



SACON Alumni Profile

May 2016



Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History



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FOREWORD



It is my privilege and honour to present you the Alumni Profile of SACON which is adorned with brilliant Doctoral Scholars and diligent Research Personnel who have been the pillars of our Centre since its inception. By this profiling, we intend to build a profoundly knit alumni network for the amelioration of SACON.

The compendium before you is a glimpse of all the achievements made by our researchers who have set forth on the journey of 'Conserving India's biodiversity and to achieve sustainable use through research, education and people's participation with birds at the centre stage'.

The certitude, that our alumni are active participants in proliferating conservation and have grown into distinguished members of the national as well as the global conservation community, lets us bask in the glory of their successful endeavors.

We flamboyantly welcome you all to SACON's alumni meet!!

Our alumni are indubitably the brand ambassadors of SACON. They have been instrumental in helping their Alma Mater carve out a niche for itself in the arena of wildlife science and research, not just nationally, but internationally as well. You will always remain an integral part of our Centre's intellectual and technical think tank. We would perennially require your support in our expedition to sow the seeds of conservation world wide.

I reassure you that SACON will always stand by its moral values and will continue to strive for the betterment of our wildlife. As the journey goes on we would be elated to have many more names getting attached to our Alumni. I hope we all stay connected and serve SACON unconditionally.

Thanking you all on behalf of SACON for having made it here to our alumni meet today amidst your busy schedule.

A special mention to Dr. P. R. Arun and Dr. Manchi Shirish, S., for their extraordinary effort in compiling all these profiles in an extremely short span of time.

Place: Coimbatore

Date: 25th May 2016

Dr. K. Sankar

Director, SACON



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Ph.D. Scholars



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DR. G.UMAPATHY

Ph.D. (1998) Bharathiar University



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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My broad area of interest is conservation of endangered animals using modern biotechnological tools. My group is also involved in development of non-invasive methods to monitor reproductive functions, stress and fertility status of Indian endangered animals using fecal steroid metabolites

Area of Interest: Understanding of species extinction process;
Conservation Breeding; Conservation Physiology and Genetics

SACON Experience/ Message

I was the first research scholar of SACON, and enjoyed good relationship with all scientists. Although the facilities were limited and very primitive but with the support from all the scientists, I could complete my PhD degree successfully within 5 years, the first one from SACON ! I thank everyone at SACON scientists and friends who have made my stay the most memorable and comfortable. My hearty congratulations on centre's remarkable achievements made so far and wish all success in its future endeavour.

Key Publications

- Umapathy G & Kumar A. 2000. The occurrence of arboreal mammals in the rain forest fragments in Anamalai Hills in the Western Ghats, South India. *Biological Conservation* 92: 311-319.
- Laurance WF, Umapathy G, et al. 2012. Averting biodiversity collapse in tropical forest protected areas. *Nature*, 489: 290 – 294.
- Umapathy, G., Kumar, V., Wasimuddin, Kabra, M., Shivaji, S., 2013. Detection of pregnancy and fertility status in big cats using an enzyme immunoassay based on 5 α -pregnane, *General and Comparative Endocrinology*, 180:33-38.
- Kumar, V, Reddy, V, Kokkiligadda A, Shivaji, S, Umapathy, G. 2014. Non-invasive assessment of reproductive status and stress in captive Asian elephants in three south Indian zoos. *General and Comparative Endocrinology*, 201: 37–44
- Hussain, S, M.S.Ram, A.Kumar, S.Shivaji, G.Umapathy 2013. Human presence increases the parasitic load in endangered lion-tailed macaques (*Macaca Silenus*) in its fragmented rainforest habitats in southern India. *PLOS ONE* 10.1371/journal.pone.0063685.
- Kumar, V, Reddy, V, Kokkiligadda A, Shivaji, S, Umapathy, G. 2014. Non-invasive assessment of reproductive status and stress in captive Asian elephants in three south Indian zoos. *General and Comparative Endocrinology*, 201: 37–44.
- Ram MS, Marne M, Gaur A, Kumara HN, Singh M, Kumar A, Umapathy G, 2015. Pre-historic and recent vicariance events shape genetic structure and diversity in endangered lion-tailed macaque in the Western Ghats: Implications for conservation *PLOS ONE* 10(11): e0142597.

DR. V. GOKULA

Ph.D. (1999) Bharathiar University



Date of Birth : 03.04.1969

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Field Ornithology

Contact Details

Associate Professor and Head,
PG and Research Department of Zoology,
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Tamil nadu, India
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Message/ Experiences at SACON

Key Publications

- Gokula.V. 2015 Display behaviour of Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* (Aves: Galliformes) during the mating season in Viralimalai, Tamil Nadu, India. *Taprobanica*, Vol (7)1:8 - 13, Pp 4-8.
- Gokula.V. 2014. Use of tea plantation by wild mammals in Tamil Nadu, India. *Taprobanica*, Vol 6, No.12: pp 21-26
- Gokula.V. 2012 Breeding ecology of the Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* in Kolli hills, Tamil Nadu, India *Taprobanica* Vol 4, No. 2: pp 77- 82
- Gokula.V. 2012. Nest-site selection of the Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* in Kolli hills, Tamil Nadu, India. *Ornis Mongolica*, 1:60-62
- Gokula.V. 2011. An ethogram of Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* in Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, India. *Chinese Birds*, 2(4):183-192
- Gokula.V. 2011. Breeding biology of Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* in Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, India. *Chinese Birds*, 2(2):101-108
- Gokula.V. 2011. Nocturnal foraging by spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* in Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Marine Ornithology*, 39:267-268

DR. P. R. ARUN



Date of Birth : 30-05-1971

Ph.D. (2000) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Studies on Butterflies have been my area of special interest.

My current research interest is on applied aspects of ecological research fostering sustainable development. It includes Environmental Impact Assessment, and management studies as well as environmental policy and jurisprudence.

Contact Details

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SACON Experience/ Message

I am proud and fortunate to be part of this vibrant institution since its early days. SACON played a pivotal role in moulding the life and career of me. After completing my doctoral work from SACON on seasonality of insects in the Siruvani forests of NBR, I have worked on various ecological and environmental research projects at various Institutions. I returned to SACON in October 2010 as a faculty.

Wish SACON will reach greater heights in the days to come.

Key Publications:

- Shantha Kumar, S.B., Samsoor Ali, A.M. & Arun, P.R., 2016. Status of Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga* in Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry, India. *Indian Birds*, 11(3).
- Murugesan, M. et al., 2015. A new species of *Sonerilla* (Melastomataceae) from the Western Ghats of Kerala, India. *Scientific Transactions in Environment and Technovation*, 8(3), pp.122–124.
- Ramesh Kumar, S., Samsoor Ali, A.M. & Arun, P.R., 2013. Bat mortality due to collision with wind turbines in Kutch District, Gujarat, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 5(13), pp.4822–4824.
- Arun, P.R. & Maya, M., 2012. Ecological costs and benefits of Teak defoliator moth (*Hyblaea puera*) outbreaks in the Mangrove ecosystem of Mumbai. *Marine Science*, 2(5), pp.48–51.
- Murugesan, M., Arun, P.R. & Prusty, B.A.K., 2013. The butterfly community of an urban wetland system-a case study of Oussudu Bird Sanctuary, Puducherry, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 5(12), pp.4672–4678.
- Samsoor Ali, A.M. et al., 2013. Birds of the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History Campus, Anaikatty Hills, southern India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 5(17), pp.5288–5298.
- Arun, P.R. & Azeez, P.A., 2004. Vulture population decline, Diclofenac and Avian Gout. *Current Science*, 87(5), pp.565–568.

DR. MAYA MAHAJAN



Date of Birth : 31.07.1970

Contact Details

Associate Professor,
Centre for Sustainable Future,
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Ph.D. (2000) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Since childhood I was enthralled by Nature, which led me to choose my career in Nature Conservation. After completion of doctorate in Environmental Sciences from SACON I did MBA from Symbiosis International University while working with SP Godrej Marine Ecology Centre as Senior Manager.

I have 23 years of experience in research, training, education, advocacy & management in various sectors of Environment & Development (Forest Ecology, Wetland Ecology, Biodiversity Conservation, Participatory Forest Management, Environment Education, Sustainable Development, Environmental Pollution etc while working with Research Institutes, NGOs & Corporate Sector (including KFRI, PSI, WWF, Godrej, Karunya & Amrita University) in various parts of India. Apart from research I also had the opportunity to be involved in advocacy with different government bodies and do community mobilization while working with DTEWA to preserve the ecofragile status of Dahanu taluka.

While working on Mangrove conservation project with Godrej I was awarded with Woman of Substance 2007-2008 by Young Environmentalists Trust for my contribution to mangrove conservation through education, research & restoration. Presently I am working as Associate Professor with Centre for Sustainable future in Amrita University.

SACON Experience/ Message

While working on the project "Impact of human interference on plant and bird communities in NBR" in 1994, I got the opportunity to work in diverse ecosystems & landscapes eg. Shoals and wattle plantation in Upper Bhavani, luxuriant evergreen forest in Silent Valley, Semi evergreen, Moist deciduous forest, scrub jungle in Mudumalai, mixed deciduous forest in Siruvani etc. I enjoyed estimating diversity of these ecosystems with astonishing flora and fauna & also studied threats posed to them especially from alien weed invasion. I am continuing my work in management of alien weed invasion in Siruvani forest with community participation. Coimbatore became second home to me and SACON days were really memorable for me as I also met my life partner here.

Key Publications:

- Maya Mahajan 2013, A Model Mangrove Conservation Initiative in Mumbai by SP Godrej Marine Ecology Centre, in Bhatt *et al*, Mangroves of India, their biological Use. ZSI & MoEF.
- Arun P R, PA Azeez and Maya Mahajan, 2009, Impact of Coal fired Thermal Power Plants on Agriculture: A case study of Chicku Orchards at, Dahanu, Maharashtra in Global Environment: Problems and Policies.
- Maya Mahajan and P. A. Azeez, 2005, Observations on weed flora of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Tamil Nadu, India. Journal of Economic and Taxonomic Botany.
- R. Mohanraj, Maya Mahajan and P. A. Azeez , 2000. Heavy metals in the moist deciduous soils of Siruvani hills, Tamil Nadu, India. Indian Journal of forestry 23(3): 262-267.
- A. Gautam, Maya Mahajan and Shipra Garg, 2007, Impact of air pollution on human health in Dehradun city, Indian Journal of air pollution control Vol VII, No I pp-45-48.

DR. PRABHAKAR ANNAMALAI

Ph.D. (2001) Bharathiar University



Date of Birth : 30.06.1969

Contact details

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I did my masters program in Wildlife Biology, as part of the curriculum I conducted a short term investigative research on Indian Bison at Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary. Consequently, joining hands with the prominent primatologist Dr. Ajith Kumar I was surveying the entire Anamalai Hills for the presence and absence of Arboreal mammals in the fragmented landscapes. Under his guidance I obtained my Doctoral Degree titled "Impacts of Rainforest Fragmentation on Terrestrial Small Mammal Community in Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, South India." A few years at language research center at Georgia State University I worked with Bonobos assisting to collect data on their cognitive skills. Currently, I am an entrepreneur, amateur wildlife photographer, writing travelogue and reaching the mass through online magazines, blogs and social network sites.

SACON Experience/ Message

I was one of those very first research scholars who grew along with SACON from its fledgling phase to taking wings to its new heights. Our life started in several rented residential flats in Kalampayalam area where we had to forage for food in small road side restaurants. Mostly we ate parottas and home made dosas; one of the memorable experiences. Later on we witnessed our SACON new building foundation stone laying ceremony at Anaikatti. As work was progressing in one side we started moving in along with other wildlife.

Key Publications:

- Prabhakar, A. (1998) An Indian Pitta (*Pitta brachyura*) trapped in a standard Sherman live trap. Journal of Bombay Natural History Society, 95, 115.
- Prabhakar, A. (1997) New records of the Malabar Spiny Dormouse (*Platycanthomys lasiurus*) in the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, Journal of Bombay Natural History Society, 94, 151-152.
- Kumar, A., Sivaganesan, N., Umapathy, G. & Prabhakar, A. (1997) A Study on the Management of Fragmented Rain Forests of the Western Ghats for the Conservation of Fauna with Special Emphasis on Small Mammals. Final Report submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
- Umapathy, G. and Prabhakar, A. 1996. MEAT EATING BY LION-TAILED MACAQUE (*Macaca silenus*) (ZIMMERMANN). Journal of Bombay Natural History Society. 93(1): 79.
- Kumar, A., Umapathy, G. and Prabhakar, A. 1995. A study on the management and conservation of the small mammals in fragmented rain forests of Western Ghats, South India. A preliminary report. Prim. Cons. 16: 53-58.
- Prabhakar, A, Gokula, V and Umapathy, G. 1995. A new record of Little Pied Flycatcher (*Musicappa westermeni*) in Nilgiri biosphere. Newsletter for Bird Watchers 34 (2): 33.
- Gokula, V., Prabhakar, A and Umapathy, G. 1995. Aiming at higher standards - a reply. Newsletter for Bird Watchers 37(1): 13.

DR. A. RAJASEKARAN



Date of Birth : 25.06.1971

Cotact Details

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Ph.D. (2001) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Joined SACON during April 1994 as a JRF and conducted ecological studies on medicinal plants in different parts of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR) under the guidance of Dr. S.N. Prasad and Dr P.Balasubramanian. From 1997 to April 2003 worked as SRF in various EIA projects under the guidance of Dr. P.A.Azeez and Dr. S.Bhupathy.

In April 2003 joined the Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla as Scientist. Presently working as Scientist in Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. My areas of interest are medicinal plants, plant ecology, wild edible plants, phytochemical analysis and Remote Sensing and GIS.

SACON Experience/ Message

My association with SACON started from Kalampalayam campus and I enjoyed the working atmosphere at SACON. As one of the Research Scholars of first batch we were well groomed by SACON and we could freely interact with the entire faculty. We encountered elephants and a variety of snakes several times during evening hours at Anaikatty. With the EIA team I have travelled across different states of the country and we had many sweet moments.

Key Publications:

- Joginder Singh, Rajasekaran, A., Negi, A. K. and VP Panwar (2016). Wild Edible Plant Diversity In Pinus Gerardiana Wall. Ex D. Don Forest of Kinnaur District, Himachal Pradesh, India". Indian Journal of Forestry Vol. 39 No. 1. 13-20.
- Rajasekaran A. and Shalu Devi Thakur (2015). Assessment of status and site-specific management strategies for conservation and rejuvenation of sacred groves in Kullu Valley of Himachal Pradesh. Research in Environment and Life Sciences 8(4) 679-686 (2015).
- Shalu Devi Thakur, A.Rajasekaran (2012) Commercially important medicinal plants of Kullu Valley, Himachal Pradesh, The Journal of Economic & Taxonomic Botany, 37 (4): 752-764.
- Joginder Singh, A. Rajasekaran, R. Raina and R. Rana (2011). Evaluation of different collections of Hypericum perforatum L. in Himachal Pradesh for Biomass yield and Hypericin content. The Indian Forester, 137 (7): 868-871.
- Rajasekaran A., Joginder Singh and Mukul Verma (2010) Temperate Wild Edible plant species of North-western Himalaya: A source of novel bioactive compounds, ENVIS Forestry Bulletin, Vol. 10 (1), 57-64.
- Rashmi, Rajasekaran A, Pokhriyal Rekha, Rashmi, Singh YP. (2009). Quantitative estimation of Berberine in roots of different provenances of Berberis aristata DC by HPLC and study of their antifungal properties. Pharmacognosy Magazine, 5(20): 355-358.
- Rajasekaran & Joginder Singh (2009). Ethnobotany of Indian horse chestnut (*Aesculus indica*) in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, 8(2), pp. 285-286.

DR. K. SIVAKUMAR



Date of Birth : 05.01.1972

Ph.D. (2001) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Joined SACON in November 1995 as a JRF and conducted a study on breeding behavior of the Nicobar Megapode under the guidance of Dr. Ravi Sankaran and Dr Lalitha Vijayan. Later in 1999, joined the Wildlife Institute of India as a Scientist. Presently, heading the Department of Endangered Species Management in WII and coordinating research and conservation programs related to freshwater, coastal and marine biodiversity. Continuing my research focus on insular fauna as well as conservation ideology of Dr. Ravi Sankaran.

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http://www.wii.gov.in/images//images/documents/sivakumar_cv.pdf

SACON Experience/ Message

SACON, where I got introduced to wildlife science. Wonderful platform that I had in this centre helped me to perceive my field oriented research programs later. Parotta near Kalampakkam campus and then the Anaikatty, where I use to have lunch in construction workers canteen, sighting of a loris in the campus of Anaikatty, stay at Kanuvai, wonderful friends, excellent scientists, etc are all some of the memorable moments.

