



**PRAKRITI RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP**

Prakriti Research Fellowship 2022

CARPE
CENTRE FOR APPLIED
RESEARCH AND
PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT

PRF - a small grants program for nature conservation in India

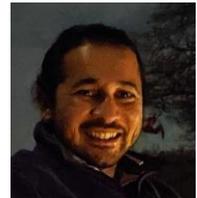
Prakriti Research Fellowship is a small grants programme initiated to support nature conservation research and action with a focus to create a direct tangible long-term impact on nature conservation in India. The fellowship aims to provide seed money for strong on-ground work done by individuals, teams, and small NGOs in this field from various Industry partners. Prakriti Research Fellowship has been started by CARPE in collaboration with Grind Master Machines Pvt. Ltd. to support nature conservation research and action in India.

2022 - the 4th year of the fellowship recently concluded with excellent projects by 5 Fellows and 1 Incubator. The subjects and regions covered by the Fellowship were diverse Calcutta, Uttara Kannada, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Aurangabad and Bundelkhand. 2022 was also the first year for the PRF to extend its support in form of Incubation for one of the past fellows.

The 2 broad themes under which the Fellowship is provided is -

1. Conservation of Important Habitats
2. Conservation of Threatened Species
3. Conservation of Urban ecology

PRF is steered by CARPE Team with a Committee comprising of experts Dr. Bahar Baviskar and Mrs. Prerna Agarwal alongwith other reviewers.



Mavuri Kerr



Kedar Shah



**PRAKRITI RESEARCH
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Engaging and empowering children in the East Kolkata Wetlands to archive wetland biodiversity to catalyse conservation.

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Nobina Gupta

Over 20
schools and
200 students
reached,
culminating in
JOLBHUMI
UTSAV 2022
Extending into
a Wetland
Watch program
in 2023

01 HIGHLIGHT

- Understanding the importance of the East Kolkata Wetlands ecosystem through building research approach of on-ground field work, theoretical knowledge accumulation
- Developing children into young nature explorers



02 HIGHLIGHT

- Archiving traditional knowledge and dissemination to a wider audience
- Imbibing practices of daily living into art practices through exhibition, cultural workshops, waste recycling, culinary sessions

03 HIGHLIGHT

- Detailed classification of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems through visual and textual details bridging art and science together
- Acknowledging symbiotic relationship between components of the wetland ecology



Find more -

<https://www.disappearingdialogues.org/our-story>

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Conservation ecology of a diverse mesocarnivore community in a human use semi arid landscape of north western India



Divyajyoti Ganguly

Study to evaluate status of habitats and responses of meso-carnivores to human mediated disturbances
Extensive fieldwork resulting in the documentation of 12 carnivore species using cameras and genetics in the Kutch landscape
Native savanna habitats lack recognition and protection and are highly threatened by agricultural and industrial expansion; meso-carnivores tightly linked to remnant native savanna patches; species co-occurrence reduced with increasing human footprint
Results indicate future loss of species and reduced diversity in the meso-carnivore community; study adds to knowledge about meso-carnivore conservation in shared semi-arid landscapes





The Vanishing Fireflies: An Integrated Approach towards strengthening firefly Conservation in Meghalaya, Northeast India



Pioneer Work on Fireflies in Meghalaya
Core Research on Fireflies leading to a MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL GRANT for further work
Extensive Surveys and Awareness Programs across the
state



Dr. Jane Shangpliang

Activity 1



1. Map preparation and recce
survey.

Activity 2



2. Project team building and capacity
building.

Activity 3



3. Firefly sampling

Find more -

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rhnwQhANdhSVFp2FrqQLY9h1OlrbunZ-?usp=sharing>

