

STUDENT CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION SCIENCE - BENGALURU
www.sccs-bng.org



2017 CONFERENCE REPORT

COMPLIED BY
SCCS-BNG 2017 Organizing Committee



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

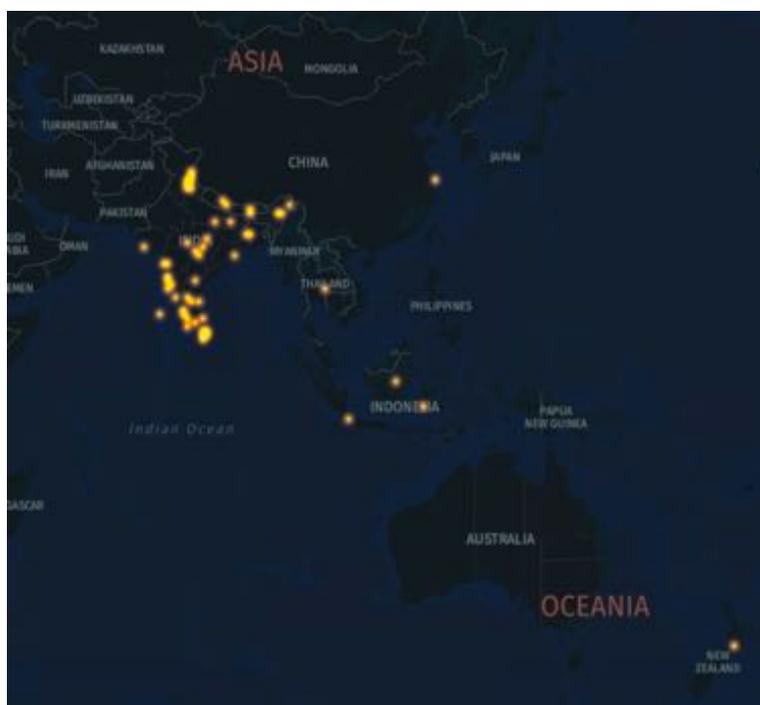
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OVERVIEW

The Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) – Bengaluru 2017 was held from September 21st - 24th, bringing together students and young researchers in the science and practice of biodiversity conservation. SCCS first originated in Cambridge 18 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 350 participants with 30 foreign participants from 5 countries. The largest contingent of foreign participants was from Sri Lanka.



Study locations of SCCS 2017 student presenters

This was the 8th 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 2017 was inaugurated by Rohini Balakrishnan (Chairperson, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc), Uma Ramakrishnan (Faculty, National Centre for Biological Sciences) and Suhel Quader (Director, Nature Conservation Foundation). We had 6 plenary talks, 15 student talks, 70 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, 2 and 4 featured short workshops (14:00-16:30), while Day 3 consisted of long workshops (09:00 to 16:00) followed by a special movement piece open to general public, titled "How to be a Fig?". This project was a collaboration between our Bengaluru-based volunteers, students, scientist and artists



from the ArtEcology Initiative. This was extremely well received, with more than 580 people attending the event. The ‘Conservation Careers: A Wide Spectrum’ session and a film screening of “Manas – Return of the Giants” were open to general public and very well received. 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.

PLENARY TALKS

Our plenary speakers this year were:

1. Amanda Vincent, a marine biologist and conservationist at UBC Fisheries Centre at the University of British Columbia (Canada), who talked about her own conservation research journey study which started as basic ecological studies and morphed into work on global trade policy.
Attendance: 310
2. Diogo Verissimo, a biologist turned social marketer, who talked about the ethical implications of designing behaviour change interventions and presented ways forward for more meaningful behaviour change interventions. Diogo has also participated in SCCS-Bengaluru previously as a student presenter.
Attendance: 360
3. S. P. Singh, a senior scientist at the Indian National Science Academy (Delhi), who gave an overview of climate change in relation to Himalayas with a focus on studies on forests and trees.
Attendance: 330
4. Madhu Ramnath, a botanist, anthropologist and writer, who narrated his experiences of living with the Durwa and Koitoor communities and gave his outlook on looking at conservation as a part of a lifestyle, instead of removed from it.
Attendance: 376
5. Sanjeeva Pandey, a member of the Indian Forest Service (IFS), asked whether alternative livelihood development can be used as a strategy for long term conservation of biodiversity at the Great Himalayan National Park, based on his experience of working as an IFS officer for over two decades.
Attendance: 350
6. Bahar Dutt, a television journalist, environmental columnist, author and editor, spoke about the power of telling stories in order to save the planet.
Attendance: 450

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



Students began the conference with some introspection & soul-searching questions



Amanda Vincent enthralled the students with her own conservation journey



Bahar Dutt talking about the role of telling stories to save the planet



A participant from the audience asks a question



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

We received **101** abstract submissions, which is a higher number than last year. Each abstract was evaluated by at least three external reviewers. We selected 94 abstracts for the conference that were assessed to be of fairly good quality. Of these, we selected 15 from diverse locations and fields to be presented as student talks, while the remaining were selected for student posters. We finally had 70 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.

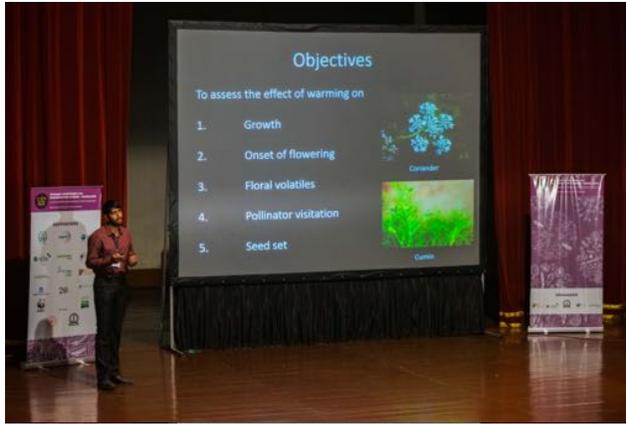
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

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. Talks were broadly grouped into 3 broad themes – Oceans, Forests and Mammals – and scheduled such that they matched with the subjects of the plenary talks on the respective days.

