

2025-26



ANNUAL REPORT



CARE EARTH TRUST

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

In 2025, we completed 25 years of Care Earth Trust. To give a cricket analogy, it has been a slow and steady innings - not a swashbuckling one but definitely one which has cemented our place.

In these 25 years, there have been many ups and downs , many successes and challenges. It is my belief that we have handled both with an openness and equanimity and more importantly, sought to learn and adapt from the challenges.

Now, our path for the next innings of Care Earth is clear. It is time for the next generation to take charge and increasingly our younger colleagues are taking on more responsibilities.

We hope to continue this work and make sure it is impactful and meaningful

Jayshree Vencatesan
Managing Trustee



COLLABORATIONS & 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



Brakes India





AWARDS



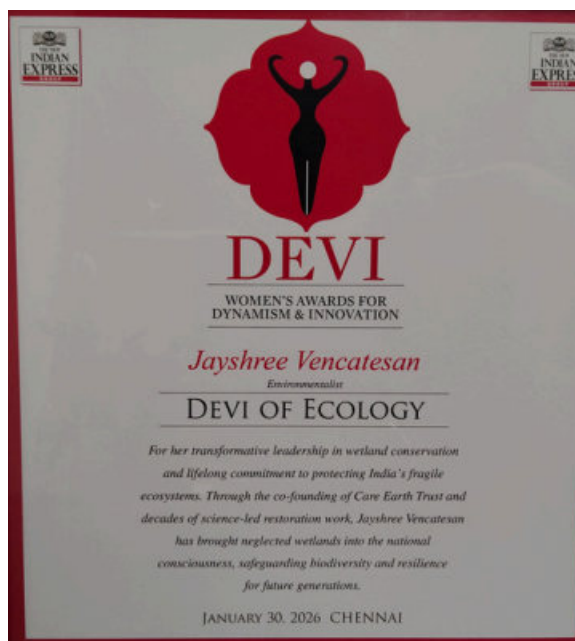
Sakthi Award for Achievement

Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan



Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan, Managing Trustee of Care Earth Trust, was honoured with the prestigious “Sakthi Award for Achievement” at the Puthiya Thalaimurai Sakthi Awards 2026 in recognition of her dedicated contributions to environmental conservation. The award was presented in appreciation of her continuous and committed efforts towards environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, wetland restoration, ecological research, and community-based environmental initiatives.

Devi Awards Chennai 2026



Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan was awarded The New Indian Express Devi Award, as part of the Devi Awards Chennai 2026, recognizing her outstanding contributions to environmental conservation and wetland restoration in Tamil Nadu.

Under her leadership, significant efforts have been made to restore and conserve wetlands across the State, strengthening ecosystem resilience and supporting biodiversity conservation. Her work has consistently emphasized the ecological importance of wetlands and the challenges they face due to urbanization and environmental degradation.



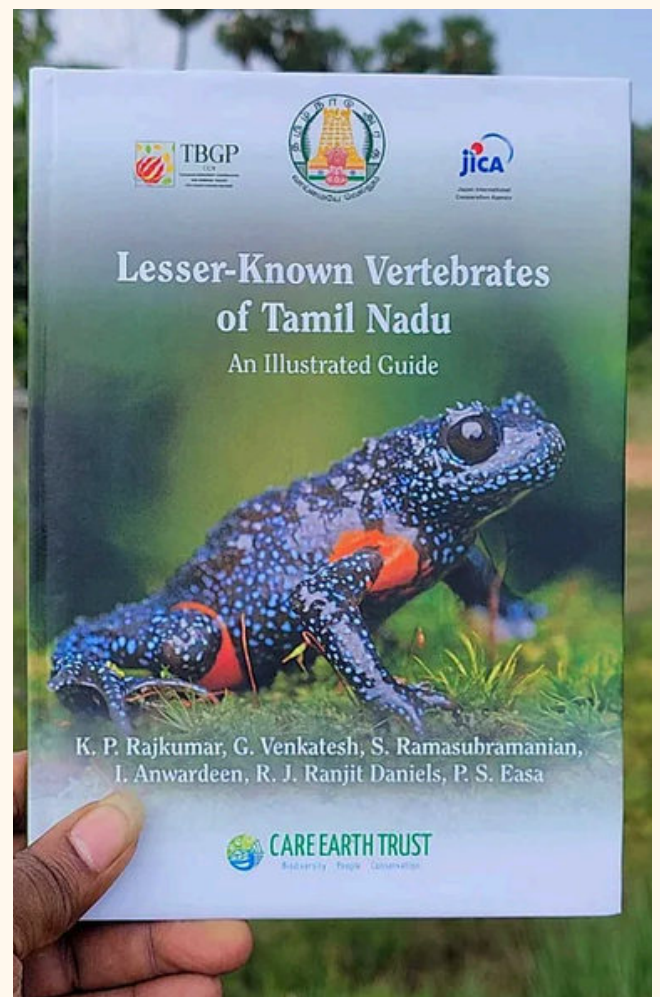
ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH



Lesser Known Vertebrates of Tamil Nadu - An Illustrated Guide

Supported by Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funded initiatives

The book titled 'Lesser-Known Vertebrates of Tamil Nadu: An Illustrated Guide' opens a new window to the lesser-known yet important vertebrate species found in the State. It documents 20 species of fishes, 26 species of amphibians, 24 species of reptiles, 18 species of birds and 12 species of mammals. It describes details on conservation importance, distribution, habitat and behaviour, with high-quality photographs and distribution maps for all the 100 species. It was released on 1 September 2025 as part of the 'Japan-India Research Consortium' during the 4th-year field visit by JICA.



This book can be a go-to guide for every frontline staff of the Forest Department; it is simple and informative and can serve as a useful reference in forest offices. It covers species that are endemic to the Western Ghats, widely distributed yet lesser known, sparsely distributed yet locally abundant and many species that are common in some places but very rare or little known elsewhere.

Due to their conservation importance and threat levels, many such species are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in the IUCN Red List categories, and in the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendices for their protection. Such knowledge, whether a species is in trade, endemic, endangered or protected under law is crucial in managing and protecting the species and their habitats. With all the details on every species, this book will be a valuable reference for learning about the lesser-known vertebrates of Tamil Nadu.



Resource Assessment in the Elephant Reserves

Supported by State Planning Commission & Tamil Nadu Forest Department

Our team of botanists and GIS analysts commenced the field assessments of the food species favoured by the elephants across forest ranges of Tamilnadu. The extent of elephant reserves in Tamilnadu covers both the Western and the Eastern Ghats. The quantitative assessment on ground is complimented by employing GIS analysis. Elephant reserves of Nilgiris, Anamalai and Coimbatore have been completed. The floristic survey yielded 460 species that cover herbaceous plants, shrubs, lianas, saplings and trees.





PROTECTED AREAS AND LIVELIHOODS



Training for Frontline Forest Staff

Supported by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)



Identifying Common Insects

Following the training on snake species identification, rescue and rehabilitation, hands-on training on identifying common wild insects was conducted for Anti-Poaching Watchers (APWs) from 10 forest ranges under Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve and Erode Forest division. A total of 70 APWs participated in the training which was conducted on July 10 and from August 4 to 6, 2025.

The training program provided an introduction to insects and their body parts, dangerous and venomous insects and identification of bugs and prevention methods and treatment against them. This program covered both classroom learning and field visits to the nearby forest areas for practical exposure. Field training was conducted in the Karachikorai Tribal Museum and near forest check posts of K.N. Palayam and Bannari.

The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ayyasamy Regupathy, Associate Professor (Entomology), Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam. Mr. Prasath Selvaraj, Wildlife Biologist, provided his insights on insect identification and classification in the theoretical sessions. Post training, a book on insects written by K.Thiruvengadam and S.Sekar was provided to forest division offices.

Livelihood interventions in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

Supported by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)



Through tailoring training, 53 tribal women from Neerkondipudhur and Kottamalam were empowered to generate income through tailoring for garments in Erode. Similarly, 84 tribal households from Kundri received training on value addition of jackfruit (NTFP), by producing jackfruit chips. The enterprise has enabled income generation through direct marketing. In addition, 33 tribal households from Nagalur hamlet benefitted from refresher training on tamarind (NTFP) process machinery and were linked to corporate store sectors in Chennai helping them achieve profitable returns within the short tamarind season.





EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING





Translating Pedagogy into Physical Space - Youth led Nature-Culture Living Labs

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

We have been bringing into fruition the most significant part of the Youth led Nature-Culture Living Labs project, the ‘living labs’ itself. A living lab is a space dedicated for solving research questions or real-life challenges. In educational contexts, it is often a space for hands-on experiential learning where students can test what they have learnt and observe things in a natural setting. The enquiry-focused nature-culture curriculum delivered earlier through in-campus learning programmes and field visits as part of the SwedBio project informed the approach to the living labs being created.

The living lab site is located in Unamancheri village, whose panchayat and community have been very supportive. The site is in proximity to a wetland, scrub forest, and agricultural land, offering the chance to observe different kinds of flora and fauna. Featuring a small amphitheatre, hut, observation deck and a bridge where students can gather and observe their surroundings, the site was made physically ready by June.

