



Bengaluru 2022

CONFERENCE REPORT

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OVERVIEW

SCCS-BNG 2022 at a glance

- 222 participants
- 6 plenaries
- 27 workshops
- 66 abstract submissions
- 12 student talks
- 15 poster presentations

The Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) – Bengaluru brings together young professionals interested in, working on, and studying the science and practice of biodiversity conservation. The conference facilitates interaction, encourages exchange of research ideas and methods, sharing knowledge and experience related to conserving wildlife and helps build networks and capacity.

SCCS– Bengaluru was first organised in 2010 by a group of like-minded individuals passionate about encouraging young minds to explore the science and practice of conservation. As a sister conference to SCCS-Cambridge, SCCS-Bengaluru focuses on attracting student participants, primarily from countries in South and South-east Asia, and Africa.

The conference returned for its 13th edition from September 19th to 22nd, 2022 on the online networking platform, Slack, with student talks and poster presentations, useful skill building workshops, conservation career panel and inspiring plenaries. Also on offer were opportunities for participants to network with peers in conservation and allied fields, and with experts from leading conservation organisations.

PLENARY TALKS



Creative used on social media and the website to announce plenary speakers for SCCS-BNG 2022

For the 2022 conference, we had six speakers from across the world, who addressed topics ranging from conservation in conflict zones to indigenous knowledge in conservation. The plenary talks were either held as the first session every morning or as the last session, before closing the day. Details of the plenary speakers, along with a brief summary of the talk, have been captured below.



1. Madegowda C.

Dr. Madegowda. C is from B.R. Hills, Karnataka, India and is currently working at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) as a Post-Doctoral Fellow and Coordinator. He has several years of experience of working with indigenous tribal people and biodiversity conservation in Karnataka, and is a member of the indigenous Soliga community himself. His work has included participatory resource monitoring (PRM), sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest produce, mapping of culturally sacred sites, community-based conservation and

empowering indigenous communities and movements to access rights related to land, conservation and community forests.

Talk title: The role of indigenous knowledge in conservation.

Talk Summary: Indigenous tribal communities, who live in at least 90 countries worldwide, have held traditional rights over forests and forest resources from time immemorial. They have a symbiotic relationship with nature and are also involved in biodiversity conservation. Similarly, the four protected areas extending across Chamarajanagar district in Karnataka, southern India, have been home to the Soliga, Jenu Kuruba, and Kadu Kuruba tribal communities. The Soliga have in-depth knowledge of flora and fauna, and their livelihoods depend on traditional agriculture and non-timber forest products. They know the behaviour of wildlife, and wildlife knows the behaviour of the Soligas. They understand each other's space in the forest areas and use the same landscape without conflict – what is called coexistence. The indigenous Soliga possess rich traditional knowledge, and embody an intimate cultural relationship with nature that informs their perspectives on wildlife and forest conservation. The Soligas have received individual land rights, community forest rights, and conservation rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, but these rights remain mostly on paper and they do not have the freedom to manage and conserve the forest.

Madegowda's plenary can be viewed on the SCCS-Bengaluru Youtube, [here](#).



2. David George Haskell

Dr. David Haskell is a writer and biologist. His books, *Sounds Wild and Broken*, *The Forest Unseen* and *The Songs of Trees* are acclaimed for their integration of science, poetry, and rich attention to the living world. He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, a Guggenheim Fellow, and William R. Kenan Jr. Professor at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, USA.

Talk Title: Listening to the wild and broken sounds of the Earth: How sonic diversity can inform and inspire

Talk Summary: What can we learn through careful listening? Using examples drawn from both the present day and from the deep past of the evolution of life, David's talk described the relevance of sound and listening to understanding and conserving biodiversity. In particular, he argued that because sound has been an important means of connection in many ecosystems, sonic connection has served as a creative evolutionary force for hundreds of millions of years. In the present day, sonic diversity reveals the health and vitality of the living Earth and its many

ecosystems. Thus, listening is both a vital scientific guide and method. In addition, practices of listening and of celebration of sonic diversity can also help to connect conservation to the general public in ways that data, graphs, and text often cannot.

David's plenary can be viewed on the SCCS-Bengaluru Youtube, [here](#).



3. Dolly Kikon

Dr. Dolly Kikon's work focuses on the political economy of extractive resources, militarization, migration, development initiatives, gender relations, food cultures, and human rights in India. She is the Deputy Associate Dean (International - India) at the Faculty of Arts, and the Senior Research Advisor (Governance) at the Australia India Institute (Melbourne). She is also writing a book on fermenting cultures in India.

Talk Title: Falling in love with a Tree Spirit: Understanding Indigenous Ecologies in Northeast India

Talk Summary: Love has been a central theme for Dolly to write, reflect on, and engage with the world. How can we situate love as a framework of analysis to understand and interpret indigenous ecological practices and experiences? Dolly's talk was a reflection on the expanding ecological meaning and treatment of care and love among indigenous people in Northeast India. While tribal societies are often admonished for being backward and primitive in their ways of life, their rich oral accounts encourage us to reexamine the scholarship and debates in the field of conservation and ecology. Many indigenous communities across Northeast India stress the connection between humans and other beings including the spirit world. Yet, these profound links are seldom emphasised as theories or philosophies to learn and teach about indigenous ecology and ways of being in this world. Dolly narrated stories that captured the richness of the indigenous knowledge of the peoples of Northeast India, and proposed that we need to embrace indigenous oral traditions because they touch upon themes that show us the significance of an inclusive ecology.

Dolly's plenary can be viewed on the SCCS-Bengaluru Youtube, [here](#).



4. Kathrin Stanger-Hall

Dr. Stanger-Hall's research interests center around the evolution of communication systems, including acoustic signaling in lemurs, and light signaling in fireflies; it extends into the college classroom environment where she studies how to help students learn and facilitate their critical thinking skills. She is a professor of biology at the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia.

