

STUDENT CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION SCIENCE - BENGALURU

2019 CONFERENCE REPORT



SCCS is strengthening the careers of young conservation scientists around the world with events in Bengaluru, Beijing, Brisbane, Cambridge, New York and Tihany



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OVERVIEW

The Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) – Bengaluru 2019 was held from October 15th – 18th bringing together students and young researchers in the science and practice of biodiversity conservation. The conference was preceded by the Pre-conference module from the 10th – 14th October, which provided 14 students from under-represented geographies and backgrounds capacity building modules in the theory and practice of conservation led by eminent conservationists and scholars.

SCCS-Bengaluru facilitates interaction, encourages exchange of research ideas and methods, sharing of knowledge and experience related to conservation and helps build contacts and capacity. Our geographic focus is countries from Africa, South and South-East Asia. This year, we had 450 participants with 29 foreign participants from 6 countries. The largest contingent of foreign participants was from Sri Lanka.



Day 1: Participants & Volunteers busy with registration

This was the 10th edition of the conference. It was a four-day event, inaugurated by Rohini Balakrishnan (Chairperson, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc), Mukund Thatte (Faculty, National Centre for Biological Sciences) and Rohit Naniwadekar (Scientist, NCF). SCCS 2019 had 6 plenary talks, 15 student talks, 76 student posters, and 45 workshops this year.

The ‘Conservation Careers: A Wide Spectrum’ session, the professional film screening and 3 non-technical plenary talks were open to general public and were received enthusiastically. The professional film selected for screening this year was ‘Fishing Palk Bay’ directed by Saravanakumar Salem of

Evanesence Studios and produced by Aarthi Sridhar of Dakshin Foundation. These sessions form a part of the public-outreach wing of SCCS-Bengaluru, which are widely publicized in the city and well attended. Additionally, bird walks, tree walks and Loris walks were conducted early in the morning and late evenings on IISc campus. Each year, these walks are very popular amongst the conference participants and slots get filled up rapidly.

SCCS-Bengaluru is unique in that it is organized by a consortium of institutions and supported by a much wider set of institutions and individuals. This model has enabled us to run the conference efficiently, to control costs and draw upon a wide and diverse range of expertise and resources.

PRE-CONFERENCE MODULE

SCCS-Bengaluru is a conference that aims to facilitate interaction and exchange of research ideas and methods, and build contacts and capacity of young researchers in all aspects of conservation science. It is an equal opportunity and an inclusive conference actively working to reach students in more regions and from all sections of Indian society.

Since its inception in 2010, one of the most important aspects of SCCS-BNG has been its strong emphasis on workshops and other capacity-building activities. This pre-conference module was targeted at students from underrepresented groups and/or from rural colleges and institutions in India that have not been represented in SCCS in the earlier years. 14 students participated in this new initiative this year.

Based on previous year's feedback, we increased the days of the module from 3 to 5 days. The module was conducted for 5 days at the NCBS campus prior to the conference, with lectures, discussions and various activities on each day.

PLENARY TALKS



1. Suneetha Subramaniam



Suneetha Subramaniam has been working on aligning policy goals related to conservation and development with local priorities since over a decade and a half. Affiliated with the United Nations University since 2006 in various capacities, she has focused her research on assessing the dependence of human wellbeing to ecosystems and biodiversity and consequent impacts on account of changes; on harnessing multiple knowledge systems in finding endogenous solutions; on equity in transactions related to accessing biological

resources and in sharing benefits; identifying opportunities for cross-sectoral implementation of development and environmental activities; and facilitating relevant capacity development activities for multiple stakeholders from policymakers to local communities to enable informed decision making. More recently she has been actively engaged in contributing to various knowledge products of the IPBES, including the Asia Pacific Regional assessment, the Global Assessment and the on-going assessment on multiple values related to biodiversity.

Title: Trans-disciplinary approaches in socio-ecological research

Abstract: Recently, research and policy agendas are attempting to integrate knowledge generated from multiple contexts in order to ensure more representative problematization, analysis and identification of solutions. Such knowledge comes either from mainstream “western science” approaches or through other epistemological approaches that are considered traditional / indigenous. It is noteworthy that such knowledge integration has always been common among activities led on the ground by local communities, civil society organizations and certain research communities engaged in ‘action research’.

Since 2012, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES) has mandated that all its assessments will integrate knowledge from contemporary modern science and from traditional/ indigenous sciences. This echoes a re-orientation amongst several researchers and implementing agencies that mainstream research and policy setting should be aligned with practitioner priorities and contexts to enable achieving solutions that can be considered ecologically sustainable and equitable.

The talk will focus on some of the ongoing efforts at arriving at such trans disciplinary solutions to trigger reflections on adapting such methodologies in conservation research.

2. Nityanand Jayaraman



Nityanand Jayaraman is a Chennai, India-based writer and social activist, and a member of the Chennai Solidarity Group – a collective that fights environmental injustice and discrimination. As competition for access to natural resources pits powerful corporations against farmers, fishers and indigenous people in violent conflict, Nityanand locates himself on the side of the latter to ensure that rule of law and democracy are not buried at the altar of commerce.

An engineer turned journalist and activist, Nityanand describes himself as a solidarity worker who generates city-based support for community struggles against corporate crime and solidarity against government high-handedness in dealing with such struggles. Relying on volunteer energy and local resources, Nityanand's group has played a critical role in expanding democratic spaces for community struggles, including the campaign for justice in Bhopal, the campaign against Unilever's mercury pollution in Kodaikanal, the fisherfolk's struggle to save the Ennore wetlands in Chennai and the protests by residents of Tuticorin against UK multinational Vedanta's polluting Sterlite copper smelt.

Title of the talk: Climate Change V. Land-use Change: A case for Open Earth Economies Inspired by the Poromboke”

Abstract: Land-use change, not climate change, has been the most significant driver of ecological collapse. The latter, however, is overtaking in significance. Modern economy is premised on the need to dig, drill, pave and enclose land as the only way to derive value from spaces. The dominant worldview is of a paved earth economy that views open, unbuilt spaces as useless and underutilised. A “Paved Earth” economy on a global scale is at odds with survival of life and humanity on the planet. To tackle the ecological crisis, the global community would need revalorize open, unbuilt spaces, and learn from the medieval Tamil agrarian land use concept of the Poromboke. There is a need to refashion our societies as Open Earth economies, that value and protect open, unbuilt spaces as infrastructures of survival and resilience, even while deriving value from such spaces without killing the goose that lays the proverbial golden egg.

3. Mordecai Ogada



Dr. Mordecai Ogada is a carnivore ecologist and conservation writer who has been involved in conservation policy and practice for the last 19 years in Kenya and other parts of Africa, mainly on human-wildlife conflict mitigation and carnivore conservation. Dr. Ogada's professional work has included research and teaching conservation leadership at Colorado State University. Much of his energy has been devoted to the area of community-based conservation, wildlife policy and wetlands ecology.

He has worked for over 15 years in the civil society conservation practice in Kenya. Over the last three years, Mordecai has been engaged in examining the policy problems and prejudices that underlie the challenges experienced in wildlife conservation, particularly in the global South. These issues form the central theme of 'The Big Conservation Lie' a book focused on Kenya co-authored with John Mbaria. He is currently the Executive Director of Conservation Solutions Afrika, a natural resource management consultancy based in Nanyuki. Dr. Ogada is currently consulting for Survival International on conservation and human rights in East and Central Africa.

Title of the talk: The need for 'Human Rigour' in Wildlife Conservation Study and the Danger of Losing Social Sustainability.

Abstract: Enclosure, displacement, and the destabilization of social relationships are negative impacts on human and biodiversity equilibria all over the world. However, they have become the norm in conservation, particularly in the global south. Most practitioners find themselves unable to adequately handle the human dimensions of the conservation challenges they are addressing. The root of this problem is in our training as conservation biologists, which implicitly and explicitly demonizes local populations. This is because the way we study and practice conservation originated in colonialism and was never designed to accommodate our people. In my lecture, I will share experiences from my studies, and work in areas of ecology and policy to advise students on the dangers of weak human dimensions in their work, and how they can improve the 'human rigour' of their projects to ensure sustainable outcomes.

4. Prerna Singh Bindra



Prerna Singh Bindra has been at the forefront of the battle to conserve India's wildlife for over a decade. She was a member of India's National Board for Wildlife and its core Standing Committee (2010-13). She has also served on the State Board for Wildlife, Uttarakhand. Her work has contributed to the creation of new Protected Areas in the state.

Prerna's primary focus is protecting wildlife habitats and critically endangered species, and is particularly interested on the impact of development and infra on natural habitats, and voluntary relocation from PAs. Her core expertise is policy, communications and advocacy. She is a widely published author with over 1,500 pieces on nature and wildlife in popular media. Prerna's book *The Vanishing: India's Wildlife Crisis* published by Penguin India was released in June 2017. Her other release in the same year is *When I Grow up I Want to be a Tiger*, a gorgeously illustrated book for children. She has co-edited *Wild treasures: Reflections on Natural World Heritage Sites in Asia*, published by the Wildlife Institute of India in May 2019. She is an alumni of M.Phil in Conservation Leadership, University of Cambridge. Prerna is based in Gurgaon but her heart, she says, resides in the forest.

Title of the talk: Voices in the Wilderness: Conservation in today's India

Abstract: India has some of the strongest wildlife conservation laws globally, and a rich cultural tradition that reveres all forms of life which has helped protect wild animals. Mega fauna like tigers, elephants, bears and leopards survive in one of the densest populations in the world, even as many countries have wiped out predators from their landscapes. India is changing. Fast. It is one of the world's fastest growing economies (6-7% annually) with ambitions for a double-digit GDP. It's rapidly urbanising with a burgeoning middle-class and 600 million young people, a market that multinationals across the globe seek to capture. The country is transforming rapidly-economically, politically, culturally. India will soon have the world's largest population, is extremely climate-vulnerable and is witnessing increasing internal conflict. How does one save wildlife in this complex, changing landscape will be the core question I will seek to address. I will discuss my experiences as a conservation journalist, an advocacy practitioner including my years in the National Board for Wildlife to demonstrate how stories, and advocacy, can help save our wildlife, and also, how successes in conservation can be ephemeral. Drawing from these, I will talk about the road ahead for conserving wildlife in a country, and a society, in flux.

