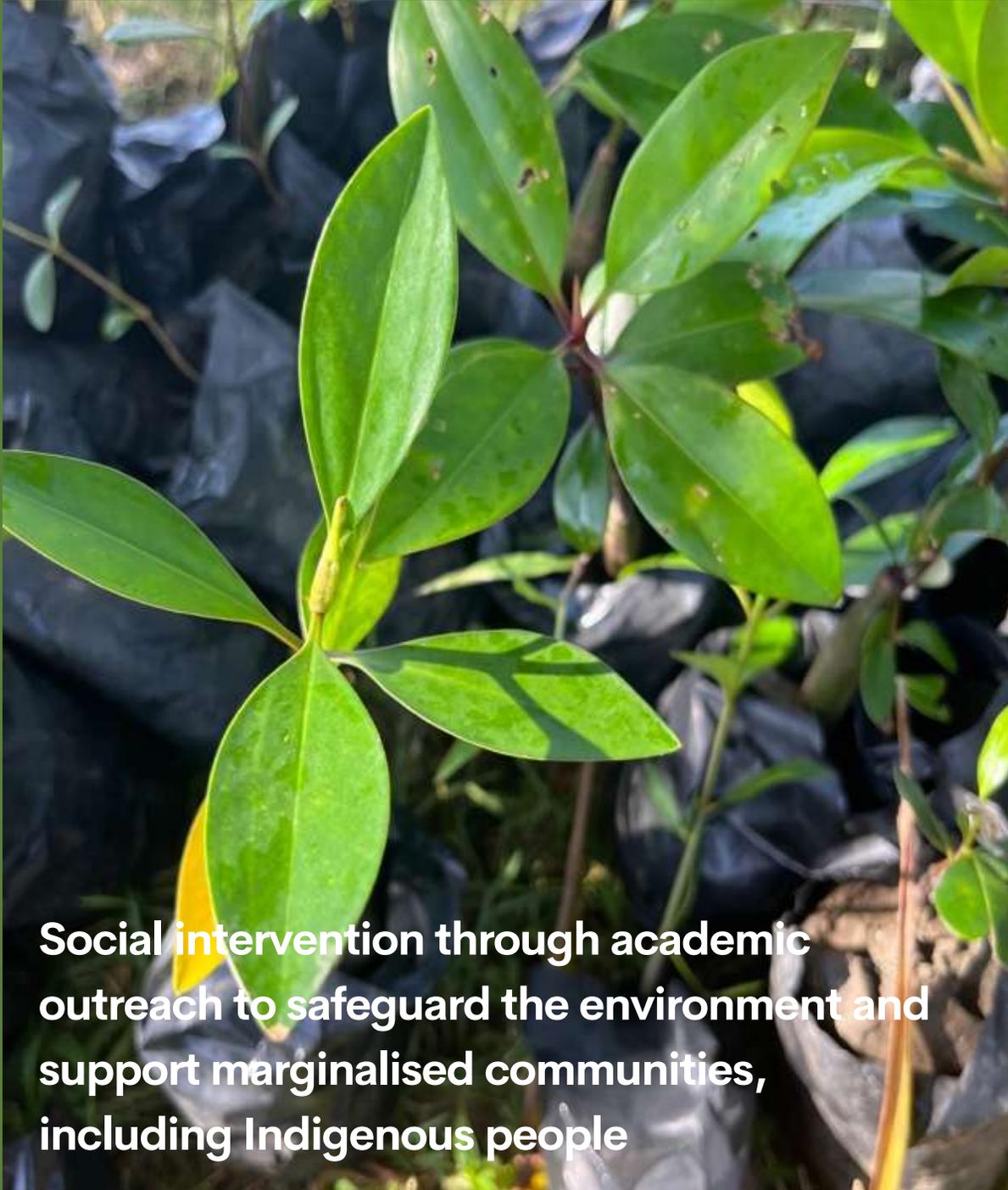


# Best practice II

## Sustainable Citizenship and Climate Action



**Social intervention through academic outreach to safeguard the environment and support marginalised communities, including Indigenous people**



**MES ASMABI COLLEGE**

**P.VEMBALLUR**

# The context

Few international research programs in collaboration with Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation while developing a research extension centre, CEtC (Centre for Ecology Taxonomy Conservation and Climate change) in the campus helped us to develop this best practice as a platform which allows students and faculties to learn and practice academics while safeguarding the environment and marginalised communities. The best practice was officially started in 2017, where the CEtC in the campus have led this by providing assistance, consultancy, and expert support to state agencies in nature conservation, environmental management, sustainable livelihood, climate action, and indigenous community rights. In which researchers, students, faculty, and national and international interns collaborate. Linkages with government departments like Forest, Tribal, Revenue, Landuse Board, Biodiversity Board (KSBB), and Local Self Governments and international NGOs like Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Rufford etc., were used.

## **A. Support the Marginalised and Indigenous Community (page 3-10)**

A platform to use academic proficiency of the students, faculties and research and outreach units to work with government and non-government bodies to safeguard the environment and empower marginalised people.

## **B. Safeguard the Environment (page 11-46)**

Students and faculties establish linkages with the government and NGOs providing technical support with a scientific basis for long-term engagement to safeguard the environment to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the UN focusing on environment, gender, equity, sustainable livelihood, and climate action.



Documentary film Link:  
<https://youtu.be/qtzEDZSeviw>

# A. Supporting the indigenous Community Grama Sabhas

## THE PRACTICE

Our college caters to the specific needs, demands and concerns of the underprivileged and downtrodden sections of society and gradually emerging in to an unique practice and school. The practice included survey, remedial measures, campaign, paper bag making, road construction, CFR mapping, producing learning resources, protecting local ecosystems and bio diversity conservation, Legal and conservation awareness to tribal people and Grama Sabhas on demand from the community during these years. We also collaborated for livelihood enhancement activities of the tribal people. The expertise of Dr. Amitha Bachan as a member of the special committee on Community Forest Resource Rights (CFR) of the Indigenous People constituted by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, has been useful in selecting one of the expert collaborators for preparing a policy advocacy document for the Govt. of Kerala in association with the Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai. An online session was organised on 29 September 2021 and more than 72 members from Tribal Grama Sabhas across the state and academicians participated in the process.



