

zooreach

Ram Hattikudur



Advanced Training in Conservation

www.rhatc.zooreach.org

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2024- FEBRUARY 2025

RAM HATTIKUDUR ADVANCED TRAINING IN CONSERVATION



Coromandel 
FUTURE POSITIVE

*Sanjay Manohar
family & friends*

*Mansukhani
family*

*Sally Walker
Conservation Fund*


murugappa

In Memory of....

Sally Walker



Ram Hattikudur



RHATC FELLOWS 2024-25

Coromandel 
FUTURE POSITIVE

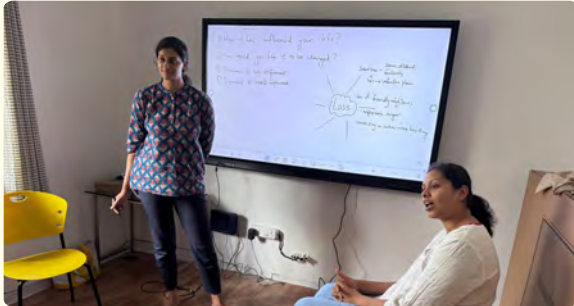
Mansukhani
family

- Diya Banerjee
- Koshik V Rao
- Mohsin Ahmad
- Priya Gupta
- Himangshu Kalita
- Ananditha Mareena
- Pascal
- Poojitha Dupati
- Shivangi Kanwar
- Zeal Jain

*Sanjay Manohar Family
and Friends*

- Sidharthan

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

11 October 2024

Achankulam Lake Visit: Fellows had a great time on their outing to Achankulam Lake. Part of the LivelyWaters initiative, they spotted 45 different bird species. Discussions on urban city planning and wetlands gave them a broad perspective on the challenges in lake restoration.

The Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation 2024-25 inaugurated with our funders, supporters, alumni, family, and friends coming together to congratulate the Fellows and wish them the best for their future conservation endeavors.

12 October 2024

13 October 2024

WOW - Welfare of Wildlifers: Fellows attended the session with Priya and Bhavna from The Halcyon Experience. Solastalgia is an increasing concern among youngsters and we at Zooreach try to address the situation by bringing experts who help them in developing coping mechanisms.

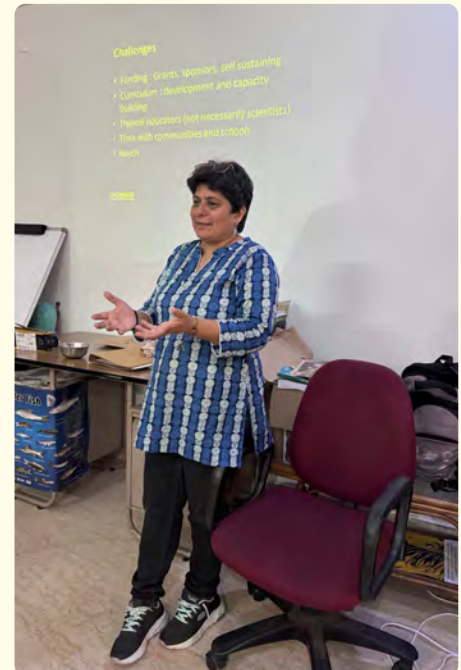
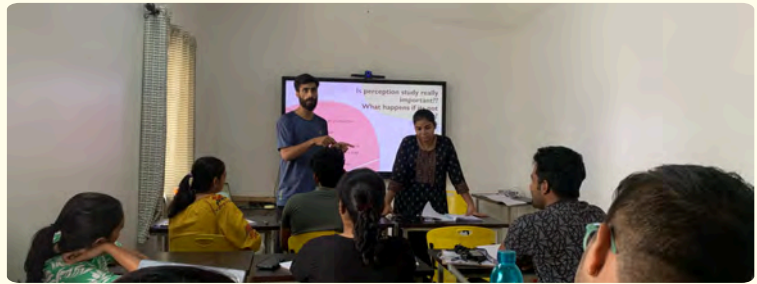
Foundation for Conservation: Dr Sanjay Molur teaches Fellows about the importance of wildlife and how conservation plays a role in global economics; evolutionary basis for conservation.