Talk Title: Diversity and Conservation of Fireflies (Lampyridae, Coleoptera)

Talk Summary: Fireflies are charismatic insects that delight people around the world. Despite their name, fireflies are soft-bodied beetles. They thrive in humid environments and their different life stages utilise different habitats. These characteristics, along with the evolution of adult light signals, made the firefly family (Lampyridae) a very successful group with more than 2500 described species in 8 subfamilies today. Due to this success, often several firefly species share the same habitat and are searching for their mates at the same time. To reduce mating mistakes, over evolutionary time these species have evolved different mating signals, including pheromones, glows, and flashes with different flash patterns. They even evolved different light colours that maximise the chances that their light signal is seen by a potential mate. As human populations spread and the environmental temperatures rise, fireflies face several threats to their survival and their ability to reproduce. After introducing fireflies and their diversity, Kathrin briefly summarised our current understanding of firefly conservation status and discussed how firefly tourism and citizen science can contribute to awareness and protection of fireflies in their remaining habitats.

Kathrin's plenary can be viewed on the SCCS-Bengaluru Youtube, [here](#).



5. Joshua Daskin

Dr. Joshua Daskin is the Director of Conservation at the Archbold Biological Station, Florida, where he leads the application of science to the conservation of rare species and ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and sustainable grasslands. Previously, he has studied the effects of war on wildlife and ecosystems, doing extensive fieldwork on recovering wildlife and habitats in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique, publishing the first large-scale quantitative assessment of wildlife declines in war zones.

Talk Title: Conservation in conflict zones

and the case for impact-oriented science

Talk Summary: The impacts of armed conflict on wildlife populations and biodiversity are increasingly of interest to conservation biologists, in part because conflicts occur disproportionately within at-risk species' distributions. In principle, conflict impacts on biodiversity can be either positive or negative. Existing quantitative reviews have so far suggested that, on average, conflict increases both hunting and habitat conversion impacts, although local case studies present exceptions to this pattern. Meanwhile, encouraging evidence—e.g., from Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique—suggests that post-war restoration of socio-ecological systems can occur surprisingly fast. Researchers have a great role to play in understanding differential impacts of conflict on biodiversity and ecosystems, and to inform recovery, but must plan up-front with anticipated end-users for their science to be effective and efficiently implemented.

Joshua's plenary can be viewed on the SCCS-Bengaluru Youtube, [here](#).



6. Nandini Velho and citizen activists of Amche Mollem movement

Nandini Velho works on the human-dimensions of wildlife management and is interested in the interface between arts, science, politics and society. She is a coordinator of the Amche Mollem Citizens campaign.

Talk Title: Conservation through citizenship: the Amche Mollem campaign

Talk Summary: While institutional modes of engagement could determine the sociality and

equity aspects of science, they may be largely restrictive given considerations of research permits, *sarkari* (state) institutions, the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act, and lack of political engagement, among others. Further, engagements in the field of conservation are often focussed on specialisations, educational degrees and restricted to non-governmental organisations or research institutions that are often based in larger Indian cities (eg: Bengaluru). Nandini and the members of the Amche Mollem campaign presented the benefits and challenges of organised

citizenship behaviour in the state of Goa, which also has a long history of civic engagement. Specifically, they enumerated their journey of the Amche Mollem citizen's movement in the past two where citizen action has been driven by positioning art and culture alongside scientific and legal strategies. This has resulted in a vibrant campaign to safeguard Goa's largest protected area (Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary & National Park – formerly Mollem National Park) against three proposed linear projects. Through tools of



storytelling, Amche Mollem has built an extensive body of work of collaborations between citizens, students, travel associations, artists, scientists, lawyers to explain scientific research, livelihoods, legal concepts and systems of governance. These efforts have led to positive reinforcements in active citizenship and conclusive legal outcomes while creating spaces to express community relationships to the natural world through music, sculpture, writing, poetry, film, comics and more. Nandini and her colleagues suggest that such models are effective

enablers for scientists, conservationists and other practitioners to creatively engage with contemporary conservation issues from the ground up. This allows for rooted engagement that moves away from scientists speaking unidirectionally to society and allows for society to speak to scientists.

Nandini's plenary can be viewed on the SCCS-Bengaluru Youtube, [here](#).

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

We received 66 abstract submissions. Each abstract went through two independent blind rounds of external reviews. We selected 27 abstracts for the conference that were assessed to have successfully met the acceptance standards set by the organising committee. Of these, we selected 12 from diverse locations and fields to be presented as student talks, while 15 were selected for student posters.

The record of all Abstract reviewers for this year is listed on page no. 28 of this report.



Creative used on social media and the website to call for abstract submissions in March, 2022.

Student presentations:

Students presented 12 talks and 15 posters at the 2022 conference, which were not only a good mix of natural and social sciences but also saw some interdisciplinary topics that drew from both the natural and the social sciences in an integrated frame. Each talk was allotted 15 minutes including five minutes for discussion. Poster presentations were ten minutes long, with three minutes of presentation and seven minutes for the discussion.

The talks covered a broad range of topics such as political ecology of court ordered plantations, socio-ecology of community owned forests, invasive species, assessments of threats and impacts on conservation in marine protected areas among others. Similarly, the posters addressed topics ranging from from ecology-based management of coastal fisheries, beach tourism, and crustacean fauna in freshwater habitats to international wildlife trade, and land use changes around wetlands among others.



