

Profile Summary

I am a doctoral student (she/her) designing a project to understand the ecohydrology and ecosystem services of *Myristica* swamps, a forested wetland of the Western Ghats, India. My interests lie in wildlife ecology, wetland ecology, urban ecology, nature-based solutions, nature education, and science communication. I have 5 years of hands-on experience in tropical ecosystems and wildlife of India.

Professional Skills

- GIS/Remote Sensing
- R-Studio (statistical analysis)
- Camera trapping
- Wetland field skills
- Wildlife sign surveys

Relevant Skills

- Writing (grants, articles)
- Team management and leadership
- Editing scientific and popular media articles
- Languages (English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Spanish)

Education

PhD in Conservation Science & Sustainability Studies2021 - present

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, India

Thesis: Assessing the Ecohydrology and Ecosystem Services of Freshwater Swamp Forests in the Central Western Ghats, India

Specialisation(s): wetland ecology, restoration, ecosystem services, ecohydrology, biodiversity

M.E.M. Environmental Management (Ecosystem Science & Conservation Management)2015 - 2017

Nicholas School of the Environment (Duke University), Durham, NC, USA

Thesis: The Effects of Land Use Change on Sympatric Carnivore Use of Wildlife Corridors in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan

Internship: WWF-India Western India Tiger Landscape, Rajasthan (May-Dec 2016)

B.A. Environmental Geology, B.S. Biology2011 - 2015

Department of Geology and Planetary Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Certificate Courses: South Asian Studies, Geospatial Analysis

Work Experience

Project Manager, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, IndiaJul 2024 - Mar 2025

- Designed and implemented a model restoration site at a *Myristica* swamp in Karnataka
- Managed project field staff, published a book on swamp biodiversity, wrote and submitted reports, interacted with local stakeholders and coordinated ground efforts

Part-Time Consultant, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru, IndiaFeb 2023 - Oct 2024

- Consulting on various projects for the School of Environmental Science
- Writing media articles on nature-based solutions in cities
- Creating nature education curricula for school students in Bengaluru

Teaching Assistant, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, India 2023 - 2024

- Grading assignments and conducting office hours for M.Sc. and Ph.D. students for the courses in Science Communication (2023 Fall, 2024 Spring) and Ecology (2023 Fall)
- Teaching select lectures for the aforementioned courses

Writing Mentor, Scholastic-India Young Writers' Academy 2021 - present

- Mentoring primary, middle, and high school students across India in 10-day workshop series on elements of story writing and storytelling
- Designing new workshops for junior (ages 9-13) and senior (ages 14-18) students along specific themes such as nature writing, mythological fiction, and Indian culture

Founder & Co-Editor, Youth For Nature e-magazine 2020 - present

- Launched a digital nature magazine for children across India in 2020 June
- Currently managing a 5 person team
- In charge of hiring, deciding issue themes, final editing of all articles, and magazine design

Project Coordinator, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, India 2022 Feb - Oct

- Managed a, CSR-funded project to conduct a baseline assessment of Hennagara Lake in Anekal taluk, Bengaluru as a prelude to a long-term restoration of the same lake
- Managed stakeholder workshops and coordinated field efforts.
- Responsible for writing grant reports and a final project report

Research Consultant, "Spirit of the Forest" Apr 2020 - Aug 2021

- Consulted on a National Geographic project by Nirupa Rao, botanical illustrator
- Aided in script research and writing for short animated film "Spirit of the Forest"

Research Associate, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, India Jan 2019 - Mar 2020

- Hydrology and river modeling (HEC-RAS) for CHANSE project on Ganges River Basin
- Geospatial analysis and habitat suitability modeling for gharial and river dolphin

Research Associate, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru, India Sep 2017 - Dec 2018

