content to populate the website. Our current target is to provide the outputs and key interventions for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

EQUATIONS links with the media at the national level have been strengthened. With the launch of Mahua Memoirs, and subsequently with the release of our fact finding on the Himalayan Ski Village, Launch of the Andamans reports and the statement on World Tourism Day these have gathered strength. NDTV approached us with interest in screening Mahua Memoirs. However



the film director was not willing to shorten the film at that time and the monetary compensation was not agreeable to them. Hence this plan has gone into temporary cold storage! NDTV however approached EQUATIONS for ideas on a feature on tourism and we gave them extensive inputs and case studies. However we are unable to now find out if this has led to something conclusive. Our research on child sex tourism, the case of Spalti in Kerala also furthered media interest and reporting both nationally and internationally.

Women & Tourism

The women and tourism programme has been constrained by a lack of full time staff person. We decided to continue with our model of inviting senior external researchers to work on upcoming issues in which we did not have expertise, but also to ensure that “gender” was mainstreamed into all our work , research and papers.

In the review of rural tourism projects of the Ministry of Tourism and UNDP which is reported in detailed in Other Indian States we have paid great emphasis to the role and impacts on women. In the research paper on Tourism Liberalisation and Free Trade Agreements (in which special emphasis is on the EU India FTA) we have again brought in the dimension of impacts on women and gender based implications as a key axis of impact analysis. This is important as the work on gender impacts of trade liberalization is indeed quite rare particularly looking at the India example. Again in the research study on the Andamans the focus on women role and agency was clearly there.

We have been able to develop the first draft of an approach paper on HIV/AIDS and Tourism in which the emphasis is on the situation of women. This will need some more inputs from the internal team as it was done by an external researcher. We hope to have a better picture of the information gaps and the links that we can draw between the growth of tourism and HIV/AIDS to guide future work.

EQUATIONS has been following up on the Ministry of Women and Child Development commissioned research on Sex Tourism in India. While we did input into the research, it was given to an NGO which is not known for its work on women and tourism – so we are concerned about the rigour of the research and its recommendations.

EQUATIONS participated in a workshop on “Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and Gender” organised by Bread for the World for its partner organisations in March 2009 at Chennai. This served to build our capacity on HIV/AIDS and its impacts on women and children.

Governance, Law and Tourism

The Planning Commission of India came out with the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12). The process was preceded by forming of issue based Working Groups and Steering Committees by the Planning Commission who had submitted their respective issue based reports. The present Eleventh Plan Document is drawn from the recommendations of these reports, which EQUATIONS had analysed/critiqued in details and disseminated widely. We analysed the “Tourism Section and sent our comments to the Planning Commission and all concerned ministries and state departments, related parliamentary bodies and state planning bodies. The recommendation of the Planning Commission Constituted Working Group and Steering Committee Report on Tourism, that the Kerala Tourism (Conservation and Preservation of Areas) Act, 2005 should be replicated in all other states in the country was critiqued by EQUATIONS. It is quite heartening to note that this recommendation did not appear in the final document.

Our ongoing attempts to influence the Planning Commission got a fresh opportunity when we were invited to present at a national consultation on the ‘Role

of Civil Society and the Five Year Plan' organized by Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (a platform of civil society organisations) in collaboration with the Planning Commission of India in December 2008 at Delhi. EQUATIONS spoke on "Environment, Natural Resources & the 11th Five Year Plan" focussing on the contribution of and priorities for civil society engagement with the Five Year Plan and the possible mechanisms to strengthen role of civil society within the Five Year Plan process.

Dilution by governments of the basic regulatory frameworks on land use and land holdings, are increasingly playing the role of agent and facilitator of corporate investors, how tourism development encroaches on is documented in our paper "Privatization of Governance in Tourism". This was presented in Annual Conference of the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) on "Resist Privatization, Reclaim Public Services' in November 2008 in Bangalore, and also presented in World Social Forum 2009, Belem in the panel on Tourism, Public Policy and Democratic Participation: Proposals and Challenges for the Future of Responsible Tourism.

Following the Janadesh March organised by Ekta Parishad last year, the government had announced the setting up of a land reforms committee and fast-track courts at the state level and also formation of Parliamentary Committee to look into land issues. In taking forward these we organised a meeting of the

representatives of local CSOs with Ekta Parishad in Bangalore to understand the land issues in the state. This also helped us in understanding the various issues related to land in the state that has direct and indirect relationship to tourism.

Exploiting the market 'potential' of tourism by actively promoting tourism in forest areas is being privileged by governments both at centre and states with complete disregard to the rights of the local communities & adivasis. With the implementation of PESA & FRA we set out to understand the convergence, inter-linkages and changing power equations in these forest areas, in the context of expanding tourism. To strengthen our understanding of the FRA we have initiated research on PESA, Forest Rights Act and tourism. Our participation in the national workshop of Women Activists on "Strengthening Women's Rights In Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwelling Communities with respect to Forest Rights Act" in March 2009 at Delhi helped us to understand how FRA has integrated/ failed to integrate the role of women and their rights in claiming entitlements and ownership on natural resources under FRA.

We analysed the Gujarat State Panchayat Raj Act and Municipal Acts in the perspective of tourism. Special focus was given towards studying the implementation of Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act 1996.

We have translated several of our papers into Hindi, Privatization of Governance in Tourism, Kevadia Report, including the tables depicting the rights, functions and powers of the LSGIs as granted by the 73rd and 74th Amendment and that of the rights of the Grama Sabha under the Gujarat Panchayat Raj Act 1993.

There has been demand by civil society organisations, communities, students and people associated with tourism struggles and also a section of the tourism industry to understand the links between Environmental Law and Tourism. We roped in a law graduate to work with us on this. A course outline has been developed and basic material for a formal course or workshop is being prepared.



Tourism and Education

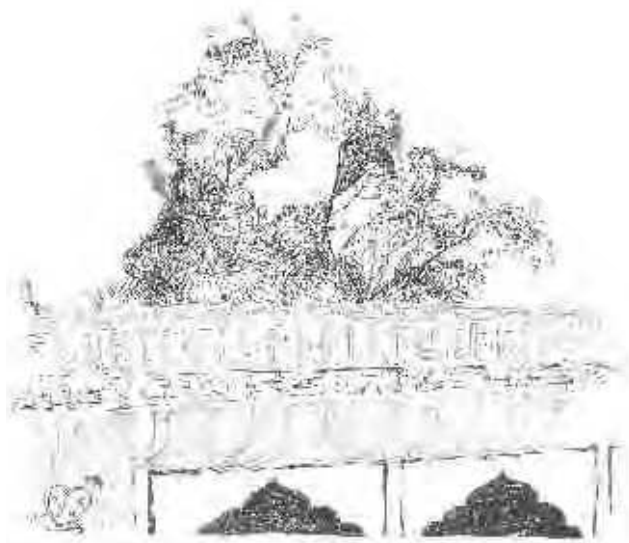
EQUATIONS received an invitation to attend a State level Seminar on 'Tourism Perspectives in Karnataka – Search for new avenues' in April 2008 at Al-Ameen College, Bangalore. It gave opportunity to interact with the students and academicians about EQUATIONS areas of work and to encourage students to get involved in our work as interns/volunteers.

On the World Tourism Day in September 2008, we conducted an essay writing competition in two universities (Andhra University-Vishakapatnam, Padmavati Mahila University- Tirupati) and in two Law Colleges (Montessori Mahila Law College & VD Siddartha Law College) in Vijayawada and at National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM) in Hyderabad.

EQUATIONS collaborated with Department of Social Work, Andhra University, Vishakapatnam and conducted a debate competition on tourism issues in October 2008. The objective was to invite the perspectives of the students on tourism development in AP and also help them to become aware of various upcoming issues regarding tourism. It was hoped that this would lead to enthusiasm on the part of students to form student clubs. This did not happen but will be followed up.