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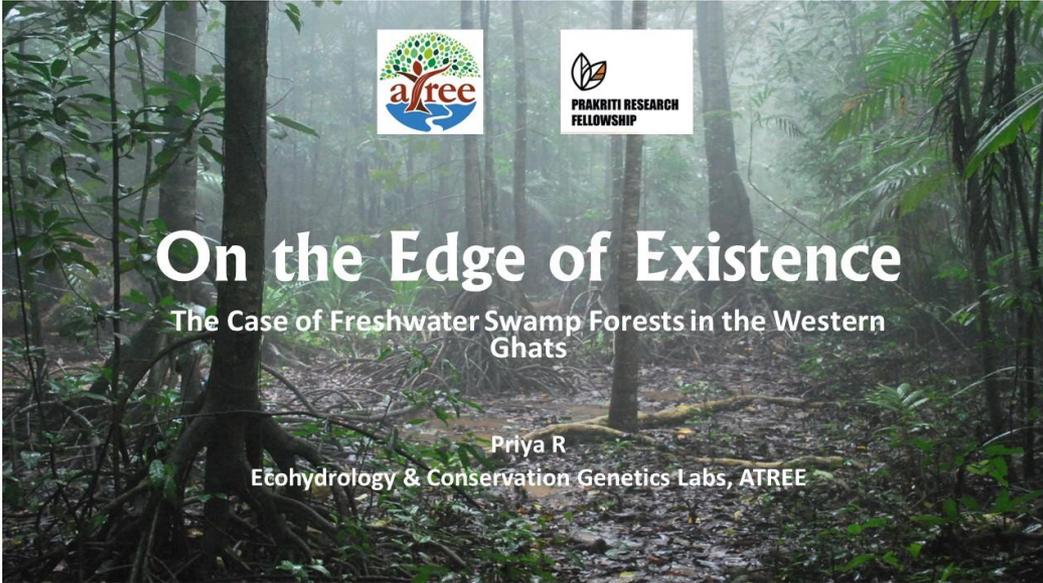
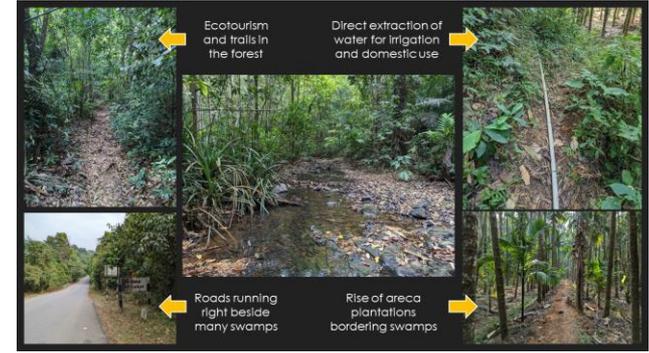
PRAKRITI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Community Conservation of *Myristica* Swamps Using an Ecosystem Services Approach

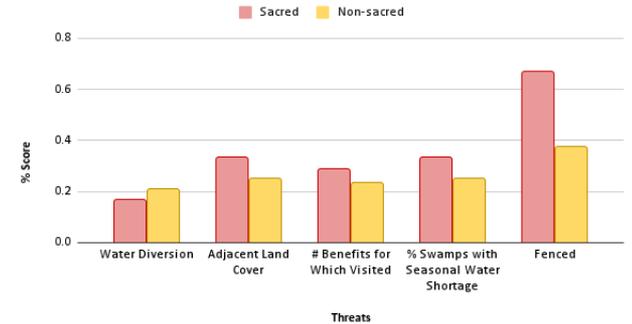


Priya Ranganathan

Scientific and Eco-Social Research Work in Uttara Kanada
Extensive Awareness through seminars, videos and books and schools engagement



Comparing Threats to Sacred vs. Non-sacred Swamps



"The Dark Forest: Discovering Myristica Swamps"
Conceptualized & Written by Priya Ranganathan
Illustrated by Meera Phadnis



Find more -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpy2Z95AnKM>

Youtube Channel - Swamp Story -

https://youtu.be/XCMh4BKE_5Q

<https://youtu.be/xQoFZe8z5BU>

Contact -

+91-9108034580



Conservation of cliffs dwelling avifauna in selected districts of Bundelkhand Region of India



Dr. Sonika Kushwaha

Strong engagement with local communities including Sahariya tribals
Training for Bird Rescue
Formation of Cliff Conservation Plan
Total of 108 species are recorded with 45 Species preferring cliff faces
Mining industry threat to rocky cliffs
Income generation possibilities for tribal community



Rock Eagle owl (*Bubo bengalensis*)



Barn owl (*Tyto alba*)

Table 2: Involvement of people from different fields for the aim of conservation of cliffs and their Avifaunal diversity

Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create awareness enroll the students in conservation
Forest Guards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor the sites Prevent disturbance by nearby villagers.
Archaeological Guards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> avoiding disturbance by tourists promoting eco-tourism
Herders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid overgrazing to avoid disturbance to the ground dwelling birds
Priests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To teach people to be passionate towards other living organisms
Local communities/villagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to help in monitoring the sites to help in rescuing the injured/sick birds

- Raptor species that includes the
- Indian Vulture (Critically Endangered)
 - Red-headed vulture (Critically Endangered)
 - Egyptian vulture (Endangered), Himalayan griffon (Near threatened)



