

CONARE
Conservation of Nature through
Rural Awakening,

Annual Report

Year 2020-2021

M.A. Saleem

Dear Friends,

I want to start off by start off by emphasizing on the importance of being and staying safe in these critical times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The year 2020-21 has been a testing time for all not only in India but also globally due to the dreadful and unprecedented spread of the virus. The pandemic has not spared any one irrespective of caste, religion, ethnicity, class and creed. Everyone has equally faced the challenges during these pandemic times.

CONARE has stood in the forefront in this unprecedented time towards supporting the forest dependent communities, marginal farmers, daily wage earners, migrants and unorganized sector workers in our geographical area of operation with relief support mobilization of funds from and resources various corporate and institutional partners. Based on immediate needs of the communities, we have distributed dry ration kits to the families who have been directly and indirectly affected by the pandemic. In addition to this we have educated the communities on COVID-19 precautions, measures, appropriate behaviors and protocols.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Centre for People's Forestry, NABARD, Government Officials, Azeem Premji Philanthropic Initiatives and all the organizations and well-wishers for their support and cooperation to our organization throughout the journey in bringing a significant impact in the lives of communities. I appreciate the hard work, sincerity and dedications in reaching out to the communities and making a difference in their lives, despite many challenges.

Learning from our years of experiences we will continue to engage in our strategic actions towards empowering the most marginalized communities in terms of livelihoods, skills, social and economic wellbeing with a special focus on Health, Hygiene, Environment and Nutrition. Further to this women empowerment has been set on a high priority through strengthening the CONARE Laxmi Mutually Aided Cooperative and Thrift Society (CLMACTS)

I sincerely pray to the almighty that this grave period ends at the earliest and brings back normalcy in everyone's life.

STAY SAFE!

M.A. Saleem
President

The year 2020-2021 has been a significant and a challenging year in the history of Conservation of Nature through Rural Awakening (CONARE). The significance was that despite the pandemic challenges the organization has been put itself in a forefront to support the communities. Among the many significant interventions of the organization, the Tribal Farmer Service Centres (TFSC) are one of the activity being taken up by the organization in collaboration with Centre for People's forestry (CPF).

This is aimed to promote food security through Agro-Eco approach as an effective tool to empower the community in picking up farming and reduce incidents of migration. These centers are found to be knowledge centers for the farmers in terms of learning new techniques, earning bargaining power, linking with the government for accessing various welfare schemes and programs, enhancing leadership qualities and in addition a stop for repairing agriculture tools/implements and hiring the same for their regular cultivation.

The component of trainings have enabled them to understand the significance of cultivating food grains, not just for their consumption but also for their sustenance and good health. The other aspect of the project, which highlighted on building the capacities of these committees towards conservation of forests, non-exploitation of forest resources and management of natural resources and their optimum utilization for the larger benefits of the communities. The communities have gained the power of solidarity and under the strengthening Community Forest Resource Management Committees (CFRMCs), they have availed the claims under Forest Act by submitting the entitlement claims to the concerned authorities.

Empowerment of Chenchu tribes is one of the significant actions being taken in partnership with Paul Hamlyn Foundation which have focused on strengthening of women empowerment through skill building on horticulture and formation of Women Cooperative Societies. Further Chenchu men were training on livestock management and dairy development along with handholding support and resources. This has reduced their dependency on forest resources.

Farmers producer organization are continued to be strengthened with the support of National Agriculture Bank for Rural Development (NABARD) and climate proofing interventions are being taken up. COVID-19 relief and awareness activities have been taken up by the organization through which the tribal communities, marginal farmers, migrant workers and unorganized sectors have been reached.

With the successes, the organization has also faced challenges during the year. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in setback in planned activities of the project, which are re-strategized and repurposed and taken up at the ground with all precautions and measures.