5. Yadvendradev Jhala



Wildlife has been his passion since his early childhood. He studied zoology for his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Bombay. For Ph.D. research at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, he used optimization to manage the conflicting habitat needs of two endangered species that interacted as prey (blackbuck) and predator (wolf). In 1991, he obtained a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution and studied reproductive energetics using doubly labelled water. Later, he taught courses in wildlife conservation and management for the Smithsonian Institution in China, Tanzania, Malaysia,

India and the U.S.A. He joined the Wildlife Institute of India in 1993 and have since pursued an active research programme on Indian carnivores. He has supervised research projects on the Indian wolf, striped hyaena, golden jackal, Indian fox, Asiatic lion and tiger using VHF, GPS, satellite and recapture telemetry. I supervise the Conservation Genetics Laboratory at WII. He teaches Biometry and Population Ecology for the master's course in wildlife science and Applied Population Ecology for the diploma programme in wildlife management. He continues to be a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the IUCN SSC Specialist Group for Wolves and Canids.

Title: Conserving Large Carnivores in India: Role of Science

Abstract: Large space requirements, low densities, conflict with human interests and illegal demand for body parts, make large carnivores vulnerable to extinctions. Conserving viable populations in small Protected Areas (PA's, average size ~239km²) having varied intensity of human use and surrounded by a matrix of high human density is extremely challenging. Herein, I review contribution of research from long-term studies on lions, tigers and wolves towards the assessment of status, demography, population viability, habitat connectivity, conservation genetics and human-carnivore conflict in formulating policy and management strategies.

Country scale assessment of tigers, co-predators and prey has made it possible to keep the pulse of site-specific status and direct management efforts. Conservation Genetics has helped identify ancient, unique and divergent gene pools for targeted investments. Incentivized, voluntary relocation of humans from within core areas of tiger reserves has created inviolate space for wildlife (over 35,000 km²). Mapping of habitat corridors has allowed for informed EIA's for development projects, delineation of ecosensitive zones for PA's and ensured wildlife friendly norms for infrastructure development. Wildlife science has played a pivotal role in shaping conservation policy and management strategies in modern India. Policy and management based on science has resulted in recovery of some large carnivores and highlighted strategies that need to be implemented for some others

6. Angelique Songco



After serving in the Armed Forces of the Philippines for five (5) years, Angelique Songco worked as a scuba diving instructor in the dive shop she owns with her partner of 37 years. She worked as a diving professional on liveboards in the Tubbataha Reefs for ten (10) years. With like-minded individuals she established a local environmental non-government organization for the purpose of supporting the conservation of Tubbataha. She represented the NGO in the

Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board, which hired her as park manager in 2001.

At the age of 50, she finished her master's degree in Environment, Development and Policy from the University of Sussex, England. She has been named Hero of the Environment by WWF-Philippines twice. Under her leadership, Tubbataha was named one of the three best-managed no-take marine protected areas in the world. Her official title is Protected Area Superintendent, but she is better known for her unofficial designation as Mama Ranger of Tubbataha. Angelique is a mother of two.

Title: Not About Managing Fish: A Case Study from the Tubbataha Reef

Abstract:

The ocean covers 70% of the Earth. It feeds us, regulates our climate, and generates most of the oxygen we breathe. It is one of the most threatened ecosystems in our planet. Overfishing, pollution, coastal development, and climate change among others, threaten its health. Marine protected areas (MPAs) are one of the most effective tools for maintaining the health of the ocean and halting degradation. The Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park was established in 1988 as a no-take zone to protect coral reefs and marine wildlife. It is the largest MPA comprising nearly 50% of all protected waters in the Philippines. But inadequate public consultation marred relationships with stakeholders. Confidence-building exercises, mainly dialogues and keeping promises, help bridge the divide. Lines of communication are open and rule-making is participatory. But as fisheries dwindle elsewhere, the threat of illegal fishing remains. Vigilant enforcement and an engaging public outreach program is maintained. Science is kept robust to measure the efficacy of management strategies. Building reef resilience is pursued to mitigate against climate change. Finally, isolated for two months, away from family and friends, marine park rangers man their solitary outpost in the middle of the sea. Morale is kept high by providing effective communication and other equipment in the field, timely rotations at the end of tours of duty, and building capacity to manage. Protecting the ocean is not about managing fish. It is about managing resource use and expectations, and truly caring about the welfare of people.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

We received 139 abstract submissions. Each abstract was evaluated by three external reviewers. We selected 100 abstracts for the conference that were assessed to be of good quality. Of these, we selected 15 from diverse locations and fields to be presented as student talks, while the remaining 85 were selected for student posters. However, we finally had only 76 poster presentations as some of the selected participants could not make it to the conference.

The list of abstract reviewers is given later in this report. We sincerely thank them for their help and support.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

We continued with the tradition of having a single talk session (no parallel sessions) at a time with 15 minutes allotted for each student talk, followed by 2 minutes for questions and interaction. Additionally, there were 3 poster sessions with 76 posters presented.

Talks and posters covered a variety of topics touching upon Regeneration Potential of a Tropical Rainforest Fragment, Plant-Frugivore Interactions, Genetics, Evolution and Recovery Assessment, Understanding Mammalian Diversity, Impact of Rainforest Fragmentation on Anuran Diversity, Factors Affecting Local Community Participation in Wildlife Conservation Projects, Understanding Mammalian Diversity and their Response to Anthropogenic Threats, Estimating Environmental Awareness in Urban School Children. Presentations covered a wide range of taxa: from fishes and mammals, to birds and microbes, across an equally diverse range of habitats such as marine ecosystems and rain-forests.

STUDENT TALKS

Speaker	Title
Arvind P S	Long term impacts of Lantana camara L. invasion in a heterogeneous landscape of a biodiversity hotspot
Varun Kher	Response of bird communities to contemporary land-use changes in the Thar Desert of Western India.
Manasi Anand	Inculcating Subjectivity in a Degraded Landscape: A Case Study of the Junglescapes model in the Lokkere Reserve Forest
Abir Jain	Impact of Habitat Fragmentation on Plant-Frugivore Interactions in Lowland Tropical Forests of Upper Assam, North-East India.
Iyesha Madhushani (Sri Lanka)	Regeneration potential of a tropical rainforest fragment in sri lanka
Aparajita Singh	Understanding mammalian diversity and their response to anthropogenic threats in Indo-Bhutan Barnadi-Jomotsangkha forest complex

Vijay Karthick	Frogs in the fragments: Understanding the impact of rainforest fragmentation on anuran diversity in the Anamalai Hills, Western Ghats
Prazual Gurung	Distribution, hunting & trade of Chinese Pangolin
Ramya Nair	The Social Institution of Waghoba: Big Cat-Human Relationships and Conservation from a Sociocultural Lens
Jina Talj (Lebanon)	Terraces of the Lebanese Coast – Evolution and Recovery Assessment
Vinay Sagar	Melanism in tigers: Genetics, evolution and contributing factors
Chandranshu Tiwari	Lost Child in the concrete jungle: Estimating Environmental awareness in urban school children
Harini Pillai	Nature conservation challenges in peri-urban areas: the case of ramadevarabetta vulture sanctuary in bengaluru metropolitan region
Therangika Ashani (SL)	Effects of environmental factors and land use patterns on vulnerable endemic fish species in Kala Oya River Basin, Sri Lanka
Nadhirah Syafiqah (Malayasia)	Sand type influences swimming performance of sea turtle hatchlings
Sayan Banerjee	Factors Affecting Local Community Participation in Wildlife Conservation Projects in Northeast India

STUDENT POSTERS

Name	Title
Aritra Bhattacharya	Temporal turnover in communities of butterflies in an urban site depending upon its social plantation types
Damithri Chathumani	Healthy Wetlands and community awareness: soft options for urban flood management
Nisam Mang	Assessing the impact of livestock-induced disturbance on regeneration in the temperate forests of west sikkim
Subhasish Arandhara	Modelling detectability and predictors of blackbuck density using Multiple Covariate Distance Sampling: A case study from Point Calimere WLS, India.
Prashant Mahajan	Examining Ecological and Anthropological Correlates of Indian Grey Wolf Habitat-Use in the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
Subhrajit Goswami	Does lantana invasion act as a biotic filter, affecting the composition of native species regeneration? -A decadal study in heterogeneous landscape of Western Ghats.
Sourav Gupta	Assessing the Changes in Land Use and Landcover by Invasive Species and Its Influence on Native Flora in Southern India
Dinelka Tilakarathne	Diversity of terrestrial gastropods along with forest edges, natural and semi-natural forests in the Nuwara Eliya district, Sri Lanka
Archan Paul	Same, yet different: The tale of 'pandavas'- Distribution of the seasonal forms of Chilades pandava and its relation with the life cycle parameters
Unmesh Mitra	Investigating diet of Indian grey wolf (Canis lupus pallipes) in a human dominated landscape in Pune
Agnish Das	Assessment and Analysis of the Protection status of Biogeographic Zones in India