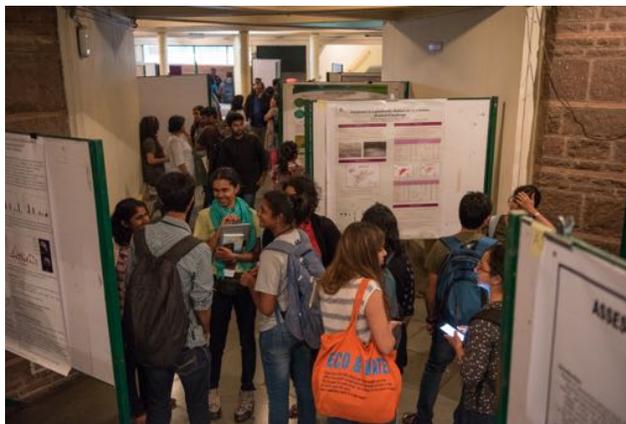
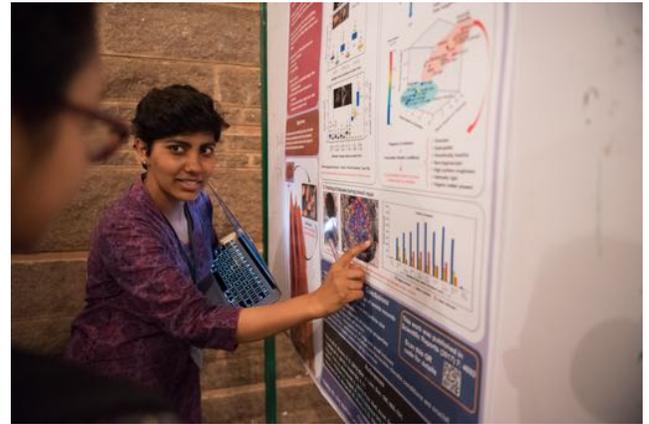
Students gave presentations on a variety of topics, including growth of commercial fisheries in India, human-animal conflict in marine landscapes, effect of climate change on vegetation, informing conservation impacts through genetic studies and examining how gender affects attitude towards large carnivores in trans-Himalayan landscape. While these are highlights of talks on research by Indian students, talks by students from Sri Lanka and USA were also scheduled. Chaminda Alahakoon studied the role of smoke water in seed germination of 18 native trees from Sri Lanka, where anthropogenic fires are a major threat to plant diversity. He found that smoke water and Karrikin can be used to promote seed germination of certain species. Daniel Read from USA carried out a sociological study in the Indian state of Maharashtra, to examine the variation in people's beliefs about the legitimacy of conservation regulations. He found out that practitioners should acknowledge and mitigate the trade-offs that come with how they frame these programs, so as not to privilege one interpretation of the program and marginalize others.

There were 70 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 talks



Student Poster Sessions



NETWORKING & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AT SCCS 2017

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 Diogo Verissimo, Madhu Ramnath and Bahar Dutt 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 4 other sessions, with a focus on networking and also on engaging with non-specialist audiences and promoting interactions across disciplines.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER SESSION:

Based on feedback from previous years, this year on Day 1 of SCCS 2017 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



A small 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, if they chose to do so.

CAREERS IN CONSERVATION:

Based on the feedback from last year, this year we organised once again 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.

On Day 1, we had a panel discussion titled ‘Conservation Careers : A Wide Spectrum’, which was attended by 370+ people. Responses on social media can vouch for the fact that the participants found this extremely helpful. The session began with a broad introduction about the wide variety of careers that one can pursue under the umbrella of conservation. Following this, the panelists – who were chosen as a representative sample of the major careers commonly observed in conservation circles – were introduced, following which they answered questions that were pre-collected from the audience, based on a prior survey. The main panelists included:

1. Deep Contractor: a member of the Indian Forest Services (IFS) since 2011, and currently DCF and Joint Director Karnataka Forest Academy.
2. Bijal Vachharajani: works as an editor with Pratham Books and writes about education for sustainable development.
3. Ravi Chellam: at the time of the panel discussion, Ravi was serving as Executive Director at Greenpeace India, and currently he is Chief Executive Officer, Metastring Foundation.. He has been involved with wildlife research, education and conservation since the early 1980s.

4. Amanda Vincent: is a marine biologist and conservationist. She holds the Canada Research Chair in Marine Conservation at the UBC Fisheries Centre at the University of British Columbia, Canada.
5. Robin Vijayan: is an Assistant Professor at IISER Tirupati.

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. Abhijit Zacharia: Manager (Sustainability Group, Ecology and Education) at WIPRO
7. Kalyan Varma: Photographer & wildlife filmmaker
8. Kulbhushan Suryavanshi: Scientist with Nature Conservation Foundation
9. Arshiya Bose: Entrepreneur and owner at 'Black Baza Coffee'



ART MEETS SCIENCE: How to be a Fig?

This year we executed a successful experiment of collaboration between artists, students and scientists. On Day 3, the movement piece 'How to be a Fig?' was presented to a huge audience of 580 people. At its core this was a presentation of scientific concepts which used human movement and music as a medium of presentation, instead of the traditional media such as powerpoint presentations or whiteboard talks.

ArtEcology is a collective of artists and scientists who have come together to create environmental awareness through art. It acts as a platform to bring together all such individuals who are using art as a medium to create awareness about ecology and environment. 'How to be a Fig?' - is a collaborative project between scientists and artists. Inspired by Mike Shanahan's book on fig trees titled "Ladders to Heaven", this movement piece aimed to unravel the mystery of these magnificent trees. The artists aimed to express through the human body the complex role that *Ficus* trees play in the ecosystem. This project has brought together people from diverse backgrounds with a common thread that connects them all – their love for trees. The performers were an eclectic bunch of individuals belonging to professions ranging from science to cycling and art to engineering; a lot of them were also volunteers at SCCS. While a few of them are trained in some form of movement, for many it was a new experience, to move on stage. Communicating science through movement was a first time experience for all the participants.

How to be a Fig?

*Concept: Abhisheka Krishnagopal
Choreography: Veena Basavarajaiah
Text: Mike Shanahan
Narration: Vignesh Venkateswaran*



More photos of the 'How to be a Fig?' event are available on our [Facebook Page](#).

FILM SCREENING

On Day 4, We screened a short documentary film “Manas – Return of the Giants”, directed by Praveen Singh and Martin Dohrn. The film depicts the processes of loss and slow recovery of Manas National Park – a world heritage site. This was followed by an interaction session with the director, Praveen Singh.



MANAS
RETURN OF THE GIANTS

WINNER
INTERNATIONAL
ELEPHANT FILM
FESTIVAL
2016

In 2003, an armed insurgency in northeast India ended after nearly two decades of strife. While the human casualties were being counted, the resulting loss of animal life in Manas National Park – a World Heritage Site, appeared absolute. This was a catastrophe for the natural world as Manas harboured endangered species that were either extinct elsewhere or declining rapidly.

