



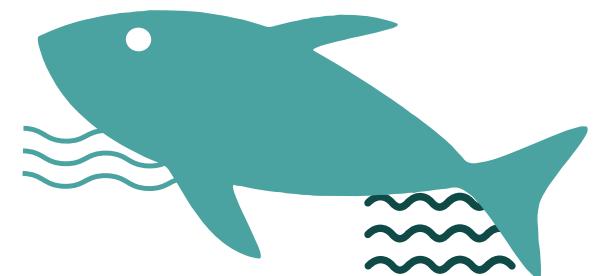
2020-2022
BIENNIAL
REPORT

DAKSHIN FOUNDATION



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**BIENNIAL REPORT
2020-2022**





Contents

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Cover photo

Satya Sainath

Publication design

Adeeb Saalim & Shivangi Pant

Illustrations

Pragya Solanki, Shivangi Pant and Adeeb Saalim (pg. 5-7)
Shivangi Pant (pg. 15)

Photography

Adhith Swaminathan (pg. 3, 17, 20, 22, 23, 28, 34, 59, 73)
Ajay Giri (pg. 21)
Ajmeer MM (pg. 25)
Anonymous (pg. 49)
Biswa Swaroop Das (pg. 29)
CGF - Ch Pratima (pg. 11, 15)
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Satya Sainath (pg. 47)
Shrinivas Ananthanarayanan (pg. 51)
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is quite surreal to be writing this note as the Director of the organisation that I joined over 11 years ago as a Research Assistant. First off, my thanks to our Board and our outgoing director Dr. Naveen Namboothri who saw us through two unpredictable years of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns - the period covered in this report. Dakshin emerged stronger (and larger!) thanks to his efforts and the support of our generous donor community. A special thanks to Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Blue Ventures and several others for supporting our decision during the first lockdown to divert our staff towards relief efforts in aid of fishing communities and migrant fishworkers. With their support and the efforts of our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, we assisted over 15,000 migrant workers (primarily migrant fishworkers) with food, repatriation and relief. We raised funds to support over 11,200 resident fisher community members with rations. As an institution, there were many lessons for us from this period, not least of which was the necessity to retain within the organisation a spirit of flexibility and adaptation especially in the face of unforeseen challenges.

In many ways, the decision to pivot staff from their programmatic and core responsibilities to focus on relief work was not surprising. As one of our long-time advisors and donors, Ms. Rohini Nilekani once observed – Dakshin is an organisation that punches well-above its weight. We may have grown in size since 2016 when this comment was made, but our spirit remains the same. Though most staff had little to no experience with disaster relief, they rose admirably to the challenge.

Now this ambitious spirit has led us to our next phase – ‘SeaChange’. This refers to Dakshin’s unique approach towards building an integrated and scalable model that breaks thematic silos within the environment and development sectors. The lockdowns of the past two years gave us time to internally hash out

different iterations of what SeaChange would entail. In 2022, we were finally able to head to the field and begin implementing and refining this model in our sites in Odisha and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. SeaChange is our solution to addressing the challenges posed by the complex, intersectional problems specific to coastal and marine systems and to lead civil society efforts in this direction. We are extremely grateful to our institutional donors Rainmatter Foundation and Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies for their faith in us and giving us the freedom to experiment and refine SeaChange.

Apart from introducing SeaChange, this biennial report presents the range of work encompassed within our programmes - from developing AI models that will help predict and mitigate human-wildlife conflict to our new Coastal Grassroots Fellowship which is enhancing the leadership and capacities of young women from fishing communities.

The past two years have only served to increase our appreciation for our colleagues, partners, donors and well-wishers. We look to the future with the belief that despite the tremendous challenges (economic, political and ecological) facing the communities and ecosystems we work with, this foundation of mutual support will enable us to meet whatever situation presents itself.

