



Student Conference on
Conservation Science - Bengaluru

2024

15th
Edition

Conference Report



Date:

21st to 24th October 2024

Venue:

J N Tata Auditorium, IISc Bengaluru



STUDENT CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION SCIENCE

BENGALURU 2024



15th EDITION

CONFERENCE REPORT

OCTOBER 21st TO 24th, 2024

J N TATA AUDITORIUM
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BENGALURU

Overview.....	2
Plenary Talks.....	4
Madeline Green.....	4
Pranay Lal.....	5
Stephen Alter.....	6
Careers in Conservation.....	10
Abstracts Submission & Review.....	11
Student Presentations.....	11
Networking & Public Engagement at SCCS-Bng 2024.....	16
Nature Walks at SCCS Bengaluru 2024.....	17
Who's Who in Conservation.....	17
Artist's Corner.....	19
15th Year Celebration of SCCS Bengaluru 2024.....	21
Workshops.....	23
A Mandatory POSH Session at SCCS Bengaluru.....	26
QUEER Circle at SCCS Bengaluru 2024.....	27
SCCS-Bengaluru's Second Neurodivergent Circle.....	27
Other features of SCCS Bengaluru 2024.....	27
Student Awards.....	29
Talk & Poster Prize-recipients.....	29
Donors and Financials.....	31
Bursaries.....	32
People behind the conference.....	33
Organising Committee.....	33
Working Groups.....	34
Logistics.....	38
Other Supporters.....	38

Overview

The Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) – Bengaluru 2024 took place from October 21st to 24th, bringing together students and young researchers in the field of biodiversity conservation. This marked the 15th edition of SCCS-Bengaluru.

SCCS-Bengaluru serves as a platform for students and young researchers to interact, exchange research ideas and methods, share knowledge and experiences related to conservation, and establish valuable contacts and capacity-building opportunities. The conference primarily focuses on countries in Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. SCCS-Bng 2024 had a total of 400 registered participants, and when accounting for resource people, the organising team, volunteers, and guests, the overall number of individuals involved in the event was approximately 600.

The participants at SCCS-Bng 2024 represented a diverse group, including students ranging from undergraduates to doctoral candidates. Furthermore, working professionals and experienced individuals actively contributed to the conference as resource people.



Dr Uma Ramakrishnan



Dr Karthick Shanker



Dr Moushmi Ghosh

The 15th edition of the conference spanned four days and was formally declared open by senior representatives of the host institutions that contributed to the staging of SCCS-Bng 2024: Dr Uma Ramakrishnan, Professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences; Dr. Kartik Shanker, Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc and Dr. Moushmi Ghosh, representing the Nature Conservation Foundation.

In SCCS Bengaluru 2024, the programme comprised 5 plenary talks, 15 oral presentations by students, 66 student posters, and 42 workshops, showcasing an extensive variety of themes and topics in conservation science.

Some of the events were public events. These include- a panel discussion entitled “Careers in Conservation”, and two of the open(popular) plenary talks – by Stephen Alter and Jagdish Krishnaswamy – received an enthusiastic response. These events were a part of SCCS-Bengaluru's public outreach initiative, were widely promoted within the city and drew a substantial attendance.

Furthermore, early morning bird walks, tree walks, and evening loris walks were organised on the IISc campus. These nature excursions have consistently been a favourite among conference participants, with slots filling up quickly each year due to their popularity.

The distinctiveness of SCCS-Bengaluru lies in its organisation by a consortium of institutions, backed by a broader network of supporting institutions and individuals. This model has empowered the efficient

management of the conference, cost control, and the utilisation of a vast and diverse pool of expertise and resources.



Participants at the Inaugural session of SCCS Bengaluru 2024



Registration kits being distributed to participants of SCCS Bng 2024

Plenary Talks



Madeline Green

Interdisciplinary Researcher
University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

Dr. Madeline Green is an interdisciplinary researcher with expertise spanning marine science, fisheries, conservation, and entrepreneurship. Madeline has a rich background in marine ecology and molecular research, with a focus on commercial fisheries and elasmobranch movement ecology. Madeline earned her PhD from the University of Tasmania in 2019. For over a decade, she has been dedicated to the study of marine species, with a particular focus on sharks and rays across the Indo-Pacific Ocean. As a post-doctoral research fellow (2020-2023), Madeline began developing forensic tools for estimating fisheries landings and monitoring illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. Madeline is currently a Research Fellow at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Science (IMAS) and the PI for the forensic fisheries group. Her role is to develop cutting-edge genetic technologies to reconstruct catch data for commercial fishing vessels, enhance monitoring of data-poor fisheries and track seafood supply chains for frequently unmonitored seafood products (e.g., shark liver oil). Madeline's work also extends to understanding the genetic relationships between marine species, their movement patterns, and population dynamics, with the purpose of improving fisheries management for highly threatened species.

Talk title:

Forensic tools for enhancing fisheries data collection & monitoring



Visuals from Madeline Green's Plenary talk on Day 1 at SCCS Bengaluru 2024



Pranay Lal

Bio-Chemist, Author

Pranay Lal is a biochemist by training and works for a non-profit organisation on public health. He has been a caricaturist for newspapers, an animator for an advertising agency, and an environmental campaigner. His first book, *Indica - A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent* (Allen Lane, December 2016) won the best non-fiction debut award at the Tata Lit Fest in 2017, among other awards. His most recent, *Invisible Empire: The Natural History of Viruses* (Viking) was released in November 2021 and won the Green Lit Award 2023.

Talk title:

Conservation in the time of runaway climate change

Talk summary:

In the face of accelerating climate change, the imperative to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems has never been more urgent. This plenary talk will dive into the formidable challenges conservation faces amidst a warming planet. In the face of accelerating climate change, the imperative to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems has never been more urgent. This plenary talk will dive into the formidable challenges conservation faces amidst a warming planet. We will explore how climate change magnifies threats to ecosystems, communities of life forms, and individual species. By delving into the deep currents of natural history, we will uncover crucial lessons that can inform our conservation strategies. My talk will emphasise the necessity for conservationists to raise their voices and ensure their efforts to protect species, ecosystems, and landscapes must be the bedrock of climate change action.



Visuals from Pranay Lal's talk at SCCS Bengaluru 2024

Stephen Alter

Author and Naturalist



Stephen Alter is the author of more than 20 books of fiction and non-fiction. He was born in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, and much of his writing focuses on the Himalayan region. His novel, *Birdwatching*, received the 2023 Green Book of the Year Award at the Green Literature Festival, Bengaluru.

Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range on Earth (Aleph 2019) received the 2020 Banff Mountain Book Award in the Mountain Environment and Natural History category and the 2021 Kekoo Naoroji Award for Himalayan Literature. It was also shortlisted for the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Prize. *Becoming a Mountain: Himalayan Journeys in Search of the Sacred and the Sublime* (Aleph 2014) received the 2015 Kekoo Naoroji Award. *In The Jungles of the Night: A Novel about Jim Corbett* (Aleph 2016) was shortlisted for the DSC South Asian Literature Award. He has written extensively on natural history, folklore and mountain culture, particularly in his travel memoir *Sacred Waters: A Pilgrimage to the Many Sources of the Ganga*. Educated at Woodstock School and Wesleyan University, Alter has taught at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, where he was director of the writing program for seven years. Following this, he was a writer-in-residence at MIT for ten years. Among the honours he has received are fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Fulbright Program, the East-West Centre in Hawaii, and the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture. His most recent novel is *Death in Shambles: A Hill Station Mystery* and his latest non-fiction book, is *The Cobra's Gaze: Exploring India's Wild Heritage*. Stephen Alter is the founding director of the Mussoorie Mountain Festival.

Talk title:

The Naturalist's Gaze

Talk summary:

Drawing from his recent book, *The Cobra's Gaze: Exploring India's Wild Heritage*, Stephen Alter will discuss the many ways in which we observe wildlife and how these unique and wonderful creatures look back at us. Combining scientific narratives with mythology, folklore and natural history, he seeks to understand our cultural connections to wildlife and wild places. Using examples from his personal experiences in a variety of forests, coastal areas, deserts and mountains across India, he will explore what motivates a naturalist and how we respond to species other than our own. He will also reflect upon the ethics of conservation as it relates to national parks, so-called wastelands and sacred groves.



Visual from Stephen Alter's popular plenary talk at SCCS Bengaluru 2024

**Jennifer Powers**

Professor, University of Minnesota

Editor-in-Chief, Biotropica

Dr. Jennifer Powers is a Full Professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Microbial Biology at the University of Minnesota and currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Biotropica, which is the journal of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. She received her PhD in Biology from Duke University in 2001 and then completed postdoctoral studies at the State University of New York-Stony Brook and the University of Minnesota. Her research program focuses on understanding how land-use and climate change affect biogeochemical cycles,

ecosystem processes, and plant communities seasonally dry tropical forest landscapes, which are spectacular ecosystems but also highly threatened. Her lab includes graduate students from Costa Rica, Colombia, Vietnam, Tanzania, and the United States. In addition to using scientific approaches to studying tropical dry forests, her lab embraces using art as a way to connect ecology to society, and she never goes to the field without a journal to sketch what she sees.