Creative used on social media and the website to announce opening of registrations for the conference in March 2022

List of talks presented at SCCS-BNG 2022

Title of Talk	Presenter	Institute/Affiliation
Planting for Penitence: The Political Ecology of Court-Ordered Tree Plantation Drives in the Central Ridge New Delhi	Nivedita Tuli	Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of NCT, Delhi
Collaborative socio-ecological research in community owned forests of Nagaland	Ramya Nair	Wildlife Protection Society of India
Notes on some biological aspects of vulnerable numbfish <i>Narcine timplei</i> (Elasmobranchii: Torpediniformes) from Covelong Chennai	Shrutika Raut	Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology
Genetic Reconstructing of the Invasion History of <i>Gambusia</i> spp. in India: Exploring Introduction Routes and Population Structure of Mosquitofish	Nobin Raja	ATREE
Bats in the Classroom: An intervention-based study of school children's perception of bats in Maharashtra India	Nayantara Siruguri	Bharatiya Vidyapeeth
Status quo of key Marine Protected Areas in India: Assessment of level of threats and impacts on conservation	Deepika Sharma	Wildlife Conservation Society-India
Study of urban amphibian diversity of Mysore.	Amoghavarsha	Government PU College, Mysore
Adoption of agroforestry alternatives by jhumias of Tripura: a paradigm shift in farming	Ishita Mathur	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University

Open to Invasion? Fruit abundance and seed-disperser visitation on invasive Lantana camara is correlated to canopy cover.	Yukti Taneja	Wildlife Institute of India
A preliminary network analysis of Wild bee- plant interactions in an island ecosystem West Bengal	Dibyajyoti Ghosh	Southern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India
Impact of Urbanization on the Taxonomic and Functional Diversity of Spider Assemblages in Guwahati City Assam India	Ankita Sarma	National Institute Of Advanced Studies
Priority areas and conservation efforts for terrestrial bird species in the Central Indian Landscape	Niharika M	Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) and Forest Research Institute (FRI)

List of posters presented at SCCS-BNG 2022

Poster Title	Presenter	Institute/Affiliation
Factors affecting seasonal variation in escape behaviour of birds along an urban-rural gradient	Tusheema Dutta	IISER TVM
From production landscapes to biological systems: A step towards ecology based management of Indian coastal fisheries	Mayuresh Gangal	Nature Conservation Foundation
Impact of beach tourism on the abundance of crustaceans and molluscs in a Sandy beach Ecosystem	Meghana Teerthala	Amity Institute of Forestry and Wildlife
What-if Thinking in Conservation Policy Research: A Review of the Use of Synthetic Controls	Priyanjana Pramanik	National Centre for Biological Sciences
Diversity of Ethnomedicinal Knowledge Associated with the Jaunsari tribal community of Western Himalayan State in Uttarakhand	Shobha Bhat	Doon University
Documenting the large branchiopod crustacean fauna from the temporary freshwater habitats in some arid regions of Maharashtra India	Prashant Katke	Ahmednagar College
How do social processes at border regions facilitate IWT?	Aditi Patil	Wildlife Conservation Society-India
Who would a fish choose to hangout with? (Individual personality and water clarity determine mate-association preferences in wild zebrafish)	Bhavya Pratap Singh	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata

Length-weight relationship and size at first maturity of four commonly landed elasmobranchs in Malvan Maharashtra	Haripriya E	TERI School of Advanced Studies
Influence of predator suppression and prey availability on carnivore occurrence in western Himalaya	Jenis Patel	High Altitude Program (HAP)
Pogatu: The Ethnoveterinary Tradition Utilised to Treat Common Aliments in Native Domesticated Animals in Chittoor District Andhra Pradesh	Manasvi CM	University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology
Analysing Land Use- Land Cover Changes Around Asan Wetland Uttarakhand	Anjali Thapliyal	School of Environment and Natural Resources
Addressing methodological gaps in quantifying small schooling fishes: A case study of Lakshadweep's baitfish resources	Prerana Gawde	Dakshin Foundation
Shoals in troubled waters? The impact of rising water temperatures on foraging and shoaling behaviour in wild-caught mixed species shoals	Ishani Mukherjee	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Kolkata

Student talks and poster awards

The presenters were evaluated on the originality and creativity of their topics, the logical presentation of their research ideas, familiarity with subject matter, clarity of objectives and the talks' relevance to conservation as a whole. For posters, the evaluation parameters were the same as talks, with the addition of clarity and effectiveness of the e-poster.

No ranks were designated, instead, two Best Talks were announced:

- **Nayantara Siruguri** (Bharatiya Vidyapeeth): *Bats in the Classroom: An intervention-based study of school children's perception of bats in Maharashtra, India*
- **Ankita Sarma** (National Institute Of Advanced Studies): *Impact of Urbanization on the Taxonomic and Functional Diversity of Spider Assemblages in Guwahati City, Assam, India*

The two Best Poster Presentations were:

- **Priyanjana Pramanik** (National Centre for Biological Sciences): *What-if Thinking in Conservation Policy Research: A Review of the Use of Synthetic Controls*
- **Jenis Patel** (High Altitude Program): *Influence of predator suppression and prey availability on carnivore occurrence in western Himalaya*

WORKSHOPS



Creative used on social media and the website to call for workshop proposals in August, 2022.

This year, following the format for online workshops in 2021, instead of long and short workshops, we decided to have a uniform two- hour Zoom workshop format with a limit of 40 participants. The workshops were broadly categorised into the following categories:

- Skill-based workshops
- Capacity building for research methodology
- Writing workshops
- Alternative media of communication and engagement such as design and games
- Taxa-specific workshops
- Workshops that dealt with legal knowledge
- Models for alternative forms of livelihood.

A minimum of 6 workshops ran concurrently on all four days of the conference between 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM.