MUNDEKKDAVU KATTUNAIKKA TRIBAL VILLAGE

## 1. Seminar on Forest Rights and Traditional Resource Management for Tribal Communities of Nilambur

The seminar was organized by the Scheduled Tribe Department of Nilambur District in collaboration with our centre CEtC, for the Traditional Resource Management for Tribal Communities of Nilambur. Dr. Amitha Bachan K.H. of MES Asmabi College, P Vemballur delivered a talk on the “Forest Rights and Traditional Resource Management for Tribal Communities”. The Program was inaugurated by Mr. Madhu, Project officer ITDP. This was followed by supporting and training the tribal Grama Sabha members and Forest Right Committee (FRCs) to convene the Grama Sabha for Forest right claiming process. The student volunteers helped the community to document their knowledge on various forest resources and NTFPs, helped with participatory mapping and minutes and document preparation. The Post Graduate students of Research Department of Botany MES Asmabi College was also a part of the seminar. The seminars were carried out in three days at four tribal villages such as Mudakkadavu, Kattunaikka Tribal Village, Nedungayam Paniya Tribal village, of Nilambur district. The students include Ms. Devika M. Anilkumar, Ms. Anila K.T., Ms. Deepika V., Fidha P. and Sidharth A S Kumar. A total of 150 indigenous people from different communities participated in the seminar.



PALAKKAYAM MDUKA TRIBAL VILLAGE



NEDUNGAYAM PANIYA TRIBAL VILLAGE

## 2. National Conference on Democracy, Land and Resource management Rights of Adivasis and Challenges of strengthening Adivasi Grama Sabha in Kerala – 18th and 19th December 2019



THE CFR CONFERENCE SESSION

The seminar was organized by the Scheduled Tribe Department of Nilambur District in collaboration with our centre CEtC, for the Traditional Resource Management for Tribal Communities of Nilambur. Dr. Amitha Bachan K.H. of MES Asmabi College, P Vemballur delivered a talk on the “Forest Rights and Traditional Resource Management for Tribal Communities”. The Program was inaugurated by Mr. Madhu, Project officer ITDP. This was followed by supporting and training the tribal Grama Sabha members and Forest Right Committee (FRCs) to convene the Grama Sabha for Forest right claiming process. The student volunteers helped the community to document their knowledge on various forest resources and NTFPs, helped with participatory mapping and minutes and document preparation. The Post Graduate students of Research Department of Botany MES Asmabi College was also a part of the seminar. The seminars were carried out in three days at four tribal villages such as Mudakkadavu, Kattunaikka Tribal Village, Nedungayam Paniya Tribal village, of Nilambur district. The students include Ms. Devika M. Anilkumar, Ms. Anila K.T., Ms. Deepika V., Fidha P. and Sidharth A S Kumar. A total of 150 indigenous people from different communities participated in the seminar.



**Evening round table discussion on the Certificate program**

### **3. International Webinar on Conservation and Right debate series – 10th – 20th October 2020**

In this era of climate change and pandemic, it has been proved that the resource conservation practices of indigenous people are very vital. This conservation and right debate series brought up discourses on historical and contemporary understanding of conservation and how it interacts with the right question. The webinar brought out the discussions from several disciplines with the eminent resource persons C.R.Bijoy, Madhu Sarin, Pramod G Krishnan, Dr. S. Faizi, Dr. Aparna Watve, Mrs. Poorva S Joshi, Adv. Shomona Khanna and Dr. Amitha Bachan KH. They spoke about the historical and conceptual perspective of conservation, social justice and law, sustainability, implementation of FRA in neoliberal developmental space. Nearly 100 participants in each day were attended the webinar with fruitful discussion.



## **INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR CONSERVATION AND RIGHT DEBATE SERIES**

10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020  
6.00pm to 8.00pm  
(UTC +05:30)

Organised by



**WESTERN GHATS  
HORNBILL FOUNDATION**

Collaboration

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
MES ASMABI COLLEGE  
KODUNGALLUR, KERALA



## 4. Forest Right Act and Community Forest Resource in Kerala Towards Policy Advocacy: 28th September 2021

The major agendas of the programme were (i) To develop a Policy advocacy note on the performance of the implementation of CFR in Kerala and its Challenges to Govt of Kerala. (ii) Present and discuss the National and Kerala scenario with the community in Kerala (iii) Empowerment of the Tribal Grama Sabha members in Kerala. The program was organized by the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai, in collaboration with the CEtC of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation at the Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College. The program was to get opinions and develop a Policy and Advocacy Note to the Government of Kerala as per their request to TISS, Mumbai. Dr. Geethanjoy Sahu, Assistant Professor, Centre for Science, Technology and Society, TISS made the Keynote, and Dr. Amitha Bachan KH, Assistant Professor, CEtC WGHF; Research Department of Botany MES Asmabi College made the plenary talk. Nearly 21 students and three teachers were part of the programme apart from 74 tribal Grama Sabha representatives across the state.

## 5. 'Embrace' - Three day residential camp and workshop for Specially Abled Children and their Parents



**2023-01-27 To 2023-01-29**

To spread awareness among parents of specially abled children, in order to understand and enhance the skills of children and also to enhance students" attitude, knowledge and skill in dealing a collective social / community need through experiential learning

## 6. Forest Rights Act 2006

At Nilambur 21st March 2023



A training has been given for tribal GS members and promoters of Nilambur area this year as continuation of the training and empowerment provided to the Tribal Grama Sabha members across the state since 2011.