14-15 October 2024

16-17 October 2024

Conservation Ecology: Dr Sanjay Molur spends time with the Fellows teaching them about the crucial dynamics of conservation ecology and biology.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

18-19 October 2024

Research and Publication Ethics Workshops: Fellows spent 2 days with Dr Sanjay Molur, Chief Editor and Ravi Chandran, Managing editor, Journal of Threatened Taxa to understand the importance of research and publication ethics for successful conservation.

Fellows present their learnings and understanding of the sessions conducted so far.

21 October 2024

22 October 2024

Conservation Ecology: Dr Sanjay Molur spends time with the Fellows teaching them about the crucial dynamics of conservation ecology and biology.

Payal Molur led a dynamic four-day Conservation Education Workshop for fellows, incorporating games to impart knowledge and techniques. The focus was on reaching and engaging communities to enhance wildlife conservation awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills.

23-26 October 2024

28 October 2024

Fellows create their own education material to educate people on different aspects of conservation. The posters are published in Zoo's Print January 2025 issue.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

29 October 2024

Fellows interact and learn about the importance of perception studies in conservation by

Trisa Bhattacharjee

An interactive and informative online session with Payal Mehta and Karthikeyan on nature guiding, conservation, ecotourism, and responsible tourism.

Fellows understand about the problems related to ocean life conservation and bycatch in the Indian context by Usha Ravindra, Priyanka Iyer, and Tandrili Baruah.

30 October 2024

1 November 2024

Fellows meet office mom, Sarojamma on their way to their 1st RHATC Trip

Rainforest Retreat: 5 days with Dr's Sujata and Anurag Goel was a mix of ridge treks and river walks to understand role of grass in the landscape, composting the coffee plants, repairing bamboo bridges, part of the endless tasks at an organic plantation, and nightly talks while surrounded by beautiful biodiversity.

During the trip Fellows embark on a captivating journey into the world of grass biology and ecology with Dr. Vivek Pandi from Manipal Academy of Higher Education, followed by herpetology sessions by Dr. SR Ganesh. Fellows spent time with Abhishek Jain and Anna learning about orchids, shola grasslands, and organic farming.

2-5 November 2024

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

6 November 2024

Hunsur: Liana trust: interacting with Gerry Martin and his team is always a huge learning. Fellows learn about the ills of snake rescue and importance of snake bite mitigation through education. The Fellows also interacted with Dr Timothy Jackson, from the Australian Venom Research Unit, University of Melbourne.

Fellows spend a day with Dr Mewa Sigh understanding about challenges in Primate conservation in India and his journey over past 50 years.
Followed by a visit to the National Regional History Museum, Mysore with Mrs Tanuja.

7 November 2024

8 November 2024

Fellows spend a day at the Mysore Zoo understanding the ex-situ aspects of wildlife conservation.

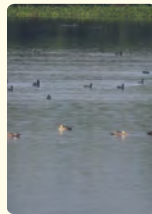
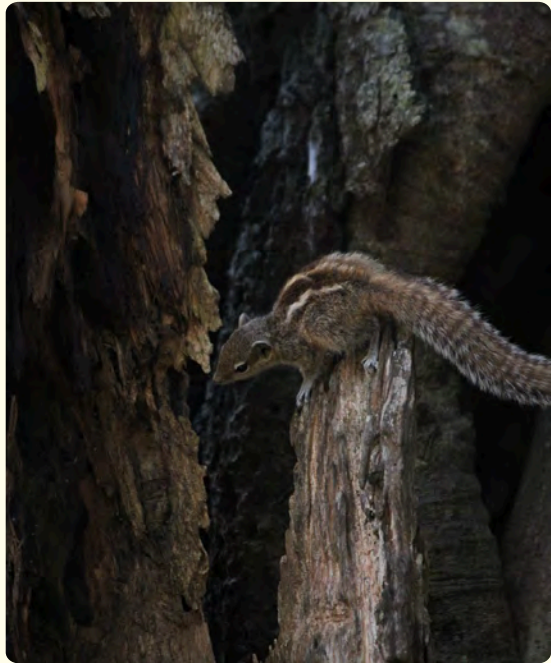
Fellows spend a day with John Christoph Vie, Director, Franklinia Foundation, understand about the Global funding priorities for flora conservation.

