



Annual Report

2022-23

FigTree
NATURALIST FOUNDATION

THE
Naturalist
SCHOOL

THETM
Naturalist
SCHOOL

Annual Report
2022-2023

The Naturalist School is a registered trademark of the Fig Tree Naturalist Foundation.



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BREAKTHROUGH

Message from the Founder

Dear Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that I present the Founder's Note for the second year of The Naturalist School. I am filled with pride as I reflect on the remarkable progress and expansion we have achieved in our ongoing efforts to promote conservation and environmental education.



Over the past year, we have expanded our work across ten more states in India, building upon our existing projects in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. In Madhya Pradesh, we ventured into new communities, collaborating with farmers and milkmen in two different villages where ecotourism was being introduced. By capacity building for nature guiding, we empowered individuals within these communities to become ambassadors of their local biodiversity, while also creating better livelihood opportunities. In Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, we conducted nature guide course for seven villages, further nurturing a passion for conservation and sustainable tourism.

In Maharashtra, we initiated a partnership with the fishermen community, aiming to improve the livelihoods of villagers along the coastline while ensuring the conservation of marine resources. Through our efforts, we have been able to provide alternative income sources and develop a sense of stewardship towards the fragile coastal ecosystems. In Bhitarkanika, Odisha, we worked closely with boatmen and local resource people, skill building the former to become eco-guides for mangrove ecotourism. This not only enhanced their skill set but also created a deeper interest to draw visitor attention to the unique Mangrove Pitta and its habitat.

Our journey took us to Kanger Valley National Park (Bastar district) in Chhattisgarh, where we were able to instill a sense of dignity among the tribal community, by giving importance to their traditional knowledge. We engaged them in nature appreciation activities and fostered a stronger connection between the tribe and their natural surroundings.

I am particularly thrilled to share that we conducted the first batch of the 200-hour Nature Guide Certification course in Karnataka through the Skill India Mission of the Government of India. This four-week residential course included field visits and OJT (on-the-job training) in eco-lodges within the State. Through this initiative, we aimed to empower individuals with the skills and knowledge required to become professional nature guides, further enhancing their employability and fostering a deeper understanding of the wilderness around us.

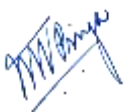
In addition to our flagship courses, we also focused on nurturing the next generation of environment stewards. We conducted a Nature Educator course in Faridabad, Haryana, specifically designed for youth trainee teachers from five different villages. By equipping these young individuals with the tools and knowledge to educate others about the natural world, we are sowing the seeds of environmental consciousness in their communities.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the incredible collaboration and partnerships we have formed with on-ground NGOs and Forest Departments across various states. Our shared commitment to conservation and education has been instrumental in achieving tangible results and creating a lasting impact.

As we move forward, we are determined to stay at the forefront of innovation and accessibility. Our second course for Certified Nature Guide was conducted as a hybrid course, blending traditional methods with technology to make it more available to a wider audience. We also worked closely with forest department staff, including frontline guards and beat foresters, to provide them with the necessary know-how to better protect our natural heritage.

I am delighted to share that we were part of a three-day induction course at CASFOS (Burnihat) Assam, for Assistant Conservators of Forest (ACFs). Furthermore, we delivered a module on the importance of Community Ecotourism, specially for CASFOS (Coimbatore) Tamil Nadu. By working with forest department officials at different levels, we aim to promote sustainable practices and community engagement within the realm of forest conservation.

As we celebrate the efforts of our second year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our team of dedicated volunteers, partners, and supporters who have made it all possible!



Priya Venkatesh

Founder Director
The Naturalist School

Introduction

The Naturalist School is a social enterprise that engages closely with nature guides, naturalists, interpreters, forest staff, educators and hobbyists through Govt recognised certificate courses. We aim to foster a new cadre of nature ambassadors.

We also work with local and tribal communities to nurture eco-preneurs and help build sustainable bio-regional economies.

Our dedicated team, passionate volunteers, and generous partners have helped us make significant strides in our mission this year.

We are excited to share our accomplishments and outline our dreams for the future.

Vision:

‘To build a sustainable future for the planet that encourages coexistence with nature’

Mission:

‘To foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our natural world by bringing alive the naturalist in each one of us’



Our Programmes

Capacity Building

We conduct capacity building programmes through short and long term courses on nature interpretation and entrepreneurship. Some of these courses are designed for participants to get assessed obtain government certification as Nature Guides or Naturalists.

Through these interventions, we wish to promote dignity of the profession, elevate standards and open up a world of new opportunities.