Dilin Bopearachchi	Diversity and conservation of Ballini, Jumping spiders (Family: Salticidae) in Sri Lanka
Utkarsh Prajapati	Bear presence in human-dominated landscape: associated factors, people's attitude and conservation implications
Ashra Kunwar	Community based women and climate change vulnerabilities to water resource availability: A case study of Khokana community, Lalitpur.
Gayani Dissanayake	Diversity and abundance of litter invertebrates in dry mixed evergreen and lowland evergreen forest ecosystems in sri lanka
Maria Antony	A shift from scavenging to predation in Black kites <i>Milvus migrans</i> of an urban landscape: An ecological assessment
Nazneen Sultan	Diet Composition and Conservation Perception of Owls in Agriculture Landscape of Tiruchirapalli District, Tamil Nadu
Darshika Jayarathna	Waterbird diversity in selected regions in the jaffna peninsula: potential for promoting avitourism
Sipu Kumar	Assessing bird community structure and composition in natural and managed forest of forest research institute, dehradun
Nuwan Karunarathna	Morphological malformations in amphibian communities associated with paddy fields in central Sri Lanka
Jintu Vijayan	Can personality of the shoal mate influence behavioural flexibility and social behaviour in Deccan Mahseer (<i>Tor khudree</i>) an endemic game fish?
Prajakta Jadhav	A Bird's Eye Perspective of Landuse Changes: A Case Study of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani Eco Sensitive Area, India
Fazle Rabbe	Species diversity, composition and distribution of herpetofauna in northwestern region of Bangladesh
Gautam Kadam	Spatial Distribution and Flowering Resource Utilisation by Spiders on <i>Cullenia exarillata</i> , An Endemic Tree Species of Southern Western Ghats, India
Doli Borah	An insight into the social organization of Female Asiatic Lion
Rohit Kumar Baldodia	Habitat assessment for Great Indian Bustard <i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i> in Kanoi area, near Desert National Park, Rajasthan, India
Samakshi Tiwari	Role of Urban Green Spaces for Conservation of Bird Diversity in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India
Anupam Singh	Range Extension Discoveries & New Records of Butterflies from Chhattisgarh, Central India.
Sahani Chandrasiri	Foraging partitioning between five species of Columbids in Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests of Sabaragamuwa Province, Sri Lanka
Ganesh Puri	Understanding patterns and dynamics of Herders-Snow leopard conflict for piloting non-lethal mitigation measures in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Western
Asit Kumar Behera	Landscape level patterns of mammalian assemblages in Bellary district, Karnataka
Nabin Pandey	Conserving Asian Woollyneck <i>Ciconia episcopus</i> in Nepal
Smriti Jalihal	Knowledge Gaps in Satellite Telemetry Studies on Sea Turtles in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia
Manisha Kumari	Striking a balance: identifying features of urban green spaces to optimize bird diversity
Bibidishanaa Basu	Wetlands in Peril: Mapping Remnant Marshland In human Dense Lower Gangetic Plains
Kritigaya Gyawali	Population status, threats and people's perception on Chelonians (A case study from Jagadishpur reservoir, Ramsar site of Nepal)

Sailee Sakhalkar	Spatiotemporal and species-level variation in nectar robbing in the Afrotropical forests of Mt. Cameroon
Vishwanath Varma	Correlates of subterranean personalities?: Morphology, personality and learning ability in a subterranean fish, <i>Monopterus</i> sp
Deepika Sharma	An assessment of management of tourism in the Marine Protected Area: A case study on Smith and Ross Islands
Paloma Chandrachud	Threats to sea turtles in from fishing activities in Vengurla, Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra
Indrakeela Madola	Lagenandra species in Sri Lanka: Morphometric and distribution studies of a genus with conservation priority
Madu Lakmali	Isolation, identification and application of microalgae and cyanobacteria for the removal of Lead (II) as a key for reducing heavy metal pollution
Pratiksha Sail	Speleobiological studies on a cave dwelling species of horse shoe bat and other fauna from divar island, tiswadi, goa.
Lasanthi Wijayathunga	Dragonfly and Damselfly (Odonata) species diversity in different land use patterns of lowland tropical wet zone, Colombo district of Sri Lanka
Oshini Fernando	A Study on the Quality of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Effluent Water in CKDu Endemic Areas and the Current Discharge Practices
Ankush Chowdhury	Status of a protected area system in the Western Ghats region: An analysis of PA coverage
Danita Daniel	Boldly Learning to Adapt: Sex and Boldness Affect Learning and Memory in Wild Zebrafish
Suvarna Khadakkar	Scarab beetles (coleoptera: scarabaeoidea: scarabaeidae) around bor wildlife sanctuary, wardha, india with notes on distribution
Abirami C	Conservation Corridor: Setting priorities for conservation
Madhumita Rajkumar	Agricultural land or Wetland ? A preliminary study to find the suitable breeding habitat for Sarus crane
Tanvir Ahmed	Phayre's Langur Population in Northeast Bangladesh: underestimated and under-pressure
Sabiha Khan	Diversity and abundance of freshwater turtles of the Ganga River across the Narora barrage, Uttar Pradesh
Poornima Shubhashini	A comparison of diversity of corticolous lichens among three vegetation types in kandy district, sri lanka
Kabindra Shahi	Understanding the Impact of Protected Area on Local Residents?: A Case Study from Bardia National Park
Prajanashree Priyambada	Using forensic genetics in assisting law enforcement to curb illegal trade in pangolin : screening confiscated scales and development of reference signatures for Indian and Chinese pangolin
Piyumika Madhushani	Cyanobacterial & green-micro algal diversity in four geothermal springs in Sri Lanka
Supriyo Dalui	Gut microbiota of Red Panda (<i>Ailurusflgens</i>) suggests affinity between two geographically distant habitats in eastern Himalayas.
Shambadeb Basu	Exploring the cryptic gene flow and population structure of red panda in Eastern Himalayas using landscape genetics
Tharanga Dasanayake	Variations of tetrapod vertebrate species diversity with human disturbance within the Horton Plains National Park
Manuja Promodya	Occurrence of non-indigenous species in coastal waters adjacent to Port of Colombo, west coast of Sri Lanka

Rohit Chaudhary	Dietary and spatio-temporal partitioning between leopard and Asiatic lion in western part of Gir Protected area, Gujarat
Paul Tehoda	Population ecology of western chimpanzee in the bia conservation area, ghana
Satish Kumar	Determinants of Diet Selection by Blackbuck at Point Calimere WLS, Southern India: A Regression with Empirical Variable Selection (REVS) Approach
Nandini Mehrotra	An Ecological and Management Model of the Gangetic River Dolphin in the Upper Ganga
Preshit Priolkar	The carbon storage in mangroves: An unaccounted clean up service
Arjun Ramachandran	Waterbirds of Kole Wetlands: Seasonal trends
Rajaditya Das	Predator Pit?: A Theoretical Model to evaluate Apparent Competition between major Snow Leopard prey, Ibex and Argali in Tost, Mongolia
Prasath Selvaraj	Spatio-temporal variations in waterbird population characteristics of Sewage Treatment Plant and its associated habitats in Mannampandal, Tamil Nadu
Sreesha Gadadharan	Fishes of Vayal Nadu:9 Ichthyo diversity and conservation challenges in a poorly known region of the Western Ghats
Agnes Francila	Life amidst debris: Utilization of anthropogenic materials for nest construction by birds
Brawin Kumar	Hedgehogs in my backyard:The status, distribution and threats of South Indian hedgehog Paraechinus nudiventris based on preliminary study
Jatin mathur	Communicating, Educating or Advocating? The Vanishing story of Great “not any more Indian” Bustard in the Socio-Political Landscapes in India
Rajesh Kumar	Determinants of the roosting and breeding site-selection, abundance of Lesser Adjutant in Northern Bihar, India
Sumashini Sundararajan	Life in Small Forest Patches: Ominous for Many, Endurable for Some
Rubul Tanti	People’s Perceptions on Elephant Corridors and Conservation in Eastern Assam
Khadija Abidi	Does Living in the Vicinity of Corbett Tiger Reserve Account for Economic Gain or Economic Loss?
Pallavi Poojari	Kodagu – A Potential Site for Conservation of Critically Endangered Vulture Species
Aranya Gayatri	What Shapes the Vegetation of the Indian Hot Desert?



Student talk

Student poster session



NETWORKING & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AT SCCS 2019

Increasing public awareness about conservation issues is a mainstay of the conference –and an important way in which it differs from other conferences. The evening plenary talks by Nityanad Jayaraman, Perna Bindra and Angelique Songco were open to the public. These talks were announced widely through posters within Bengaluru and also on social media. 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.

1. 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.

Going through feedback from previous year’s session we realized only one dedicated session for networking is not enough. So, this year we had 2 dedicated Birds of a Feather session on Day 1 before lunch and Day 4 after lunch. The idea behind these two networking sessions were to use the Day 1 session as an icebreaker and to meet people with the same interest and then using the Day 4 session for discussing the area of interest in detail.



Volunteer forming flock



All birds have joined their flock

We identified in advance a few broad conservation themes, which allowed participants and resource people to group together during this session. We wanted to encourage and facilitate participants with specific research ideas/ interests to submit their own topics, meet each other and forge collaborations. A number of conservation scientists attend SCCS every year and we encouraged their participation during this session.

Some of the conservation themes for the Birds of a Feather session were:

- Animal Behaviour and Conservation
- Bird Conservation
- Conservation with communities
- Ecosystem services and functions
- Freshwater conservation
- Human-wildlife interactions/conflict
- Marine conservation
- Conservation genetics
- Ecological restoration
- Urban conservation
- Social Sciences in conservation
- Conservation Policy
- Popular writing about conservation

For each “flock”, we identified at least one resource person as a “leader bird” from amongst the pool of resource persons or PhD students known to the organisers. These focus groups were provided space and time to network amongst themselves. Participants were given the choice to migrate between flocks or form their own flocks as well, if they chose to do so.

2. CAREERS IN CONSERVATION:

Based on the feedback from last year, this year we once again organized an hour-long moderated panel discussion open to the public, on careers in conservation. Our hope was to introduce students to the diversity of careers that exist and to give them the opportunity to interact with invited panelists who work and contribute to different aspects of conservation. For students who are mostly ecologists and conservation biologists early in their academic careers, we had hoped that this session would enable them to think beyond the traditional research-related careers.

The panel discussion took place on Day 3, and was titled ‘Conservation Careers: A Wide Spectrum’. Responses on social media and conference feedback can vouch for the fact that the participants found this extremely helpful. The session was moderated by Jayashree Ratnam, who introduced the panelists – who were chosen as a representative sample of the major careers commonly observed in conservation circles. Following this, the panel answered questions from the audience.