To mark its inauguration, on World Environment Day, elected representative of Chengalpattu district and member of the legislative assembly (MLA), Ms. M. Varalakshmi, planted a sapling at the site, accompanied by the elected leader of Unamancheri Panchayat, Mr. Mahendran. Students and teachers from Govt. Middle School, Unamancheri, one of the most significant stakeholders of the site, were also present.



Spotted at the Living Lab – Butterflies, Frogs, and Enthusiastic Young Two-Legged Students!

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

The creatures and critters of the Living Lab have found themselves in the company of curious nature observers more often since our last newsletter. We’ve hosted an exchange visit as well as a community event honouring local leaders of Unamancheri village, whose support has been integral to the creation and maintenance of the space. Students and the eco-club teacher of our nature education cohort of Govt. Middle School, Unamancheri enthusiastically participated in both events.



The exchange visit was marked by the participation of students of Riverton Valley School, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. It involved a nature walk along the nearby wetland of Chittheri, Unamancheri, followed by an observation exchange between students.

The community event at Living Lab was held to celebrate educational decision-makers and stakeholders of the project, the panchayat leader of Unamancheri, Mr. Mahendran and ward leaders of Unamancheri. Also honoured were the headmaster and eco-club teacher of Govt. Middle School, Unamancheri, assistant headmistress and eco-club teacher of Govt. Secondary School, Kolapakkam. We expressed our thanks to the gardener of the Living Lab, Mr. Puniyakotti.

The event was centred around a rock painting activity held by Mr. Raghunath Krishna and Mrs. Brinda Raghunath, an activity designed to encourage students to observe and compare different features of both non-living and living facets of the environment by thinking about colours, contours, and shapes found amongst rocks and animals.



Bringing Lessons to Life at the Living Lab

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



In February, students from the Department of Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology, Women's Christian College, Chennai, conducted a nature education session at the Living Lab as part of their Service Learning program.

With guidance from faculty and the Care Earth team, the session focused on concepts such as pollination and symmetry, delivered through interactive and activity-based learning.

Middle school students from Govt. Middle School, Unamancheri and Govt. Secondary School, Kolapakkam actively participated in games, nature-based art, and outdoor learning.

The session fostered meaningful knowledge exchange and hands-on engagement, creating an enriching learning experience for both school and college students.

From Students to Stewards of Their Sanctuary – Local Youth as Nature Guides, Nature Wings

In collaboration with Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Supported by Sun Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

"I'm writing our discussions down carefully so I can teach my son when he's ready", says one of the participants from Care Earth's nature education sessions in Vedanthangal. Both her specially bound notebook and an enthusiastic chorus of questions from her and her classmates are a consistent part of the classes conducted as part of the 'Nature Wings' project. Held for youth aged 18 to 33 living near Vedanthangal and Karikili Bird Sanctuaries, the sessions aim to equip participants with the skills to become nature guides as an eco-livelihood opportunity.



Spanning from March to June 2025, the classes focused on providing an understanding of wetlands, their importance, and the ability to identify common birds, amongst other things. The sessions were primarily held by Dr. RJ Daniels, co-founder of Care Earth Trust and Ms. Rosella Daniels, zoologist and science teacher. An introductory book to common birds was written in Tamil by Dr. RJ Daniels especially for the participants. Other community- centric designs in the programme, such as provisions for childcare, helped ensure significant and consistent participation from women, largely of daily wage and unemployed backgrounds.



Post programme support and materials such as binoculars, caps are being provided for to ensure that participants get recognised as guides and are able to fulfil their roles easier. A felicitation ceremony has also been planned to celebrate the cohort's completion of training and the potential to utilise their unique position as stewards of ecologically significant sites.



From receiving guidance to being a guide



In the end of September, the training participants went on an educational visit to Thattekad Bird Sanctuary to observe and learn from the guides association operating there alongside the Kerala Forest Department. They were led on walks by guides from the association as well as forest guides, and delighted in spotting the Ceylon frogmouth (amongst others). An engaging discussion was also held especially for the participants by the association and members of the Kerala Forest Department. The participants got to hear from their varied, rich experiences and received useful advice for practicing professional nature guiding.

The guides also grabbed another opportunity to learn and joined us on our Margazhi Birds Thiruvizha in Pallikaranai Eco-park. Spotting black-winged stilts, red-wattled lapwings that they were already familiar with and learning of new ones, they also had the opportunity to speak with the public about the walks they offer in Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary.

Meanwhile, the guides have been using the chance to work as guides on trial runs and walks with those known to them, external team members, and a few guests.