9 November 2024

11-15 November 2024

The process of Red Listing is exciting, thought provoking and intense. The Fellows research and document literature and talk to Dr Sanjay Molur to summarize information of a species of their choice as they attempt to find its status using the IUCN Red List criteria.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

18 November 2024

Fellows spend a day with Obuli Chandran, Mango Foundation, understanding the basis of science and how to engage critical thinking to spot out pseudo-science.

Priyanka Iyer took a session for the Fellows on Wildlife and other biodiversity related policies in India.

19 November 2024

21 November 2024

Fellows learnt about various methods to carry out education workshop with different stakeholder groups to bring coexistence in a landscape from R. Marimuthu, Educator Zooreach.

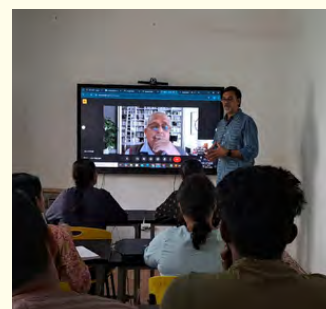
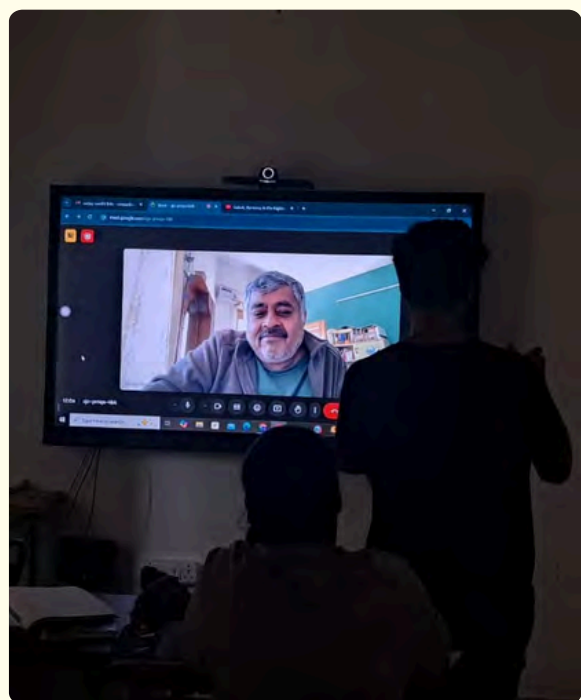
Fellows interact with H. Byju to understand ecology and conservation challenges for Vulture conservation in India. Followed by a talk on shore birds, their conservation and his work in southern India.

22 November 2024

23 November 2024

Exploring Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park, Fellows discovered Zooreach's 30-year-old native restoration, learning significance of native plants, synergy of education & CSR.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

24 November 2024

Fellows spend a morning with Zooreach Team and Koushika Neer Karangal Team at Koushika River, learning about River Ecology and community engagement for conserving the rivers.

Fellows have the privilege of immersing themselves in enlightening sessions with Dr. SR Ganesh, to gain insights into the realms of herpetofauna ecology, biology, and conservation. Followed by a thrilling nocturnal herping journey.

25-26 November 2024

26 November 2024

Nilgiri's: A shared Wilderness; Fellows visit for the screening of the movie and spend time with the crew to understand importance of communication in conservation.

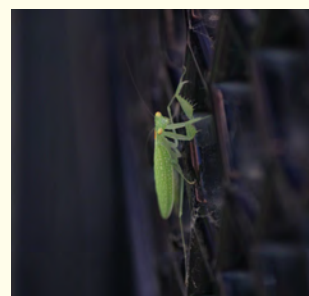
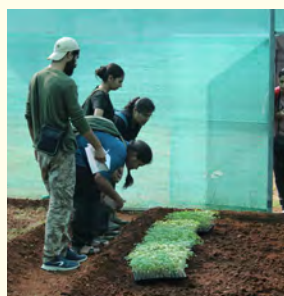
LAK Singh, from Odisha Forest Department discussed about his 50 years journey in different conservation projects.

27 November 2024

28 November 2024

Fellows learn about the importance of citizen science and community engagement for conservation of Odonates from Dr Sanjay Sondhi.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

1-3 December 2024

Action based on science not emotion: Fellows attend a 3-day Conservation Translocation workshop by Dr Sanjay Molur, understanding the IUCN guidelines and science behind carrying out species translocation successfully.