EQUATIONS had interactions with the Dean of Indian Institute of Planning & Management, Bangalore to interact with students from the Institute on tourism issues. As part of the UNEP World Environment Day EQUATIONS made a presentation on climate change & tourism at IIPM, Bangalore in June 2008. As part of the Women's Cell activities of Acharya Institute of Management & Sciences Institute, a presentation on the topic of women, tourism & safety was present in August 2008 at Bangalore. This was in continuation to the presentation we made on the International Women's Day on women and tourism.

We gave orientation on tourism issues to students from SDM Institute for Management Development as part of



the Institute's desire of giving their students exposure on matters of public, social and governance related issues in September 2008. The sessions included presentations on Tourism – Impacts (Economic, Social and Environmental), and Sustainable/ Responsible Tourism, Governance, Law & Tourism and Tourism in Goa. Students were also shown various documentary films on tourism highlighting the impacts.

We were invited to make a presentation on "Ecotourism in Kerala: Trends and Challenges" highlighting the need for community participation at the UGC Sponsored State Level Seminar on Ecotourism in Kerala – Challenges and Prospects in January 2009 at Sacred Heart College, Kochi. We presented critical issues and new perspectives in ecotourism to academicians and students. We were invited to deliver a lecture on Social and Environmental responsibility in Tourism and to interact with the students as part of the state level camp of the tourism clubs in Kerala in January 2009. This helped create awareness on the critical impacts of tourism to a group of students and academicians who have mostly looked at the positive aspects of tourism.

We were invited by Visthar, Bangalore to handle a session on 'Tourism Impacts' in October 2008 to a group of students from the United States. EQUATIONS was invited by Pipal Tree, Bangalore to handle a session on 'Tourism Impacts' on February 2009 with students



from Ramapo College, New Jersey. The students from various streams were doing a four month programme on understanding India and our session fitted into their learning on Sustainable Development in India. Our presentation on 'Rethinking Tourism' sensitized the students on the impacts of tourism.

Brandeis University (Heller School) requested for a set of our material on Tourism for the students of their course on sustainable development. We have also sent a pack of material to the University in Taiwan. A set of material to libraries of TISS and the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) Anand Gujarat, Assam Institute of Management to create awareness of critical perspectives on tourism. Academicians from Al Ameen College of Arts & Sciences, Bangalore and MTA Department from Bangalore University made use of EQUATIONS' library for reference.

Ecosystems, Communities & Tourism

EQUATIONS produced a statement on the World Tourism Day in September 2008, titled "No more

holidays from accountability! We need stronger environmental regulation for tourism", which was widely disseminated. We had many responses to the statement – from network partners, Secretary Tourism in Kerala, "responsible" tourism practitioners agreeing that the time had come to state these issues unequivocally.

EQUATIONS was invited by World Wildlife Fund of India (WWF, India) in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism (MoT) as a resource person to take a session on environmental impacts of tourism in an Orientation Programme in Tourism and Environmental Laws for Service Providers in September 2008 at Delhi. We took the opportunity to bring into the realm of discussion issues on conservation and climate change, stating it was important to move beyond Environmental Sustainability towards Just Sustainability. The discussions generated lot of heated debate. However by the end of the workshop they were willing to acknowledge that many of these were important and began to challenge each other on these issues.

EQUATIONS partnered by Ms. Seema Bhatt, Biodiversity Consultant has edited (and in part) written a book titled "Conservation, Capital and Communities:

Perspectives on Ecotourism Development in India” for Centre for Environment Education, Knowledge for Sustainable Development as part of their Environment & Development series. The book speaks to policy and decision makers and civil society organizations; campaigners and activists, who could advocate for better formulation and implementation of conservation and development policies and practices. The book was launched in September 2008 at Delhi.

EQUATIONS published “Coastal Regulation in India – Why do we need a New Notification?” A move by the MoEF to replace the current Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 (CRZ) with a management notification based on a review carried out by a committee headed by MS Swaminathan has sparked large scale concerns and protests from various constituencies. Civil society organisations including alliances, associations of fisher folk and coastal community groups are engaged in campaigns to make coastal regulation more effective, given the demand from corporations and industries to have coastal areas open for development. This research paper involved almost all members of EQUATIONS team as the close links between coastal states, coastal regulation and tourism are worked with by all programmes.

EQUATIONS was invited by the UNDP and MoEF to attend a meeting of the Marrakesh Task Force in February 2009 at Delhi. One of the themes is sustainable tourism. We were able to draw attention to the lack of environmental regulation in the country hampering prospects of sustainable tourism.

We had an interesting opportunity (in collaboration with the Globalisation Impacts and Tourism programme) to link Globalisation, Trade, Biodiversity and Tourism as we were invited to organise and chair a workshop on the issue on the occasion of an International Conference “Conserving Nature in a Globalising India” – to mark the occasion of Bombay Natural History society’s (BNHS) 125th anniversary in February 2009 at Bangalore. We addressed an audience of mostly ecologists and conservationists about tourism and how it linked to globalisation, trade and conservation. Our paper on Globalisation Trade and Tourism: Impacts on

Biodiversity was presented and will be published in the conference proceedings. We also used the opportunity to question current conservation paradigms and in particular challenge the BNHS for filing a petition in the Court against the FRA. For us it was interesting that tourism featured in many of the scientific presentations as one of the factors that impeded conservation efforts.

Tourism is actively being propagated as a means for biodiversity conservation in the form of ecotourism in many protected and non-protected areas. At the same time, indigenous and local communities are being displaced in the name of conservation.



Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh

The Life as Commerce Project supported by the Global Forest Coalition aimed to address environmental and social impacts of ecotourism as a market-based conservation scheme. Research in four Indian states – Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Andaman Islands looks at the impacts of these schemes on community governance over biodiversity, and the specific impacts on women, Indigenous Peoples, and if possible on other marginalized sectors of society. Critical issues that the constituencies (in this case indigenous and local communities) are confronting namely; Rights to access and use of resources (land, forests): Schedule V Areas; Local Governance: 73rd Amendment, PESA Act; Displacement and marginalisation; impacts on women and Diversion of common property resources. Tourism development was located and critiqued in the context of these critical



Mixed messages Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh



Mohda Eco Resort, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary,
Chhattisgarh

issues. We collaborated with various organisations to do this in Chhattisgarh - Nadi Ghati Morcha, in Madhya Pradesh - Ekta Parishad, in Uttarakhand - Janadhaar, Mountain Shepherds Initiative and Vimalbhai, and in Andamans – Society for Andaman & Nicobar Ecology. Initiated in 2006, this project was completed in January 2009, with the papers due for final publication. Through this project we have been able to strengthen our networks with groups in these biodiversity and forest rich areas. We realized also that we need to invest much more time at the field level for primary research so that issues can be understood and covered thoroughly.

As per the previous Environmental Impact Assessment Notification (EIA), certain tourism projects were required to prepare EIA and submit it to the authorities to obtain a clearance. However, the MoEF's EIA 2006 has omitted tourism from the list of sectors that need to get environmental clearance. This is a serious issue and we plan strong campaign to get tourism reinstated in the sectors that require environmental clearance.

EQUATIONS participated in a consultation to prepare an environmental manifesto that would be the basis for political lobbying during the Indian parliamentary elections and to lobby with the new government that will be formed at the centre. This was organised by South Asian Dialogue for Ecological Democracy and Tamil Nadu Environmental Council in March 2009 at New Delhi. Tourism's impact on environment and indigenous and local communities was highlighted and included into

the draft manifesto. Issues of policy and law were also included. The organisers are yet to finalise the manifesto. It will be a useful tool for future lobbying work.