-Marianne Manuel



1. DAKSHIN'S MISSION

Dakshin Foundation (DF) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, which was established in 2008 with a mission to inform and advocate conservation and natural resource management, while promoting and supporting sustainable livelihoods, social development and environmental justice. Dakshin carries out applied environmental research as well as standalone and cross-sectoral interventions that aim for positive outcomes for both people and the ocean. DF's approach is based on an integrated philosophy that combines research expertise across multiple disciplines to address environmental and livelihood challenges through appropriate models that are flexible across scales and are implemented in partnership with local communities, government departments and other civil society organisations. These models integrate traditional knowledge, researcher contributions and appropriate technologies to generate impact at scale that is both ecologically and economically sustainable, and culturally acceptable, towards a new equilibrium for coastal India. DF's work also aims at building grassroots' capacities to secure ecosystems and rights, and engage in conservation and environmental decision-making through participatory action.

OUR WORK:

Dakshin Foundation works with coastal communities across several target locations in India which are con-

nected by a common thread of marine resource dependence and sustainability. Among these groups, local communities dependent on fisheries form a primary target group, and many of the organisation's interventions are aimed at working with these communities to achieve holistic, sustainability outcomes. Within its programmatic sphere, DF's work spans several overlapping themes that form the pillars of support for its organisational goals.

The key programmes at Dakshin include Marine Flagships; Sustainable Fisheries; Communities and Resource Governance; Community Wellbeing and Environment; Environmental Education and Conservation CrossRoads. Additionally developed during this period is our new SeaChange framework which is an integrated approach which cuts across these programmatic themes.



MARINE FLAGSHIPS (MF) aims at filling critical gaps in our current knowledge of the oceans through long-term and collaborative monitoring of select ecosystems and marine species. It uses flagship species (e.g.

sea turtles, sharks and sea snakes) as central themes for addressing issues pertaining to fisheries, coastal development and global change.



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES (SF) focuses on improving governance and management of fisheries by decentralising knowledge to empower stakeholder communities and to ensure their direct involvement in decision-making. It leverages the untapped potential of local communities in the design and implementation of integrated monitoring programmes for the sustainability of marine fisheries along the Indian coastline.



COMMUNITIES AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE (CRG) works across scales to strengthen formal and informal legal frameworks and institutions governing marine and coastal areas. The

programme emphasis at the grass-roots level is on empowering communities and assisting with strategizing, coordination and advocacy for effective community involvement in decision-making over coastal and marine spaces. By building and facilitating support networks at the national level, this programme brings community participation in coastal planning and resource management to the policy change platform, and augments local level coordination with targeted policy change interventions.



COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT (CWE) aims to improve the well-being of coastal communities while empowering them to build resilient communities and ecosystems. This programme focuses on holistic approaches that improve community health and livelihoods, utilising novel tools such as sports to facilitate engagement with youth and adults in these communities.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (EE) focuses on experience-based education and place-based learning, using ecosystems as living classrooms, to foster connections between individuals and the history, culture, economy, literature, art and ecology of their communities and environment.



CONSERVATION CROSSROADS (CCR) was initiated recently (2021) to address emerging challenges that are critical to conservation success and environmental sustainability in the new millennium. The rationale behind its initiation has been to provide an academic platform at Dakshin to address contemporary emerging crises such as conflict (especially in the context of marine and terrestrial flagship species that are involved in negative interactions with local communities) that can be classified under the label of 'wicked', 'messy' problems.



SEACHANGE (SC) is a framework developed to address complex problems, which is a sharp departure from current equilibrium approaches to conservation and environmental governance. Dakshin's SeaChange framework is an integrated pathway that aims to secure healthy ecosystems and thriving communities by unlocking local potential, building bridges and strengthening agency. SeaChange is emphatically intersectoral, addressing themes such as coastal livelihoods, resource governance and community health, and innovative in using a range of approaches to engage with different stakeholders in the community across gender and age classes. It acknowledges the nuances of place and culture, but is simultaneously designed to scale across the coast of India. Through SeaChange we will enable inclusive, community-driven models for the sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems through capacity enhancement, strategic partnerships with the state and civil society, and by strengthening collective action. SeaChange processes are also designed to enable communities to claim their rights, access critical developmental and financial resources and thereby improve their overall wellbeing. SeaChange is envisioned as the initial component of a more ambitious Thousand Hamlets Project, which aims to reach out directly to at least a quarter of fishing villages across the Indian coastline.



2. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT



Holistic problem definitions and solutions



Transparent actions and motives



Collaboration and empowerment



Contextual models with replicable processes



Actions grounded in knowledge



Long-term commitment to change



Environmental justice and co-management

3.