Key Publications

- Sivakumar, K. 2010. Impact of tsunami on the Nicobar megapode *Megapodius nicobariensis*. *Oryx*. 44(1):71-78.
- U. K. Sarkar, A. K. Pathak, R. K. Sinha, K. Sivakumar, A. K. Pandian, A. Pandey, V. K. Dubey, W. S. Lakra. 2011. Freshwater fish biodiversity in the River Ganga (India): changing pattern, threats and conservation perspectives. *Rev Fish Biol Fisheries*,
- Sivakumar, K. 2008. Species richness, distribution pattern and habitat use of fishes in the Trans-Himalayas, India. *Elc. J. Ichthyology* 1:31-42
- Nishikant Gupta, Rajeev Raghavan, Kuppusamy Sivakumar, Vinod Mathur, Adrian C. Pinder, 2015. Assessing recreational fisheries in an emerging economy: Knowledge, perceptions and attitudes of catch-and-release anglers in India. *Fisheries Research* 165:79–84.
- Sivakumar, K. 2010. Impact of the tsunami (December, 2004) on the long-tailed macaque of Nicobar islands, India. *Hystrix It. J. Mamm.*, 21(1):35-42.
- Dola Bhattacharjee, B.C. Choudhury, K. Sivakumar, Charu Sharma, Sajan John, Satyaranjan Behera, Subrata Behera and Punyasloke Bhadury, 2013. Benthic foraminifera assemblages in turtle congregation sites along the Northeast coast of India. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*, 93 (04): 877 - 887
- R. Suresh Kumar, Sajan John, K. Sivakumar, & Binod C. Choudhury, 2013. Egg laying duration in the olive ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* and its relevance for the estimation of mass nesting population size. *Herpetological Journal*, 23 (1):23–28.

DR. R. MOHANRAJ



Date of Birth : 07.03.1973

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Ph.D. (2004) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My research interest lies in Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment, Urban Air Pollution, Aerosol Chemistry, Hazardous waste management, Corporate Environmental Management and other research themes related to global climate change. I have completed four major research projects as a Principal investigator and had received Young Scientist Fellowship from Department of Science and Technology (Govt. of India) during 2004. Awarded commonwealth Academic fellowship in 2012 and visited University of Birmingham, U.K. Awarded UGC Postdoctoral Fellowship (under Singh-Obama research initiative) in 2013 to visit Pennsylvania State University, USA for a year. Published 62 research articles in peer reviewed international and Indian journals and authored and edited two books of Springer publications. Also have presented more than 50 research and review papers in international and national level seminars /symposia/ conferences including COP meetings.

“Message/ Experiences at SACON

Worked as a research fellow in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Division of SACON from January 1997 to April 2004. During that tenure, I was involved in a number of EIA projects addressing EIA Components viz. Aerosol chemistry, Air, water, soil pollution, Environmental Health, Socio-economics and Statistical Analysis.

Key Publications

- A. Arivoli, **R. Mohanraj**, R. Seenivasan. 2015. Application of vertical flow constructed wetland in treatment of heavy metals from pulp and paper industry wastewater. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, DOI: 10.1007/s11356-015-4594-4.
- Manjula Menon, **R. Mohanraj**, M. Prashanthi Devi. 2015. Biomonitoring of heavy metals in feathers of eleven common bird species in urban and rural environments of Tiruchirappalli, India. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, 187:267, DOI 10.1007/s10661-015-4502-x.
- S. Dhanakumar, G. Solaraj and **R. Mohanraj**. 2015. Heavy metal partitioning in sediments and bioaccumulation in commercial fish species of three major reservoirs of river Cauvery delta region, India. *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*, 113: 145–151.
- R. Seenivasan, V. Prasath and R. Mohanraj. 2014. Restoration of sodic soils involving chemical and biological amendments and phytoremediation by *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* in a semiarid region. *Environmental Geochemistry and Health* (DOI: 10.1007/s10653-014-9674-8).
- Manjula M, Prashanthi Devi M and **Mohanraj R**. 2014. Avifaunal Richness and Abundance along an Urban Rural Gradient with Emphasis on Vegetative and Anthropogenic Attributes in Tiruchirappalli, India. *Landscape Research* DOI: 10.1080/01426397.2014.910294.
- S. Dhanakumar, K. Rutharvel Murthy, G. Solaraj and **R. Mohanraj**. 2013. Heavy metal fractionation in the surface sediments of River Cauvery at Estuarine region, Southeast coast of India. *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, 65:14–23.

DR. MATHEWS NIXON ARMSTRONG



Date of Birth : 06.11.1969

Ph. D. (2005) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

M.Sc., in Wildlife Biology, Reptile Ecology and Taxonomy, Small and large Carnivore conservation biology research. After PhD worked as a project fellow and as project lead in Wildlife Trust of India for 9 years.

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1512, Heritage Park Apt,
Sunnyvale, CA, 94086

SACON Experience/ Message

I was with Dr. Bhupathy working on reptile ecology, understanding natural history and other aspects of habitat ecology. It was a great experience working in SACON a person like me with least exposure in many things.

Key Publications

DR. R. ESWARAN



Ph.D. (2006) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Community Ecology,
Butterfly diversity and Seasonality,
Plant-Animal interaction.
Mathematical Ecology

Date of Birth : 29.06.1978

Contact Details

Dr. R. Eswaran,
Assistant Professor of Zoology,
The Madura College,
Madurai-625 011

SACON Experience/ Message

I did Ph.D. (Zoology) under the guidance of Dr. P. Pramod and worked in the following projects:
Research Fellow : "Insect Diversity and seasonality of Anaikatty hills" (February 2002- March 2006).
Programme Secretary: "Vacation training programme on Bioresources for School children"
(April 2006 – June 2006).

I had been also involved in SACON's nature education programme, which involves lectures, field demonstrations, practical and field visits to the forested areas.

Key Publications

- Ananthaswamy, V. Anusuya, P, Eswaran, R. and L. Rajendran. 2014. Analytical expression of density of a population in community ecology from Lotka-Volterra model: Homotopy perturbation approach. International Journal of Mathematical Archive. 5 (7) : 27-33.
- Priya G.L, Rameshkumar P, Ponmanickam P, Eswaran R, Sudarmani D.N.P. and T. Rajagopal. 2013. Identification of Volatile and Protein Profiles in the Sting and Mandibular Glands of the Worker Honey Bee (*Apis cerana indica*). Biochem Physiol 2: 108. doi:10.4172/2168-9652.1000108.
- Raj, V.M., M. PonRani., L. Rajendran and R. Eswaran. 2011. Analytical Expression of the Substrate Concentration in Different Part of Particles with Immobilized Enzyme and Substrate Inhibition Kinetics. Analytical & Bioanalytical Electrochemistry, 3 (5) : 507 – 520.
- Eswaran, R. and Pramod, P. 2007. Diversity of mud-puddling butterflies in Anaikatty hills, Western Ghats. In: Baskaran , S. (Ed.). Proceedings of the National Seminar on Applied Zoology. Pp 286-292.
- Potts, S., Roberts, S., Rehel, S.M. Varghese, A. and R. Eswaran. 2006. Bee Biodiversity Assessment: Manual of Field Methods. Darwin Initiative Project. University of Reading, U.K. Pp32.
- Eswaran, R. and Pramod, P. 2004. Diversity, Emergence and Activity Pattern of Butterflies in Anaikatty Hills. International Journal of Ecology and Environmental Sciences. 30 (4) : 377-384.

DR. DEBANIK MUKHERJEE



Date of Birth :10/09/1976

Contact Details:

Biodiversity parks Programme,
CEMDE, University of Delhi
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Ph.D. (2007) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Interested in reptile ecology, taxonomy, evolution and conservation.

Feb 2002 – Joined SACON, Monitored and surveyed Scrublands, Dry Mixed deciduous and Evergreen Shola forest patches of Western Ghats particularly in Anaikatty Hill ranges (Reserved forest), Coimbatore to document reptile species diversity and assemblages. Tested all suitable sampling techniques for monitoring tropical dry forest reptiles in Indian scenario. Worked on the Community ecology of reptiles with special reference to their status, distribution, taxonomy, population ecology and resource utilization patterns.

December 2007 onwards joined as a field biologist in Yamuna and Aravalli Biodiversity Parks, a joint project of University of Delhi and DDA (Delhi Development Authority), and acquired field experience in conservation and restoration ecology, developing different forest communities in biodiversity parks, ecosystem management and accessing several threat parameters of the biodiversity parks. Delivered lectures to College and University students with respect to various topics such as general taxonomy, evolution and ecology, Biodiversity and conservation.

SACON Experience/ Message

During 2002-2007, I joined as a research fellow in SACON during the tenure of the founder Director Dr. V.S. Vijayan and under the guidance of late Dr. S. Bhupathy. He was an outstanding supervising guide and an experienced field ecologist. I learnt various field monitoring techniques for reptile fauna and their suitability in different habitats and from data collection to its ecological interpretation and consequences.

In India, SACON is one of the leading and esteemed research institutes not only to support ecologists but also to create interests among young researchers in the field of ecology.

Key Publications

- Community Ecology of Reptiles in Anaikatty Hills, Western Ghats, India. 2012. - LAP Lambert Academic Publishing AG & Co. KG Dudweiler Landstr. 99, 66123 Saarbrücken, Germany.
- D. Mukherjee (2014) A Brief Introduction: Origin and Evolution of Squamate Reptiles International journal of life Sciences Research Vol. 2 (3), pp 8-10.
- GEF-Gol-WB sponsored National Consultation Workshop on Human-Wildlife Conflict on May 18 and 19 2015 at Jacaranda Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003, Technical paper presented - A Review on the Human-Snake Conflicts in India.

DR. K. S ANOOP DAS

Ph.D. (2008) Bharathiar University



Date of Birth : 30.05.1978

Contact Details

Assistant Professor,
Center for Conservation Ecology,
Dept. of Zoology,
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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I work as an Assistant Professor at Centre for Conservation Ecology at M.E.S Mampad College, as well as a Visiting Professor at the Leshan Normal University, China. I have worked on the responses of butterflies, insect fauna of natural tree holes, insects as bio-indicators, Conservation of sacred groves, Impact of pesticides on fishes, Evaluation of ecosystem services and Climate change effects on bird & butterfly communities.

I am focused on the bird and butterfly communities in various forest types and their intricate relationships, both functional and trophic. In this quest I have been always alert to have a platform, to communicate the changing paradigms in conservational thought and the subtleties of my research exposed by work in the major taxonomic groups.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I have worked at SACON during 2001 to 2008. It is well known that SACON as an organization that has addressed an assemblage of conservation issues around the country. I believe that working at SACON have helped me to 1) test the rigor of my work at a well-known platform, 2) feel the orientation of current conservation research in various groups and diverse spatial settings, 3) look out for advances in the area and 4) to update myself as a conservation researcher.

Key Publications

- Rohini C.K., Aravindan T., and Das K.S.A. 2015. Human Elephant Conflict –Improved co existence through Multiple Stakeholder interaction in Kerala, India. *Gajah*, (42)32-35.
- Nishad K.A and Das K.S.A. 2014. Tree hole aquatic habitat: inhabitants, processes, and experiments-a review. *International Journal of Conservation Science*, Vol. 5 (2), 117-132.
- Das K.S.A., Subramanian, K.A., Emiliyamma, K.G., M.J. Palot and Nishadh, K.A. 2013 Range Extension and Larval Habitat of *Lyriothemis tricolor* (Odonata: Anisoptera: Libellulidae) from Southern Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 26, 5(17): 5237–5246.
- Das. K.S.A and Nishadh.K.A 2013. Tree hole aquatic habitat: a model for ecological experiments. *Conservation Science* 2013 1(1), 36-38 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3126/cs.v1i1.9582>.
- Dhanya R, Azeez P.A and Das K.S.A. 2013. Floral visits and floral damages by avian nectar robbers on an exotic shrub, *Tecoma stans* (L.) Kunth. *Tropical Natural History* 13(1): 49-52.
- Das. K.S.A Sreekala L.K and Abdurahiman O.P. 2012. Predation on the Bat, Kelaart's Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus ceylonicus* Kelaart) by Tarantula, Reddish Parachute Spider (*Poecilotheria rufilata* Pocock) in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala, India. *Tropical Natural History*, 12 (2) 257-260.
- Nishadh.K.A., and Das.K.S.A. 2012. Metazoan communities in tree hole aquatic habitat of Silent valley national park and New Amarambalam Reserve Forest of the Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4 (14): 3312–3318.

DR. P. BALAKRISHNAN



Date of Birth: 23.04.1976

Contact Details:

Scientist, Division of Conservation
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Ph.D. (2008), Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My research interests range broadly in conservation biology, behavioural ecology and evolutionary ecology. Specific interests include; ecology and conservation of threatened and fragmented populations, wildlife–habitat relationships, biodiversity conservation in human-altered habitats, human dimensions of wildlife and conflict mitigation measures, evidence-based conservation and conservation education, population dynamics and life-history evolution of vertebrates, comparative approaches to study evolution of the life history traits, plant-animal interactions and citizen science.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I have been associated with SACON as a Research Fellow in a project titled “Status, Distribution and Ecology of Grey-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus priocephalus* in the Western Ghats, India” during 2002-2005 and continued till 2008 as a Doctoral student.

Key Publications

- Balakrishnan, P. 2014. Foraging behaviour of the Near Threatened Grey-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus priocephalus* in relation to seasons and breeding stages. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, 111(1): 10-18.
- Bindu, T.N., Balakrishnan P., Sudheendrakumar, V.V. and T.V. Sajeev. 2012. Density dependent polyphenism and baculovirus resistance in teak defoliator, *Hyblaea puera* (Cramer). *Ecological Entomology*, 37: 536-540.
- Balakrishnan, P. 2011. Breeding biology of Grey-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus priocephalus* in the Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 3(1): 1415-1424.
- Balakrishnan, P. 2010. Parental care strategies of grey-headed bulbul, *Pycnonotus priocephalus* in the Western Ghats, South India. *Current Science*, 98(5): 673-680.
- Balakrishnan, P. 2010. An education programme and establishment of a citizen scientist network to reduce killing of non-venomous snakes in Malappuram district, Kerala, India. *Conservation Evidence*, 7: 7-15.
- Balakrishnan, P. 2009. Breeding biology and nest site selection of Yellow-browed Bulbul (*Iole indica*) in Western Ghats, India. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, 106(2):176-183.
- Balakrishnan, P. 2005. Recent sightings and habitat characteristics of the endemic Nilgiri Marten *Martes gwatkinsii* in Western Ghats, India. *Small Carnivore Conservation*, 33: 14-16.

DR. BASUNDHARA CHETTRI



Date of Birth : 21 March 1977

Contact Details

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East Sikkim – 737102, INDIA
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Ph.D. (2008) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I have completed B.Sc. (Zoology Honours) and M.Sc. in Zoology from Darjeeling Government College affiliated to North Bengal University, West Bengal, India. I have completed my integrated M. Phill. and Ph.D. in Zoology from SACON, affiliated to Bharathiar University Coimbatore. At present, I am teaching in the Department of Zoology, Sikkim University. My research interest lies in the field of ecology, conservation biology, herpetology and climate change studies in the Himalaya. I am also interested in taxonomy of the least known vertebrate *i.e.* herpetofauna.

SACON Experience/ Message

My research career started as Research Fellow in Sikkim Project on 19th August 2002 at SACON. Driving to SACON during night time for the first time was a real experience of wilderness. Immediately after joining, there was a capsule course of 15 days and field tour to Western Ghats which introduced me to my research area. Back in Sikkim, field work was really tough but thrilling. We had a large group working in various taxa, and had three supervisors; Dr S Bhupathy, Dr Ajith Kumar & Dr Lalitha Vijayan. All of them were much more than supervisors. Getting trapped in-between two major landslides and spending whole night inside vehicle with no food, no water was really scary but worth remembering. I had vast learning experience in SACON.

Key Publications

- Pan, H., Chettri, B., Yang, D., Jiang, K., Wang, K., Zhang, L. and Vogel, G. 2013. A New Species of the Genus *Protobothrops* (Squamata: Viperidae) from Southern Tibet, China and Sikkim, India. Asian Herpetological Research 4: 109–115.
- Acharya, B.K., Chettri, B., and Vijayan, L. 2011. Distribution pattern of trees along an elevation gradient of Eastern Himalaya, India. Acta Oecologica 37:329-336.
- Chettri, B., Bhupathy, S. and Acharya, B.K. 2010. Distribution Pattern of Reptiles along an Eastern Himalayan Elevation Gradient. Acta Oecologica 36: 16-22.
- Chettri, B. and Bhupathy, S. 2010. Three little known reptile species from the Araku Valley, Eastern Ghats with notes on their distribution. Journal of Threatened Taxa 2: 1109-1113. {Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society publication; ISSN 0974-7907 (online) | 0974-7893 (print)}.
- Chettri, B. and Bhupathy, S. 2009. Occurrence of *Dinodon gammiei* (Blanford, 1878) in Sikkim, Eastern Himalaya, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa 1:60-61. {Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society publication; ISSN 0974-7907 (online) | 0974-7893 (print)}.