Globalisation Impacts and Tourism

Our dossier on the interventions of International Financial Institutions in the Tourism sector based on the Asian experience was produced in the first half year. Titled "IFI's and Tourism: Perspectives and Debates" it has been widely disseminated both nationally and internationally. We have also negotiated with network partners to help us translate this into Hindi and that should happen in 2009-10. The publication of reports on the World Bank Independent Peoples Tribunal in 2008 (in which we co-organised a panel on Tourism) is coming up and we contributed to the report on the panel that we had organised along with Alternatives, Goa.

We participated at the XII Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in April 2008. Civil Society Forum was organised as part of the Ministerial conference. In a meeting on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) (organised by SOMO and Christian Aid), EQUATIONS presented a short note on the risk on unregulated liberalization in the tourism sector and potential impacts on developing countries.

EQUATIONS was also invited to be part of a self group in an exposure visit on EU-India Trade relations organised by WIDE, Europe in association with the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF) in June 2008, Brussels, Belgium. The aim of the visit was to meet with various stakeholders in relation to the ongoing EU-India FTA negotiations such as representatives of DG Trade and DG RELEX of the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament in order to raise social, gender and development concerns with the intention to influence and shape the EU-India trade relations in such a way that they are consistent with women's rights, social and gender justice and environmental sustainability. The meeting with Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Sajjad Karim, Rapporteur on the EU-India FTA was particularly important as it sets the platform for providing strong inputs and raising concerns directly to the European Parliament on the FTA. Following the advocacy visit we prepared a note

that was sent to MEP on the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), in an attempt to raise concerns directly to the European Parliament on the FTA. Members of the civil society based Forum on FTAs based in Delhi were also able to meet the MEP delegation. The Rapporteur unfortunately took very little note of civil society concerns in the MEP delegation's submission to the European Commission, resulting in civil society organisations having to devise fresh strategies. EQUATIONS sent the note to MEP Karim, as also to the Indian Ministry of Commerce.

While our not being a Delhi based group has often handicapped us in being more active participants of frequent strategy meetings of the Forum on FTAs, we have through email kept the links with the strategies.

EQUATIONS participated in the World Tourism Investment Summit in October 2008 at Busan, South Korea. This was to build our own capacity and awareness of mainstream tourism industry functioning globally. Interestingly we were the only NGO in the space as well as the only representative from India. It was useful to see how one-sided the attempts of industry were to push for more growth with scarce concern about sustainability or impact issues. Participating in this conference also helped us internally to recognise that our somewhat euro centric approach in the critique of international tourism had to change – the push for growth and the negative impacts is now led by South East Asia, Latin America (led by the North American industry) and China!

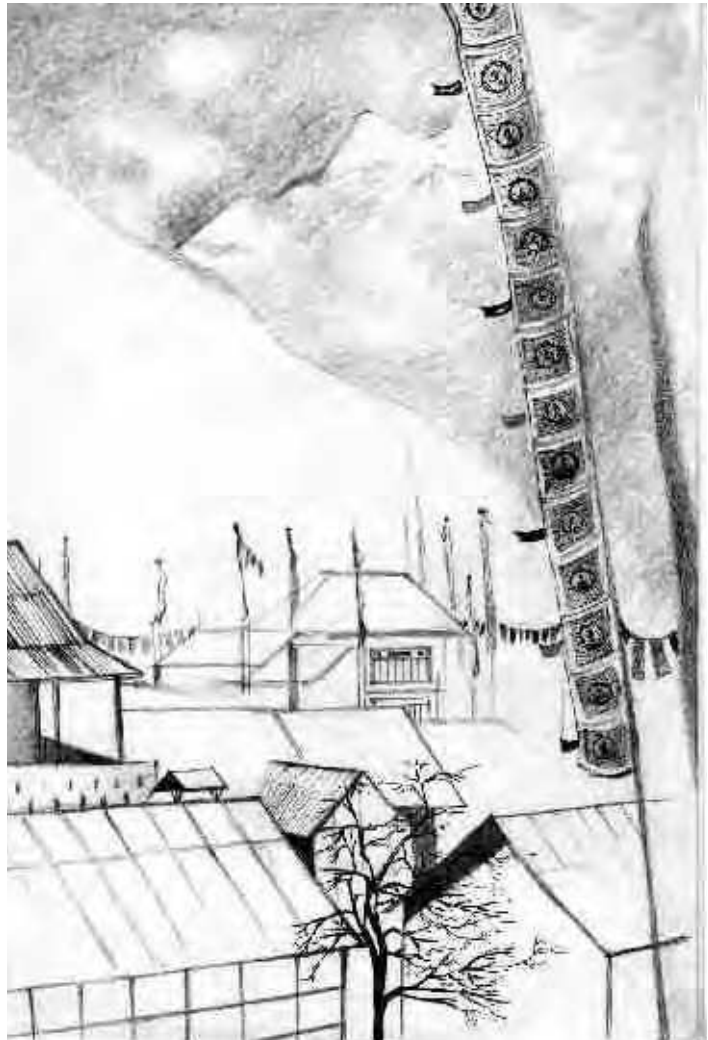
EQUATIONS also furthered the meetings and proposals with HBF on working on a research paper on the Impacts of liberation through Regional and Free Trade agreements on Tourism. Specific focus on the European Union-India Foreign Trade Agreement was to be made and impacts were particularly social impacts on women, livelihood, environmental sustainability and regional integration. The research study, based on secondary research, is completed and we are waiting for feedback from HBF on the draft report to finalise and make public.

EQUATIONS has been interested in the issue of Small and Medium Enterprises in tourism. Federation of Small

and Medium Hotels and Guest Houses in Goa (FOSSAM) planned a study and we offered to input into the design, support it in a small way and give our feedback on the draft. We had also negotiated with FOSSAM to negotiate for the study to be presented at Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) National Convention, but unfortunately FISME's plans on that fizzled out, probably due to the onset of the global financial crisis.

EQUATIONS also negotiated a research proposal with SOMO (or The Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations) the Netherlands, to work on corporate monitoring research using a case study approach with focus on tourism. This again has been an issue on our radar for a while. While the monitoring of corporate behaviour is ongoing we need to develop a clear framework for understanding corporate accountability that goes beyond the increasingly popular rhetoric of corporate social responsibility. In fact, as reported earlier, we have been having spirited and confrontative conversations with some industry players on this issue including the Managing Director of HSV. Two of our campaigns on Environmental Law and Corporate Accountability, as well as on Mega Resorts (which is a collaborative effort with many international groups) have focussed on the unsustainable models of tourism and corporate impunity.

We had the opportunity to participate in a workshop on Corporate Accountability-Campaigning Tools and Strategies organised by Civil Initiatives for Development and Peace (CIVIDEP) in March 2009 in Bangalore. The panellists and the participants were mainly individuals and organizations fighting corporate wrongdoing and lack of accountability. Indian cases were used to illustrate the strategies used by groups - legal loopholes, communication strategies, international forums and guidelines and role of governmental organizations were discussed to strengthen the capacity of participants for future battles with corporate. We also networked with potential partners to fight



issues related to tourism. Bart Slob from our research partner SOMO was also present, giving us the opportunity to take discussions further on the methodology of the research and how we could align it with similar research in Brazil.

EQUATIONS also had a chance to participate at the ITB Berlin in March 2009. While many of our interventions were focussed on the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation in Tourism, we were able to emphasise in advocacy meetings with tour operators, press conferences, workshops and at the task force on child protection of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) for the need for more accountable and equitable tourism.

Child and Tourism

We participated in a “South Asia Consultation on Care and Protection of Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking” organised by SANLAAP in May 2008 at West Bengal. The meeting served as a platform to take forward and address issues on trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation and other exploitation purposes in the South Asia Region where we could bring in the tourism perspective very strongly. This meeting was a follow up meeting to the Region Networking Resources Exchange meeting held in Kathmandu in 2007 organized by ECPAT.

