



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



CARE EARTH TRUST

Biodiversity People Conservation



ABOUT US

Care Earth Trust, established in the year 2000, is engaged in biodiversity conservation for human wellbeing through research, advocacy and capacity building. Since its inception, it has evolved to be an equal opportunity, non-discriminating organisation with a pan India presence.

In addition to assessing human impact on the environment, the organisation recommends evidence-based strategies and action for the mitigation of adverse impacts and increasing ecosystem resilience. It also provides technical services in areas such as biodiversity inventorying and monitoring and in developing training and capacity building initiatives on conservation.

Care Earth Trust was awarded the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar in 2009 by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for its pioneering work on conserving the Pallikaranai Marsh and the Nanmangalam Forest.

The institution is registered as a Trust under the Tamil Nadu Societies Act and holds the required statutory approvals of the Government of India for accepting project grants in Indian rupees (INR) as well as Foreign Currency. Care Earth Trust is an empanelled organisation of the State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu.



MANAGEMENT'S NOTE

We are now one year away from completing 25 years since our founding. In this momentous time, we are proud to share multiple recognitions we have received this past year.

Care Earth is now an accredited CSO of the United Nations Environment Programme. This marks a significant milestone for our organization and underscores our commitment to global conservation efforts.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our well-wishers who have made this achievement possible. Together, we look forward to amplifying our impact and collaborating with partners to drive positive change for our planet.

Jayshree Vencatesan
Managing Trustee



COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Tamil Nadu Forest Department



Tamilnadu Public Works Department



TBGP
CCR
TAMILNADU BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
AND GREENING PROJECT
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India