Talk title:

Roots and Branches: Building a Collaborative Science of Conservation, Restoration, and Ecology for the 21st Century

Talk summary:

We are all too aware of the looming environmental and social crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, land-use change, and pollution. It can be challenging to maintain hope, both personally and professionally in the face of the many threats to the planet. In this talk I will trace the “roots” of disciplinary sciences, illustrating key themes in some of the work our lab group has done to understand the structure and function of tropical dry forests. Our projects include work to document rooting depths of different plant life forms, and modeling and field studies of secondary forest succession. These studies illustrate the roots of ecological understanding; in essence, how tropical dry forests are put together—but they do not amount to much if they are unconnected from other fields or potential applications. I will then discuss how we can build interdisciplinary bridges—or “branches” that connect different fields of inquiry and practice. We now have new ways to communicate and collaborate. We can leverage these tools in creative ways to link scientists from all over the world to participate in research networks, to bring together practitioners, scientists, managers, and community members to focus on ecological issues, and to connect community members to nature. I will next discuss examples of these branches including a radical project to reestablish forest cover in Costa Rica through application of agricultural waste, the TropiRoots collaborative network that brings together root researchers from all over the tropics, and ways to disengage from the digital world through making observations in a nature journal. We are living in challenging but exciting times, and forging a new, collaborative science and practice of conservation, restoration, and ecology is one way to cultivate care for our planet.



Visuals from Jennifer Powers' technical plenary talk at SCCS Bengaluru 2024



Jagdish Krishnaswamy

Hydro-ecologist

Jagdish Krishnaswamy is the Dean, School of Environment and Sustainability (SES) at IIHS. As the Dean of SES, Jagdish leads the build-out of the School, providing strategic direction and operational guidance to expand its academic footprint, research activities and network, practice portfolio, and capacity-building initiatives. Jagdish helps in the development of the IIHS Kengeri campus and its environs as India's first Long-Term Urban Ecological Observatory (LTUEO) and strengthens IIHS's profile in ecology and conservation science.

Jagdish's research has spanned the entire continuum from the semi-wild to the urban, covering USA, Costa Rica, Africa, and India in ecohydrology, landscape ecology and biodiversity. His work on conservation science and planning led to the nomination of the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot as a UNESCO World Heritage Site besides informing the investment of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) civil society-led pilot projects. His work in ecohydrology, impact of invasive species and ecological flows in rivers has influenced policy and management at the state and centre. He is also part of the team that released a report for policymakers on state of the art on ecological restoration in India as well the first ever mapping of priority sites for both biodiversity and ecosystem service both sponsored by the Government of India's Mission on Biodiversity and Human wellbeing. Jagdish's work spans climate science, impact of extreme rain and warming on ecosystems across India, urban policymaking and overall research and practice that connects food, water, ecology and biodiversity in an urbanising context.

Talk title:

India's ecological futures, challenges and opportunities: water from the woods and water for wetlands



Snapshots from Jagdish Krishnaswamy's popular talk at SCCS Bengaluru 2024

Careers in Conservation

The Panel discussion on careers in conservation, moderated by Neha Sinha and featuring panellists Sartaj Ghuman, Artist - Writer; Shreya Dasgupta, Science journalist; N. Jeykumaran, Indian Forest Service; Manish Chandi, Interdisciplinary Researcher; and Puja Mitra, a conservation practitioner, social entrepreneur & impact consultant. They provided valuable insights and advice to students and young professionals interested in the field. The panellists, representing a diversity of backgrounds and expertise, shared their own career journeys and discussed the different types of jobs available, the education and skills required, and how to find and apply for conservation jobs. The discussion also addressed common challenges and concerns, such as work-life balance, breaking into the field, and dealing with setbacks. Participants were left with a more informed understanding of the field and a sense of hope for the future of conservation.



Sartaj Ghuman

Puja Mitra

N. Jeykumaran

Shreya Dasgupta

Manish Chandi

Neha Sinha



Visual from Careers in Conservation session at SCCS Bengaluru 2024

Abstracts Submission & Review

This year, SCCS-Bng 2024 received 175 abstracts, with 81 meeting the eligibility criteria after a thorough screening process and being shortlisted for presentation at the conference.

Each abstract was carefully assigned to two reviewers whose expertise closely matched the subject matter. Subsequently, the received reviews were evaluated based on their quality, the constructive nature of the feedback, and the alignment between scores and feedback. In instances where discrepancies arose between the two reviews for the same abstract, the Abstracts Working Group assigned the abstract to a third reviewer.

The selection process for shortlisting primarily relied on the consolidated reviews for each abstract. Additional factors such as international participation, disciplinary diversity, variety in topics, and gender diversity were also taken into consideration in shaping the final shortlist.

The review panel this year comprised 125 members. The report includes a list of abstract reviewers to whom we extend our sincere gratitude for their invaluable help and support.

Student Presentations

We received 175 abstract submissions and had each one evaluated by two to three external reviewers. Out of these, 81 high-quality abstracts were chosen for presentation at the conference. From this pool, 15 were selected across diverse locations and fields for student talks, while the remaining 68 were designated for student posters.

We maintained our tradition of featuring a single talk session (without simultaneous sessions) where each student talk was allocated 20 minutes, which included time for a 15 minute presentation and 5 minutes dedicated to questions and interaction. Moreover, we conducted two separate poster sessions, presenting a total of 68 posters during the event.



Student Talks

No	Name of the presenter	Title of the talk
1	Titir Debnath	Distribution and Ecology of the Montane Macaques and Human-Macaque Relationships in the Eastern Himalayas of Arunachal Pradesh Northeastern India
2	Linh Bao Nguyen	Integrated adaptation strategies for human-leopard cat coexistence in Taiwan
3	Somya Jain	Spatial analysis of the 2022 floods in Assam on biodiversity and agricultural land using remote sensing and machine learning
4	Aditi Rao	Threads of Time: Intergenerational Transmission of Traditional Ecological Knowledge About Tubers in Uttara Kannada's Kunbi Community
5	Radhika Rajendra	Examining the Role of Intraspecific Trait Variation in Shaping Tree Species' Distribution in a Dry Tropical Ecosystem of India
6	Ashisha K	Drudging in the dark: Shedding light on the ecological niche breadth of the grey slender loris species (<i>Loris lydekkerianus</i>)
7	Akashdeep Roy	Energized Fences and Rice Beer Shape Human-Elephant Conflict in Northern Bengal: A more-than-human Political Ecology Approach
8	Priyanka Justa	Are human-altered landscapes reshaping carnivore niche spaces in the cold desert of Spiti Valley?
9	Amanda Ben	Rocks Trees Temperature and Lizards- How temperature affects performance of two sympatric agamid lizards?
10	Hassan Shahnowaz Islam	What are the Values a River Holds? The Socio-ecological Economic and Cultural Tragedy of the Luni River Rajasthan.
11	Pasindu Rodrigu	Assessing Habitat Utilization, Activity Pattern, and Population Density of the Globally Threatened Sri Lankan Sloth Bear in Kumana National Park.
12	Veerendra Naidu	Pugmarks among footprints: Persistence of mammalian carnivores in the human-dominated landscape of Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary Maharashtra.
13	Robia Kshetrimayum	Quantifying Anthropogenic Threats to the Freshwater Fishes of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh: Implication for Conservation
14	Subhadra Barik	Exploring Indian Gaur's Spatial Responses to Changing Habitat Using Random Forest Models
15	Shilpa Bevoor	Effect of Land-use change on the Habitat and Density of Grizzled Giant Squirrel around SMTR Tamil Nadu

Student Posters

S No	Name of the Presenter	Title of the poster presentation
1	Aabha Salunkhe	Urban waters run foul: Understanding the ecosystem-wide impacts of urbanisation on streams
2	Aashra Iype	Systematic review of restoration efforts in the Western and Trans Himalayas: current realities and implications
3	Abhijit Saikia	Mitigating Crop Raids by Elephants: The Impact of Adopting Resilient Cropping Systems
4	Abhishikta Roy	Endemic radiation in the lotic system: A study using <i>Paludomus</i> in the Western Ghats India
5	Adil Arif	The Insta-Effect: Zoos Use of Instagram for Virtual Engagement and Wildlife Conservation Awareness Amid COVID-19 Pandemic
6	Aditi Renake	A conceptual model for the impact of beach plastics on nesting sea turtle embryos and hatchlings.
7	Aditya Ganesh	Ecological plasticity or Habitat specialization? Evaluating land cover effects on owls in a mosaic agricultural landscape
8	Aishwarya Menon	Urban Home Gardens: Perceptions of People and its Ecological significance in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)
9	Ajinkya Bagal	Ring the Bell: Simple Solution to an Elephantine Problem
10	Amey Paranjape	A study to understand and assess of reliance of wildlife and human on <i>Madhuca indica</i> flower in TATR Landscape
11	Anisha Jasti	Variation in sea turtles' visual sensitivity to light
12	Anjali Bharati	Unveiling the Power of Citizen Science for Conservation: Insights from Projects Coordinators in India
13	Ankita Sharma	Coexisting with the Urban Arthropods: An Evaluation of Human Attitudes Towards Spiders and Ants in Urban Environment
14	Antoinette Prudence Tegueu Kameni	Integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge in environmental assessments in southeastern Cameroon
15	Anuj Shinde	Leveraging Citizen Science to Improve Expert-drawn Range Maps and Conservation Assessments of poorly-known Shieldtail Snakes
16	Atharva Kulkarni	Ecological Assessment of Grassland-Specific Spiders Near Pune city
17	Athira Saleevan	Fire susceptibility and risk pattern assessment in protected Areas of Kerala using satellite data: A preliminary study.
18	Ayana Krishnan	Meeting an invader!': Understanding behavioral responses of the juvenile Deccan mahseers (<i>Tor khudree</i>) towards the alien invasive fish common
19	Chanima Anawarathna	Population density estimation of terrestrial mammals in recreational areas of Kumana National Park based on random encounter model
20	Charani Gunathilaka	Foraging niche partitioning of Critically Endangered Black-necked Stork in Kumana National Park, Sri Lanka
21	Debangini Roy	Urban Weather Forecast: Cloudy with a Chance of Owls Exploring threats to owls and human-owl affiliation in Indian cities