Reading Light and Seeing Birds – Photowalk Collaboration



As part of its outreach and engagement initiatives, Golden Wings Nature Guides—a group of eight trained youth naturalists under the Nature Wings project supported by Sun Pharma—successfully conducted their inaugural public photowalk in January. This event was organized under Care Earth’s Margazhi Walks series, in collaboration with Madras Photo Bloggers and the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. The photowalk took place at Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary and witnessed participation from approximately 40 birding enthusiasts. The initiative aimed to bridge the gap between observation and understanding by integrating photography with ecological interpretation. The event concluded on a warm and engaging note, with participants expressing appreciation for both the learning experience and the community-driven approach. The session ended with refreshments thoughtfully arranged by the guides, further fostering interaction and camaraderie among attendees.

From Chennai to Bhopal - An exchange learning opportunity



Our team had a chance to visit Bhopal and the Bhoj wetland as part of an engagement in wetland conservation with the Riverton Valley School. Students from the school had visited our restoration projects in September and we got the chance to learn about the conservation, management, and threats to the Bhoj wetland, while interacting with officials from the Bhopal Municipal Corporation.

When Curious Crows Take Flight!

Launch of the Curious Crow Club – a beginner-friendly lecture series



February 2026 marked the launch of the Curious Crow Club, a monthly lecture series designed to introduce participants to the everyday environment around them. Organised at the Care Earth Trust office, the initiative aims to foster curiosity and build ecological awareness through accessible learning formats. The inaugural session, titled "Sorting the World of Plants," was led by Muthu Karthick N, botanist and research team lead. The session combined interactive elements such as quizzes and plant identification activities, encouraging active participation and engagement.

The lecture was followed by an interactive discussion in the mottamaadi garden, where participants explored concepts further through observation and informal exchange, making the session both engaging and experiential.



URBAN STUDIES

Biodiversity assessment in Subramanya lake

Supported by Alcon Architects



Subramanya lake, originally known as Rettaikeni thangal, and once utilised for irrigating the agricultural fields in the coastal stretch of Shollinganallur, requires attention today, as the wetland has been shrinking due to the burgeoning urban infrastructure. The wetland spanning across a 17-acre water holding area has been surrounded by many high-rise apartments. For assessing the status of life thriving in the wetland, a biodiversity survey was carried out in the second week of June. The survey yielded diverse plant species from the wetland and its surroundings; as many as 90 species of Angiosperms were recorded of which many are exotics. The wetland becomes busy with the onset of birds' migratory season, with raptors like Harriers and Shikra frequenting this lake. The team observed some resident waterfowls like Spot-billed Ducks, Little Cormorants and Little Grebes apart from terrestrial urban birds.



Resilient HydroTwin: Participatory Integrated Digital Twin for Adaptive Urban Resilience to Water Extremities-Project Inception Workshop
July 4, 2025



Resilient HydroTwin (RHT)

The Resilient HydroTwin (RHT): Participatory Integrated Digital Twin for Adaptive Urban Resilience to Water Extremities is an Indo-Dutch collaborative project supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The initiative is led by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, in partnership with Okapi Research and Advisory Pvt. Ltd. and Care Earth Trust.

The project aims to develop a Digital Twin framework for Tambaram Corporation, integrating hydrological and hydraulic systems with urban infrastructure, water resource management, governance mechanisms, and human behavioural aspects. This integrated approach is designed to enhance urban resilience to water-related extremes.

During the reporting period, multiple workshops, stakeholder consultations, and field visits were conducted as part of the project. These engagements brought together government officials, domain experts, and academicians, including collaborators from Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening participatory planning processes.



Water as Leverage (WaL): Neithal–Muttukadu Feasibility Update

Identification of Nature-Based Solutions for Water Security, Neithal-Muttukadu

The Neithal–Muttukadu landscape initiative was developed under the Water as Leverage programme to strengthen water resilience in Chennai's southern coastal landscape. In 2019, CET came up with a report that outlined the water security challenges faced in the Muttukadu landscape (part of Kovalam basin) due to rapid urbanization along Chennai's southern coast, especially the long line growth seen along the OMR and ECR. The CET report proposed a series of Nature-based interventions that, if properly implemented, would not only increase the water resilience of the landscape in a holistic manner, but also contribute to biodiversity conservation and livelihood security of the local population. The interventions proposed ranged from restoration of water bodies and forests and creation of ground water recharge structures to installation of bioswales and rain water harvesting structures in the more urbanised areas.