Fellows spend a day with Trisa Bhattacharjee discussing about the different aspects of making conservation Youth and Gender inclusive.

4 December 2024

5 December 2024

Fellows watch different wildlife and conservation centric movies, filmed and directed by Green Hub Fellows.

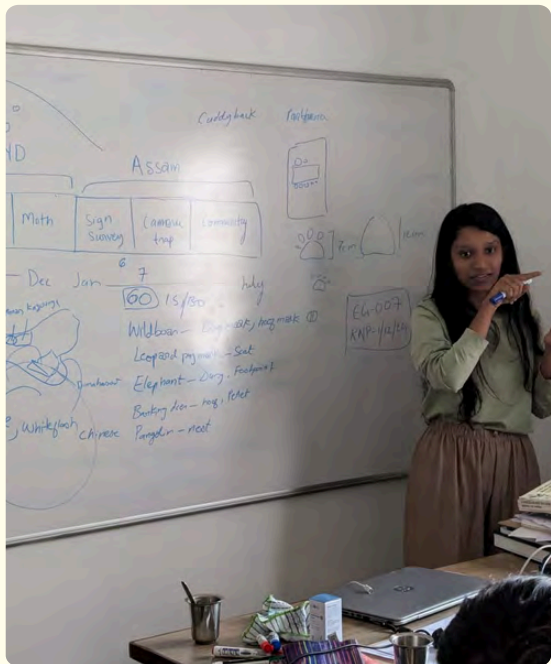
Fellows spend a day with Usha, reading different Research Papers on Journal of Threatened Taxa and write their own interpretation of the same for Jottings.

6 December 2024

7 December 2024

Fellows visit Kumaraguru Institutions, Coimbatore to understand different aspects sustainability, restoration, and conservation. The Fellows then visit Tamil Nadu Insect Museum understanding the secret life of insects.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

9-10 December 2024

Dr Meena Venkatraman discussed with the Fellows about Indian mammals, ecology, & conservation challenges and Asiatic Lion status, conservation & challenges.

Sriram Murali and Chandrasekar teach the Fellows about different aspects of Firefly Conservation and light pollution.

11 December 2024

14-15 December 2024

Cara Tejpal explained about the importance and challenges of wildlife and conservation campaigns with examples in the Indian context. The Fellows design their conservation campaigns, published in Zoo's Print.

Fellows visit Pollachi for a field trip to observe Fireflies.

20 December 2024

22 December 2024

Fellows spend a day with Sanjay Thakur from Wildlife Conservation Trust, understanding the details of the Wildlife (Protection) Act and how to make the same come to affect.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

23-24 December 2024

Dr Aparna Watve from MIT University, Pune addressed the Fellows about lateritic plateaus, their status, threats, and conservation needs. She also discussed about the conservation challenges to grasslands in northern Western Ghats.

Dr Chelmala Srinivasulu and Dr Bhargavi Srinivasulu spent time with Fellows, explaining them about bat and small mammal conservation in India. They shared, Kolar Leaf-nosed Bat conservation experience.

25-26 December 2024

27-31 December 2024

Fellows visit Tumkur for a Field Trip to learn about the inselbergs and rocky outcrops with Mr Sachin, Mr Karthik, Dr SR GANESH, Dr Srinivasulu's, and Dr Sanjay Molr.

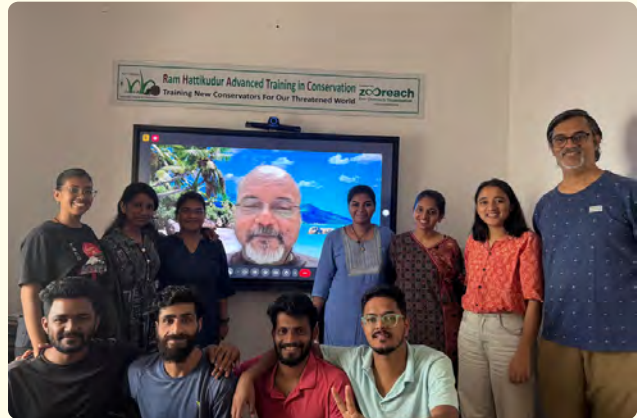
Dr Sanjay Molur took a session for RHATC Fellows teaching them about grant writing to raise funds for conservation projects. The Fellows later prepare their own proposals to apply for different funding opportunities.