S No	Name of the Presenter	Title of the poster presentation
22	Deesha Jeppu	Factors affecting the diversity of specialist vs. generalist parasites: Implications for conservation of parasites and their hosts
23	Dephan Philipose	Personality traits and Behavioural Syndromes in the juvenile Deccan mahseers (<i>Tor khudree</i>) a megafish produced by two different hatcheries
24	Divyanshu Pawar	Understanding the Ecohydrology of the tri state Myristica swamps of Maharashtra Karnataka and Goa
25	Durga Nanda Yadav	Understanding Spatial and Temporal Pattern of Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Bardiya National Park, Nepal
26	Garima Bora	Diet composition & variation in four commonly landed & threatened shark species in Maharashtra India
27	Hiruni Weerasinghe	Impact of visitor disturbance on bird diversity along the recreational roads of Kumana National Park Sri Lanka.
28	Jithin Vijayan	Rooted in the neighbourhood: Illustrating selected place-based education initiatives in the Indian environmental education context
29	Kiran Kanhurkar	Interactions between sea turtles and small-scale fisheries in Goa
30	Leenthoi Laishram Laishram	Ecological Restoration engaging indigenous communities at jhum fallow Karbi Anglong- Assam
31	M. Sathya Sangeetha	Root harvesting impacts survival and alters reproduction in <i>Decalepis hamiltonii</i> population in Savandurga RF
32	Manali Banerjee	Impact of Anthropogenic Disturbance of Habitat on a Fan-Throated Lizard species (<i>Sitana sushili</i>)
33	Mirza Altaf Baig	Impact of anthropogenic actions on the forest regeneration of Ranikhet region Kumaon Himalayas Uttarakhand India
34	Monika C	Living alongside the Indian Bison: Understanding Human-Gaur Relationships in Human-Dominated Landscapes of South India
35	Muhammad Shiras NKK	Quantification of Road Mortalities of Wildlife on State Highway Passing Through Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary Karnataka India.
36	Nayantara Siruguri	A Case for Place-based Nature Education in Northeast India: Practical insights from Changlangshu Nagaland
37	Nidhi Johri	Understanding the drivers of ray meat consumption in West Bengal
38	Nina Simon	Estimating competency of coral larvae in the Lakshadweep islands
39	Oviya Jayashima	Unravelling Kerala's Traditional Wisdom: A Comprehensive Study of Ethnoveterinary Practices for Captive Elephants
40	Paritosh Sharma	From Captive Management to Conservation Success: How Shell Morphology Can Augment Tricarinate Hill Turtle Reintroduction
41	Prapti Satpathy	Character Evolution and Diversification in Neritimorpha (Mollusca: Gastropoda)
42	Pratik Desai	Behavioural Strategies in Competitive Foraging Environments: Analysing vulture dynamics and threats on supplementary feeding ground Raigad Maharashtra
43	Prerana Chandak	An Ethnobotanical inquiry into medicinal plants and their relationship with people on lateritic plateaus of Ratnagiri district
44	Priyadharshini Vijayakumar	Current scenario of White bellied Heron (<i>Ardea insignis</i>) – A review

S No	Name of the Presenter	Title of the poster presentation
45	Priyanka Prakash	A Nature-based Social Emotional Learning Programme for School Teachers and Educators
46	Rubul Tanti	Rapid Response Unit: empowering local communities to manage human-elephant conflict alerts and promote coexistence in Eastern Assam
47	Rupak Sutradhar	A preliminary study on rescue of wild mammal in India a review
48	Rupali Thakur	Unveiling India's Potential: Delving into UNESCO World Heritage Site Nominations with Comprehensive Analysis and Identification
49	Ryan Satish	Assessing the impact of disturbance on Macroinvertebrate structure in the hill streams of The Nilgiris
50	Sabina Shakya	Distribution and utilization of water holes by wildlife in Bardiya National Park
51	Sajani Jayakody	Home range sizes of <i>Panthera Pardus kotiya</i> in Kumana National Park, Sri Lanka
52	Sajib Biswas	Exploring Amphibians in a Protected Area with High Human Interference: A Study from Satchari National Park, Bangladesh
53	Sanjana Vadakke Kuruppath	Assessing the dog-wildlife interface in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve Tamil Nadu
54	Serene Edwina Rynjah	Relative Abundance and Activity Patterns of Small Carnivores in Balpakram National Park Meghalaya.
55	Shachi Pandey	Diversity Variation of Aquatic Arthropod community in Dhanauri Wetlands Uttar Pradesh
56	Sharon Pradhan	Presence of microplastics and heavy metal contaminants and their routes of entry into eggs and hatchlings of olive ridley turtles
57	Shashank Nagarale	Trash talk : Mammals response to the garbage sites around Rajaji National Park Uttarakhand
58	Shreya Mehra	Assessing the ecological impacts and livelihood dependence of seaweed farming in Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay Tamil Nadu
59	Somya sharma	Mapping the distribution of Lantana camara in Rajaji National Park using Machine Learning and Insights on Climate Factors Forest Fragmentation
60	Sreejith Jayakumar	Reduced Insectivorous Bat Activity in the Presence of Wind Turbines in India
61	Srishti Praveen	Hiss & Recall: A Work-in-progress case study on the use of User Centered Design Methodology for Mitigating Human Snake Conflict
62	Swara Bakshi	Avian diversity and its association with old growth Ficus trees.
63	Syed Aadam	Integrating Bioacoustics and Machine Learning for Advanced Bird Monitoring in Kashmir
64	Syed Fahmida Jahan	Behavioural anxiety and physiological stress of globally threatened capped langur (<i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i>) living in human-modified habitats in Bangladesh
65	Vanishree Naik	Monkeys in a Metro: Examining the human-bonnet macaque interface in a rapidly urbanizing India
66	Yashaswi Garg	Scope of increasing India's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Conserved Areas in line with the Target 3 of Global Biodiversity Framework.



Networking & Public Engagement at SCCS-Bng 2024

Increasing public awareness about conservation issues is a mainstay of the conference – and an important way in which it differs from other conferences. Apart from the popular plenary talks, we had additional sessions, with a focus on networking and also on engaging with non-specialist audiences and promoting interactions across disciplines.

Birds of a Feather Session

We had a dedicated networking session called 'Birds of a Feather'. This session was meant as an icebreaker and to provide space and time for networking with other participants and resource people working in the participant's area of interest.

Prior to the event, we proactively solicited several overarching conservation themes from the conference participants, enabling them and resource individuals to convene based on these themes during the session. Our aim was to inspire and support participants with particular research ideas or interests to propose their topics, connect with like-minded peers, and establish collaborations. As SCCS regularly hosts numerous conservation scientists, we actively encouraged their involvement in this session.

The selected themes for the Birds of a Feather session this year were:

- 1) Marine Conservation and Collaboration
- 2) Ethics in Conservation
- 3) Human reptile and interaction
- 4) Anthropology culture and Ethnography in Conservation
- 5) How to decide what to conserve
- 6) Ecological restoration
- 7) Inclusivity, intersectionality, and disabilities in conservation
- 8) Legal framework and its application in conservation
- 9) Wetlands: Importance, perceptions, conservation and research
- 10) Tech AI in conservation



Nature Walks at SCCS Bengaluru 2024

Bird Walk:

Early morning bird walks on the IISc campus were conducted on Days 2, 3 and 4 of SCCS-2024. There were about 25 to 30 participants on each day. Priti Bangal and Tarun Menon facilitated these walks.

Tree Walk:

Conducted during Days 3 and 4 of SCCS, the tree walk was guided by Sayee Girdhar & Navendu Pagei. In an hour, 15 to 20 participants with diverse backgrounds strolled through a section of the IISc campus, observing and studying the various tree species they encountered along their path. The emphasis was on practical tree identification rather than getting entangled in technical terminology.

Loris Walk:

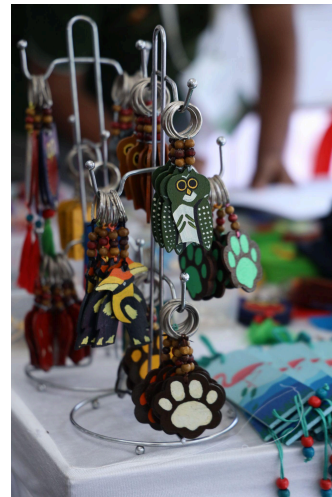
The Loris Walks at SCCS 2024 took place within the IISc campus, following the roadside routes. Each day, 30 participants were divided into two groups and were guided by different pairs of facilitators. Vidisha Kulkarni and Arun Visweswaran led one group on Day 2, while Vidisha Kulkarni and Yateesh Kumar led the other group on Day 3.