A few years after the forest department gained control of the park, camera traps revealed there was still a lot of wildlife, but mostly visible at night. With specially granted access to Manas, using thermal and night-vision cameras, we explore this fascinating wilderness.

Manas – The Return of the Giants, is a journey to Manas to understand the losses and reveal the slow process of recovery of the park. With too few large herbivores – crucial for maintaining its diverse habitats, its once famous grasslands could disappear. Here are vital and critically endangered species like the Bengal Florican. Perhaps, with the steady rise in populations of Manas' endangered giants: wild water buffalo, gaur, one horned rhino and Asian elephant, Manas can regain its former glory.

Directors	Praveen Singh Martin Dohrn	Cinematography	Martin Dohrn Praveen Singh
Narrator	Joana Mendes	Visualizer	Souvik Basu
Heads of Production	Toula Kouskas Liz Teare	Editors	Asa Cameron-Watts Bhavina Nandan Rishi Laha Samar Senapati
Field Producer	Anwesha Saha Saha	Original Music	Souvik Saha Praveen Singh Lenny Wilczak
Executive Producer	Devi Smit Wala		

Acknowledgements

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Hirish Mishra, CCF, Assam
AC Das, Field Director, Manas National Park
Sonali Ghosh, Former Deputy Director, Manas National Park
Staff Of Manas National Park And BTC

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NATURE WALKS AT SCCS 2017

BIRD WALKS

Early morning bird walks on the IISc campus were conducted on Days 2 & 3 of SCCS-2017. There were about 20 participants on each day.

Ramit Singal and Pronoy Baidya facilitated these walks. 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/S39325649>

Day 3 - <https://ebird.org/india/view/checklist/S39340225>

LORIS WALKS

On behalf of Urban Slender Loris Project (USLP) 'Loris walk' was conducted during Days 2 & 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 2017 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.

Six USLP core team members lead these walks including Soumya K V, Arun V, Rajeev B, Vidisha K, Hari Prakash, Sheshadri. The purpose of the walk was to familiarise the participants with this elusive nocturnal primate that is found within the IISc campus.

TREE WALK

The primary aim of the tree walk organised by Navendu Page on the Day 2 of SCCS 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.



Early morning bird walk



Participants assemble for the late evening loris walks at IISc



The stage is set!

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.



Scenes from some of the stalls at the Who's Who in Conservation session at SCCS 2017

This year, we had 22 Who's Who participants, with a mix of conservation action groups, NGOs, magazines and research institutions:

1	Black Baza Coffee Co.	www.blackbazacoffee.com
2	Centre for Ecological Sciences	www.ces.iisc.ac.in
3	Conservation Leadership Programme	www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org
4	Current Conservation	currentconservation.org
5	Dakshin Foundation	www.dakshin.org
6	Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS)	http://www.equitabletourism.org/
7	Greenpeace India	www.greenpeace.org/india
8	IpsaWonders	https://www.facebook.com/ipsawonders/
9	Kalpavriksh	http://www.kalpavriksh.org/
10	Know Your Fish	http://knowyourfish.org.in/
11	Madras Crocodile Bank Trust / Center For Herpetology	www.madrascrocodilebank.org
12	Nature Conservation Foundation	www.ncf-india.org
13	Ravi Sankaran Inlaks Foundation	http://www.ravisankaran.org/
14	SPROUTS Environment Trust	www.sproutsenvttrust.org.in
15	Tara Books	tarabooks.com
16	Technology for Wildlife	www.techforwildlife.com
17	WILD OTTERS	www.wildotters.com
18	Wildlife Research and Conservation Society	www.wracsindia.org
19	Wildlife Trust of India	www.wti.org.in
20	WWF-India	http://www.wwfindia.org/
21	Wildlife SOS India	www.wildlifesos.org/
22	Wildlife Conservation Trust	www.wildlifeconservationtrust.org/

WORKSHOPS

The skill-based and capacity building workshops offered at SCCS have always been the highlight of the conference. This year we had 14 long workshops, and 32 short workshops. Long workshops were held from 09:00 - 16:00 on Day 3 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. Nineteen 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 story-telling with photography by Kalyan Varma



Translating marine science into policy by Amanda Vincent



Diversity in animal genders and sexuality by Priya Iyer

SHORT WORKSHOPS

S. No.	SHORT WORKSHOPS	PRIMARY RESOURCE PERSON
1	Basics of Photography	Prasenjeet Yadav
2	Research Design for Ecological Studies	Kavita Isvaran
3	The challenge of coordinating conservation for Asia's Critically Endangered Vultures. Lessons and application for other conservation examples.	Chris Bowden
4	Making effective presentations	Yateendra Joshi
5	When and how to use social science for conservation ^{*NEW*}	Divya Karnad
6	Business & Biodiversity - an India Perspective	Yashada Kulkarni
7	Basics of Spider Taxonomy ^{*NEW*}	Manju Siliwal
8	Panel Discussion: 'The Long Format narrative: Nature, conservation writing and the writer' – A conversation ^{*NEW*}	Pankaj Sekhsaria (as the panel discussion moderator)
9	The study of Animal behaviour and its applications for conservation	Samira Agnihotri
10	Effectively managing and working with people	Vena Kapoor
11	Ecosystem services: Introduction to concepts & assessments ^{*NEW*}	Ranjini Murali
12	Conservation story-telling with photography	Kalyan Varma
13	Social science methods in Conservation Research	Rajkamal Goswami
14	Wikipedia for Conservationists. Why and how? ^{*NEW*}	P. Jeganathan
15	Introduction to regression analysis ^{*NEW*}	Suhel Quader
16	Translating marine science into policy ^{*NEW*}	Amanda Vincent
17	Writing competitive grant applications ^{*NEW*}	Andrea Phillott
18	Diversity in animal genders and sexuality ^{*NEW*}	Priya Iyer
19	Conservation Marketing: Can you sell nature like you sell soap? ^{*NEW*}	Diogo Verissimo
20	Interacting with Data for Beginners: exploratory analysis in R ^{*NEW*}	Aniruddha Marathe
21	The complexity and variety in human large carnivore interactions in India ^{*NEW*}	Nikit Surve
22	Panel Discussion: Citizen Science for ecology in India - Experiences, opportunities, challenges ^{*NEW*}	Pankaj Sekhsaria (as the panel discussion moderator)
23	Managing Camera-trap data with CamtrapR	Aditya Malagaonkar
24	Conservation Policy	Neha Sinha
25	Neutral Theory and its application in conservation genetics	Ranajit Das
26	New-age mechanisms to achieve non-protected area focused conservation ^{*NEW*}	Anand Pendharkar
27	Field experiments: a tool in plant ecology research ^{*NEW*}	Priyanka Runwal
28	Language & Ecology – Communicating Nature Through Local Languages	P. Jeganathan
29	Using theatre and drama in conservation ^{*NEW*}	Vikram Sridhar
30	Why and how of primate census and survey	Narayan Sharma
31	Freshwater fish conservation: Bringing an obscure taxa to the public eye	V.V. Binoy
32	Writing for Researchers ^{*NEW*}	Karthik Ramaswamy