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE



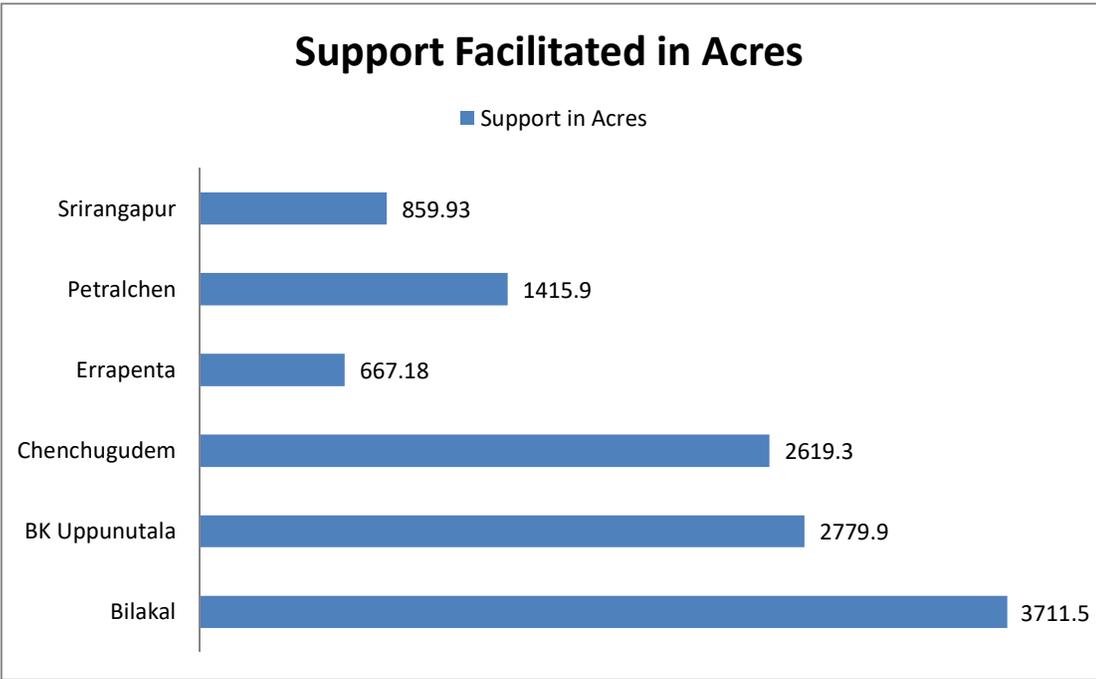
Tribal Farmer Service Centres: The abject poverty of the tribal farmers pushes them to further vulnerability in carrying out farming due to limited capacity to buy any latest agriculture implements. Towards addressing this issue, CONARE in with the support of Centre for People's forestry has established 12 Tribal Farmer Service Centres (TFSC) which are equipped with latest agriculture implements to support the requirements of the tribal farmers to utilize the modern equipments to cultivate their lands with cost effectiveness and earn high returns. These centres were run and managed by a nominated representative by the farmers. The TFSCs have supported the farmers in terms of helping them technically to build their knowledge and capacities in agri-management, usage of modern tools and

equipments, linkages with the departments to get subsidies and services. The result was much visible as 260 farmers who have utilized the services of the TFSCs have resulted in high productivity in their agriculture fields which has fetched good price for their produces.

Community Forest Resource Management Committees: This is one of the initiatives have been taken up in building the capacities of the communities towards conservation of forests, non-exploitation of forest resources and management of natural resources and their optimum utilization for the larger benefits of the communities through the development of community forest management plan in 6 villages of achampet mandal. The initiatives have been benefited 675 farmers.



Facilitation in submission of Chenchu Forest (Non timber forest produces, Fodder, Fish & water, resources, traditional resources, Bio diversity)





Village coordination meetings: were organized on a regular monthly basis towards creating awareness on the resources and its utility, as well as linking them to the government departments for getting subsidies and services and also to build their capacities to represent their issues to the concerned authorities. A total of 107 applications were submitted to the sub-division level committee during the period of April 2018 to 31st August 2020, out of which 48 petitions were followed-up and 15 were sanctioned. During 2020-21, as a result of these petitions, a general health camps were conducted at *Errapenta* and *Srirangapur* villages for 70 *Chenchu* families in Lingal Mandal in addition to this, 275 *Chenchu* families have received mosquito nets from the health department.

Promoting Alternative Livelihoods for Chenchu Tribes: CONARE in partnership with Paul Hamlyn Foundation has successfully implemented project interventions in 20 fringe villages, covering 100 families of Chenchu tribes in Amrabad Tiger Reserve. The strategically planned had created a significant impact on the lives of the communities in terms of improving their socio-economic status through enhancing their livelihood skills, awareness and knowledge apart from linking them to various government social protection schemes and entitlements. The inception months of the project have certain setbacks due to COVID-19 pandemic followed by lockdowns.



