

STUDENT CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION SCIENCE - BENGALURU 2018 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 2018 was held from September 27th – 30th bringing together students and young researchers in the science and practice of biodiversity conservation. SCCS first originated in Cambridge 19 years ago. The first SCCS sister conference began in Bengaluru, moving on to become an annual event since 2010. Today, there are SCCS sister conferences the world over in Beijing, Bengaluru, Brisbane, Cambridge, New York and Tihany.

SCCS-Bengaluru facilitates interaction, encourages exchange of research ideas and methods, sharing of knowledge and experience related to conserving wildlife 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 33 foreign participants from 5 countries. The largest contingent of foreign participants was from Sri Lanka.

This was the 9th edition of the conference. It was a four-day event, with a format similar to the previous edition, tweaked based on feedback from the previous edition's participants. SCCS 2018 was inaugurated by Rohini Balakrishnan (Chairperson, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc) and Uma Ramakrishnan (Faculty, National Centre for

Biological Sciences). We had 6 plenary talks, 16 student talks, 82 student posters, and 45 workshops this year. After inaugural plenary talk on Day 1, we had a themed networking session for students, titled 'Birds of a Feather'. Days 1, 3 and 4 featured short workshops (14:00-16:30), while Day 2 consisted of long workshops (09:00 to 16:00)

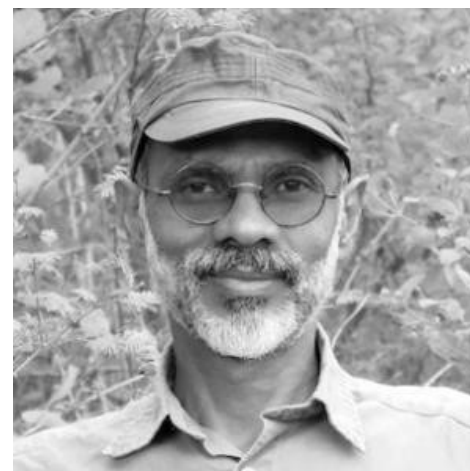
We had several new additions to the program this year such as 'Telling Tales', 'Mentoring Dinners' and film-screenings of submissions from non-professional film-makers. The 'Conservation Careers session, the film screenings as well as 3 non-technical plenary talks were open to general public and very well received enthusiastically. The professional film 'The Secret Life of Frogs' was also part of these open sessions. These sessions form a part of the public-outreach wing of SCCS-Bengaluru, which are widely publicized in the city and well attended. 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 instantly.

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.

Participants & volunteers busy with registrations on Day 1



PLENARY TALKS



Pilai Poonswad



She has an M.Sc. in Microbiology from Mahidol University and a Ph.D. in Avian Ecology from Osaka City University, Japan. Her field of expertise is Avian Parasitology and Avian Biology and Ecology. She began her study of hornbills in Khao Yai National Park in 1978 and founded the Thailand Hornbill Project (THP) in 1979. She also founded the Hornbill Research Foundation in 1993. She is the representative of Thailand in the International Ornithologists' Union. She has retired from her work as Professor of Biology at the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.

She conducted ground-breaking research on the breeding biology of hornbills, including their nesting behaviour, nest characteristics, nest plaster materials, food and feeding, and breeding success, with further studies continuing on home range, nutrients, influence of availability of suitable nest cavities and dispersal mainly at three long-term sites i.e. Khao Yai National Park (moist evergreen forest), Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary (mixed deciduous forest) and Budo-Sungai Padi National Park (tropical rain forest). Since 1994, she has worked with (and continues to this day) local communities to conserve hornbills by turning them from poachers into hornbill nest protectors and she received the 2006 Rolex Award for Enterprise from Rolex SA, Switzerland for her work there. Lately she has received numerous honors and awards for her scientific work and contribution to conservation including the Dushi Mala Medal for Great Eminence in Science from His Majesty King Bhumibol in 2007, the highest national award.

Talk Title: The value and importance of long-term research and engagement for the conservation of hornbills

Abstract: Long-term research is essential for a more comprehensive and accurate knowledge of wild species and nature. The Thailand Hornbill Project (THP) established in 1978 is running till now. For four decades, we have been working to understand breeding biology and ecology of all 13 species of hornbills which can be found in three research sites in Thailand. Our study areas in Khao Yai National Park, Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary and Budo-Sungai Padi National Park cover a total of about 800 km sq. We began by addressing important basic questions such as: When do hornbills breed? What are the predominant nest tree species? What is their diet composition and which are the important food? What are threats to hornbills? and so forth. At present, we continue to study breeding ecology, nest trees, feeding ecology, flocking and roosting, home range and habitat use, phenology and fruit abundance, population census, and population genetics. Due to our long-term research and continued engagement at multiple sites, we can implement successful management of nest cavities, a limiting factor which directly affects hornbill populations. Such management facilitates and enhances breeding attempts. For instance, at Khao Yai, 55% of Great Hornbills' chicks fledged from cavities that we repaired and modified. Our tracking of hornbills using a satellite-based GPS system, has yielded significant findings of the seasonal wide-ranging movements of species like the Plain-pouched Hornbill. With comprehensive and accurate knowledge and understanding of hornbill biology, we were able to eventually establish collaborations with local communities at Budo-Sungai Padi National Park in 1994. This community-based conservation has now become a model for conservation work in Thailand and beyond which we call the BUDO Model. Since 1994, 653 chicks of hornbills across six species have fledged successfully. 85 villagers from villages

around the Budo Mountain have worked with THP since the research project started there, 48 of them are still actively assisting THP. We also collaborate with private sector and government agencies, including Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Border Patrol Police, universities and NGOs. The goal of this long-term research is to gather data, produce and disseminate knowledge about hornbills and their important role in forest regeneration and ultimately conserve hornbills and their forest habitat in a sustainable way.

Attendance: 352

EJ Milner Gulland



EJ is the Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity at the University of Oxford. Previously she was Professor of Conservation Science at Imperial College London, and she has also held lectureships in Resource Economics and Mathematical Ecology. Her PhD, at Imperial College London, was on the wildlife trade, with a focus on ivory, rhino horn and saiga antelopes. Her research group is the Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science, which has a wide range of research projects within conservation science. These include developing and applying methods for understanding, predicting, and influencing human behaviour in the context of local resource use in developing countries. Her team also works on the illegal trade in wildlife and on designing, monitoring and evaluating conservation interventions in order to improve their

effectiveness. She aims to ensure that all the research in her group is addressing issues identified by practitioners, and is carried out collaboratively with end-users.

Talk Title: 25 years of saiga antelope conservation, through good times and bad

Abstract: Conservation is a long game, which requires patience and an adaptive approach both in research and in practice, if you want to make a difference. In this talk I illustrate this point with reference to the species I have worked on since 1990, during which time I have witnessed political and economic upheaval in the species' range states, and its populations have gone through a rollercoaster ride of massive poaching, recovery, devastating disease and faced a range of other threats. I chart my involvement in studying the ecological and social issues that affect this species, and in practical conservation action at the local and international levels, including my failures as well as successes. I hope thereby to illustrate how conservation science works in the real world, and inspire you to keep going whether times are good or bad.

Attendance: 480

Sudhir Chella Rajan



Sudhir Chella Rajan teaches at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Madras. His interests are primarily at the interface of political theory and the environment; in particular, on the new challenges that enter politics within democratic societies in the face of composite social and environmental encounters. Dr Rajan has worked on emergent policy dilemmas in automobile pollution regulation in California, the politics of power sector reform in developing countries, conflicts in relation to energy access and climate change policy, the patterns of social change needed in transport in the United States for fair climate policy, ethical approaches to addressing climate change and sea level rise, new interpretations of the resource curse in resource-rich developing countries, changes to the periurban landscape in South India and the shifting meanings

of corruption in environmental and everyday discourse. He has authored or co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed publications, over 30 technical reports, and 2 books. He is currently writing a manuscript on the 'big' history of corruption in India under contract with Harvard University Press.

Talk Title: Roads are scars... and we may yet make something of that

Abstract: Roads are scars on the surface of the earth. But they are only a special case of land intensification. Part of what I wish to demonstrate in this talk is that the transport problem cannot be seen to be different from what geographers generally term urbanisation. But I also want to emphasise that urbanisation, especially that which takes place well beyond city limits, can take multiple routes. I propose that conservation specialists need not feel like apostates if they were to try to accommodate these changes in meaningful ways.