In 2026, CET is updating the report, restructuring it to fit the requirements and style of a feasibility report, updating references, analysis and maps where required. The updated report also seeks to map other ongoing initiatives in the landscape and identify points of synergy and collaboration. CET is working closely with the 'Multi-Country Coordination Pathway' being led by the Chennai Resilience Centre (CRC) whose mandate is to align government departments, international partners and local stakeholders around a coordinated, implementation-ready roadmap for the Neithal-Muttukadu landscape.





WETLAND RESTORATION





Vengathur Wetland Restoration

The Vengathur Wetland restoration project was successfully completed, delivering significant ecological and community benefits. A 375 m bund was constructed to strengthen the lake structure, and 60,000 cubic meters of dredging increased the water storage capacity to 2.119 mcft. To prevent bund erosion, 40 chutes were installed. Additionally, around 400 sq. m of revetment was developed on both sides of the sluices, along with 3-foot-long steps to ensure stability and access.

The project concluded with a closing event involving NatWest employees, during which five native plants were planted. A community awareness session on bio-enzyme preparation and usage was also conducted to promote eco-friendly practices and sustainable waste management among local residents.

Fostering Water Security and Sustainability of Peri-Urban Chennai

The “Fostering Water Security and Sustainability of Peri-Urban Chennai” project, in Unamancheri village of Chengalpattu district, focused on wetland restoration, sustainable resource management, and community engagement throughout 2025–2026. The project was formally inaugurated on 5 June 2025 (World Environment Day) in the presence of former Chengalpattu District Collector S. Arunraj, M. Varalakshmi, PWD officials, village panchayat representatives, and the Care Earth team, marking the commencement of restoration activities at the Chitteri wetland. Following the inauguration, desilting, dredging, and phased removal of invasive species were undertaken to improve water storage capacity and ecological health of the wetland ecosystem. Biodiversity assessments documented rich floral and faunal diversity within the wetland ecosystem, while water quality assessments highlighted the need for continued restoration efforts.



Ecological Restoration of Kuttai using Ecosystem Based Adaptation Approach

Supported by Brakes India (P) LTD and Trichur Sundaram Santhanam and Family (P) LTD



The ecological restoration initiative at Unamancheri, supported by Brakes India (P) LTD and Trichur Sundaram Santhanam and Family (P) LTD, aims to restore the freshwater pond (Kuttai) and improve its ecological health through ecosystem-based adaptation approaches. The project currently focuses on enhancing water quality, removing invasive vegetation, improving habitat conditions, and strengthening biodiversity within the wetland ecosystem.

As part of the restoration activities, the team conducted field visits and interacted with local stakeholders, including Panchayat representatives, community members, and school authorities, to discuss the significance of the Kuttai and the importance of conserving peri-urban wetlands. Baseline assessments and restoration planning were carried out to identify major environmental concerns affecting the pond.

Initial restoration interventions included boundary demarcation, territory clearing, removal of invasive plant species, and cleaning of the inlet and outlet regions of the Kuttai. These activities were undertaken to improve water flow, restore habitat quality, and prepare the site for future ecological restoration measures. The restoration efforts also aim to encourage community participation and create long-term awareness on wetland conservation and sustainable environmental management.





EVENTS, LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS



International Day for Biological Diversity

Care Earth Trust with the support of National Biodiversity Board (NBA), Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB), Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) and Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) organized a two-day program on 21st and 22nd May commemorating the International Day for Biological Diversity 2025.

DAY 1

Day one saw events at multiple locations across Chennai - Street play titled 'Iyarkai Thaa' by Nilal Kalai Kuzhu in Anna Nagar and Pondy Bazaar and an exhibition on indigenous rice diversity in collaboration with CIKS at Guindy Children's Park





DAY 2

Day 2 saw the culmination of the celebrations at Amma Arangam , Ripon Building featuring eminent speakers, performances by students of Vidya Vanam School, Anaikatti and Vayali Bamboo Music.



Booklet on Chennai Wetlands

Earthwatch Institute India launched a booklet on 15 wetlands in Chennai , co-authored by Care Earth.

Muthu Karthick, our Programme Head– Biodiversity Research was one of the panellists of the event and shared valuable insights on wetlands and the importance of conserving them.

Participation in BioConserve 2026



In January 2026, Ms. Manjupriya A. and Ms. Maria Thomas, Junior Research Associates at Care Earth Trust, participated in the second edition of BioConserve, held in Bangalore. The event, themed “Moving from Awareness to Acceleration,” was organized by Infosys in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Human Settlements.

The summit featured a series of sessions highlighting the urgency of biodiversity conservation, along with in-depth discussions on India’s biodiversity targets, and the role of city- and state-level initiatives and institutional frameworks in achieving these goals. The participation provided valuable exposure to emerging strategies and collaborative approaches in advancing biodiversity conservation efforts.