EQUATIONS sent comments, suggestions and feedback on the draft “Protocol on Prevention, Rescue, Repatriation and Rehabilitation of Trafficked & Migrant Child Labour” in August 2008 circulated by the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL). Our critique and comments were in the context of tourism.



At Code of Conduct training organised by ECPAT

EQUATIONS sent comments and input into the Draft Kerala Children Code Bill drafted by the Kerala Law Reform Commission in February 2009. Our inputs were in particular context of tourism linked exploitation of children. We also recommended that a chapter on Child Abuse which clearly defines child abuse, child sex tourism, onus of the establishments, responsibility of

the stakeholders like studio, photographer, tourist resorts, hotels etc to be incorporated in the draft Bill. The State level consultation on the draft Kerala Children's Code Bill was organised by KMSS in January 2009. There were representatives from Department of Law, Department of Social Welfare, Child Line, Child Welfare Committee members etc. EQUATIONS comments to the Kerala Children Code Bill were used as the base document in the discussions.

We participated in State Level CSO Consultation on Role of Civil Society Organisations in Elimination of Child Labour organised by International Labour Organization and Campaign against Child Labour Karnataka in December 2008. This meeting was to involve wider CSOs involvement on the issue of child rights and to form a CSO committee to monitor child labour and other issues on child rights violations in the State.

With ECPAT International support we conducted research on male child sexual abuse in three of India's major pilgrimage centers – Tirupati in AP, Puri in Orissa and Guruvayoor in Kerala. The study identifies key actors who are involved in and/or facilitate prostitution of male children. The study documents the causes, circumstances, locations and profile of these children and the context in which such sexual exploitation continues unchecked. While the research focuses on the male child, many of our findings and recommendations cover a range of stakeholders mentioning that these recommendations are equally applicable to girl children in similar context. Following our research we had three state consultations to present the draft report. In collaboration with Peoples Action for Social Service (PASS), Tirupati in September 2008 at Tirupati, AP, in collaboration with People's Cultural Centre (PECUC), Orissa in November 2008 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa. In Kerala KMSS organised a “State Level Consultation on Child Abuse” in collaboration with Social Welfare Department, Kerala in May 2008 at Trivandrum. EQUATIONS shared the findings of our research.

ECPAT International globally e-launched the investigation research study titled “Unholy Nexus: Male



Consultation on Male child sexual abuse in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Child Sexual Exploitation in Pilgrim Tourism Sites in India: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa” (Report on Male Child Sexual Exploitation) in March 2009. This report was disseminated to our network partners, media, and government urging action towards protection of children.

At the ITB Berlin In March 2009, EQUATIONS was able to influence industry representatives on different occasions. We participated in a Press conference organized by ECPAT Germany and spoke about the situation of child abuse and tourism in India. In a special advocacy meeting with German tourism operators which included DRV (Deutscher Reise Verband) - the largest association of German Tour Operators and German travel group TUI we stressed the opportunities and importance of their support combating of child sex tourism in India. We also presented at a workshop titled Sun, Sand and Sustainable Tourism organised by our network partners EED Tourism Watch.

In a series of events following the Spalti case in Kerala we participated in workshops and consultations to garner civil society support for more stringent laws and robust mechanisms. We spoke about “Combating Sexual Abuse of Children in Tourism” in a workshop organised by Human Rights Law Network at Trivandrum in December 2008. In a workshop on child sexual abuse organised by Sathyasa Bhavan, Ranni – Kunnathanam,

Kerala in January 2009 we brought in the links between the child abuse and tourism. It helped EQUATIONS to take forward our discussion on the draft Kerala Children Code Bill and connect to policy discussions to a larger platform.

We participated at the “South Asia Forum (SAF) Regional Preparatory Consultation for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents” organised by ECPAT in August 2008 at Kathmandu.

The World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents was organised by the Brazilian Government in partnership with UNICEF, ECPAT and NGO Groups in November 2008 at Rio de Janeiro. EQUATIONS was invited by ECPAT International to present a paper on “The Changing face of tourism, travel and Information Communication and Technology and the implications for protecting children against sexual exploitation”. We contributed to the thematic sessions on “Sexual exploitation on children in tourism” and “Child Prostitution.” This was a good opportunity for us to share with a large international forum our experience and findings on the research on “Male Child Sexual Abuse in Pilgrim sites in India” and to bring in perspective of tourism and exploitation of children in India and South Asia and the role played by our governments.

At the Expert Meeting organised by ECPAT Germany and ECPAT Netherlands in March 2009 at Berlin EQUATIONS spoke on “Protection of Children from Sexual exploitation in tourism and the role of tourism professionals, NGOs and law enforcement”. This meeting was an opportunity for us to learn many examples from North and South on their efforts in combating Child Sex Tourism and child pornography. The meeting was also attended by a number of law-enforcement officers from Interpol, Europol and national police forces. There was discussion on what attempts were made by different countries like Costa Rica, South Africa, Kenya etc towards combating CST.

EQUATIONS requested for an opportunity to present at the 24th UNWTO Task Force for the Protection of



At the World Congress III in Rio against sexual exploitation of children



Consultation on Protection of Children at ITB Berlin

Children in Tourism in March 2009 at ITB Berlin. Our presentation "Efforts to combat CST in India - perspective of civil society" was the first time in the ten years since that task force was formed, that a representative from India had spoken. EQUATIONS emphasised the need for its Ministry of Tourism to take serious action on links between child exploitation and tourism. It urged the UNWTO to work more directly with National Governments and National Tourism Boards and to work across the spectrum of the industry to address child sexual abuse. The Secretary, MoT, was present in the meeting and after EQUATIONS presentation he admitted that he was ignorant of these facts and would now commit taking action to address the issue!

Indigenous People and Tourism

World Social Forum (WSF) 2009 took place at Belem, Brazil in January 2009. At WSF, the lead was taken by Latin American groups working on tourism issues. The overall objective was to contribute towards a sustainable tourism model based on the involvement of local communities, integrating solidarity economy and environmental conservation, improving the quality of life of the populations and promoting social and environmental justice. EQUATIONS was invited to bring in experiences from India. We presented and made critical contributions to two panels: "Tourism, Public Policy and Democratic Participation: Proposals and Challenges for the Future of Responsible Tourism" and "Community-based Tourism Networks: Alternative Models, Resistance and Social Control". The discussions in the Tourism Forum brought out the commonalities of issues in relation to tourism development in most developing and underdeveloped countries and the essential need to work toward effective regulatory measures to stop appropriation of land for corporate use, exploitation of natural and human resources, stop public financing of tourism mega-enterprises and ensure the constitutional and human rights of the communities, support the resistance struggles across the world and promote the alternatives and concrete experiences of community-based and solidarity tourism.

The participation provided us with an opportunity to share experiences and voice concerns from the perspective of tourism, put forward learning's on the impacts of tourism and their implications, discuss alternative strategies, mobilize, engage and learn from different practices around the world in a spirit of mutual inspiration and solidarity. The group denounced the hegemonic tourism policies as the main obstacle to build another model of tourism. The groups called upon all citizens of the world to contribute to the consolidation of community-based, solidarity, just and sustainable tourism, through their organizations and as conscious consumers. The outcomes of the various tourism



Making a point World Social Forum Belem 2009

interventions were the Belem Declaration under the banner of the Global Tourism Interventions Forum and the launch of a global campaign against mega resorts.

Zones of Contestation: Call for a Moratorium on Mega resorts – The discussions prior to and at the World Social Forum paved way for the Campaign against Mega resorts - a trend visible in all countries mapped from Caribbean islands, South America, Africa and Asia. In March 2009 a campaign was jointly launched coordinated by Tourism Investigation & Monitoring Team (tim-team), Thailand and EQUATIONS in consultation with partners from Latin America. It has received endorsement from wide range of organisations and communities across the world. Tourism Concern, supported this campaign through a press release put out by the organisation and also carried the campaign letter in March 2009 edition of Tourism in Focus newsletter.