## Seminar at Kasargod



## 7. Global Green Grant – Indigenous community learning centre program



The project envisage to support tribal learning centres at five villages in the tribal areas of Wayanad. As part of this, the college students from various institutions conducted a data collection based on their rural camp at these established local level learning centres. They volunteered to Construct of a shed in the learning centre also conducted a programme for

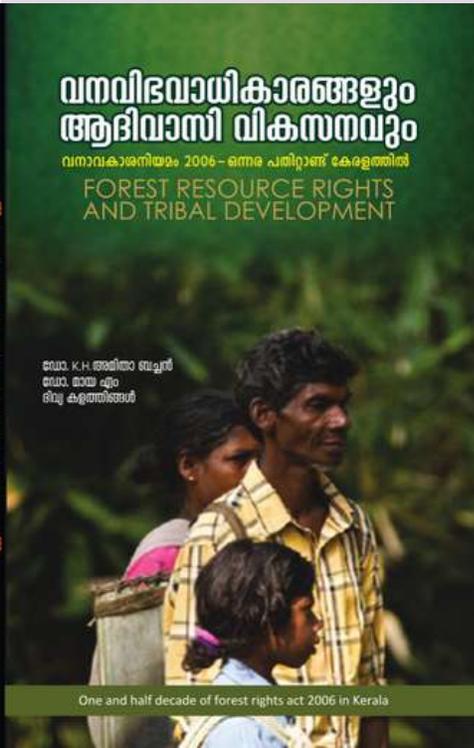
← Construction of a shed for the learning centre at Thiruvannur and Mammathan pali villages



Thonicadavu village level learning centre interaction

### OUTCOME

- The village FRC members of the tribal villages of Nilambur area, Malappuram district handed over the filled in forms to ITDP officer for claiming their rights for recognition under Forest Right Act 2006. These included their CFR maps, list of forest resources and Minor Forest produce they have been collecting traditionally including water resources. Our role was to empower the tribal Grama Sabha and FRC members and making the claiming process legal and transparent. Later these Tribal Grama Sabha got recognition as Notified Tribal villages under the act and their claims were approved for distribution of the titles.



- 23 students from the college and 18 from outside were participated apart from 42 tribal Gram Sabha members across various tribal areas of the state in the CFR conference. The conference helped the communities to present their situation before expert panel which helped them to have legal solutions. 30 Grama Sabha members joined for the certificate programme on FRA 2006 and also 12 students from the participants.
- The conservation and right debate series has brought a new dimension fitting to the paradigm shift of exclusive conservation model to right based inclusive conservation model. The conference brought evidences of inclusive conservation and role of indigenous and local communities both theoretical and practical frame work. More than 340 people attended the sessions with minimum of 70 in each sessions. The participants were chiefly researchers, scientists, faculties, research scholars and members of the indigenous community across the nation. The program was made in online due to the covid pandemic and are available online.
- The webinar of Forest Right act and Policy helped to develop a draft policy for the state Government on the matters related to Forest Rights. 21 students and three teachers were part of the programme apart from 74 tribal Grama Sabha representatives across the state.
- In partnership with the World Fish Migration Foundation, Netherlands, four events and one international conference, The Riparian Forest for Fish, Rivers, and People, on May 21, 2022, including Fisher community programmes.
- Various programmes organised on mental health addressing equity and justice by Mr. Lathif, Faculty of Psychology, contribute to support specially abled children and parents.
- **Releasing new edition of Forest Rights Act 2006 book:** 8th October 2022. We have published a modified third edition of our book on Forest Right Act 2006, which entitled "Forest Resource Right and Tribal Development - One and half decade of Forest Rights Act 2006 in Kerala". The book was released through an online event. The book deals with a critical review of the FRA implementation in Kerala and scope in preservation and non-alienation of forest and tribal land in Kerala. The book was coauthored three board members of the Hornbill Foundation, Dr. K.H. Amitha Bachan, who is a member of FRA 200g committee on PVTG rights, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Govt. of India, Dr. Maya Mohan, Sociologist and faculty of Christ University Bangalore, Dr. Divya Kalathingal, FRA expert completed PhD from Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai, working as faculty in the Sankrit University, Tirur Campus, Malappuram, Kerala.

## 8. SURVY ABD AWARENESS IN OKHI AFFETED AREAS



The Department of Physics organised cleaning work in the 'Okhi' affected area of ward 23, distribution of notice pointing out the need for energy conservation and awareness class on 'Disaster management'. In the morning session, when half of the students engaged in cleaning work which was coordinated by Indian Homeo Association, the other half divided themselves into different groups and distributed nearly 300 notices among the people in the locality. In the afternoon there was a powerpoint presentation on Disaster management



A biodiversity survey in the okhi affected areas of the village was conducted. All the students of Botany department participated in the survey. From the survey it was clear that many trees were wilted and several medicinal plants and horticultural crops were totally vanished from the area. The main trees which were affected by okhi include mango, mahogany, tamarind, jack, etc. and medicinal plants include tulsi, coleus, murayya, etc. We proposed a future plan for planting these lost vegetation in the areas

# B. Safeguard the Environment

## THE PROCESS

The UN Declaration on the Decade of Ecological Restoration and NEP implementation visualized the best practice platform to fine tune to target set by UN SDGs while long-term community involvement in ecological restoration and climate change mitigation activities. The CEtC of our college provided technical support, nursery and voluntary inputs with support form IUCN, BGCI, and SER and chose the SN Puram Grama Panchayath as the model local self-government for multistakeholder, niche-specific ecological restoration. Implemented with SN Puram Grama Panchayath BMC and MGNREGA to include women. A model seed germination centre and nursery for endangered tree species and coastal eco restoration is created. Coastal eco restoration expanded to sacred forests, freshwater ponds, pandanus thickets, green islands, bioparks, and mangroves. SN Puram Grama Panchayth signed two MoUs for the Peoples Biodiversity Register updating and eco restoration phase III, which received KSBB funding. Mangrove restoration occurs in Eriyad Grama Panchayath and SN Puram. The SER, the UN partner for worldwide ecological restoration standards and protocols, acknowledged the Make a Difference Week event with the Hornbill Foundation as the year's highlight. The weeklong programme began on June 5, 2022, and ended with 12 ecological restoration awareness events.



**STUDENTS PLANTING TREES AT THE ECORESTORATION SITE**

**ONE DAY WORKSHOP  
ECO RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF COASTAL  
ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY  
INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITY**

**30th March 2021  
at MES Asmabi College  
9.30-4.00**

Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation  
MES Asmabi College  
BMC, SN Puram Grama Panchayat

**Inauguration**  
Dr. Asma VM  
Head, Research Dept. of Botany

**M. S. Mohanan**  
President, SN Puram Grama Panchayat

**Changes and Issues of Coastal Zone**  
Dr. Martin Gopurathingal  
Senior Research Associate - CUSAT

**Ecorestoration and Management Protocol for Coastal Ecosystems**  
Dr. KH Amitha Bachan

**BMCs and Biodiversity Governance**  
Adv. Alphonsa Jojan  
Assi. Prof. (Ad hoc), Dept. of Law Calicut University

Contact - 8921473910

## 1. One day workshop on ecorestoration 30.03.2021

To provide awareness on coastal ecorestoration and management by involving the local community was the major agenda of the programme. A sensitisation workshop was conducted after developing a draft profile of the ecosystem and biodiversity in the SN Puram Grama Panchayat. The workshop was held at the MES Asmabi college on 30th March 2021. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Asma V M, Head of the Department of Botany, in the auspicious presence of Shri. M.S. Mohanan, President SN Puram Grama Panchayat. Dr. Martin Gopurathingal, Dr. KH Amitha Bachan and Adv. Alphonsa Jojan of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation was the resource person. Sixty participants including BMC members, farmers, members of the Kizhakootu trust other interested persons from the Panchayats, selected research fellows from different colleges around the area and local women were the participants.