This talk is divided in to three parts. First, I scan the scholarly literature on transport and biodiversity, a domain in which I have done no primary research. Second, I draw general lessons from a field that I have dabbled in, namely urbanisation and transport. Third, I describe an emerging phenomenon in many parts of the world, peri-urbanisation or extended urbanisation, the formation of city-like features far from the official borders of cities. This type of land intensification has gained in prominence with three technologies: widespread energy access, roads (cars in particular), and the internet. The thoughtless expansion of the periurban is a severe threat to global biodiversity, climate, livelihoods and to living decent lives with each other. It is possible, however, and I am only following a long tradition of sustainability thinkers and practitioners to proclaim this, to change the terms of periurban expansion. I outline a few of these possibilities, but also the challenges we might face in exploring them.

Attendance: 414

Prithviraj Fernando



'Pruthu' qualified as a medical doctor from the North Colombo Medical College, but decided not to practice medicine but to pursue a career in conservation biology. Subsequently he obtained a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Oregon. The title of his PhD thesis was 'Genetics, Ecology and Conservation of the Asian Elephant'. He pioneered genetic analysis of Asian elephants using their dung and radio tracking of elephants in Sri Lanka. Upon completion of his Ph.D. in 1999, he joined Columbia University New York, where he conducted research on Asian elephants and Javan rhinos. His work resulted in the recognition that Borneo elephants were indigenous and not introduced to Borneo.

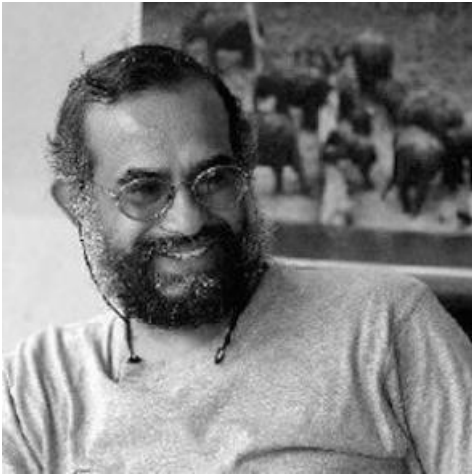
In 2004, he returned to Sri Lanka and set up the Centre for Conservation and Research of which he is the Chairman. The focus of CCR has been on conducting research and conversion of findings to policy and management to better mitigate the human-elephant conflict and conserve elephants. He has conducted field work on elephants and human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Borneo, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. Dr. Fernando has been a member of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group since 2000. He is also a Research Associate of the Smithsonian Institution USA and has received the Whitley Award for Nature Conservation and Sri Lanka Presidential Awards for Scientific excellence.

Talk Title: Human-elephant conflict mitigation: wrong tools in the wrong hands?

Abstract: Human-elephant conflict (HEC) occurs mainly due to crop raiding by elephants. Crops are a vastly superior resource than natural fodder. Elephants mostly raid crops by choice rather than necessity and elephant biology and reproductive strategy makes crops highly attractive to male elephants. Agricultural expansion in areas with elephants leads to wider spread and intensification of conflict. Most traditional methods of crop protection are confrontational, leading to increased aggression by elephants and an arms race of escalating conflict. HEC mitigation by conservation agencies is largely based on restricting elephants to protected areas, but in many landscapes the majority of elephants occur outside protected areas. HEC mitigation by conservation agencies has been based on translocation, drives and barriers. While capture and domestication has been advocated as a HEC mitigation measure, reduction in elephant numbers does not necessarily reduce conflict. Elimination of elephants from a landscape by capture is seldom achievable and elimination by culling is not acceptable in the Asian context. Elimination is also undesirable from an elephant conservation perspective. In spite of great effort by conservation agencies over many decades, HEC continues to escalate across Asian elephant range. The geographic and temporal scale of HEC makes its mitigation by conservation agencies an unachievable goal. Effective HEC mitigation requires a paradigm change, with acceptance of human-elephant co-existence, people suffering from HEC and agencies tasked with people's welfare taking the lead in HEC mitigation through non-confrontational crop protection.

Attendance: 512

Ashish Kothari



Founder-member of Indian environmental group Kalpavriksh, Ashish has taught at the Indian Institute of Public Administration, coordinated India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan process, served on Greenpeace International and India Boards, helped initiate the global ICCA Consortium, and chaired an IUCN network dealing with protected areas and communities. Ashish has (co)authored or (co)edited over 30 books, and helps coordinate the Vikalp Sangam and Radical Ecological Democracy processes in search of alternative well-being pathways to globalized development. His latest books are *Churning the Earth: Making of Global India* (with Aseem Shrivastava), *Alternative Futures: India Unshackled* (ed., with KJ Joy); and his forthcoming book - *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary*.

Talk Title: Thinking out of the Conservation and Development Boxes

Abstract: Wildlife and biodiversity conservation thinking and practice have begun to see a paradigm shift in the last few years, across the world. Seeing humans as part of conservation landscapes, or conversely, conservation as part of biocultural landscapes; and considering human rights and community knowledge as part of conservation approaches, are part of this shift. Such approaches are however still nascent in India and many other countries where colonial and neo-colonial approaches remain dominant, as witnessed for instance in the continued exclusionary strategies used in official protected area governance.

The continued conflict between mainstream conservation approaches and the livelihoods of people living in areas targeted for such conservation, is considerably exacerbated by the currently dominant model of economic 'development'. This model treats nature as a resource for exploitation in ways that can speed up GDP-based growth, and people directly dependent on it as 'backward' who need to be 'developed' and brought into the mainstream (primarily as labour that can be exploited). Such neo-liberal approaches are destructive of both nature and of nature-dependent communities. Swimming against these dominant trends are a growing number of alternative initiatives, from agroecology to community-based ecosystem management to direct democracy and localised economies, from struggles for gender and class and caste equality to alternative education, health and livelihood strategies. In this presentation I will argue that such alternative approaches to human well-being have to be embraced by conservationists, while human rights advocates have to embrace the basics of conservation, if we are to move out of the current situation of human-environment conflict, biodiversity decline, and socio-economic inequities. This will be illustrated with examples from across India, and elsewhere in the world, that show such alternative approaches to be eminently possible ... and indeed, imperative if we are to make peace with the earth and each other.

Attendance: 321

Anita Varghese



Dr. Anita Varghese, is Deputy Director at Keystone Foundation. She holds a Bachelor's in Zoology (Bombay University), Masters in Ecology (Pondicherry University) and a Doctorate in Botany (University of Hawaii). Her long term work looks at the factors that mediate the relationship between people and nature, specifically how the goals of conservation and development can be harmonized. Her interests are in plant conservation specifically on sustainable use, non timber forest products, long term population dynamics of harvested species, traditional ecological knowledge, invasive plants, cycads, and forest trees. She co-ordinates the field courses and research program, while anchoring the Field Ecology Center at Hasanur, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve where indigenous people are trained in 'Barefoot ecology' - a program that combines scientific

methods and traditional knowledge to better understand changes that are taking place in the forests. She is part of the team that runs the Nilgiris Field Learning Center - a collaborative program of Keystone Foundation and Cornell University, where indigenous youth and undergraduate students from Cornell go through a semester of academics and field research that brings theory and practice, academic and experiential learning into a classroom in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. She is a member of the Plant Conservation Sub Committee of the IUCN, Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group steering committee (CEESP/SSC- IUCN) and Cycad specialist group (SSC/IUCN). She is a founding member of the Nilgiri Natural History Society (established 2010).

Talk Title: Rediscovering traditional ecological knowledge through Barefoot Ecology

Abstract: Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is associated with indigenous or adivasi groups for whom landscapes are repositories of history, home of ancestors, sacred in memory – sources of knowledge, practise and belief. It is in these lived landscapes that we seek to do conservation. Yet when we embark on the long road to conservation we seem to miss the trails of those who have lived along that road. Indigenous knowledge or TEK may hold some of the answers that conservation challenges seek to address. Indigenous ways of managing the forest, land and water has sustainability science built into it and has played a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing the quality of the ecosystem. Over the past several years we have tried to look at the conservation values within indigenous knowledge and how this can be integrated within scientific approaches to conservation. Barefoot Ecologists of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve are indigenous people who have been trained in scientific methods and combine this with their indigenous knowledge to monitor the health of their landscape. Through barefoot ecological methods, many indigenous youth, have rediscovered their TEK.

Conservation requires many role players - the need to expand the canvas to make room for a diversity of approaches has been voiced by several experts. Through citizen science, ecotourism, conservation education and other related initiatives, we have gone all out to include non-experts on to this canvas. We need to make space and assign roles for indigenous views on conservation and in the process understand the crucial factors that keep TEK responsive and dynamic. For too long the discussions on TEK have revolved around its loss, erosion and need for protection and it is time for change.

Attendance: 409



A full house during one of the plenary talks



Pilai Poonswad enthraling the students with her work on Hornbills



Prithviraj Fernando talking about human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka



A participant from the audience asks a question

Videos of these plenary talks will be made available online on the [SCCS-Bengaluru YouTube Channel](#).