DR. BHOJ KUMAR ACHARYA



Date of Birth : 13 June 1978

Contact Details

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Ph.D. (2008) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My research focuses on spatial patterns of biodiversity in the montane ecosystems. I studied the community ecology of plants, butterflies, reptiles and birds especially looking at the distribution pattern along the elevation gradient (300-5000 m) in the Sikkim Himalaya. Being the member of the Sikkim State Biodiversity Board, I am also involved in organizing nature awareness programme involving scientific and local community, students, and indigenous people in conservation. Research interests: (a) Patterns of distribution, diversity and community ecology of various taxonomic groups and their conservation in the Himalayas (b) the effect of climate change on these faunal and floral resources, (c) Application of indigenous knowledge in monitoring and conservation of biodiversity in the Himalayan region, (d) DNA Barcoding and phylogeography of faunal groups to delineate cryptic diversity and geographical patterns.

SACON Experience/ Message

I joined SACON as Research Fellow in Sikkim Project on 19th August 2002. After attending capsule course specially arranged for research scholars and undertaking training in the field in Western Ghats, I returned to Sikkim for field work. Most of the time I used to be in Sikkim except for one or two months in SACON during winter. Data collection in the field in rugged terrain of the Himalayas was really tough but guidance and care of our three supervisors Dr. Lalitha Vijayan, Dr. Ajith Kumar and Dr. S. Bhupathy made things easy and enjoyable. The most memorable venture of association with SACON was a road trip from Sikkim to Coimbatore. After completing field work I returned to SACON in November 2006 and completed my PhD thesis in March 2008, and the degree was awarded on 3rd October, 2008.

Key Publications

- Acharya, B.K. and Vijayan, L. 2015. Butterfly diversity along the elevation gradient of Eastern Himalaya, India. *Ecological Research* 30:909-919.
- Acharya, B.K., Sanders, N. Chettri, B., and Vijayan, L. 2011. Elevational gradients in bird diversity in the Eastern Himalaya: an evaluation of distribution patterns and their underlying mechanisms. *PLoS One* 6:e29097.
- Acharya, B.K., Chettri, B., and Vijayan, L. 2011. Distribution pattern of trees along an elevation gradient of Eastern Himalaya, India. *Acta Oecologica* 37:329-336.
- Chettri, B., Bhupathy, S. and Acharya, B.K. 2010. Distribution Pattern of Reptiles along an Eastern Himalayan Elevation Gradient. *Acta Oecologica* 36: 16-22.
- Acharya B.K., Vijayan L. and Chettri B. 2010. The bird community of Shingba Rhododendron wildlife sanctuary, Sikkim, Eastern Himalaya, India. *Tropical Ecology* 51: 149-159.
- Acharya, B.K., Chettri, B., and Vijayan, L. (2009) The value of indigenous knowledge of Lepcha community for monitoring and conservation of birds. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge* 8: 65-69.

DR. R. JAYAKUMAR



Date of Birth : 26/04/1976

Ph.D. (2008) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Inorganic Contaminant Analysis Biomarkers, Fish and Bird toxicology

Contact Details

Assistant Professor – Environmental Science,
GITAM University,
Bengaluru Campus,
Nagadenahalli – 562163
Bengaluru Rural, KARNATAKA

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Joined as M.Sc. Research Student in 1998 and left the institution in 2008 as a doctorate Now again associated with SACON through MoU between GITAM University and SACON. A lovable and sensible place of learning and so again want to associate and learn.

Key Publications

- Muralidharan, S, V. Dhananjayan, Robert Risebrough, V Prakash, R. Jayakumar and Peter H. Bloom. 2008. Persistent Organochlorine Pesticide Residues in Tissues and Eggs of White-Backed Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis* from different locations in India. Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology. DOI.10.1007/s00128-008-9529-z.
- Jayakumar, R. and S. Muralidharan .2011. Metal contamination in select species of Birds in Nilgiris District, Tamil Nadu. Bull.Environ.Contam.Toxicol. vol.87, No.2, pp. 166-170.
- Jayakumar, R. and S. Muralidharan .2011. Evaluation of metal pollution in Wetlands using fish as an indicator. Research & Reviews: A Journal of Toxicology. STM Journals .Vol.1, Issue 2, p.1-9.
- Jayakumar, R. and Sarita. 2012. Solid Waste on GITAM University, Hyderabad Campus - Characterization, Quantification with Projections for Future and Disposal Methods. Research & Reviews: A Journal of Toxicology Volume 2, Issue 3, December2012, Pages 15- 21.
- V. Dhananjayan, S. Muralidharan, R. Jayakumar and P. Selvam. 2012. Assessment of Suitability of Inland Wetland Fishes in Gujarat, India, for Human Consumption: A Focus on Organochlorine Pesticides. Research & Reviews: A Journal of Toxicology Volume 2, Issue 3, December2012, Pages 7-14.
- Jayakumar, R, Muralidharan S, Dhananjayan V and Sugitha C. 2013. Monitoring of Metal Contamination in the Eggs of Two Bird Species in India. Expert Opin Environ Biol 2:3. doi:10.4172/2325-9655.1000108

DR. V. DHANANJAYAN



Date of Birth : 22-05-1978

Contact Details:

Industrial Hygiene & Toxicology
Regional Occupational Health Centres
(Southern, ICMR), Kannamangala PO,
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Ph.D. (2009) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Environmental Toxicology, Environmental Impact Assessment, Biomarkers, Genotoxicity, Enzyme Assay.D - Environmental Science, Bharathiar University 2009. Experience in handling the sophisticated analytical instruments, namely, Gas Chromatograph, High Pressure Liquid Chromatography, Ultra Centrifuge, Microwave Digestion System, UV-Vis Spectrophotometer etc.,

SACON Experience/ Message

I have involved myself in 5 major research projects in SACON as JRF. Establishing laboratory at the various field station. I spent time in equipping analytical instruments for detection and analysis of various environmental contaminants. Involved in many studies related to assessing the impact of environmental contaminants on birds, fishes and also human beings.

Key Publications

- Ravichandran B, Dhananjayan V, Somnath Sen, Mala A, Rajmohan HR (2013). Assessment of 8-oxo-7,8-dihydro-2'-deoxyguanosine as a marker of oxidative DNA damage in gasoline filling station attendants. Intl J Occupational Medicine & Environ Health. 26 (5):780-789.
- Dhananjayan V, Muralidharan S (2013). Accumulation pattern and distribution of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in liver tissues of seven species of birds from Ahmedabad, India, during 2005–2007. Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 20(5):3414–3422.
- Dhananjayan V, B. Ravichandran, N. Anitha, H R Rajmohan (2012). Assessment of acetylcholinesterase and butyrylcholinesterase activity in blood plasma of agriculture workers. Indian Journal of Occupation and Environmental Medicine, 16(3):127-130.
- Dhananjayan V, Ravichandran B, Rajmohan HR (2012). Organochlorine pesticide residues in blood samples of agriculture and sheep wool workers in Bangalore (rural), India. Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology, 88(4):497-500.
- Dhananjayan V, Muralidharan S, Jayanthi P (2011). Distribution of persistent organochlorine chemical residues in blood plasma of three species of vultures from India. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 173(1-4):803-811.
- Muralidharan S, Dhananjayan V (2010). Diclofenac residues in tissues and plasma of vultures collected from Ahmedabad, India. Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology, 85(4):377-380.

DR. M. GUNASEKARAN



Date of Birth : 23.05.1964

Ph. D. (2009) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I am working as a freelance researcher in Biodiversity for State Forest Department, PWD, Non-Governmental organizations and leading many research teams to field studies. I am also working as a Landscaping consultant for Indian Navy, Indian Oil Corporation and state local bodies. I am interested in Botanical Garden, Plant Conservation, Restoration, Ornamental Plants, Native Plant Park, Medicinal Plants, Butterfly Park, Nursery Technique, Ethno-botany and Environment Education.

Contact Details

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Tamil Nadu
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SACON Experience/ Message

I entered SACON as a raw candidate for PhD and come out as a researcher. SACON taught me several things including Sincerity, Filed Work, Presentation and Publication. SACON life is a pleasurable memory and I enjoyed cordial association with my Guide, other Scientists, Colleagues, Directors and staff at SACON. Thanks for the opportunity given to me at SACON.

Key Publications:

- Gunasekaran, M. and S. Somasundaram. 2007. '*Anaphalis marcescens* - A MANNADIAR'S SACRED PLANT, *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.* Vol. 31 No. 2.
- Gunasekaran, M. and P. Balasubramanian. 2010. Butterfly diversity and its Conservation in temple premises of Tamil Nadu, Southern India, *IJBT*. 1(Special Issue):1-5
- Gunasekaran, M. and P. Balasubramanian. 2010. Taxonomic Enumeration And Economic Values Of "Sthalavrikshas" (Temple Trees) In Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Southern India, *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.* Vol. 34 No. 4.
- Gunasekaran, M and Balasubramanian, P. 2012 Ethno-medicinal uses of sthalavrikshas (temple trees) in Tamil Nadu, southern India. *In Ethnobotany Research & Applications*. 10:253-268.
- Gunasekaran, M., Anand Prem Rajan and Muralidharan, M. 2014. Checklist of plant diversity in Sular Tank, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu: with a note on urbanization induced changes in the floral composition. *Botanical Report*, 3(4):7-13.
- Ramakrishnan, B., Aranivazhagan, C., Gunasekaran, M., Karthich, S. and Ilakkia, M. 2015. Human-Animal Conflict Issues in the Gudalur Reserve Forest Division of the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, Southern India – A case study. *J. Sci. Trans. Environ. Technov*, 9(1): 21-26.
- Gunasekaran, M. Ramakrishnan, B. Muralidharan, M. Sundar, S. Srinivas, G. Manikandan and Vimala Rani, M. 2015. Diversity of Butterflies and their conservation in Dharmapuri Forest Division, Tamil Nadu, India. *J. Sci. Trans. Environ. Technov*, 9(2): 76-81.

DR. MANCHI SHIRISH, S.

Ph.D. (2009) Bharathiyar University



Date of Birth : 17.01.1980

Contact Details

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

1. Bird Ecology and Conservation
2. Island Ecology
3. Cave Biology

SACON Experience/ Message

I am extremely proud to be in longterm association with SACON. Learning at SACON under the supervision of Dr. Ravi Sankaran at SACON changed my life perspective. I joined SACON as Junior Research Fellow during May 2003 and continued my research work under different capacities such as Senior Research Fellow, and Research Associate. My association with the research and conservation of the Edible-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus* is still continuing. During this period I also got an opportunity to work on Lesser Frigatebird *Sypheotides indicus* as Senior Research Fellow for a very short time. After finishing my Ph.D. on "Breeding Ecology of the Edible-nest Swiftlet and Glossy Swiftlet in the Andaman Islands" I continued to be part of the centre as Scientist from 2009 onwards.

Key Publications :

- Shirish Manchi. 2015. Visual Impact of Tectonic Movements on the Caves in Andaman Islands. *Ambient Science*. 02 (2): 39-41.
- S. Manchi and R. Sankaran. 2014. Effect of Protection on White-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus* population in Andaman Islands, India - an assessment, *Oryx*. 48 (2): 213-217.
- Manchi S. S. and Kumar J. S. 2014. Sighting of the Blue-winged Pitta *Pitta moluccensis* on Narcondam Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Indian Birds*. 9 (1): 23-24.
- Manchi, S. 2013. Records of the Andaman Barn-owl *Tyto deroepstorffii* in North and Middle Andaman Islands. *Indian Birds*. 8 (3): 66-67.
- Pankaj Koparde and Manchi Shirish S. 2013. Avifaunal Records from Chalis Ek, North Andaman Island: Insights into Distribution of Some Andaman Island Birds, *Check List*. 9(1): 034-041.
- S. Manchi and R Sankaran. 2010. Foraging habits and habitat requirements of the Edible-nest Swiftlet and the Glossy Swiftlet in the Andaman Islands. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. 122 (2): 259-272.
- S. Manchi and R. Sankaran. 2009. Impact of the great earthquake of 2004 on limestone caves in North and Middle Andaman Islands, India. *Current Science*. 97: 1230-1234.

DR. E. SANTHOSH KUMAR



Date of Birth : 01.02.1982

Contact Details

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Ph.D. (2010) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My research interest includes Plant identification, Tissue culture of Medicinal plants, Maintaining medicinal plants garden, etc.

Soon after my Ph.D., Viva voce in November 2010, I got an opportunity to fly towards Southern Africa. Worked as assistant professor in DMI St. Eugene University, Zambia. I was a visiting professor in St. Joseph College, Tanzania. I couldn't find an opportunity for research there.

Flew back to home town by the end of 2012, and I joined as a Lecturer in Achariya Group of Educational Institutions, Pondicherry, India.

Started minor research projects with college students and nature education with school children

SACON Experience/ Message

In the year 2006, I joined as a Junior Research Fellow in the project entitled "Ecology of Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros birostris*) with special reference to its role in seed dispersal in Southern Eastern Ghats" under the supervision of Dr. P. Balasubramanian, Principal Scientist, Division of Landscape Ecology, SACON.

Key Publications:

- Santhoshkumar, E. and S. Paulsamy. 2006. Studies on the identification of suitable tree species for the control of the effect of air pollution in Tamil Nadu. Nature Environment and Pollution Technology. Vol. 5. No. 4. pp. 591-599.
- Santhoshkumar, E. and P. Balasubramanian. 2010. Breeding biology and nesting behaviour of Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* in the Eastern Ghats, India. Forktail. 26: 82-85.
- Balasubramanian, P., E. Santhoshkumar and C. Anbarasu. 2011. Vegetation features and restoration initiatives in the Indian Grey Hornbill habitats in Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary, Eastern Ghats. Raffles Bulletin of Zoology. 24: 53-57.
- Balasubramanian, P., R. Aruna, C. Anbarasu and E. Santhoshkumar. 2011. Avian frugivory and seed dispersal of Indian Sandalwood *Santalum album* in Tamil Nadu, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa. 3(5): 1775-1777.
- Santhoshkumar, E. and P. Balasubramanian. 2011. Seed dispersal by Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* in Eastern Ghats, India. Ecotropica. 17: 71- 77.
- Santhoshkumar, E. and P. Balasubramanian. 2014. Food habits of Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* in Sathyamangalam Forest Division, Eastern Ghats, India. Journal of Bombay Natural History Society. 111(2): 90-97.

DR. P.P. NIKHIL RAJ



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Ph.D. (2011) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Currently working as an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Sustainable Future, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore. I have been pursuing various Environmental/ Ecological Researches for the last 12 years. In the past I had worked in prestigious research institutes such as SACON, and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore. Completed PhD in Environmental Science from the Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) India in the year 2011. I have published my research finding in various international and national peer reviewed journals and also presented my work in many international and national conferences.

My research Interest include, Sustainability Science, Hydrometeorology, GIS and RS based ecological /environmental studies, Climate Change, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Ecosystem Modelling.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Associated with sacon from 2004 to 2012 in various projects

Key Publications

- Nikhil Raj P.P. and P.A. Azeez. 2015. Factors influencing the runoff trend in a medium size river basin in the Western Ghats, India, in Environmental Management of River Basin Ecosystems Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, pp.111-12, ISBN: 978-3-319-13425-3.
- Nikhil Raj P.P. and P.A. Azeez. 2012. Trend analysis of rainfall in Bharathapuzha River basin, Kerala, India International Journal of Climatology, (doi: 10.1002/joc.2283, John Wiley & Sons).
- Nikhil Raj P.P. and P.A. Azeez. 2010. Public on Conserving an Urban Wetland: A Case from Kerala, India, International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development, 1(1): 14-19. Also in Sustainable policy applications for social ecology and development (Edited by EG Carayannis) Information science reference (IGI global), USA.
- Nikhil Raj P.P. and P.A. Azeez. 2010. Changing rainfall in the Palakkad plains of South India. *Atmósfera*, 23(1): 75-82.
- Nikhil Raj P.P. and P.A. Azeez. 2009. Spatial and temporal variation in surface water chemistry of a tropical river, the river Bharathapuzha, India. *Current science* 96 (2); 245-251.
- Nikhil Raj P.P. and P.A. Azeez. 2011. Temperature rise in the Bharathapuzha river basin, southern India, *Current Science*. Vol. 101(4)

DR. J. GOKULAKRISHNAN



Date of Birth : 20.05.1976

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Ph.D. (2011) Bharathiyar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

After Ph.D., I am working as an Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Poompuhar College (Autonomous), Melaiyur, from 2009 onwards. My specialization area is conservation ecology I have been working on marine turtle conservations for the past one decade, with funding from WWF. After the completion of the project, I got funding from WTI to work on "Conservation of Whale Shark along the Tamil Nadu coast from August 2012 to January 2013. After the completion of the project I got funding from WTI, IFAW to work on "Emergency Relief Response Flood affected animals, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, during December, 2015.