LONG WORKSHOPS

S. No.	LONG WORKSHOPS	PRIMARY RESOURCE PERSON
1	Writing Grants and Fellowships in Ecological Sciences	Sabuj Bhattacharyya
2	Occupancy sampling, modelling and estimation: what, why and how?	Varun R. Goswami
3	Design thinking for conservation ^{*NEW*}	Deepta Sateesh
4	Finding Common Ground - Landscape Planning and the Conservation Sciences	Peeyush Sekhsariya
5	Using OpenDataKit	Shashank Srinivasan
6	Applications of open source geospatial tools in Wildlife conservation and Natural resource management ^{*NEW*}	Ravichandra Mondreti
7	Animal handling and basic taxonomy of amphibians and reptiles	Varad B. Giri
8	Conducting Social Research for Conservation Planning	Bibhu Nayak
9	Elements of study design in ecology	Kavita Isvaran
10	Four ways to tell a science story using your smartphone	Pavithra Sankaran
11	How R you doing? Using the R platform for managing and analyzing ecological datasets	Sandeep Pulla
12	Introduction to GIS & RS using Quantum GIS	R. S. Bhalla
13	Bird Ringing for Science & Conservation	Farah Ishtiaq

SOME FEATURES OF SCCS 2017

SILENT AUCTION ^{*NEW*}

This year we experimented with the silent auction – which 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 11,000 through this new initiative! The plan is to use these funds for student-bursaries for the next edition of SCCS.



A participant bids on the most popular item on the auction list



Volunteers manning the auction desks

GRAFFITI BOARDS ^{*NEW*}

Another new experiment, where the participants could doodle on the boards, provide feedback, suggestions or even ask questions. This was a big success, in spite of the boards being set up on the last day. Next year, this can be better structured for improved efficacy.

MENTORING STUDENT TALKS ^{*NEW*}

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 first time.

Out of the 15 talk-presenters, 10 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 ^{*NEW*} & 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 2017. 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.

All talks were evaluated by a single panel, while different groups of evaluators reviewed the posters in different themes.

Hari Sridhar and Abishek Harihar coordinated the entire process.

TALK AND POSTER AWARD WINNERS

Exceptional talks:

Tanvi Vaidyanathan, Himanshu Chattani, Sushant Potdar

Exceptional posters:

Nikita Zachariah, Ashni Kumar Dhawale, Dilani Rachitra Kalavila Vithanage

Cash prizes, books (sponsored by Tara Books) and calendars (by Nature Conservation Foundation) were given to the 6 candidates.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMPETITION PRIZE

In order to boost online participation from students, we announced and awarded a cash prize and memento for the winner of the Tweeting competition with the hashtag:

#SCCSBNG.

The winner of this competition was Sakshi Rana

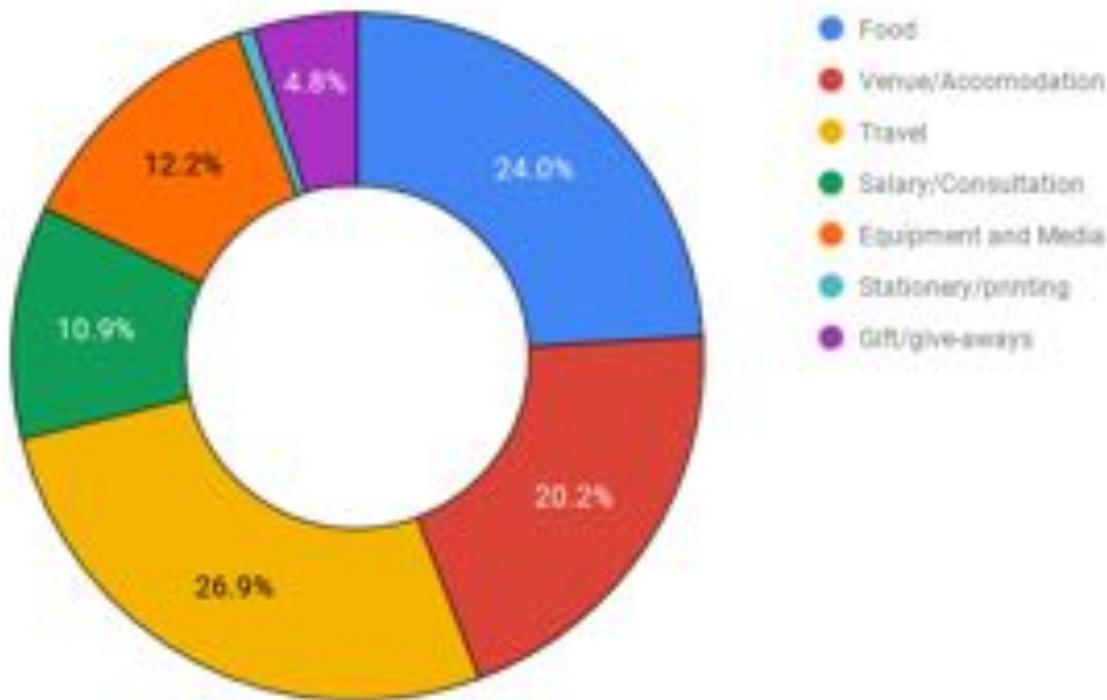
FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIPS

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 2017, with additional support from Foundation for Ecological Security, Asian Nature Conservation Foundation, National Centre for Biological Sciences and Indian Institute of Science.

SCCS-Bengaluru 2017 had a budget of Rs. 36,50,000. A pie chart below gives the break-up of expenditure we had incurred to conduct the conference. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support we received from the donors listed below.

DONORS





Breakup of expenditure incurred during SCCSBNG-2017

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

1. Tara books – 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

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 SCCSBNG has supported 38 Indian students and 32 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.