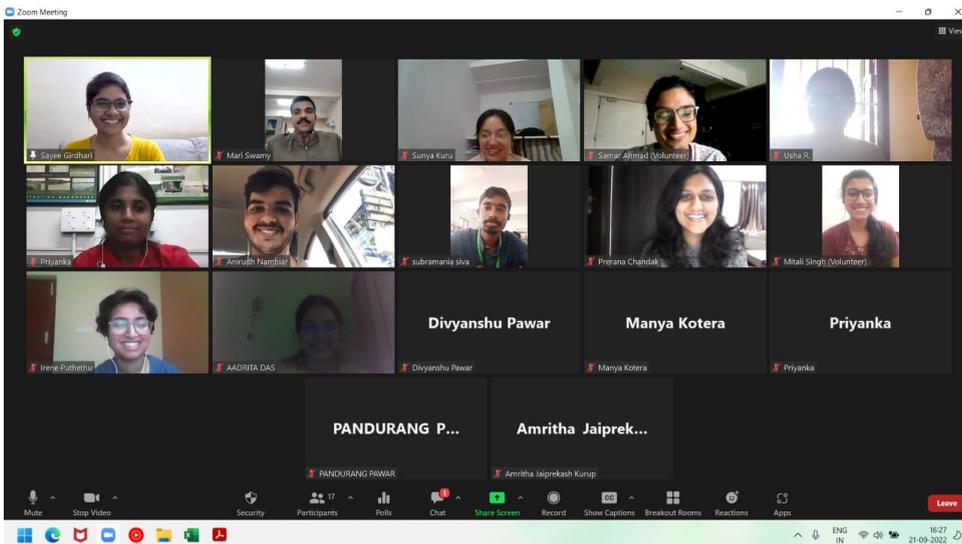
Name of workshop	Resource person(s)
Storifying Conservation : Create stories from facts	Vikram Sridhar
Objects tell stories in conservation	Vikram Sridhar
Conservation Science- Teaching and Learning	Andrea Phillott Maria Thaker
Basics of QGIS	Gowri U N Abhishek Samrat
Introduction to google earth engine	Gowri U N

Building Alternative Livelihood Models with communities	Savini Sonavaria
Asking new questions in a changing enviro legal landscape	Stella James Vineetha Venugopal
Science Communication through Art and Design	Shivangi Pant Devathi Parashuram Greta Sam
Games & Conservation	Shonali Chenzira Abhisheka Krishnagopal Misha Bansal
Know what it takes to publish	Dr Sanjay Molur
Back on track - design tools for conservation	Tejaswini Nagesh Arjun Kamdar Nirajan Balagopal Navaneethan Balasubramaniam
Pitch and Write: Nature articles in mass media in English and other Indian languages	Jignasa Patel Rupsy Khurana Mayank Aggarwal
Basics of Ant Taxonomy and Ecology	Pronoy Baidya
Language and Ecology - Communicating Nature Through Local Languages	P. Jeganathan
Neutral Theory and its application in Conservation Genetics	Ranajit Das
Social Science Methods for Conservation Research	Rajkamal Goswami Anamika Menon
Conservation Filmmaking for Beginners	Sara
Making effective presentations	Yateendra Joshi
The nitty-gritty of writing and formatting research papers	Yateendra Joshi
How R you doing? Using the R platform for managing and analysing ecological datasets.	Raman Kumar
Participatory research methods: Why and How?	Revati Pandya Bhuvana Balaji
Basics of Tree Identification and Phenology	Sayee Girdhari
Writing grant and Fellowship in Ecological Sciences	Sabuj Bhattacharyya Monica Kaushik
Know-Hows of Popular QDAS	Medha Nayak

Study Design in Ecology and Conservation	Kavita Isvaran
Bioacoustics in Conservation	Anand Krishnan Samira Agnihotri Viral Joshi Isha Bopadikar
Qualitative data analysis made easy with MAXQDA	Medha Nayak



Participants at the *Objects Tell Stories in Conservation* workshop



Participants at the *Basics of Phenology and Tree Identification* workshop

PANEL DISCUSSIONS



Theatre in Conservation

There is perhaps no better time than right now to garner people's participation and engagement in conservation. But, how do we ensure that a data driven, hard science such as conservation science is easy to understand and accessible for everyone? Can the language of communication be something other than text and scientific papers? We brought together a set of panelists, all with expertise and experience of working in the interdisciplinary field of art and conservation, with a focus on theatre and storytelling. The panelists shared their own experiences of working with theatre and storytelling tools and techniques to convey ideas of conservation which set the stage for an engaging discussion with the participants on theatre in conservation.

The panelists we had on board were as follows:

1. Vikram Sridhar (Panelist)

Vikram Sridhar is a Performance Storyteller & Theatre Practitioner combining his various interests and work over more than 20 years in theatre, conservation and social work. His stories, performances and workshops for children, adults and families are rooted in heritage, ecology and folklore deeply inspired from various communities. Based in Chennai and Bangalore, he has travelled the country extensively with his *desi* way of storytelling.

2. Abhisheka Krishnagopal (Panelist)

Abhisheka Krishnagopal is an artist, ecologist, and nature educator currently associated with the Education and Public Engagement programme of Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF). Abhisheka uses her experience in wildlife rehabilitation and field research and the medium of art to communicate ecology in an effort to bridge the gap between the public and the scientific community.

3. Sriharsha G. N. (Panelist)

Sriharsha is a Bangalore based theatre actor and director since the past decade and a half. Software Engineer by profession, he has worked in several theatre productions in Kannada, English and Hindi languages. He is part of Still Space Theatre, a theatre collective. Still Space Theatre is an artist-centric ensemble engaged in pushing the boundaries of performances and creative processes with a focus on performance practices, research, and community involvement.

4. Sangeeta Isvaran (Moderator)

Sangeeta, founder of the Wind Dancers Trust, is a dancer-performer who developed the Katradi method, and has been working among marginalised, and underprivileged communities using the arts in education, empowerment and conflict resolution across 30 countries. For her scholarship in the arts, she has been honoured with the highest national award for young dancers – the Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar. She is a Fellow of the International Institute of Conciliation, USA, and an Honorary Associate of the Nature Conservation Foundation, India. Speaking 8 international languages, she has taught in over 20 universities and international organisations.

This panel discussion can be viewed on YouTube, [here](#).