Water for
as Resilient Cities
Leverage Asia

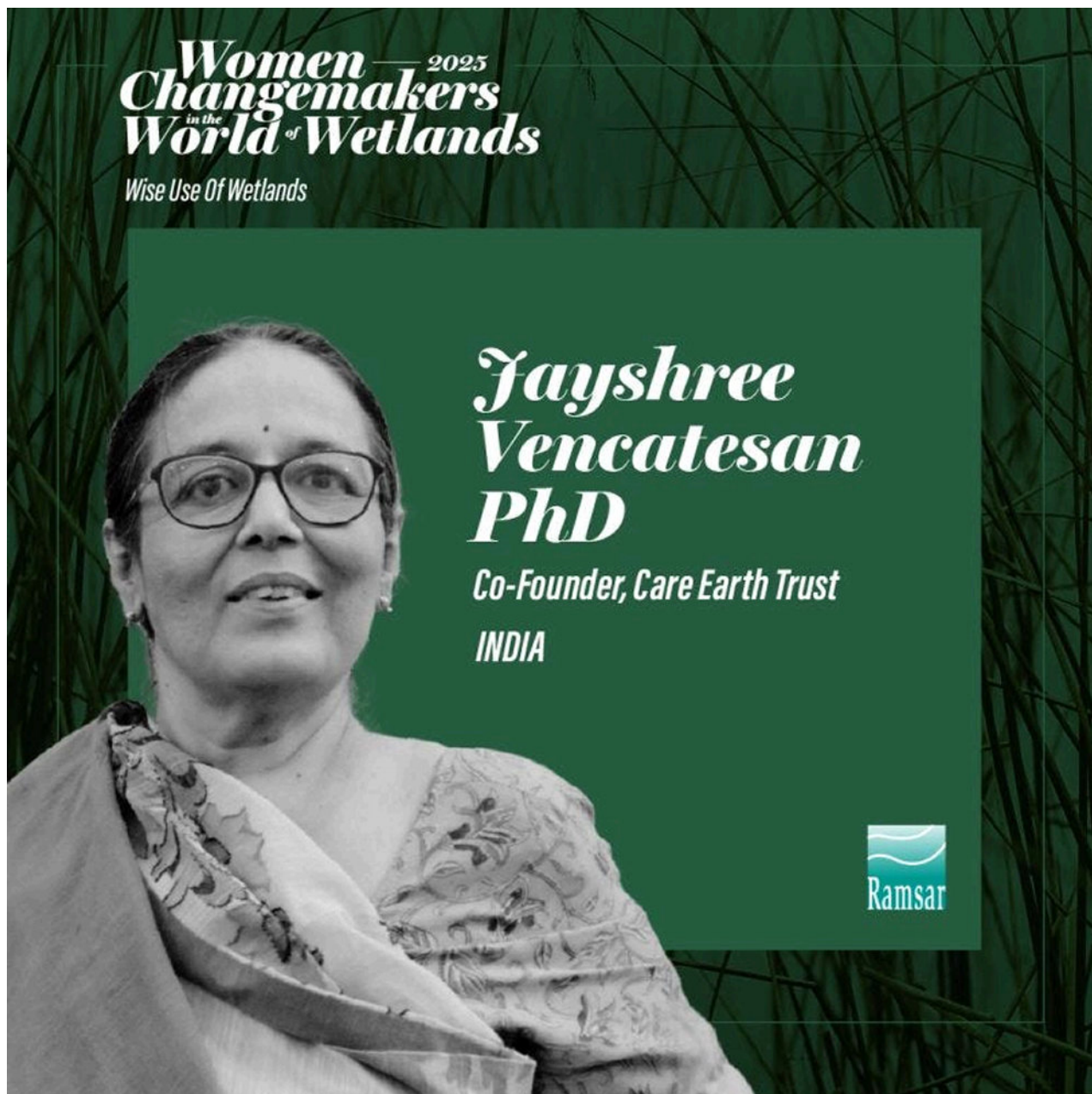


CHENNAI
RESILIENCE
CENTRE



Brakes India

Ramsar Woman Changemaker



A milestone moment for us at Care Earth Trust as we celebrate our 25th year. Our Co- Founder and Trustee, Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan has been recognized as one of the 12 Women Changemakers in the World of Wetlands- 2025, by the Ramsar Secretariat. This makes her the first Indian woman to break into the Changemaker list.

You can read her full interview at the link here –

[Ramsar website](#)



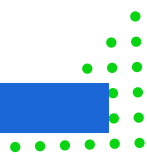


ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH



Habitat Suitability for Spot-billed Pelicans Affected by the Oil Spill

Earlier this year, we joined the team working on rehabilitation of oil spill affected birds to examine suitable habitats for the spot-billed pelican. The assessment journey began at the Adyar River, proceeded to the Napier Bridge, and then extended to the Ennore Creek. Subsequently, exploration encompassed three distinct areas within Pulicat, renowned for hosting spot-billed pelicans. Utilizing a comprehensive habitat suitability form, several key factors were considered to identify optimal locations for these birds, including proximity to their home range, food availability, habitat type, human disturbance, accessibility for post-release monitoring, presence of conspecifics, protection status, disease prevalence, and potential negative impacts on wild conspecifics and other species.



Forest Management in Western India



*Supported by Department of Forests & Wildlife, UT Administration of
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu*

We are working with the Department of Forests & Wildlife, UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu to prepare working plans for two forest divisions as per the National Working Plan Code (NWPC) 2023 for Sustainable Management of Forests and Biodiversity.

As part of this, the project team has carried out extensive field surveys across the forest divisions largely floral and faunal assessments, and socio-economic surveys. The team also had consultation meetings with various stakeholders, including departmental staff, communities, local bodies, and wood-based industries, to improve the forest health and its sustainable management. We have prepared a draft working plan based on the field work carried out. The salient features of the plan for increasing forest and tree cover and sustainable forest management were presented before the Standing Consultative Committee of DNH & DD.



From Depletion to Opportunity

Exploring Reuse of Abandoned Quarries

Guided by Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Tamil Nadu

The feasibility study aims to gather foundational profiles and evaluate potential repurposing opportunities for selected quarries in the Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu districts. Out of the 60 depleted quarries listed by the Department of Geology and Mining, 16 are situated in Kancheepuram and 44 in Chengalpattu.