- **Certified Nature Guide Course**
- **Community Nature Guide Course**
- **Nature Appreciation/ Eco-tourism – Forest Officials**
- **Youth Programme**
- **Nature Educators' Course**

Citizen Engagement

The incredible planet we live on teems with life, and yet we are also now witness to issues such as deforestation and climate change.

At The Naturalist School, we believe people will only protect what they understand and love. We try to open people's minds to the flora and fauna around them, even if they live in urban spaces. We conduct and facilitate biodiversity experiences and nature-related talks and events.

- **Bio Diversity Walks**
- **Talks**
- **Events**
- **Webinars**

SDG Global Goals

Our goals are aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to build a greener, fairer and better world for everyone on the planet.





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[Fungi are the grand recyclers of the planet and the vanguard species in habitat restoration.](#)

- [Paul Stamets](#)



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[Termites construct temperature-controlled environments that include elaborate ventilation and cooling systems, and specialized chambers that store food, contain fungal gardens, hold eggs, and house the egg-producing queen.](#)

- From PBS.org

Our Programmes in Detail

Capacity Building

In this second year, The Naturalist School received numerous requests for capacity building of nature guides, naturalists, forest officials, and local and tribal communities.

This took us to 10 different states across India. We trained **over 440+ people** in various aspects of nature education such as guiding techniques, flora and fauna identification, green practices, wilderness first aid and ethics.

An essential ingredient in capacity-building is that transformation is not just generated but sustained over time from within. The transformation we envisage is to change mindsets and attitudes towards protection of and coexistence with nature.





India's First batch of Certified Nature Guides

Certified Nature Guide Courses 2 batches - total 25 (4 women + 21 men)



As a part of the Skill India Mission, The Naturalist School provides skill building for the Nature Guide and Naturalist qualifications accredited by the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC).

During the year, we were able to hold two batches of course for the job role of Nature Guide, one in Nov–Dec and one in Feb–Mar.

Nature Guides accompany groups on wildlife safaris and nature activities and when, required, also assists the Naturalist to add value to the guest experience.

Participants also underwent an on-the-job training module at one of the industry's leading ecolodges. They put their new learning into practice by independently leading guests at these properties.

The course is a 200-hour immersive programme with a mix of field work, group projects, classroom learning and experiential learning.



The Beneficiaries

Having added new skills to their existing portfolios, some of our participants started new careers, while others aimed for better jobs in the wildlife and ecotourism industry. Some even started their own ventures to become eco-preneurs. All of them are now part of The Naturalist School community – and we are thrilled to see them advance in a new field.



These courses were made possible thanks to our knowledge partners and field experts.



We acknowledge the invaluable support, financial and in kind, rendered by Jungle Lodges and Resorts, Karnataka Forest Department and TVS Motors, in making these courses accessible to all strata of the society.



Naturalist Centre of Excellence (NCOE) is the Training Centre for the Skill India certified courses – Nature Guide & Naturalist. These are accredited by the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Sector

Naturalist
Centre Of Excellence



Our courses and assessments were held at the India's first Naturalist Centre of Excellence (NCOE), set up in March 2022.



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The clearest way
into the Universe
is through a
forest wilderness

- John Muir

Impact Stories



A tale of two Nature Guides

**Nayanika Bhatia
Chandrashekar Koira**



Certified Nature Guide Course Dec 2022

We conducted the first Skill India Certified Nature Guide course in December 2022. To illustrate how this course can open up opportunities, here is a profile of two of our graduates who have charted their own paths.

NAYANIKA BHATIA | FREELANCE NATURE GUIDE NATURE EDUCATOR

In December 2022, Nayanika, a designer by profession, completed our Certified Nature Guide course.

Specialises in nature education for children

Has started a website to market her work and document her experience



Conducts corporate walks and educational camps as a Nature Guide within the city.

Clients include Rotary Clubs, Mercedes Benz, Kids for Tigers.

Has conducted several workshops and learning camps for children and youth, including the Environmental Education Programme (EEP) conducted by The Naturalist School

Future plans of continuing naturalist studies and pursuing nature-guiding as a parallel career



CHANDRASHEKAR KOIRA | COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR FREELANCE NATURE GUIDE

In December 2022, Chandrashekhar, a farmer by profession, completed our Certified Nature Guide course.

Has put his village, Koira village (near Devanahalli, Bangalore) on the map as an ecotourism spot.

Has conducted Biodiversity walks at Koira Lake, including a Lake Walk for World Wetlands Day.

Is a freelance Nature Guide: invited by Rotary and Schools to conduct Nature Walks.

Has earned a supplementary income of 8K in one month.

Has assisted The Naturalist School also in our community programmes.