Poultry Farming and Management: Over a period of project 5 trainings have been conducted with 105 participants (Men 38 and Women 67). These trainings are organized in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Department in which Dr. Venkatesh, Dr. Anil and Dr. Yamuna and D Govind veterinary experts from the department have provided the participants with technical inputs and knowledge on poultry diseases and its management, technical aspects of establishment of mini poultry farms, management of birds and subsidies and support from the government departments. Apart from this we have invited poultry business owners to interact with the trainees on current market trends, preparation of business plans, feed management, marketing and sustaining their farms to supplement and enhance their income levels apart from their regular sources of livelihoods.

Livestock management: 4 Trainings have been organized on the livestock management with a focus on Goat and Sheep rearing in collaboration with Department of Animal Husbandry and Regional Forage Station. Veterinary experts Dr. Venkatesh, Dr. Anil have provided with technical sessions on breeding management, disease control and feed management. Whereas Mr. Banbir Singh, State Director, and Laxminarayana Fodder Expert from Regional Forage Station have provided the participants an understanding on different varieties of fodder, its nutrient values and cultivation methods apart from this he has also distributed free of cost seeds and stems of perennial grasses such as Lucerne and Co4. A total of 108 (61 men and 47 Women) were received these trainings.



Dairy Farming and Management: Two trainings programs have been conducted over a period of one year in collaboration with Animal Husbandry Department. During the training program the Veterinary Expert Dr. Venkateshwarulu have provided the participants with knowledge on safe breeding practices, nutritious feeds, disease control and management apart from answering their queries on stall feeding, artificial insemination and difference between local and non-local breeds of cow and buffalo's. Mr. Saleem, Director, CONARE shared his experiences in the sector apart from appreciating the cattle owners to go for more cattle by using government subsidies and also stressed on development of mini-dairies to enhance their income levels. A total of 51 members participated among which 20 are men and 21 are women.

Kitchen Gardening: 4 kitchen gardening trainings have been organized in collaboration with Horticulture Department. During the training subject experts from horticulture have trained the participants on selection of seeds, developing of plots, disease management, organic fertilizers and pest management, monitoring of pest and virus and yield management topics. At the end of the training sessions the organization has distributed 7 varieties of vegetable seeds to participants as a handholding support for their kitchen gardening activity. A Total of 86 members (21 men and 65 women) have actively participated and have established kitchen gardens in their backyards and have used the vegetable yields for self-consumption and also sold them in the local markets and earned a supplementary income.



Training on Feed and fodder management:

This training program was organized in collaboration with the Regional Forage Station, Government of India. During the Training Mr. Banbir Sing, State Director and Mr. Laxminarayana have provided the participants with knowledge on nutrient fodder and their benefits, types of fodder and their cultivation methods, fodder and feed management for small ruminants and cattle for getting good benefits through meat sales and milk yields. At the end of the training session the organization has provided 1 kg of fodder seeds to each participants followed by distribution of clumps of perennial fodder variety. A total of 52 participants (men 32, Women 20) were actively participated and have put the fodder management in their practices.

Training of self-help group and management:

2 cluster wise training session were conducted for the SHG leaders by experts in the sector. The trainings focussed on self-help group formation and management, financial literacy, book keeping, thrift and credit management.

Apart from this information on various government departments loans subsidies for the women SHGs have been provided. As a result of this 17 new Self Help Groups and 10 already formed groups were actively managing the thrift and credits in 20 villages.

Entrepreneurship training with the support of Government:

Entrepreneurship development is one of the important aspect being taken up in the project for the participants of livelihood training sessions towards providing them full-fledged knowledge to sustain their livelihoods and reduce their dependency on forest resources. One Training program was organized with 24 selected participants from various training batches in which 16 are men and 8 are women. Marketing and Business management experts Mr. Parmeshwar and N. Bharath have trained the participants on unit management, preparation of business plan and strategical marketing topics. Further to this the experts have assured their support and guidance to the trainees in future course of their business.



Formation and Strengthening of Self-Help Group (Meetings): During the project period 37 formal meetings have been conducted in 20 project villages towards formation of new SHGs and strengthening of existing SHGs in the villages. The project team members along with resource persons and officials from IKP - District Rural Development Agency have invited all men and women members and have oriented them on the importance of SHG for managing their savings for use financial emergency, apart from this knowledge and information on government subsidies on loans and other resources of SHG members were also been disseminated during the meetings. As a result of this 17 new SHG and 10 existing SHGs are strengthened with a membership of 534 women