Careers in Conservation

Choosing a career in the field of conservation science is certainly no simple task. We facilitated a discussion among panelists who have forged creative and out-of-the-box careers in conservation. We crowd-sourced questions on a social media platform and on the Slack interface for the conference. The discussion touched upon topics of expertise and knowledge, financial viability of careers in conservation and habits that have led to success. The panelists we had on board were as follows:

1. Sugandhi Gadadhar (Panelist)

Sugandhi is a National Geographic Explorer, and wildlife filmmaker based in Bengaluru, India. She freelances as a cameraperson for wildlife and environment productions that have been aired on Animal Planet India, Love Nature / Smithsonian, National Geographic Society, Netflix and PBS. She is a member of the IUCN's Otter Specialist Group. She also volunteers with

Conservation India, curating content and working behind-the-scenes for conservation campaigns.

Sugandhi makes short films on natural history and wildlife conservation, in both English and regional Indian languages, for education and outreach. In 2015 she was named by Sanctuary Asia Magazine as one of the nine Indian women wildlife photographers to follow, and in 2018 The Vibe Asia featured her as one of seven women filmmakers from India who are documenting the wild.

2. Saurav Malhotra (Panelist)

Saurav is Co-Founder and Designer of the Rural Futures innovation, and CEO at the Balipara Foundation. Rural Futures integrates ecological gains with upward socio-economic mobility of forest-fringe communities across the Eastern Himalayan region. Through Rural Futures, Saurav and his team mobilise forest-fringe communities, especially youth, to engage in the complete value-chain of ecosystem restoration. The natural capital that is sustainably derived from restored habitats is utilised by communities to deliver universal basic assets - locally & autonomously. Saurav holds a Master's in the Biological Sciences from the University of Manchester, is an Acumen Fellow of the 2021 Cohort and Fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

3. S. Gopikrishna Warriar (Panelist)

Gopikrishna is an environment journalist based in Thrissur in Kerala. He is presently the managing editor for Mongabay-India, an environment and conservation online publication (india.mongabay.com). He has written for the India Climate Dialogue, Nature India, Frontline magazine, The News Minute, India Legal, the Times of India, the Hindu and the Hindu Business Line newspaper. His pieces have also been published in the First Post and Forbes India. He is a regular blogger on the environment. His stories and blogs can be read at [A touch of green \(gopi-warriar.blogspot.com\)](http://A%20touch%20of%20green%20(gopi-warriar.blogspot.com)). From 2003 to 2011 Gopikrishna worked with the communication departments of two international agricultural research organisations. He was the media spokesperson for the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) at its headquarters in Hyderabad, India. Later, he was the science writer and head of publications at the Africa Rice Center at Cotonou in Benin in West Africa. Gopi is the secretary of the Forum of Environmental Journalists in India (FEJI), a professional body for journalists in India writing on the environment. In his earlier assignment as the regional environment manager for Panos South Asia, he worked with the media in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to enhance journalists' understanding on climate change and biodiversity. Earlier, for a decade starting 1992, he was an environment journalist in Chennai – with Down to Earth magazine and the Hindu Business Line newspaper. Prior to that, from 1987 to 1992 he worked in New Delhi with two national-level environment and development NGOs – Action for Food Production (AFPRO) and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

4. Stella James (Moderator)

Stella James is a lawyer and storyteller working to facilitate local community participation in environmental governance. She is currently studying environmental law at the University of

Melbourne. She has a degree in law from the National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, and formal and informal training in oral history, facilitation, and theatre of the oppressed. Her work and interests have moved between law, social sciences, ecology and art and design, with the aim to find ways in which different knowledge systems can centre indigenous and local communities in environmental decision making.

In the last year, she has worked as an independent consultant supporting research, analysis and communication of environmental law with multiple organisations, including Khoj International Artists' Association, Dakshin Foundation and others. Previously, she has worked with Bangalore-based Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS) where she supported research for international advocacy on the implications of tourism under the Blue Economy for fish worker unions; with Mysore-based Nature Conservation Foundation, leading outreach on climate change and fisheries, and stakeholder analysis in Lakshadweep islands; and with South Africa-based Natural Justice on supporting adivasi communities in Odisha develop rights-based responses to the mining industry, and supporting international advocacy around environmental and human rights standards on mining.

The panel discussion can be viewed on YouTube [here](#)

WHO'S WHO IN CONSERVATION



Creative used on social media and the website to call for workshop proposals in September, 2022.

Who's Who is aimed at introducing the conference participants to a range of institutions and initiatives working in the field of conservation and for organisations to connect with the next generation of conservationists. This segment of SCCS allows participants to interact with organisations and understand their work, identify areas of mutual interest as well as identify potential career opportunities. In keeping with the format of the conference this year, Who's Who was carried out on Slack. Each registered organisation with their representatives, was provided with its own thread, on which conversations, interaction and engagement ensued. The organisations represented at Who's Who this year were:

1. Current Conservation
2. Holematthi Nature Foundation
3. Ecological Restoration Alliance India
4. Terracon Ecotech Private Limited
5. Youth for Nature magazine
6. The Coexistence Consortium
7. Zoo Outreach Organisation
8. Dakshin Foundation
9. Swadha Pardesi (Illustrator and Artist)

QUEER CIRCLE

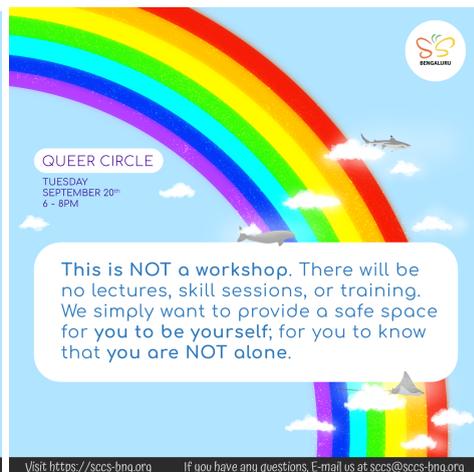




QUEER CIRCLE
 TUESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 20th
 6 - 8PM

Are you a field ecologist/conservation practitioner who self-identifies as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex or Asexual (collectively, queer, or LGBTQIA+)?, or are questioning/ exploring your identity.