All 60 sites have been assessed and fieldwork has been conducted under the guidance of the Department of Mines and Geology. This assessment will identify viable adaptive reuse options, such as water conservation projects, sustainable waste management, afforestation, and the development of public spaces, to promote the sustainable development of these sites.





Baseline Survey on Implementation of Human-wildlife Conflict Measures

In collaboration with Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGP), Tamil Nadu Forest Department

The project addresses the pressing need for effective management of HumanWildlife Conflict in selected villages sharing boundaries with 10 forest divisions of Tamil Nadu. The reconnaissance field visit started in March 2024, and with a team of wildlife, social science, and GIS experts the work continues.



Surveying Birds

We continue to participate in the multiple surveys conducted by the Tamilnadu Forest Department – the synchronized wetland and terrestrial bird survey and the synchronized vulture survey in 2024 so far.





PROTECTED AREAS AND LIVELIHOODS



On the Forest Frontlines



Supported by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

Anti-Poaching Watchers (APWs) serve as the frontline protectors of our forests. To enhance their skills and provide them with essential protective kits, we are implementing a project focused on forest conservation, supported by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). This initiative primarily aims to provide skill training and supportive kits for both APWs and Anti-Poaching Camps. The project involves 310 Anti-Poaching Watchers across 62 Anti-Poaching Camps within 14 forest ranges in 3 forest divisions: Sathyamangalam, Hasanur, and Erode.

As part of the infrastructure support component of the project, on 21 August 2024, Mr. K. Rajkumar, IFS, Conservator of Forests and Field Director of STR, distributed kits to the APWs. Joining him were Mr. Kulal Yogesh Vilas, IFS, Deputy Director of the Sathyamangalam Forest Division; Mr. K. Sudhakar, IFS, Deputy Director of the Hasanur Forest Division; and Mr. Kumuli Venkata Appala Naidu, IFS, DFO of the Erode Forest Division. Mr TS Ajith, Deputy General Manager SIDBI, graced the occasion and delivered a special address.



Livelihoods and Skilling Project in Sathyamangalam



Supported by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

Our work in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, now ongoing for over a decade, continues with the support of the SIDBI. This project, aiming to supplement incomes through livelihood training, is currently working with 153 individuals across the 5 hamlets – Badripadugai, Attanai, Uginiam, Nagalur, Ganagondhur. Thus far, trainings have been provided in machine processing of tamarind, processing of seemaru grass, and aari embroidery. The machine processing reduces the processing time considerably, whilst increasing the market value.





EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING



Is Biodiversity Your Happy Place?

As part of the “Youth Led Nature Culture Living Labs in India” supported by SwedBio, a Programme at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

A significant occasion was marked with the launch of the book *‘Be My Happy Place: a guide to create, curate and establish a Living Lab’* on September 14, 2024.

The book was unveiled by Ms. Tara Gandhi, renowned conservationist, ornithologist, & author, and received by Dr. M. Jayanthi, IFS, Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, and Thiru. I. Anwardeen, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Project Director, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR).

It has engaging exercises and conceptual explanations written by a team of experts at Care Earth with illustrations set in our local ecological context. ‘Be My Happy Place’ is targeted to middle school students, teachers, and educationists and we are currently working on ensuring it reaches a wider audience.



Working with School Teachers



As part of the “Youth Led Nature Culture Living Labs in India” supported by SwedBio, a Programme at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.



Our Nature education initiatives includes programmes for School teachers where we conducted a workshop on ‘Nature Culture education: Using Activity led Pedagogical Tools’ for NGC Eco club coordinators of government schools in Chennai and Chengalpattu districts. The Primary goal of the workshop is to highlight the role of School teachers in shaping the children minds and their relation with the environment.



The workshops provided a suitable opportunity for the teachers to get use of 'Be My Happy Place: a guide to create, curate, and establish a Living Lab', Care Earth's most recent ecological learning resource for middle and high school students. The workshops were conducted as part of our project 'Youth led, Nature-Culture Living Labs in India' supported by SwedBio, a programme at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden.