Orientation and awareness meetings: These meetings are the integral part of project which is organized in all the targeted villages in a frequency of bi-monthly. Every meeting was dedicated to a topic which has included importance of children education, health, hygiene and sanitation of houses and surrounding in the village, COVID-19 and its precautionary measures etc. During the project period 23 meetings were organized by involving the officials from agriculture, animal husbandry, forests, IKP, health and education departments. Each of the departments have shared their programs, schemes and subsidies information for the larger benefits of the community. A total of 430 community members participated in these meetings



Interface meetings with Government and Institutions: The interface meeting has been organized in the month of September in IKP Hall Mannanur by involving the officials of Animal husbandry, horticulture, IKP, ITDA and forest department officials. During the interface meet the officials have discussed on inter-departmental convergence in promoting livelihoods of Chenchu tribes. The project team has presented the project objectives and activities before the government. During the meeting 24 officials (16 men and 8 women) have participated appreciated and assured extended support to the project activities.

Capacity building activities as per needs: The activity is being conducted towards building the capacities of the trained community members in the project on assessing their needs and providing them with opportunity to develop understanding and knowledge on their needs. 20 meetings have been organized over the project period in which the needs of people assessed and formed Common Interest Groups (CIG) to create a discussion and capacity building platform. These CIGs were formed for Dairy Development, Poultry

Farming, backyard Kitchen Gardening, and entrepreneurship development. A total of 5 CIGs formed with a membership of 384 members in which men are 183 and women are 201.

Formation and Strengthening of CWVS: The objective of formation of the Chenchu Women Vegetable Cooperative Society is towards promoting a common platform for the women engaged in kitchen gardening to sell their vegetables and get a dignified income. Towards formation and strengthening of these societies 2 meetings have organized at the IKP building and Amrabad Cluster Resource Centre which has resulted in formation of 1 CWVC which was named as Lingamiah Mahila Vegetable Co-operative Society with a membership of 39 women who are growing and selling the vegetable in the market. Further to formation the CWVC has been provided with exposure to the market yards, public places and weekly markets to prepare them to sell their vegetables apart from this they were linked to Achampet Municipal Corporation for permission to put a stall in the markets.



COVID-19 RELIEF ACTIVITIES

Conservation of Nature through Rural Awakening (CONARE) with the support of Azeem Premji Philanthropic Foundation and many other organizations has carried COVID-19 response programme to address the immediate hunger needs of 250 poor migrant and unorganized sector worker families in 3 Municipal wards of Acchampet town and 570 families of chenchu tribes living in 10 villages of Acchampet and Balmoor mandals of Nargakurnool district, Telangana. Apart from this 500 Dignity Kit includes (Hand Sanitizers and Face Masks) were distributed to the front line medical staff of Government Civil Hospital, Acchampet and MNREGA workers in 8 worksites in nearby villages. The beneficiaries were identified and prioritized based on the vulnerability factors such as old age, single women, persons with disabilities from a core target groups of migrant and unorganized sector workers and chenchu tribes, during the process of identification the Gram Sarpanch and Secretaries were contacted to endorse them as the eligible people from their

respective villages based on this our distribution team on the ground have visited them and provided them with a token for collection of kits on the day of distribution by following the precautionary guidelines such as wearing of face masks, cleaning of kits with surf water and frequent washing of their hands.

A distribution plan has been prepared prior to hitting the ground, this plan includes village wise route maps, list of beneficiaries with due endorsement of village heads. Procurement of the items was based on the local needs of the communities. The quality and quantity parameters were set by the CONARE's procurement committee members aligned with its procurement policy which has ensured collection of three quotations, quality check, and negotiation, issue of purchase order and delivery of items to the locations. The distribution was carried out by involving local and district level government authorities and elected representatives along with the

During the distribution preventive measures of keeping safe distancing between the beneficiary to beneficiary and distribution team has been ensured to avoid any physical contact with each other, sanitization of the beneficiaries as well as the distribution team members were also equipped with face masks and hand sanitizers to sanitize each and every beneficiary hands who are coming to receive the kits.

The distribution team members were also conducted awareness programs in the villages where before the distribution, the awareness topics covered information about the history of COVID-19, its spread, contagious nature, its effect on the India and other countries, symptoms of the disease, when to approach the doctor, preventive measures such as handwashing methods, social distancing, staying indoors, avoiding public gathering and events. The government helpline numbers were circulated to them in case they find any symptoms of COVID-19.