Visit <https://sccs-bng.org> If you have any questions, E-mail us at sccs@sccs-bng.org

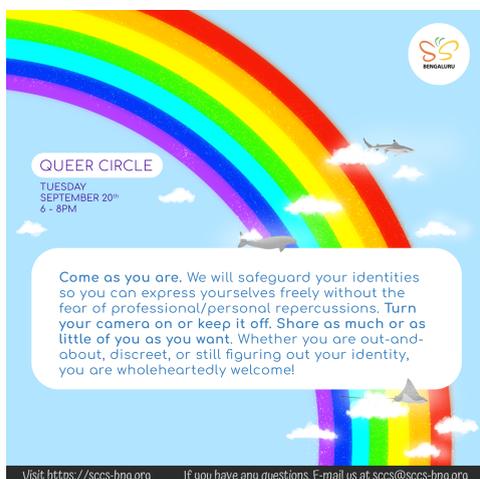




QUEER CIRCLE
 TUESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 20th
 6 - 8PM

This is NOT a workshop. There will be no lectures, skill sessions, or training. We simply want to provide a safe space for you to be yourself; for you to know that you are NOT alone.

Visit <https://sccs-bng.org> If you have any questions, E-mail us at sccs@sccs-bng.org

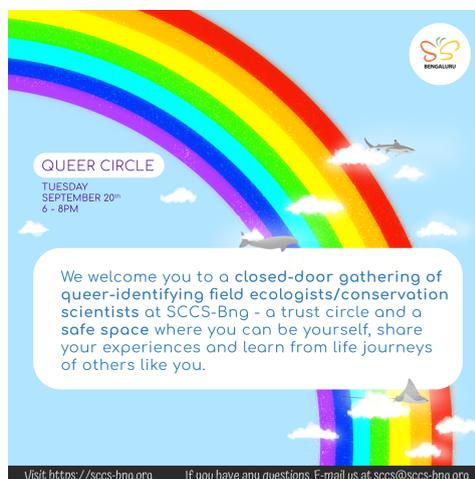




QUEER CIRCLE
 TUESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 20th
 6 - 8PM

Come as you are. We will safeguard your identities so you can express yourselves freely without the fear of professional/personal repercussions. Turn your camera on or keep it off. Share as much or as little of you as you want. Whether you are out-and-about, discreet, or still figuring out your identity, you are wholeheartedly welcome!

Visit <https://sccs-bng.org> If you have any questions, E-mail us at sccs@sccs-bng.org





QUEER CIRCLE
 TUESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 20th
 6 - 8PM

We welcome you to a closed-door gathering of queer-identifying field ecologists/conservation scientists at SCCS-Bng - a trust circle and a safe space where you can be yourself, share your experiences and learn from life journeys of others like you.

Visit <https://sccs-bng.org> If you have any questions, E-mail us at sccs@sccs-bng.org





QUEER CIRCLE
 TUESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 20th
 6 - 8PM

IMPORTANT: If you are an ally (a non-LGBTQA+ identifying individual), we love you and believe that our life would be much harder without your support, but this circle is NOT for you. It is only for the queer-identifying community.

Visit <https://sccs-bng.org> If you have any questions, E-mail us at sccs@sccs-bng.org

A closed door gathering of queer-identifying field ecologists/ conservation scientists at SCCS-BNG was hosted by three queer conservation researchers/practitioners on 20th September 2022 from 6.00 PM to 8.00 PM.

FINANCIALS

Donors



SCCS-BNG 2022 received generous contributions from donors and funders. Wipro Foundation, which represents the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) wing of Wipro Limited, was a key donor. We also received in-kind support from Fauna & Flora International, who generously provided the prizes for the best student talks and posters.

The overall income and expenditure for SCCS-BNG 2022 was as follows:

Budget Line	Total (in INR)
Income :	
Grants received from Wipro	450,000
Foundation	111,612
Registration fees	
	561,612
Total income	
Expenditure	474,151
Balance (as on 31.10.2022)	84,461

PEOPLE BEHIND THE CONFERENCE

Conference Team

Organising Committee

- Nupur Kale (Wildlife Conservation Society-India)
- Samira Agnihotri (Indian Institute of Science)
- Siddhartha Krishnan (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment)
- Srinivasan Kasinathan (Nature Conservation Foundation)
- Umesh Srinivasan (Indian Institute of Science)
- R. Venkat Ramanujam (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment)

Conference Administrator:

Nayana Udayashankar

Website and Conference Logistics

Alpcord Network Events and Conferences Management Company Private Limited

- Saurabh Sharma
- Sumant Kumar
- Shaziaa Hoda
- Ritesh Yadav
- Tarun Mahajan
- Chetan Mansharamani
- Gulshan Singh

Illustrations and creatives

Swadha Pardesi

Financial Management

Nature Conservation Foundation

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- Vinay Hedge

Advisory and Welfare Council

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- Kavita Isvaran
- MD Madhusudhan
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- Asmita Kabra (Ambedkar University)
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- Krithi Karanth (Centre for Wildlife Studies CWS)
- K.V. Devi Prasad (Dept. of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Pondicherry University)
- Mewa Singh (Biopsychology Department, University of Mysore)
- Nitin Rai (Independent scholar)
- Ravi Bhalla (Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning)
- Rhys Green (Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge and SCCS - Cambridge)
- Sejal Worah (WWF-India)
- Shomita Mukherjee (Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore)
- Uma Ramakrishnan (National Centre for Biological Sciences)
- V.B. Mathur (National Biodiversity Board)
- Mewa Singh (Biopsychology Department, University of Mysore)
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- Uma Ramakrishnan (National Centre for Biological Sciences)
- V.B. Mathur (National Biodiversity Board)