We were supported by a fairly large team of 70 volunteers from institutions located in Bengaluru (ATREE, IISc, Dakshin Foundation, NCBS, NCF and few local colleges). Our volunteers were vital as in previous years for the efficient running of the conference and their names are listed later in this report.

CONFERENCE TEAM

Organising Committee:

1. Abinand Reddy (Nature Conservation Foundation)
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4. Firoz Ahmed (Aaranyak)
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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)



A full house!

WORKSHOP RESOURCE PERSONS

1. Aditya Malgaonkar
2. Advait Edgaonkar
3. Akshay Khandekar
4. Amanda Vincent
5. Anand Pendharkar
6. Andrea Phillott
7. Aniruddha Marathe
8. Anisha Jayadevan
9. Aravind Madhyastha
10. Aritra Kshetry
11. Bibhu Nayak
12. Binoy V V
13. Chris Bowden
14. Deepta Sateesh
15. Devcharan Jathanna
16. Diogo Verissimo
17. Divya Karnad
18. Divya Vasudev
19. Farah Ishtiaq
20. Gururaja K. V.
21. Imran Siddiqui
22. Iravatee Majgaonkar
23. Jaideep Joshi
24. Jeganathan P.
25. Johnny Stephen
26. Joyshree Chanam
27. Kalyan Varma
28. Karthik Ramaswamy
29. Kartik Shanker
30. Kavita Isvaran
31. Manju Siliwal
32. Marianne Manuel
33. Meera Rajesh
34. Mohan Rao
35. Monica Kaushik
36. Narayan Sharma
37. Naveen Namboothri
38. Naveen Thayyil
39. Neelesh Dahanukar
40. Neha Sinha
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STUDENT PRESENTATION JUDGES

Talks

1. Amanda Vincent
2. Diogo Verissimo
3. Narayan Sharma

Posters

1. Rajkamal Goswami
2. Ranjini Murali
3. Shashank Srinivasan
4. Swati Sidhu
5. Varun Goswami
6. Vijaykumar, SP
7. Hari Sridhar
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69. Darshan K
70. Rohith



The enthusiastic army of volunteers at SCCS-Bengaluru 2017, along with a few members of the Organising Committee & the Conference Administrator



Hard at work and never without a smile on their faces!



Our hardworking volunteers are pros at multitasking



KEY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Website Maintenance

Shivanandan Lakshmanan (Greenpeace, India)
Gokul Bhirman (Freelancer, website support)

Accommodation

IISc Guest houses
Jawahar Guest house
Indian Academy of Sciences, Jalahalli Guest House

Workshop Venues

Various IISc departments: ICER, IPC, CES, MRDG, CiSTUP, Mechanical Engineering, Materials Engineering, Choksi Hall, Instrumentation & Applied Physics

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Conference Artwork and Design

Ipsa Jain (IpsaWonders)

Online Registration

DoAttend (www.doattend.com)

OTHER SUPPORT

- 1) Mentors for student-talks:
 - a) Aniruddha Marathe (ATREE)
 - b) Aparna Agarwal (NCBS)
 - c) Aparna Lajmi (CES, IISc)
 - d) Harish Prakash (CES, IISc)
 - e) Krishnapriya Tamma (CES, IISc)
 - f) Sandeep Pulla (CES, IISc)
 - g) Viraj Torsekar (CES, IISc)
- 2) Conservation Careers session:
 - a) Curation:
 - i) Krishnapriya Tamma, Arshiya Bose, Vena Kapoor
 - b) Panelists:
 - i) Amanda Vincent
 - ii) Bijal Vachharajani
 - iii) Deep Contractor
 - iv) Ravi Chellam
 - v) Robin Vijayan
 - vi) Kalyan Varma
 - vii) Abhijit Zacharia
 - viii) Kulbhushansingh Suryavanshi
- 3) Birds of a Feather networking session:
Krishnapriya Tamma, Abinand Reddy, Debarshi Dasgupta
- 4) ArtEcology Team:
Veena Basavarajaiah, Abhisheka Krishnagopal, Vignesh V.
- 5) Film Screening "Manas – Return of the Giants": Praveen Singh
- 6) Bird walks at IISc: Ramit Singal
- 7) Loris walks at IISc:
Urban Slender Loris Project Team (Arun V., Rajeev B., Vidisha K., Hari Prakash, Sheshadri, Soumya K. V.)
- 8) Tree walk at IISc: Navendu Page
- 9) Silent Auction: Shreekant Deodhar, Shruti Sengupta, Divya B, Rakhee
- 10) Schedule designing: Trisha Gupta
- 11) Social media: Vignesh V., Shakthi Sritharan
- 12) On-site finance desk: Smita Prabhakar, M. Shivakumar, Shivani Jain (Nature Conservation Foundation)

We also thank the host institutions of SCCS-Bengaluru 2017 (Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc; National Centre for Biological Sciences, Nature Conservation Foundation, Foundation for Ecological Security and Greenpeace India) for all the institutional support that they have provided.

SCHEDULE

	
08:00 - 09:00	REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST
09:00 - 09:20	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
09:20 - 10:20	TECHNICAL PLENARY 1: AMANDA VINCENT CITES and seahorses: an epic adventure of trade winds and trade offs
10:20 - 11:50	STUDENT TALKS: SESSION 1 T01 • Hook line and sinker: the growth of a commercial reef fishery in the Lakshadweep archipelago. Stella James T02 • Fishery and coastal cetacean interactions off Karwar, Karnataka - a step towards understanding a little-known man-wildlife interface at sea. Abhishek Jamalabad T03 • Impacts of an Extraction and Trade Ban on Exploitation for India's Seahorses. Tanvi Vaidyanathan T04 • Penguin Pedigrees: Understanding the Influence of Inbreeding on Individual Fitness and Reproduction in the Endangered Yellow-eyed Penguin (<i>Megadyptes antipodes</i>). Rohan Menzies T05 • Phenotypic and Genetic Affinities of a Sessile South Asian Endemic: Dark-fronted Babbler. Chirathi Wijekulathilaka
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"> • Basics of Photography Prasenjeet Yadav - J.N. Tata Main Auditorium • Research Design for Ecological Studies Suhel Quader - CES Lotka-Volterra Lab • The challenge of coordinating conservation for Asia's Critically Endangered Vultures. Lessons and application for other conservation examples. Chris Bowden - ICER Classroom • Making effective presentations Yateendra Joshi - CISTUP Seminar Hall • When and how to use social science for conservation Divya Karnad - CES Seminar Hall • Business & Biodiversity - an India Perspective Yashada Kulkarni - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall A • Basics of Spider Taxonomy Manju Sillwal, Shazia Quasin - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall C • Panel Discussion: 'The Long Format narrative: Nature, conservation writing and the writer' - A conversation. Pankaj Sekhsaria, Kartik Shanker, Madhu Ramnath, Pranay Lal - Materials Engineering Lecture Theatre • The study of Animal behaviour and its applications for conservation Samira Agnihotri, Sreedhar Vijayakrishnan, Nishant Srinivasalah - Choksi Hall • Effectively managing and working with people Vena Kapoor - IPC Lecture Hall • Ecosystem services: Introduction to concepts & assessments Ranjini Murali - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall B
16:30 - 16:50	EVENING TEA
16:50 - 17:05	GROUP PHOTO
17:05 - 18:00	CONSERVATION CAREERS: A WIDE SPECTRUM
18:00 - 19:00	POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 1: DIOGO VERISSIMO Behaviour change for biodiversity conservation - Science or sweet talk?
19:00 - 21:00	DINNER