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

We received **137** abstract submissions, a significantly higher number than last year (101 submissions). Each abstract was evaluated by at least three external reviewers. We selected 102 abstracts for the conference that were assessed to be of fairly good quality. Of these, we selected 16 from diverse locations and fields to be presented as student talks, while the remaining were selected for student posters. We finally had 82 poster presentations as some of the selected participants could not make it for 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. Talks were broadly grouped into 3 broad themes – Populations, Communities and Human-nature interactions – and scheduled such that they matched with the subjects of the plenary talks on the respective days.

Students gave presentations on a variety of topics touching upon conservation research and practice, such as human-animal conflict, law and policy, baseline wildlife-population surveys, community ecology, effect of human activities on wildlife populations and conservation genetics. 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, steppes and rain-forests.



A student presenter answers a question from the audience



Winners of student talks & poster competition

Tharanga Kahatapitiyage (from Sri Lanka) studied the effect of plankton abundance on the abundance of greater flamingos in the Jaffna peninsula, Sri Lanka. Meenal Pahuja told an inspiring study on dynamics of relationship between people and wild carnivores in Ladakh, Western Himalayas. Using tools from social science, Sutirtha Lahari described his study on how the academic community perceives free-ranging dogs, while Niharika Sharma highlighted the low participation of women

authors and subjects in conservation research conducted in India. Rio Button (from South Africa) talked about her pilot study on exploring fish habitats in a proposed offshore marine protected area using a remotely operated vehicle.

Additionally, there were 82 student posters on display on various broad topics such as Conservation, Biodiversity, Ecology, Taxonomy, Habitats, Behaviour, Community based studies, Human-wildlife conflict and Habitat fragmentation.

A detailed list of student talks and posters can be found in the day-wise conference schedule at the end of this report.



Student Poster Sessions

NETWORKING & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AT SCCS 2018

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 Prithviraj Fernando, Ashish Kothari and Anita Varghese 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.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER SESSION

Building upon the on feedback from previous years, this year on Day 1 of SCCS 2018 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.



Volunteers forming flocks



Birds of a feather have formed a flock



Flocks of all shapes and sizes, with their ‘Leader birds’

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. We also encouraged participants to use SCCS Bengaluru's Facebook and Twitter handles to form their own interest groups and pose research queries and interests. A number of conservation scientists attend SCCS every year and we encouraged their participation during this session.

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

1. Animal Behaviour (Ethology)
2. Ornithology
3. Chemical Ecology/ Plant-Animal Interactions
4. Community participation/based conservation and outreach
5. Ecosystem services and functions
6. Freshwater biology: rivers and wetlands
7. Human-wildlife interactions/conflict
8. Marine ecology
9. Population genetics/ phylogenetics/ molecular ecology
10. Remote sensing and land use change
11. Indigenous technical/ ecological knowledge
12. Semi-arid landscapes
13. Ecological restoration
14. Disease ecology
15. Urban ecology

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.

CAREERS IN CONSERVATION:

Based on the feedback from last year, this year we once again organised 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 1, and was titled ‘Conservation Careers: A Wide Spectrum’, and was attended by 340+ people. Responses on social media and conference feedback can vouch for the fact that the participants found this extremely helpful. The session was moderated by Vani Sreekanta, 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.

The main panelists included:

1. Shomen Mukherjee, Azim Premji University
2. Anushree Bhattacharjee, IUCN
3. Anne Theo, PhD student, Centre for Ecological Science, Indian Institute of Science
4. Milind Pariwakam, Wildlife Conservation Trust
5. Chetan HC, Trans Disciplinary University

Apart from the above panellists, we had the following additional panellists who also answered questions during the interaction session after the initial panel discussion:

6. Suhel Quader, Nature Conservation Foundation
7. Uma Ramakrishnan, National Centre for Biological Sciences
8. Kalyan Varma, Photographer & wildlife filmmaker
9. Marianne Manuel, Dakshin Foundation



The main panellists of the careers in conservation session

FILM SCREENINGS

On Day 4, we screened a documentary film “The Secret Lives of Frogs”, directed by Vijay Bedi and Ajay Bedi. The film depicts the behaviours and habitats of some of the under-studied frog species from the Western Ghats. This was followed by an interaction session with the director, Vijay Bedi.

The session was open to the public and attend by 404 people.

Additionally, this year we invited submissions from amateur and non-professional filmmakers. We received 12 entries, out of which the following films were screened:

1. 'Point and shoot' by Harsimran Kaur
2. 'Forest Watchers' by Paro Natung & Chandan Patro
3. 'The Birdman of Chorao' by Shashank Bosale

NATURE WALKS AT SCCS 2018

BIRD WALKS

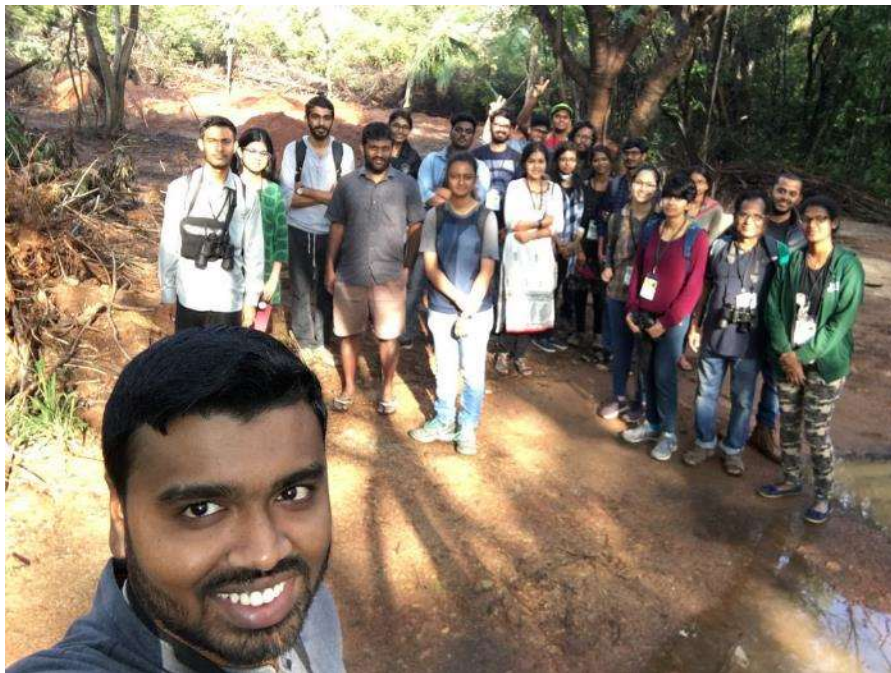
Early morning bird walks on the IISc campus were conducted on Days 2, 3 and 4 of SCCS-2018. There were about 20 participants on each day. Pronoy Baidya and Ashvin Viswanathan facilitated these walks.

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

Day 2 - <https://ebird.org/india/view/checklist/S48797002>

Day 3 - <https://ebird.org/india/view/checklist/S48807912>

Day 4 - <https://ebird.org/india/view/checklist/S48860101>



Participants of the bird walk on Day 2

LORIS WALKS

On behalf of Urban Slender Loris Project (USLP) ‘Loris walk’ was conducted during 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 2018 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 member Soumya KV 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.

TREE WALKS

The tree walk was organised by Geetha Ramaswamy and Swati Sidhu on Days 2 and 3 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.



Participants of the tree walk

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 28 Who's Who participants, with a mix of conservation action groups, NGOs, magazines and research institutions:

1. Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE)
2. Centre for Ecological Sciences
3. Conservation Optimism
4. Current Conservation
5. Dakshin Foundation
6. Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent
7. EcoEdu
8. InSeason Fish
9. Madras Crocodile Bank Trust / Centre For Herpetology
10. Marine Life of Mumbai
11. Mongabay-India
12. Nature Mates-Nature Club
13. NCBS Museum and Field Stations Facility
14. Oxford Martin Programme on the Illegal Wildlife Trade
15. Ravi Sankaran Foundation
16. Saiga Conservation Alliance
17. SeasonWatch
18. The Real Elephant Collective
19. What's the Point Art
20. Wildlife Research and Conservation Society
21. Kalpavriksh
22. WCS - India
23. Nature inFocus
24. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
25. Nature Conservation Foundation
26. Raptor research and conservation foundation
27. Wildlife Conservation Trust
28. Wildlife SOS

WORKSHOPS

The skill-based and capacity building workshops offered at SCCS have always been the highlight of the conference. This year we had 12 long workshops, and 33 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. 24 workshops were new and conducted for the first time this year and have been highlighted in the list of workshops on the following pages.

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.