**16th Sep 2021**

**തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത ആവാസവ്യവസ്ഥ പുനരധിപത്യവും ജൈവസംരക്ഷണവും**

**Inauguration**  
of  
Completion of the First Phase  
10.30 am

**Shri. E.T. Tyson Master**  
MLA, Kaipamangalam

**Shri. M.S. Mohanan**  
President, SN Puram Grama Panchayath

**Shri. Saji Cheriyan**  
Hon. Minister for Fisheries & Culture, Kerala.

**Webinar 7.30 pm**

**Principle and Practices for Ecorestoration of Coastal Ecosystems in Kerala**

Thematic talk  
**Dr. Amitha Bachan KH**  
Member IUCN CEM

directorwghf@gmail.com  
For Registration Click here..  
<https://forms.gle/ULHj2hDl6vva4PdK7>

SN Puram Grama Panchayath  
Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation  
MES Asmabi College, Kodungallur

## 2. Principle and Practices for Ecorestoration of Coastal Ecosystems in Kerala

An online webinar was conducted as part of the training for coastal ecorestoration and biodiversity conservation in Sree Narayanapuram Grama Panchayath. The webinar was organized jointly by the Research and PG Department of Botany, CEtC of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation in the MES Asmabi College campus with support from SN Puram Grama Panchayath. Mr. M.S. Mohanan inaugurated the program, and President, SN Puram Grama Panchayath, and Dr. Amitha Bachan K.H., Member of IUCN; CEM and SER provided a thematic talk. Members from all the coastal Grama Panchayaths of Kaipamangalm Constituency and BMC members across Kerala participated in the event. A total of 33 students and 10 teachers were participated in the programme.

### 3. Coastal Eco restoration Phase 1- Inauguration

The major agenda of the programme was 1. Inauguration of the First Phase of the Coastal Eco restoration programme by Mr. Saji Cheriyan, Hon Minister of Fisheries and Cultural Affairs, Kerala. 2. Declaration of the Successful implementation of Phase 3. Eco restoration of the Arappthodu, streams draining to sea involving MGNREGA. The Program was inaugurated by Mr. Saji Cheriyan, Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Kerala in the venue arranged at the Coastal Ward- 1 of the SN Puram Grama Panchayath near Vekkod beach. Mr. Tyson Master, MLA chaired the function in the auspicious presence of Mr. Devis Master, President of District Panchayath, Mrs. Girija, President, of District Panchayath, Mr. M S. Mohanan, President Grama Panchayath. Dr. Amitha Bachan K H, Assistant Professor and Director of the Research Extension Centre (CEtC) of WGHF, MES Asmabi College presented the project details. All the representatives of the Panchayath and local community members gathered. The minister declared the project as a unique one for the scientific and people involved eco restoration program to save the coastal belt. A total of 24 students and two teachers were participated in the programme.



Tree planting at costal eco restoration site to develop a vegetation belt against coastal erosion

## 4. Strategic plan for Eco restoration of ecosystems including Sacred Groves



Mr. Tyson Master  
MLA,  
Kaipamangalam  
Inaugurates  
Strategic Plan  
Implementation  
on Sacred Grove  
Conservation

Our centre CEtC has developed a strategic plan for the eco restoration of the different ecosystems in the SN Puram Grama Panchayath. The plan included multiple stakeholder involvement in eco restoration that is scientifically sound, Ecosystems Based (EbA), Niche specific. The plan was approved by Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of the SN Puram Grama Panchyath and ensured involvement of women through MGNREGA. The plan also included a details study on the Ecology and Biodiversity of Sangukulangar Kavu.



News of the  
Program in Dailies

## 5. Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Preparation of Athirappilly Grama Panchayath

### MEETING 16TH DECEMBER 2021

The Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation had an opportunity to collaborate in the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Preparation of Athirappilly Grama Panchayath organized by Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB). The program was conducted at Athirappilly Grama Panchayath Hall. Sri. Rajesh P. President, Athirappilly Grama Panchayath, Sri R. Lakshmi Divisional Forest Officer, Vazhachal, Sri. Govidhan, Member KSBB took part in the programme. Dr. Amitha Bachan KH delivered a talk on the biodiversity assessment of the Athirappilly Grama Panchayath. The local people, indigenous people and various stakeholders participated in the meeting as well as the discussion for the final preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Preparation of Athirappilly Grama Panchayath.



Mr. K. Govindan, member Kerala State Biodiversity Board Charing the Session



MS. R. Lakshmi, DFO Vazhachal facilitate the function



Dr. Amitha Bachan K.H., presenting the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

## 6. 'The Riparian Forest for Fish, Rivers and People' on May 21st 2022 -The world fish migration day

**Riparian Forest for Fish, Rivers and People**  
towards "ecological management of rivers"

**WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY**  
MAY 21, 2022

**BREAK FREE**  
MAY 21, 2022

The Centre for Ecology, Taxonomy, Conservation and Climate change (CEtC) of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation (WGHF) at Research Department of Botany MES Asmabi College campus is organizing an online event "The Riparian Forest for Fish, Rivers and People" on May 21st "The world fish migration day". This event is joining hands with other events happening across the world linked with "World Fish Migration Day" on the 21st May 2022.