Day 2 Friday, September 22



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

08:00 - 09:00 REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST

09:00 - 10:00 TECHNICAL PLENARY 2: S.P. SINGH
Climate change in relation to Himalayas - An overview

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

- T06 • Effect of warming on insect-pollinated plants, using *Coriandrum sativum* and *Cuminum cyminum* as model systems.
Sushant Potdar
- T07 • Recovery of forest structure, function, and carbon storage in ecologically restored rainforest fragments in the Western Ghats, India.
Srinivasan Kasinathan
- T08 • Current and future vegetation dynamics in India's tropical ecosystems: insights from an adaptive dynamic vegetation model (aDGV2).
Dushyant Kumar
- T09 • Friend or foe? Role of smoke water and karrikin on seed germination of 18 species from Sri Lanka.
Chaminda Bandara Alahakoon
- T10 • Diversity and distribution of global pandemic fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* in Indian frog populations.
Milind Mutnale

11:30 - 11:50 MORNING TEA

11:50 - 13:00 WHO'S WHO IN CONSERVATION

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 - 16:30 SHORT WORKSHOPS

- Conservation story-telling with photography
Kalyan Varma - J.N Tata Main Auditorium
- Social science methods in Conservation Research
Rajkamal Goswami, Ovee Thorat - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall C
- Wikipedia for Conservationists. Why and how?
P. Jeganathan, Swati Sidhu, Prashanth NS, Choksi Hall
- Introduction to regression analysis
Suhel Quader - CES Lotka-Volterra Lab
- Title: To be announced. Workshop on Marine conservation
Amanda Vincent - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall A
- Writing competitive grant applications
Andrea Phillott - CES Seminar Hall
- Diversity in animal genders and sexuality
Priya Iyer, Nitin Saxena - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall B
- Conservation Marketing: Can you sell nature like you sell soap?
Diogo Verissimo - IPC Lecture Hall
- Interacting with Data for Beginners: exploratory analysis in R
Aniruddha Marathe - CISTUP Seminar Hall
- The complexity and variety in human large carnivore interactions in India
Nikit Surve, Aritra Kshetry, Iravatee Majgaonkar, Shweta Shivakumar, Mrunal Ghosalkar, Atul Borker, Vidya Athreya - Materials Engineering Lecture Theatre

Day 2 Friday, September 22



16:30 - 16:50

EVENING TEA

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

- A01 • Assessing the impacts of rail and road project in biodiversity conservation in Chitwan National Park, Nepal • **Dipesh Kumar Sharma**
- A02 • History, Location, and Species Matter: Insights for Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation from India • **Sahila Kudalkar**
- A03 • Assessing Peoples' Willingness to Pay for Ecosystem Goods and Services (A Case Study of Panchase Protected Forest, Nepal) • **Dayaram Pandey**
- A04 • How has Tamhini Ghat Changed? Comparing Butterfly Populations across two decades in a threatened landscape • **Shawn Dsouza**
- A05 • Sloth Bear Habitat and Corridors in Fragmented Forests of Vindhyan Range in district Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh • **Debadityo Sinha**
- A06 • DNA forensics in combating food frauds: a case study from China in identifying canned meat labeled as deer origin • **Neha Singh**
- A07 • Trash on the menu: Patterns of animal visitation and foraging behavior at garbage dumps • **Gitanjali Rajeshwar Katlam**
- A08 • Wintering Crane population in Ghed area of Gujarat and its significance to the farmers • **Dhaval Vargiya**
- A09 • Troubled waters: the case of temporary water bodies in Western Maharashtra • **Sneha Shashikant Shirse**
- A10 • A preliminary investigation of roadkill animals on National Highway-37 due to vehicular collision in Kaziranga National Park • **Somoyita Sur**
- A11 • The impact of harvest of *Vatica lanceaeifolia* on its population structure and regeneration pattern in the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, India • **Pranjal Mahananda**
- A12 • Assessing dependency of the local communities on the habitat of a vulnerable pheasant in Daranghati Wildlife Sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh • **Vikas Verma**
- A13 • A Study on Traditional Hunting Practice and Bushmeat Consumption in Nagaland, India • **Sayan Banerjee**
- A14 • Butterfly Diversity across the human impact gradient in PCMC (Pune) Maharashtra • **Dnyaneshwar Vasant Dole**
- A15 • Assessment of sloth bear - human interactions around Bhimgad WLS, Karnataka • **Hanuman Tulsidas Gawas**
- A16 • Studies on ecological, economical and sociological impacts of *Pterygoplichthys* spp. in Cauvery and Vaigai river basins of Tamil nadu, south India • **Mohan Raj Rajasekaran**
- A17 • Genetic connectivity of Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) in Malenad Tiger landscape, Karnataka, India • **Abhinav Tyagi**
- A18 • Habitat Urbanization and its Effects on Birds: Case study at Happy Valley Layout, South Bangalore, Karnataka, India • **Ashwini R**
- A20 • Understanding and conserving the fragmented urban ecosystem of PCMC through bird diversity studies • **Preeti Lalbahadur Kori**
- A21 • Investigation of lichen density and diversity as an indicator of air pollution in selected locations in Colombo district, Sri Lanka • **Dilani Rachitra Kalavila Vithanage**
- A22 • Status of the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) in the Jaffna Peninsula and Adjacent Islands, Sri Lanka • **Packiyannathan Rajkumar**

18:00 - 19:00

POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 2: MADHU RAMNATH
Sleepwalking into conservation