Who's Who in Conservation

"Who's Who in Conservation" aimed to bring together a diverse community of conservationists, non-profits, companies, filmmakers, photographers, naturalists, artists, illustrators, cartoonists, and product designers, all dedicated to making a positive impact on our environment. SCCS-Bng 2024 was designed to provide a platform for attendees to interact with these organisations, gain insights into their work, identify areas of mutual interest, and explore volunteering, internship, and job opportunities.

There were 25 Who's Who participants, comprising a mix of conservation action groups, NGOs, individual wildlife artists, and research institutions.

1. Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc
2. National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)
3. Nature Conservation Foundation
4. Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
5. Wildlife Trust of India
6. Dakshin Foundation
7. Human and Environment Alliance League (HEAL)
8. Wildlife Research and Conservation Society
9. Conservationists and Ecologists Against Sexual Harassment (CEASE)
10. Kalinga Foundation
11. PashooPakshee
12. Madras Crocodile Bank Trust
13. The PA Update Online Database
14. Wildlife Conservation Society - India
15. Feather Library
16. Veditum India Foundation
17. Canopy Collective/Dusty Foot Foundation
18. Network for Conserving Central India
19. Wipro Foundation - Bengaluru Sustainability Forum
20. Nature Mates-Nature Club
21. SPROUTS
22. WWF-India



Artist's Corner

New Initiative – Conservation Artists Showcase

This year, SCCS Bengaluru introduced a new initiative, the Conservation Artists Showcase, which aimed to highlight the role of visual art in supporting conservation efforts. Designed as a non-commercial platform, the showcase offered selected artists an opportunity to present works created specifically for conservation organisations and outreach programmes, reflecting the intersection of art and environmental stewardship.



The initiative provided notable visibility for the participating artists—Sambita Modak, P. I. Megha Vinod, Gaurav Patil, and Anshruta B. A.—who were able to share their work with an engaged audience of conservation professionals, researchers, and enthusiasts. Over the course of the two-day display, the artists had the opportunity to connect with individuals and organisations invested in conservation, fostering valuable discussions on the broader influence of creative expression in this field.

The Conservation Artists Showcase was well received, subtly enriching the conference programme and underscoring the potential of interdisciplinary approaches in conservation. This successful addition marked a promising direction for future conferences, reinforcing the integral role of diverse perspectives in addressing conservation challenges.

Tribute to Shashank Srinivasan



This year's SCCS Bengaluru included a heartfelt tribute to Shashank Srinivasan, a cartographer, technologist, and conservationist who was widely respected for his dedication to wildlife and nature. Shashank, the founder of the Technology for Wildlife Foundation, was known for his innovative work and his commitment to using technology for conservation.

To honour his memory, Shashank's family supported SCCS 2024 by funding over 40 domestic bursaries for Indian students, as well as covering costs for three domestic speakers. This contribution, totalling ₹3.25 lakh, enabled young conservationists to attend the conference and engage with experts, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas.

The family expressed that this initiative was their way of celebrating Shashank's love for nature and his belief in the power of education and learning. SCCS participants were informed about this support during the event, and many shared their gratitude for the opportunities it created.

The conference acknowledged this extraordinary gesture as a meaningful way to honour Shashank's legacy and his vision for empowering the next generation of biodiversity conservationists.



Felicitations of Raman Kumar

On the 15th edition of SCCS Bengaluru, Raman Kumar was felicitated for his pivotal role in designing the SCCS logo, a symbol now embraced by all sister conferences worldwide. His creativity and contribution have significantly shaped the identity of SCCS, leaving a lasting legacy in the conservation community.



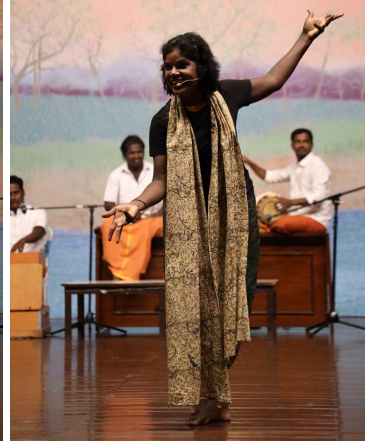
15th Year Celebration of SCCS Bengaluru 2024

The opening night of the 15th SCCS Bengaluru featured a performance by the indigenous artists of the Katradi Trust, Tamil Nadu. The performance incorporated the traditional art forms of Kattaikkuttu, Oyilattam, and Oppari, highlighting the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu and addressing the theme of wetland conservation.

Titled *Shhh... Listen!*, SCCS commissioned the play and took place on the first day of the conference. The performance emphasised the importance of cultural preservation and its relevance to contemporary environmental issues.

This event marked the beginning of the four-day conference, providing a platform to discuss the connection between culture and conservation.





Workshops

With their emphasis on skill development and capacity building, workshops have consistently stood out as the highlight of the SCCS-Bng conference. In the latest edition, there were 10 long and 32 short workshops. The long workshops took place from 09:00 to 16:00 on the second day, while the short ones were held from 14:00 to 16:30 on the remaining (1, 3 & 4) conference days. Among these, there were four recurring long workshops and 14 recurring short workshops, retained from previous years. The initiative to invite new workshop proposals was announced to introduce fresh and essential skills, enabling students to stay informed and up-to-date in the field of conservation.

The lineup of workshops for SCCS-Bng 2024 remains a cornerstone of the conference, offering an invaluable chance for students, early-career conservationists, and enthusiasts to enrich their expertise and understanding. Approximately 45 new workshop proposals were received, and after careful consideration by our panel of experts, 5 new long workshops and 15 new short workshops were selected for inclusion.

Nearly 300 slots for workshops were available each day, and due to high demand from participants, resource people were requested to accommodate more attendees, a request most workshop organisers graciously accepted on the spot. As a result, the participation in the workshops reached a high of approximately 400 participants per day.

The majority of the workshops received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the participants. A significant portion of the attendees reported that their chosen workshops greatly improved their comprehension of the subject matter and equipped them with valuable additional skills. As per the usual practice, feedback from each workshop was collected from the participants and then shared with the respective resource persons and catalogued for the organisers to review for future conferences.



Short Workshops

S No	Short Workshops	Resource Person(s)
1	Inking Nature: A Nature Journaling Workshop	Sikha Hariharan
2	Bioacoustics in Conservation	Viral Joshi, Isha Bopadikar, Divya Panicker, Taksh Sangwan
3	Participatory research methods: Why and How?	Revati Pandya, Bhuvana Balaji, Nayana Udayashankar
4	Building Alternative Livelihood Models with Communities	Savini Sonavaria
5	Analysing Count Data - Fitting and Interpreting Generalized Linear Models (GLMs)	Kavita Isvaran
6	Basics of Tree Identification and Phenology	Sayee Girdhari
7	Make your own 'Protected Area Update'	Pankaj Sekhsaria, Reshma Jathar
8	Making effective presentations	Yateendra Joshi
9	Pitch and Write: Nature articles in mass media in English and other Indian languages	Rupsy Khurana, Mayank Aggarwal
10	Significance of Folklores in Conservation Studies	Dipti Arora, Astha Chaudhary
11	Foundations of Vulnerability Assessment: Concepts, Methods, and Applications in Conservation	Vidhatri Thakkar, Sahil Mathew, Tashina Madappa C., Vidya S.
12	Unpacking an Economics Toolkit for Environmental Policy	Aniket Bhatkhande
13	Asking new questions in a changing enviro legal landscape	Stella James, Vineeta Venugopal
14	Study Design in Ecology and Conservation	Kavita Isvaran
15	The study of Animal behaviour and its applications for conservation	Nishant Srinivassaiah, Samira Agnihotri
16	Rhythm of the Wild: Using Dance and Movement as a Tool in Nature Storytelling and Building Conservation Awareness	Priya Ranganathan
17	DNA Metabarcoding Masterclass: Uncovering the Diets of Wild Species	Abhinav Tyagi, Mousumi Ghosh
18	Socio-economic Data Collection for Conservation: A session on best practices	Pooja Dewoolkar
19	Geospatial Data Processing and Developing Predictive Distribution Models in Freshwater Environments	Vineet K Dubey, Meghavi Purohit
20	'Okay, but what's the story?' - A guide to reading and synthesizing research papers	Anish Paul, Pritha Dey, Aksha Chowdhary, Malavika Kamath
21	Folklore and Folktales in wildlife conservation	Vikram Sridhar
22	Enter the Dragon: Workshop on Freshwater Macro-invertebrate Ecology with emphasis on Odonates (Dragonflies & Damselflies)	Pankaj Koparde, Prosenjit Dawn, Soma Mishra
23	Writing for Researchers	Karthik Ramaswamy
24	Preparing documents in R; application of R Markdown to create notebook, pdf and HTML documents	Chandan Kumar Pandey

S No	Short Workshops	Resource Person(s)
25	Language and Ecology - Communicating Nature Through Local Languages	P. Jeganathan, Pooja Pawar
26	Art meets Science: A collaborative workshop	Shivangi Pant, Devathi Parashuram, Greta Ann Sam, Karunya Baskar, Athulya Pillai, Labonie Roy
27	Across the Shark-verse	Evan Nazareth, Alissa Barnes
28	Choosing the off-beat: Careers in Ecology, Environmental Science, and Sustainability Studies	Pankaj Koparde, Shrikant Gund
29	Does human behaviour really change? Insights from social psychology in understanding challenges to wildlife conservation in India	Prachi Paranjpye
30	Community Mapping for Conservation: Techniques, Applications, and Advocacy	Abel Job Abraham
31	Using open data & collaborations for environmental accountability - learning with India Sand Watch	Rhea Lopez, Siddharth Agarwal, Aishani Goswami
32	Acoustic Monitoring in Conservation	Gururaja KV, Vineeth Kumar; Shashank Borkar; Vishwajith HU and Vaibhavi G