Local Youth as Nature Guides

Supported by Sun Pharma

As a part of our 'Nature Wings' project, the first session of the Nature Guide training programme for the local youth of villages of Vedanthangal and Karikili panchayats commenced on March 22, 2025 at Vedanthangal. The project is supported by Sun Pharma and has been implemented in consultation with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and Vedanthangal Panchayat. The main aim of the project is to enhance the eco-livelihood opportunities to communities living near Vedanthangal and Karikili Bird sanctuaries, who are the key stakeholders in their conservation.



On the Forest Frontlines

Supported by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

In February, as a part of a series of skill trainings supported by SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India), 'Hands-on training on identifying common wild grasses' was conducted for a total of 70 Anti-poaching watchers (APW) belonging to 14 Forest Ranges and 3 Forest Divisions. The primary goal of this training was to impart basic knowledge about the common wild grasses of Sathyamangalam and Erode with the frontline workers and improving the grass identification skills. The workshop was designed by a combination of presentations, field-visits, and identification using lenses.

Following the grass species identification training, a two days 'Hands-on training on Snake Rescue and Rehabilitation' for APWs working in 15 forest ranges in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve and Erode Forest division was conducted in the month of March 2025. Mr. M.V. Ravi Kumar and R. Roshan Kumar, Wildlife conservationists and Snake handling experts illustrated the dos and don'ts regarding snake bites and snake rescues.





URBAN STUDIES



Water as Leverage - City of 1000 Tanks

Upscaling of the City of 1000 Tanks project under the Water As Leverage for Resilient Cities Asia 'WaL' initiative by the Netherlands government is a project undertaken by Care Earth Trust since February 2025 under its Urban Studies programme. The project by utilising nature- based methods brings forth benefits including replenishing groundwater throughout the year, reducing groundwater pollution and flooding.

As a part of the upscaling study Care Earth Trust conducted more than 40 interviews across various consumer profiles namely Residential Areas, Hotels, Resorts and other recreational areas, Educational Buildings, Healthcare Facilities, Industries and Offices and Public water bodies in Chennai. The interviews included formal and informal discussions, meetings and conversations with government officials, engineers, business consultants, academicians, residents and other stakeholders. Most of the discussions were conducted onsite while a few were operated over phone calls and other social media platforms. The study has been supplemented by extensive market research, intermediate reports, maps depicting outreach and interview statuses and graphs.

Out of the total Round 1 interviews conducted, 5 proceeded to Round 2, from which 3 profiles went on to direct discussion with OOZE Architects & Urbanists. Of the 3, one consumer from the Educational Institution profile has signed a MoU with OOZE depicting their interest in proceeding with the project.





WETLAND RESTORATION





Ecological Restoration of Unamancheri Wetland

Supported by Natwest Group

The Unamancheri wetland project, supported by Natwest Group, aims to restore its waterholding capacity and biodiversity. The Natwest ExCo Board from United Kingdom had visited the restoration site in Unamancheri. The Care Earth Team led a walk to explain the restoration work that have been done so far as well as the local flora and fauna of the Unamancheri site. The Board members had a chance to interact with the Panchayat President CG Mahendran and School Teacher Rosanna Selvakumari, before proceeding to plant sapling with MGNREGA workers.



Ecological Restoration of Vengathur Wetland



Supported by Natwest Group

Care Earth Trust is spearheading the restoration of the 300-acre Vengathur Wetland, encircled by a 2,400-meter bund. Two canals connect the wetland, with the West-to-East canal extending 1.5 km. Restoration of 841 meters of this canal was completed, increasing its width from 2-3 meters to 10 meters and dredging it to a depth of 2-3 feet. This enhances water flow and storage. Also, Employees of the NatWest Group joined us for the maintenance of the afforestation patch that they had undertaken in November last year.



Ecological Restoration of Therthangal Wetland

Supported by Guru Krupa Foundation

We are working with the Tamilnadu Forest Department for the restoration of the Therthangal Bird Sanctuary in Ramnathapuram district. As part of the restoration program, we led a nature walk for the Therthangal Government School students to the Sanctuary. Pictured here is the improvised classroom to introduce them to wetlands and birds.