Helped his neighbour generate income by providing catering along with the walk

Potential jobs: Ecotourism lodges in Coorg, Wayanad, Madhya Pradesh, work at Jungle Lodges & Resorts.





Tribals at Tiger Reserves

**Amrabad & Kaval Tiger Reserve, Telangana
(Batch of 30 participants)**

Community Nature Guides

The hilly terrain of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve, with its deep valleys and gorges, is part of the Nallamala forest in Telangana. It has rich biological diversity with several endemic species of flora and fauna and is home to a large number of tigers in the Telangana state.

The Reserve is located in an area that is traditionally inhabited by the Chenchu tribes and they play an important part in the management and conservation of the reserve. This tiger reserve (ATR) is one of the largest Tiger Reserves in India. It is also home to the Chenchu tribe. Most of the youth from the tribe work as Nature guides in the area. Their primary work is to take guests on safari and nature walks.

WWF engaged with TNS to train Chenchu Tribes into adopting new guiding techniques and improving their guest interaction. During the programme, the Forest officials – DRFOs, RFO's, Beat officers & Guards – from Amrabad and Kaval Tiger reserves were actively involved and participated enthusiastically.



Words of Appreciation

as received by email

Hi Team,

The naturalist way of guiding techniques training conducted by the staff of The Naturalist School, organised with the help of WWF India and the Telangana Forest Department for the Amrabad Tiger Reserve staff and nature guides, had a positive and lasting impact that will be remembered and applied for many years to come.

It was a great pleasure and an honour to have The Naturalist School staff impart valuable and key trainings to our guides and the staff of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve. This training was very essential in preparing our forest frontline staff and the guides to become naturalists, which is the way going forward.

Kartikeyan S (Senior Naturalist – Jungle Lodges & Resorts, Govt. of Karnataka) was very instrumental in providing scientific knowledge to all the trainees. His ability to impart subject knowledge to trainees from non-scientific backgrounds was simply extraordinary. His way of teaching with a practical, visual, and in-depth yet simple explanation ensured everyone learned the subject thoroughly, making sure all the trainees reached the same platform, although they were from different backgrounds.

Arjun M (Training Head – The Naturalist School) was extremely energetic and ensured the complete training session held was constantly gripping with adherence to specific subject, knowledge sharing, and time. Each training module, activity, and related interaction that was planned was executed to perfection, ensuring 100% participation and attentiveness from all the trainees. His down-to-earth personality and his nature to share examples that the trainees could relate to had created a great learning atmosphere. His ability to involve each of the trainees, hold their constant interest, and the aura he carries around him make him a wonderful trainer with a great personality.

Chandra Shekhar Koira (Certified Naturalist – The Naturalist School) was a great aid and added a lot of value to the entire training session by providing his assistance and by providing important tips which will help each of the trainees all along their journey in becoming Naturalists. The experiences he shared, the way he engaged the trainees during the out-door activities and the discussions he held ensured a complete change in the out-look towards guiding techniques.

Regards.

Mylavarapu Akhil

Eco Tourism and Development Officer (Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana)





Ecotourism skill building

Kanger Valley, Chhattisgarh
(Batch of 30 participants)

Community Nature Guides

Thirty local tribals underwent a 6-day Gypsy Safari Guide Basic Training course at Kanger Valley National Park, Chhattisgarh in September, 2022.

The main objective of this course was to empower the local youth with the knowledge and necessary skills required to promote and conduct wildlife activities such as Jungle Safaris, Nature Walks, Forest Treks etc. The course was intended:

- To help all the participants to create a rich wildlife experience for the guests who visit Kanger Valley National Park.
- To help the community to work along with the Forest Department to create awareness also amongst the local community about nature and wildlife conservation.

This course was a hands-on experiential learning through field walks and safaris, interactive nature games, group activities and classroom sessions on the local flora fauna, geology, guest communication, nature journaling, first aid, guiding techniques, ethics of a guide and storytelling. There was also a good amount of involvement and a session by the Mynah Mitr group. Learning material in regional language, both print and digital was shared with the participants. Field guides were also distributed to enable the guides to self-learn after the course.

They help Nature Guides find livelihoods that honour their traditional knowledge by:

- Accessing green jobs
- Finding careers in ecotourism
- Starting their own ventures





EcoGuide Workshop

**Mangrove Protected Areas
(Batch of 20 in Maharashtra & 30 in Odisha)**

In April and July of 2022, the Naturalist School ran two workshops, both skill building people to be eco- guides in mangroves. The first was in Kalinje and Diveagar, Maharashtra, and the second was in Bhitarkanika, Orissa.