Long Workshops

S No	Long Workshops	Resource Person(s)
1	How R You Doing? Using the R platform for Managing and Analyzing Ecological Datasets	Raman Kumar
2	Plant ID	Navendu Page
3	Drone-based Visual Animal Tracking for Conservation Science	Akanksha Rathore Jitesh Jhawar
4	Games and Conservation	Misha Bansal Priti Bangal Peeyush Sekhsaria
5	A gentle introduction to spatial data analysis in R	Manvi Sharma Bharti Dharapuram
6	Contextualising Environmental Justice in India	Yamini Srikanth
7	Qualitative Research in Conservation: Power, Positionality and Practice	Budhaditya Das Venkat Ramanujam
8	Fellowship and grant writing in Ecological Sciences	Sabuj Bhattacharyya Monica Kaushik
9	Writing for Researchers	Karthik Ram



A Mandatory POSH Session at SCCS Bengaluru

Workplace Safety and Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Ecology and Conservation on Day 1-

At SCCS-Bengaluru, Nisha Bhakat led a pivotal session on sexual harassment awareness in the conservation and wildlife sectors. Marianne Manuel followed by addressing the gathering, highlighting CEASE's mission to foster safe, harassment-free work environments for conservation professionals. CEASE advocates for zero tolerance towards sexual harassment, offering resources and training to equip individuals and organizations in the field with the knowledge and tools needed for safeguarding personal and professional well-being. [CEASE India](https://www.cease-india.in).



QUEER Circle at SCCS Bengaluru 2024

The fourth edition of the QUEER Circle at SCCS-Bengaluru, a closed-door, online gathering for queer-identifying field ecologists and conservation scientists was hosted. This is aimed at creating a safe, supportive space where LGBTQIA+ individuals can freely share experiences and discuss the unique challenges they face in the ecology and conservation fields. The gathering focused on fostering a sense of belonging, providing a platform to connect and support each other without fear of professional repercussions. An additional in-person meet-up was planned for attendees in Bangalore.

SCCS-Bengaluru's Second Neurodivergent Circle

At SCCS-Bengaluru, the Second Neurodivergent Circle was organized for individuals who self-identify as neurodivergent and work in nature conservation or climate movements. The space was facilitated by a neurodivergent science communication illustrator and co-moderated by an autistic engineer who founded a company dedicated to creating autistic services led by autistic individuals. The session aimed to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for neurodivergent participants to share their experiences and challenges in these fields.

Both circles hosted online meetings to accommodate those who preferred to remain anonymous, and in-person gatherings during the conference days for those present at SCCS in Bangalore. Online meet registrations for both circles were open to individuals not physically present at SCCS, extending the opportunity for support to a broader audience.

Other features of SCCS Bengaluru 2024

Eco-friendly Conference Kits

Notebooks which were part of the Conference kits are made from 100% recycled paper, and pens are 95% plastic-free as they are made from recycled paper.

Plantable ID Cards and organic cotton lanyards

Plantable ID cards and organic cotton lanyards were designed using a combination of recycled and upcycled materials. These ID cards were crafted from 100% wood-free, sustainable handmade paper, utilising upcycled cotton scraps.

Volunteer T-shirts

Special volunteer T-shirts were created to help identify volunteers in the SCCS 2024 crowd, making it convenient for attendees to seek assistance. These T-shirts also served as memorable keepsakes following the conference, featuring the unique artwork of Anarya, the conference artist for 2024.





Waste Management

As a conservation conference, we prioritised waste reduction and responsible waste management. We strictly refrained from using disposable packaging, plates, cups, and cutlery. Leftover food from meals was collected by our caterers and distributed. All presenters, participants, and volunteers were strongly encouraged and given the choice to opt for e-certificates during this SCCS. This practice was well-received, with many individuals choosing the e-certificate option.



Student Awards

During the conference, the panel of evaluators selected three exceptional presentations in both the talk and poster categories, without assigning specific ranks. The names of the top three candidates for talks and posters were announced on the final day of the conference. These winners received a specially curated book bundle, a gift voucher from Champaca, and a printed artwork signed by the artist Sartaj Ghuman, who also served as one of the panellists. Additionally, two talks and two posters received special mentions for their noteworthy contributions.

The evaluation process focused on several critical aspects of the presentations, including academic rigour, the originality and innovation of the study, the contextual relevance of the research, and its potential impact on conservation research, practice, and discourse. The evaluators collaboratively determined the key criteria for assessing the presentations.

Furthermore, the evaluators provided personalised feedback to each participant. This feedback addressed elements such as presentation style, scientific quality, research design, conservation implications, and areas for improvement. Talks were assessed by a unified panel of evaluators, while posters were reviewed by separate groups based on thematic categories.

Talk & Poster Prize-recipients

Talk Prize-recipients

- **Aditi Rao**
Threads of time: Intergenerational transmission of traditional ecological knowledge about tubers in Uttara Kannada's Kunbi community
- **Amanda Ben**
Rocks, trees, temperature, and lizards: How does temperature affect the performance of two sympatric agamid lizards?
- **Radhika Rajendra**
Examining the role of intraspecific trait variation in shaping tree species distribution in a dry tropical ecosystem of India

Talk Special Mentions

- **Priyanka Justa**
Are human-altered landscapes reshaping carnivore niche spaces in the cold desert of Spiti Valley?
- **Shilpa Bevoor**
Effect of land-use change on the habitat and density of the Grizzled Giant Squirrel around SMTR in Tamil Nadu

Poster Prize-recipients

- **Adil Arif**

The Insta-effect: Zoos' use of Instagram for virtual engagement and wildlife conservation awareness amid COVID-19 pandemic

- **Divyanshu Pawar**

Understanding the ecohydrology of the tri-state Myristica swamps of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Goa

- **Kiran Kanhurkar**

Interactions between sea turtles and small-scale fisheries in Goa

Poster Special Mentions

- **Shashank Nagarale**

Trash talk: Mammals' response to the garbage sites around Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand

- **Shreya Mehra**

Assessing the ecological impacts and livelihood dependence of seaweed farming in Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu



Donors and Financials

SCCS-Bengaluru is developing long-term relationships with many of its donors and is glad to be supported by a diverse set of institutions and individuals. Nature Conservation Foundation managed the finances for SCCS 2024.

DONORS

Thanks to our generous donors, we raised Rs. 63,07,843.00/- towards the conference. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support we received from the donors listed below.



We also gratefully acknowledge in-kind support from the following individuals and organisations:

1. Main conference venue – JN Tata Auditorium, National Science Seminar Complex, Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
2. Workshop venues at IISc – Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Department of Management Studies (MGMT), Microbiology & Cell Biology (MCB), Department of Materials Engineering (MTE)
3. Accommodation – Indian Academy of Science Guest House, IISc Main Guest House, IISc Centenary Visitors House, Hoysala & Jawahar Guest House
4. National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Meetings office – Visa processing for international delegates

5. Bangalore University, Dakshin Foundation, Centre for Ecological Sciences - IISC, Indian Institute of Science, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Nature Conservation Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society - India (WCS-I), ATREE, and St. Joseph's College – Volunteers

INCOME

Apart from the INR 60,83,959.00 donated by the donors listed above, we also raised INR 12,20,313.00 through conference registration and INR 1,92,530 through the sale of t-shirts and conference kits. This plus the bank interest, makes the total income INR 74,96,802.00.

EXPENDITURE:

SCCS 2024 incurred a total expenditure of INR 68,65,421.00.

No.	Description	Total
1	Consultancy Charges (Conference Administrator, Illustrator, IISc Staff, Assistance & other consultations)	7,44,000.00
2	Venue (Auditorium + lecture/seminar halls)	4,18,900.00
3	Catering	15,83,382.00
4	Accommodation	4,72,824.00
5	Travel & Bursary Local Travel; Bursaries: Indian; Bursaries: International; Resource people travel; Plenary: Indian (4); Plenary: International (2); Panellists (5))	21,21,470.00
6	Website	3,55,770.00
7	Conference Kits (Volunteer T-shirts, Registration kits, Printing & Stationary)	3,43,467.00
8	Equipment & Media	6,72,731.00
9	Miscellaneous	1,27,190.00
10	Registration Refund	25,650.00
	Total	68,65,384.00

*NCBS donates poster boards.

Bursaries

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the conference offered partial travel reimbursements to student presenters, enabling them to travel to Bengaluru from their respective hometowns. This year SCCS-BNG facilitated the travel of 26 students from India and 10 students from other countries.

People behind the conference

The fourteenth edition of SCCS-BNG was largely successful due to the excellent assistance and support of key people.