Moving forward:

In the year we were able to interact much more with communities directly engaging with tourism. We increased our engagement with students and young people – but not as much as we would have liked and need to. Our engagement with industry increased as well. There was a great degree of inter-dependence between various programmes within EQUATIONS on research, campaigns and advocacy and building networks.

We have been able to continue broad basing our presence in other parts of the country. Many people's movements, groups, grassroots organizations and platforms have started acknowledging impacts of tourism as human rights issue. Tourism features in statements, declarations of many such movements not just because of our engagement with them, but their own analysis of the manner in which tourism is growing without accountability and regulations.

We are convinced that when our research is strategic, of high quality and bold, the impacts have been visible. As our report indicates our work has spread to many regions of India – and we have followed peoples struggles against tourism adding value by strong research and direct solidarity. Uttarakhand, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Ladakh and Goa have been areas where our engagement has grown stronger. The review of Endogenous Tourism Project was a particularly fascinating and valuable learning opportunity to engage with community based rural tourism in 36 sites in the country. However, what we do feel good about is that we were able to respond and leverage key opportunities – even when unexpected – whether campaigns or struggles or capacity building engagement or dialogue.

Key Funding Support

Our core donors **Bread for the World (BftW)** and **Misereor**, have continued to provide critical support to our network-building programme. In addition, Bread for the World gave us an additional grant to enable us to complete “Vanishing Trails” a compilation of documentary on Nomadic and De-notified tribes in India. The significant part of the filming came from the project supported by HIVOS (India Regional office). BftW also gave us an additional grant for participation in the World Social Forum 2009 at Belem.

We partnered with the **Global Forest Coalition** in the national (India) Life as Commerce project for specific analysis on impacts of ecotourism promotion activities in and around ecologically sensitive areas. GFC was supported by SwedBio.

We received support from **Action Aid International** (Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme) to coordinate work on a research and advocacy project in the Andaman Islands titled “Building a base for Advocating Sustainable Tourism in the Andaman Islands”. We coordinated the project with Kalpavriksh, Society for Andaman and Nicobar Ecology (SANE), INTACH-Andamans Chapter and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) being the other project core team members.

With support from **End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purpose (ECPAT International)**, we undertook an investigation research study on “Male Child Sexual Abuse in Pilgrim Tourism Sites in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa”.

With support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** we undertook the documentation and review of the Endogenous Tourism Project of the MoT and UNDP. This project was envisaged as a community based (developed, planned, owned and managed) venture aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods through tourism.

We were the coordinating Indian organization for “Alleviating Poverty through nature tourism” covering India and African countries. This was with support from **African Safari Lodge Foundation** on a Ford Foundation project.

With support from **Heinrich Boll Foundation** we worked on a research paper on the Impacts on Tourism through Regional and Free Trade agreements.

SOMO, Nederland, is supporting our work on corporate monitoring research using a case study approach with focus on tourism.



**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
EQUATIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008-09
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2009**

	AMOUNT (INR)
ASSETS	5,002,833.33
Fixed Assets	55,911.00
Cash and Bank Balances	1,009,040.33
Investments & Deposits	3,672,408.00
Loans & Advances	265,474.00
TOTAL ASSETS	5,002,833.33
LIABILITIES	5,002,833.33
Capital Fund	4,707,980.48
Corpus Fund	25,000.00
Other Liabilities	269,852.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,002,833.33

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD
1st APRIL 2008 TO 31st MARCH 2009**

	AMOUNT (INR)
INCOME	10,220,891.61
Grants & Donations	9,494,172.75
Contribution for Travel	488,981.86
Honorarium	64,528.00
Bank Interest	173,009.00
Miscellaneous Income	200.00
EXPENDITURE	11,085,456.14
Programme and Project Expenses	6,433,264.78
Workshops & Meetings	290,165.00
Staff Capacitation	17,748.00
Personnel Costs	3,157,257.86
Operational Expenses	426,988.50
Office Rent, Water and Electricity	491,346.00
Licence, Fees and Taxes	18,275.00
Auditor's Remuneration	87,210.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	15,930.00
Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	135,007.00
Depreciation	12,264.00
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME DURING THE YEAR	864,564.53

Events that Saw EQUATIONS' Presence 2008-09

Meetings:

April 2008

- Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT) Consultation on 25th Anniversary from 7th - 8th April 2008 organised by ECOT at Chiang Mai, Thailand
- State level Seminar on 'Tourism Perspectives in Karnataka – Search for New Avenues' on 16th April 2008 organised by Al-Ameen College at Bangalore, Karnataka
- The XII Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 17th – 25th April 2008 organised by UNCTAD at Accra, Ghana

May 2008

- South Asia Consultation on Care and Protection of Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Tourism from 27th– 28th, May 2008 organised by SANLAAP at Kolkata, West Bengal

June 2008

- Awareness program with students of Indian Institute of Planning & Management (IIPM) on 5th June 2008 organised by IIPM at Bangalore, Karnataka.
- Workshop on 'Panchayat Rights & Tourism' on 7th June 2008 at Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (*Co-organised with Vishaka Zilla Sarpanchs Forum and SAADANA*)
- "Combating Coastal Challenges – National Meeting for Joint Action for Coastal Protection" from 24th - 25th June 2008 organized by Citizen, Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Consultation to launch the research report " Rethink Tourism in the Andamans – Towards Building a Base for Sustainable Tourism" on 18th June 2008 at Port Blair, Andamans (*Organised*)
- Round tables on Globalisation, Development and Poverty Reduction from 23rd – 25th June 2008 organised by WIDE, Europe in association with the Heinrich Boll Foundation at Brussels, Belgium

- Consultation for National release of " Rethink Tourism in the Andamans Towards Building a Base for Sustainable Tourism" on 26th June 2008 at New Delhi (*Organised*)

August 2008

- Awareness program with students of Acharya Institute of Management & Sciences on 12th August 2008 at Bangalore, Karnataka
- IV State Level Responsible Tourism State Committee meeting on 13th August 2008, organised by Department of Tourism at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- State Level Consultation on Child Abuse on 14th August 2008 organised by Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society (KMSS) at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- ECPAT International-South Asia Forum (SAF) Regional Preparatory Consultation for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents from 27th -29th August 2008 organised by ECPAT International at Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Orientation Programme for the staff of GITPAC International on critical issues in tourism on 26th August 2008, organised by GITPAC at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Workshop on sensitizing / building awareness to the implementing agencies about rural tourism, impacts of tourism - social, economic, environmental aspects, sustainability, concept of carrying capacities and in preparation of charters for sustainable tourism from 18th – 23rd August 2008 organised by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) at Anand, Gurajat
- Consultations on draft CMZ on 22nd August 2008 organised by Centre for Environment Education commissioned by Ministry of Environment and Forest at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- State level meeting on Coastal Corridor from 23rd-24th August 2008 organised by KERATAM Network at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

September 2008

- Consultation on "Situational Analysis on Male Child Sexual Abuse in Pilgrim Tourism State in India: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala & Orissa" on 6th September 2008 at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh (*Co-organised by Peoples Action for Social Service (PASS), Tirupati*)

- Orientation on Tourism Issues for students from SDM Institute for Management Development from 29th September – 4th October 2008 at Bangalore, Karnataka (Organised).
- Orientation programme for ecotourism services providers on 28th & 29th September 2008 organised by Worldwide Fund for Nature in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism and Ecotourism Society of India at New Delhi.