**Find event at**  
www.wgfhf.org  
www.wgfhf.org/india  
www.wgfhf.org/india

**WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY**  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2022  
9.30 AM

**INAGURATION**  
Dr. TV Sajeev  
Senior Scientist & Registrar  
Kerala Forest Research Institute

**KEYNOTE**  
River Restoration vis-a-vis Restoration of Fish Migration: A Proposal for Creating a Win-Win Scenario in India  
Dr. A. Biju Kumar  
Dept. of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries, University of Kerala

**THEMATIC TALKS**

Migrating fishes of the rivers of Kerala  
Dr. C.P. Shaji

Restoration Protocol for Riparian Forests in the Western Ghats  
Dr. K.H. Amitha Bachan  
IUCN CEM's CCBPP Core Group Member  
Assi. Prof. MES Asmabi College

**Moderator**  
Vineetha Venugopal  
Hornbill Foundation

**Pollution in River Periyar**  
Dr. G.D. Martin, SRA CUSAT

**The River Bharathapuzha**  
Mr. Vinod Nambiar,  
Gen. Sec. Friends of Bharathapuzha

**The River Kabani**  
Arun PA.  
Ferns Naturalists' Society

**Riparian Vegetation of Meenachil River**  
Dr. N. Unnikrishnan  
Sec. Kottayam Nature Society

**Tirur River**  
Dr. Priya M  
Friends of Bharathapuzha

**Riparian Forests of Pamba River**  
Dr. Jobi Paul  
Assi. Prof. St. Thomas College,  
Thrissur

**Chaliyar River**  
Mahesh Mohanan P  
Ph.D Fellow, Devagiri College

**Threatened Status Assessment of Riparian Ecosystem**  
Devika M Anilkumar  
SER Asia Core Team Member

**Mapping the Riparian Vegetation within Anamalai**  
Pooja Suresh  
Ph.D Fellow, MES Asmabi College

**SER**  
SOCIETY FOR ECORESTORATION

**WORLD FISH MIGRATION FOUNDATION**

As part of the Celebration of "The world fish migration day" an International Conference on "The Riparian Forest for Fish, Rivers and People" was organized. The programme envisages to bring out a status document on riparian zones of various rivers of Kerala in November 2022 towards the concept of "ecological management of rivers" in an international workshop. A comprehensive status on Chalakkudy River and riparian eco-restoration protocol will be used as a baseline. The Centre for Ecology, Taxonomy, Conservation and Climate change (CEtC) of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation (WGHF) at Research Department of Botany MES Asmabi College campus organised an online event "The Riparian Forest for Fish, Rivers and People" on May 21st "The world fish migration day". This event is joining hands with other events happened across the world linked with 'World Fish Migration Day "on the 21st May 2022. This is to propagate the requisite of "Ecological Restoration and management of the Riparian forests across the Western Ghats". Various scientists, researchers, local people and community organisations presented their views on various rivers across Kerala part of Western Ghats. The event was in collaboration with the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation, CEtC & Research Department of Botany MES Asmabi College, Fish Migration Foundation, Society for Ecorestoration (SER). A total of 62 students participated in the programme.

## 7. MoU Signing ceremony with Sree Narayana Puram Grama Panchayath

19TH DECEMBER 2022



Two new MoUs were signed between Sree Narayana Puram Grama Panchayath, CEtC centre of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation at Research Department of Botany MES Asmabi as part for the updation of People's Biodiversity Register and Eco restoration projects supported by Kerala State Biodiversity Board. Dr. Girija T.P., HoD of the Research Department of Botany handed over the MoUs to Mr. M.S. Mohanan, the Panchayath President in the auspicious presence of Dr. Reena Mohamed Vice Principal, Dr. K.H. Amitha Bachan, Director of the Centre, Mr. Ayoob, Standing Committee Chairman, Mrs. Syamily, AE, MGNREGA, Panchayath member, office superintend and Ms. Devika M. Anikumar, Eco restoration program coordinator.

## 8. Make a Difference Week: 7th – 10th June 2022, recognized by SER form India.



Theme Caption

**"Local Genepool in Local Nurseries for Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Resilience"**

MAD Week 2022 with Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)

## **Mrs R. Lakshmi DFO , Vazhachal Forest Division, Inaugurates the Session**

The CEtC centre of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation at MES Asmabi College Campus celebrated World Environment Day by launching Make a Difference Week (MAD week) event with local and global partners announcing a yearlong campaigns, actions and workshops on ecorestoration. Ecological Restoration could be a key for Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature in the only one earth. We collaborate with local bodies, institutions, CBOs and individuals to spread the messages of ecorestoration this year. Our flagship program is to promote the message of ecorestoration through spreading the necessity of "Local Genepool in Local Nurseries for Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Resilience" which was launched on 7th June 2022.

The event was officially launched with a video message from Mr. John Salisbury, the programme associate of SER revealing the MAD week event across the globe and the importance of this event organized from India. Mr. Rajesh K.R., member representative of SN Puram Grama Panchayath shared his experience regarding the ongoing coastal restoration actions in the SN Puram Grama Panchayath in collaboration with Hornbill Foundation and the role of MNREGA rural employment guarantee scheme of the government.



The programme was launched by Mrs. R. Lakshmi Divisional Forest Officer, Vazhachal Forest Division, Kerala Forest Department in a function at the Centre for Ecology, Taxonomy, Conservation and Climate change (CEtC) of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation (WGHF) at Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College Campus, Kodungallur Kerala. She briefed about the uniqueness of evergreen forest in the Western Ghats and the role of forest in contributing to the sustenance of living organisms across the world. She also conveyed the need to restore and conserve our wilderness citing technical and research support provided by Hornbill Foundation in planning and implementation of niche specific ecorestoration in the Vazhachal Forest region especially for restoring degraded riparian forest, threatened tree species habitat and hornbill habitat.

Dr. A Biju, Principal of MES Asmabi College addressed the importance of World Environment Day and the various ongoing activities of the college in collaboration with Hornbill Foundation in ecorestoration programmes. The occasion was felicitated by Mr. Salim Arakkal, Secretary and Correspondent of MES Asmabi College followed by Dr. Reena Mohammed (Vice Principal), Dr. K.P Sumedhan (Director of Self-financing Department) and Dr. Girija T.P. HoD Research Department of Botany. They encouraged the students to participate in such conservation programs.



Ms. Ekaterina, SER Asia Network Core Team Member shared the importance of MAD Week event 2022 and mentioned the importance of different stakeholder engagement in restoration in the various events and the ongoing restoration activities.