Organising Committee

1. Alissa Barnes (Co-lead, Sharks and Rays, Marine Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society-India)
2. Chandrima Home (Faculty, Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Manipal Academy of Higher Education)
3. Ishika Ramakrishna (Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Wildlife Studies)
4. Srinivasan Kasinathan (Restoration Ecologist, Nature Conservation Foundation)
5. Venkat Ramanujam. R (Assistant Professor, Department of Rural Management, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR)
6. Vidyadhar Atkore (Scientist, Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History)
7. Yuvaraj Ranganathan (Research Associate, National Centre for Biological Sciences)

Conference Administrator

1. Sruthy Boopathy

Administrative & Support Team

1. Alpcord Network Events & Conferences Management Company Pvt Ltd
2. Smita Prabhakar, Vinay Hegde, Sunil Kumar (Nature Conservation Foundation)
3. Basavaraj, Raghavendra, Jagdeesha from the Centre for Ecological Science, IISc
4. PP Ranjith, Satish (National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru)

Advisory and Welfare Council

1. Jayshree Ratnam
2. Kavita Isvaran
3. MD Madhusudhan
4. Suhel Quader
5. Marianne Manuel

Advisory Committee

1. Advait Edgaonkar (Indian Institute of Forest Management)
2. Asmita Kabra (Ambedkar University)
3. Deepak Apte (Srushti Conservation Foundation)
4. Firoz Ahmed (Aaranyak)
5. Ghazala Shahabuddin (Ashoka University)
6. Gopi Sundar (Senior Scientist at Seva Mandir and Co-chair, IUCN Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group)
7. Kamal Bawa (University of Massachusetts & Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment)
8. Krithi Karanth (Centre for Wildlife Studies CWS)

9. K.V. Devi Prasad (Dept. of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Pondicherry University)
10. Mewa Singh (Biopsychology Department, University of Mysore)
11. Nitin Rai (Independent scholar)
12. Ravi Bhalla (Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning)
13. Rhys Green (Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge and SCCS - Cambridge)
14. Sejal Worah (WWF-India)
15. Shomita Mukherjee (Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore)
16. Uma Ramakrishnan (National Centre for Biological Sciences)
17. V.B. Mathur (Retired Chairman, National Biodiversity Board)

Working Groups

Plenary Working Group

Anand Pendharkar

Soundarya Iyer

Suchismita Das

Ketki Jog

Workshops Working Group

Shivani Jadeja

Vardhan Patankar

Kasturi Saha

Abstracts Working Group

Amit John Kurien

Arundhati Jagadish

Chandana Pusapati

Kadambari Deshpande

Madhura Niphadkar

Varun Sharma

Abstract Reviewers

Abhijit Dey, Aditi Mukherjee (SACON), Aditya Joshi, Anand Krishnan, Anand Osuri, Anirban Datta-Roy, Aniruddha Datta-Roy, Aniruddha Marathe, Ankila Hiremath, Ankita Bhattacharya, Anuja Date, Anuradha Bhat, Aparna Lajmi, Aritra Kshetry, Arjun Kamdar, Arjun Kannan, Arjun Srivathsa, Arundhati Das, Ashwin Viswanathan, Asmita Sengupta, Atul Joshi, Baheerathan Murugavel, Bharti Dharapuram, Bindu Raghavan, Budhaditya Das, Chandan Goswami, Chandrima Home, Chetan Misher, Chetan Nag, Chintan Sheth, Chiti Arvind, Devcharan Jathanna, Dharmaveer Shetty, Divya Panicker, Divya Uma, Divyashree Rana, Erika D'Souza, Firoz Ahmed, Gauri Gharpure, Geetha Ramaswami, Girish Punjabi, Gowri Shankar, Gururaja KV, Harish Prakash, Himanshu Kulkarni, Iravatee Majgaonkar, KA Subramanian (ZSI), Karthik Teegalapalli, Kaushik Sarkar, Kaustabh Rau, Ketki Jog, Kritika Balaji, KS Seshadri, Lallianpuui Kawlni, Maria Thaker, Mayuresh Gangal, Meghana Natesh, Mihir Kulkarni, Milind Pariwakam, Munib Khanyari, Muralidharan Manoharakrishnan, Nachiket Kelkar, Namami Sharma, Narayan Sharma, Natasha Hazarika, Navendu Page, Nayana Udayasankar, Neelambari Phalkey, Neeti Sinha, Nitin Sekar, Nupur Kale, Ovee Thorat, Pankaj Koparde, Partha Sarathi Mishra, SRISHTI, Peeyush Sekhsaria, Pijush Dutta, Pooja Choksi, Pooja Pawar, Prachi Mehta, Prachi Thatte, Pradeep Koulgi, Prasad Pathak, Prashanth MB, Preeti Hebbar, Priitha Dey, Priti Bangal, Priya Ranganathan, Radhe Yampi, Radhika Kanade, Rahul Muralidharan, Rajah Jayapal, Ratna Ghosal, Ravi Jambhekar, Riddhika Ramesh, Rohan Menzies, Roshni Kutty, Saloni Bhatia, Sandeep Pulla, Sanjeeta Sharma Pokharel, Santosh Gedam, Seema Lokhandwala, Seena Karimbumkara, Shirish Manchi, Shivani Agarwal, Shivani Jadeja, Shivona Bhojwani, Shomen

Mukherjee, Shruti Mokashi, Smitha Daniel, Sruthy Boopathy, Sutirtho Lahiri, Tarun Menon, Tarun Nair, Umesh Srinivasan, Uttara Mendiratta, Vardhan Patankar, Vena Kapoor, Vidisha Kulkarni, Vikram Aditya, Vinayak Patil, Viraj Torsekar, Vivek Philip Cyriac, Vivek Ramachandran, VV Binoy

Workshop Resource Persons

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sikha Hariharan | 37. Biswa Bhusana Mahapatra | 72. Karunya Baskar |
| 2. Viral Joshi | 38. Divyashree Rana | 73. Labonie Roy |
| 3. Isha Bopadikar | 39. Imran Samad | 74. Deepika Nandan |
| 4. Divya Panicker | 40. Priyanka Prakash | 75. Aditi Rajan |
| 5. Taksh Sangwan | 41. Vena Kapoor | 76. Dan Read |
| 6. Revati Pandya | 42. Misha Bansal | 77. Pankaj Koparde |
| 7. Nayana Udayashankar | 43. Neha Sinha | 78. Shrikant Gund |
| 8. Bhuvana Balaji | 44. Aniket Bhatkhande | 79. Prachi Paranjpye |
| 9. Savini Sonavaria | 45. Tamanna Ahmad | 80. Abel Job Abraham |
| 10. Kavita Isvaran | 46. Stella James | 81. Rhea Lopez |
| 11. Sayee Girdhari | 47. Vineetha Venugopal | 82. Siddharth Agarwal |
| 12. Sambita Modak | 48. Kavita Isvaran | 83. Aishani Goswami |
| 13. Pankaj Sekhsaria | 49. Samira Agnihotri | 84. Gururaja KV |
| 14. Reshma Jathar | 50. Nishant Srinivasaiah | 85. Vineeth Kumar |
| 15. Yateendra Joshi | 51. Devica Ranade | 86. Shashank Borkar |
| 16. Rupsy Khurana | 52. Priya Ranganathan | 87. Vishwajith HU |
| 17. Mayank Aggarwal | 53. Pankaj Koparde | 88. Vaibhavi G |
| 18. Dipti Arora | 54. Prosenjit Dawn | 89. Evan Nazareth |
| 19. Astha Chaudhary | 55. Abhinav Tyagi | 90. Alissa Barnes |
| 20. Vidhatri Thakkar | 56. Mousumi Ghosh | |
| 21. Sahil Mathew | 57. Pooja Dewoolkar | |
| 22. Tashina Madappa C. | 58. Vineet K Dubey | |
| 23. Vidya S. | 59. Meghavi Purohit | |
| 24. Raman Kumar | 60. Anish Paul | |
| 25. Navendu Page | 61. Pritha Dey | |
| 26. Sayee Girdhari | 62. Aksha Chowdhary | |
| 27. Bibidishananda Basu | 63. Malavika Kamath | |
| 28. Sabuj Bhattacharyya | 64. Vikram Sridhar | |
| 29. Monica Kaushik | 65. Karthik Ram | |
| 30. Yams Srikanth | 66. Chandan Kumar | |
| 31. Priti Bangal | Pandey | |
| 32. Peeyush Sekhsaria | 67. Panchapakesan | |
| 33. Karthik Natarajan | Jeganathan | |
| 34. Prasad Sandbhor | 68. Pooja Pawar | |
| 35. Budhaditya Das | 69. Shivangi Pant | |
| 36. Venkat Ramanujam | 70. Devathi Parashuram | |
| Ramani | 71. Greta Ann Sam | |

Student Presentation Judges

Talks

1. Vena Kapoor
2. Budhaditya Das
3. Divya Panicker
4. Madhura Niphadkar
5. Soundarya Iyer
6. Kadambari Deshpande
7. Vivek Ramachandran
8. Mayuresh Gangal

Poster

1. Saloni Bhatia
2. Vivek Ramachandran
3. Mayuresh Gangal
4. Budhaditya Das
5. Priti Bangal
6. Amit Kurien
7. Soundarya Iyer
8. Pritha Dey

Volunteers

We received support from a substantial team of 45 volunteers representing different institutions based in Bengaluru (including Bangalore University, Dakshin Foundation, Centre for Ecological Sciences - IISc, Indian Institute of Science, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Nature Conservation Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society - India (WCS-I), ATREE, and St. Joseph's College).