SCCS 2019 “Conservation Careers: A Wide Spectrum” panelist (right to left) Arun Venkataraman – ERM India, Naveen Namboothri - Dakshin Foundation, Veena Srinivasan – ATREE, Kulbhushan Suryawanshi – NCF, Jayashree Ratnam (Moderator) - NCBS

3. FILM SCREENING

Fishing Palk Bay

Bordering the hot Tamil hinterland, the Palk Bay on the southern Indian coast is a shallowest expanse of sea. Its natural and cultural wealth is legendary but is fast vanishing, from this space and from memory. Fishing Palk Bay, a 29-minute documentary film explores the breadth and depth of human ingenuity, skill and even the paradoxes that Palk Bay's fishing communities produce each day, through the extraordinary science and art that is fishing. The film was directed by Saravanakumar of Evanescence Studios produced by Aarthi Sridhar of Dakshin

The underwater sequences were planned and shot by **Umeed Mistry**. The film has been screened at the Vatavaran Film Festival of 2017, at the Moving Waters Film Festival in 2016 and multiple screenings across India. Fishing Palk Bay was produced with funding from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, New Delhi as part of the CMPA (Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas) project. Dakshin Foundation partnered with Evanescence Studios, the grant recipients, to research and produces the film.



NATURE WALKS AT SCCS 2019

1. BIRD WALKS

Early morning bird walks on the IISc campus were conducted on Days 2, 3 and 4 of SCCS-2019. There were about 20 participants on each day. Subhadra Devi and Ashvin Viswanathan facilitated these walks.

Since this is the beginning of the migration season for birds in southern India, E bird checklists were compiled for each of these days:



Ashwin Vishvanathan helping participants to spot birds

2. LORIS WALKS

With the support of the Urban Slender Loris Project (USLP) ‘loris walks’ were conducted at the end of Day 2 and Day 3 of SCCS. USLP is a citizen science initiative to map the current and past distribution of lorises and also study their ecology in an urban and changing environment. The slender loris is a small nocturnal primate found only in Sri Lanka and Southern India. They are arboreal and require continuous forest canopy. A large proportion of the slender loris population in Bengaluru is found on IISc campus.

The loris walks during SCCS 2019 were conducted inside IISc campus along the roadside. 30 participants on each day were split into two groups and were led by the core team members of USLP. On both days of the walk, many lorises were spotted using their characteristic ‘eye shine’, and loris calls were heard from various levels of the vegetation. USLP core team members Soumya KV, Arun Visweswaran and Kesang Bhutia lead these walks together with other members of the project. The purpose of the walk was to familiarise the participants with this elusive nocturnal primate that is found within the IISc campus.



Participants ready to look for eye shine

3. TREE WALKS

The tree walk was organised by Mittal Gala and Swati Sidhu on Days 2 and 3 and Navendu Page on Day 4 of SCCS. The primary aim of the walk was to get the participants familiar with the process of tree identification or more precisely the process of distinguishing one species from the other, and without getting bogged down by the intimidating glossary of botanical terms and Latin names. In an hour-long walk, 15 participants with varied backgrounds walked through a small part of IISc campus looking at all different species of trees that they encountered along the way. Taking a slightly different approach from a conventional tree walk, this walk focused on giving the participants a different perspective of looking at trees, and gave them some tips they will find useful to distinguish different plant species not just in IISc but any place inhabited by trees.



Swati Sidhu & Mittal sharing their knowledge about plants

WHO'S WHO IN CONSERVATION

The Who's Who in Conservation session provides a platform for conservation agencies including NGOs, research institutions and university departments to showcase their work. This session provides an opportunity for conference participants to learn about the work of these agencies as well as discuss possible career opportunities and collaborative work.

This year, we had 27 Who's Who participants, with a mix of conservation action groups, NGOs, magazines and research institutions:

1. Center for Ecological Studies
2. Wildlife Research and conservation society
3. Centre for Wildlife Studies
4. Nature Mates-Nature Club
5. Timbaktu Collective & Adavi Trust
6. Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises of India (FTTI)
7. PashooPakshee
8. Madras Crocodile Bank Trust / Centre For Herpetology
9. EcoEdu
10. Keystone Foundation
11. Current Conservation
12. Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS)
13. Wellcome Trust DBT India Alliance
14. EDGE of Existence Programme, Zoological Society of London
15. Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, School of Anthropology and Conservation

16. World wide fund for nature
17. Appiko (Zazu Wildlife Technologies Pvt. Ltd.)
18. Dakshin Foundation
19. Mongabay India
20. SPROUTS Environment Trust
21. Technology for Wildlife
22. Upstream Ecology
23. Museum and Field Station facility (MFS), National Centre for Biological Sciences
24. Nature Conservation Foundation
25. Wildlife Trust of India
26. People for Animals, Bangalore
27. Wildlife Conservation Society

WORKSHOPS

The skill-based and capacity building workshops offered at SCCS have always been the highlight of the conference. This year we had 18 long workshops, and 39 short workshops. Long workshops were held from 09:00 - 16:00 on Day 2 of SCCS, while the short workshops were conducted from 14:00 - 16:30 on the remaining three days. We made it a point to have at least one workshop every day, which had no cap on the number of participants, keeping the spot-registered participants in mind.

In order to expand the range of workshops offered at SCCS, there was a call for workshop proposals on our website as well as social media handles. 21 short workshops and 8 long workshops were new and conducted for the first time this year.

A majority of the workshops received tremendous positive feedback from participants. A large subset of participants found that attending workshops of their choice enhanced their understanding of the subject and/or equipped them with additional skill sets. As is the norm each year, feedback from individual workshops was collected from the participants, which was forwarded to the respective resource persons.



Art & Activism by Niyanand Jayaraman



Paint-a-way (mural) by Manini Bansal

SHORT WORKSHOPS

SR. NO	TITLE	PRIMARY RESOURCE PERSON
1	Too Much or Too Little? Understanding Tourism Carrying Capacity	Nayana Udayashankar
2	Bioacoustics in Conservation	Anand Krishnan
3	Using Theatre and Drama in Conservation Awareness	Vikram Sridhar
4	Writing for Researchers	Karthik Ramaswamy
5	Politics of Conservation Law	Stella James
6	Citizen Science for Ecology in India - Experiences, Opportunities, Challenges	Pankaj Sekhsaria
7	Conserving Cultures: Behavioral Variations Within and Across Species	Samira Agnihotri & Priya Iyer
8	Writing Successful Grant Applications	Andrea Phillott
9	Introduction to Conservation Genetics and Genomics	Ranajit Das
10	The Complexity and Variety in Human Large Carnivore Interactions in India	Nikit Surve
11	Tell Tale Science: Visualizing Research	Kabini Amin
12	Interacting with Data for Beginners: Exploratory Analysis in R	Aniruddha Marathe

13	Making Effective Presentations	Yateendra Joshi
14	Neutral Theory and its Application in Conservation Genetics	Ranajit Das
15	The Study of Animal Behaviour and its Applications for Conservation	Nishant Srinivasaiah
16	Integrating Animal Cognition and Conservation Science	VV Binoy
17	Basics of Photography	Prasenjeet Yadav
18	Language & Ecology – Communicating Nature Through Local Languages	P Jeganathan
19	Anuran Bioacoustics: A Hands-on Workshop	Gururaja KV
20	Art & Activism *NEW*	Nityanand Jayaraman
21	The Challenges of Coordinating Conservation Efforts for Threatened Vultures and Other Endangered Bird Species *NEW*	Chris Bowden
22	Underwater Bioacoustics: The Art and Science of Recording and Studying Animal Behavior using Sound *NEW*	Mayukh Dey
23	Get Rid of Jargon! *NEW*	Manini Bansal
24	Building Networks of Wildlife Warriors: Harnessing Local Potential to Achieve Global Conservation Impacts *NEW*	Upasana Ganguly
25	Craft for Conservation *NEW*	Preety Sharma
26	Communicating Conservation Effectively and Sustainably *NEW*	Mordecai Ogada
27	National Geographic Society Grant Seminar *NEW*	Yannick Kuehl
28	Machine Learning and Deep Learning for Ecologists *NEW*	Kannan AS
29	Anti-Snare Walks for Combatting Wildlife Crime *NEW*	Jose Louies & Nagaraj Bhatt
30	An Introduction to DNA Metabarcoding and its Applications for Studying Biodiversity *NEW*	Mousumi Ghosh
31	Why We Need to Foreground Nature in our Urban Lives to Ensure Conservation? *NEW*	Poonam Bir Kasturi
32	Field-based Experiments for Plant-Insect Interaction Studies *NEW*	Joyshree Chanam

33	Power in (of) Qualitative Methods: Conservation Research with Human Communities *NEW*	Budhaditya Das
34	Elements of Study Design *NEW*	Rohit Naniwadekar
35	(Mis)understanding Cultural Differences: A Key to (un)Successful Conservation Practice *NEW*	Ian G Bride
36	Analysing Count Data - Fitting and Interpreting Generalized Linear Models (GLMs) *NEW*	Kavita Isvaran
37	Wildlife Rehabilitation: An Integrative Approach to Wildlife Conservation *NEW*	Abhishek Narayanan
38	Corridor/Connectivity Conservation *NEW*	Prachi Thatte
39	Using Mobile-based Tools for Field Surveys *NEW*	Shashank Srinivasan

LONG WORKSHOPS

SR. NO	TITLE	PRIMARY RESOURCE PERSON
1	Writing Grants and Fellowships in Ecological Sciences	Sabuj Bhattacharyya
2	Basics of Ant Taxonomy	Pronoy Baidya
3	Conservation Genomics	Meghna Natesh
4	Systems Thinking and Modelling for Sustainability Research	Mihir Mathur
5	How to Train your Computer?	Nishadh KA
6	Social Science Methods in Conservation Research	Rajkamal Goswami
7	Euphaea – Odonatology Theory and Practice	Pankaj Koparde
8	How R You Doing? Using the R platform for Managing and Analyzing Ecological Datasets	Raman Kumar
9	Introduction to Quantum GIS	Shivani Agarwal
10	New-age Mechanisms to Achieve Non-Protected Area Focused Conservation	Anand Pendharkar
11	Image Processing for Animal Census and Movement Studies *NEW*	Akanksha Rathore

12	Winning the Game of Publishing Research Papers *NEW*	Yateendra Joshi
13	‘All Things Turtles!’ An Introduction to Freshwater Chelonians of India *NEW*	Anuja Mittal
14	Art of Making Conservation Work *NEW*	Imran Siddiqui
15	Plant ID *NEW*	Navendu Page
16	Paint-a-way (mural) *NEW*	Manini Bansal
17	Creating Conservation Narratives in an Age of Misinformation *NEW*	Neha Sinha
18	Role of Technology in Conservation *NEW*	Shashank Srinivasan

OTHER FEATURES OF SCCS 2019

1. PARTICIPANT AND VOLUNTEER T-SHIRTS

T-shirts were designed especially for volunteers, which made them easier to spot and approach for help in the crowd at SCCS 2019. In addition, these t-shirts made for a great memento after the conference! Additionally, due to popular demand from previous years, we designed and arranged for the sale.



2. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Being a conservation conference, we ensure that we reduce the waste that we generate and manage our waste responsibly. Disposable packaging, plates, cups and cutlery were strictly avoided. Food left over from lunches and dinners was picked up by our caterers and distributed to local agencies, which relay this food to needy persons and local organizations such as orphanages.

All the presenters, participants and volunteers were given the option, and were highly encouraged to opt for e-certificates this SCCS. This initiative was positively received and many opted for e-certificates. We also requested all participants to return the plastic pouches and lanyards from their nametags, to be reused at next year's conference.

STUDENT AWARDS

Evaluators chose three noteworthy/exceptional talks and three poster presentations. Ranks were not given – instead only the top 3 candidates (each for talks and posters) were announced. Evaluators took cognizance of different attributes of the study including academic rigour, enterprise of the researcher, novelty of the research, the background in which the research was conducted and potential impact the research may have on conservation research, practice and/or its discourse – all important factors that go into making conservation research relevant and important in the real world. The above criteria were provided as pointers and not as a prescriptive list; referees decided amongst them what attributes they thought were important, based on which they evaluated the presentations.

Additionally, evaluators were also requested to provide written/online feedback to each individual presenter ranging from their presentation style, the quality of their science, research and conservation recommendations, and the improvements they suggested.

A single panel evaluated all the talks, while different groups of evaluators reviewed the posters in different themes.

TALKS AND POSTER WINNERS

Talks:

- **Prazual Gurung:** *Distribution, Hunting & Trade of Chinese Pangolin*

- **Ramya Nair:** *The Social Institution of Waghoba: Big Cat-Human Relationships and Conservation from a Sociocultural Lens*
- **Varun Kher:** *Response of Bird Communities to Contemporary Land-Use Changes in the Thar Desert of Western India*

Poster:

- **Paul Tehoda:** *Population Ecology of Western Chimpanzee in the Bia Conservation Area, Ghana*
- **Nazneen Sultan:** *Diet Composition and Conservation Perception of Owls in Agriculture Landscape of Tiruchirapalli District, 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 and Foundation for Ecological Security managed the finances for SCCS 2019.

DONORS

Thanks to our generous donors we raised Rs. 30,00,000/-. 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. Prasenjeet Yadav – Photography
2. Indian Academy of Sciences - Hostel facilities
3. Indian Institute of Science - On-campus accommodation and workshop venues
4. National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Meetings office – Visa processes, Workshop venues, Accommodation for Pre-conference module students.
5. Centre for Ecological Sciences (IISc), NCBS, Nature Conservation Foundation, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment and Dakshin Foundation – Volunteers
6. National Institute of Advance Studies – Workshop venue

INCOME

Apart from the INR 30,00,00 donated by the donors listed above, we also raised INR 12,60,292 through conference registration and INR 11,470 through the sale of t-shirts and diaries. This plus the bank interest, makes the total income **INR 42,71,762**.

EXPENDITURE

SCCS 2019 incurred a total expenditure of

Budget line	Total
Venue	4,68,488.00
Accommodation	3,61,820.00
Food and Furniture expenses*	7,87,115.00
Conference staff (administrator etc)	3,84,000.00
Bursaries	5,48,122.00
Travel (international & local)	7,51,422.00
Website	1,58,266.00

Art Design	20,000.00
AV Hire	2,17,388.00
Prizes	30,000.00
Conference kits, printing, stationary	1,25,778.00
Bank Charges	1,634.00
Registration refunds	1,12,640.00
Total	39,66,673.00

*NCBS donates poster boards and covers their transportation and rent directly. This is not accounted for.

BURSARIES

With the support of our donors, the conference provided partial travel reimbursements to student presenters to attend the conference from their hometowns. This year SCCS-BNG has supported 49 Indian students and 27 foreign students to attend the conference. An additional 11 Indian students who participated in the pre-conference module were provided travel bursaries as well as conference registration waivers.

PEOPLE BEHIND THE CONFERENCE

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

1. CONFERENCE TEAM

Organising Committee

1. Abinand Reddy (Nature Conservation Foundation)
2. Marianne Manuel (Dakshin foundation)
3. Suhel Quader (Nature Conservation Foundation)
4. R Sukumar (Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science)
5. Shomen Mukherjee (Azim Premji University)
6. Tarsh Thekaekara (The Shola Trust)
7. Uma Ramakrishnan (National Centre for Biological Sciences)
8. Vani Sreekanta (Independent researcher)

Administrative and Support Team

1. Bhagyashree Ingle (Conference Administrator)

2. Smita Prabhakar, Vinay Hegde, Shivkumar, Rakhee Karumbaya (Nature Conservation Foundation)
3. S. Nirmala (Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science)
4. Bhavya S, Allwyn R., PP Ranjith, SB Saraswati (National Centre for Biological Sciences)
5. Thomas George, C. Sudhakar, Dinesh (Foundation for Ecological Security)
6. Vallish Kumar (Oy Media Solutions - website support)

Advisory Committee

1. M.D. Madhusudan (Nature Conservation Foundation)
2. Suhel Quader (Nature Conservation Foundation)
3. Kartik Shanker (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment)
4. Firoz Ahmed (Aaranyak)
5. Deepak Apte (Bombay Natural History Society)
6. Ghazala Shahabuddin (Senior fellow at Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR))
7. Krithi Karanth (Executive Director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore(CWS))
8. Mewa Singh (Mysore University)
9. Advait Edgaonkar (Indian Institute of Forest Management)
10. Asmita Kabra (Ambedkar University Delhi)
11. Nitin Rai (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment)
12. Rhys Green (SCCS - Cambridge)
13. V.B. Mathur (Wildlife Institute of India)
14. Ravi Bhalla (Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning)
15. Uma Ramakrishnan (National Centre for Biological Sciences)
16. Sejal Worah (WWF-India)
17. Gopi Sundar (International Crane Foundation and Nature Conservation Foundation)
18. K.V. Devi Prasad (Head, Dept. of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Pondicherry University)
19. Kamal Bawa (University of Massachusetts & Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and
and
20. Shomita Mukherjee (Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore)

Advisory and Welfare Council:

1. Jayshree Ratnam
2. Hari Sreedhar
3. Arshiya Bose
4. Kavita Isvaran
5. MD Madhusudhan

Pre-Conference Module:

Working Group:

Samira Agnihotri, Hari Sridhar, Vidyadhar Atkore, Neyi Jamoh, Vena Kapoor, Krishnapriya Tamma, Nitin Rai

Main Resource Persons:

Nitin Rai and Samira Agnihotri

Additional Resource Persons:

MD Madhusudan, Geetha Ramaswami, Nachiket Kelkar, Arshiya Bose, AR Vasavi, Shruthi Ajit, Meenal Tatpati, Krishnapriya Tamma, Vena Kapoor

Abstract Working Group:

1. Mousumi Ghosh
2. Ovee Thorat
3. Seshadri KS
4. Venkat Ramanujam
5. Anuradha Batabyal

Plenary Working Group:

1. Aarthi Sridhar
2. Munib Khanyari
3. Jayashree Ratnam
4. Nandini Velho
5. Pankaj Sekhsaria
6. Koustubh Sharma

Workshops Working Group

1. Arshiya Bose
2. Divya Karnad
3. Divya Vasudev
4. Vardhan Patankar
5. Vishnupriya Kolipakam

Mentoring Dinner Working Group

1. Chetan Rao
2. Chintan Sheth
3. Saloni Bhatia

2. ABSTRACT REVIEWERS

1. Aarthi Sridhar
2. Abhishek Ghoshal
3. Abi Tamim
4. Advait E
5. Anirban Datta Roy
6. Aniruddha Marathe
7. Anish A
8. Ankila Hiremath
9. Anuradha Bhat
10. Ashish David
11. Ashwin Vishwanathan
12. Bharat S
13. Binoy VV
14. Budhaditya Das
15. Deepak Barua
16. Devi Prasad
17. Divya Uma
18. Elrika D'Souza
19. Farah Ishtiaq
20. G Umapathy
21. Geetha Ramaswami
22. Ghazala S
23. Gururaj KV
24. Janhavi Joshi
25. Jayashree Ratnam
26. Joyshree Chanam
27. Karthikeyan V
28. Kavita Ishvaran
29. Kulbhushansingh S
30. Manjiri Jain
31. MD Madhusudhan
32. Meera Oomen
33. Meghana Agarwala
34. Meghna Krishnadas
35. Mousumi Ghosh
36. Murlidharan M
37. Nachiket Kelkar
38. Nandini Rajamane
39. Narayan Sharma
40. Prachi Mehta
41. Prachi Thatte
42. Priyadarshana D
43. Rajah J
44. Raman Kumar
45. Ramana Atreya
46. Rishi Sharma
47. Rohit Naniwadekar
48. Seshadri KS
49. Shomen Mukherjee
50. Shomita Mukherjee
51. Sishir Rao
52. SK Dutta
53. Sridhar V
54. Srinivas V
55. Sripathy Kandalu
56. Suman Juman
57. Sunetro Ghoshal
58. Vardhan Patankar
59. Vena Kapoor
60. Vidyadhar Atkore
61. Vinatha V
62. Vivek Nityanand