EVENTS



World Environment Day 2024

Every year, we celebrate World Environment Day across multiple project locations.



Elephant Whisperers of Palakkad

We provided raincoats to the mahouts of the Dhoni Elephant Camp under the Palakkad Division of the Kerala Forest Department. One of our many small efforts to support those at the frontline of safeguarding our forests.

World Environment Day 2024



Helping fight fires in Sathyamangalam

Hooks distributed after a consultation with the Forest Department under the Anti-Poaching Skill Training and Infrastructure Support in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve project, supported by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The hooks will help in creating fire lines to combat forest fires.



The right native species for the Coonoor landscape

Over 300 indigenous saplings planted with students and staff of Laidlaw Memorial School & Junior College, and over 100 soldiers and workers of the Wellington Cantonment



Organised by Budding Minds International School

Our team members Jeya Kumar and Sunanda participated as jury members of different panels in an environment-focused school symposium 'Action for Community Transformation' organised by Budding Minds International School. They listened to students from classes 7 to 12 present their research on environmental issues ranging from waste segregation to urban flooding in Chennai, and encouraged the students to take their research further. Sunanda also participated in a panel discussion on 'Youth engagement in social work and environment policy – barriers, importance and the future', and shared her insights.



All Living Things Environmental Film Festival



Care Earth had collaborated for the first time with All Living Things-Environmental Film Festival (ALT-EFF) during Nov-Dec 2024. We had conducted screenings featured an array of narrative and animated films focusing on wetlands, forests, ecological significance, habitat exploration, pollution challenges, and the vital role of women in conservation. The screenings were conducted in 6 locations across Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram, Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu districts. These screenings has created awarness and reached out over 800 individuals and some had participated in open mics to share their experiences with nature through folk songs, drama, dance and poetry. This event enabled us to spread the important themes of environment and conservation through creative and aristic forms.

Margazhi Bird Thiruvizha



Every year, during the month of Margazhi, we conduct a series of walks around Chennai. This is our Sixth year of leading Margazhi Bird Walks. The Tamil month of Margazhi, with all its culture and musical activity, coincides with the migratory season of birds from Eurasia. The city's wetlands become a heaven for both these migratory avian wonders and their native counterparts. The wetlands, teeming with life after the monsoon season, provide a rich backdrop for observing birds that are rarely glimpsed in Tamil Nadu during other times of the year.

With a delightful mix of both new and old participants, this year walks included the Pallikaranai marsh, Pallikaranai Eco Park and Nanmangalam reserve forest, which took place for 6 days from the month of January. This year we had walked at Pallikaranai Eco Park, Nanmangalam Reserve Forest, Pallikaranai Okkiyam Maduvu, Unamancheri Wetland, and Vengathur Wetland. We also organized an inclusive photo walk, ensuring inclusivity for individuals from the deaf community in collaboration with Madras Photo Bloggers at Pallikaranai Eco-Park.





Margazhi Bird Thiruvizha All Women Walks

Our sixth edition of Margazhi Birds Thiruvizha was bigger and better with 12 walks across 6 locations and over 200 participants.

For the first time in our Margazhi walks, we held an all women's walk at the Nanmangalam Reserve Forest, for women and led by women – something we plan to make a regular feature in the upcoming editions.





Yaanai Thiruvizha

A grand celebration of the Asian Elephant and its habitat through art, culture, and dialogue in Guindy National Park, Chennai was held on February 7-8, 2025. This is part of the larger Gajutsav Campaign by WTI, focused on securing the Rights of Passage for Elephants by engaging communities and stakeholders to address human-wildlife conflicts and habitat challenges. Care Earth was a collaborating institution for the Chennai edition.

Infosys BioConserve

Care Earth presented its work across campuses of India at the Infosys BioConserve Summit in Bangalore in January.