Conservation optimism by EJ Milner Gulland



Basics of photography by Prasenjeet Yadav



Diversity in animal genders and sexuality by Priya Iyer

SHORT WORKSHOPS

S. No.	TITLE	PRIMARY RESOURCE PERSON
1	Grant Writing	Sabuj Bhattacharyya
2	The complexity and variety in human large carnivore interactions in India	Nikit Surve
3	Using Theatre and Drama in Conservation awareness *NEW*	Vikram Sridhar
4	Accessing and using data from open platforms *NEW*	Abinand Reddy
5	When and how to use social science methods for conservation	Divya Karnad
6	The study of Animal behaviour and its applications for conservation	Samira Agnihotri
7	Writing for Researchers	Karthik Ramaswamy
8	Towards Improved Disease Surveillance and Management *NEW*	Munib Khanyari
9	The publication process: an interactive discussion *NEW*	E.J. Milner-Gulland
10	Research Design for Ecological Studies	Ghazala Shahabuddin
11	Citizen Science for ecology in India - Experiences, opportunities, challenges *NEW*	Pankaj Sekhsaria
12	Writing competitive grant applications	Andrea Phillott
13	Managing and working effectively with people and teams	Vena Kapoor
14	Neutral Theory and its application in conservation genetics	Ranjit Das
15	Why and how of primate census and survey	Narayan Sharma
16	Qualitative Social Science Methods for Conservation Research *NEW*	Arshiya Bose
17	Interacting with Data for Beginners: exploratory analysis in R	Aniruddha Marathe
18	Linear infrastructure development and mitigation measures for connectivity conservation *NEW*	Milind Pariwakam
19	Common and Uncommon Spiders of India: An Overview	Manju Siliwal
20	New-age mechanisms to achieve non-protected area focused conservation	Anand Pendharkar

21	Integrating Animal Cognition and Conservation Biology *NEW*	V. V. Binoy
22	Conservation optimism – a movement for all *NEW*	E.J. Milner-Gulland
23	Too Much or Too Little? Understanding Tourism Carrying Capacity *NEW*	Nayana Udayashankar
24	Open Content – Using Creative Commons Licence *NEW*	Anju Baroth
25	Conservation Physiology- an emerging area in wildlife conservation *NEW*	Govindhaswamy Umapathy
26	Making effective presentations	Yateendra Joshi
27	Introduction to GIS using Quantum GIS *NEW*	Shivani Agarwal
28	Effective human-elephant conflict mitigation through appropriate use of electric fencing *NEW*	Prithviraj Fernando
29	How to be a birding buddy *NEW*	Garima Bhatia
30	Basics of Photography	Prasenjeet Yadav
31	Diversity in animal genders and sexuality	Priya Iyer
32	Tell Tale Science *NEW*	Kabini Amin
33	Language & Ecology – Communicating Nature Through Local Languages	P. Jeganathan

LONG WORKSHOPS

S. No.	TITLE	PRIMARY RESOURCE PERSON
1	Writing Grants and Fellowships in Ecological Sciences	Sabuj Bhattacharyya
2	Basics of Ant Taxonomy *NEW*	Pronoy Baidya
3	Bird Ringing for Science and Conservation	Farah Ishtiaq
4	Conservation Genomics *NEW*	Uma Ramakrishnan
5	Law and politics of conservation *NEW*	Stella James & Kiran Rahalkar
6	Introduction to Systems Thinking and Modeling for Sustainability Research *NEW*	Mihir Mathur

7	How to train your computer? *NEW*	Nishadh K A
8	Live action role play for thought exchange in conservation *NEW*	Ian Bride & Tarsh Thekaekara
9	How R you doing? Using the R platform for managing and analyzing ecological datasets	Raman Kumar
10	Social science methods in Conservation Research	Rajkamal Goswami
11	Bioacoustics in Conservation *NEW*	Gururaja KV, Anand Krishnan
12	Euphaea - Odonatology Theory and Practice *NEW*	Pankaj Koparde

OTHER FEATURES OF SCCS 2018

PRE-CONFERENCE MODULE *NEW*

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. As part of the conference's continued efforts in this direction, the 2018 edition will introduce a "Pre-conference module on conservation science and practice" for selected students. This 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 earlier years.

14 students participated in this new initiative this year. The module was conducted for 3 days before the conference at the NCBS campus, with lectures, discussions and activities throughout each of the day.

MENTORING DINNERS *NEW*

'Mentoring Dinner' was a series of informal dinners conducted on first three days of the conference, where individual mentors shared a meal with a group of up to four students at the conference. We gave young scholars and students attending the conference an opportunity to interact with experts/faculty during which they can ask questions, make a pitch, make connections and build network or simply interact with their academic and conservation heroes.

Over the years many students have asked us if we could create such an opportunity. The task of walking up to an expert/faculty is daunting to many students and this would create a mechanism which helps make the process less intimidating. Many students who write to experts/faculty find that their emails go unanswered because of busy schedules and the conference becomes a platform for them to interact with experts/faculty. These individual interactions were aimed to add to the workshop interactions and help the students to build networks.

TELLING TALES *NEW*

Telling Tales was born out of a need to address the fact that so much conversation about conservation can be heavy and existential. It's hard not to get overwhelmed!

This year, we provided storytellers a platform to share their personal stories and experiences that show that conservation is not all doom and gloom. We felt there was a need to bring to the forefront the positive stories: field experiences, moments that had an impact, the joy of the hard-won victories both big and small, the fun field experiences, the sudden moments of insight, a breakthrough, the unexpected encounters, instances of courage and kindness, and the majesty of landscapes and seascapes.

We had 6 storytellers present their stories. The sessions, which were open to the general public, were very well received by the audience.

SILENT AUCTION

The silent auction is a great way to raise funds, as well as add an element of fun while acting as a point of networking for participants and volunteers. Prior to the conference, participants were informed that they could bring any conservation-related objects (such as books, handmade articles, mugs, etc.), which they donate for the auctions. Participants bid on individual bidding-sheets with certain rules. On the last day of the conference, the auction was closed. We collected INR 11,710/- through this initiative! The plan is to use these funds for student-bursaries for the next edition of SCCS.



Participants bidding at the auction table



Volunteers manning the auction desks

MENTORING STUDENT TALKS

Based on the feedback from past editions, we aimed to improve the quality of talks given by students. Over the years, we have observed that more often than not, students at SCCS-Bengaluru are speaking in front of such a huge audience probably for the first time. Doing this can sometimes be very intimidating, especially if it is the student's the first time.

Out of the 16 talk-presenters, 12 students expressed a wish to use this opportunity. By seeking help from mentors (mostly all PhD students based out of Bengaluru, identified by the Abstracts working group), we matched mentors and mentees a month before the conference. Following this, the matched

pairs worked independently. The mentees gave extremely favourable feedback for this process, which was also reflected in the boost in talk-quality and presentation skills, as expressed by the talk judges.

WEBSITE

In an effort to go paperless, everything from participant registration, abstract submission and review, to workshop registration was done online via the [SCCS website](#).

This year too we received positive feedback on two key website features - the reviewer dashboard, and workshop organiser dashboard which was designed as part of the website feature. The former allowed abstract reviewers to sign into the website to view and score abstracts assigned to them. The latter allowed workshop organisers to view the participants registered for their workshops and gave them the ability to upload resource materials as well as email the registered participants directly.

PARTICIPANT T-SHIRTS & 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 2018. 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 of separate T-shirts for the participants, which was very well received.

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 organisations 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.

Shomen Mukherjee coordinated the entire process.

TALK AND POSTER AWARD WINNERS

Talks

- **Varsha Bhaskaran:** Oral history of Slender Loris (*Loris lydekkerianus lydekkerianus*) in the City of Bengaluru
- **Pratibha Baveja:** The effect of hybridization on Milky Storks
- **Zoya Tyabji:** The shark fisheries of the Andaman Islands, India - species richness, biology and its implications for conservation planning

Posters:

- **Aparna Krishnan:** Colour changing flowers and choosy Pollinators: Plant- Pollinator Interactions in *Lantana camara*
- **Anushri Narayan Vesweswaran:** From “Kere” to Tank: changing perceptions of water as an urban commons
- **Trisha Gupta:** Trash Talking: Composition of and trends in trash fishing in Malvan, Maharashtra

Cash prizes and books were given to the 6 candidates.

FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIPS

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 principally managed the finances for SCCS 2018, with additional support from Foundation for Ecological Security, Asian Nature Conservation Foundation, National Centre for Biological Sciences and Indian Institute of Science.