3. WORKSHOP RESOURCE PERSONS

1. Abhijit Das
2. Abhishek Gopal
3. Abhishek Narayanan
4. Abinand Reddy
5. Akanksha Rathore
6. Amrita Menon
7. Anand Krishnan
8. Anand Pendharkar
9. Andrea Phillott
10. Aniruddha Marathe
11. Ankita Gupta
12. Ayushi Jain
13. Chris Bowden
14. Disha Sharma

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15. Geetha Ramaswamy | 55. Preethi Rajshekaran |
| 16. Gowri Uday | 56. Preety Sharm |
| 17. Gururaja KV | 57. Prerna Brinda |
| 18. Hari Krishnan | 58. Priya Iyer |
| 19. Harini Nagendra | 59. Priyanka Iyer |
| 20. Ian G Bride | 60. Pronoy Baidya |
| 21. Imran Siddiqui | 61. Prosenjit Dawn |
| 22. Isha Bhopardikar | 62. Radhika Bhagat |
| 23. Jose Louies | 63. Rajkamal Goswami |
| 24. Joyshree Chanam | 64. Raman Kumar |
| 25. Kabini Amin | 65. Ranajit Das |
| 26. Kabir Sharma | 66. Rohit Naniwadekar |
| 27. Kannan AS | 67. Sabuj Bhattacharyya |
| 28. Karthik Ramaswamy | 68. Sahila Kudalkar |
| 29. Kavita Isvaran | 69. Saili Palande-Datar |
| 30. Manini Bansal | 70. Samira Agnihotri |
| 31. Mayank Aggarwal | 71. Sanjay Gubbi |
| 32. Mayukh Dey | 72. Sanjay Molur |
| 33. Mihir Mathur | 73. Shashank Srinivasan |
| 34. Monica Kaushik | 74. Shivani Agarwal |
| 35. Mousumi Ghosh | 75. Shreekant Deodhar |
| 36. Mridula Vijairaghavan | 76. Sneha Dharwadkar |
| 37. Nagaraj Bhatt | 77. Sreya Mozumdar |
| 38. Naveen Thayyil | 78. Stella James |
| 39. Navendu Page | 79. Subhankar Chakraborty |
| 40. Nayana Udayashankar | 80. Sudhamshu Mitra |
| 41. Neha Mujumdar | 81. Sumesh Manglassery |
| 42. Neha Sinha | 82. Sunil Kainthola |
| 43. Nikit Surve | 83. Tarun Nair |
| 44. Nishadh KA | 84. Upasana Ganguly |
| 45. Nishant Srinivasaiah | 85. Vijay Mohan Raj |
| 46. Ovee Thorat | 86. Vikram Sridhar |
| 47. P Jeganathan | 87. Viral Joshi |
| 48. Pankaj Koparde | 88. Vishwanath Varma |
| 49. Pankaj Sekhsaria | 89. Vishwesh Guttal |
| 50. Poonam Bir Kasturi | 90. Vishwesh Guttal |
| 51. Prachi Thatte | 91. Vivek Coelho |
| 52. Prakriti Srivastava | 92. VV Binoy |
| 53. Prasenjeet Yadav | 93. Yannick Kuehl |
| 54. Praveen Bhargav | 94. Yateendra Joshi |

4. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS JUDGES

Poster Judges:

1. Vena Kapoor
2. Saloni Bhatia
3. Umesh Srinivasan
4. Anand MO
5. Navendu Page
6. Megan Aylward
7. Budhaditya Das
8. Ian Bride
9. Ovee Thorat

Talk Judges:

1. Janhavi Joshi
2. Ovee Thorat
3. Umesh Srinivasan
4. Abhishek Harihar

5. VOLUNTEERS

We were supported by a fairly large team of ~45 volunteers from institutions located in Bengaluru (Bangalore University, Dakshin Foundation, Indian Institute of Science, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Nature Conservation Foundation, RV College of Engineering, Transdisciplinary University)

Our volunteers were vital for the efficient running of the conference and their names are listed below:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Aamir | 16. Kanika Rawat |
| 2. Aditya Iyer | 17. Kaveri Dey |
| 3. Aishwarya Lakshmi S | 18. Kavya Lakshmikanth |
| 4. Akshata G Bhat | 19. Kavya R |
| 5. Anubhab Khan | 20. Kevin Davis |
| 6. Anusha Kumble | 21. Kishore Raj D |
| 7. Avik Banerjee | 22. Lakshmi Priya Jayaraj Cannanbilla |
| 8. Bineet Kaur Raina | 23. Lanusunep Pongen |
| 9. Chandana Pusapati | 24. Madhupreet M. |
| 10. Deepika Sharma | 25. Manasa Kulkarni |
| 11. Dhanya Bharath | 26. Meghana Binraj |
| 12. Divya M | 27. Mohit Mudliar |
| 13. Harleen Kaur | 28. N.Amrishprakash |
| 14. Ismail Asad | 29. Nidhi Yadav |
| 15. Jack D (Divya) | 30. Preethi R. |
| | 31. Prerana Gawde |

32. Rakshith R
33. Rashmi Rekha Purty
34. Sarthak J Shetty
35. Shipra Saxena
36. Shree Varsha V
37. Shubhra Shukla
38. Sneha Bhansali

39. Somesh S Menon
40. Tanveen Randhawa
41. Uday Kumar
42. Udit Bansal
43. Vijayananda KP
44. Vivek Jadhav
45. Yogesh S.



Energetic Volunteers, Organising Committee members & Conference Administrator

6. LOGISTICS

KEY SERVICE PROVIDERS:

Website Maintenance: Vallish Kumar, Oy Media Solutions

Local Transport: Rashmi Trade Links

Travel Agent: Milesworth Journeys

Catering: Sri Nidhi Caterers

Artwork: Payal Darekar, Tabitha D'Souza

OTHER SUPPORT:

Main Conference Venue: JN Tata Auditorium

Workshop Venues: ICER, IPC, CES, KSCST, CiSTUP, Mechanical Engineering, Management Studies, Materials Engineering, NIAS

Accommodation: Centenary Visitors House, Hoysala House, Jawahar Guest House and Indian Academy of Science Guest House

We also thank the organising institutions of SCCS-Bengaluru 2019 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
4. Foundation for Ecological Security

DAY WISE SCHEDULE

Day 1

Tuesday, October 15



08:00 - 09:00	REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST
09:00 - 09:20	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
09:20 - 10:20	TECHNICAL PLENARY 1: Suneetha Subramanian Trans Disciplinary Approaches in Socio-Ecological Research
10:20 - 11:50	STUDENT TALKS: SESSION 1 T01 • Response of Bird Communities to Contemporary Land-Use Changes in the Thar Desert of Western India Varun Kher T02 • Terraces of the Lebanese Coast – Evolution and Recovery Assessment Jina Talj T03 • Inculcating Subjectivity in a Degraded Landscape: A Case Study of the Junglescapes Model in the Lokkare Reserve Forest Manasi Anand T04 • Impact of Habitat Fragmentation on Plant-Frugivore Interactions in Lowland Tropical Forests of Upper Assam, North-East India Abir Jain T05 • Regeneration Potential of a Tropical Rainforest Fragment in Sri Lanka Iyesha Madhushani
11:50 - 12:10	MORNING TEA
12:10 - 13:00	BIRDS OF A FEATHER: THEMED NETWORKING SESSION
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 - 16:30	SHORT WORKSHOPS Too Much or Too Little? Understanding Tourism Carrying Capacity Nayana Udayashankar, Vijay Mohan Raj, Ms. Saili, Sumesh Manglassery, Sunil Kainthola JN TATA: Auditorium Using Mobile-based Tools for Field Surveys Shashank Srinivasan <i>Materials Engg.</i> Using Theatre and Drama in Conservation Awareness Vikram Sridhar JN TATA: C Writing for Researchers Karthik Ramaswamy KSCST An Introduction to DNA Metabarcoding and its Applications for Studying Biodiversity Mousumi Ghosh CES: Classroom Elements of Study Design Rohit Naniwadekar, Abhishek Gopal CES: Seminar Hall Underwater Bioacoustics: The Art and Science of Recording and Studying Animal Behavior using Sound Mayukh Dey CES: Lotka Volterra Anti-Snare Walks for Combatting Wildlife Crime Jose Louies & Nagaraj Bhatt, Radhika NIAS Bioacoustics in Conservation Anand Krishnan, Samira Agnihotri, Viral Joshi & Isha Bhopardikar SID Power in (of) Qualitative Methods: Conservation Research with Human Communities Budhaditya Das MCB Politics of Conservation Law Stella James MRDG Wildlife Rehabilitation: An Integrative Approach to Wildlife Conservation Abhishek Narayanan, Jayanti Kalam JN TATA: A Art & Activism Nityanand Jayaraman JN TATA: B
16:30 - 16:50	EVENING TEA
16:50 - 18:00	Who's Who in Conservation
18:00 - 19:00	POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 1: Nityanand Jayaraman Climate Change vs. Land-use Change: A Case for Open Earth Economies Inspired by the Poromboke
19:00 - 21:00	DINNER

Day 2 Wednesday, October 16



07:00 - 07:45 BIRD WALK | TREE WALK

08:00 - 09:00 REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST

09:00 - 11:30 LONG WORKSHOPS

Writing Grants and Fellowships in Ecological Sciences | **Sabuj Bhattacharyya, Monica Kaushik** || *MRDG*

Basics of Ant Taxonomy | **Pronoy Baidya** || *CNS*

Conservation Genomics | **Meghna Natesh, Anubhab Khan, Vinay Sagar** || *NCBS: Rasputri*

Systems Thinking and Modelling for Sustainability Research | **Mihir Mathur, Kabir Sharma** || *CES: Reading Room*

How to Train your Computer? | **Nishadh KA** || *JN TATA: A*

Social Science Methods in Conservation Research | **Rajkamal Goswami, Ovee Thorat** || *SID*

Euphaea – Odonatology Theory and Practice | **Pankaj Koparde, Prosenjit Dawn, Neha Mujumdar** || *CES: Seminar Hall*

How R You Doing? Using the R platform for Managing and Analyzing Ecological Datasets | **Raman Kumar** || *KSCST*