October 2008

- Release of the book “*Odala Thudithakke Kedu*” on 1st October 2008 organised by Vimochana and Streelekha at Bangalore, Karnataka.
- World Tourism Investment Summit from 6th-8th October 2009 at Busan, South Korea
- Awareness program on Impacts of Tourism with group of students from United States organised by Visthar on 7th October 2009 at Bangalore, Karnataka
- Meeting to chalk out strategies to combat child sex abuse in the coastal region on 26th October 2008 organized by KMSS at Athiyannoor Block Panchayat, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

November 2008

- General Body Meeting of National Alliance of Peoples’ Movement (NAPM) on 9th & 10th November 2008 organised by NAPM at Raigad, Maharashtra
- Meeting to chalk out strategies to combat child sex abuse in the coastal region on 14th November 2008 organized by KMSS at Karumkulam Grama Panchayat, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- 6th Annual Convention of the Jharkhand Jangal Bachao Andolan (JJBA) on 17th& 18th November 2008 organised by JJBA at Ranchi, Jharkhand
- Consultation on “Situational Analysis on Male Child Sexual Abuse in Pilgrim Tourism State in India: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala & Orissa” on 18th November 2008 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa (Co-organised by People’s Cultural Centre (PECUC), Bhubaneswar)
- State level Meeting of the Environmental Working Group on Responsible Tourism on 21st November 2008, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents from 25th-30th November 2008 organised by Brazilian Government in

partnership with UNICEF, ECPAT and NGO Groups, at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- Annual Meet of Women’s Christian Alumni on 28th November 2008 at Bangalore, Karnataka

December 2008

- Workshop on Child Abuse on 10th December 2008 organised by Human Rights Law Network at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Session on Rethink Tourism for the Rotary Club members on 10th December 2008 at Bangalore, Karnataka
- State Level Consultation on Law of Children in Kerala on 12th December 2008 organised by KMSS at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- State Level CSO Consultation on Child Labour on 19th December 2008 organised by International Labour Organisation and Campaign against Child Labour-Karnataka at Bangalore, Karnataka.
- Consultation on ‘Role of Civil Society and the Five Year Plan’ on 15th December 2008 organized by Wada Na Todo in collaboration with the Planning Commission of India at New Delhi
- Public consultation on the constitutionality, programs, influence and impact on democracy “Para statal agencies and task forces in Karnataka” on 20th December 2008 organised by PUCL –Karnataka at Bangalore, Karnataka
- Stakeholder’s meeting at Kovalam on 22nd December 2009 organised by the Department of Tourism at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- International Conference “Making Travellers’ Philanthropy Work for Development, Business, and Conservation” from 3rd-5th December 2008 organised by the Centre on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development, in Arusha, Tanzania

January 2009

- Consultation on Daft Tourism Policy for Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 2nd January 2009 at Port Blair (Organised)
- State level Workshop on Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation on 6th January 2009 organised by WWF–India at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Workshop on Child Sexual Abuse on 9th January 2009 organised by Sathyasa Bhavan, Ranni Kunnathanam at Thiruvalla, Kerala

- Consultation on “Protection of People Rights and Conservation of Forests and Wildlife in Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks” from 10th -12th January 2009 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh (Co-organised by Nadi Ghati Morcha)
- Discussion on Kerala Children’s Code Bill on 13th January 2009 organised by KMSS at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- State Level Seminar on Ecotourism in Kerala – Challenges and Prospects on 16th January 2009 at Kochi, Kerala
- International Conference on the tangible and intangible heritage issues of Hampi from 16th – 18th January 2009 organised by Friends of Hampi at Bangalore, Karnataka
- EQUATIONS facilitated a workshop on 19th January 2009 organised by Samvada on Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) at Bangalore
- Meeting to chalk out strategies to combat child sex abuse in the coastal region on 22nd January 2009 organized by KMSS at Kottukal Grama Panchayat at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Stakeholder’s meeting on 28th January 2009 organised by Department of Tourism at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Consultation on Combating Child Labour through Initiatives of CSO Network in Karnataka on 30th January 2009 organised by Campaign Against Child Labour – Karnataka at Bangalore, Karnataka
- State level camp of the tourism clubs in Kerala on 31st January 2009 organised by Department of Tourism at Kumarakom, Kerala
- World Social Forum (WSF) 2009 from 27th January - 1st February 2009 at Belem, Brazil
- Consultation on “Tourism Issues in Uttarakhand” on 8th February 2009 at Ramnagar, Uttarakhand, (Co-organised by Vimalbhai)
- Consultation on “Save Western Ghats” from 8th-10th February 2009 organised by Appiko-Chipko Andolan, Peaceful Society and Key Stone Foundation at Goa
- Training programme in Kannada on 'Working with Newspapers' from 10th-12th February 2009 organized by Communication for Development & Learning at Bangalore, Karnataka
- Awareness program on Impact of Tourism with students from Ramapo College, New Jersey organised by Pipal Tree on 16th February 2009 at Bangalore, Karnataka.
- Technical session on “Tourism, Trade and Globalisation: Impacts on Biodiversity” on 18th February 2009 during Bombay Natural History Society’s 125th Anniversary Conference from 17th – 19th February 2009 at Bangalore, Karnataka
- Training on the Code of Conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism from 24th-26th February 2009 organised by ECPAT International at Goa

March 2009

February 2009

- Meeting on Marrakech Task Forces to Build Cooperation on Sustainable Consumption & Production in South Asia on 3rd February 2009 organised by Marrakech Task Forces, United Nations Environment Programme & Ministry of Environment & Forests at New Delhi
- Consultation on “Tourism Issues in Uttarakhand” on 7th February 2009 at Rishikesh, Uttarakhand (Co-organised by Vimalbhai)
- Expert Meeting on Combating Child Sex Tourism from 8th – 10th March 2009 organised by ECPAT Germany and ECPAT Netherlands at Berlin, Germany
- A session by Coreen from Vimochana on ‘Violence against Women’ on 9th March 2009 organised by Focus Bookshop, Bangalore, Karnataka
- Workshop on Critical Issues in Tourism - Tourism Impacts, Tourism Models & Laws and Policies on 9th March 2009 for Biome (Organised)
- 24th Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism on 13th March 2009 organised by UNWTO at ITB, Berlin, Germany
- Consultation to prepare an environmental manifesto on 15th & 16th March 2009 organised by South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy (SADED), National Adivasi Andolan (NAA) and Tamil Nadu Environmental Council at New Delhi.
- Partners Meeting 2009 and Workshop on Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and Gender from 16th - 18th March 2009 organised by Bread for the World at Chennai, Tamil Nadu

- Consultation on Draft Tourism Policy for Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 24th March 2009 organised by Department of Information, Publicity & Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration at Port Blair, Andamans.
- Workshop on Corporate Accountability-Campaigning Tools and Strategies organised by Civil Initiatives for Development and Peace (CIVIDEP) on 13th & 14th March 2009 at Bangalore, Karnataka

EQUATIONS Publications

- Dossier on *"IFI's and Tourism: Perspectives and Debates"* May 2008
- Research study *"Rethink Tourism in the Andamans – Towards Building a Base for Sustainable Tourism"* in June 2008
- Summary of the research study titled *"Rethink Tourism in the Andamans – Towards Building a Base for Sustainable Tourism"* in June 2008
- *"Sustainability in Tourism – A Rural Tourism Model, a Review Report"*, September 2008
- Dossier on *"Redefining Tourism - Experiences and Insights from Rural Tourism Projects in India"*, December 2008
- *"Dream Destination for World Class Tourist... Nightmare for the Himalayas! - impacts of the proposed Himalayan Ski Village Project, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh"*, a fact finding report in Hindi, December 2008
- *"Rights of the Child in the Context of Tourism – a compilation"*, March 2008 (reprinted)
- Dossier on *"Who really Benefits From Tourism"*, February 2009, in Kannada, February 2009 (reprinted and updated)
- Research Report *"Unholy Nexus: Male Child Sexual Exploitation in Pilgrim Tourism Sites in India: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa"*, March 2009
- Briefing Sheet *"Unholy Nexus: Male Child Sexual Exploitation in Pilgrim Tourism Sites in India: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa"*, March 2009
- *"Coastal Regulation in India – Why do we need a New Notification?"* March 2009
- *"Aagola Nireekshnam – India"* – Translation of Global Monitoring India Report on the status of action

against commercial exploitation of children in Malayalam, March 2009

- *"Public Purpose? How the Tourism Destination of Tomorrow Continues to Dispossess the Adivasi of Narmada Today"*, An Investigation report on the tourism project in Kevadia, Narmada District, Hindi March 2009.