My research interest includes various aspects of distribution pattern, community ecology and biodiversity conservation.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I joined as a Ph.D., Scholar in a project under the supervision of Dr.S.Bhupathy, Senior Principal Scientist Conservation Ecology, SACON. On November 2004, I registered for P.hD., in Bharathiyar University and worked on "Breeding biology of Olive ridley Sea turtle, *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Eschscholtz, 1829) along the Poompuhar coast, Tamil Nadu, Southern India (November 2004 – March 2011).

Key Publications

- Gokulakrishnan, J., Krishnappa, K and Elumalai, K. 2012. Effect of plant oil formulation against armyworm, *Spodoptera litura* (Fab.), cotton bollworm, *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hub.) and fruit borer, *Earias vitella* (Fab.) (Lepidoptera : Noctuidae). International Journal of Current Life Sciences. 2 (1): 1–4.
- Gokulakrishnan, J., Balu Selvakumar., Elumalai, K., Krishnappa, K. 2012. Mosquito larvicidal and repellent properties of botanical extract *Calotropis procera* (Asclepiadaceae) against *Aedes aegypti* Linn, *Anopheles stephensi* Liston and *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say (Diptera: Culicidae). International Journal of Agricultural Sciences. 2(11): 43-47.
- Gokulakrishnan J, Elumalai Kuppasamy, Dhanasekaran Shanmugam, Anandan Appavu and Krishnappa Kaliyamoorthi. 2012. Pupicidal and repellent activities of Pogostemon cablin essential oil chemical compounds against medically important human vector mosquitoes. Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Diseases. 3(1): 26-31.
- Elumalai K, Dhanasekaran S, Krishnappa K, Gokulakrishnan J and Elangovan A. 2012. Larvicidal, ovicidal and pupicidal activity of *Eranthemum roseum* (Vahl) R. Br. against malarial vector mosquito, *Anopheles stephensi* (Liston) (Diptera : Culicidae) International Journal of Current Life Sciences. 2(7):31 – 38.
- Elangovan A, Dhanasekaran S, Anandan A, Krishnappa K, Gokulakrishnan J and K. Elumalai, 2012. Larvicidal and ovicidal activities of *Exacum pedunculatum* (Linn.) (Gentianaceae) against a common malarial vector, *Anopheles stephensi* Liston (Diptera : Culicidae). International Journal of Recent Scientific Research. 3(6): 559 – 563.

DR. M. A. RAJAMAMANNAN



Date of Birth : 25.11.1976

Ph.D. (2011) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest:

Area of interest: Ecology, ornithology, island biogeography, wetland ecology, fish physiology and biochemistry, social and environmental assessments, tropical ecology, climate change, protection and conservation of critical ecological systems and resources: community-based conservation, conservation finance, co-ordination of community awareness on bio-resources.

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Web: http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dr_Rajamamannan/

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I am very happy to be part of of SACON Alumni.

Key Publications

- M.A.Rajamamannan (2015). Andaman Nicobar Theevukalum valasai paravaikalum [Migratory birds in Andaman Nicobar Islands]. In "KAADU" Tamil bio-monthly Magazine, (R.DIS NO: 1963\14). Vol.-1 (4): 35-41. March-April 2015.
- M.A.Rajamamannan (2012). Identification and Prioritization of Important Sites in South Andaman Islands, India. Proceedings of the International Conference on Science and Technology for Clean and Green Environment (STCGE-2012), Pp. 336-338. Organized by: Zoology Wing, Annamalai University, Chidamparam-608002. (ISBN No: 978-93-80174-05-1).
- M.A.Rajamamannan (2012). Structure of Bird Communities in Andaman Islands. In the Proceedings of the National Seminar on Tropical Ecosystems: Structure, Function and Services, Pp. 55-63. Organized by: Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore-02. (ISBN No: 978-81-900346-4-7).
- M.A.Rajamamannan and Lalitha Vijayan (2011). Endemic and threatened birds of the Andaman Islands. In the Proceedings of the First International conference on Indian Ornithology Status of Indian birds and their conservation (2011) 291-292. Organized by: Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore-108. (ISBN No: 81-902136-0-3).
- M.A.Rajamamannan and GM Natarajan (2010). Bio-Safety Evaluation of *Cycas* Seed Extract on *Tilapia Oreochromis Mossambicus* by Oxidative Metabolism. Journal of Biopesticides 3 (1-Special Issue): 232-236 2010 (ISSN (Print): 0974 - 391X; ISSN (Online) 2230 – 8385).
- M.A.Rajamamannan and Lalitha Vijayan (2009). Three New Bird Records from The Andaman Islands, India. Forktail 25: 153-154. (ISBN/ ISSN: 0950-1746).
- Lalitha Vijayan, V.Murugan and M.A.Rajamamannan (2006). Conservation of Andaman Teal. Bulletin of the Threatened Waterfowl Specialists Group, IUCN Publication 15: 55-59.

DR. CHETAN NAG, K. S.

Ph.D. (2012) Bharathiar University



Date of Birth : 11-04-1980

Contact details

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest:

I am largely interested in Organismal biology. Within Organismal biology, ecology, evolution and natural history broadly interest me. At present, I am interested in the field of evolutionary ecology/ evolutionary anthropology which takes into account the evolutionary history of a taxon of focus and interactions between them.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

The morphology based taxonomy of Hanuman langurs of India (Family: Cercopithecidae, Subfamily: Colobinae) remained unresolved (See Karanth et al., Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 54: 627–633, 2010) till recently. Most authors considered Hanuman langurs to be a single species, *Semnopithecus entellus*, but divided this species into 14, 15, and 16 subspecies while others split the so-called Hanuman langurs to as many as two, four, seven distinct species. In the light of these ambiguities, my PhD thesis from 2008-2011 at SACON titled “Ecological, morphological and demographical variations of Hanuman langur (*Semnopithecus sp*) species complex of Peninsular India and their implications to taxonomy” specifically looked at morphological, ecological and demographical variations of Hanuman langurs in south India (including the Western Ghats) from a taxonomic perspective.

Happy to be a part of SACON and wishing all success in coming years as well.

Key Publications

- Nag, K. S. C., Pramod, P & Karanth, K. P. (2011). Taxonomic Implications of a Field Study of Morphotypes of Hanuman Langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*) in Peninsular India. International journal of Primatology. 32(4): 830–848. Published online: 5th March 2011 (DOI:10.1007/s10764-011-9504-0).
- Nag, K.S.C., Pramod.P & Karanth, K.P. (2011). Natural range extension, sampling artifact, or human mediated translocations? Range limits of Northern type *Semnopithecus entellus* (Dufresne, 1797) (Primates: Cercopithecidae: Colobinae) in peninsular India. Journal of Threatened Taxa 3(8): 2028–2032.
- Nag, C., Karanth, K.P., Gururaja, K.V. (2014). Delineating ecological boundaries of Hanuman langur species complex in peninsular India using Maxent modeling approach. PLOS ONE journal. (doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0087804). Published online: 3rd February 2014.
- Ashalakshmi, C.N., Nag, K.S.C., Karanth, K.P. (2014). Molecules support morphology: species status of South Indian populations of the widely distributed Hanuman langur. . Conservation genetics. DOI 10.1007/s10592-014-0638-4. Published online: 25th July 2014.

DR. DHANYA, R.



Date of Birth : 30.05.1982

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Ph.D. (2012) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of interest

My interests are mainly focused on the ecology of human-dominated landscapes, conservation of native species, sustainable development, environmental education, EIA and GIS.

Worked on following research works

- Status and Ecology of House sparrow along an urban to gradient-(2005-2009).
- Environmental management plan for Pallikaranai wetland
- Initializing an urban bird monitoring programme among school children – DST RAJAT JAANTI AWARD - March-November 2010.
- Sensitive indicator species in an urban ecosystem – a study on House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – UNEP-ECO PEACE LEADERSHIP AWARD - January –December 2009.

SACON Experience/ Message

Experience gained from SACON in the field of landscape ecology and EIA yielded a good platform to sharpen my vision in the field of Conservation Ecology.

Key Publications

- Dhanya R, Das KSA, Azeez PA and Sreekala LK. 2016. Usage of nest materials of House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) along an urban to rural gradient in Coimbatore, India. Journal of Tropical Life Science Research. Accepted
- Dhanya R and Azeez PA. 2010. House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) population of Arakku Township, Andhra Pradesh. Indian Birds. 5(6): 180-181
- Raj PPN, Ranjini J, Dhanya R, Subramanian J, Azeez PA & Bhupathy S. 2010. Consolidated checklist of birds in the Pallikaranai Wetlands, Chennai, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa 2(8): 1114-1118.
- Dhanya R, Das KSA and Azeez PA. 2012. Floral visits and floral damages by avian nectar robbers on an exotic shrub, *Tecoma stans*. Tropical Natural History 13 (1):49-52.
- Das KSA, Ramachandran VS, Lalitha Vijayan and Dhanya R. 2013. Vascular Epiphytic Plants on a Tropical Rain Forest Tree *Eleocarpus Tuberculatus* Roxb. In Silent Valley National Park, the Western Ghats, India. Research & Reviews: Journal of Botanical Sciences 2(2).

DR. G.SRINIVAS



Date of Birth : 23.04.1980

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Ph.D. (2012) Bharathiyar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Soon after my P.h.D., thesis submission I got funding from Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and matching grant from Rufford on "Assessing the status and distribution of large mammals in Highwavy and its environs, southern Western Ghats". After the completion of the project I joined as a Research Associate in SACON under the supervision of Dr.P.R.Arun to study the faunal components of Yamuna and its tributaries. Currently I am working with Protect Our Environment Trust and doing independent research.

My research interest includes various aspects of Distribution Pattern, community Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I joined as a Junior Research Fellow in the project on herpetofaunal communities of the Upper Vaigai Plateau, in 2006 under the supervision of Late Dr.S.Bhupathy of SACON. On 28th July 2006, I registered for Ph.D. at Bharathiyar University for the work, "Distribution Pattern of Amphibians in Megamalai Landscape, Western Ghats, Tamilnadu". Later in 2013, I joined as Research Associate in a project "Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment Study of Hydro Power Projects on River Yamuna, Tons and Tributaries in Uttarakhand: Faunal Aspects" under the supervision of Dr.P.R.Arun. When I was a researcher in SACON, I used to rescue snakes along with my friends and was a memorable time in my life.

Key Publications

- Babu, S., T. Karthik, G. Srinivas and H.N. Kumara. 2015. Linking critical patches of Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus* for their conservation in Meghamalai landscape, Western Ghats *Current Science* 109 : 1492-1498.
- Srinivas, G. and S. Bhupathy. 2013. Anurans of the Meghamalai Landscape, Western Ghats. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 5 (15): 4973- 4978.
- Babu, S., G. Srinivas, H.N. Kumara, T. Karthik, and S. Molur. 2013. Mammals of the Meghamalai Landscape, Southern Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 5 (15): 4945-4952.
- Bhupathy, S., G. Srinivas, N. Sathishkumar, M. Murugesan, S. Babu, R. Suganthasakthivel and P. Sivakumar. 2012. Diversity and conservation of selected biota of the Megamalai landscape, Western Ghats, India. *Current Science* 102: 590-595.
- Kumara, H. N., R. Sasi, R. Suganthasakthivel and G. Srinivas. 2011. Distribution, abundance and conservation of primates in the Highwavy Mountains of Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu, India and conservation prospects for lion-tailed macaques. *Current Science*. 100: 1063-1067.
- Srinivas, G., S. Bhupathy and S.R.Sakthivel.2009. *Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus* (False Malabar Tree Frog). *Herpetological Review*. 40: 362.
- Srinivas, G., S. Bhupathy and A. Madhivanan. 2008. Occurrence of *Saleaanamallayana* Beddome, 1878 in High wavy Mountains, Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Bombay Natural History Society*105: 341-342.

DR. P. JAYANTHI



Ph.D. (2012) Bharathiar University

Date of Birth : 17.09.1981

Contact Details

Department of Environmental
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Tamilnadu.

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jaisha81@yahoo.co.in

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest:

Research Experience: 8 Years

Teaching Experience: 7 Years

Currently serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of
Environmental Science, Periyar University, Salem, Tamilnadu

Area of specialization:

Ecotoxicology and Biomonitoring

Currently focused on biomonitoring of emerging contaminants
and risk assessment studies.

Specialized in Instrumental analysis and interested to work for
environmental sustainability

Experiences at SACON/Message:

I worked as a research fellow at the Ecotoxicology Division of SACON during 2004- 2009. The golden days spent at SACON, involving various environmental contaminant analysis; Instrumentation works were really wonderful and memorable.

SACON plays a vital role in evolution of my career from a post graduate student to a professional. I believe, the exposure, experience and guidance I had at SACON is the key for my successful career and for my future endeavors.

Key Publications

Muralidharan S, Dhananjayan V and Jayanthi P (2009). Organochlorine pesticide residues in the commercial marine fishes of Coimbatore and their suitability for human consumption. Environmental Research, 106; pp 16 – 21

Dhananjayan, V., S. Muralidharan, and Jayanthi P. (2011). Distribution of persistent organochlorine chemical residues in blood plasma of three species of vultures from India. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment 173:803-811.

DR. SHEEBA, N.



Ph.D. (2012) & Bharathiyar Universtiy

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Teaching/
Ecology/ diversity

Date of Birth :

Worked in the project "Ecology and Conservation of the Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* in Andhra Pradesh"

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"Message/ Experiences at SACON

Studying at SACON was a nice experience. The centre provided me the great environment to do research.

Key Publications

DR. R. ARUNA



Date of Birth: 10/07/1984

Ph.D (2013) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My area of interests are

Plant Taxonomy, Medicinal plants, Ethnobotany, Biodiversity Conservation & Plant-bird Interactions

Presently I investigate a project 'Documentation of Threatened Plant Species in various Forest Types in Madurai Forest Division Tamil Nadu, India' funded by Tamilnadu Forest Department.

Apart from research, I have guided 2 M.Phil Scholars and I teach UG, PG, M.Phil (Biodiversity Conservation, Angiosperm Taxonomy, Medicinal plants, Ecology, Ethnobotany) and also organise tree walks and trekking.

Contact details

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PG and Research Department of Botany,
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Message/ Experiences at SACON

As soon as I completed my Masters from Madras Christian College I joined here as JRF for the project "Plant-bird interactions with special reference to identification of bird-dispersed plants for afforestation of Attappady hills, Western Ghats, Kerala"(2006-2008) under the guidance of Dr.P.Balasubramanian. I have got inspired by all the scholars working in SACON for one or the other criteria. We had scholars from around the country so that I had a chance to learn a little Malayalam and Hindi. The hands on trainings and workshops on Instrumentation, GIS and biostatistics are worth to mention here as it helped me a lot. I know every day scholar would cherish the travel memories in the bus. I defended my Ph.D thesis in February 2013, that moment was so happy and cherishable as my little son was also present during that occasion. I think it as a blessing to work in SACON. Thank you SACON for all that you have given me for what I am now!

Key Publications:

- Balasubramanian, P., Aruna, R. Anbarasu, C. & Santhoshkumar. E. (2011). Avian frugivory and seed dispersal of Indian Sandalwood Santalum album in Tamil Nadu, India. Journal of threatened taxa. 3(5): 1775-1777.
- Aruna, R. and Balasubramanian, P. (2011). Flowering and fruiting phenology of a tropical mixed dry deciduous forest in Anaikatty hills, Western Ghats. Indian Journal of Forestry, Volume 34(2): 165-168.
- Aruna and P. Balasubramanian, (2014). Fruiting phenology and avian frugivory of Streblus asper Lour. in a mixed dry deciduous forest, Western Ghats, India. International Letters of Natural Sciences 17: 16-21.
- Aruna.R, Sasikala Ethirajulu and S.Jega Jothi Pandian (2014) Pharmacognostical studies on Siddha medicinal plant Boerhaavia diffusa L. Research Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry 6(4) 156-159.
- Aruna.R and P.Balasubramanian (2015) Fruiting Phenology of a Scrub Forest in Thiruporur, Eastern Ghats, India International Letters of Natural Sciences Vol.44, 25-30.

