



## BIOINDICATORS; A RESTORATION PROJECT BY RAAH FOUNDATION



Hint: They come from the land down under...

### TO OUR DEAR READERS,

Over the course of a three-year growth spurt, we have successfully delivered the impact we promised to our donors and the ones we owed to our beneficiaries. To re-ignite old conversations with our clan of curious individuals, our team of fervent writers and thought leaders are prepared to break the ice. With freshly brewed thoughts, observations and prototypes, our monthly newsletters promise to tickle your mind and maybe even make it into your next case study.

### SETTING THE SCENE...

For those who may be unaware of Raah Foundation, we are a team of 150 personals, piecing together balanced ecosystems by working at the nexus of the planet and its people. One of our in-house specials is the re-wilding project we're carrying out over the hills of Nashik, situated in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. To bring back the dense tropical evergreen forests that once canopied the Indian West Coast, it seemed quite obvious that we would have to bring back native species that once thrived in these soils. In the process of doing so, the native saplings we planted met us half-way and re-built ancient ecosystems that surely existed before you and I. These ancient ecosystems defined the term 'relationship' long before God placed Adam and Eve on earth, and we're just about re-discovering them.



More than one relationship may often bloom!

Lichen



Chicken of the Woods Mushroom

### AS WE KEEP SEARCHING

Nature, inspired by every apocalyptic movie ever released, took meticulous notes on how to turn our world into a chaotic blockbuster. And in all this chaos, a feathered mother nestling in the trees of the Western Ghats, turns into a rotisserie chicken sitting on three fried eggs, sunny side up.

Whilst we have plenty of chicken to go around, these forest are set to loose 33% of their existing biodiversity by 2050. Each day, up to 150 living species may go extinct, with roughly 3 vanishing every hour. This adds up to around 72 species disappearing in just one day. So as we circle around another World Conservation Day, we continue our search and our efforts to bring back some.



More Lichen



## PICK YOUR AVATAR!

*Bioindicators* are far more accurate than most human designed tools.

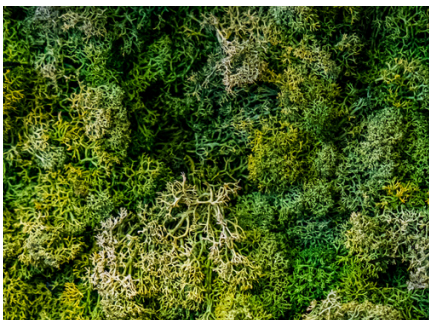
Fungi, Algae and Moss are a few introverted qualitative bioindicators, who only sprout in the right environments. Their arrival can be predicted like a bride to her groom, but they may shy away if approached with hostility. And this is how we know we are doing something right. Dragonflies too, they lay their eggs on clean still water, preferably a naturally formed puddle in nutrient rich soil, we love a pop of red!



Red Spotted Dragonfly

Leopards may be too large of a bioindicator to mention in this newsletter but we have a story for you in the Maternity Ward.

Circling back to some fresh moist relationship gossip, we bring you a paradoxical love.



A cubic inch of Moss

## LICHEN

A relationship based on conditions and ultimatums; Lichen is simply the presence of alga inside fungi. The resulting entity generally takes on a form quite different from either of its parent personalities. The algae provide nutrients, the fungi provide a home, and humans have provided lichens with a polluted atmosphere.

Of the 20,000 species of lichen that once existed, we have been able to revive 3. While our efforts of re-wilding lost forest and restoring forest health have turned 3, nature awarded us with 3 lichen species. We can't wait to see what colours the rocks turn to next! This symbiotic relationship was bound to give birth to new life, and we're not about to complain of the path nature took.

## THE MATERNITY WARD

The Lion King taught us well about morals, ethics, and the food chain. Lichen unfortunately didn't make it into the final cut, something about them being insignificant.

So while Simba frolicked about his tropical paradise, did you happen to notice the moss covering the forest floor and the logs of wood?

Moss, a sensory paradise for some, is a great source of nutrition to our fellow herbivores. One such fellow, a Black Buck followed the scent of wet moss, into our reforestation site. We pay our respects to this chap for he was hunted down by a leopard following closely behind.

Once this guardian leopard had established her territory, there was no place left for us in her ecosystem. We

will continue to monitor her and her three cubs, in our efforts to prevent becoming the next dinner. And since she's occupied the master suite on our current site, we have to create more!

## EVENT ALERT

**Spend 24 in our forests as we show you around our conservatory! Raah Foundation will be organising a fundraising trek to one of our re-wilding sites in Nashik, Maharashtra.**

**Date: 21st - 22nd September  
Cost: ₹15,000/- per head.**

**To know more, contact us at:  
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**TO REGISTER NOW:**

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

**\*Our event goal is to raise ₹1,00,000 to re-wild one acre\***



## PLAYING MATCHMAKER

Nature tells you what she needs. And to think that all we did was bring back clean water and some grass.

Our anthropogenic activities have interfered in far too many natural cycles. So maybe it is time for us to play cupid.

~ Sneha Dixit