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru

1. Ashrith G S

Bangalore University

1. Vijayanand K P

Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, Bangalore

1. Aaheli Bera
2. Abhirami M Jayakumar
3. Anoushka
4. Godhooly
5. Navaneel Sarangi
6. Prankush Bansal
7. Rajnish Shree Raj
8. Sharon Pradhan
9. Sonali
10. Tapasya Thapa
11. Haradhan Ruidas
12. Aarthi R
13. Aaryan Dhawan
14. Anmol R
15. Bhuvana Prakash
16. Meenakshi.A.K

17. Narashiman N
18. Prakruti Mehta
19. Rakshith R
20. Gauravya
21. M. Nishanth Arvind

Dakshin Foundation, Bengaluru

1. Rahul MS
2. Samar Ahmad

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

1. Rakshith R

National Centre for Biological Science, (NCBS) Bengaluru

1. Gayathri
2. Lakshmi Niranjana
3. Monika C
4. Vinti Nanda

Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Bengaluru

1. Amisha Nakhwa
2. Kavya Ramesh
3. Priya Hazra

4. Satvika Nukala
5. Shweta Kullu

St Joseph's University, Bengaluru

1. Shree Lakshmi S

Wildlife Conservation Society - India (WCS-I), Bengaluru

1. Shripad Goenka
2. Karan Deshpande

Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology

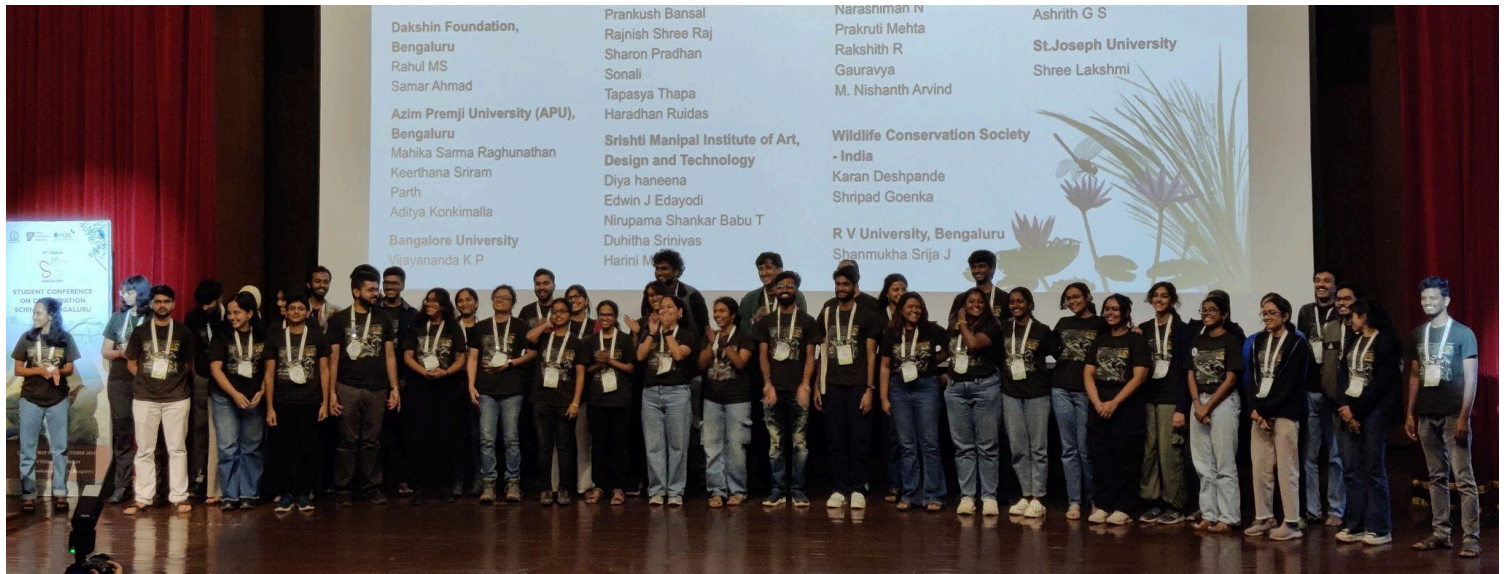
1. Diya haneena
2. Edwin J Edayodi
3. Nirupama Shankar Babu T
4. Duhitha Srinivas
5. Harini M S

R V University, Bengaluru

1. Shanmukha Srija J

Independent

1. Abishai
2. Vishrutha
3. Pragya Malkani
4. Jerusha
5. Pranav Datar



Logistics

Website Management & Travel - Alpcord Network Events and Conference Management Company

Designer - Anarya;

Conference Kit & T-Shirts - SRK Enterprises

Catering - Kamat's Palate Korner

Media - Planotech

Equipment - Sufiya End 2 End Links

Local Transport - Rashi Trade Links

Other Supporters

1. Main conference venue – JN Tata Auditorium
2. Workshop venues at Indian Institute of Science – Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Department of Management Studies (MGMT), Microbiology & Cell Biology (MCB), Department of Materials Engineering (MTE)
3. Accommodation – Indian Academy of Science Guest House, IISc Main Guest House, IISc Centenary Visitors House, Hoysala & Jawahar Guest House

We also thank the organising institutions of SCCS-Bengaluru 2024 for all the institutional support that they have provided.

1. Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc
2. National Centre for Biological Sciences
3. Nature Conservation Foundation





Day 1: Monday, October 21, 2024			Venue
07:30 - 08:30	Breakfast		J N TATA Dining Hall
09:00 - 09:20	Welcome address and Opening Ceremony		J N TATA Auditorium
09:20 - 10:20	Technical Plenary Madeline Green Forensic tools for enhancing fisheries data collection & monitoring		J N TATA Auditorium
10:20 - 12:00	Student Talks	Presenter	Venue
10:20 - 10:40	Spatial analysis of the 2022 floods in Assam on biodiversity and agricultural land using remote sensing and machine learning	Somya Jain	J N TATA Auditorium
10:40 - 11:00	Energized Fences and Rice Beer Shape Human-Elephant Conflict in Northern Bengal: A more-than-human Political Ecology Approach	Akashdeep Roy	J N TATA Auditorium
11:00 - 11:20	Break		J N TATA Dining Hall
11:20 - 11:40	Examining the Role of Intraspecific Trait Variation in Shaping Tree Species' Distribution in a Dry Tropical Ecosystem of India	Radhika Rajendra	J N TATA Auditorium
11:40 - 12:00	Drudging in the dark: Shedding light on the ecological niche breadth of the grey slender loris species (<i>Loris lydekkerianus</i>)	Ashisha K	J N TATA Auditorium
12:00 - 12:20	Are human-altered landscapes reshaping carnivore niche spaces in the cold desert of Spiti Valley?	Priyanka Justa	J N TATA Auditorium
12:20 - 13:00	Session on POSH		J N TATA Auditorium
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		J N TATA Dining Hall
14:00 - 16:30	Short Workshops	Resource Person(s)	Venue
14:00 - 16:30	Inking Nature: A Nature Journaling Workshop	Sikha Hariharan, Sambita Modak	J N TATA Seminar Hall A
14:00 - 16:30	Bioacoustics in Conservation	Viral Joshi, Isha Bopadikar, Divya Panicker, Taksh Sangwan	J N TATA Seminar Hall B
14:00 - 16:30	Participatory research methods: Why and How?	Revati Pandya, Bhuvana Balaji, Nayana Udayashankar	CES Conference Room
14:00 - 16:30	Building Alternative Livelihood Models with Communities	Savini Sonavaria	CES Reading Room
14:00 - 16:30	Analysing Count Data - Fitting and Interpreting Generalized Linear Models (GLMs)	Kavita Isvaran	CES Lotka Voltera
14:00 - 16:30	Basics of Tree Identification and Phenology	Sayee Girdhari	J N TATA Seminar Hall C
14:00 - 16:30	Make your own 'Protected Area Update'	Pankaj Sekhsaria, Reshma Jathar	J N TATA Main Auditorium
14:00 - 16:30	Making effective presentations	Yateendra Joshi	KI Vasu Hall
14:00 - 16:30	Pitch and Write: Nature articles in mass media in English and other Indian languages	Rupsy Khurana, Mayank Aggarwal	MGMT Classroom 2
14:00 - 16:30	Significance of Folklores in Conservation Studies	Dipti Arora, Astha Chaudhary	CES Classroom
14:00 - 16:30	Foundations of Vulnerability Assessment: Concepts, Methods, and Applications in Conservation	Vidhatri Thakkar, Sahil Mathew, Tashina Madappa C., Vidya S.	CES Seminar Hall
16:30 - 16:50	Break		J N TATA Dining Hall
16:50 - 18:00	Student Posters - Session 1		J N TATA - Lobby
18:00 - 19:00	15 Years of SCCS Bengaluru - Special Event		J N TATA Auditorium
19:00 - 20:30	Dinner		J N TATA Dining Hall
20:00 - 21:00	Evening Walk		IISc Campus