DONORS

Thanks to our generous donors we raised Rs. 42,08,149/-. 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. Nature Conservation Foundation – Book prizes for student presentation winners
2. Prasenjeet Yadav – Photography
3. Indian Academy of Sciences - Hostel facilities
4. Indian Institute of Science - On-campus accommodation and workshop venues
5. National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Meetings office – Visa processes
6. Centre for Ecological Sciences (IISc), NCBS, Nature Conservation Foundation, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment and Dakshin Foundation – Volunteers

EXPENDITURE

SCCS-Bengaluru 2018 had a budget of Rs. 40,08,893/-. The table below gives the break-up of expenditure incurred to conduct the conference.

Budget line	Expense
Venue*	421216
Accommodation	369707
Pre-Conference Module	169500
Food	987316
Conference Administrator	392300
Bursaries	706952
Travel (international & local)	326077
Website	370672
Art Design	15000
Communication	3074
Video**	49560
Prizes***	36000
Conference kits, printing, stationary	101915
Telling tales mentorship	5000
Bank Charges	5805
Registration refunds	48800
Total	4008893

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

**This is the partial payment made in the last financial year towards video editing. There are still additional payments to be made to complete this

***In-kind support was received which has not been 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 75 Indian students and 24 foreign students to attend the conference.

PEOPLE BEHIND THE CONFERENCE

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

CONFERENCE TEAM

Organising Committee

1. Abinand Reddy (Nature Conservation Foundation)
2. Arshiya Bose (Black Baza Coffee Co.)
3. Krishnapriya Tamma (Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science)
4. Ravi Chellam (Strand Life Foundation)
5. R Sukumar (Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science)
6. Shomen Mukherjee (Azim Premji University)
7. Tarsh Thekaekara (The Shola Trust)
8. Uma Ramakrishnan (National Centre for Biological Sciences)
9. Vani Sreekanta (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment)

Administrative and Support team

1. Shreekant Deodhar (Conference Administrator)
2. Smita Prabhakar, Vinay Hegde (Nature Conservation Foundation)
3. S. Nirmala (Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science)
4. Bhavya S. (National Centre for Biological Sciences)
5. Thomas George, C. Sudhakar (Foundation for Ecological Security)
6. Shivanandan Lakshmanan
7. Gokul Bhirman (Freelancer, 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 (Researcher and Consultant in Biodiversity; Senior Fellow, Centre for Ecology, Development and Research (CEDAR))
7. Krithi Karanth (Associate Conservation Scientist, Wildlife Conservation Society (USA))
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 the Environment)
20. Shomita Mukherjee (Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore)

WORKSHOP RESOURCE PERSONS

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Abhisheka Krishnagopal | 26. Gururaja K V |
| 2. Abinand Reddy | 27. Harini Nagendra |
| 3. Aditya Joshi | 28. Iravatee Majgaonkar |
| 4. Alphonsa Jojan | 29. Jeganathan P |
| 5. Anand Krishnan | 30. Kabini Amin |
| 6. Anand Pendharkar | 31. Kabir Sharma |
| 7. Andrea Philott | 32. Karthik Ramaswamy |
| 8. Aniruddha Marathe | 33. Kartik Shanker |
| 9. Anju Baroth | 34. Kesang Bhutia |
| 10. Anubhab Khan | 35. Kiran Rahalkar |
| 11. Aritra Kshetry | 36. Krushnamegh Kunte |
| 12. Arshiya Bose | 37. Manini Bansal |
| 13. Ashwin Vishwanathan | 38. Manju Siliwal |
| 14. Binoy V V | 39. Manoj Kumar |
| 15. Dhruv Gangadharan Arvind | 40. Marianne Manuel |
| 16. Divya Karnad | 41. Meghana Natesh |
| 17. E.J. Milner Gulland | 42. Mihir Mathur |
| 18. Farah Ishtiaq | 43. Milind Pariwakam |
| 19. Garima Bhatia | 44. Monika Kaushik |
| 20. Geetha Ramaswami | 45. Munib Khanyari |
| 21. Ghazala Shahabuddin | 46. Narayan Sharma |
| 22. Girija Godbole | 47. Naveen Namboothri |
| 23. Gopakumar Menon | 48. Nayana Udayashankar |
| 24. Govindhaswamy Umapathy | 49. Nikit Surve |
| 25. Gowri Uday | 50. Nishadh K A |

51. Nishant Srinivasaiah
52. Nitin Saxena
53. Ovee Thorat
54. Pankaj Koparde
55. Pankaj Sekhsaria
56. Prabhakar Rajgopal
57. Pradeep Chavan
58. Prasenjeet Yadav
59. Prithviraj Fernando
60. Priti Hebbar
61. Priya Iyer
62. Pronoy Baidya
63. Prosenjit Dawn
64. Radhika Bhagat
65. Rajkamal Goswami
66. Raman Kumar
67. Ranajit Das
68. Rashmi Singh
69. Rathnavel Pandian
70. Ravi Chellam
71. Ritwick Dutta
72. Rohini Chaturvedi

73. Ryan Rodrigues
74. Sabuj Bhattacharyya
75. Samira Agnihotri
76. Sangita Banere
77. Seshadri Ks
78. Shivani Agarwal
79. Shweta Shivakumar
80. Soumya KV
81. Sreedhar Vijaykrishnan
82. Srinivas V
83. Stella James
84. Subhash Dolas
85. Suhel Quader
86. Swati Sidhu
87. Theodore Baskaran
88. Thresiamma Varghese
89. Tirtha Patel
90. Uma Ramakrishnan
91. Vena Kapoor
92. Vikram Sridhar
93. Vineeth Kumar
94. Viral Joshi

ABSTRACT REVIEWERS

1. Aarthi Sridhar
2. Abi Tamim Vanak
3. Abinand Reddy
4. Advait Edgaonkar
5. Anirban Datta Roy
6. Aniruddha Datta Roy
7. Anirudhha Marathe
8. Anish Andheria
9. Ankila Hiremath
10. Anuradha Bhat
11. Aparajita Datta
12. Ashish David
13. Bharath Sundaram
14. Budhaditya Das
15. Deepak Barua
16. Devi Prasad
17. Divya Uma
18. Farah Ishtiaq
19. G. Umapathy
20. Geetha Ramaswami
21. Ghazala Shahabuddin

22. Gururaja Kv
23. Harini Nagendra
24. Jahnvi Joshi
25. Jayanti Mukherjee
26. Jayashree Ratnam
27. Joyshree Chanam
28. Karpagam Chelliah
29. Karthikeyan Vasudevan
30. Kulbhushansingh Suryawanshi
31. Madhusudan Md
32. Manu Mathai
33. Meera Oomen
34. Meghana Agarwala
35. Mousumi Ghosh
36. N. Bhaskaran
37. Nandini Rajamani
38. Narayan Sharma
39. Navendu Page
40. Ovee Thorat
41. Prachi Mehta
42. Prachi Thatte

43. Pranav Chanchani
44. Rajah Jaypal
45. Raman Kumar
46. Ramana Athreya
47. Rishi Sharma
48. Robin Vijayan
49. S.K. Dutta
50. Sabuj Bhattacharyya
51. Sampath Seneviratne
52. Sandhya Sekar
53. Seema Mundoli
54. Seshadri Ks
55. Shreekant Deodhar

56. Soubadra Devy
57. Soumya Prasad
58. Sreejith Radhakrishnan
59. Srinivas V.
60. Sripathi Kandula
61. Sumanta Bagchi
62. Sunetro Ghosal
63. Uma Ramakrishnan
64. Vidya Athreya
65. Vijayan Sunderaraj
66. Vinatha Viswanathan
67. Vivek Nityananda

STUDENT PRESENTATION JUDGES

Posters

1. Anand Krishnan
2. Farah Ishtiaq
3. Ghazala Shahabuddin
4. Ian Bride
5. Karthikeyan Vasudevan
6. Ranajit Das
7. Samira Agnihotri
8. Vena Kapoor
9. Vivek Ramachandran

Talks

1. Pankaj Sekhsaria
2. Priya Iyer

VOLUNTEERS

We were supported by a fairly large team of ~50 volunteers from institutions located in Bengaluru (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Azim Premji University, Bangalore University, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Chitrakala Parishath, Christ University (Deemed), Dakshin Foundation, Government Science College, Indian Institute of Science, Jain University, MES College, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Nature Conservation Foundation, Ramaiah College, RV College of Engineering, St. Josephs College, Transdisciplinary University, Turtle Survival Alliance, University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Trust of India)