Next to that, we launched a recorded video of WGHF to promote the message of ecorestoration through spreading the necessity of "Local Gene pool in Local Nurseries for Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Resilience". A different week different thought for a different year of ecorestoration. The message for local gene pools and nurseries ensure diversity up to the genetic level, involvement of local community and a sustainable livelihood in all ecorestoration programs.



Click to view the documentary : <https://youtu.be/qtzEDZSeiw>

## 9. Coastal ecosystem Restoration: Phase II.

5TH JUNE 2022

The Centre for Ecology, Taxonomy, Conservation and Climate change (CEtC) of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation (WGHF) at Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College Campus is hosting one of our program on coastal ecorestoration. It is a Model Project for Kerala Coast in partnership with Sree Narayana Puram Grama Panchayath.



## 10. School children participating in coastal restoration and MAD week event

6TH JUNE 2023

The children from Veycode Government L.P. school were joined the ecorestoration site along with the women groups for planting seedlings in the coastal region of Kodungallur. The programme was inaugurated by E T. Tyson Master, MLA, Kaipamangalam.



## 11. Coastal Restoration Seed bed & Threatened species nursery



SEED OF *CALOPHYLLUM INOPHYLLUM* GERMINATED FOR COMMUNITY NURSERY

**8TH JUNE 2022**

In connection with MAD week event, Bhoomithrasena Club of MES Asmabi College have gathered to develop seed bed for coastal restoration on 8th June 2022. The seeds collected from the local area especially the *Calophyllum inophyllum* were sowed in the seed bed for its germination with proper spacing and nutrient support.

## 12. Coastal Vegetation belt Nursery

**9TH JUNE 2022**

The Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation and SN puram grama panchayath engaged the women especially in the MNREGA scheme for the ecorestoration processes of disaster hit coastal zones. In this MAD week, to promote the message of local gene pool they developed a nursery by collecting the seeds and seedlings from their local area and that were kept for restoration sites this year.



Community nursery by women through MGNREGA

### 13. Nursery for threatened rain forest tree species restoration 1

The Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation and Research Department of Botany at MES Asmabi College officially inaugurated the seed germination centre for threatened tree species. Seedlings of nine threatened (IUCN) tree species were successfully germinated this year to use in the identified restoration sites based on niche profiling and niche modelling. In collaboration with forest department and local community the restoration processes will be taken place. The rain forest tree species such as *Diospyros crumenata*, *Prioria pinnata*, *Hopea ponga*, *Hopea parviflora*, *Baccaurea courtallensis*, *Humboldtia vahliana*, *Aporosa bourdillonii*, *Syzygium occidentale* were produced more in number.

0TH JUNE 2022



## 14. Anniversary Celebration of Coastal Celebration at SN Puram Grama Panchayath:

30TH AUGUST 2022

The success of our one-year coastal restoration process in the four wards of Sree Narayanapuram Grama Panchayath was celebrated on 30th August 2022. It has been a year where Sree Narayanapuram Grama Panchayath in collaboration with Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation implements the restoration of coastal zones by the involvement of women in MGNREGA scheme.

The annual conference of the project and the inauguration of the second phase of the project was inaugurated by P.K. Devis Master (President, District Panchayath, Thrissur) at MES Asmabi College. Panchayath President Mr. M.S. Mohanan presided over the function and Dr. A. Biju, Principal MES Asmabi College was the chief guest. The inauguration also mentioned that the Panchayat's project is a model project for combating climate change and combining employment for the local community especially for women. The Panchayath President gave an introduction about the importance of the project and its environmental goals, women's participation and sustainable living. Dr. Amitha Bachan, who is leading the project, gave a detailed presentation of the one-year operation of the project. About 25 women who are successfully carrying out ecosystem protection through the MGNREGA scheme were honored. Panchayat Vice-President welcomed the event and Chairman Development Standing Committee Mr. A. Ayooob felicitated the function in the presence of other ward members of the Panchayath. The students and teachers of the MES Asmabi College was also a part of the programme.



## 15. BMC Meeting at SN Puram Grama Panchayath



2ND NOVEMBER 2022

A meeting was conducted at Sree Narayanapuram Grama Panchayath for the discussion of existing activities regarding the restoration practices and new proposals.

## 16. Niche Specific Restoration of Sacred Grove at Thalikulam, Thrissur

8TH NOVEMBER 2023

Sree Narayana College, Nattika in collaboration with Hornbill Foundation organized ecorestoration of sacred grove at Thalikulam. The programme was inaugurated by the chief guest Mr. Febin Francis (Thrissur district coordinator, Kerala State Biodiversity Board) by planting the sapling of a low elevation threatened tree species in auspicious presence of Dr. K.H. Amitha Bachan and Ms. Devika M Anilkumar. K.H. Amitha Bachan talked about the need for niche specific ecological restoration practices. Teachers and students of Department of Botany, Sree Narayana College, Nattika planted the remaining saplings in the sacred grove and take over the session. A total of 15 saplings were planted. The planted threatened saplings include *Prioria pinnata* (Kulavu), *Hopea ponga* (Thambakam) and *Diospyros crumenata* (Karimaram) along with their associates species which occupies the same niche.



Mr. Febin Francis, District Coordinator, KSBB  
Handing over the threatened tree sapling



## 17. Inauguration of second phase for the restoration of sacred groves and ponds



The second phase of restoration of sacred groves and ponds has started in Sree Narayanapuram Panchayath. 10 sacred groves and 5 ponds are included in the project as part of biodiversity conservation and coastal ecosystem restoration. The Biodiversity Management Committee of the Panchayath and MGNREGA scheme in collaboration with CEtC centre of Hornbill Foundation at MES Asmabi College campus jointly implemented this programme.

ശ്രീനാരായണപുരം ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത്  
 മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധി ദേശീയഗ്രാമീണ തൊഴിലുറപ്പു പദ്ധതി

**കാവുകളും കുളങ്ങളും പുനസ്ഥാപനവും  
 തുമ്പി, മത്സ്യ ജൈവ വൈവിധ്യ  
 സംരക്ഷണവും രണ്ടാം ഘട്ട  
 പ്രവർത്തന ഉദ്ഘാടനം**

2023 ഏപ്രിൽ 30 തൊയർ വൈകിട്ട് 4.30ന്  
 പരപ്പറമ്പിൽ സുരേഷ് വീട് പരിസരം

ഉദ്ഘാടനം : എം.എസ്.ജോഹന്നൻ  
 ശ്രീനാരായണപുരം ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രസിഡന്റ്

## 18. Christmas Celebration with community at restoration site

24TH DECEMBER 2022

A Christmas Celebration function was organised in the coastal restoration sites of ward 19 and 21 of Sree Narayana puram during the Christmas eve. The women who works in MGNREGA scheme of the two wards were gathered and together we celebrated by cake cutting.