Fig.4 Rocky cliffs in study area, Bundelkhand region

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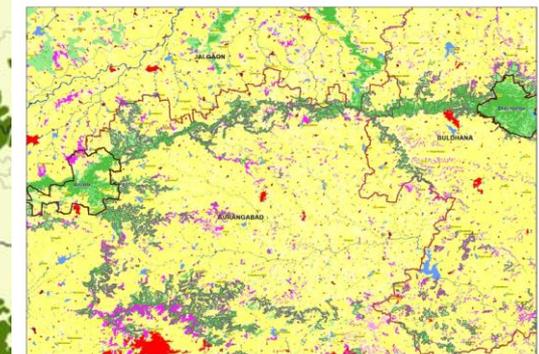
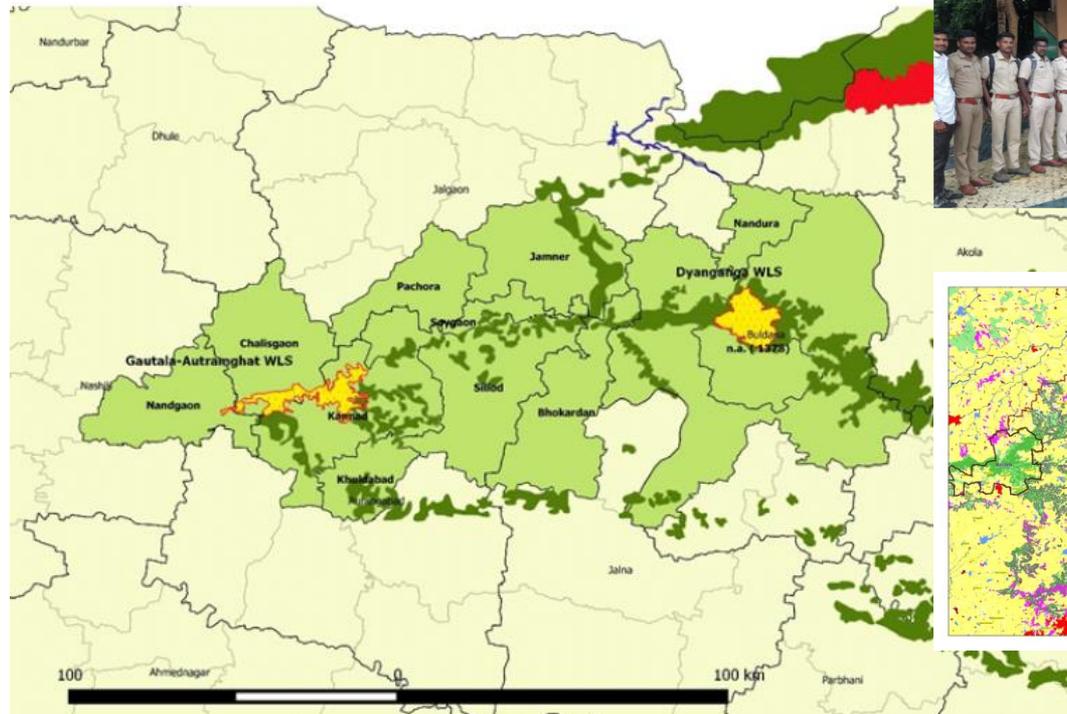


Assessment of Forest Connectivity of Gautala- Autramghat Wildlife Sanctuary with Adjoining Tiger Bearing areas



Tushar Pawar

Incubated under 'Green Masons Foundation'
Focussing on Connectivity from Gautala - Dhyanganga Wildlife Sanctuary
Capacity Building for Forest Department Staff
Proposing Conservation scheme based on Key Wildlife movement valleys
Initiating Restoration activity in Pilot Project at Bhildari Village





Fellows Speak ...

“PRF 2022 was just like giving wings to your dreams. The rocky cliffs that were full of life yet remained silent for years came to life with the support of PRF. The avifauna, local communities, myself and the team members of Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society highly appreciate PRF 2022 and Carpe India team for not only providing the financial support but also for boosting our confidence and motivating us throughout the study.” - Dr. Sonika Khushwaha

“The Prakriti Research Fellowship (PRF) 2022-2023 has been an immense learning opportunity for me and Disappearing Dialogues Collective. The fellowship provided an opportunity to research within the East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) biodiversity. It highlighted the need for conservation of this unique ecosystem which is largely community-led and inclusive. We tried to archive the many facets of the biodiverse environment through creative practices which wouldn't be possible without the support of PRF. The field visits, and subsequent study & documentation with local students helped create alternative pedagogies. Undergoing an experiential learning method, the students soon became budding documentors, artists, reporters, and most importantly, young wetland ambassadors. The fellowship opened new doors for conservation practices with community and multiple stakeholders of EKW” - Nobina Gupta