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

1. Abhigna Desai
2. Abhratanu Saha
3. Aditya Iyer
4. Agnishikhe M A
5. Akanksha Rathore
6. Akshay Surendra
7. Ankur Shringi
8. Annie Megan Santamaria
9. Anshita Das
10. Anubhab Khan
11. Arjun S Menon
12. Arunima Singh
13. Avik Banerjee
14. Bineet Raina
15. Chetan Misher
16. Dincy Mariyam
17. Harsha K R
18. Himanshu Chhattani
19. Ismail Asad
20. Jack D
21. Jagan
22. Kasturi Saha
23. Kevin Davis
24. Krishna Chaitanya
25. Liza Kumari
26. Manish Machaiah
27. Manohar G M
28. Meghana Binraj
29. Narendra K
30. Nobin Raja
31. Pooja N
32. Preethi R
33. Rakhee Karumbaya
34. Rakshith R
35. Rohith R
36. Sanshal Mathew
37. Sarang Mishrikotkar
38. Sarthak Shetty
39. Shakthi Sritharan
40. Shawn Dsouza
41. Shimul Bijoor
42. Shuaib P
43. Siddhi Jaishankar
44. Srinivasan Kasinathan
45. Suchith C Menon
46. Tanveen Randhawa
47. Trisha Gupta
48. Uday Kumar
49. Upasana Sarraju



The enthusiastic army of volunteers at SCCS-Bengaluru 2018, along with a few members of the Organising Committee & the Conference Administrator

MENTORING DINNER MENTORS:

1. Aarti Sridhar
2. Abi Tamim
3. Ajith Kumar
4. Anita Varghese
5. Aparajita Datta
6. Arshiya Bose
7. Ashish Kothari
8. Divya Mudappa
9. EJ Milner Gulland
10. Ghazala Shahabuddin
11. Ian Bride
12. Jagdish Krishnaswamy
13. Janaki Lenin
14. Jayashree Ratnam
15. Kalyan Varma
16. Karthikeyan Vasudevan
17. Kartik Shanker
18. Kavita Isvaran
19. Krithi Karanth
20. Kulbhushansingh Suryavanshi
21. Manu Mathai
22. Nitin Rai
23. Prasenjeet Yadav
24. Prithviraj Fernando
25. Ravi Chellam
26. Sanjay Gubbi
27. Shomen Mukherjee
28. Siddhartha Krishnan
29. Suhel Quader
30. Suri Venkatachalam
31. Uma Ramakrishnan
32. Veena Srinivasan

KEY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Website Maintenance

1. Shivanandan Lakshmanan
2. Gokul Bhirman (Freelancer, website support)

Accommodation

1. IISc Guest houses
2. Jawahar Guest house
3. Indian Academy of Sciences, Jalahalli Guest House

Workshop Venues

1. Various IISc departments: ICER, IPC, CES, KSCST, CiSTUP, Mechanical Engineering, Management Studies, Materials Engineering

Catering

1. Shakun (Food Vision)

Travel Agent

1. N. Mohamadi (Milesworth Travels & Tours Pvt. Ltd.)

Local Transport

1. Amrutha Tours & Travels
2. Rashi Trade Links

Filming and video editing

1. Rsquare

Conference Artwork and Design

1. Payal Darekar, Tabitha D'Souza (Artwork)
2. Aditya Pandya and Ravi Jambhekar (for promo poster)

Online Registration

1. DoAttend (www.doattend.com)

OTHER SUPPORT

Mentors for student-talks

1. Aniruddha Marathe
2. Aparna Agarwal
3. Arjun Srivathsa
4. Krishnapriya Tamma
5. Meghana Krishnadas
6. Mousumi Ghosh
7. Sandeep Sen
8. Vardhan Patankar
9. Viraj Torsekar

Conservation Careers session

Curation:

1. Vani Sreekanta
2. Krishnapriya Tamma

Panelists:

1. Anushree Bhattacharjee
2. Shomen Mukherjee
3. Anne Theo
4. Milind Pariwakam
5. Chethan HC
6. Suhel Quader

7. Uma Ramakrishnan
8. Kalyan Varma
9. Marianne Manuel

Birds of a Feather networking session

1. Krishnapriya Tamma

Film Screening

1. Vijay Bedi

Jury for non-professional films

1. Hari Sridhar
2. Pavithra Sankaran
3. Sanjay Barnela
4. Sugandhi Gadadhar

Bird walks at IISc

1. Pronoy Baidya
2. Asvin Viswanathan

Loris walks at IISc

1. Urban Slender Loris Project Team – Soumya K. V., Kesang Bhutia, Rathnavel Pandian

Tree walks at IISc

1. Geetha Ramaswamy
2. Swati Sidhu

Silent Auction

1. Shreekant Deodhar, Jack D, Ismail

Schedule designing

1. Trisha Gupta

Social media

1. Shakthi Sritharan
2. NCBS Comms team
3. Sanctuary Foundation

On-site finance desk

1. Smita Prabhakar
2. Vinay Hegde
3. Nupur Kale

We also thank the host institutions of SCCS-Bengaluru 2018 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

ANNEXURE 01

 <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>	
Day 1 Thursday, September 27	
08:00 - 09:00	REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST
09:00 - 09:20	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
09:20 - 10:20	TECHNICAL PLENARY 1: PILAI POONSWAD The value and importance of long-term research and engagement for the conservation of hornbills
10:20 - 11:50	STUDENT TALKS: SESSION 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> T01 • Understanding Population Baselines: Status of Mountain Ungulate Populations in the Central TienShan Mountains, Kyrgyzstan Munib Khanyari T02 • Birds beyond borders: hornbill population, nesting and conservation in contiguous rainforests and adjoining plantation landscape in Anamalai Hills, India Pooja Yashwant Pawar T03 • Drivers of Psychological Stress and Behaviour Diversity among Captive Red Panda <i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i> (Cuvier, 1825) in North-eastern India Aamer Sohel Khan T04 • The effect of hybridization on Milky Storks conservation in Singapore Pratibha Baveja T05 • Effects of plankton abundance on the abundance of greater flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>) in the Jaffna peninsula, Sri Lanka Tharanga Kahatapitiyage
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Writing Sabuj Bhattacharyya • J.N. Tata Main Auditorium The complexity and variety in human large carnivore interactions in India Nikit Surve • Lecture Hall 8 Using Theatre and Drama in Conservation awareness Vikram Sridhar • Mechanical Engineering AR Auditorium Accessing and using data from open platforms Abinand Reddy • ICER Classroom When and how to use social science methods for conservation Divya Karnad • J.N. Tata Seminar Hall C Writing for Researchers Karthik Ramaswamy • J.N. Tata Seminar Hall B Towards Improved Disease Surveillance and Management Munib Khanyari • CES Classroom The study of Animal behaviour and its applications for conservation Samira Agnihotri • IPC Lecture Hall The publication process: an interactive discussion E .J. Milner-Gulland • J.N. Tata Seminar Hall A Career skills for conservation science- Adding value to your CV Andrea Phillott • KSCST Seminar Hall Research Design for Ecological Studies Ghazala Shahabuddin • Lecture Hall 7
16:30 - 16:50	EVENING TEA
16:50 - 17:45	CONSERVATION CAREERS: A WIDE SPECTRUM
17:45 - 18:00	Telling Tales
17:45 - 18:00	POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 1: PRITHVIRAJ FERNANDO Human-elephant conflict mitigation: wrong tools in the wrong hands?
19:00 - 21:00	DINNER



Day 2 Friday, September 28



07:00 - 07:45 BIRD 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 • J.N. Tata Auditorium

Basics of Ant Taxonomy

Pronoy Baidya • CES Classroom

Conservation Genomics

Uma Ramakrishnan • NCBS

Law and politics of conservation

Stella James, Kiran Rahalkar • J.N. Tata Seminar Hall C

Introduction to Systems Thinking and Modeling for Sustainability Research

Mihir Mathur • Mechanical Engineering AR Auditorium

How to train your computer?