Workshop by GIZ

At the “Lessons & Takeaways from the Indo-German Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection Project” workshop by GIZ India, our researcher Anjana Vencatesan had the opportunity to participate in a moderated panel discussion on Enhancing Community Participation in Wise Use and Conservation of Wetlands.



Chennai Lakes Datajam by OpenCity

The Chennai Lakes Datajam was conducted by OpenCity on the 27 September 2025 at IIT-M Research Park, Tharamani, Chennai. Care Earth Trust was one of the partners along with WELL Labs, CAG Chennai, Poovulagin Nanbargal and Reach the Unreached.

In the day-long event, 34 participants from diverse backgrounds – GIS experts, students, researchers, civic activists, urban planners, architects and active citizens – split among five teams, looked at data to understand the lake systems in Chennai.



Employee Engagement and Volunteering

Over the months of August and September, our engagement with the Natwest Group employees continued in the form of volunteering events at our project sites. With close to 100 employees participating across two events, the end of events also witnessed some time for fun and games with activities centred around learning more about biodiversity.

 **Unamancheri**



 **Vengathur**





All Living Things Environmental Film Festival

This year marked our second time collaborating with the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT-EFF) for screenings in Ramanathapuram and Chennai districts.

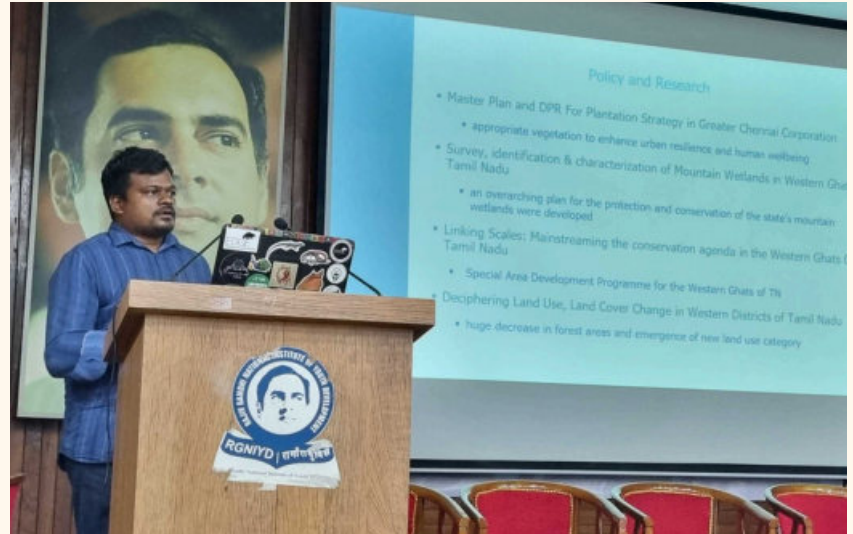
Our collaboration this year kicked off with screenings at Hameediah Matriculation School in Kilakarai, Ramanathapuram. The curated selection of animated and narrative films highlighted species conservation and biodiversity across diverse habitats while also addressing issues related to urban practices and development.

Over 300 students actively participated in the screening, reflected on the films by reviewing them and journaled their emotions through zines, fostering both critical thinking and emotional connection to environmental issues.

In Chennai, the film screening was held at Agaram Foundation. Apart from the film screening, the event had an exclusive session on the world of frogs by our herpetologist Dr. KP Rajkumar and a panel discussion led by Poovulagin Nanbargal and featuring a sanitation worker with the Safai Karamchari Andolan on the issue of Solid Waste Management in our cities.

Mission LiFE

In January, team members Muthukarthick, Dr. Rajkumar KP, and Anjana Vencatesan conducted two sessions on Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) for induction trainees at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur. The sessions engaged two batches of newly recruited District Youth Officers of MY Bharat, focusing on promoting environmentally responsible lifestyles.