PRF enabled me to plan and carry out my master's project in the most comprehensive way possible. With this support, I was able to apply rigorous science to understand the ecology of rare and hard-to-study species in a little known landscape in Kutch. The fellowship heavily supported research related travel, allowing me to cover a vast area and into the remotest corners of the landscape in search of meso-carnivores. In the process, I also got the opportunity to engage with local stakeholders. Overall, PRF has had a pivotal role in helping me set up a knowledge foundation for future science based conservation work in the Kutch landscape” - Divyajyoti Ganguly

“PRF gave me an extensive range of experience in public relations, outreach, scientific methods, and field work as a novice in the field of conservation biology. My experiences will aid in the creation of a conservation programme in the state of Meghalaya as well as the creation of numerous projects of this nature for the rapidly disappearing fireflies and other beneficial insects. My opportunity to collaborate with various organizations for the conservation of wildlife and the promotion of conservation through outreach and education is unique and will help me advance professionally, thanks to the Prakriti Research Fellowship. The PRF has also given me the chance to improve my understanding of this field while learning the practical aspects of an effort for conservation of these magnificent lightning bugs.” - Dr. Jane Shangpliang

“PRF has supported me for the last three years on three projects, which is why I am able to shed light on the status of Critically endangered species, the Indian Pangolin in three geo-political regions of Maharashtra State. It was a challenging and significant task for me, especially after the tiger was reported first time after 80 years in Gautala WLS. The PRF Team especially Sameer Sir and Natasha Ma'am encouraged me to continue the working on corridor assessment and habitat conservation project and support me unconditionally. and they facilitate me as incubatee. PRF is not support me through fellowship but also provides overall moral and technical support from all directions to achieved project goals. Thanks to PRF's support i was able to registered and run my own Organization (Green Masons Foundation).PRF not only offers short term support through funding but also focuses on the overall development of fellow.” - Tushar Pawar

“Without PRF 2022, I would never had the support I needed to carry out rigorous research in challenging conditions and create published material for outreach. The fellowship gave me the ability to travel extensively in my field, work in more sites, and engage with volunteers and interns to help make a comprehensive project”- Priya Ranganathan



Call for Applications 2023

APPLY NOW !!!!

Duration of PRF2023 ?

- *Application by 30 June 2023*
- *Selection by 30 July 2023*
- *Project Duration from 15 August 2023 to 15 August 2024*

Who should apply ?

- *independent INDIAN researchers and small NGOs, especially self-motivated, passionate researchers and small conservation groups.*

What projects will be funded?

We are looking for projects with clear achievable objectives bringing about tangible on-ground conservation action and research. The proposal should fit well in the given themes. Most importantly, the impacts of the project should be measurable.

What projects will not be funded?

- No litigation/activism will be funded.
- Participation for conferences, workshops, and expeditions will not be funded

What is the funding amount ?

- Rs. 2 lakhs for 1 Year Project
- Rs. 1 lakhs for 6 month Project

Download the Form at - [20230328_PRF2023_Application_Form.docx](#)

Email the filled form with all attachments in ONE Email to -

research@carpeindia.org

*The decision of the selection panel will be final. No appeals against decisions would be entertained



Interested in Partnering with PRF ???

*Associate with PRF as a
Mentor / Reviewer -*

- *Guide aspiring young fellows with expertise*
- *Review projects including visits to sites*
- *Suggest further actions in the projects*

Funder -

- *Encourage a Research and Conservation mindset in next generation ecologists and conservationists*
- *Promote Environmentally relevant careers in students*

“We cannot conserve what we are not aware of. Some of the past fellowships have researched biodiversity including pangolins, odonates and tigers in the Marathwada area. This inspired us to support further research” - Saurabh Bhogale, Director AITG Group

“We have a great opportunity and a real responsibility to conserve the vast and unique natural diversity of India. PRF is funding innovative programs across the range of mountains, marshes, jungles, and deserts of India. What inspires me to continue to support PRF is the people - the passionate staff, and the grit and perseverance of the fellows who are dedicated to making a real difference in documentation, understanding, education, and protection of these precious natural resources.” - Kedar Shah, California, USA.

Interested in partnering with PRF ?

Email to - Sameer.Kelkar@grindmaster.co.in