DR. RAMESH CHINNASAMY

Ph.D. (2013) Bharathiar University



Date of Birth : 19.03.1984

Contact Details

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I joined the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) as a 'Project Associate' in June 2013 to work on India's 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and National Biodiversity Action Plan projects. After this, I joined as a 'Project Scientist' in a WII-GIZ collaborative project in December 2014 and was involved in "Strengthening Capacity for Sustainable and Participatory Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in India". Subsequently, I joined the WII's faculty in March 2015 and had since pursued an active research programme on Biodiversity Conservation.

My research interest includes various aspects of Ecology, Ethology, Human – Wildlife Interactions, Invasive Alien Species, Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation and Coastal & Marine Research.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I joined the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) as a JRF in August 2007 and carried out my Doctoral research on "Ecology of Endangered Indian Rock Python in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan" between 2008 and 2012. So far, this is the only Ph.D. research on pythons available from the Indian subcontinent. Further, I worked as an SRF from June 2012 to May 2013 in the project entitled "Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment studies of Hydro-Electric Projects of Sutlej river basin in Himachal Pradesh". SACON is serving as a perfect nurturing ground, for the young researchers and making them for a great wildlife biologist and conservationist for the nation and I am proud to be one among them.

Key Publications:

- Ramesh, C., S.B. Shanthakumar, P.R. Arun, R.K. Sony, M. Murugesan, A. Das & S. Bhupathy (2015). Further confirmation for *Platycephalus rhodorachis* (Jan, 1865) from India, with a note on feeding on *Cyrtodactylus fasciolatus* (Blyth, 1861). *Herpetozoa* 28 (1/2): 109 -112.
- Bhupathy, S., C. Ramesh & A. Bahuguna (2014). Food and feeding habit of Indian rock python in Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan, India. *Herpetological Journal* 24(1): 59-64.
- Ramesh, C & S. Bhupathy (2013). Ecdysis in free ranging Indian Rock Pythons: A case study. *Hamadryad* 36 (2): 130-136. ISSN: 0972-205X.
- Ramesh, C & S. Bhupathy (2010). Breeding biology of *Python molurus molurus* in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, India. *Herpetological Journal*, 20: 157-163. ISSN: 0268-0130.
- Ramesh, C & S. Bhupathy (2010). A report on the unusual body weight of a hatchling *Python molurus molurus*. *Reptile Rap*, 10: 22-23. ISSN: 2230-7079.
- Ramesh, C & S. Bhupathy (2009). Yawning in *Python molurus*. *Hamadryad*, 34 (1): 179-180. ISSN: 0972-205X.

DR. C. ANBARASU



Date of Birth : 27-03-1984

Contact Details:

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Ph.D. (2014) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest:

I worked at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History for the 7 years (2008 to 2015). I worked on several research projects during this time and completed my MPhil and PhD as well. Plant and bird interactions and plant taxonomy are my special areas of interest.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Worked in the following projects at SACON

1. "Study on Pollinators and seed dispersers in scrub, dry evergreen and shola ecosystem of Tamil Nadu (May 2008 to April 2010).
2. "Avian frugivory and seed dispersal of endemic tree species in select shola forests of Nilgiris" (March 31st 2011 to August 2011).
3. "Biodiversity assessment/ Environmental monitoring of medium/minor irrigation schemes of Andhra Pradesh" (February 2011 to March 2012).
4. "Avian frugivory and seed dispersal of endemic tree species in Thia shola forest" (April 2012 to September 2012).
5. "Status and distribution surveys of Threatened plant taxa of Tamil Nadu (August 2013 To March 2015).
6. "Assessment of conflicts between peafowls and farmers in Coimbatore (July to September 2015).

Key Publications

- Balasubramanian, P., Aruna, R., Anbarasu, C. and Santhoshkumar, E. 2011. Avian frugivory and seed dispersal of Indian Sandalwood *Santalum album* in Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 3(5): 1775–1777.
- Balasubramanian, P., Santhoshkumar, E. and Anbarasu, C. 2011. Vegetation features and restoration initiatives in the Indian Grey Hornbill habitats in Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary, Eastern Ghats, India. *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 24: 53-57.
- Anbarasu, C. and Balasubramanian, P. 2013. Fruiting phenology of trees in the Tropical Montane Evergreen Forest (Shola) of Nilgiri Hills, Western Ghats. *International Journal of Biological Technology*. 4(3):1-8
- Anbarasu, C. and Balasubramanian, P. 2015. Tree diversity of the Tropical Montane Evergreen Forest in the Nilgiri Mountains, Western Ghats, India. *Indian Forester*. 141: 490-495.
- Balasubramanian, P. Manikandan, P., Prakash, L. & Anbarasu, C. 2015. Flowering plants of SACON campus in the Anaikatty Hills, Western Ghats, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History. p. 220.

DR. NEHRU PRABAKARAN



Ph.D. (2014) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I started my career in plant taxonomy and gradually switched over to vegetation ecology. For my PhD, I studied the changes in coastal vegetation due to tsunami and tectonic subduction. My current research interests include: mangrove responses to sea-level change; factors that drive vegetation succession in terrestrial and mangrove forests; how alien invasive species alter the above and below ground biodiversity.

Date of Birth : 25.05.1986

Contact Details

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Message/ Experiences at SACON

At SACON I had a great opportunity to work in an exciting project at Nicobar Islands during 2009 – 2012. I was particularly working on the vegetation succession at the coastal habitats that were affected by the tsunami and tectonic subsidence. I owe a lot to the faculty at SACON for their generosity throughout my time at the centre.

Key Publications

- Nehru, P.** and Balasubramanian, P. 2015. Littoral forest composition and influence of soil characteristics on vegetation succession in the Tsunami impacted coastal habitats of Nicobar Islands, India. *Journal of Island Ecology* 1: 1 –17.
- Nehru, P.** and Balasubramanian, P. 2014. Rate of vegetation change in the tsunami impacted littoral forests of Nicobar Islands, India. *Forest Ecology and Management* 313: 243 – 253.
- Nehru, P.,** Kannan, R. and Babu, UV. 2014. *Magnolia baillonii*: A new adulterant of *Magnolia champaca* (*Micheliachampaca*). *Inventi Rapid: Planta Activa* (2):1 – 3.
- Nehru, P.** and Balasubramanian, P. 2012. *Sonneratia ovata* Backer (Lythraceae): Status and distribution of a Near-Threatened mangrove species in tsunami impacted mangrove habitats of Nicobar Islands, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4 (15): 3395 – 3400.
- Nehru, P.,** Gnanasekaran, G., MuthuKarthick, N. And Narasimhan, D. 2012. Angiosperms of Nanmangalam Reserve Forest, an urban forest in Metropolitan Chennai, India. *CheckList* 8(1): 57 – 76.
- G. Gnanasekaran, G., **Nehru, P.** and Narasimhan, D. 2012. Angiosperms of Sendirakillai Sacred Grove (SSG), Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India. *CheckList* 8(1): 113 – 129.
- Nehru, P.** and Balasubramanian, P. 2011. Re-colonizing mangrove species in tsunami devastated habitats at Nicobar Islands, India. *CheckList*, 7(3): 253 – 256.

DR. S. JAYAKUMAR



Date of Birth : 09.06.1981

Contact Details

Assistant Professor of Zoology and Wildlife Biology,
A.V.C. College (Autonomous),
Mannampandal, Mayiladuthurai,
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jayakumar.sacon@gmail.com

Ph.D. (2014) Bharathiar University,

Area of Interest:

My interests include detect environmental contaminants, examining bioaccumulation, food-chain transfer, human and wildlife exposure assessment, developing biomarkers of exposures, assessing insights on Ethno-pharmacology and ethno-veterinary practices among rural communities.

Acquired knowledge in analyzing several organic compounds in different biological and non-biological matrix.

Acquired insights on wetland bird ecology and spider ecology.

Developed skills in wildlife photography and Tamil literature researches.

Know to operate a few analytical instruments like GC, HPLC and Centrifuge.

Received best paper, best poster and best teacher awards from various organizations

SACON Experience/ Message

Worked in the following projects at SACON- 1) Impact of Agricultural Pesticides on Population status and breeding Success of select species of Fish-eating birds of Tamil Nadu and 2) Monitoring and Surveillance of Environmental Contaminants in birds India".

Key Publications

Anoop NR, Mathews TJ, Vinayan PA, Jayakumar S, Sujin NS, Sabita C, Anoop Raj PN (2015). Status and conservation of water birds in Panamaram heronry, Kerala and implication for management. *Asian Journal of Conservation Biology*. Vol. 4 No. 1, pp. 76-80pp. ISSN: 2278-7666 (Online).

Bapureddy G, Santhosh K, Jayakumar S and HN Kumara (2015). Estimate of primate density in the evergreen forests of the 1 central Western Ghats, India. *Current Sciences*. Vol. 108 (1): 118-123 pp. ISSN: 0011-3891.

Jayakumar S and Muralidharan S (2015). Breeding of the Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* in Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary, Thirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. *Zoo's Print*. Vol. XXX (1): 14-15 pp.

Jayakumar S, Muralidharan S Babu S (2014). A hitherto unrecorded sighting of Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 6(11): 6485–6487; <http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o3662.6485-7>.

Muralidharan S, Jayakumar S and Dhananjayan V (2012). Status of pesticide contamination in birds in India with special reference to Threatened species. *Threatened Birds in India: Their Conservation and requirement*. Ed. AR Rahmani, BNHS, Mumbai. Oxford University Press. 73-91 pp.

DR. RAJAN PILAKANDY



Date of Birth : 21.06.1983

Ph.D. (2014) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Completed PhD on “Bird Community of Andaman Islands with Emphasis on Human Associated and Introduced Birds” in which I studied impacts of introduced birds to native avian fauna. I have more than seven years of experience in ornithology/conservation research in different parts of the country (Andaman Islands, Daman and Diu, East Godavari, Chilika Lake, etc). At this juncture of my career, I am interested to pursue field based research broadly in biodiversity especially in Ornithology.

Contact Details

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Thariode Post,
Pozhuthana Via,
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“Message/ Experiences at SACON

Seven years of research experience (2008 to 2015) in six different projects of SACON. Three nature education projects in Andaman Islands, PhD work (2009 to 2014), and three projects of EIA division (1- Andhra Pradesh, 2- Attappady (Palakkad), and 3- Diu, Daman and Diu. Also served as SACON annual report (2014-2015) committee member. Volunteered for a SACON project Spatio-temporal burrow use patterns by terrestrial vertebrates in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, India. (2015 December to March 2016)

Key Publications

- Rajan, P., & Pramod, P., 2013. Introduced birds of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India. *Indian BIRDS* 8 (3): 71-72pp.
- Rajan, P., & Pramod, P., 2012. Common birds of Andaman Islands with special reference to introduced birds. *Journal of Bombay Natural History Society*. 109 (1&2). 78-81pp.
- Rajan, P., & Pramod, P., 2010. New records of European Roller *Coracias garrullus* from Andaman Islands, India. *BirdingASIA* 16:106–107pp.

DR. GANESAN, KITTUSAMY

Ph.D. (2015) Bharathiar University



Date of Birth : 07.06.1985

Contact Details

Laboratory Supervisor - C&A,
Intertek India Private Limited,
No. 607, 608, 6th Floor,
TICEL Biopark - Phase II,
CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600113.
Office : +91 44 6602 9018 (Direct)
Mobile: +91 94881 88051
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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Currently I am working as a laboratory supervisor in Chemical and Analytical division at Intertek India Private Limited, TICEL BIOPARK, Chennai - 600 113.

My interests include detect environmental contaminants, examining bioaccumulation, food-chain transfer, human and wildlife exposure assessment and developing biomarkers of exposures.

Worked on "Pesticide Residues in Select Components of an Agroecosystem Adopting Organic & Conventional Farming in Padayetti village, Palakkad District, Kerala" for my Ph.D.

Key Publications

Kittusamy Ganesan, Kandaswamy Chandrasekar, Kandan Nambirajan, Subramanian Muralidharan (2014). Pesticide residues in two frog species in a paddy agroecosystem in Palakkad district, Kerala, India. Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology, 93(6), 728-734.

Muralidharan, S., Ganesan, K., Nambirajan, K., Kirubhanandhini, V., & Dhananjayan, V. (2014). Wetland birds: Indicators of pesticide contamination: Current and future prospects for research in India. Submitted to the Wildlife Institute of India WII-ENVIS publications.

DR. RANJINI, J.



Date of Birth: 25.04.1980

Contact Details:

Advanced Centre of Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (ACESSD)
Mahatma Gandhi University, Priyadarshini Hills
P.O., Kottayam-686560, Kerala.
Mobile: +919995219757
E-mail: jranjini@gmail.com

Ph.D. (2015) Bharathiar University

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I am curious to know how organisms respond to stress / changes in the environment - Why few survive and few do not? Do their inherent life-history traits play a role in their tolerance to changes?

During Ph.D. work, I studied the distribution pattern of terrestrial resident birds in an altered/changed landscape (urban). I found that species that are pre-adapted to harsh climate eg., open habitats (exposed to extreme conditions) frequented urban areas.

In the post-doctoral work, I choose plants as a model organism to conduct studies. The size of the seed is an important trait that is directly related to a number of factors crucial for plant survival. Hence, I intend to investigate the effect of environmental change/stress on the seed size and performance of the plant.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Associated with SACON since 2003 for my M.Sc work. Later worked in various assignments and finally obtained PhD in 2015. Projects involved at SACON were:

- 2013 - Survey of the Fishing Cat *Prionailurus viverrinus* Bennet, 1833 (Carnivora: Felidae) in coastal Kerala, India under the supervision of Dr. Shomita Mukherjee, Principal Scientist. Apart from field survey I also got exposure to DNA extraction techniques from scat samples
- 2007- 2010: "Adaptation and tolerance of birds to urbanization – a critical review on their life-history traits" as Chief Investigator (individual grant from International Foundation for Science (IFS), Sweden. This was carried forth as my Ph.D. work
- 2004 –2006: Biodiversity monitoring of Anaikatty Hills – Birds: worked as JRF with Dr. V.S. Vijayan and Dr. Lalitha Vijayan
- 2003 –2004: Non-breeding ecology of the Nilgiri Flycatcher: M.Sc. work under Dr. Lalitha Vijayan
- 2007: Management plans for the eco-restoration of Pallikaranai reserve forests- under Dr P A Azeez
- 2007: Proposal for conservation of Pallikaranai marshes, Chennai- under Dr P A Azeez
- 2008: 'Survey of birds in Araku Valley' in the project 'Status of Blewitt's Owl in Araku Valley and Environmental Management Plan in View of the Proposed Bauxite Mines'- under Dr P A Azeez

Key Publications

Ranjini Janardhanan, Shomita Mukherjee, Karunakaran P.V. and Ramana Athreya. On the occurrence of the Fishing Cat *Prionailurus viverrinus* Bennet, 1833 (Carnivora: Felidae) in coastal Kerala, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 6(3) 5569-5573 2013.

Nikhil Raj P.P., Ranjini J., Dhanya R., Subramanian J., Azeez P.A. and Bhupathy S. Consolidated checklist of birds in the Pallikaranai Wetlands, Chennai, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 2(8) 1114-1118 2010.



Research Personnel



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DR. JUSTUS JOSHUA



Date of Birth : 14.07.1960

Contact Details:

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Jaideep Public School,
Bhuwana, Udaipur, Rajasthan- 001.
Mobile: 09414120414
E-mail: justmonk60@gmail.com

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My Research interest/ specialization are:

Threatened species and Habitat

Biodiversity Conservation & Conservation through Peoples' Participation; Ecological Planning; Conservation & Management Action Plan; EIA & EMP – Developmental Projects.

I have been involved in biodiversity conservation and wildlife ecology since 1985. Have worked in both government (Wildlife Institute of India and SACON) and non-government (Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj and Foundation for Ecological Security, Anand) organizations.

Want to be a wholesome biologist with special interests in Plants, Butterflies, Reptiles, Amphibians, Birds and Mammals

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I joined SACON in December 1994 and worked in the project on Conservation planning for the Western Ghats of Kerala. This study involved survey of all forest patches between and adjoining the existing Protected Areas in the Western Ghats of Kerala. It involved inventory of the flora and avifauna in different forest types, which included moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen, sholas and grasslands. The main objective of the study was to identify areas of high diversity and of conservation significance that can be added to the existing Protected Areas so as to increase the conservation efforts by extending the Protected Areas in Kerala. Importance was given to areas with more endemic and threatened species. The herpetofauna and mammals were also inventorized during the surveys.