Nishadh K A • KSCST Seminar Hall

Social science methods in Conservation Research

Rajkamal Goswami • ICER Classroom

Bioacoustics in Conservation

Gururaja KV, Anand Krishnan • Lecture Hall 7

Euphaea – Odonatology Theory and Practice

Pankaj Koparde • CES Seminar Hall

How R you doing? Using the R platform for managing and analyzing ecological datasets

Raman Kumar • CES Lotka-Volterra Lab

Bird Ringing for Science & Conservation

Farah Ishtiaq • Near IISc Swimming Pool (5:45am)

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

16:50 - 17:45 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 1

B01 • Molecular systematics and species boundaries of the South Asian Hump-nosed Pit Vipers, *Hypnale* spp. for effective conservation (Squamata: Viperidae) •

Abd hul Fareed Fathima Fazla

B02 • Relocation distance and time of sea turtle nests to hatcheries in Gujarat and Maharashtra may influence hatching success • **Abhidnya Unhale**

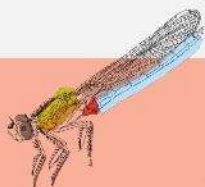
B03 • Niche partitioning between two closely occurring spider species: *Peucetia viridans* (green lynx) and *Oxyopes birmanicus* (brown lynx) at Pondicherry region • **Abhijit Dey**

B04 • Characterizing the oil sardine and mackerel fisheries at Malvan, Maharashtra •

Abhilasha Sharma

B05 • Environmental and socioeconomic implications of wind and solar power projects •

Abhishek Gawande





Day 2 Friday, September 28



16:50 – 17:45 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 1

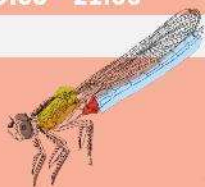
- A06 • Forest assemblages along altitudinal gradient - a case study from western Himalaya • **Ajay Singh**
- A07 • "Knock-Knock"- The dependence on presence of cavities on Forest Owlet occupancy. • **Akshay Anand**
- A08 • Nesting of Urban scavengers in Crowd: Factors affecting Nest site selection of Black Kite in urban landscape of Aligarh, UP • **Amees Mehta**
- A09 • Population structure and reproductive performance of symbiotic shrimp *Ancylocaris brevicarpalis* Schenkel, 1902 (Caridea: Palaemonidae) in the Gulf of Mannar, India • **Ampuli M**
- A10 • New Records and Updated List of Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea) from Chhattisgarh, India. • **Anupam Sisodia**
- A11 • From "Kere" to Tank: changing perceptions of water as an urban commons • **Anushri Narayan Vesweswaran**
- A12 • Colour changing flowers and choosy Pollinators: Plant- Pollinator Interactions in *Lantana camara* • **Aparna Krishnan**
- A13 • When, Where and Whom: Assessing wildlife attacks on people in Chitwan National Park, Nepal • **Apsana Kafle**
- A14 • Seasonal variation in Water Quality Index and its contributors for river Hooghly in and around Kolkata, West Bengal • **Archan Paul**
- A15 • A comparative assessment of conservation threats for wetland mammals: An evidence based conservation approach • **Arnab Chatterjee**
- A16 • Prioritizing conservation areas based on distribution of freshwater turtles in India • **Ayushi Jain**
- A17 • Ensuring longevity of the Velas Turtle Festival: Identifying and mitigating relevant threats to adult and hatchling sea turtles • **Smriti Jalihal**
- A18 • Distribution of Indian Wild Ass in highly human dominated vast saline desert of Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, India • **Bidyut Barman**
- A19 • Patterns of human casualties and tiger removal due to human-tiger conflict in Chitwan National Park, Nepal • **Biraj Chaudhary**
- A20 • Seed germination and storage behavior of lowland rainforest species in Sri Lanka towards their conservation and restoration • **Chandima Prabodani Samarasinghe**
- A21 • Gastrointestinal parasites of wild mammals in three National Parks of Sri Lanka based on climatic zones • **Chandima Sepalage**
- A22 • Stranger sings: Documenting Night singers of Western Ghats • **Chandranshu Tiwari**
- A23 • Breeding performance of Sri Lanka White-eye (*Zosterops ceylonensis*) in the tropical montane cloud forests of Horton Plains, Sri Lanka • **Chathuranga Dharmarathne**
- A24 • Possible vectors of mammalian infectious diseases • **Daluwatta Galappaththige Hansani Sathsara Sandukalani**
- A25 • Riparian buffers and pollination service - A case study from coffee-agrosystem along river Cauvery, south India • **Deepthi Narasimhaiah**
- A26 • Seed germination of two medicinally important vulnerable *Strychnos* species (Loganiaceae) from Sri Lanka, towards their conservation • **Deshika Lakmali Muthuthanthirige**
- A27 • Temporal activity patterns of small carnivores in the tropical evergreen forests, Southern Western Ghats: Implications for species coexistence • **Devika Sanghamithra**
- A28 • Quantification of impact of dams on river continuum in the Bhagirathi basin and design of mitigation strategies • **Divyashri Varadharajan**

17:45 - 18:00 Telling Tales

18:00 – 19:00 Short-film Screenings

19:00 - 21:00

DINNER





Day 3

Saturday, September 29



08:00 - 09:00

REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST

09:00 - 10:00 **TECHNICAL PLENARY 2: EJ Milner Gulland**
25 years of saiga antelope

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

T06 • An ounce of hope: dynamics of relationship between people and wild carnivores in Ladakh, Western Himalayas

Meenal Pahuja

T07 • Who let the dogs eat? A study on how the academic community perceive free-ranging dogs

Sutirtha Lahiri

T08 • Women in Conservation: Highlighting the Low Participation of Women Authors and Subjects in Conservation Research Conducted in India

Niharika Sharma

T09 • The 'Other' Outcomes of NGO Interventions in Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation: Case of 'Assam Hathi Project' in Goalpara, Assam.

Sayan Banerjee

T10 • Oral history of Slender Loris (*Loris lydekkerianus lydekkerianus*) in the City of Bengaluru

Varsha Bhaskaran

11:30 - 11:50 **GROUP PHOTO**

11:50 - 12:10

MORNING TEA

12:10 - 13:00 **WHO'S WHO IN CONSERVATION**

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 - 16:30 **SHORT WORKSHOPS**

Citizen Science for ecology in India - Experiences, opportunities, challenges

Pankaj Sekhsaria • J.N Tata Main Auditorium

Managing and working effectively with people and teams

Vena Kapoor • J.N. Tata Seminar Hall C

Writing competitive grant applications

Andrea Phillott • KSCST Seminar Hall

Neutral Theory and its application in conservation genetics

Ranajit Das • CiSTUP Conference Hall

Why and how of primate census and survey

Narayan Sharma • IPC Lecture Hall

Qualitative Social Science Methods for Conservation Research

Arshiya Bose • Mechanical Engineering AR Auditorium

Interacting with Data for Beginners: exploratory analysis in R

Aniruddha Marathe • CES Lotka Volterra Lab

Linear infrastructure development and mitigation measures for connectivity conservation

Milind Pariwakam • CES Classroom

Common and Uncommon Spiders of India: An Overview

Manju Siliwal • Management Lecture Hall 2

New-age mechanisms to achieve non-protected area focused conservation

Anand Pendharkar • Management Seminar Hall

Integrating Animal Cognition and Conservation Biology

V. V. Binoy • JN Tata Seminar Hall B

Conservation optimism – a movement for all

E.J. Milner-Gulland • JN Tata Seminar Hall A

16:30 - 16:50

EVENING TEA





Day 3 Saturday, September 29



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

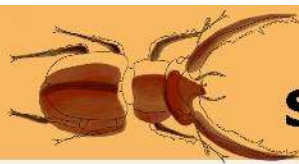
- B01 • Survival strategies of three endemic, endangered lizards adapted to montane habitats of Sri Lanka • **Dulan Jayasekara**
- B02 • Conservation of sustainable and adaptive practices in response to climate change • **Falguni Gupta**
- B03 • Identifying potential drivers of human-leopard conflict across Protected and non-Protected Areas of Tamil Nadu, India • **Gayathri Venkatramanan**
- B04 • Impact of competition between domestic and wild prey on predation by snow leopards • **Harman Kour**
- B05 • Appreciating the reed beds created by Narmada water diversion as Bittern habitats • **Hiren Patel**
- B06 • Studying the effect of leaf litter of invasive species trees on mosquito egg laying selection in a mesocosms set up • **Indu Periodi**
- B07 • Biological approach to assess river water quality and development of biotic index: A case study in river Mahanadi, Odisha • **Ishita Ganguly**
- B08 • Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Stock of Four Broad-leaved Tree Species in a Pinus Enrichment Trial in Lower Hantana, Sri Lanka • **Jayani Chathurika Abeysinghe Gunawardhana**
- B09 • Connectivity patterns of highly fragmented patches of lowland rainforests in an expanding South Asian metropolis • **Jayani Gamage**
- B10 • Effect of vegetation around nest boxes on nest survival of White-rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) in Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary • **Jobin Varughese**
- B11 • Modeling Coupled Human-Natural Systems in Banni Grassland, India using Participatory System Dynamics • **Kabir Sharma**
- B12 • Determinants of herder's attitudes towards snow leopard in Upper Mustang, Nepal • **Karuna Karki**
- B13 • Mango infesting fruit flies and their parasitoids in Peradeniya University premises • **Luhiru Jayawardana**
- B14 • Does urbanization affect the health of tropical agamid lizards? • **Madhura Amdekar**
- B15 • Distribution, behaviour and nesting habitat of large and small owls in Chaurakund range, Melghat forests, Amravati district, Maharashtra • **Mahasweta Patnaik**
- B16 • How community's forest dependency is a key to the survival of their oak forests: A study on the Monpa community • **Manisha Kumari**
- B17 • Status of mammals at Enjoo and Mathun Valleys in Dibang Valley Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India • **Mary Gaduk**
- B18 • From fear to festivity: Capturing varied perceptions on elephant related problems in Balashore, Odisha • **Medha Nayak**
- B19 • Darn Dams: An Occupancy Survey of Riverine Birds in Arunachal Pradesh, India • **Megha Rao**
- B20 • Spatial distribution of Himalayan gray langur in Kashmir Himalaya • **Mehreen Khaleel**
- B21 • Making friends with mad trees: sustainable management of an invasive species in the Banni grasslands • **Mehta Nirav**
- B22 • Monitoring Biodiversity to Evaluate the Success of Ecological Restoration in Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram, Haryana • **Micha Bansal**
- B23 • Influence of invasive shrub species on understory vegetation and soil characterisation of chir pine forest in Central Himalaya • **Mukesh Kumar**
- B24 • Microhabitat preferences of Acanthurid functional groups in two reefs from south Andaman • **Narayani S**
- B26 • Maxent modeling for predicting the distribution of the white-eyes in Sri Lanka, *Zosterops palpebrosus* and *Z. ceylonensis* • **Nelum Wickramasinghe**
- B27 • Identification of *Paludomus* species and apple snail species in Sri Lanka using radula ultrastructure • **Nuwanthika Wathuliyadda**
- B28 • Climatic Variations of Vocalization and Vocal Repertoire of an Endemic Bird: Brown Capped Babbler (*Pellorneum fuscocapillus*) in Sri Lanka • **Pavithra Priyabhashini Panduwawala**