- Conducted research and published results on human-wildlife conflict in Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves
- Learnt tiger census and stripe identification status as part of long-term tiger population monitoring work at CWS
- Developed modules for and evaluated pilot run of *Wild Shaale*, a first-of-its-kind conservation education programme in government schools in Nagarahole and Bandipur Tiger Reserves, Karnataka as part of a National Geographic project

Grants & Awards

- Best Talk (1st Place) at WaterFest Conference, Pondicherry 2025
- One of 7 global finalists for Future for Nature Award 2025 2024
- Best Talk (2nd Place) at Student Conference on Conservation Science - New York 2024
- Society for Wetland Scientists Student Research Grant 2024 2024
- Prakriti Research Fellowship 2023-24 2023
- Winner, M. Krishnan Nature Writing Memorial Award 2023
- Eda Sehgal Travel Grant for SCCS-Cambridge Conference 2023 2023
- Prakriti Research Fellowship 2022-23 2022
- Senior Diploma in Bharatanatyam, Hindustan Arts & Music Society, Kolkata 2021

- Commendable Mention (2nd Place), M. Krishnan Nature Writing Memorial Award 2021
- Honourable Mention, Tom Howard/John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest 2021

Memberships

- IUCN Species Survival Commission - Freshwater Conservation Committee Feb 2025 - present
- Wetlands International - South Asia, Student Section Dec 2024 - present
- Society for Conservation Biology, Asia Chapter Oct 2024 - present
- Indian Regional Association for Landscape Ecology (IRALE), Student Chapter Jul 2024 - present
- Society for Wetland Scientists, Asia Chapter Apr 2024 - present
- IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management Apr 2024 - present

Certificate Courses

- Wetlands Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation - IUCN SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee, the Fishing Cat Project, and Future for Nature Academy Jan - Jun 2024
- Nature Writing for Children - Azim Premji University, Bengaluru Aug 2022
- Stakeholder Engagement for Conservation - NCF Aug 2020
- Species Distribution Modelling - Institute for Biodiversity Conservation and Training, Bengaluru Feb 2019
- Geospatial Analysis - University of Pittsburgh, USA 2015
- South Asian Studies - University of Pittsburgh, USA 2015

Scientific Publications

- Ranganathan, P., Ravikanth, G., & Aravind, N. A. (2021). A review of research and conservation of Myristica swamps, a threatened freshwater swamp of the Western Ghats, India. *Wetlands Ecology and Management*, 1-19. 2021
- Karanth, K.K. & Ranganathan, P. (2018). Assessing human-wildlife interactions in a forest settlement in Sathyamangalam and Mudumalai Tiger Reserves. *Tropical Conservation Science*, 11, 1940082918802758. 2018
- Ranganathan, P. (2017). The Effects of Land Use Change on Sympatric Carnivore Use of Wildlife Corridors in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan – M.Sc. Thesis, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University 2017

Recent Media Articles

- Sacred Spaces of Myristica Swamps (Nature-in-Focus/Vana Katha) Nov 2024
- Rising Tides, Rooted Solutions (Mongabay - India) Feb 2024
- Sacred Swamps: Where Culture Meets Conservation (Roundglass Sustain) Oct 2023
- The Mangrove Monkey (Jalaplavit Wetlands Magazine) Mar 2023
- Herpatofauna of Myristica Swamps (Jalaplavit Wetlands Magazine) Mar 2023
- Biodiversity Hotspot: Walking Through Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Roundglass Sustain) Feb 2023

For a complete list of popular science publications, click [HERE](#)

References

Dr. G. Ravikanth

Senior Fellow - 2, Ashoka
Trust for Research in Ecology
and the Environment, Bengaluru

Email: gravikanth@atree.org

Dr. Jagdish Krishnaswamy

Dean - School of Environment,
Indian Institute for Human
Settlements, Bengaluru

Email: jkrishnaswamy@iihs.ac.in

Dr. Dean Urban

Professor (Retd.) of Landscape
Ecology, Nicholas School of the
Environment, Duke University,
Durham, NC, USA

Email: deanu@duke.edu