Key Publications:

- Joshua, J.** and Johnsingh, A.J.T. (2015). Grizzled Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*) Pp:501-5123. In *Mammals of South Asia*. Vol. 2. (Ed.) A.J.T. Johnsingh and Nima Manjrekar. Universities Press, Hyderabad, India.
- Joshua, J.** Sunderraj, S.F.W., Joshi, P.N. and Rao, S.S.V. (2006). Status and Conservation of some Threatened Plant Biodiversity of Arid Kachchh, Gujarat, India. Pp:40-42. In: *National Conference on Forest Biodiversity Resources: Exploitation, Conservation and Management.*, Held during 21-22, March 2006, Organized by the Centre for Biodiversity and Forest Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai -625021, Tamil Nadu. 191 p.
- Joshua, J.** and Johnsingh, A.J.T. (1994). Impact of biotic disturbances on habitat and population of the endangered Grizzled Giant Squirrel, *Ratufa macroura* in the Alagarkoil Valley in the Western Ghats, South India. *Biol. Conserv.* 68: 29-34.
- Johnsingh, A.J.T. and **Joshua, J.** (1994). Birds species in three vegetation types on the Mundanthurai Plateau, Tamil Nadu. *J. Tropical Ecology.* 10: 323 - 335.
- Johnsingh, A.J.T. and **Joshua, J.** (1994). Conserving Rajaji-Corbett National Parks: the elephant as a flagship species. *Oryx.* 28 (2): 135- 140.
- Johnsingh, A.J.T. and **Joshua, J.** (1989). The threatened gallery forest of the river Tambiraparani, Mundanthurai Wildlife Sanctuary, South India. *Biol. Conserv.* 47: 273-280.

DR. G.A.THIVAKARAN



Date of Birth : 15.06.1958

Contact Details

Senior Principal Scientist
Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology
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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I have 27 years of research experience in the field of coastal aquaculture, Intertidal and benthic ecology, mangrove ecology and coastal EIA and EMP. Has so far completed 32 research and consultancy projects as a senior Principal Scientist in Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj. Five PhD students completed their PhD degree under my guide ship and three students are working for their PhD under my guidance presently. I am a NABET recognized Co-ordinator under 'B' category for EIA studies under Ports and Harbours sector. I am also handling MSc and BSc classes since 2007.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I had the opportunity to work under the guidance of Dr. P.A. Azeez who was Head of EIA division at SACON. He molded by research outlook and helped me horn my talents as a researcher. The able guidance provided by Dr. P.A.Azeez, the conducive research atmosphere at SACON and the congenial nature of co-workers were all a boost to a research scholar to get refined in his area of interest. Though I worked a little short of 3 years (1995-98), it was really a wonderful experience and whatever I got exposed at SACON helped a lot in my later career.

Key Publications

- G.A. Thivakaran and R. Kashinathan. 1990. Salinity, temperature and desiccation tolerance of intertidal gastropods *Littorina quadricentus* and *Nodilittorina pyramidalis*. Indian J. Mar. Sci. Vol. 19, March, pp. 57-60.
- Thivakaran, G.A., 2011. Coastal Ecology of Kachchh- Status, Issues and Problems. Book Chapter in the book, "State of Kachchh Environment" Published on the eve of Gujarat Swarnim Jayanti" by Gujarat Environmental Education and Research Foundation, Gandhinagar and Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj.
- G.A. Thivakaran, A. Saravanakumar, J. Sesh Serebiah, J. Joshua, W. Sunderraj and V. Vijayakumar, 2002. Vegetation structure of Kachchh mangroves, Gujarat, North West Coast of India. Indian J. Mar. Sci, Vol. 32(1), March 2003. pp. 37-44.
- Sha, J.P., G.A.Thivakaran. 2012. Status and distribution of Halophytes in Kachchh District: A review. Curr.Agric. 36 (1-2), pp. 29-36.
- Thivakaran, G.A., Kundu, S. 2012. Ecology of Macrobenthos in the Coastal Waters of Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat. In: Marine Biodiversity: Present Status and Prospects. (Eds: P. Santhanam and P. Perumal). Narendra Publishing House, New Delhi. Pp. 207-225.
- G.A. Thivakaran and G. V.Rajamanickam, 1992. Catamarans of South India, A Marvel of Traditional Technology. Marine Archaeology, Vol. 3. pp. 17-32, NIO, Goa.
- Thivakaran, G.A., Sawale, A.K., 2015. Structural characteristics of mangrove forest of Kachchh, Gujarat, J. Mar. Biol. Ass. India Vol. 55, No.1,

DR. C. VENKATRAMAN



Date of Birth: 10/05/1966

Contact details:

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I did my Post Graduate and Ph.D., degree in Wildlife Biology with the specialization in Ornithology. Studied the Avian diversity in Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (1990), Vedanthangal (1990-92), Siruvani hills (Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve) (1993-96), Kalakkadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (1999), and Coastal birds of Tamil Nadu (2005-08). I joined in Zoological Survey of India in 2004. Presently occupying the position of Scientist “D” and working on lesser known marine phyla in West and east Coast of India. Three EIA studies were carried out so far. Seven species of Bryozoa, two species of Mollusca and one species each of Crab, Sea snake and Fish species respectively recorded for the first time in Indian coastal waters.

Published two books and 70 research papers in peer reviewed journals. Guided three Ph.D., students.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I worked at SACON from June 1994 to June 1997 under the project entitled “Breeding Strategies of birds in the moist deciduous forest of Siruvani hills, Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve” as Junior Research Fellow. Dr (Mrs.) Lalitha Vijayan and Dr. V.S. Vijayan were my Principal Investigators. I learnt many interesting techniques about birds breeding from them which is memorable. Also I had chance to interact with Wildlife stalwarts like Late Dr. S.Bhupathy, Dr. Ajith Kumar and Dr. Ravi Sankaran. We all assisted in conducting many international meetings organized by SACON those days. So proud to be part of SACON and I am very certain that the present Director Dr. K. Sankar would move one step forward in the right direction towards the Avian conservation in India.

Key Publications

- Gokula, V, **C. Venkatraman**, S. Saravanan and S. Swetharanyam. 1999. Inter and intra specific variation in the resource use of Blossomheaded and Bluewinged Parakeet in Siruvani, Tamil Nadu. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 96(2): 225-231.
- Gokula., V and **C. Venkatraman**. 2003. Foraging and breeding biology of the Malabar parakeet *Psittacula columboides* in the Siruvani foot hills, Tamil Nadu, India. *Forktail* 18. 72-73.
- Venkatraman, C.** 2007. Nest-site selection by colonial waterbirds at Vedanthangal bird sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, India. *J. Sci. Trans. Environ. Technov.* 1(2): 77-83.
- Sivaperuman, C., and **C. Venkatraman**. 2015. Coastal and Marine bird communities of India. In: K.Venkataraman and C. Sivaperuman (eds) Marine faunal diversity in India, Taxonomy, Ecology and Conservation, *Elsevier, USA*. Pp261-281.
- Sivaperuman, C. **C. Venkatraman**, G. Gokulakrishnan and J. Dinesh. 2015. Diversity of coastal birds and their ecological significance in India. In: Venkataraman, K, Raghunathan, C, Tamal Mondal and Raghuraman, R. (eds) Lesser known marine animals of India; 1-550 (Published by the Director, Zool. Sur. India, Kolkata). Pp 536-550.

DR. MAHENDIRAN MYLSWAMY



Date of Birth : 29.07.1976

Contact Details

Scientist,
Wetland Ecology,
SACON,
Anaikatty, Coimbatore – 108
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E-mail: mahenrose@gmail.com

Message/ Experiences at SACON

“Studied the importance of birds in a wetland ecosystem and its allied fields of ecology and conservation” under the guidance of Dr. Lalitha Vijayan at SACON ”

Key Publications

- Urfi, AJ & M, Mahendiran (2005) A review of Cormorants in India and a note on the Cormorant colonies in the heronries of the Delhi zoo. Cormorant Research Group Bulletin 6: 39-43.
- Mahendiran, M & A. J. Urfi (2010) Foraging patterns and kleptoparasitism among three sympatric cormorants (*Phalacrocorax* spp.) from the Delhi region, North India. *Hydrobiologia* 638:21-28.

DR. G. AREENDRAN



Date of Birth : 13.03.1970

Contact Details

WWF-India, 172-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi – 110003

Phone:- 41504791-93

E-mail:- Gareendran@wwfindia.net

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Presently working as Director joined the IGCMC section of WWF-India (www.wwfindia.org) and has been able to build up the GIS Lab by successful installation of various Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS software and related hardware). My work involves handling of Image Processing and GIS software's including ERDAS imagine, ArcGIS, Arcview. Also, holding additional position as ENVIS Coordinator and Director - IT since 2004. Responsible for managing the organization's IT infrastructure including planning and execution of IT policy.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Worked as research fellow in the Rapid assessment of biodiversity using Remote Sensing & GIS in Mishmi hills Arunachal Pradesh (1994 to 1995). Completed extensive field work in Mehao WLS Arunachal Pradesh for about 10 months. Did some mapping work at IIRS Dehradun in 1995 and later joined WII, Dehra Dun as Junior Research Fellow.

Key Publications

- Kanchan Puri, G. Areendran, Krishnaraj, Sraboni Mazumdar, P.K.Joshi. 2011. Forest fire risk assessment in parts of Northeast India using geospatial tools. International journal of forestry, 22 (4): 641-647, 2011.
- Forrest, Jessica; Wikramanayake, Eric; Shrestha, Rinjan; Areendran, Gopala; Thapa, Gokarna; Thapa, Kamal; Gyeltshen, Kinley; Maheshwari, Aishwarya; Mazumdar, Sraboni; Naidoo, Robin. 2012. Adapting snow leopard spatial conservation plans to climate change in the Himalayas" by Biological conservation 150: 129-135.
- G. Areendran, Prakash Rao, Krishnaraj, Sraboni Mazumdar, Kanchan Puri. 2013. Landuse/Landcover change dynamics analysis in the mining areas of Singrauli district in Madhya pradesh, India. Tropical Ecology (54) 2, 239-250.
- Assessing the anthropogenic impacts on Kosi on Kosi River corridor, Uttarakhand: A geospatial approach: NeBIO Vol. 3, No. 3, September 75-78, 2012.
- Areendran, Krishnaraj, Sraboni Mazumdar, Kanchan Puri, Shah, b., Mukerjee, R. & Medhi, K. 2013. Modeling REDD+ baselines using mapping technologies : A pilot study from Balpakram-Bagmara Landscape (BBL) in Meghalaya, India. International Journal of Geoinformatics, Vol 9 (1).
- Richa sharma, Suneet naithani, Areendran,G,. Krishna raj. 2013. Gap analysis in southern eastern and westernghats using geoinformatics. Asian academic research journal of Multidisciplinary, Vol 1 (15).
- Manisha Yadav, Garg, J.K., Areendran, G., Raj, K. 2014. Assessment and Monitoring of Temporal change in Keoladeo National park, (A wetland ecosystem) and its catchment area : A Remote sensing and GIS study. International journal of remote sensing and GIS, Vol 3 (1), pg 8-20.

DR. B. RAMAKRISHNAN



Date of Birth : 12.05.1972

Contact Details

Assistant Professor in Wildlife Biology
Department of Zoology & Wildlife Biology
Government Arts College
Stone House Hill Post
Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.
Mobile: 94447 99844
E-mail: bio.bramki@gmail.com

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Working on Ecology and conflict issues of larger mammals and Ecology and Conservation aspects of vultures.

My areas of interest are Mammalogy and Forest Ecology.

Obtained Masters Degree in Wildlife Biology and Ph.D in A.V.C.College, Bharathidasan University. Worked as a Research Fellow in Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History, Coimbatore (1995 to 1998). My doctoral dissertation was on "Significance of corridors to Asian Elephant and strategies for conservation and management". I had also worked for WWF and WTI in several research projects and published 27 research papers in national and international journals and authored two books. Participated in several national and international symposia, seminars and workshops.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

The expertise gained from SACON from my M.Sc., dissertation work as Junior Research Fellow in the Wildlife Corridor Project of Conservation Biology Division has helped to pursue my Ph.D on Asian elephant. My batch was the first one that had got funding assistance for our M.Sc (Wildlife Biology) dissertation. SACON taught me systemic research, which is still useful in my carrier. I also worked in one EIA project at SACON. Since I am working as an academican, our college and SACON may sign an MoU to guide our M.Sc., students for their dissertation and further studies and I wish to continue my association with SACON in future as well.

Key Publications:

- Ramakrishnan, B., Kumaraguru, A., Ramasubramanian, S. 2010. Cannibalism in Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris* Linnaeus) evidence from DNA analysis. Journal of Scientific Transactions in Environment and Technovation. Vol. 4, No. 1. Pp: 1-3.
- Ramakrishnan, B., Ramasubramanian, S., Saravanan, M., Arivazhagan, C. 2010. Is Diclofenac the only culprit for declining population of Gyps Vultures in the Moyar Valley. Current Science. Vol.99, No.12. Pp: 1645-1646.
- Mohankumar, M., Ramakrishnan, B., Ramkumar, K. 2011. Opportunistic matting behaviour of an Asian elephant bull. Gajah, International Union for Conservation of Nature. Asian Elephant Specialist Group, Sri Lanka. Vol. 34. Pp: 46-48.
- B. Ramakrishnan , G. Sivasubramanian , K. Ramkumar & S. Ramasubramanian. 2013. Weather-induced mass deaths of the Common House Swift (*Apus affinis*) in Thengumarahada Village of the Nilgiris, Southern India. Journal of Threatened Taxa, 5(17): 5273–5276.
- Ramakrishnan, B. Kannan, G. Samason, A. Ramkumar, K. Ramasubramaniyan, S. 2014. Nesting of White-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) in the Sigur Plateau of The Nilgiri North Forest Division. Indian Forester 140 (10) : 1014-1018.

DR. M. MURUGESAN



Date of Birth : 20.05.1979

Contact Details

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Regional Centre, Shillong-793 003,
Meghalaya.

Mobile: 09488975934

E-mail: taxonmuruges@gmail.com

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Key Publications:

- M.Murugesan and V.Balasubramaniam, 2007. A New Species of *Hedyotis* L. (Rubiaceae) from the Velliangiri Hills, the Western Ghats, India. *Rheedea*. Vol. 17 (1&2): 25-27. (ISSN: 0971-2313).
- M.Murugesan, V.Balasubramaniam and S. Paulsamy, 2007. Rediscovery of *Memecylon sisparens* Gamble (Melastomataceae) and *Swertia beddomei* C.B. Clarke (Gentianaceae). *Rheedea*. Vol. 17 (1&2): 33-34. (ISSN: 0971-2313).
- M.Murugesan and V.Balasubramaniam, 2008. *Tripogon velliangiriensis* (Poaceae) - A new species from Tamil Nadu, India. *Indian Journal of Forestry*. Vol. 31(1): 109-111. (ISSN: 0971-9431).
- M.Murugesan, V. Balasubramaniam and N. Nagarajan, 2010. Description of two new species of the genus *Fimbristylis* Vahl. (Cyperaceae) from Velliangiri Hills, Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 2(13): 1379-1381. (ISSN: Online 0974-7907; Print 0974-7893).
- M.Murugesan and V.Balasubramaniam, 2011. A new species of *Sonerila* (Melastomataceae) from the Western Ghats, India. *Taprobanica*. 3(2): 93-95. (ISSN: 1800-427X).
- M.Murugesan., V.Balasubramaniam and K.Arumugasamy, 2011. Ethno-medicinal diversity of Malasars in Velliangiri hills, Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu. *Ethnobotany*. 23: 89-99. (ISSN: 0971-1252).
- M. Murugesan and V. Balasubramaniam, 2010. Occurrence of some Rare, Endangered and Red Listed Endemic Plants in Velliangiri Hills, A Part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. *The Indian Forester*. Vol. 136(8): 1051-1067. (ISSN: 0019-4816)

MR. ABDUL RIYAS, K.



Date of Birth : 02.05.1978

Contact Details:

Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Zoology,
Govt. College Kodanchery,
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E-mail: riyas4u@gmail.com
(Priyadarshini, Near Punchiri,
Karuvanthiruthi P.O., Feroke,
Kozhikode – 673 631. Kerala).