These workshops were done in collaboration with the forest department as well as local grassroots NGOs. This ensured that participants were given a clear structure and framework.

The Mangrove Foundation, Maharashtra, works towards the conservation and monitoring of mangroves and coastal biodiversity. The Foundation also supports the implementation of various livelihood activities under the 'Mangrove Conservation and Livelihood Generation Scheme' of Government of Maharashtra. Whereas, Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA) in Odisha work with local communities through field activities and ensure the involvement of the community in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their programmes.



TNS was approached by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GmbH GIZ) in association with APOWA to conduct eco guide course at the Bhitarkanika mangrove site.

giz

Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



We did our best to put systems in place to ensure they were given employment opportunities as guides. This coordination between the three groups was important as it ensured that participants were not left to fend for themselves after the Course.

These workshops were conducted for the local community, and a total of 50 locals from eight villages were involved. The aim, from our end, was to re-energise, motivate, and build the skills of the participants so that they could work as local guides in the mangrove ecotourism sites.

While TNS is committed to enabling local communities to be guides everywhere, these two workshops were noteworthy because of the ecosystem which tied them together. Mangroves are essential from an ecological perspective, and these systems have been declining over the years.

A key part of this workshop was to strengthen the local community—it was a conscious choice not to train people from elsewhere. Teaching people from the area also meant the learning was two-way: they had a lot to share about the area.

The feedback from our participants highlights the importance of such workshops. But it is also clear to us that there is scope for a lot more similar work—in other mangrove systems, and in other habitats across the country.