Papers and Statements

- *"Close Down Trivandrum Golf Course and Withdraw All Proposed Golf Projects in the State"*, Joint statement by EQUATIONS, Kerala Tourism Watch and Kabaini - the Other Direction, June 2008
- Comments on the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007–2012), Volume III, Services-*"Tourism Section"*, EQUATIONS, September 2008
- *"No More Holidays from Accountability! We Need Stronger Environmental Regulation for Tourism"*, September 2008
- The *"Privatisation of Governance" Natural Resources, Peoples Rights and Tourism in India*, November 2008
- *Can Tourism Transform? Community based tourism initiatives in India*, November 2008
- *"Tourism & Labour: Opening Vistas and Emerging Challenges"* December 2008
- Critique of the *"Andamans Draft Tourism Policy"*, December 2008
- Outline of the course on Environmental Law and Tourism, December 2008
- *"Zones of Contestation: Call for a Moratorium on Mega Resorts"*, February 2009
- *"Tourism, Trade, and Globalisation: Impacts on Biodiversity"*, February 2009
- *"SCOTT FREE! Protecting Children against Sexual Exploitation in Tourism Challenges and Imperatives in the Indian Situation"*, March 2009
- Kerala Tourism Trends April 2008 – March 2009
- Flyers for Kerala Tourism Trends April 2008 – March 2009
- Lakshadweep Tourism Trends April 2008 – March 2009

Visual Materials:

- Film, *"Vanishing Trails... a compilation"*
- Posters in English and Hindi, *"Rethink Tourism in the Andamans- Regulate Growth"*
- Posters in English and Hindi, *"Rethink Tourism in the Andamans – Ensure Benefits to Local People"*
- Posters in English and Hindi, *"Rethink Tourism in the Andamans – People- Centred Tourism"*
- Audio-visual presentation in English and Hindi on *"Rethink Tourism in the Andamans"*
- Film, *"Redefining Tourism – Voices from Rural India"*
- Stickers- *"Say No to Tourism that Exploits the Child"*
- Postcards - *Tiger & Tourism, Coast & Tourism, Natural Resources & Tourism and Culture & Tourism.*

Contribution to other Publications:

- *"Not in my backyard! How governments and industry have washed their hands off responsibility in tourism: Exploring Indian Realities"* presented at the Second International Conference on Responsible Tourism held at Kochi in March 2008 was published in IFRAC Tourism World Vol-1, Issue -3, April – May 2008
- *"Indiayile Theera Desa Niyanthranam"* in the Keraleeyam Magazine, Issue 7, July 2008
- *"Climate Change, Tourism And The Carbon Neutral Myth"* in 'Manemlo' LAYA monthly newsletter, August-September 2008
- *"Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism"*, a contribution of ECPAT International to the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, November 2008
- Paper on *"Vembanad Lake and Tourism"* for the book being published as part of the State Level Camp of the Kerala Sastra Sahithya Parishad.
- *"Conservation, Capital and Communities: Perspectives on Ecotourism Development in India"* for Centre for Environment Education, Knowledge for Sustainable Development as part of their Environment & Development series.
- *"Tourism in India: Role in Conflict and Peace"*, March 2009, India contributed to publication for the United States Institute for Peace

Media Reports and Press Releases

Print Media

- *"Responsibility in tourism should go beyond 3Rs"*, The Hindu, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 04.05.2008
- *"Rethink Tourism in the Andamans"*–Express Hospitality, (Indian Express Newspapers Special Edition) 16-31 July 2008
- *"Towards responsible tourism,"* Business Line, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 13.05.2008
- *"Building permits for resort at Kumbalangi cancelled"*, The Hindu, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 04.08.2008
- *"Prospects of tourism in isles discussed threadbare"*, The Telegrams, Port Blair Edition, 20.08.2008
- *"Desperately crying for local vigilance"*, New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 20.08.2008
- *"Rethink Tourism in Andamans: Report"*, The Financial Express, New Delhi Edition, 11.08.2008
- *"The carbon-neutral myth"* Express Hospitality, Indian Express Newspapers Special Edition, 1-15 September 2008
- *"Forest, latest target of tourism"*, New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 28.09.2008
- *"Boys lodge complaints against Swiss National"*, New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 8.10.2008
- *"Tackling child abuse in tourist spots"*, The Hindu, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 10.10.2008
- *"82-year-old Swiss in Kerala faces paedophilia charge"*, The Times of India, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 11.10.2008
- *"Mahila society meet seeks arrest of Swiss National"*, New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 26.10.2008
- *'Reprieve for Spalti'*, New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 10.11.2008
- *"The dark side of pilgrimage"*, The Statement, Calcutta Edition, 18.11.2008
- *"Abuse of India's boys 'is rising"* BBC News, New Delhi, 19.11.2008

- *"Study reveals male child sexual abuse in Puri"*, Kalinga Times, Bhubaneswar Edition, 19.11.2008
- *"Male child sexual abuse rampant in pilgrim centres"*, The Hindu, Orissa Edition, 19.11.2008
- *"How poor boys are falling into sex trap"*, The Express Buzz, the New Indian Express, Orissa Edition, 19.11.2008
- *"Abuse in pilgrim tourism sites on the rise"*, Times of India, Patna-Ranchi Edition, 19.11.2008
- *"Abuse of India's boys is rising"*, On-line, www.shamed.me, 24.11.2008
- *'The bird flies away yet again'*, New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 09.12.2008
- *'Kovalam declares war on paedophilia'* New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 24.12.2008
- *'Clamping down on paedophilia'* The Hindu, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 26.12.2008
- *'Local defence'* New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 29.12.2008
- *"Eviction to render 87,500 families homeless"*, The Express Buzz, The India Express, Bangalore Edition by Navya and Imran, 15.01.2009
- *'Vigil everywhere'*, New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 29.01.2009
- *"Prostitution of boys at India's pilgrim sites called rampant"*, The Earth Times, India (world), 10.03.2009
- *"Prostitution of boys at India's pilgrim sites called rampant"*, Top News. In, featured in India, New Delhi, 10.03.2009
- *"Prostitution of boys at India's pilgrim sites called rampant"*, M&G South Asia: South Asia News, New Delhi, 10.03.2009
- *"Prostitution of boys at India's pilgrim sites called rampant"*, on line news from Pound pup legacy, South Asia, 10.03.2009
- *"Prostitution of boys at India's pilgrim sites called rampant"*, on line news from Silver Scorpio.com, International news, 10.03.2009
- *"Prostitution of boys at India's pilgrim sites called rampant"*, on line news from The Agonist, 10.03.2009
- *"Prostitution of boys in India's pilgrimage sites is pervasive, new study finds"*, Kerala Tourism Watch, www.keralatourismwatch.org, 10.03.2009
- *"Prostitution of boys at India's pilgrim sites called rampant"*, On line edition, mmbips.tigblog.org, 10.03.2009
- *"Pilgrim sites turn sex tourism hubs"*, Hindustan Times, New Delhi Edition, 13.03.2009
- *"Pilgrim sites turn sex tourism hubs (real face)"*, Hindustan Times on line edition, 13.03.2009
- *"Child abuse in temple towns"*, The Telegraph, Calcutta Edition, 15.03.2009
- *"Male child sexual abuse rampant in Guruvayur"*, The Express Buzz, the New India Express, Thiruvananthapuram Edition, 17.03.2009