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

- Presently working as Assistant Professor of Zoology at Govt. College Kodanchery, Kozhikode (November 2007 onwards).
- Worked as FIP Substitute Lecturer (Zoology) at Farook College, Kozhikode during July 2001- March 2002.
- CSIR JRF at SACON, Coimbatore during December 2002 – May 2004.
- Lecturer in Zoology at Farook College, Kozhikode (June 2004 – November 2007). Has worked on the “Ecology of Grey Langurs of Southern India” while in SACON.
- Was part of the research team working on the “Ecology & Biodiversity of Kadalundi Estuarine Ecosystem, Kozhikode” while in Farook College.
- Did a UGC Minor Research project on “Amphibian Diversity of Kodanchery”.
- Supervised various PG & UG student projects on diversity of fishes, amphibians, birds, odonates, spiders & butterflies in Calicut district, Kerala.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Currently doing PhD on the “Impact of Linear Infrastructure Intrusions on Terrestrial Vertebrate Communities in and around Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kozhikode District, Kerala with special emphasis on Small Mammals & Herpetofauna” at Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. After qualifying in the UGC/CSIR Test for JRF (June 2001), I wanted to pursue PhD in Wildlife Biology, specifically on mammals, and thus ended up talking to Dr. Ajith Kumar, an internationally renowned Primatologist & Conservation Biologist. He asked me to attend an interview at SACON where he was working as Principal Scientist, Division of Conservation Biology at the time.

Joined SACON as Junior Research Fellow (CSIR) on 9th December 2002 and started working on the project “Comparative Ecology of the Langurs of the Genus *Semnopithecus* in Southern India” since Colin J. Groves, a renowned Australian Mammal Taxonomist had just published a revised taxonomy of the Common/Grey Langurs of India. As per his work, there were 7 species of Grey Langurs in India of which 3 had their distribution in south India.

DR. KAMALAKANNAN M.



Date of Birth : 13.01.1985

Contact Details

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mail: kamalakannanm1@gmail.com

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Mammal taxonomy particularly on Tricho-taxonomy of mammals (*i.e.* identification of mammal species by examination of their hair samples)

Identification of confiscated wildlife articles received from the different wildlife enforcement agencies

Thermo-regulation of Indian Rock Python (2008-2009)

PhD (2015) Zoological Survey of India, Tricho-taxonomy of Indian Mammals (2012-2015).

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Under the research supervision of Dr. S. Bhupathy, I have done my MPhil with the project entitled 'Diurnal Activity of the Indian Rock Python *Python molurus molurus* Linn. (1758) in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, India' during September 2008-December 2009.

Key Publications

- Kamalakannan, M., De, J.K. & Manna, C.K. 2013. Identification of dorsal guard hairs surface structure of Indian chevrotain *Moschiola Indica* Gray, 1852 (Tragulidae: Artiodactyla: Mammalia). *Biolife* 1(3): 155–158 pp.
- Sharma, G., Kamalakannan, M. & Venkataraman, K. 2014. A checklist of mammals of India with their distribution and conservation status. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata-700 053, India. ZSI e-publication, 123 pp.
- Kamalakannan, M. 2014. Identification of hairs of Indian Cervids through tricho-taxonomy (Artiodactyla: Mammalia). Abstracts of papers in the 'Student Conference of Conservation Science' held at the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom. March 25–27, 2014, 29 p.
- Sharma, G., Kamalakannan, M. & Venkataraman, K. 2015. An Identification Manual for Schedule Mammals of India [Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972]. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, 1-64 pp + 48 colour plates.
- Kamalakannan, M. & Sharma, G. 2015. Tricho-taxonomic studies for identification of two Indian antelope species Blackbuck, *Antelope cervicapra* (Linnaeus, 1758) and Indian Gazelle or Chinkara, *Gazella bennettii* (Sykes, 1831) by dorsal guard hairs. *Bio Bulletin* 1(1): 1-6 pp.

DR. MANJULA MENON



Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Areas of interest include Ornithology, Environmental management and conservation

Date of Birth : 02-01-1977

Contact Details

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E-mail: manj.mn@gmail.com

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Memorable experience

Worked in the GOI-UNDP Project on Inland wetlands of India from July 2002-December 2002

Key Publications

- Menon M, Mohanraj R. 2016. Temporal and spatial assemblages of invasive birds occupying the urban landscape and its gradient in a southern city of India, *Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity* Elsevier 9:74-84.
- Menon Manjula, Prashanthi Devi and R Mohanraj. 2016. Avifaunal Richness and Abundance along an urban rural gradient with emphasis to vegetative and anthropogenic attributes in Tiruchirappalli, India". *Landscapae Research*, Taylor and Francis. Vol 41, 1, pg131-148.
- Manjula Menon, R Mohanraj and Prashanthi Devi. 2015. "Biomonitoring of heavy metals in feathers of eleven common bird species in urban and rural environments of Tiruchirappalli, India", *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, springer 187:267, DOI 10.1007/s10661-015-4502-x.
- Manjula Menon, Prashanthi Devi and R Mohanraj. 2014. Species diversity and functional assemblages of bird fauna along the riverine habitats of Tiruchirappalli, India, *Springer Special Volume-Environmental Management of River Basin Ecosystems*, Springer, DOI10.1007/978-3-319-13425-3.
- Manjula Menon, Prashanthi devi and R Mohanraj. 2013. Habitat variability and spatial assemblages of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) along a gradient of urbanization *IOSR Journal Of Environmental Science, Toxicology And Food Technology* Volume X, Issue X (May. - Jun. 2013), PP 01-11.
- Manjula Menon, Prashanthi devi and R Mohanraj. 2012. Functional assemblages of Birds in heterogeneous Landscapes, *Journal of Bombay National History Society*: 109(1 & 2), Jan-Aug 2012.
- Manjula Menon and Mohanraj R and M. Prashanthi Devi (2011) Where are the conservationists? *Current Science*, Vol.101, No.11, p 1406-1407, ISSN: 0011-3839.

DR. J. PARAMANANDHAM



Date of Birth : 02/05/2984

Contact Details

Puthagalur, Vazhkkai Post, Nannilam
Taluk, Thiruvavur District- 610 105
Tamil Nadu

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Conservation Ecology, Community Conservation,
Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Solid waste
management, Toxicology

"Message/ Experiences at SACON

I had really nice experience while working as a Resource Person at SACON (2009-11). When completing Nagaland Project, all the department staff of SACON very helpful.

Key Publications

- Subramanian Bhupathy, Selvaraj Ramesh Kumar, Palanisamy Thirumalainathan, Joothi Paramanandham, and Chang Lemba. Wildlife Exploitation: a market survey in Nagaland, North eastern India. Journal of Tropical Conservation Science, 2013. Vol. 6(2):241-253.
- Ramesh Kumar. S, Bhupathy, S. Vengota Nagro, Thirumalainathan. P, Paramanandham, J and Pranjit Sarma. Blyth's Tragopan Tragopan Blythii (Jerdon 1870) in Eastern Nagaland: Peoples' Perception. Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, 109(1&2), 2012 P: 82-86.
- Bhupathy. S, Ramesh Kumar. S, Paramanandham. J, Thirumalainathan. P and Pranjit Kumar Sarma. Conservation or reptiles in Nagaland, India. Chapter: 3. Animal bioresources, Edited by K.K. Singh et al., Bioresources and Traditional Knowledge of North East India. Published by MIPOGRASS. 2012 P: 181-186.
- Bhupathy, S. Ramesh Kumar, S. Thirumalainathan, P. Paramanandham, J and T. Arthi. Exploitation of Birds by the Tribes of Eastern Nagaland: A Case Study. Proceeding of First International Conference on "Indian Ornithology" (ICIO)- 2011. Status of Indian Birds and their Conservation. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore. 2011, P: 205 – 207.
- Paramanandham. J, Ronald Ross, P. Kavitha, A.V. Thenmozhi, P. Abbiramy, K.S and M. Muthulingam. Influence of EDTA against mercuric chloride induced biochemical parameters in the different organs of fingerlings of fish Labeo rohita (Ham.). International Journal of Current Research. 2012, 4(3): 287- 289.
- Paramanandham, J., Ronald Ross, P., Abbiramy, K.S and M. Muthulingam. Studies on the moisture retention capacity of coir pith, as a function of time. International Journal of ChemTech Research. 2014, 6(12): 5049-5052.

DR. PRASANTH NARAYANAN S.



Date of Birth : 30.05.1982

Contact Details:

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Sustainable Development,
Mahatma Gandhi University,
Priyadarsini Hills PO, Kottayam,
686560, Kerala.
Mobile: +91 9495791161
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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Presently working in a project entitled 'Diversity and distribution of earthworms in Kerala' at Advanced Centre of Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala.

Earthworm taxonomy
Distribution pattern of earthworms in Kerala
Invasive species
Avian ecology
Conservation biology

SACON Experience/ Message

My association with SACON started in 2004 when I come over there to do my Postgraduate dissertation work on wetland the birds of Kumarakom heronry - Kerala, under the guidance of Dr. Lallitha Vijayan. Later I worked in two projects of SACON (2005-2008) under Dr. S. Narendra Prasad. The major project was 'Structural and functional attributes of wetlands in Indo-Gangetic plains of India with special reference to Uttar Pradesh' which was undertaken by SACON and Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun. This project revealed the fact that the wetlands and associated wetland birds are disappearing in an alarming rate in the selected study area.

Key Publications

- Narayanan, S.P., Sathrumithra, S., Kuriakose, D., Christopher, G., Thomas, A.P. and Julka, J.M. 2014. Second record of *Pontodrilus litoralis* (Grube, 1855) (Annelida: Oligochaeta) from Kerala state, India. Journal of Global Biosciences 3(2): 473-476.
- Narayanan, S.P., Sreekumar, B., Vijayan, L. and Thomas, A.P. 2012. Status of the nests of near-threatened Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* at Kumarakom heronry. National Academy Science Letters 35(2):99-101.
- Narayanan, S.P., Thomas, A.P. and Sreekumar, B. 2011. Ornithofauna and its conservation in the Kuttanad wetlands, southern portion of Vembanad-Kole Ramsar Site, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa 3(4): 1663-1676.
- Narayanan, S.P. and Vijayan, L. 2008. Feeding rate and prey of diurnal ardeidae family birds at two selected paddy fields of Vembanad-Kol Ramsar site, India. Eco-Chronicle 3(3): 187-194.
- Narayanan, S.P. and Vijayan, L. 2007. Status of the colonial breeding waterbirds in Kumarakom heronry of Kerala, Southern India. Podoces 2(1): 22-29.
- Narayanan, S.P., Sathrumithra, S., Christopher, G., Thomas, A.P. and Julka, J.M. 2016. Current distribution of the invasive earthworm *Pontoscolex corethrurus* (Müller, 1857) after a century of its first report from Kerala state, India. Opuscula Zoologica Budapest (accepted).

DR. PRIYA NARAYANAN



Date of Birth : 14/11/1979

Contact Details

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of Geography, School of Earth
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Priya.srihari@gmail.com

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My greatest interest is visualizing geography in every walk of life. I specialize in Urban Geography and Geoinformatics. I see the different opportunities of applying geoinformatics in solving several urban issues. I have completed two projects, one from UGC on Assessing the urban growth of Gulbarga City using Geoinformatics and another from HUDCO on Assessing the Infrastructure crunch of Gulbarga City using Geoinformatics. One more UGC-BSR project is near completion on modelling the growth of Gulbarga city. I was awarded the “Commonwealth Academic Fellowship-2014” and completed the same in Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, University College London. I am also the Coordinator of CUK innovation Club and represented our activities in the Rastrapathi Bhawan, New Delhi in the National Innovation Festival – March, 2016. (Worked in SACON for National Wetland Mapping Project (2001-02)).

SACON Experience/ Message

As a part of my M.Sc (Spatial Information Technology) Internship, I worked in SACON Field station, Dehradune for 3 months (April – June 2001) and produced a report on Biodiversity Mapping of Nilgiri District. Later, our work on Ecological Assessment of South Chennai Wetlands: “A Development Disaster” was a wake up call for Chennai. The work was guided by Dr. S.N. Prasad, Principal Scientist, SACON Field Station, Dehra Dun.

Key Publications

DR. SABAPATHY, C. MYLSWAMY



Date of Birth : 19.12.1977

Contact Details

AJCB Indian Botanic Garden,
Botanical Survey of India,
Howrah 711 103,
Kolkata.
e-mail: cmsaba@gmail.com

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Presently, I am working as Botanist in AJCB Indian Botanic Garden, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, West Bengal. (Worked in SACON for Inland wetlands of India (UNDP) 2001).

SACON Experience/ Message

Studied the importance of Plants in a wetland ecosystem and its allied fields of ecology and conservation under the guidance of Dr. Lalitha Vijayan at SACON .

Key Publications:

- Vikas Kumar, M.R. Debta, C.M. Sabapathy and H.J. Chowdhery. 2013. The orchids of West Bengal, India - A check list in Phytotaxonomy 13:8-22.
- H.A. Barbhuiya, S.K.Singh, C.M. Sabapathy. 2012. *Dendrobium darjeelingensis* – a less known orchid, New record for Assam, Keanean Journal of Science 1:13-15.
- Agrawala, D.K., H.J. Chowdhery & C.M. Sabapathy. 2010. *Dendrobium amoenum* Lindl. – Description and Illustration of two colour variants of a beautiful Himalayan Orchid. The Orchid Review 118 (1290): 76 – 79.
- Agrawala, D.K., H.J. Chowdhery and C.M.Sabapathy. 2009. *Eria glandulifera* Deori & Phukan (Orchidaceae) – A new Distributional record for Arunachal Pradesh.
- Avishek Bhattacharjee & C.M.Sabapathy. 2010. A New Species of *Zeuxine* Lindl. (Orchidaceae) from India' Tiwania 55(4): 342-345.
- Agrawala, D.K.,H.J. Chowdhery, C.M. Sabapathy, A. Bhattacharya and S. Choudhury. 2008. Novel Method of making Botanical Illustrations with special reference to Indian Orchids In: G. Maiti and S.K. Mukherjee (eds.) Multidisciplinary Approaches in Angiosperm Systematics 1: 306-312. University of Kalyani, West Bengal.
- Sabapathy C.M. 2007. A New Name for *Dendrobium meghalayense* C.Deori et al., Indian Journal of Forestry, Vol 30 (3): 371.

DR. ANITHA, K.



Date of Birth : 13-03-1979

Contact Details

Research Associate,
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Research (CIFOR),
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Type 3/8, Kerala Forest Research
Institute (KFRI) Quarters, Peechi,
Thrissur, Kerala 650 580

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Currently, I am a Research Associate at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. My major area of research includes climate change mitigation, REDD+, biomass estimation, and carbon conservation programs in the Pantropics. I also continue my research interest in forest dynamic studies, vegetation sampling, phenological and pollination studies, fragmentation assessment and so on. Before joining to CIFOR, I was a visiting scientist to USGS-Earth Resources Observation and Science Center (USGS-EROS), Sioux falls, U.S.A., I also served as an expert member for IUCN's fresh water biodiversity assessment for aquatic plants of Western Ghats. I have a PhD degree from Mahatma Gandhi University on my works on 'Spatial ecology of tropical mixed dry deciduous forests in the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot', where my focus was to understand the forest degradation from landscape to species levels. I have published more than 20 research articles I also visited more than ten countries as part of my international assignments.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I joined SACON as a project fellow in the "Long term Ecological Monitoring of Anaikatty Hills" project in February 2004. I did my M. Phil dissertation in the above project under the supervision of Dr. P. Balasubramanian. Thereafter, I joined for my PhD in Mahatma Gandhi University under Dr. E. V. Ramasamy, and Dr. S. Narendra Prasad. I was in the SACON HQ campus for two years (2004-2006) for the field data collection, and then moved to Deccan Regional Centre at Hyderabad for the geospatial analysis. During my tenure at SACON, I had the opportunity to work with the leading scientists such as Dr. S. N. Prasad, Dr. P. Balasubramanian, and Dr. Lalitha Vijayan who helped me to refine my expertise in field techniques, research methodology, statistical analysis, theoretical ecology and so on. SACON got a very collegial environment, and shared vision that support each and every individual who are committed to research in various aspects of natural resources management. Today when I look back, I feel so much proud to be known as SACON Alumni.

Key Publications

- Anitha, K., Aneesh, A., Raghavan, R., Kanagavel, A., Augustine, T., Joseph, S., 2013. Identifying habitat connectivity for isolated populations of Lion-tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*) in Valparai Plateau, Western Ghats, India. *Primate Conservation* 27, 91-97.
- Anitha, K., Joseph, S., Chandran, R.J., Ramasamy E. V., Prasad, S. N. 2010. Tree species diversity and community composition in a human dominated tropical forest of Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot, India. *Ecological Complexity*, 7: 217-224.
- Joseph, S., Anitha K., Murthy, M.S.R. 2009. Forest fire in India – A review of the knowledge base, *Journal of Forest Research*, 14 (3): 127 – 134.
- Anitha, K., Joseph, S., Prasad S.N. 2009. Changes in structural attributes of plant communities along disturbance gradients in a dry deciduous forest of Western Ghats, India, *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 155 (1): 393 – 405.