The food basket kit contents were decided by the procurement committee taking view of the requirements of the community apart from deciding on the quality and quantity parameters. The final kit contents being distributed to the community area (Toor dal – 2 kgs, Tamarind – 1 kg, Cooking Oil- 1 litre, Salt – 2 kg, Turmeric – 200 gms, Chilli powder – 500 gms, Face Masks (reusable) – 3 pieces, Dettol Soap- 3 pieces, vegetables (Tomato – 2 kg, Potato – 1kg, Brinjal – 1 kg, Lady finger – 1 kg. Green Chilli – 500 gms, bottle gourd - 2 pieces and leafy vegetables). Whereas the Dignity kits contents are (Alcohol based Sanitizer – 1, 100 ml bottle and Face Masks (cotton cloth reusable – 3 pieces)

Beneficiary details: 820 families cumulatively include 3338 people have been benefited through food basket kit, in which adults are 2023 (men 1061 and women 962) and 1315 children (boys 675 and girls 640) of which 273 are women headed families, 63 are Persons with disabilities and their families and 484 are poor farmers in 5 villages each of Achampet and Balmoor mandals and 3 municipal wards of Achampet municipality. Apart from this 100 medical front line staff and 400 MNREGA workers have been reached through the intervention

Appreciations and Coverage: The timely response to the COVID-19 emergency was very much appreciated by the District Administration. The Mandal Revenue Officer during his participation in the distribution program noted that the timely relief support by CONARE organization is appreciable as within a very short span of time they have assessed the situation of the communities and provided them with food basket kits. The District Forest Officer, recognized the services of the organization in responding to the immediate needs of the communities in the tribal areas, the ward councillors, police department officials, village secretaries and Gram Sarpanchs were widely appreciated the effort of the organization in reaching out to the most marginalized and needy beneficiaries. The program interventions were also widely captured in local media



IMPACT STORIES

Essential Supplies at right time Katraju Venkatamma

My name is Katraju Venkatamma, I belong to Chenchu tribe, survived by four children my husband left us and since then I am taking care of my children by working as daily wage labour in agriculture fields. We live in Errapenta a remote Chenchu habitation bordering the Amrabad tiger reserve. On 22nd March 2020, I heard about Janta Curfew, this was the first time I have listen to this word and I don't know what it means, but when next day when I started from my home to search of work in other villages at the boundary of neighbouring village the police men stopped me and asked me to go back to my home as no-body is allowed to move out of their home due to lockdown for next 14 days. On that day I returned my home and saw that I have only 200/- rupees, some rice, tamarind, salt and chilli and turmeric powder and with this minimum ration we survived for another week and the government has distributed 12 kgs of rice to each of my family member which is a big relief for me to address the hunger needs

of my family members, I also came to know from the officer that they have also deposited Rs.1500/- in my bank account. But in absence of any public transport facility from our village to the Mandal headquarter Lingala which is more than 25 km. I have tried going out there by walking to withdraw money and purchase some of the ration but the policemen stopped me on the way and I was forced to come back without any thing.

After few days, CONARE organization people come to our habitation and they met all of us and taken stock of our situation and given me a token to collect ration. Next day they came with a load of ration and distributed to us. When I opened the ration kit I felt very happy to see the ration supplies which can able to meet all my needs for another 2-3 weeks. I wholeheartedly thank CONARE organization for supplying the necessary essentials to meet our hunger needs..... Katraju Venkatamma, Errapenta Village,



Relief for a Migrant Worker....

Vimmala Swarajalaxmi is a resident of Chintalbasti of Achampet town, her husband died in a road accident a year ago and since then she is taking care of her two children working as labour and she migrating one place to another in search of livelihoods. The sudden lockdown decision of the government has widely affected her as at the time of declaration of lockdown she had very little quantity of ration and very few rupees only. With this little money and ration she has adjusted her life for a week. Like other migrant workers in the area she also received 12 kgs of rice per person and a transfer of Rs.1500/ in her bank account.

Despite living in the town she could not able to reach the bank to withdraw money due to fear of getting hurt by policemen and fear of

getting contaminated with the disease. She continued her living with the available ration and survived for another few days. During the assessment in the area CONARE team has visited her home and came to know the hardships and handed over a token to collect the daily essential kit apart from counselling her on the preventive measures to remove the fear of getting contamination from her. In next two days the distribution team has reached her home and provided her with the food basket kit and oriented her on the hand washing, hygiene practices and government helpline numbers