Visual and Audio media

- A radio interview on Ethical travellers – New Internationalist dated 9th April 2008
- "NIJAM" (TRUTH), issues in Kolleru region for its weekly 30 min programme by ETV on 17th and 18th April 2008.
- *"Child Sex Tourism flourishing in developing countries"*, on NDTV dated 10th January 2009 at Rio de Janeiro

Joint press releases

- *"Prostitution of boys in India's pilgrimage sites is pervasive, new study"* on 10th March 2009 during global e-launching of the research report titled *"Unholy Nexus: Male Child Sexual Exploitation in Pilgrim Tourism Sites in India: Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa"* by EQUATIONS and ECPAT International.
- *"Declaration of Belem – Global Tourism Interventions Forum"*, World Social Forum, Belém do Pará – Brazil, 28 January to 1 February 2009 by Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and the Development (FBOMS), Argonautas Environmentalists of the Amazon, EQUATIONS (India), Forum for the Defense of Ceara Coast, Institute Terramar, TURISOL Network, TUCUM Network, Coopesolidar (Costa Rica), Institute Vitae Civilis, Association for the Defense and the Development of Kuelap (Peru), Alba Sud (Spain/Nicaragua), Association for Responsible Tourism (Spain), Brazilian Institute for Consumers Defense, Community Mapuche-Tehuelche Pu Fotum Mapu (Argentina), Association Amigos of Prainha do Canto Verde (Switzerland).

Management, Staff, and Extended Teams

EQUATIONS Managing Committee (2008-2009)

Sl.No.	Name	Designation
1	Adv. Mario Pinto Almeida	President
2	Ivo Rodrigues	Secretary
3	Raja Chidambaram	Treasurer
4	Rosemary Viswanath	Chief Functionary (ex-officio)
5	Saroop Roy	Staff Representative (ex-officio)

EQUATIONS Staff Team as on 31st March 2009

Each programme in EQUATIONS has a person in charge and a support team called the Programme Resource Team

Sl.No.	Name	Programme Coordinator	Programme Resource Team/ Team members
	Kerala State Networking Programme	Saroop Roy	*Dipu.S, S.Vidya
	Karnataka State Networking Programme	S.Vidya	Syed Liyakhat
	Tamil Nadu State Networking Programme	Syed Liyakhat	Ram Kumar. G
	Andhra Pradesh State Networking Programme	Ram Kumar. G	Saroop Roy
	Networking Other Indian States	Aditi Chanchani	Vidya Rangan*, Ananya Dasgupta
	Campaign Support Unit	Aditi Chanchani	Anjali.B, B Srinivasulu*, Shweta Gaur*, Jyothis Sreekumar, Ananya Dasgupta
	Women and Tourism	Rosemary Viswanath	Ananya Dasgupta
	Governance, Law and Tourism	Ananya Dasgupta	Ram Kumar. G
	Tourism Education	Maheen Dhanda* Saroop Roy	
	Ecosystem, Communities and Tourism	Syed Liyakhat	Shweta Narayan, Saroop Roy
	Globalisation, Impact and Tourism	Vidya Rangan* Rosemary Viswanath	Aditi Chanchani
	Child and Tourism	S.Vidya	Rosemary Viswanath, Aditi Chanchani
	Indigenous People and Tourism	Aditi Chanchani	
	Institutional support Services	Antony Varghese	G. Raghu, Pramila Sequeira**, Gladit Y*, Rakesh J D and Shantha Kumari

* For part of the year

** On Maternity leave

Extended Teams and Advisory Support

We invited many people to contribute their expertise and skills to our work in the form of research, in advisory capacities and to help us design our publications and communication material.

Advisory Members

Advocating Sustainable Tourism in the Andamans: K.T. Suresh, Jayati Ghosh, Niranjana Khatri

Review and Documentation Endogenous Tourism Project: Prof K.V. Raju, Arvind Lodaya and Nina Rao

Unholy Nexus: Male Child Sexual Exploitation in Pilgrim Tourism Sites in India: Junita Upadhyay

Staff Capacity Building

Bread for the World- Impact Monitoring and Evaluation and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming

Research support

Anuradha Pati, Sanjay Bosu Mullick (Reviewing & Documenting of the Endogenous Tourism Project), Sushma George (Developing Course on Environmental Law and Tourism), Seema Bhatt, (Case study on Manas Maozigendri Jungle Camp at Manas, Assam), Peeyush Sekhsaria (Study of the energy friendly and green practices of resorts in Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks in Madhya Pradesh-ongoing), Vimal Bhai (Status Report on Tourism Developments in the Bhagirathi riverside region in Uttarakhand- ongoing), Cynthia Stephen (Approach paper on HIV/AIDS and Tourism), Durga Kamble (Tourism and the Forest Rights Act in Maharashtra-ongoing) and J P Bernard (Documentation of violations by tourism establishments on the East Coast road between Chennai and Mammalapuram, Tamil Nadu - ongoing).

Translation Support

Bipin Chandra Chaturvedi

Chinmay Mishra

Nidhi Agarwal

Suneeta B

Sitaram Shastry

Film & Audio Visual Documentation

Chandrashekar Reddy (Review and documentation of the Endogenous Tourism Project)

Vinod Raja & Ashok Maridas (Grassroots Media Pvt Ltd) (Vanishing Trails)

Michael Joseph (Building a Base for Advocating Sustainable Tourism in the Andaman Islands)

Design and Communications

Arvind Lodaya

Neelima P Aryan

Nomita Khatri

Nupur Mathur

Shashwati B

Smriti Chanchani

Tara Goswami

Vishakha Chanchani

Bent by Design

Cepha

Focus Communications

National Printing Press

Website

Ravindra Walters and Aninda Basu (C senses)

Beena P M

EQUATIONS Seminar Series

Geetanjoy Sahu, "Environmental Governance and the Role of the Judiciary"

Raja Chidambaram, "Building a Learning Organisation"

Peeyush Sekhsaria - "I will vote for the good rains" and other stories from the land of the Dogons, Mali, West Africa.

Interns in EQUATIONS (2008-2009) and their work:

Sl.No.	Name of the Student	Institute	Period	Area of work
1	M. Mourya	NITHM, Hyderabad	4th March to 15th July 2008	Tourism and water use by the Hotel sector: A case of Bangalore Metropolitan Region
2	Anuj Kaila	Symbiosis International University, Pune	23rd April to 14th May 2008	Examining the regulatory framework around private public partnership in the context of privatisation of common property resource
3	Charvy Hatkanagalekar	Symbiosis International University, Pune	23rd April to 14th May 2008	Examining the regulatory framework around private public partnership in the context of privatisation of common property resource
4	Kranthi Kumar	NITHM Hyderabad	15th March to 25th May 2008	Status report on Kolleru
5	Naitra Muralykrishnan	LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A	1st June to 14th August 2008	Relevance /impact of foreign direct investment on the tourism industry Fiscal benefits to the industry.
6	Jithin	SDM Institute for Management Development (SDM-IMD) Mysore	29th September to 3rd October 2008	Understanding the impacts of tourism in India
7	Sushma N	SDM – IMD, Mysore	29th September to 3rd October 2008	Understanding the impacts of tourism in India
8	Renu Jaiswal	SDM – IMD, Mysore	29th September to 3rd October 2008	Understanding the impacts of tourism in India

EQUATIONS is a research and policy advocacy organisation (non-profit society) working on tourism and development issues in India. Its work has focused on the economic, social, political, cultural and institutional impacts of tourism particularly on local communities. We do this through programmes on women and tourism, the child and tourism, ecosystems, communities and tourism, governance law and tourism, tourism education and globalisation impacts on tourism. EQUATIONS works closely networking with organisations and communities, to influence people centered forms of tourism that ensure significant local benefits and take into account the negative impacts of an unbridled growth of tourism.

www.equitabletourism.org
info@equitabletourism.org