Workshop on GIS in Tourism



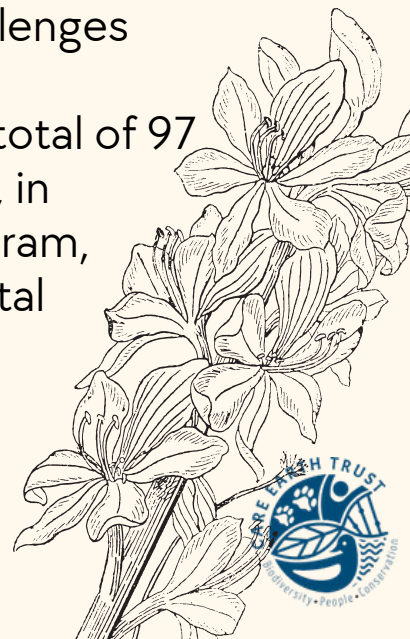
As part of its Education, Training, and Capacity Building initiatives, Care Earth Trust organized a workshop on the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the tourism sector. The session, held on February 6, 2026, was conducted for students of Tourism Studies at Madras Christian College. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Sivanesan K., Junior GIS Researcher, who introduced participants to the fundamentals of GIS, methods of field data collection, and the practical use of Google Earth Pro for tourism-related applications. The session enabled students to gain hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of how geospatial tools can support planning and decision-making in the tourism industry.



Awareness Program on Water Hyacinth

In collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Government's Department of Environment and Climate Change—particularly the District Climate Change Mission and the Environment Education Program—Care Earth Trust conducted an awareness session addressing the ecological threat posed by water hyacinth. Recognized as a major invasive species, water hyacinth significantly impacts freshwater ecosystems and aquatic biodiversity.

The session was led by Dr. R. Ramesh and Mr. Vivekanandhan M., who provided insights into the environmental challenges associated with its proliferation and emphasized the importance of sustainable management practices. A total of 97 students from Government High School, Kolapakkam, in Chengalpattu district actively participated in the program, contributing to enhanced awareness and environmental stewardship among young learners.

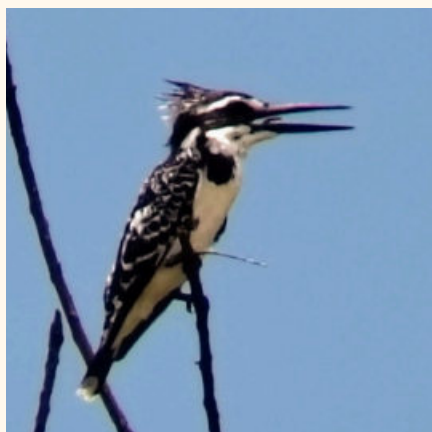


Margazhi Bird Thiruvizha



We successfully conducted the 7th edition of Margazhi Walks from 14 December 2025 to 11 January 2026. A total of 17 walks were organized across species-rich locations in Chennai, engaging a diverse group of participants including schoolchildren, photographers, and senior citizens.

Key highlights included the pilot Nature Journaling Walk and three All Women Walks. The initiative witnessed strong public participation across age groups, with walks conducted in varied landscapes such as wetlands, forests, and bird sanctuaries.



All Women Walks



Care Earth Summer Internship Program 2025

The first edition of the Summer Internship Program drew candidates with varied interests. Based in Chennai, the programme provided hands-on experience in environmental education, ecological research, and sustainability. Participants were engaged through guided project work and practical exposure to ongoing conservation initiatives.

Our Interns 2025-26



Mithra Anand



Jeffrey Mark



Leah Ann George



Vazudha K

Tejasvini Pisupati

Triyana Shravan

PUBLICATIONS - PAPERS AND ARTICLES

“

Ethnobotanical explorations in Unamancheri, a village in the outskirts of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

[paper](#) by Dr. Ramesh R., Vivekanandhan M., and Muthu Karthick N. for Ethnobotany Research & Applications.

”

“

A Case Study of the Guindy National Park to Understand the Changes in the Vegetation of Chennai, India

[paper](#) by Manochandran K., Muthu Karthick N., Vivekanandhan M., and Dr. R. J. Ranjit Daniels for eJournal of Applied Forest Ecology.

”

“

Why CSR funding for environmental conservation needs a rethink?

[Article](#) by Anjana Vencatesan for India Development Review

”

PUBLICATIONS - BLOGS

“

*Trees and stories - what connects
Pala Indigo to the Care Earth
team's unwritten ritual ?*

[Blog.post](#) by Anjana Vencatesan
for SeasonWatch

”

“

*Curious minds and Feathered
beings: A walk to Vedanthangal*

[Blog.post](#) by Manjupriya Ayyanar &
Maria Thomas for Nature
Classrooms

”

“

*Leaks and Showers: My Road to
Conservation*

[Blog.post](#) by Maria Thomas for
Lonely Conservationists

”

PUBLICATIONS - TAMIL

“

மிக்கி மவுல்ஸ் எனும்
செருந்தி

[article](#) by Vivekanandhan M for
Hindu Tamil.