19:00 - 21:00

DINNER

19:30 - 21:00

LORIS WALK

Day 3

Saturday, September 23



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
- Occupancy sampling, modelling and estimation: what, why and how?
Varun R. Goswami, Devcharan Jathanna, Divya Vasudev - Instrumentation Hall 1
- Design thinking for conservation
Deeptha Sateesh, Kartik Shanker, Marianne Manuel - Instrumentation Hall 2
- Finding Common Ground - Landscape Planning and the Conservation Sciences
Peeyush Sekhsariya, Mohan Rao, Soumya Prasad, Meera Rajesh, Swati Sahasrabudhe - Choksi Hall
- Using OpenDataKit
Shashank Srinivasan - CISTUP Classroom
- Applications of open source geospatial tools in Wildlife conservation and Natural resource management.
Ravichandra Mondreti, Suresh Babu, B. Swamynathan - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall C
- Animal handling and basic taxonomy of amphibians and reptiles
Varad B. Giri, Nikhil Gaitonde, Akshay Khandekar - Materials Engineering Lecture Theatre
- Conducting Social Research for Conservation Planning
Bibhu Nayak, Imran Siddiqui - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall B
- Elements of study design in ecology
Kavita Isvaran, Advait Edgaonkar - ICER Classroom
- Four ways to tell a science story using your smartphone
Pavithra Sankaran - Mechanical Engineering Multi Media Classroom
- How R you doing? Using the R platform for managing and analyzing ecological datasets
Sandeep Pulla - CES Lotka-Volterra Lab
- Introduction to GIS & RS using Quantum GIS
R. S. Bhalta, Rajat Nayak - CISTUP Seminar Hall
- Bird Ringing for Science & Conservation
Farah Ishtiaq, Sabuj Bhattacharyya, Rohit Chakravorty

11:30 - 11:50 MORNING TEA

11:50 - 13:00 LONG WORKSHOPS

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 - 16:30 LONG WORKSHOPS

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

- B01 • Morphological deformities in Anurans found in paddy fields, Manimuthuru, TN • **Amit Anant Hegde**
- B02 • An Inventory on Herpetofauna from Gingee Hills, Eastern-Ghats, Southern India • **Karthik P**
- B03 • Avifaunal diversity and implications for conservation of two sites along an elevational gradient in North Bengal, India • **Ritobroto Chanda**
- B04 • The unbroken communal web: Exploratory analyses of food-webs using stable isotope analysis in freshwater ecosystems in two ecoregions of India • **Rubina Mondal**
- B05 • Changing Ecologies Shifting Behaviours: Behavioural responses of lion-tailed macaques *Macaca silenus* to a matrix of anthropogenic habitats in southern India • **Ashni Kumar Dhawale**

Day 3

Saturday, September 23



16:30 - 16:50

EVENING TEA

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

- B06 • Assessment of genetic-diversity and population-structure of *Banilus barns* (Hamilton, 1822) in the sub-Himalayan Teesta River of northern West Bengal, India • **Ajoy Paul**
- B07 • Urbanization and endemism: Variation of endemic bird species composition along an urbanization gradient • **Supun Sewwandika Galappaththi**
- B08 • Seed germination behavior of an important endemic rainforest understory species *Ardisia gardneri* Clarke, from Sri Lanka • **Boraluwa Ratalage Chandima Prabodani Samarasinghe**
- B09 • Succession dynamics of native forests in Eucalyptus plantations: insights from decadal observations in the Southern Western Ghats, India • **Vignesh Kamath**
- B10 • Preliminary evaluation of the effect of air pollution on lichen diversity • **Watalabbe Gamaralalage Duleeka Indeeewaree Gunawardana**
- B11 • Beautification- A Threat to Insects • **Nikhil Uthas Joshi**
- B12 • The Impact of *Lantana Camara* Establishment on the Floral and Avifaunal Communities of the Mid Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh • **Shruti Gupta**
- B13 • Examining conservation-livelihood dilemmas in the Great Himalayan National Park: A repeat study of a 'successful' ICDP initiative • **Priyanka Singh**
- B14 • *Bambusa bambos* dominance alters Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungal community in Intermediate Zone forests in Morningshakanda, Sri Lanka • **Millangoda Gedara Uthpala Amandanee Millangoda**
- B15 • Understanding functional traits of medicinal plants under changing environment: A meta-analysis approach for realising impacts of climate change • **Rupali Sharma**
- B16 • The Effect of Different Elevation to Mammal Diversity in Gunung Bodang • **Ristika Putri Istanti**
- B17 • Urbanization and Conservation: Two Aspects from Avian Diversity and Distribution Mapping According to Microhabitats • **Bibhu Prasad Panda**
- B18 • A Preliminary Survey and Conservation Status of Flora in Bambarella, Knuckles Forest Range in Sri Lanka • **Asanka Ravinatha Godakanda**
- B19 • Spatiotemporal niche partitioning by common birds in and around Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary. **Dibyendu Biswas**
- B20 • Bird Community Structure of Hardwood forests of Kalesar, Haryana, India • **Purnendu Sardar**
- B21 • Large herbivore dung insect communities and their role in cycling of nutrients • **Ekta Chaudhary**
- B22 • Reconciling folks and forests using stakeholder analysis in Western Terai Arc Landscape (WTAL), India • **Sakshi Rana Rana**
- B23 • Importance of a botanical garden within Sri Lanka's biodiversity hotspot: Butterfly species diversity, abundance and role in conservation • **Udari Hansika Peiris**
- B24 • Spatial variation of waterbirds in Mandaitivu and Kavuthanimunai in the Jaffna Peninsula, Sri Lanka • **Kandasamy Gajavathany**
- B25 • Vertical resource partitioning in insectivorous bird guilds in a sub-montane rainforest and an adjacent tea plantation in Lookandura, Sri Lanka • **Asela Sampath Weerawardhana**

18:00 - 19:00

ARTECOLOGY PERFORMANCE: "HOW TO BE A FIG?"

19:00 - 21:00

DINNER

19:30 - 21:00

LORIS WALK

Day 4 Sunday, September 24



08:00 - 09:00

REGISTRATIONS AND BREAKFAST

09:00 - 10:00

TECHNICAL PLENARY 3: Sanjeeva Pandey

Alternative livelihood development as a strategy for long term conservation of biodiversity at Great Himalayan National Park, India

10:00 - 11:30

STUDENT TALKS: SESSION 3

T06 • Protected corridors preserve tiger genetic diversity and minimize extinction into the next century.