Introduction to Quantum GIS | **Shivani Agarwal, Gowri Uday** || *CES: Classroom*

Image Processing for Animal Census and Movement Studies | **Akanksha Rathore, Vishwesh Guttal, Preethi Rajshekaran** || *CES: Lotka Volterra*

New-age Mechanisms to Achieve Non-Protected Area Focused Conservation | **Anand Pendharkar** || *Materials Engg.*

Winning the Game of Publishing Research Papers | **Yateendra Joshi** || *JN TATA: B*

'All Things Turtles!' An Introduction to Freshwater Chelonians of India | **Anuja Mittal, Sneha Dharwadkar, Abhijit Das, Disha Sharma, Hari Krishnan, Ayushi Jain, Sabiha Khan** || *NCBS: Dushsheri*

Art of Making Conservation Work | **Imran Siddiqui, Mridula Vijairaghavan, Prakriti Srivastava, Tarun Nair, Praveen Bhargav, Mayank Aggarwal, Sahila Kudalkar, Prerna Singh Bindra** || *NIAS*

Plant ID | **Navendu Page** || *JN TATA: C*

Paint-a-way (mural) | **Manini Bansal** || *NCBS: Amphitheatre*

Creating Conservation Narratives in an Age of Misinformation | **Neha Sinha** || *JN TATA: Auditorium*

Role of Technology in Conservation | **Shashank Srinivasan** || *JN TATA: Auditorium (1400 - 1630)*

11:30 - 11:50 MORNING TEA

11:50 - 13:00 LONG WORKSHOPS

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 - 16:30 LONG WORKSHOPS

16:30 - 16:50 EVENING TEA



Day 2 Wednesday, October 16



16:50 – 18:00 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 1

- A01 • Temporal Turnover in Communities of Butterflies in an Urban Site depending upon its Social Plantation Types | **Aritra Bhattacharya**
- A02 • Healthy Wetlands and Community Awareness: Soft Options for Urban Flood Management | **Damithri Chathumani**
- A03 • Assessing the Impact of Livestock-induced Disturbance on Regeneration in the Temperate Forests of West Sikkim | **Nisam Mang**
- A04 • Modelling Detectability and Predictors of Blackbuck Density using Multiple Covariate Distance Sampling: A Case Study from Point Calimere WLS, India | **Subhasish Arandhara**
- A05 • Examining Ecological and Anthropological Correlates of Indian Grey Wolf Habitat-Use in the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan | **Prashant Mahajan**
- A06 • Does Lantana Invasion act as a Biotic Filter, Affecting the Composition of Native Species Regeneration?: A Decadal Study in Heterogeneous Landscape of Western Ghats | **Subhrajit Goswami**
- A07 • Assessing the Changes in Land Use and Landcover by Invasive Species and their Influence on Native Flora in Southern India | **Sourav Gupta**
- A08 • Diversity of Terrestrial Gastropods along with Forest Edges, Natural and Semi-natural Forests in the Nuwara Eliya district, Sri Lanka | **Dinelka Thilakarathne**
- A09 • Same, yet Different: The Tale of 'Pandavas' - Distribution of the Seasonal Forms of Chilades Pandava and its Relation with the Life Cycle Parameters | **Archan Paul**
- A10 • Investigating Diet of Indian Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) in a Human Dominated Landscape in Pune | **Unmesh Mitra**
- A11 • Assessment and Analysis of the Protection status of Biogeographic Zones in India | **Agnish Das**
- A12 • Diversity and Conservation of Ballini, Jumping spiders (Family: Salticidae) in Sri Lanka | **Dilin Bopearachchi**
- A13 • Bear Presence in Human-dominated Landscape: Associated Factors, People's Attitude and Conservation Implications | **Utkarsh Prajapati**
- A14 • Community Based Women and Climate Change Vulnerabilities to Water Resource Availability: A Case Study of Khokana Community, Lalitpur | **Ashra Kunwar**
- A15 • Diversity and Abundance of Litter Invertebrates in Dry Mixed Evergreen and Lowland Evergreen Forest Ecosystems in Sri Lanka | **Gayani Dissanayake**
- A16 • A Shift from Scavenging to Predation in Black Kites *Milvus migran govinda* of an Urban Landscape: An Ecological Assessment | **Maria Antony**
- A17 • Diet Composition and Conservation Perception of Owls in Agriculture Landscape of Tiruchirapalli District, Tamil Nadu | **Nazneen Sultan**
- A18 • Waterbird Diversity in Selected Regions in the Jaffna Peninsula: Potential for Promoting Avitourism | **Darshika Jayarathna**
- A19 • Assessing Bird Community Structure and Composition in Natural and Managed Forest of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun | **Sipu Kumar**



Day 2 Wednesday, October 16



16:50 – 18:00 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 1

- A20 • Morphological Malformations in Amphibian Communities associated with Paddy Fields in Central Sri Lanka | **Nuwan Karunarathna**
- A21 • Can Personality of the Shoal Mate Influence Behavioural Flexibility and Social Behaviour in Deccan Mahseer (*Tor khudree*), an Endemic Game Fish? | **Jintu Vijayan**
- A22 • A Bird's Eye Perspective of Landuse Changes: A Case Study of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani Eco Sensitive Area, India | **Prajakta Jadhav**
- A23 • Species Diversity, Composition and Distribution of Herpetofauna in Northwestern Region of Bangladesh | **Fazle Rabbe**
- A24 • Spatial Distribution and Flowering Resource Utilisation by Spiders on *Cullenia exarillata*, An Endemic Tree Species of Southern Western Ghats, India | **Gautam Kadam**
- A25 • An Insight into the Social Organization of Female Asiatic Lion | **Doli Borah**
- A26 • Habitat Assessment for Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps* in Kanoi Area, near Desert National Park, Rajasthan, India | **Rohit Kumar Baldodia**

18:00 – 19:00 FILM SCREENING: Fishing Palk Bay

Directed by **Saravanakumar Salem, Evanescence Studios**
Produced by **Aarthi Sridhar, Dakshin Foundation**

19:00 – 21:00

DINNER

19:30 – 21:00

LORIS WALK



Day 3 Thursday, October 17



07:00 - 07:45 BIRD WALK | TREE WALK

08:00 - 09:00 REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST

09:00 - 10:00 TECHNICAL PLENARY 2: Mordecai Ogada

The Need for 'Human Rigour' in Wildlife Conservation Study and the Danger of Losing Social Sustainability

10:00 - 11:30 STUDENT TALKS: SESSION 2

T06 • Understanding Mammalian Diversity and their Response to Anthropogenic Threats in Indo-Bhutan Barnadi-Jomotsangkha Forest Complex | **Aparajita Singh**

T07 • Frogs in the Fragments: Understanding the Impact of Rainforest Fragmentation on Anuran Diversity in the Anamalai Hills, Western Ghats | **Vijay Karthick**

T08 • Distribution, Hunting & Trade of Chinese Pangolin | **Prazual Gurung**

T09 • The Social Institution of Waghoba: Big Cat-Human Relationships and Conservation from a Sociocultural Lens | **Ramya Nair**

T10 • Factors Affecting Local Community Participation in Wildlife Conservation Projects in Northeast India | **Sayan Banerjee**

11:30 - 11:50 GROUP PHOTO

11:50 - 12:10 MORNING TEA

12:10 - 13:00 CAREERS IN CONSERVATION

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 - 16:30 SHORT WORKSHOPS

Citizen Science for Ecology in India - Experiences, Opportunities, Challenges |

Pankaj Sekhsaria, Naveen Thayyil, Vivek Coelho, Geetha Ramaswamy, Sanjay Molur, Priyanka Iyer || JN TATA: Auditorium

Conserving Cultures: Behavioral Variations Within and Across Species |

Samira Agnihotri, Priya Iyer || Materials Engg.

Writing Successful Grant Applications | **Andrea Phillott** || JN TATA: C

Introduction to Conservation Genetics and Genomics | **Ranajit Das** || CES: Reading Room

The Complexity and Variety in Human Large Carnivore Interactions in India | **Nikit Surve** || CNS

Tell Tale Science: Visualizing Research | **Kabini Amin** || KSCST

Interacting with Data for Beginners: Exploratory Analysis in R | **Aniruddha Marathe** || CES: Lotka Volterra

The Challenges of Coordinating Conservation Efforts for Threatened Vultures and Other Endangered Bird Species | **Chris Bowden** || MCB

Making Effective Presentations | **Yateendra Joshi** || SID

Get Rid of Jargon! | **Manini Bansal** || Biochemistry

Building Networks of Wildlife Warriors: Harnessing Local Potential to Achieve Global Conservation Impacts | **Upasana Ganguly, Ankita Gupta, Abhishek Narayanan, Jose Louies** || CES: Classroom

Craft for Conservation | **Preety Sharma, Sreya Mozumdar** || CES: Seminar Hall

Communicating Conservation Effectively and Sustainably | **Mordecai Ogada** || JN TATA: B