ACADEMY FOR STATE FOREST SERVICE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
BURNIMAT, ASSAM



Forest Officials

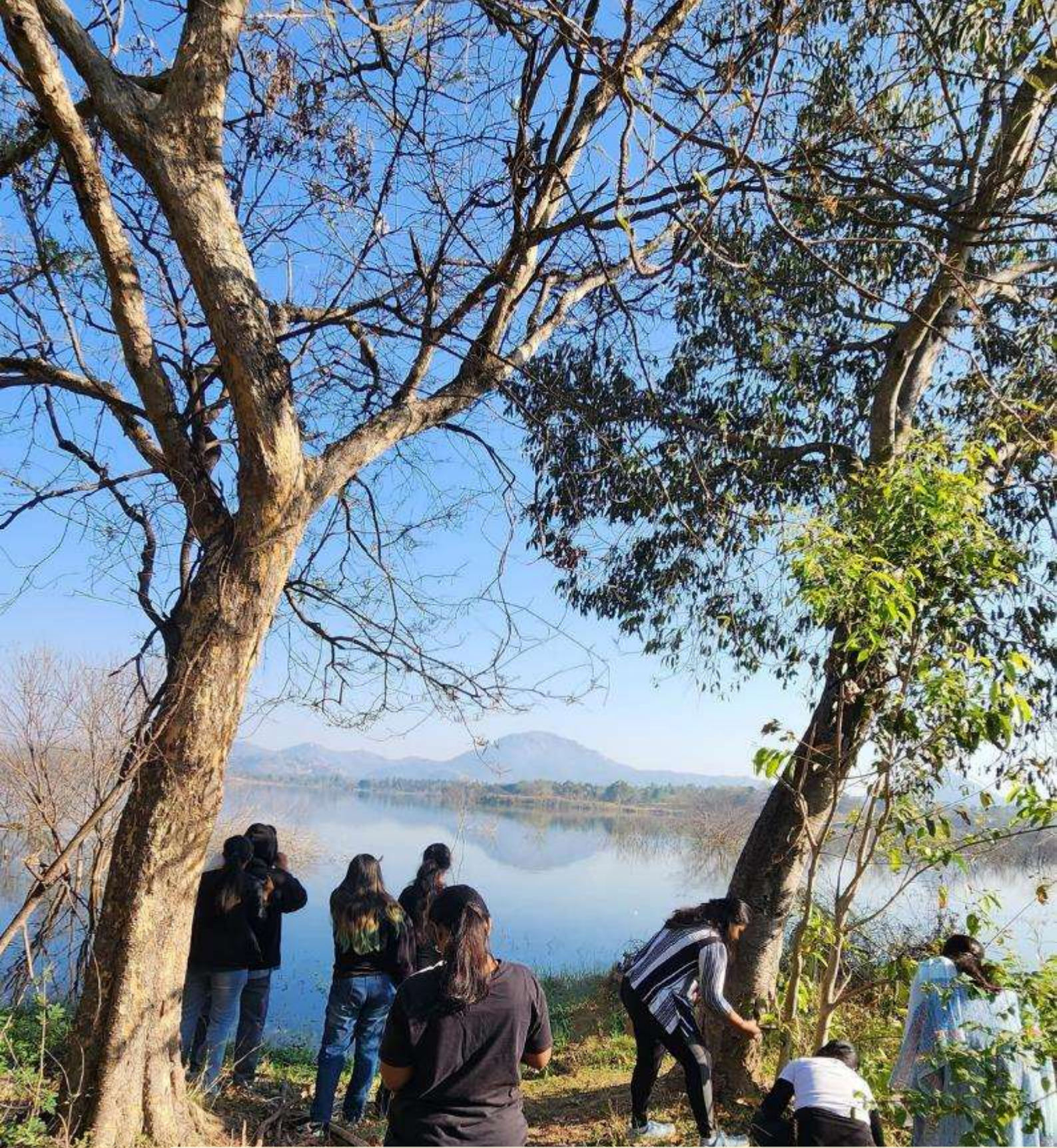
**Nature Appreciation & Eco
Tourism**

(2 batches of 50 each)

Two programmes were held for Forest Officials from the Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS) from Burnihat, Assam & Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on the topics of Nature appreciation & Eco tourism respectively.

Combined over 100 officials were addressed. By conducting workshops for forest officials we believe it is essential for their knowledge enhancement, awareness, collaboration, policy implementation, and professional development. By investing in their capacity building and continuous learning, these workshops can contribute to the improvement of forest management practices, conservation efforts, and sustainable development in forested regions.





Youth Programmes

**Environment Education Programme
(2 batches of 50 each)**

Environment Education Programme (EEP)

Bangalore & Mandya, Karnataka

The Government of India – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change during the the 2022-23 financial year has revamped the Central Sector Scheme with an ‘Environment Education Programme’ (EEP) with an aim to strengthen non-formal environment education activities across the country.

The objective of the programme is to sensitise youth on issues related to the environment and to motivate them to adopt sustainable lifestyles, through varied pedagogical initiatives like workshops, projects, exhibitions, campaigns, competitions, nature camps, etc.

In this regard, The Naturalist School was approached by Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Bangalore to conduct Nature Camps for college students.

Two such camps, of 3 days each, were conducted for 100 deserving students from the urban and rural parts of Karnataka.

The activities were aimed at motivate youth to interpret, appreciate, think critically, and form their habits in such a way as to live in harmony with nature.

The positive feedback and the success of the camps have led EMPRI to engage with us for the upcoming year to conduct 10+ more such camps.





Nature Educator Course

(Batch of 15 participants)

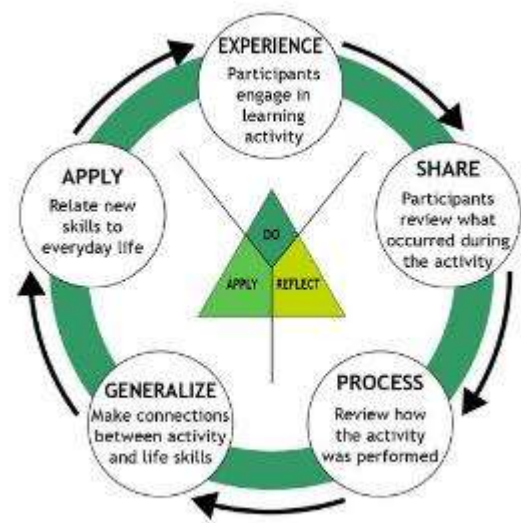
Nature Educator Course

Faridabad

To improve the teaching skills of trainee teachers on nature based themes we conducted a 3 day programme to equip the trainee trainers to deliver nature-based modules to the students through wildlife games and nature activities. The beneficiaries were selected by Laksh Foundation.

The Laksh foundation provides free educational support by establishing rural education centres, teacher training and awareness campaigns.

TNS approach to learning is primarily experiential using iterative exercises, games, simulations to help adults learn & apply.





Walks & Talks



PROGRAMME

Citizen Engagement

Our Citizen Engagement programmes lie with our intentions to engage with citizens with the Nature around them to reconnect, inspire conservation, stewardship and democratise citizen & community science. We've been able to do this through nature walks and through opportunities to address gatherings.