Prachi Thatte

T07 • Playing detective: Using non-invasive genetic samples to identify livestock depredators in Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR), Madhya Pradesh.

Himanshu Chhattani

T08 • Optimisation of habitat mosaics: key to ungulate conservation in intensively managed parks of India.

Neha Awasthi

T09 • Viewpoints on the social legitimacy of human-wildlife coexistence programs in central India.

Daniel Read

T10 • How does gender affect attitudes towards large carnivores in Trans-Himalaya?

Simran Tomar

11:30 - 11:50

MORNING TEA

11:50 - 13:00

STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 3

C01 • Mate Sampling and patchy resource: A study in Zebrafish model • **Aditya Ghoshal**

C02 • Floral volatiles with color cues from *Solenia amplexicaulis* (Cucurbitaceae) plants causing attraction of *Aulacophora foveicollis* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) • **Amarnath Karmakar**

C03 • Selection of Macro-level Land Characteristics of Nest Sites by the White-bellied Sea-eagle in the Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra • **Orvill Jude Nazareth**

C04 • Activity budgets and temperature effects of a Dasyatis macaque troop (*Macaca sinica aurifrons*) inhabiting Peradeniya University land, Sri Lanka •

Lakshani Sowwandi Weerasekara

C05 • Building mud castles: a perspective from brick-laying termites • **Nikita Zachariah**

C06 • A taxonomic survey of Moss Flora in Hanthana Mountain Range as an initiative for conserving bryoflora in Sri Lanka • **Eeriyawala Hewage Chinthani Malsha Eeriyawala**

C07 • Species distribution modelling of threatened Yellow-throated Bulbul • **Ashish Jha**

C08 • Does molecular phylogenetic analysis reveal the occurrence of new *Asparagus* species in Sri Lanka? • **A. W. Rajakaruna Rathnayake Mudiyanseelage Rasanwada Wijesundara**

C09 • Nest-laying Landscape Characteristic of Javan-Hawk Eagle (*Nisaetus bartelsi*) in Mount Halimun-Salak National Park Area • **Irhammaula Ario Mulyaputra**

C10 • Feeding preferences and monthly availability of frog-biting mosquitoes in Sri Lanka • **Chathurani Ekanayake Ekanayake**

C11 • Mosquito Vectors of Wild Birds in Sri Lanka • **Wadiyagoda Gedara Dilan Chathuranga**

C12 • A field experiment to understand the effect of Acacia and Eucalyptus leaf litter on *M. ornata* tadpole life-history and survivorship • **Deepak Arvind Chavan**

C13 • Population Estimation and Habitat Analysis of Makassar Tarsier (*Tarsius fuscus*) in Karaenta District, Bantimurung-Bulusaraung National Park, South Sulawesi • **Dhika Ananda Pratama**

C14 • Investigation of current status and occurrence of species of the family Zingiberaceae in Sri Lanka • **Galamangoda Guruge Nilanka Dulani Silva**

C15 • Habitat Use of Leopard, and Dhole in a Human Dominated Large Mammal Corridor in the Western Ghats, India • **Akshata Pravin Karnik**

C16 • Foraging ecology of the Green Cat Snake (*Boiga cyanca*) in the dry evergreen forests of Sakaeat Environmental Research Station, Thailand • **Natalia Anji D'souza**

Day 4

Sunday, September 24



11:50 - 13:00 STUDENT POSTERS: SESSION 3

- C17 • Identification, Abundance and Distribution of Two Scorpion Species in Kandy and Matale Districts, Sri Lanka - **Sewwandi Uttara Kumari Wijesuriya**
- C18 • Drivers of Stress and Reproductive Hormones among Captive Red-Panda in North-eastern India - **Aamir Sohel Khan**
- C19 • Spatial ecology of *Ophiophagus hannah* in human dominated landscapes in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand - **Cameron Wesley Hodges**
- C20 • Can snow leopards persist in a multi-use landscape? - **Aditya Shekhar Malgaonkar**
- C21 • Importance of microclimatic conditions within the rock crevices for the threatened endemic frog *Nannophrys marmorata* - **Uvini Indula Senanayake**
- C22 • Behavior of endemic, endangered frog, *Fejervarya greenii* in a tropical montane cloud forest of Sri Lanka - **Meegamage Chamara Prabhath**
- C23 • Microhabitat preference of endemic, endangered black-cheek lizard (*Calotes nigrilabris*) in the grasslands of Horton Plains National Park in Sri Lanka - **Jayasekara Dulan Pathum**
- C24 • Nest-site selection and nest characteristics of *Eumyias sordidus* in the tropical montane cloud forests and surrounding habitats, Sri Lanka - **Sasjaya Chatheranga Dharmarathne**

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 - 16:30 SHORT WORKSHOPS

- Panel Discussion: Citizen Science for ecology in India - Experiences, opportunities, challenges
Pankaj Sekhsaria, Naveen Thayyil, Ramit Singal, Naveen Namboothri, Aravind Madhyastha, Gururaja KV - J.N. Tata Main Auditorium
- Managing Camera-trap data with CamtrapR
Aditya Malgaonkar - CISTUP Seminar Hall
- Conservation Policy
Neha Sinha - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall A
- Neutral Theory and its application in conservation genetics
Ranajit Das - Mechanical Engineering Multi Media Classroom
- New-age mechanisms to achieve non-protected area focused conservation
Anand Pendharkar - Instrumentation Hall 1
- Field experiments: a tool in plant ecology research
Priyanka Runwal, Joyshree Chanam - ICER Classroom
- Language & Ecology - Communicating Nature Through Local Languages
P. Jeganathan, S. Theodore Baskaran - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall C
- Using theatre and drama in conservation
Vikram Sridhar - Instrumentation Hall 2
- Why and how of primate census and survey
Narayan Sharma - J.N. Tata Seminar Hall B
- Freshwater fish conservation: Bringing an obscure taxa to the public eye
VV Binoy, Rajeev Raghavan, Neelesh Dhanukar, Siby Phillip, Umesh Katwate - Materials Engineering Lecture Theatre
- Writing for Researchers
Karthik Ramaswamy - Choksi Hall

16:30 - 16:50

EVENING TEA

16:50 - 17:05 SILENT AUCTION CLOSING

17:05 - 18:00 FILM SCREENING: "MANAS - RETURN OF THE GIANTS"

18:00 - 19:00 POPULAR OPEN PLENARY 3: **BAHAR DUTT**
How to tell stories - the power of story-telling to save the planet

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