National Geographic Society Grant Seminar | **Yannick Kuehl** || JN TATA: A

Day 3 Thursday, October 17



16:30 - 16:50

EVENING TEA

16:50 - 18:00 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 2

- A01 • Range Extension Discoveries & New Records of Butterflies from Chhattisgarh, Central India | **Anupam Singh**
- A02 • Foraging Partitioning between Five Species of Columbids in Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests of Sabaragamuwa Province, Sri Lanka | **Sahani Chandrasiri**
- A03 • Understanding Patterns and Dynamics of Herders-Snow Leopard Conflict for Piloting Non-Lethal Mitigation Measures in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Western Nepal | **Ganesh Puri**
- A04 • Landscape Level Patterns of Mammalian Assemblages in Bellary District, Karnataka | **Asit Kumar Behera**
- A05 • Conserving Asian Woollyneck *Ciconia episcopus* in Nepal | **Nabin Pandey**
- A06 • Knowledge Gaps in Satellite Telemetry Studies on Sea Turtles in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia | **Smriti Jaliha**
- A07 • Striking a Balance: Identifying Features of Urban Green Spaces to Optimize Bird Diversity | **Manisha Kumari**
- A08 • Wetlands in Peril: Mapping Remnant Marshland in Human Dense Lower Gangetic Plains | **Bibidishananda Basu**
- A09 • Population Status, Threats and People's Perception on Chelonians (A Case Study from Jagadishpur Reservoir, Ramsar Site of Nepal) | **Kritagya Gyawali**
- A10 • Spatiotemporal and Species-level Variation in Nectar Robbing in the Afrotropical Forests of Mt. Cameroon | **Sailee Sakhalkar**
- A11 • Correlates of Subterranean Personalities: Morphology, Personality and Learning Ability in a Subterranean Fish, *Monopterus sp* | **Vishwanath Varma**
- A12 • An Assessment of Management of Tourism in the Marine Protected Area: A Case Study on Smith and Ross Islands | **Deepika Sharma**
- A13 • Threats to Sea Turtles from Fishing Activities in Vengurla, Sindudhurg District of Maharashtra | **Paloma Chandrachud**
- A14 • Lagenandra Species in Sri Lanka: Morphometric and Distribution Studies of a Genus with Conservation Priority | **Indrakeela Madola**
- A15 • Isolation, Identification and Application of Microalgae and Cyanobacteria for the Removal of Lead (II) as a Key for Reducing Heavy Metal Pollution | **Madu Lakmali**
- A16 • Speleobiological Studies on a Cave Dwelling Species of Horse Shoe Bat and Other Fauna from Divar Island, Tiswadi, Goa | **Pratiksha Sail**
- A17 • Dragonfly and Damselfly (Odonata) Species Diversity in Different Land Use Patterns of Lowland Tropical Wet Zone, Colombo District of Sri Lanka | **Lasanthi Wijayathunga**
- A18 • A Study on the Quality of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Effluent Water in CKDu Endemic Areas and the Current Discharge Practices - **Oshini Fernando**
- A19 • Status of a Protected Area System in the Western Ghats Region: An Analysis of PA Coverage | **Ankush Chowdhury**

Day 3 Thursday, October 17



16:50 - 18:00 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 2

- A20 • Boldly Learning to Adapt: Sex and Boldness Affect Learning and Memory in Wild Zebrafish | **Danita Daniel**
- A21 • What shapes the vegetation of the Indian hot desert? | **Aranya Gayatri**
- A22 • Scarab Beetles (*Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Scarabaeidae*) around Bor Wildlife Sanctuary, Wardha, India with Notes on Distribution | **Suvarna Khadakkar**
- A23 • Conservation Corridor: Setting Priorities for Conservation | **Abhirami C**
- A24 • Agricultural Land or Wetland? A Preliminary Study to Find the Suitable Breeding Habitat for Sarus Crane | **Madhumita Rajkumar**
- A25 • Phayre's Langur Population in Northeast Bangladesh: Underestimated and Under-pressure | **Tanvir Ahmed**
- A26 • Diversity and Abundance of Freshwater Turtles of the Ganga River across the Narora Barrage, Uttar Pradesh | **Sabiha Khan**

18:00 - 19:00 POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 2: Perna Bindra Voices in the Wilderness: Conservation in Today's India

19:00 - 21:00 DINNER

19:30 - 21:00 LORIS WALK

Day 4 Friday, October 18



07:00 - 07:45 BIRD WALK | TREE WALK

08:00 - 09:00 REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST

09:00 - 10:00 TECHNICAL PLENARY 3: Yadvendra Dev Jhala
Conserving Large Carnivores in India: Role of Science

10:00 - 11:50 STUDENT TALKS: SESSION 3

- T11 • Melanism in Tigers: Genetics, Evolution and Contributing Factors | **Vinay Sagar**
- T12 • Lost Child in the Concrete Jungle: Estimating Environmental Awareness in Urban School Children | **Chandrashu Tiwari**
- T13 • The Role of Herbivore Reef Fish in Controlling Algal Growth on Post-Disturbed Reefs of the Andaman Islands, India | **Therangika Ashani**
- T14 • Sand Type Influences Swimming Performance of Sea Turtle Hatchlings | **Nadhirah Syafiqah**
- T15 • Nature Conservation Challenges in Peri-Urban Areas: The Case of Ramadevarabetta Vulture Sanctuary in Bengaluru Metropolitan Region | **Harini Pillai**

11:50 - 12:10 MORNING TEA

12:10 - 13:00 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 3

- C01 • A Comparison of Diversity of Corticolous Lichens among Three Vegetation Types in Kandy District, Sri Lanka | **Poornima Shubhashini**
- C02 • Understanding the Impact of Protected Area on Local Residents: A Case Study from Bardia National Park | **Kabindra Shahi**
- C03 • Using Forensic Genetics in Assisting Law Enforcement to Curb Illegal Trade in Pangolin: Screening Confiscated Scales and Development of Reference Signatures for Indian and Chinese Pangolin | **Prajnashree Priyambada**
- C04 • Cyanobacterial & Green-Micro Algal Diversity in Four Geothermal Springs in Sri Lanka | **Piyumika Madushani**
- C05 • Gut Microbiota of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) Suggests Affinity between Two Geographically Distant Habitats in Eastern Himalayas | **Supriyo Dalui**
- C06 • Exploring the Cryptic Gene Flow and Population Structure of Red Panda in Eastern Himalayas Using Landscape Genetics | **Shambadeb Basu**
- C07 • Variations of Tetrapod Vertebrate Species Diversity with Human Disturbance within the Horton Plains National Park | **Tharanga Dassanayake**
- C08 • Occurrence of Non-Indigenous Species in Coastal Waters Adjacent to Port of Colombo, West Coast of Sri Lanka | **Manuja Promodya**
- C09 • Dietary and Spatio-Temporal Partitioning between Leopard and Asiatic Lion in Western Part of Gir Protected Area, Gujarat | **Rohit Chaudhary**
- C10 • Population Ecology of Western Chimpanzee in the Bia Conservation Area, Ghana | **Paul Tehoda**
- C11 • Determinants of Diet Selection by Blackbuck at Point Calimere WLS, Southern India: A Regression with Empirical Variable Selection (REVS) Approach | **Satish Kumar**
- C12 • An Ecological and Management Model of the Gangetic River Dolphin in the Upper Ganga | **Nandini Mehrotra**

Day 4 Friday, October 18



12:10 - 13:00 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 3

- C13 • The Carbon Storage in Mangroves: An Unaccounted Clean Up Service | **Preshit Priolkar**
- C14 • Waterbirds of Kole Wetlands: Seasonal Trends | **Arjun Ramachandran**
- C15 • Predator Pit?: A Theoretical Model to Evaluate Apparent Competition between Major Snow Leopard Prey, Ibex and Argali in Tost, Mongolia | **Rajaditya Das**
- C16 • Spatio-Temporal Variations in Waterbird Population Characteristics of Sewage Treatment Plant and its Associated Habitats in Mannampandal, Tamil Nadu | **Prasath Selvaraj**
- C17 • Fishes of Vayal Nadu: 9 Ichthyo Diversity and Conservation Challenges in a Poorly Known Region of the Western Ghats | **Sreesha Gadadharan**
- C18 • Life amidst Debris: Utilization of Anthropogenic Materials for Nest Construction by Birds | **Agnes Francila**
- C19 • Hedgehogs in my Backyard: The Status, Distribution and Threats of South Indian Hedgehog *Paraechinus nudiventris* based on Preliminary Study | **Brawin Kumar**
- C20 • Communicating, Educating or Advocating? The Vanishing story of Great "not any more Indian" Bustard in the Socio-Political Landscapes in India | **Jatin Mathur**
- C21 • Determinants of the Roosting and Breeding Site-Selection, Abundance of Lesser Adjutant in Northern Bihar, India | **Rajesh Kumar**
- C22 • People's Perceptions on Elephant Corridors and Conservation in Eastern Assam | **Rubul Tanti**
- C23 • Does Living in the Vicinity of Corbett Tiger Reserve Account for Economic Gain or Economic Loss? | **Khadija**
- C24 • Kodagu – A Potential Site for Conservation of Critically Endangered Vulture Species | **Pallavi Poojari**

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 - 16:30 SHORT WORKSHOPS

- Machine Learning and Deep Learning for Ecologists | **Kannan AS, Abinand Reddy, Amriti** || *MRDG*
- Neutral Theory and its Application in Conservation Genetics | **Ranajit Das** || *CENSE*
- The Study of Animal Behaviour and its Applications for Conservation | **Nishant Srinivasaiah, Samira Agnihotri, Shreekant Deodhar** || *JN TATA: B*
- Why We Need to Foreground Nature in our Urban Lives to Ensure Conservation? | **Poonam Bir Kasturi** || *MCB*
- Field-based Experiments for Plant-Insect Interaction Studies | **Joyshree Chanam** || *KSCST*
- Integrating Animal Cognition and Conservation Science | **VV Binoy, Vishwanath Varma** || *NIAS*
- Basics of Photography | **Prasenjeet Yadav** || *JN TATA: C*
- (Mis)understanding Cultural Differences: A Key to (un)Successful Conservation Practice | **Ian G Bride** || *JN TATA: A*

Day 4 Friday, October 18



14:00 - 16:30 SHORT WORKSHOPS

Analysing Count Data - Fitting and Interpreting Generalized Linear Models (GLMs) |
Kavita Isvaran || *CES: Classroom*

Anuran Bioacoustics: A Hands-on Workshop | **Gururaja KV** || *SID*

Corridor/Connectivity Conservation |
Prachi Thatte, Ambika Sharma, Mrunal Ghosalkar, Hiten Bhaishya, Sanjay Gubbi ||
JN TATA: Auditorium

Language & Ecology – Communicating Nature Through Local Languages | **P Jeganathan** ||
Materials Engg.

16:30 - 16:50

EVENING TEA

16:50 - 18:00 BIRDS OF A FEATHER: THEMED NETWORKING SESSION

18:00 - 19:00 POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 3: Angelique Songco
Not about Managing Fish: A Case Study from the Tubbataha Reefs

19:00 - 19:20 CLOSING REMARKS, PRIZES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