Wipro Urban Waters Forum

The goal is to support the implementation of participatory water management practices. The fourth edition of Urban Waters Forum was held during February 5-7, 2025, at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The event brought together 65+ participants from academia, civil society organizations and journalism. Care Earth was represented by Anjana Vencatesan



AWARDS

Dr Dhaneesh Bhaskar has been awarded a grant by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation U.K., for his project *"The crocodile grasshopper, ecology and conservation of semi amphibious grasshoppers in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India"*

PUBLICATIONS

Anjana Vencatesan writes for the India Development Review on insights from our nature education program. You can find the article [here](#).



GOVERNANCE TRUSTEES



Dr. P S Easa
Chairman



Dr. N V Joshi
Trustee

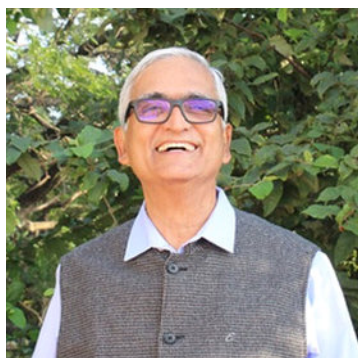


Dr. R J Ranjit Daniels
Trustee



Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan
Managing Trustee

ADVISORS



Dr. S. BALAJI
Scientific Advisor



Er. S. Thirunavukkarasu
Senior Advisor

OUR TEAM



Anjana Vencatesan

Programme Head –
Evidence Based Policy
Research and Advocacy



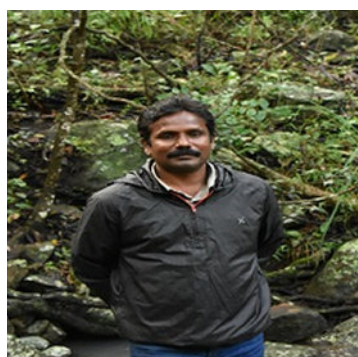
Aripasath S

Junior Associate



Aswathi C.R

Junior Research Fellow



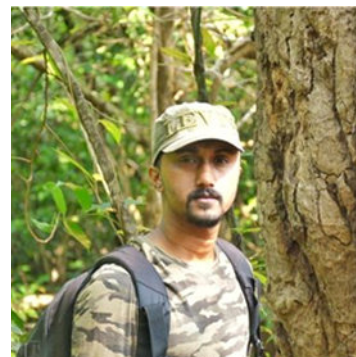
Chandrasekaran P

Project Co-ordinator



Dass G

Technical Assistant



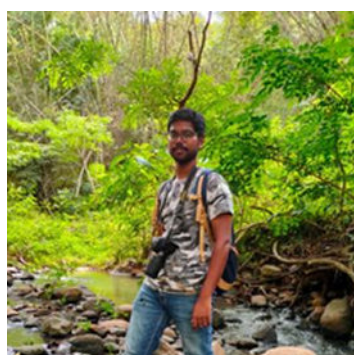
Dr. Dhaneesh Bhaskar

Project Manager



Jeya Kumar R

Programme Head –
Education, Training and
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Keerthi P

Junior Research Fellow



Manochandran K

Sr. Project Associate (GIS)

OUR TEAM



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Manager Admin



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Muthu Karthick N

Programme Head –
Biodiversity Research



Nityanandan M

Driver



Padmavathi S

Admin Assistant



Dr Rajkumar K.P

Wildlife Biologist



Ramamoorthy B

Project Coordinator



Dr Ramesh R

Project Associate



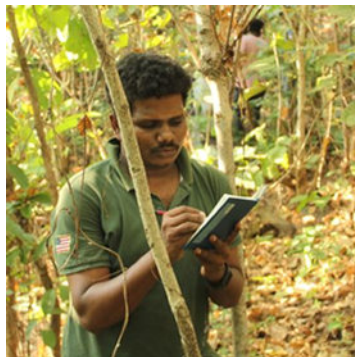
Sunanda R

Junior Project Associate

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Vivekananthan M
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Vishwanathan S
Driver

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