Ms. B. SUNAINA



Date of Birth : 27.04.1986
44/187 A Main Road,
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sunainabaskaran@gmail.com

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Educational Qualification : M.Sc.Applied Microbiology
Designation : Microbiologist in Morpheus at Coimbatore.
Area of Interest:
Life Sciences, Agriculture & Environmental applications

Worked in the Project Strengthening Community Conservation Efforts in Nagaland: A Programme to Impart Technical Support On Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Options (2007-2011)

Message/ Experiences at SACON

During my tenure as a Project Assistant in SACON I learnt a lot about Data analysis and Interpretation. I gained knowledge about Eco-toxicology. I got the opportunity to get mingled with lot of researchers with their ideas which is worth of my life time.

Key Publications

DR. T. ARTHI



Date of Birth : 24.07.1973

Contact Details

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R.S.Puram-
Coimbatore 642 002
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E-mail: arthisnr@gmail.com

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

My primary interest is in Community Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

SACON widened the horizon of my perspectives in nature science.

I was involved in few Projects at SACON:

1) Worked as a Resource Person in the project entitled 'Strengthening Community Conservation Efforts in Nagaland: A programme to Impart Technical Support on Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Options'. 2) Worked as Research associate in the project titled 'Wetlands of Srikakulam District - An Ecological Survey' & 3) Served as a Co-ordinator for an international conference on Herpetology, conducted by our SACON, that gave an experience of immense value.

I Wish all success to SACON in its endeavour to Conserve our biodiversity

Key Publications

Arthi T, Nagarajan S and Sivakumar AA. 2011. Length weight relationship in two freshwater fishes *Ompok bimaculatus* and *O. malabaricus* (Bloch) (siluridae) *Journal of Environment and Bioscience*. 25 (2): 219-221

Arthi T, Nagarajan S and Sivakumar AA. 2011. Nutritive Values of Two Freshwater Fishes, *Ompok bimaculatus* and *O. malabaricus* (Siluridae) *Indian Journal of Environment and Ecoplanning*. Vol.18 (2) 261-264.

Arthi T, Nagarajan S and Sivakumar AA. 2011. Study made on the physico-chemical characteristics of the river Amaravathy river, Tamilnadu. *journal Nature Environment and Pollution Technology* (Karade) 10 (4) 647 650.

Arthi T, Nagarajan S and Sivakumar AA. 2011. Food and Feeding habits of freshwater fishes, *Ompok bimaculatus* and *O. malabaricus* of River Amaravathy, Tamilnadu. *The Bioscan* 6(3):417-420.

DR. J. RONALD



Associate Professor,
Department of Zoology,
St. Xavier's College
(Autonomous)
Palayamkottai - 627002
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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Worked in the following SACON projects

- Ecology and ethology of mammals in kalakad Mundanthurai tiger reserve
- Conservation planning for Western Ghats of Kerala

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I Wish All success to SACON

Key Publications:

DR. R.VENKITACHALAM



Contact Details

124, Jamedhar Street,
NH Road,
Coimbatore-641001.
Tamil Nadu
Mobile:9489572932
E-mail,poojithvenkat@gmail.com

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

(a) Understand the pattern of distribution; diversity and community ecology of birds especially on Raptors in India (b) Understand the effect of climate change on this faunal and floral resource (c) Understand application of indigenous knowledge in monitoring and conservation of biodiversity in the threatened birds habitat.

SACON Project involved: Status and Distribution of the Hornbills in the Eastern Ghats and Eco-system Monitoring (Ornithology) in Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur, Rajasthan.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

May, 2005 -March, 2006- Monitoring of wetland and terrestrial birds in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur.

November, 2004 -April, 2005- Hornbill survey was carried out in Eastern Ghats of India.

February , 2004-October, 2004- Developed database on Indian Ornithology.

Key Publications:

- Venkitachalam,R. and S.Senthilnathan. 2015. Status and Population of Vultures in Moyar Valley, Tamil Nadu. Journal of Threatened Taxa. Vol 8(1). .8358-8364.
- Venkitachalam, R. Senthilnathan, S. Bharathidasan, S. 2013. Some Aspects of Breeding Biology of White-backed vulture *Gyps bengalensis* North Forest Division in Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu. International Journal for Science and Nature. Vol 4(3). 411-414.
- Venkitachalam, R. and S.Senthilnathan. 2015. Record of Long-billed Vulture in Nilgiri North Forest Division. Current science. Vol 109 (2). 258-259.
- Prakash, V. Green, R.E. Pain, D.J. Ranade, S.P,Saravanan,S. Prakash,N. Venkitachalam, R. R. Cuthbert , R. Rahmani, A.R and Cunningham, A. A. 2007. Recent Changes in Populations of Resident Gyps Vultures in India. J. Bombay. Nat. Hist. Soc. 104(2):129-135.
- Venkitachalam,R and Vibhu Prakash. 2013. New Site record of the Long-billed Vulture to Kangra districts in Himachal Pradesh. Newsletter for Birdwatchers. 53:44-45.
- Venkitachalam, R., Lalitha Vijayan and Devojit Das. 2009. The current status of heronry population in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. Newsletter for Birdwatchers.49: 49-50.
- Venkitachalam, R and Lalitha Vijayan. 2008. Checklist of the birds in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. Rajasthan. Newsletter for Birdwatchers. 48 (5):70-76.

MR. R. SAKTHIVEL



Date of Birth : 01.02.1968

Work Profile/ Areas of Interest:

ORNITHOLOGY & GENERAL ZOOLOGY

SACON Project: A study on the ecology status and conservation perspectives of certain rare endemic avifauna of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Period at SACON: 1995-1996

Contact Details

R. SAKTHIVEL,
Zoological Survey of India,
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Fore Shore Estate,
CHENNAI-600028
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Message/ Experiences at SACON

Key Publications:

- Balachandaran, S. and R. Sakthivel, (1994) Site fidelity to the unusual site of Brahminy kite *Haliastur indus* (Boddaert), J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soci. 91 (1), p-139.
- Lalitha Vijayan and R. Sakthivel, (1996) Survey of Andaman Teal in Winter 1995/96 TWSG News 9,
- Dutta, B. B., Ghosh, S. Basu Roy, S. Sett. A. K., Sakthivel, R. and Bhattacharyya, T. P. (2006) Fauna of Sikkim (Aves), State Fauna Series, 9 (Part – 1): 77-156.
- Bhattacharyya, T. P. Sett, A. K. Sakthivel, R. and Anand, S. (2006) Avifaunal Composition of Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu. Conservation Area Series, 31 : 1-62+8 Plates.
- Barid Baran Dutta and Rengasamy Sakthivel (2008) Fauna of Andhra Pradesh (Aves), State Fauna Series, 5 (Part-8) 1-68.
- Barid Baran Dutta and Rengasamy Sakthivel (2010). Status and distribution of four species of Hornbills from North and Central Western Ghat – A Report. Rec. zool. Surv. India 110 (Part-3) 93-106.
- Rengasamy Sakthivel, Dutta, B. B. and Sanyal, A. K. (2011). Catalogue of Eggs (Aves) in the National Zoological Collections of Zoological Survey of India: Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Paper 325 1-308.
- Sakthivel R., Dutta, B. B. and Venkataraman, K. (2011). Catalogue of Type Specimens (Aves) in the National Zoological Collections of Zoological Survey of India: Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Paper 330 1-174.

MS. HARSHADA PETHE



Date of Birth : 10.11.1985

Contact Details

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Understand the drivers leading to wildlife conservation through community involvement
Understand the mechanisms of habitat management towards rehabilitation of disturbed and degraded habitats and ecosystem processes
Understanding the development of policy instruments enabling conducive environment for sustainable utilization and distribution of natural resources

Worked in the project "In-situ and Ex-situ Conservation of the Edible-nest Swiftlet in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (May 2010 – October 2010)"

Message/ Experiences at SACON

May, 2010- October, 2010 : Swiftlet Conservation Project in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
March, 2012- July, 2012 : Census of Feral Elephants on Interview Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Key Publications :

Ms. DALIA GHOSH DASTIDAR



Date of Birth : 20/11/1979

Contact Details:

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Visiting Fulbright Doctoral Scholar): University of Northern Colorado, USA; 2011-12.

My research interests are in general reconciliation ecology in human-altered habitat; human-animal conflict; sustainability science and in specific natural history, spatial and physiological ecology of venomous snakes, priority being the medically important species

Message/ Experiences at SACON

In SACON I worked as As a PhD scholar affiliated with Marine Biology Regional Centre, ZSI, Chennai, I have submitted my Doctoral thesis on population dynamics of common venomous snakes in farmlands, in 2014 under the University of Madras. Part of my Doctoral research has been done in the University of Northern Colorado, USA on Fulbright-Nehru fellowship.

After completing my tenure as a JRF in SACON in 2005, I have been involved with various research institutes and organizations in India and abroad, with a focus on biodiversity conservation. These include Bombay Natural History Society, Agumbe Rainforest Research Station(Karnataka), Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Irula Snake Catcher's Industrial Co-operative Society(Tamil Nadu), School of Biological Sciences, UNC(USA), Native American Student Services, UNC(USA), Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (Odisha), Beats of Nature Society (Kolkata).

.JRF (2005-06) under Dr. P. Balasubramanian in the project entitled "Ecology of Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary".

MR. RAVIKANTH MANCHIRYALA



Date of Birth : 04.02.2016

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

I worked in various habitats: Islands (in caves), Mountain Grasslands (Kerala & Tamil Nadu), Agriculture fields & Southern tropical Dry deciduous Forests, Ponds, Rivers.

Conservation of Critically Endangered species and Habitat of Edible-nest swiftlet (*Collocalia fusiphagas*) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Message/ Experiences at SACON

Very good experience I had at SACON with all scientist and colleagues, in 2010. And I got very good opportunity to do work in Andman Islands. Especially I involved in cave suvey, I had very good experience working with Dr. Shirish Manchi on Cave protectors.

Key Publications

Manchiryala, R. Desai, A.A. Mushkam, S. and Predit, P.P. 2015. Evaluating the Feasibility of Using Pellets to Assess Age, Relative Abundance and Habitat of Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) in Mukurthi National Park, of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. Vol. (2) Ambient Science.

MR. P. THIRUMALAINATHAN



Work Profile/ Areas of Interest:

Captive breeding of endangered animals, Nature education, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation.

Nagaland Project (SCEN) – (2009 – 2011)

Date of Birth : 03.08.1984

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Message/ Experiences at SACON

I am proud to have worked as a Research Associate with SACON & its Collaboration partner NEPED in a community-based conservation project in Nagaland, which bestowed me with new leads in my job career. During my brief staff at the Headquarters, mentoring provided by my Seniors and Scientists at times helped me a lot.

Key Publications:

Bhupathy, S., S.R. Kumar, P. Thirumalainathan, J. Paramanandham & C. Lemba Chang (2013). Wildlife exploitation: a market survey in Nagaland, North-eastern India. Tropical Conservation Science 6: 241–253.

Ms. PIU GHOSH



Date of Birth : 30.11.1989

Contact Details

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Currently working in the Calcutta Boys School as Assistant teacher.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

It had been a memorable experience in SACON with highs and lows... But it has definitely helped me to become a strong person in due course of time.. God bless everyone. Stay happy...

Key Publications

MR. SONY R K



Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Currently I am a PhD student at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru. My research interests span around broader knowledge areas such as environmentalism, social movements and social change, social theory, conservation science and sustainability studies and philosophy of science

Date of Birth : 28.05.1987

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Message/ Experiences at SACON

Worked as JRF in CEIA of Sutlej river basin project at SACON (2012-2013)

Key Publications

- Sony, R.K. & P.R. Arun. 2015. A case study of butterfly road kills from Anaikatty Hills, Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 7(14):8154–8158.
- Ramesh, C., Santhakumar, B., Arun, P.R., Sony, R.K., Murugesan, M., Das, A., Bhupathy, S. 2015. Further confirmation for *Platyceps rhodorachis* (JAN, 1865), from India, with a note on feeding on *Cyrtodactylus fasciolatus* (Blyth, 1861). *Herpetozoa*, 28(1/2), 109-112.
- Arun, P.R., Murugesan M, Shantha Kumar, S.B., Sony, R.K, and Ramesh, C. 2014. Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment of Hydro Electric Projects of Sutlej River Basin in Himachal Pradesh-Faunal Aspects. Technical report. SACON, Coimbatore.

MR. RIYAS, M. J.



Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

GIS, Remote sensing, Satellite image processing, SAR analyses, InSAR, Process automation, Cartography, FOSS GIS, Python programming.

Worked in SACON Project 'Ecological and Ethno-cultural examination of rise and fall in the rice diversity in southern India with special reference to western Ghats'

Date of Birth : 02-01-1991

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Message/ Experiences at SACON

There are plenty of good things happened during my stay at SACON. I Loved the working environment and the 24x7 working freedom, those days were pleasant memories for me.

Key Publications

Ms. GAYATHRI V



Date of Birth : 23.03.1991

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

Area of Interest: I have great interest in studying the marine and the coastal habitats, especially sea turtles. Turtles I also have interest in eco-toxicology and how it is affecting the organisms at various levels. Mainly, I am interested to work on different threats on turtles in Indian coastal habitat especially like impact of fishing and other human induced threats.

Worked in 2 Projects at SACON:

Land use and Management of Production Landscape in Munnar District" (Jan-Aug 2015).

Mapping key nesting sites of coastal and marine birds for identification of Ecologically Sensitive Areas along Indian coasts.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

SACON life is memorable. It was like a homely atmosphere and lot of helping hands to work. In SACON, I found one major positive thing, may be because of small group, all the SACON researchers know each other, about the personal life and work. It was great to be a part of SACON, had lots of learning experience. I am glad to be a part and be in touch with scientists and researchers of SACON again.

Key Publications

MR. SHAFEEQUE C M



Date of Birth: 15.05.1986

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Work Profile/ Areas of Interest

In RGCB, I am involved in working with Cerebral aneurysm, which is a complex disorder having both genetic and environmental components involved. 85% of aneurysms can cause sub arachnoid haemorrhage which in leads to death in 60% of cases. I am interested in dissecting the epigenetic modulation in the pathophysiology of the disease. My study focus on methylation pathway genes which responds to environmental cues and regulate gene expression. This study will provide better understanding of the interplay between the genes associated with aneurysm and their epigenetic modulation in background of various environmental risk factor.

Message/ Experiences at SACON

I joined with SACON as a program fellow during January 2013. Since then I went to my work place at IVRI, Bareilly. I spent one and half year under the guide ship of Dr. RP Singh and was a really interesting and most enjoyable part of my research career so far. We could complete our objectives before stipulated time provided by DST and generated handful of publication out of our research. I am really thankful the director Dr. Azeez and other Scientists at SACON for your support.

Key Publications:

- R.P.Singh, C.M.Shafeeqe, S.K.Sharma, R.Singh, J.Mohan, K.V.H. Sastry, V.K. Saxena, and P.A. Azeez. 2016. Chicken sperm transcriptome profiling by microarray analysis. *Genome* 59: 1–12.
- Singh RP, Shafeeqe CM, Sharma SK, Pandey NK, Singh R, Mohan J, Kolluri G, Saxena M, Sharma B, Sastry KV, Kataria JM, Azeez PA. 2015. Bisphenol A reduces fertilizing ability and motility by compromising mitochondrial function of sperm. *Environ Toxicol Chem.* 34(7):1617-22.
- Shafeeqe CM, Singh RP, Sharma SK, Mohan J, Sastry KV, Kolluri G, Saxena VK, Tyagi JS, Kataria JM, Azeez PA. 2014. Development of a new method for sperm RNA purification in the chicken. *Anim Reprod Sci.* 149(3-4):259-65.
- CM Shafeeqe, SK Sharma, KVH Sastry, J Mohan, RP Singh. 2014. Sperm RNA: a New Class of Fertility Biomarkers for Birds. *Adv. Anim. Vet. Sci.* 2 (3): 155 – 158.
- SK Sharma, CM Shafeeqe, J Mohan, PA Azeez, RP Singh. 2014. PCR amplification protocol for GC rich Protamine Gene from chicken testis cDNA. *Adv. Anim. Vet. Sci.* 2 (11): 599-605.

Ms. DEIVANAYAKI, M



Date of Birth : 16.05.1985

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Message/ Experiences at SACON

Completed M.Phil at SACON. Worked on the “SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND CURRENT STATUS OF BIRDS IN NILGIRIS, WESTERN GHATS, INDIA”.

Key Publications

Ms. SONIA BENJAMIN



Date of Birth : 28/10/91

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Message/ Experiences at SACON

Worked as Junior Research Fellow in Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (1-11-15 to 1-04-16).

Key Publications

MR. PRATHAMESH GURJARPADHYE



Date of Birth : 11.10.1992

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Message/ Experiences at SACON

I wish the SACON Alumni meet a success.

Key Publications

List of Alumni

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