



**From holiday cheer to year end reflections. December, a month to remember!**

As this year comes to a close, a time for reflections. Thought of sharing some thoughts on issues that impact us and are close to home. And how we, as communities of people, can make meaningful contributions. The past year has been special in more ways than one – one that readily comes to mind is that 2022 was the Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, declared by the UN. Being based in the mountains, one always realizes the crucial role that mountains play but we tend to take these ecosystems for granted. Their unique topography and climatic zones provide conditions for a host of life forms. Mountains not only provide sustenance and well-being to 1.1 billion (15%) mountain people around the world but also indirectly benefit billions more living downstream. Mountains provide freshwater, energy and food - resources that will be increasingly scarce in coming years... [Read More](#)

**A delightful staff meeting**



This month saw us have our quarterly staff meeting at on a fun filled, beautiful afternoon. The meeting included updates from the team members, activities that required team efforts and absolute fun and plans for the coming months. Who are we as a team? What we are learning from each other and our work? The staff meeting gave us an opportunity take a pause (amidst our busy holiday season!) - filled with serious reflection and seriously fun games! We are a strong, silly, and determined team, we love what we do, and we are ever-inspired to keep working in support of the traditional livelihoods of our communities and stakeholders.

The location was an added bonus as we held it in the serene PrakritiLaya Nature Homes in Kotagiri, where we enjoyed a wholesome lunch made from organic and homegrown ingredients.

**PGS Hackathon**



During the month, Tery, along with team members of Aadhimalai Producer Company travelled to Tumkur in Karnataka to take part in a hackathon that featured discussions primarily to digitize the Participatory Guarantee Systems Organic Council (PGSOC) certification process. It included the PGSOC office bearers, 2 partners in the network (Keystone Foundation and Timbaktu Collective) and many freelance programmers.

The discussions were about the process of data collection from farmers and farmer groups, uploading the data, issuing the certificate and traceability of the information by customer.

**Bring in the New Year with sweetness from the forest!**



Celebrate the remarkable interaction between man and nature this new year!

Bringing out the colors drawn and inspired from the forest - a celebration of the connection between man and nature through the divine goodness of honey from the Giant Rock Bees, we bring to you this gift box inspired by the colors of the forest. Ringing in the holiday season, and in celebrating the connection between honey gatherers and our tiny engineers without whom 70% of the world's food cannot be produced - this honey gift box brings together elements of a story that is truly remarkable!

Putting together our best gems from our collection of honey, introducing our honey gift box in our carefully crafted corrugated box, designed to keep the bottles safe until it reaches your hands! Made from eco friendly material that reduces and safeguards the environment, choose from your favorite flavor of choice from an assortment of natural, infused and spiced honey!

This box of curated honey bottles makes the perfect gift for any occasion! This new year, go natural and eco-friendly with this box of celebration! Stay tuned to our social media pages for exciting updates and offers on this special gift box!

**International Mountain Day 2022**



We celebrated International Mountain Day this month! This year we honored the roles of women in mountain communities!

At Last Forest we believe Women Move Mountains— here in the Nilgiris and around the world. We give thanks to all the women and elders of the Nilgiris whose traditions and livelihoods take care of us (and our mountains) towards a safer and climate resilient future

Mountains are a key action ground in the work of climate resilience solutions. Already, mountains supply 80% of all humankind's freshwater resources. Mountains influence the entire world's access to food, energy, and biodiversity. Our Nilgiri mountains serve as the upstream water source for a number of rivers and water basins across South India, and the Nilgiris are regarded as a biodiversity hotspot!

Indigenous women that make up mountain communities are systematically marginalized even while they are the very caretakers for these crucial environments. At Last Forest, our mission is about supporting these women in our community who carry forward sustainable & traditional livelihood work — who continue despite (and as a mode of resistance to) the economical, political, and environmental challenges they may face — and our mission is about connecting you to them and their work, too!..[Read More](#)

**December's Favorite**  
Let us solve all your gifting needs for any season with this box of divine goodness from the forest!  
Choose your favorite flavors of natural, spiced and infused honey collected sustainably from the hives of the Giant Rock Bee which nests in the high cliffs and trees in the forests of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve!  
**Shop Now!**

**Featured Product**  
Wintergreen balm is pure wintergreen oil with beeswax, it soothes sore and inflamed joints and can be used as a soothing massage balm.  
Sustainably Harvested - The beeswax in this jar of wintergreen balm is collected sustainably from the forest, it is a by product of raw honey collected from the forest  
**Shop Now!**