## 19. Scientific monitoring process of the restoration sites

**22-12-2022 to 26-1-2023**

Scientific monitoring process were conducted to note the phenological changes, growth rate, threat faced by the planted saplings in the coastal belt in the selected wards of SN Puram Grama Panchayath. The students from Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College volunteered and they actively participated in data collection, consolidation and reporting processes. The collected data includes the length of leaf, internodal length, height of the saplings, data regarding the threat faced and nutrients and protection provided to the species.



UG students project at Monitoring of coastal ecorestoration site

## 20. Launching of BMC Clubs in College and Schools of SN Puram Grama Panchayath:

10th January 2023

In connection with biodiversity conservation and restoration the Biodiversity management Committee of Sree Narayanapuram Grama panchayath conducted a program for announcing the launch of biodiversity clubs in the schools and colleges with the technical support of Hornbill Foundation. Mrs. Jaya Sunil, Vice President delivered the welcome address, Mr. M.S. Mohanan, Panchayath President presided over the ceremony. The program was inaugurated by Shri. E. T. Tyson Master held at seminar hall of MES Asmabi College on 10th January 2023. About 200 participants were presented including the local community, Panchayath members, PG students of Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College.



## 21. Review meeting with Community at Coastal restoration site

12th January 2023

A review meeting was conducted with the women who works in the MGNREGA scheme at the coastal restoration sites of 1, 19, 20, 21 wards of SN puram Grama Panchayath. The meeting reported the present status of the work, challenges faced by the community while working and other requirements regarding the restoration.



## 22. Exhibition at Kerala State Biodiversity Congress1



With Mr. Pramod G Krishnan, IFS on Eco restoration at the stall



Team from Tata Consultancy Services – visiting the stall



←  
**Mr. Vimal Kumar, Scientific Officer, Kerala State Biodiversity Board presenting the certificate of appreciation**

**8th -20th February 2023**

The 2nd Kerala State Biodiversity Congress was held from 18th -20th February 2023 at Govt. Arts and Science College, Kozhikode. CETC Centre of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation has participated in the exhibition organised in connection with Kerala State Biodiversity Congress organised by Kerala State Biodiversity Board.

# Mangrove restoration at two Grama Panchayths

## 23. Community Based Eco restoration of Degraded Mangrove Ecosystems at Eriyad Grama Panchayth

9th March 2023



Mangrove planting at Eriyad Grama Panchayath involving local women



The 2nd Kerala State Biodiversity Congress was held from 18th -20th February 2023 at Govt. Arts and Science College, Kozhikode. CEtC Centre of Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation has participated in the exhibition organised in connection with Kerala State Biodiversity Congress organised by Kerala State Biodiversity Board.



## 24. Mangrove Restoration at Gothuruth, SN Puram Grama Panchayath

5th August 2023

CEtC Centre WGHF at MES Asmabi College is providing technical support for the restoration programme of SN Puram Grama Panchayath funded by Kerala State Biodiversity Board. As part of this programme Mangrove restoration was started to conserve and protect the Canoli canal by involving the women in MGNREGA. The programme was inaugurated by Sri. Usha M.A where Shri. M.S. Mohanan, President SN Puram Grama Panchayath presided the ceremony. The Panchayat members and the women were participated in the programme. The programme was started at 11.00 am, where together we planted the mangrove saplings in the banks of the Canoli canal, Gothuruth region to promote niche specific restoration practices in this climate change scenario.



## 25. Biodiversity Survey at SN Puram Grama Panchayath

11th – 12th March 2023



CETC Centre WGHF at MES Asmabi College is providing technical support for the restoration programme of SN Puram Grama Panchayath funded by Kerala State Biodiversity Board. As part of this programme Mangrove restoration was started to conserve and protect the Canoli canal by involving the women in MGNREGA. The programme was inaugurated by Sri. Usha M.A where Shri. M.S. Mohanan, President SN Puram Grama Panchayath presided the ceremony. The Panchayat members and the women were participated in the programme. The programme was started at 11.00 am, where together we planted the mangrove saplings in the banks of the Canoli canal, Gothuruth region to promote niche specific restoration practices in this climate change scenario.



## 26. Three papers accepted for 8th International Hornbill Conference held at Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand.

CEtC Centre WGHF at MES Asmabi College is providing technical support for the restoration programme of SN Puram Grama Panchayath funded by Kerala State Biodiversity Board. As part of this programme Mangrove restoration was started to conserve and protect the Canoli canal by involving the women in MGNREGA. The programme was inaugurated by Sri. Usha M.A where Shri. M.S. Mohanan, President SN Puram Grama Panchayath presided the ceremony. The Panchayat members and the women were participated in the programme. The programme was started at 11.00 am, where together we planted the mangrove saplings in the banks of the Canoli canal, Gothuruth region to promote niche specific restoration practices in this climate change scenario.



## 29. people biodiversity Register (PBR) Preparation and Release



The first PBR second phase of the state was prepared by the BMC . SN puram with technical support from our team and was released in an important function at the Thever Plaza Auditorium, SN Puram.

The PBR phase II releasing by Mr. Davis Mash, President District Panchayath along with Mr. Govindan K.V., member, Kerala State Biodiversity Board. With auspicious presence of Mrs. Girija, President Block Panchayath, Mr. M.S. Mohanan, President SN Puram Grama Panchayath and Dr. (Prof.) A. Biju. Principal, MES Asmabi College.