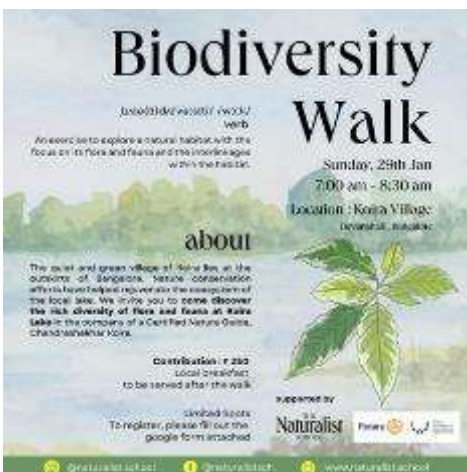
Citizen Engagement

Walks

Nature walks offer a valuable opportunity to learn, explore, and appreciate the wonders of the natural world. During the year we were able to conduct specialised mushroom walks & biodiversity walks across Bangalore city.



Post the Nature Guide course, we were able to support our participant, in collaboration with Rotary Fellowship of Wildlifer for Conservation, in conducting a couple of Biodiversity walks in his village, in the outskirts of Bangalore city.



Citizen Engagement Talks

YEA! Global Summit

July 2022



We participated at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Youth and Education Alliance (YEA!) Global Summit among other esteemed professionals in the breakout room on Green Jobs.

The YEA! Global summit focused on the transformative potential of higher education to better prepare coming generations for the green transition.

Following this we also participated in the **International Conference of Sustainability Education on the Green Jobs** as a panelist, in September 2022.

Learning from Nature

November 2022

Our Founder-Director, Priya V., was invited to interact with the employees of a corporate company ABInBev on what it means to be a Naturalist and about Nature Education.



Citizen
Engagement
Talks

WORLD SPARROW DAY @ GPO Bangalore

March 2023

"CELEBRATE NATURE"
A morning dedicated for Nature to celebrate World Sparrow Day, World Water Day and World Forestry Day.



Chief Guest
Shri. S. Rajendra Kumar,
CPMG, Karnataka Circle.

Agenda
Release of Special Pictorial Cancellation for CELEBRATE NATURE
Release of Postcrossing Meetup Postcard
Talk by Ms. Priya Venkatesh, Traveller / Naturalist.
Live Art Demo by Shri. Prasad Natarajan, Eminent Artist

Date: 25 March 2023
Venue: Meghdoot @ GPO Bengaluru
Time: 10.30am to 1.30pm

RSVP:
Col Akhil Kumar
94831 94892
PeeVee
99455 16333

All are invited!



Are You A Naturalist?

Our Founder-Director, Priya V., was invited to deliver a talk called 'Are You A Naturalist?' at the India Post - General Post Office at Bangalore on what it means to be a Naturalist and about Nature Education.



Citizen
Engagement
Events

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR – July 2022

The virtual conference brought together experts from around the globe to talk about – the significance, threats, and mitigation and conservation measures of Fireflies. This was the first of its kind to be held in India.



ECO CONCLAVE – February 2023

This Conclave was a citizen science engagement with young teange Siyona voicing her concern and motivating children to find a more sustainable way to play with plastic toys.



Our work across India so far...

Kishan Bagh, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Laksh Foundation, Faridabad

CASFOS Training Centre, Burnihat, Assam

Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh

Mangrove Foundation, Maharashtra

Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha

Naturalist Centre of Excellence (NCOE), Bangalore, Karnataka

Walk with the Pardhis, Panna, Madhya Pradesh

Bannerghatta Nature Camp, Karnataka

Amrabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana

Kanger Valley National Park, Chhattishgargh

Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Kabini, Karnataka

Kathotiya Jungle camp, Madhya Pradesh

CASFOS Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

Samardha Jungle Camp, Madhya Pradesh

The Team

Directors



Priya V.

Trainer, entrepreneur, storyteller, for 25 years Priya has designed and delivered experiential programs to explore nature and wildlife, personal leadership and team work. A WWF volunteer (1998) and a resource person with Ecoedu, Jungle Lodges and Resorts, Punjab Forest Dept, WWF-India. She helped create Nature Guide and Naturalist job roles and is a Master Trainer with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. She also helped curating the syllabus for a credit course in Nature Interpretation at Bangalore University. An outdoor person at heart, Priya holds a certificate in Wilderness First Aid. She has crossed the Arctic and Antarctic Circles on an expedition around climate change and sustainability.

Prof. Dr. Neharika Vohra is a faculty member at IIM Ahmedabad for over two decades where she headed 'Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship' (CIIE). She is a passionate advocate of skill-based education and believes that 'Behind everything we consume, or has survived over time, the underlying issue is skill and it doesn't come by learning theory.' Dr. Neharika was also the first Vice Chancellor of Delhi Skill & Entrepreneurship University.