Working Groups

Abstracts working group

- Madhura Niphadkar
- Nachiket Kelkar
- Amit Kurien

Plenaries working group

- Aarthi Sridhar

- Sahil Nijhawan
- Aathira Perinchery
- Budhaditya Das
- Munib Khanyari
- Saloni Bhatia

Workshops working group

- Ovee Thorat
- Erika D'Souza
- Madhuri Ramesh
- Pranav Chanchani
- Anand Pendharkar

Abstract Reviewers

- Abdul Kareem
- Abhishek Jamalabad
- Abishek Harihar
- Advait Edgaonkar
- Amit Kurien
- Anirban Datta-Roy
- Aniruddha Marathe
- Arundhati Das
- Atul Kumar Gupta
- Bharti DK
- Devcharan Jathanna
- Erika D'Souza
- Geetha Ramaswami
- Ghazala Shahabuddin
- Girish Punjabi
- Gopi Sundar
- Nitya Mohanty
- Jahnvi Joshi
- Jayashree Rathnam
- Kartik Teegalapalli
- Kavita Isvaran
- Krishnapriya Tamma
- Kulbhushan Suryawanshi
- KA Subramanian
- MD Madhusudan

- Madhura Niphadkar
- Mahua Ghara
- Mathieu Salpeteur
- Meghna Agarwala
- Milind Watve
- Mridula Vijairaghavan
- Muralidharan Manoharakrishnan
- NA Aravind
- Nachiket Kelkar
- Naveen Namboothri
- Navendu Page
- Radhika Kanade
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- Rohan Arthur
- Rohit Chakravarthy
- Rohit Naniwadekar
- Ronita Mukherjee
- Saloni Bhatia
- Shivani Agrawal
- Shomita Mukherjee
- V. Srinivas
- V V Robin
- Vardhan Patankar
- Vena Kapoor
- Vidyadhar Atkore
- Vishnupriya Kolipakam
- VV Binoy

Workshop Resource Persons

- Vikram Sridhar
- Gowri UN
- Savini Sonavaria
- P. Jeganathan
- Pronoy Baidya
- Bhuvana Balaji
- Revati Pandya

- Andrea Phillott
- Maria Thaker
- Medha Nayak
- Misha Bansal
- Abhisheka Krishnagopal
- Shonali Chenzira
- Arjun Kamdar
- Niranjana Balagopal
- Navaneethan Balasubramanian
- Tejaswini Nagesh
- Ranajit Das
- Kavita Isvaran
- Sara
- Stella James
- Vineetha Venugopal
- Yateendra Joshi
- Sayee Girdhari
- Shivangi Pant
- Greta Ann Sam
- Devathi Parashuram
- Shraddha
- Karunya Baskar
- Raman Kumar
- Jignasa Patel
- Rupsy Khurana
- Sabuj Bhattacharaya
- Monica Kaushik
- Anand Krishnan
- Viral Joshi
- Isha Bopardikar
- Samira Agnihotri
- Rajkamal Goswami
- Anamika Menon
- Mayank Aggarwal

Student Presentation Judges

Talks:

- Aathira Perinchery

- Anirban Datta-Roy
- Kulbhushan Suryawanshi

Posters:

- Kalpita Bhar Paul
- Nishma Dahal
- Shivani Jadeja

Volunteers

- Ithihaas R.
- N Nitha Fathima
- Malaika Mathew Chawla
- Sanket Desai
- Ananya Singh
- Mitali Singh
- Siddhant Gokhale
- Hitesh N D
- Karan Deshpande
- Samar Ahmad
- Chahat Yadav
- Aishwarya Joshi
- Nikunj Jambu
- Shrutika Raut
- Ramya Nadig
- Misha Bansal
- Alope Saha

DAY-WISE SCHEDULE

Student Conference on Conservation Science- Bengaluru, 2022		
Detailed Schedule (19th September- 22nd September, 2022)		
Monday: Day 1: September 19, 2022		
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Conference Opening	
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Plenary talk by Dr. C. Madegowda	
TALKS 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM		
Title of Talk	Presenter	Institute/Affiliation
Planting for Penitence: The Political Ecology of Court-Ordered Tree Plantation Drives in the Central Ridge New Delhi	Nivedita Tuli	Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of NCT, Delhi
Collaborative socio-ecological research in community owned forests of Nagaland	Ramya Nair	Wildlife Protection Society of India
Notes on some biological aspects of vulnerable numbfish <i>Narcine timplei</i> (Elasmobranchii: Torpediniformes) from Covelong Chennai	Shrutika Raut	Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology
Genetic Reconstructing of the Invasion History of <i>Gambusia</i> spp. in India: Exploring Introduction Routes and Population Structure of Mosquitofish	Nobin Raja	ATREE
POSTER PRESENTATIONS 12:00 PM - 1:10 PM		
Poster Title	Presenter	Institute/Affiliation
Factors affecting seasonal variation in escape behavior of birds along an urban-rural gradient	Tusheema Dutta	IISER TVM
From production landscapes to biological systems: A step towards ecology based management of Indian coastal fisheries	Mayuresh Gangal	Nature Conservation Foundation
Impact of beach tourism on the abundance of crustaceans and molluscs in a Sandy beach Ecosystem	Meghana Teerthala	Amity Institute of Forestry and Wildlife
What-if Thinking in Conservation Policy Research: A Review of the Use of Synthetic Controls	Priyanjana Pramanik	National Centre for Biological Sciences
Diversity of Ethnomedicinal Knowledge Associated with the Jaunsari tribal community of Western Himalayan State in Uttarakhand	Shobha Bhat	Doon University
1:10 PM - 2:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK	

WORKSHOPS 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	
Title of workshop	Resource person (s)
Storifying Conservation : Create stories from facts	Vikram Sridhar
Introduction to google earth engine Introduction to google earth engine	Gowri U.N.
Building Alternative Livelihood Models with communities	Savini Sonavaria
Language and Ecology - Communicating Nature Through Local Languages	Jegannathan P.
Basics of Ant Taxonomy and Ecology	Pronoy Baidya
Participatory research methods: Why and How?	Revati Pandya & Bhuvana Balaji
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Plenary talk by Dr. David Haskell