An Alternative Livelihood ... Come to her rescue : Sheelam Mangamma is 30-year-old women hails from Chenchu tribes and a resident of Chitlamkunta village, survived by a family of 2 members, she is a marginal farmer with a land holding of 3 acres on which shed wanted to cultivate cotton, but due to dried bore well, she has decided to give her land on lease for another community member on a lease amount of Rupees 10,000/- per year which is hardly sufficient for her day to day survival. Hence she has taken up agriculture labor work to fetch the needs of her family but that too is seasonal based and do not have regular works and again she was in need of some supplementary income sources. During the beneficiary identification process, the project team has found and enrolled her as a beneficiary under poultry farming activity and was provided with training followed by a support from the organization of 15 Country



Chicken birds, feeding plates and support to construct a poultry sheds. This support of CONARE through the project has fetched her additional sources of income by selling eggs and chicken in the open markets as well as seasonal agricultural labor work to fulfill the needs of the family.

Re-Learning the skills for livelihoods



Uduthanuri Sailamma is 50-year-old women hails from Chenchu tribes and a resident of Choutagudem village, survived by a family of 5 members, she is a marginal farmer holding 2 acres of land but after her son's death it was occupied by some of her relatives and she became landless and use to meet her family needs by working as farm labor in agriculture

field of other villagers. Though she possesses some farming skills but which are not up to the mark to fetch her some additional source of income. During the beneficiary identification process, the project team has found her and enrolled her as a beneficiary under kitchen gardening program and she was engaged in training where she has enhanced her skills with the support of resource persons. later she was provided with seeds and composting to establish her own backyard kitchen garden. Initially she was uncertain of establishing it at the backyard of her small house, but the project team's motivation has made her to sow vegetable seeds in her backyard and is expecting a first yield of her vegetables which she wanted to keep some for her family and rest wanted to sell in the market to earn some money.



During the year the organization has learnt the ways of working remotely during the pandemic times to ensure safety of the community members and the staff. Further to this it was noted that the organization needs to be strategized itself towards the health, education, women empowerment, climate change and sustainable rural livelihoods domains in keeping view of the evaluations and studies being taken up the organization and the third parties, wherein the needs of communities have been reflected.

Towards this our organization has re-strategizing its self to address the prioritized issues in the community to create an impact in the lives of the poor and marginalized communities. Further to this we have facilitated formation of Chenchu Laxmi Mutually Aided Thrift and Credit Society by involving the women from Chenchu Tribes as its strategy to make them socially, culturally, socially and economically sustain and live a dignified life and to make a difference in their future generations lives.

FORM NO. 10B

[See rule 17B]

Audit report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions

We have examined the balance sheet of **CONARE CONSERVATION OF NATURE THROUGH RURAL AWAKENING** [name of the trust or institution] PAN **AAATC4033B** as at **31/03/2021** and the Profit and loss account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said Trust or institution. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the above named trust visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books, and proper Returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by us, subject to the comments given below:

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view-

- (i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named trust as at **31/03/2021**
- (ii) the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of its accounting year ending on **31/03/2021**

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

for **KEY MEN & ASSOCIATES LLP**
Chartered Accountants



K. Jayadev

JAYADEV KOMMINENI
(PARTNER)

M. No. : 215732

FRN : 00172885

13-1-1/10, OPP DR G BAL REDDY CLINIC,
PRABHAT NAGAR, CHAITANYAPURI,
HYDERABAD-500060 TELANGANA

Date : 20/08/2021
Place : Hyderabad

CONARE
Foreign Funds

Balance Sheet As On 31st March, 2021

Liabilities	Amount	Amount	Assets	Amount
Opening Balance			Fixed Assets	1,88,381
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	3,10,870			
Less: for this year	1,01,143	2,09,727		
			Closing Balance:	
			State Bank Of India	21,346
		2,09,727		2,09,727

For KEY MEN & ASSOCIATES LLP
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Reg. No: 0172885/S200099
K. Jayadev
Jayadev Kommineni
Partner
ICAI M.No: 215732



CONARE
Local Fund

Balance Sheet As On 31st March 2021.

Liabilities	Amount	Amount	Assets	Amount
Excess of Income Over Expenditure			Fixed Assets	1,28,690
Opening Balance	12,22,864			
Less: for this period	10,44,446			
	1,78,418	1,78,418		
			Closing Balances	
			Cash at Bank	
			State Bank Of India - 9333	5,577
			APGV Bank	44,150
		1,78,418		1,78,418

For KEY MEN & ASSOCIATES LLP
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Reg. No: 0172885/S200099
K. Jayadev
Jayadev Kommineni
Partner
ICAI M.No: 215732