”

“

நாளைய இயற்கைப்
பாதுகாவலர்

Find out this [here](#) by Kavitha K for
Hindu Tamil Thisai

”

GOVERNANCE TRUSTEES



Dr. P S Easa
Chairman



Dr. N V Joshi
Trustee

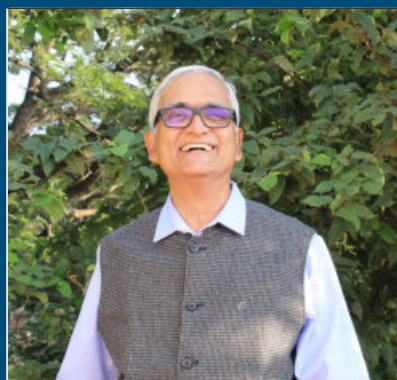


Dr. R J Ranjit Daniels
Trustee



Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan
Managing Trustee

ADVISORS



Dr. S. Balaji
Scientific Advisor

IN REMEMBRANCE



Er. S. Thirunavukkarasu
Senior Advisor

In November 2025, Care Earth Trust lost S. Thirunavukkarasu, our Senior Advisor and a valued mentor whose guidance shaped our work on wetlands and river ecosystems.

He brought deep ecological knowledge, clarity of thought, and a quiet commitment to conservation that influenced both our projects and our people. His passing leaves a void that is deeply felt across the Care Earth community.

We honour his memory with gratitude and continue to carry forward the values and vision he shared with us.

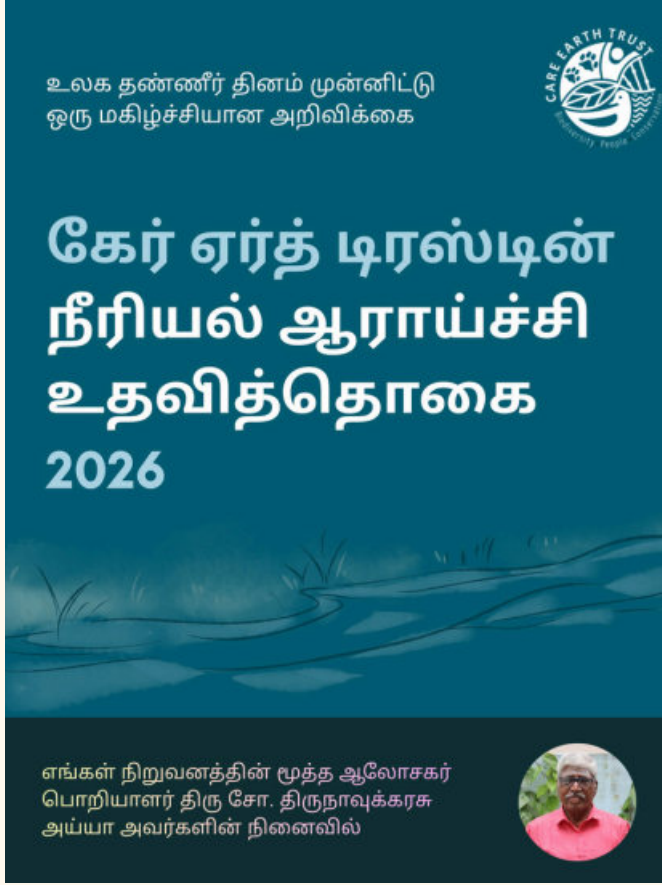
A tribute newsletter compiling memories and reflections in his honour is available here

[S Thirunavukkarasu - A Tribute](#)



The Care Earth Trust Water Fellowship 2026

Instituted in memory of our Senior Advisor, late Er. S. Thirunavukkarasu



The Care Earth Trust Water Fellowship 2026 has been established to honour the legacy of Er. S. Thirunavukkarasu, former Assistant Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, and an expert in hydrology and irrigation management. The fellowship reflects his lifelong commitment to the conservation and protection of water landscapes, including rivers, wetlands, and lakes.

The fellowship supports individuals, communities, and organisations engaged in meaningful work under the following themes:

- Sustainable water practices
- Riverine research and conservation
- Innovative digital solutions for water conservation

The programme is focused on strengthening water conservation efforts within Tamil Nadu, with priority given to initiatives in districts beyond Chennai.

OUR TEAM



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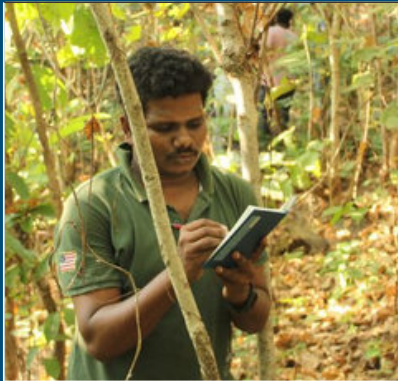
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