Dr. Neharika Vohra

Volunteer Team



(L-R) Rashmi Swamy, Stalin S.M., Akshatha Rao, Dr. Goda Krishna, Prakruthi Subramanya, Priya V., Poornima Kannan, Anupama Mohan, Latha Krishna, Lavanya Raju, Arjun M. (Not in picture) Suchitra Govindarajan, Nayanika Bhatia

The Team : Advisors



Sanjai Mohan, IFS

Shri. Sanjai Mohan is ex-Head of Forest Force, Karnataka. He managed various positions in the Forest Department throughout his tenure and worked as Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. Among other positions, he also worked as CEO of Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board and MD of Jungle Lodges and Resorts. He initiated projects for conservation of smaller wildlife (canids), Great Indian Bustard, Floricans, endemic Mahseer and establishing a Vulture breeding centre. Sanjai Mohan also has the honour of facilitating the declaration of Karnataka's State Butterfly - The Southern Birdwing. A learner and a naturalist at heart, Sanjai Mohan has a gleam in his eye even today when he spots a tiny butterfly or a lovely jumping spider.

Karthikeyan has been educating and creating awareness among the young and old alike on various aspects of natural history through nature camps, talks and nature-based activities for over 40 years. He worked with WWF-India for 14 years as Education Officer, Karnataka State Office. He joined Jungle Lodges & Resorts Ltd. as the Chief Naturalist in 2006. He also serves as the Chief Trainer on the Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board. Karthik has several publications in technical journals to his credit. He authors wildwanderer.com where he narrates his personal encounters strung together with natural history information. He was conferred the Carl Zeiss Award for conservation in 2013.



Karthikeyan S.



Vinay Sirsi

Experienced leader and growth architect with domain expertise across multiple sectors. Proven ability to quickly learn new fields and industries in support of client projects ensuring impact. Vinay began his career as an IAF pilot and pursued leadership development and business management skills largely as a serial entrepreneur/consultant. He has a passion for adventure, flying, wilderness and building high performing teams that continuously challenge status quo. His competencies include Strategy, Organizational Development, Operations Management, Business Development, Training and Facilitation. laser focussed in service of organizational goals.

ROTARY VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

26 January 2023
Bangalore

AWARD



Rotary Bengaluru Basavanagudi

ROTARY BENGALURU BASAVANAGUDI

Invites you with your Family & Friends to Present

VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS

Recognizing Individuals who have exemplified outstanding professional achievements while maintaining very high ethical standards.



Priya Venkatesh
Founder Director
The Naturalist School



Manohar Kamath
Gymnastics Coach



Kavita Biradar
Vice Principal
Vanikdas Government Girls High School

Chief Guest
Rtn Mahadev Dambal
Vocational Service Director
RI District 5190

Special Invitee
Rtn Regina Arusamy - Zonal Governor
Rtn Dayahand U R - Assistant Governor

RSVP
94481 30524 - 96865 05665

26th January 2023
06:30 PM - 09:00 PM
Vasavi Convention Centre
9th Floor, 9th Cross, Basavanagudi
Bangalore

FOLLOWED BY DINNER

Rtn. Shankar Sanketh President
Rtn. Vijayaraj Shishodya Secretary
Rtn Rajesh Balasubramanian Vocational Service Director

NARI SHAKTI RED FM

20 March 2023
Whitefield

AWARD



Scan here for details

Acknowledgements

We are in grateful to all our collaborators and partners who have walked this journey with us in various capacities.

Our work this year took us to –
Nagarahole Tiger Reserve
Kanger Valley National Park
Bhitarkanika National Park
Kuno National Park
Amrabad Tiger Reserve
Panna Tiger Reserve
Bannerghatta National Park

... and you have travelled with us all the way.
We value our association with you!

Community partners / Other Non-profits:

Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA)
Last Wilderness Foundation (LWF)
GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH)
Indian Grameen Services (IGG)
Shikhar Institute
Godrej Mangrove Foundation
Mangrove Foundation
Laksh Foundation

Hospitality Partners:

Jungle Lodges & Resorts
Ibnii Coorg
Bamboo Forest Tadoba
Spotted Owlet Tadoba
Vanya Vilas Ranthambore

Govt bodies:

FTATI (Forest Technical and Administrative Training Institute), Karnataka Forest Department.
EMPRI (Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute)
Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS)

Insitutional partners:

NCVET (National Council for Vocational Education and Training)
THSC (Tourism and Hospitality Skills Council)
NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation)