18:00 - 19:00 POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 2: ASHISH KOTHARI Thinking out of the Conservation and Development Boxes

19:00 - 21:00

DINNER





Day 4

Sunday, September 30



08:00 - 09:00

REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST

09:00 - 10:00 TECHNICAL PLENARY 3: Sudhir Chella Rajan
Roads are scars... and we may yet make something of that

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

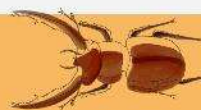
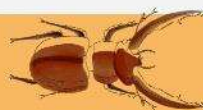
- T11 • Effects of Myroxylon balsamum on regeneration of native species in Udawatta Kele Forest Reserve, Sri Lanka
Nishadi Dayarathna
- T12 • Higher microbial respiration in managed grazing ecosystem might influence soil carbon sequestration
Shamik Roy
- T13 • Exploring fish and habitat in a proposed offshore MPA & diversity hotspot using an ROV
Rio Button
- T14 • Dammed vs. Undammed: A comparison of fish community assembly in two west flowing riverine-estuarine systems in the Western Ghats, India
Shivona Bhojwani
- T15 • The role of herbivore reef fish in controlling algal growth on post-disturbed reefs of the Andaman islands, India
Tanmay Wagh
- T16 • The shark fisheries of the Andaman Islands, India - species richness, biology and its implications for conservation planning
Zoya Tyabji

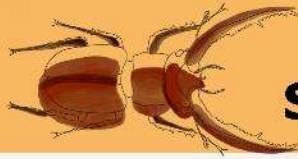
11:50 - 12:10

MORNING TEA

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

- C01 • Prying open the predation box: Understanding predation by mesopredatory fish in structurally degraded coral reefs • **Phalguni Ranjan**
- C02 • Comparison of Endoparasitic Load of Indian Peafowl across Dietary regimes • **Pranav Mhaisalkar**
- C03 • Assessment of Taruga eques parasitic infections in and around the lentic water bodies within and outside Horton Plains National Park • **Praneeth Silva**
- C04 • Urban Heronries of Kolkata Metropolis: An Insight to Site specific Conservation Strategies • **Prodipta Biswas**
- C05 • Odds in the Woods: a tale of two plant invaders in a tropical forest • **Rajat Rastogi**
- C06 • Seasonal Distribution of Sri Lanka Bush Warbler (Elaphornis palliseri) in the Horton Plains National Park • **Randuwege Isuri Tharushika Kaushalya Fernando**
- C07 • Assessing the status of the Critically Endangered White-bellied Heron (Ardea insignis) and other Riverine Species in Namdapha Tiger Reserve • **Rohan Menzies**
- C08 • Enemies of Farmland Birds: Use of pesticides in Important bird area of Nepal for farming practices • **Sakar Jha**
- C09 • Effect of habitat quality on distribution of wetland birds in River Yamuna: An occupancy modeling study • **Sana Rehman**
- C10 • Behavioural Studies of Captive Gharials (Gavialis gangeticus) at Chennai Snake Park, India and its implications for conservation and management • **Sangeeth Sailas Santhosh**
- C11 • Diversity of Tree Species in Nokrek National Park, Meghalaya, North East, India • **Sangma M Tremie**
- C12 • Dietary Overlap between the Native versus Introduced Species: A Case Study from Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, Southern India • **Sathishkumar Selvaraj**
- C13 • Cost of hitchhikers on a mutualism • **Satyajeet Gupta**
- C14 • A tale of river tigers: Study on population, threats and conservation measures of Golden mahseer in upper Ganga river, India • **Saurabh Dewan**
- C15 • Morphological difference between aquatic and terrestrial Alternanthera philoxeroides, an invasive plant and evaluation of their allelopathic potential using seed bioassay • **Shankhamala Ghosh**





Day 4

Sunday, September 30



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

- C16 • Variation in species composition and soil properties along different slope aspect in Western Himalaya • **Shipra Singh**
- C17 • Habitat correlates of Malabar Slender Loris, *Loris lydekkerianus malabaricus* distribution in the Western Ghats. • **Smitha D Gnanaolivu**
- C18 • Population Status and Drivers of Blackbuck Antelope *cervicapra* Distribution in Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary, Southern India • **B. Kesavan Khan**
- C19 • Comparing insect diversity and abundance in a heterogeneous landscape • **Soham Sahu**
- C20 • An Assessment of the Effect of Light Pollution on Roosting of Butterflies: Do Butterflies Get Disturbed by Artificial Light? • **Souparno Roy**
- C21 • Sand mining at the cost of long lived Ganges dolphins: A case study of Kulsi River, Assam • **Sunny Deori**
- C22 • Role of agroecosystems for the conservation of an endemic frog (*Pseudophilautus wynaadensis*, Jerdon, 1853) of Western Ghats • **Syamili M S**
- C23 • Trash Talking: Composition of and trends in trash fishing in Malvan, Maharashtra • **Trisha Gupta**
- C24 • Resource availability and species dependencies influence metacommunity membership and persistence: a test using fig wasps and simulations • **Vignesh Venkateshwaran**
- C25 • Cnidarian Diversity and their Ecological Characteristic at Marine National Park and Sanctuary Southern Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat, India • **Viradiya Ankita**
- C26 • Preliminary analysis of the interaction between blue swimming crab fishing grounds and marine habitats in Gulf of Mannar, Sri Lanka • **Wajra Jeewantha Bandara Rathnayaka Mudiyansele**
- C27 • Negative edge effect on the avian diversity in Kaludiya Pokuna forest reserve, Sri Lanka due to habitat alteration for tourism • **Wijayathunge Arachchige Lasanthi Kanthika**

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 - 16:30 SHORT WORKSHOPS

- Too Much or Too Little? Understanding Tourism Carrying Capacity
Nayana Udayashankar • J.N. Tata Main Auditorium
- Open Content – Using Creative Commons Licence
Anju Baroth • Lecture Hall 7
- Conservation Physiology - an emerging area in wildlife conservation
Govindhaswamy Umopathy • Management Lecture Hall 2
- Making effective presentations
Yateendra Joshi • Mechanical Engineering AR Auditorium
- Introduction to GIS using Quantum GIS
Shivani Agarwal • KSCST Seminar Hall
- Effective human-elephant conflict mitigation through appropriate use of electric fencing
Prithviraj Fernando • Management Seminar Hall
- How to be a birding buddy
Garima Bhatia • IPC Lecture Hall
- Basics of Photography
Prasenjeet Yadav • J.N. Tata Seminar Hall C
- Diversity in animal genders and sexuality
Priya Iyer • J.N. Tata Seminar Hall A
- Tell Tale Science
Kabini Amin • CiSTUP Conference Hall
- Language & Ecology – Communicating Nature Through Local Languages
P. Jeganathan • J.N. Tata Seminar Hall B

16:30 - 16:50

EVENING TEA

- 16:50 - 17:05 **SILENT AUCTION CLOSING**
- 17:05 - 18:00 **FILM SCREENING: The Secret Life of Frogs**
- 18:00 - 19:00 **POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 3: Anita Varghese**
Rediscovering traditional ecological knowledge through Barefoot Ecology
- 19:00 - 19:20 **CLOSING REMARKS, PRIZES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**