Day 2: Tuesday, October 22, 2024			Venue
07:00 - 08:00	Bird Walk		IISc Campus
08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast & Registration		J N TATA Dining Hall
09:00 - 16:30	Long Workshops	Resource Person(s)	Venue
09:00 - 16:30	How R You Doing? Using the R platform for Managing and Analyzing Ecological Datasets	Raman Kumar	CES Lotka Voltera
09:00 - 16:30	Plant ID	Navendu Page, Sayee Girdhari	J N TATA Seminar Hall A
09:00 - 16:30	Fellowship and grant writing in Ecological Sciences	Sabuj Bhattacharyya, Monica Kaushik	KI Vasu Hall - MTE
09:00 - 16:30	Contextualising Environmental Justice in India	Yams Srikanth	J N Tata Seminar Hall C
09:00 - 16:30	Games and Conservation	Priti Bangal, Peeyush Sekhsaria, Prasad Sandbhor, Karthik Natarajan	CES Classroom
09:00 - 16:30	Qualitative Research in Conservation: Power, Positionality and Practice	Budhaditya Das, Venkat Ramanujam	J N TATA Seminar Hall B
09:00 - 16:30	Know your field through pixels	Biswa Bhusana Mahapatra	CES Reading Room
09:00 - 16:30	Maxent and beyond: Exploring the utility and pitfalls of Species Distribution Models	Divyashree Rana, Imran Samad	CES Seminar Hall
09:00 - 16:30	Foundations of Conservation and Nature Education: frameworks, design, practice and ethics	Priyanka Prakash, Vena Kapoor, Misha Bansal	CES Conference Room
09:00 - 16:30	Creative Publishing for Conservation	Neha Sinha	J N TATA Main Auditorium
11:00 - 11:20	Break		J N TATA Dining Hall
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		J N TATA Dining Hall
16:30 - 16:50	Break		J N TATA Dining Hall
16:50 - 18:00	Who's Who in Conservation - Session 1		J N TATA - Lobby
18:00 - 19:00	Panel Discussion - Careers in Conservation	Sartaj Ghuman Shreya Dasgupta Puja Mitra N. Jeykumaran Manish Chandi Neha Sinha - Moderator	J N TATA Auditorium
19:00 - 20:30	Dinner		J N TATA Dining Hall
20:00 - 21:00	Evening Walk		IISc Campus





Day 3: Wednesday, October 23, 2024			Venue
07:00 - 08:00	Bird Walk		IISc Campus
08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast & Registration		J N TATA Dining Hall
09:00 - 10:00	Technical Plenary Pranay Lal Conservation in the time of runaway climate change		J N TATA Auditorium
10:00 - 11:40	Student Talks	Presenter	Venue
10:00 - 10:20	Integrated adaptation strategies for human–leopard cat coexistence in Taiwan	Linh Bao Nguyen	J N TATA Auditorium
10:20 - 10:40	Threads of Time: Intergenerational Transmission of Traditional Ecological Knowledge About Tubers in Uttara Kannada's Kunbi Community	Aditi Rao	J N TATA Auditorium
10:40 - 11:00	Rocks Trees Temperature and Lizards- How temperature affects performance of two sympatric agamid lizards?	Amanda Ben	J N TATA Auditorium
11:00 - 11:20	Break		J N TATA Dining Hall
11:20 - 11:40	What are the Values a River Holds? The Socio-ecological Economic and Cultural Tragedy of the Luni River Rajasthan.	Hassan Shahnowaz Islam	J N TATA Auditorium
11:40 - 12:00	Pugmarks among footprints: Persistence of mammalian carnivores in the human-dominated landscape of Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary Maharashtra.	Veerendra Naidu	J N TATA Auditorium
12:00 - 12:10	Group Photo		J N TATA - Lobby
12:10 - 13:00	Who's Who in Conservation		J N TATA - Lobby
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		J N TATA Dining Hall
14:00 - 16:30	Short Workshops	Resource Person(s)	Venue
14:00 - 16:30	Unpacking an Economics Toolkit for Environmental Policy	Aniket Bhatkhande	J N TATA Seminar Hall B
14:00 - 16:30	Asking new questions in a changing enviro legal landscape	Stella James, Vineeta Venugopal	CES - Reading room
14:00 - 16:30	Study Design in Ecology and Conservation	Kavita Isvaran	CES Conference Room
14:00 - 16:30	The study of Animal behaviour and its applications for conservation	Nishant Srinivassaiah, Samira Agnihotri	J N TATA Seminar Hall A
14:00 - 16:30	Rhythm of the Wild: Using Dance and Movement as a Tool in Nature Storytelling and Building Conservation Awareness	Priya Ranganathan	J N TATA Main Auditorium
14:00 - 16:30	DNA Metabarcoding Masterclass: Uncovering the Diets of Wild Species	Abhinav Tyagi, Mousumi Ghosh	CES Lotka Voltera
14:00 - 16:30	Socio-economic Data Collection for Conservation: A session on best practices	Pooja Dewoolkar	MGMT Classroom 2
14:00 - 16:30	Geospatial Data Processing and Developing Predictive Distribution Models in Freshwater Environments	Vineet K Dubey, Meghavi Purohit	CES Classroom
14:00 - 16:30	'Okay, but what's the story?' - A guide to reading and synthesizing research papers	Anish Paul, Pritha Dey, Aksha Chowdhary, Malavika Kamath	KI Vasu Hall - MTE
14:00 - 16:30	Folklore and Folktales in Wildlife Conservation	Vikram Sridhar	Outdoor
14:00 - 16:30	Enter the Dragon: Workshop on Freshwater Macro-invertebrate Ecology with emphasis on Odonates (Dragonflies & Damselflies)	Pankaj Koparde, Prosenjit Dawn, Soma Mishra	CES Seminar Hall
14:00 - 16:30	Writing for Researchers	Karthik Ramaswamy	J N TATA Seminar Hall C
16:30 - 16:50	Break		J N TATA Dining Hall
16:50 - 18:00	Student Posters - Session II		J N TATA - Lobby
18:00 - 19:00	Popular Open Plenary Stephen Alter The Naturalist's Gaze		J N TATA Auditorium
19:00 - 20:30	Dinner		J N TATA Dining Hall
20:00 - 21:00	Evening Walk		IISc Campus



Day 4: Thursday, October 24, 2024			Venue
07:00 - 08:00	Bird Walk		IISc Campus
08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast & Registration		J N TATA Dining Hall
09:00 - 10:00	Technical Plenary Jennifer Powers Roots and Branches: Building a Collaborative Science of Conservation, Restoration, and Ecology for the 21st Century		J N TATA Auditorium
10:00 - 11:40	Student Talks	Presenter	Venue
10:00 - 10:20	Distribution and Ecology of the Montane Macaques and Human–Macaque Relationships in the Eastern Himalayas of Arunachal Pradesh Northeastern India	Titir Debnath	J N TATA Auditorium
10:20 - 10:40	Assessing Habitat Utilization, Activity Pattern, and Population Density of the Globally Threatened Sri Lankan Sloth Bear in Kumana National Park.	Pasindu Rodrigu	J N TATA Auditorium
10:40 - 11:00	Quantifying Anthropogenic Threats to the Freshwater Fishes of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh: Implication for Conservation	Robia Kshetrimayum	J N TATA Auditorium
11:00 - 11:20	Break		J N TATA Dining Hall
11:20 - 11:40	Exploring Indian Gaur's Spatial Responses to Changing Habitat Using Random Forest Models	Subhadra Barik	J N TATA Auditorium
11:40 - 12:00	Effect of Land-use change on the Habitat and Density of Grizzled Giant Squirrel around SMTR Tamil Nadu	Shilpa Bevoor	J N TATA Auditorium
12:00 - 13:00	Birds of A Feather: Themed Networking Session		J N TATA Premises
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		J N TATA Dining Hall
14:00 - 16:30	Short Workshops	Resource Person(s)	Venue
14:00 - 16:30	Preparing documents in R; application of R Markdown to create notebook, pdf and HTML documents	Chandan Kumar Pandey	CES Conference Room
14:00 - 16:30	Language and Ecology - Communicating Nature Through Local Languages	P. Jeganathan, Pooja Pawar	J N TATA Main Auditorium
14:00 - 16:30	Art meets Science: A Collaborative Workshop	Shivangi Pant, Devathi Parashuram, Greta Ann Sam, Karunya Baskar, Deepika Nandan, Labonie Roy, Aditi Rajan, Dan Read	J N TATA Seminar Hall B
14:00 - 16:30	Across the Shark-verse	Evan Nazareth, Alissa Barnes	CES Class Room
14:00 - 16:30	Choosing the off-beat: Careers in Ecology, Environmental Science, and Sustainability Studies	Pankaj Koparde, Shrikant Gund	J N TATA Seminar Hall A
14:00 - 16:30	Does human behaviour really change? Insights from social psychology in understanding challenges to wildlife conservation in India	Prachi Paranjpye	CES Seminar Hall
14:00 - 16:30	Community Mapping for Conservation: Techniques, Applications, and Advocacy	Abel Job Abraham	CES Reading Room
14:00 - 16:30	Using open data & collaborations for environmental accountability - learning with India Sand Watch	Rhea Lopez, Siddharth Agarwal, Aishani Goswami	CES Lotka Voltera
14:00 - 16:30	Acoustic Monitoring in Conservation	Gururaja KV, Vineeth Kumar, Shashank Borkar, Vishwajith HU and Vaibhavi G	J N TATA Seminar Hall C
16:30 - 16:50	Break		J N TATA Dining Hall
16:50 - 18:00	Popular Open Plenary Jagdish Krishnaswamy India's ecological futures, challenges and opportunities: water from the woods and water for wetlands		J N TATA Auditorium
18:00 - 19:00	Closing Ceremony		J N TATA Auditorium

Student Conference on Conservation Science – Bengaluru

Sustainability Ecology Research Restoration
Engagement
Community Diversity Presentations Climate
Networking Talks
Communication Innovation
Wildlife Discussions Collaboration Initiatives Opportunities
India
Protection Wetlands Scientists Global Mentorship Conservationists
SCCS Workshops
Change Education Goals Posters Future Heritage
Bengaluru Student Scientific
Nature Environment Outreach Biodiversity