3-5 January 2025

6-7 January 2025

Fellows attend a talk by Dr Nilesh Dahanukar on Conservation Ecology and Game Theory.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

10 January 2025

Dr Biju Kumar take a session for the Fellows on Marine Ecology and Conservation.

Dr Nishad Kapadia from Tulane Freeman School of Business, Tulane University discuss about Conservation Economics and the Global Market with the Fellows.

12 January 2025

5 February 2025

Fellows interact with Shivraj Bommanahalli, understanding the funder and corporate aspects and priorities for funding.
Fellows present their Mentorship findings to the Zooreach Team and Mentors from the RHATC Course.

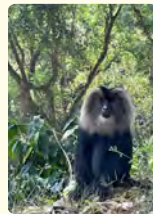
Fellows Visit Zooreach Main office and spend time with the Latha Ravikumar for understanding different aspects of how an organization functions. Later, Dr Sanjay Molur conduct a session for the Fellows on small mammal ecology.

6 February 2025

8 February 2025

Fellows present the proposals they had prepared for taking up on-ground conservation efforts on the species/landscape of their interest.

Activities



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

9 February 2025

Fellows attended the final Welfare Of Wildlifers session by Bhavna and Priya Vijay.

RHATC Fellows spent a day with Nature Conservation Foundation team at Valparai learning about restoration and human-elephant coexistence. Fellows interact with Rita Banerji, Green Hub and understand her challenges and journey so far.

10 February 2025

11-12 February 2025

Fellows spent 2 days at Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History with seven scientists and two scholars understanding about different conservation challenges they tackle.

Fellows assembled education packets on wetland conservation, developed by Zooreach, for distribution to Vidya Vanam School students.

13 February 2025

14 February 2025

Fellows conduct an education session for school students at Vidya Vanam School, Coimbatore.

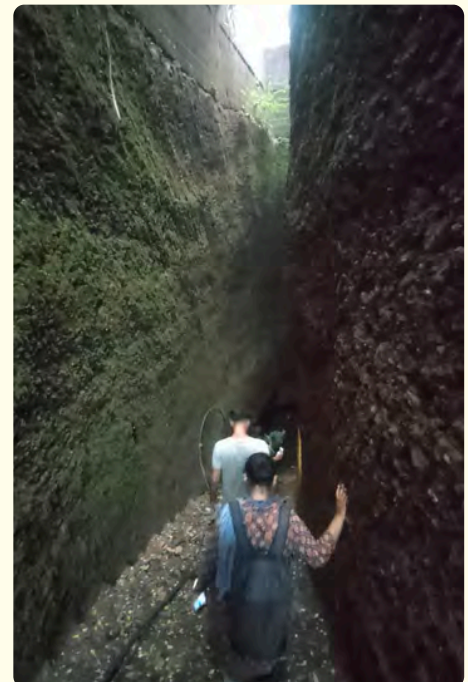
MENTORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

14-31 JANUARY 2025



MENTORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

14-31 JANUARY 2025



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

**16 February
2025**

RHATC GRADUATION CEREMONY



MENTORSHIP (14-31 JANUARY 2025)

at

DEVIHASOL, RATNAGIRI



**Challenges in estimating biodiversity value and
ecosystem services**
Koshik V Rao and Ananditha Pascal

**When Culture meets Conservation: Understanding
the Cultural and Collaborative Dimensions of Rocky
Outcrop Conservation in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra,
India.**
Diya Banerjee and Himangshu Kalita



**Land Use Land Cover Change and Journey of Lateritic
Rocks to Home- A Journey**
Zeal Jain and Sidharthan

**Challenges in educating locals vs. tourists and
understanding the gaps in policy**
Poojitha Dupati and Shivangi Kanwar Chouhan



**Challenges towards Youth Stewardship for Rocky
Outcrop Conservation in India**
Priya Gupta and Mohsin Ahmad

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

69

Mentors

Resource People

4

12

Leaders

Field Assistants/Contacts

3

5

Alumni Interactions

Organisations

26



THANK YOU

OUR SUPPORTERS

*Sanjay Manohar Family
and Friends*

Mansukhani
family

Coromandel 
FUTURE POSITIVE



murugappa

*RHATC
Alumni*