Financial Summary: Balance Sheet

FIG TREE NATURALIST FOUNDATION (A Private Limited Company under Section 8 of The Companies Act, 2013) Balance Sheet as at 31 March, 2023 (All amounts are in Hundreds of Indian Rupees unless otherwise stated)					
Particulars	Note No.	As at 31 March, 2023	As at 31 March, 2022		
		Rs.	Rs.		
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
Shareholders' funds					
Share Capital	3	2,000	2,000		
Reserves and Surplus	4	(4,644)	267		
Current liabilities					
Other Current Liabilities	5	5,993	2,235		
TOTAL		3,349	4,502		
ASSETS					
Non Current Assets					
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Fixed Assets	6	100	100		
Current assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	7	2,070	3,370		
Other Current Assets	8	1,180	1,032		
TOTAL		3,349	4,502		
See accompanying notes forming part of the financial statements In terms of our report attached. For S. P Gupta & Associates Chartered Accountants (Firm Reg no 103445W) (Preeti Parasrampur) Partner Membership No 131204 Mumbai Date : 25-10-2023					
For and on behalf of Board of Directors <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> PRIYA VENKITE SWARAN <small>Digitally signed by PRIYA VENKITESWARA N Date: 2023.10.25 11:54:30 +05'30'</small> (Priya Venkiteswaran) Director DIN: 02319433 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Nehari ka Vohra <small>Digitally signed by Neharika Vohra Date: 2023.10.25 11:00:58 +05'30'</small> (Neharika Vohra) Director DIN: 06808439 </td> </tr> </table>				PRIYA VENKITE SWARAN <small>Digitally signed by PRIYA VENKITESWARA N Date: 2023.10.25 11:54:30 +05'30'</small> (Priya Venkiteswaran) Director DIN: 02319433	Nehari ka Vohra <small>Digitally signed by Neharika Vohra Date: 2023.10.25 11:00:58 +05'30'</small> (Neharika Vohra) Director DIN: 06808439
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Financial Summary: P&L Statement

FIG TREE NATURALIST FOUNDATION			
(A Private Limited Company under Section 8 of The Companies Act, 2013)			
Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period from 01 April, 2022 to 31 March, 2023			
Particulars	Note No.	For the period ended 31 March, 2023	For the period ended 31 March, 2022
		Rs.	Rs.
INCOME			
Donations Received	9	8,419	2,000
Other Income	10	6,878	2,850
Total Income		15,297	4,850
EXPENDITURE			
Project Expenses	11	16,874	3,790
Establishment Expenses	12	3,334	792
Depreciation	5	-	-
Total Expenses		20,207	4,583
Excess of Income over Expenditure/ (Excess of expenditure over Income)		(4,911)	267
See accompanying notes forming part of the financial statements In terms of our report attached.			
For S. P Gupta & Associates Chartered Accountants (Firm Reg no 103445W)		For and on behalf of Board of Directors	
(Preeti Parasrampur) Partner Membership No 131204 Mumbai Date : 25-10-2023		PRIYA VENKITE SWARAN	Nehari ka Vohra
		Digitally signed by PRIYA VENKITESWARAN Date: 2023.10.25 11:54:58 +05'30'	Digitally signed by Neharika Vohra Date: 2023.10.25 11:01:13 +05'30'
		(Priya Venkiteswaran) Director DIN: 02319433	(Neharika Vohra) Director DIN: 06808439

Future Vision

The concept of 'nature positive' actions gain prominence as a means to simultaneously address climate change and biodiversity loss. This decade must be the turning point where we recognize the value of nature, place it on the path to recovery, and transform our world into one where people, economies and nature, thrive by 2050.

Key drivers to achieving this would be recognising and supporting the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples and forest communities. We must promote sustainable tourism practices that minimise negative environmental impacts and support local communities.

With these objectives in mind, The Naturalist School has, over the past year, successfully piloted projects with a few forest communities across India. We look to further scale this across the hundreds of communities that could benefit from these opportunities. We seek to do this through technology platforms for certification courses, vernacular language teaching, ecopreneur incubators, and a job marketplace.

Our citizen engagement programme aims to mobilise another key stakeholder in this race to save our planet: 'nature-concerned citizens'. Through multiple initiatives that sensitize and create awareness of how close to the edge of disaster the planet is in, we hope to catalyse real change.

No initiative is likely to survive unless we are able to enroll youth and children to take ownership of this important mandate. Our ongoing efforts aimed at integrating nature education into mainstream academics through choice-based electives, vocational electives, UGC certificate/diploma programmes would help to bring this to the fore.

Training Centres play an important hyper-local role in being able to mobilize resources and candidates with economy and efficiency. We intend to expand our partnerships with states and forest departments to include centres in the North & East to add to our regional centres in the South & West.

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"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

- John Muir



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Instagram: @naturalist.school
Twitter : naturalistsch
LinkedIn : The Naturalist School

FigTree
NATURALIST FOUNDATION

THE
Naturalist
SCHOOL