## Evidence of success

- With Dr. Sahu, TISS Mumbai, Dr. Bachan developed a policy advocacy brief for the Kerala government on forest rights.
- BMC, SN Puram Grama Panchayath released the first PBR (second Phase) for the state with our technical support.
- We have evolved methodology and implemented Niche specific, EbA assured, Multiple stakeholder partnership involved Ecorestoration of Ecosystems involving women through MGNREGA. This is earmarked as the unique initiative by SER, UN. Published in SER Newsletter and journal

- WGHF, IUCN, and BGCI supported Red list assessment of threatened plants and ecological restoration of damaged ecosystems. Dr. Amitha Bachan K.H., faculty and PI, and Ms. Devika M. Anilkumar, research scholar and ecorestoration programme coordinator, were became Global Assessors IUCN RedList of Threatened Status of Plants and SER Asia network members, and contributed to assessing 57 threatened plant species.
- KSBB, through BMC SN Puram, supported ecological restoration in sacred groves, fresh water ponds, mangroves along the Canoly Canal backwaters, biopoarks, and butterfly gardens.
- SN Puram Grama Panchayth's four-kilometer coastal vegetation belt restoration provided 35 women with MGNREGA income.
- The Arappathodu (stream emptying to sea) ecorestoration began last year with 10 women empowered. Mr. Saji Cheriyan, Kerala's Fisheries Minister, called it a model coastal zone restoration initiative.
- Eriyad LSG, used our help to ecorestore mangroves, while SN Puram requested help with the net zero carbon target.
- The program initiated Biodiversity clubs in all the 18 education institutions in the Panchayath, provided training and expanded the practice to the neighbouring schools.
- Thus far, more than 500 students actively involved, with participation more than 4000 including students from 15 nearby schools, including 14 new BD clubs.
- Over 340 students, interns actively participated, producing UG and Masters research projects. Over 1000 students from nearby schools and clubs attended this event.
- The International Rufford Grant 2022-23 and Prakrithi National Fellowship 2023 went to Devika M. Anilkumar, PhD Fellow.
- Three papers were selected for the International Hornbill Conference at Kasetsart University, Bangkok , Thailand 23-27 May 2023. These three papers were three among the 61 selected across the world, 7 from India and three from Kerala.
- Ms. Devika M. Anilkumar, PhD Fellow received fellowship reward to attend the conference from the conference parties, IUCN SSG for Hornbills and Thailand Hornbill Foundation

# Achievements



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ITDP, Nilambur.



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Date : 12.12.2019

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E- 5710/2007

**Duty Certificate**

Dr. Amitha Bachan K. H. Asst. Prof. and Msc students 1) Devika M Anilkumar, 2) Anila K T, 3) Deepika V, 4) Fidha P, 5) Sidhardh AS Kumar, Research department of Botany, MES Asmabi College P. Vemballur conducted a seminar at Mundakkadvu and Nedumkayam Tribal Colonies in malappuram District on 12/12/2019 organised by ST Development department (ITDP Nilambur)

**CEERD**  
Centre For Environmental Education And Rural Development

**ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE**  
KADAVUR, DISTRICT NILAMBUR  
Tel: 0495 53952, Fax: 0495 53976, [ceerdt@nilambur.in](mailto:ceerdt@nilambur.in)

*Certificate of Appreciation*

The judging committee for Parishthi Miltra Award- 2019  
specially appreciate -  
**Dr. K. H. Amithabhochan**  
**Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation**  
**Thiruvur**  
for their valuable services towards the promotion of  
environmental education, protection, conservation  
and sustainable development  
in the State of Kerala during 2018-2019.

Utharavur 03.10.2019      Prof. Jose Thomas  
Chairperson and Principal      Prof. K. C. Thomas  
Executive Director

**CEERD**



## PRF 2023 Selection



**Anirban Roy**  
Assessing community-led forest conservation in CFR-entitled parcels in Vidarbha Maharashtra



**Devika M Anilkumar**  
Niche profile based ecorestoration of three threatened tree species in the low elevation habitats



**Gayathri Venkatramanan**  
Environmental drivers & anthropogenic threats to insectivorous bats in agricultural & semi-urban landscape in southern state of Tamil Nadu



**Samrat Sengupta**  
Assessment of the conservation status of the endemic Khasi Hills toad, *Bufoides megalayanus* in Northeast India

**IUCN Status Assessment, Niche Modelling and Niche Profiling of Endemic Tree Species for Effective Species Recovery and Ecorestoration**

15 JUN 2022  **Western Ghats, India, Indian Sub-continent**  **Communities | Forests | Habitats | Plants**

Devika M Anilkumar  
Madathil



Ecosystem level approach and habitat specific micro level understanding of species composition is essential for effective ecorestoration practise. The ongoing tree planting and ecorestoration activities are devoid of scientific planning for niche and ecosystem adaptability due to lack of ecological methodologies and studies. Bioclimatic prediction of potential habitat through niche modelling and niche profiling of the threatened species of different ecosystems proposed here to avoid invasion into other species niches while restoration.



<https://www.rufford.org/projects/devika-m-anilkumar-madathil/iucn-status-assessment-niche-modelling-and-niche-profiling-endemic-tree-species-effective-species-recovery-and-ecorestoration/>

Open in The Hindu App [↗](#)



## How a community-based initiative restored dwindling hornbill population in Western Ghats

Two-decade-long effort, involving Kadar tribal community in Vazhachal forest division, has improved the population of hornbills

May 26, 2023 07:28 pm | Updated May 27, 2023 11:43 am IST - Thrissur

MINI MURINGATHERI

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How a community-based initiative restored dwindling hornbill population in Western Ghats:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/how-a-community-based-initiative-restored-dwindling-hornbill-population-in-western-ghats/article66897279.ec>  
e





## Team from Outside Kerala to study



The National level Youth Training programme "Youth Lead Transition to A Climate Resilient Development" organized by Kerala Institute on Local Administration (KILA), Government of Kerala (15-17, September 2023) has selected the Coastal Ecorestoration Program for Climate Resilience of our CEC, Research and Extension centre of Research Department of Botany MES Asmabi College as one case study. About 95 participants, selected youth from all states of India came over here to learn and filed visit. The Kaipamangalam Constituency, represented by Mr. Tyson Master, MLA had been selected as the study site in which the 'the Coastal ecorestoration program' implemented involving BMC of the Panchayat, MGNREGA women and Kerala State Biodiversity Board with a scientifically sound methodology ensuring NbS and EBA based on International guideline developed from our lab. The case study was presented by Dr. Amitha Bachan K.H., Assistant professor and Research guide, the Principal Investigator of the program.