Tuesday: Day 2: September 20, 2022		
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Plenary talk by Dr. Dolly Kikon	
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Panel Discussion: Theatre in Conservation	
POSTER PRESENTATIONS 12:00 PM - 1:10 PM		
Poster Title	Presenter	Institute/Affiliation
Documenting the large branchiopod crustacean fauna from the temporary freshwater habitats in some arid regions of Maharashtra India	Prashant Katke	Ahmednagar College
How do social processes at border regions facilitate IWT?	Aditi Patil	Wildlife Conservation Society-India
Who would a fish choose to hangout with? (Individual personality and water clarity determine mate-association preferences in wild zebrafish)	Bhavya Pratap Singh	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata
Length-weight relationship and size at first maturity of four commonly landed elasmobranchs in Malvan Maharashtra	Haripriya E	TERI School of Advanced Studies
Influence of predator suppression and prey availability on carnivore occurrence in western Himalaya	Jenis Patel	High Altitude Program (HAP)
1:10 PM - 2:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK	
WORKSHOPS 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM		

Title of workshop	Resource person(s)
Conservation Science- Teaching and Learning	Andrea Phillot & Maria Thaker
Know-Hows of Popular QDAS	Medha Nayak
Games & Conservation	Shonali Chenzira, Misha Bansal & Abhisheka Krishnagopal
Back on track - design tools for conservation	Tejaswini Nagesh, Arjun Kamdar, Niranjan Balagopal & Navaneethan Balasubramanian
Know what it takes to publish	Sanjay Molur
Neutral Theory and its application in Conservation Genetics	Ranajit Das
Study Design in Ecology and Conservation	Kavita Isvaran
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
PM - 8:00 PM	Plenary talk by Dr. Kathrin Stanger-Hall
6:00:00 PM-8:00PM	Queer Circle

Wednesday: Day 3: September 21, 2022		
10:00 AM - 11:00 PM	Who's who in Conservation	
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Panel Discussion: Careers in Conservation	
POSTER PRESENTATIONS 12:00 PM - 1:10 PM		
Poster Title	Presenter	Institute/Affiliation
Identification and representation gaps of endemic freshwater fishes in current protected area network of River Periyar Southern Western Ghats.	Akshaya Alakassery	Ocean Science and Technology (Kerala University of Ocean Science and Fisheries)
Pogatu: The Ethnoveterinary Tradition Utilized to Treat Common Aliments in Native Domesticated Animals in Chittoor District Andhra Pradesh	Manasvi C.M.	University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology
Analysing Land Use- Land Cover Changes Around Asan Wetland Uttarakhand	Anjali Thapliyal	School of Environment and Natural Resources
Addressing methodological gaps in quantifying small schooling fishes: A case study of Lakshadweep's baitfish resources	Prerana Gawde	Dakshin Foundation

Shoals in troubled waters? The impact of rising water temperatures on foraging and shoaling behaviour in wild-caught mixed species shoals	Ishani Mukherjee	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Kolkata
1:10 PM - 2:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK	
WORKSHOPS 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM		
Title of workshop	Resource person(s)	
Objects tell stories in conservation	Vikram Sridhar	
Basics of QGIS	Gowri UN & Abhishek Samrat	
Qualitative data analysis made easy with MAXQDA	Medha Nayak	
Conservation Filmmaking for Beginners	Sara	
Asking new questions in a changing enviro legal landscape	Stella James & Vineetha Venugopal	
The nitty-gritty of writing and formatting research papers	Yateendra Joshi	
Basics of Tree Identification and Phenology	Sayee Giridhar	
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
5:00 PM- 6:00 PM	Plenary talk by Dr. Joshua Daskin	

Thursday: Day 4: September 22, 2022		
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Plenary talk by Dr. Nandini Velho	
TALKS 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM		
Title of Talk	Presenter	Institute/Affiliation
Bats in the Classroom: An intervention-based study of school children's perception of bats in Maharashtra India	Nayantara Siruguri	Bharatiya Vidyapeeth
Status quo of key Marine Protected Areas in India: Assessment of level of threats and impacts on conservation	Deepika Sharma	Wildlife Conservation Society-India
Study of urban amphibian diversity of Mysore.	Amoghavarsha	Government PU College, Mysore
Adoption of agroforestry alternatives by jhumias of Tripura: a paradigm shift in farming	Ishita Mathur	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University
Open to Invasion? Effects of canopy cover on fruiting intensity and fruit removal of a tropical invasive weed.	Yukti Taneja	Wildlife Institute of India

A preliminary network analysis of Wild bee- plant interactions in an island ecosystem West Bengal	Dibyajyoti Ghosh	Southern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India
Impact of Urbanization on the Taxonomic and Functional Diversity of Spider Assemblages in Guwahati City Assam India	Ankita Sarma	National Institute Of Advanced Studies
Priority areas and conservation efforts for terrestrial bird species in the Central Indian Landscape	Niharika M	Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) and Forest Research Institute (FRI)
1:10 PM - 2:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK	
WORKSHOPS 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM		
Title of workshop	Resource person(s)	
Science Communication through Art and Design	Shivangi Pant, Greta Sam, Devathi Parashuram & Shraddha	
How R you doing? Using the R platform for managing and analysing ecological datasets.	Raman Kumar	
Making effective presentations	Yateendra Joshi	
Pitch and Write: Nature articles in mass media in English and other Indian languages	Jignasa Patel & Rupsy Khurana	
Writing grant and Fellowship in Ecological Sciences	Sabuj Bhattacharyya & Monica Kaushik	
Bioacoustics in Conservation	Anand Krishnan, Samira Agnihotri, Viral Joshi & Isha Bopardikar	
Social Science Methods for Conservation Research	Rajkamal Goswami & Anamika Menon	
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Closing ceremony	