DAKSHIN'S TIMELINE

FOR SITES, PROGRAMMES AND KEY PROJECTS



2008

Registration of Dakshin Foundation; Initiated the olive ridley monitoring programme in Odisha which marked the beginning of the Biodiversity and Resource Monitoring (BRM) Programme; Conceptualised the Communities and Resource Governance (CRG) Programme and Reconciliation Ecology (RE) Programme. Dakshin received the first of many grants from the Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust (DMNCT) for the work of the CRG Programme.



2009

The CRG Programme initiated sectoral studies on port infrastructure and land rights in coastal India. Dakshin became the Secretariat for the National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC), initiating an approach of collaborating through networks for effective coastal policy changes.



2010

Expanded programmatic vision; the CRG programme expanded its focus to facilitate long-term network-building and public engagement with law; the BRM programme expanded to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) with a leatherback monitoring project. In 2010, our Founder-Trustee, Prof. Kartik Shanker, in his capacity as the President of the International Sea Turtle Society, organised the 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Goa, which at the time was the largest conference on ecology and conservation organised in India. Dakshin was a key partner and organiser of this conference.



2011

The first institutional grant from Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies (RNP) supported hiring of the first set of staff; Initiated our Environmental Education (EE) programme with a focus on ANI; Expanded the CRG programme work to Tamil Nadu with the support of a follow-up DMNCT grant to the programme. Dakshin members were invited to produce a customised newsletter - Common Voices, and to host a day-long fisheries programme at the 11th Commons Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons.



2012

Set up a sub-programme on Sustainable Fisheries (SF) under the BRM programme; Expanded our work to the Lakshadweep through SF; Facilitated the creation of the Island Resource Network - a coalition involving various government departments, research institutions, NGOs, private entrepreneurs and the media from the ANI with an interest in conserving and sustainably using the islands' marine resources. Dakshin in partnership with FES produced 5 marine subject specific policy briefs for the CBD-COP and hosted a side-event on Women in Biodiversity.



2013

Stopped the Reconciliation Ecology Programme post a review of institutional priorities and objectives. Our work on small-scale fisheries expanded during this period. We produced insights into India's diverse small-scale fisheries cultures and economies through various multi-modal outreach products.





2015

BRM programme expanded to Maharashtra with support from the Maharashtra Forest Department and Mangrove Foundation.



2016

Initiated projects to support the study of and field-interventions towards conservation of coastal and marine commons across Odisha and the Lakshadweep Islands - a sustained inter-programmatic focus for Dakshin.



2017

Started trial management of the Andaman Nicobar Environment Team (ANET) field station (owned by the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust) in the Andaman islands; Expanded EE programme's scope in the Andaman and Nicobar islands from exclusively environmental education to foundational literacy and numeracy given the realities of the island education system.



2018

Expanded engagement in Lakshadweep and initiated work in Andhra Pradesh with support from The Tata Trusts to the SF and CRG programmes; Initiated collaborations with Blue Ventures for SF programme's work in Lakshadweep.



2019

Post internal review with learnings from our different field sites, especially Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, Dakshin initiated the Community Wellbeing and Environment (CWE) programme to address the wellbeing needs of fishing communities; Purchased the Andaman Nicobar Environment Team (ANET) field station with support from RNP; Joined the Andaman Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority.



2020

Pivoted from programme/project efforts to COVID-19 lockdown relief work from April to July 2020; Signed MoU with Blue Ventures towards work in the interface between community health and environment; Dakshin identified as the nodal agency for the marine theme of the MoEFCC's Long-Term Ecological Observatories (LTEO) programme; ANET identified as the official field station in the ANI for the LTEO programme.



2021

The Conservation CrossRoads (CCR) programme was initiated; Rainmatter Foundation committed to multi-year support towards institutional growth and early stage funding for the SeaChange initiative; Waterloo Foundation provided multi-year support for Dakshin's work on fisheries governance; Commonwealth Foundation supported the CRG programme to expand scope of work on small-scale fisheries to the global concern with migration in fisheries; Dakshin takes on the hosting of the Southern Collective - a Northern Indian Ocean collaborative of maritime researchers and social change practitioners.

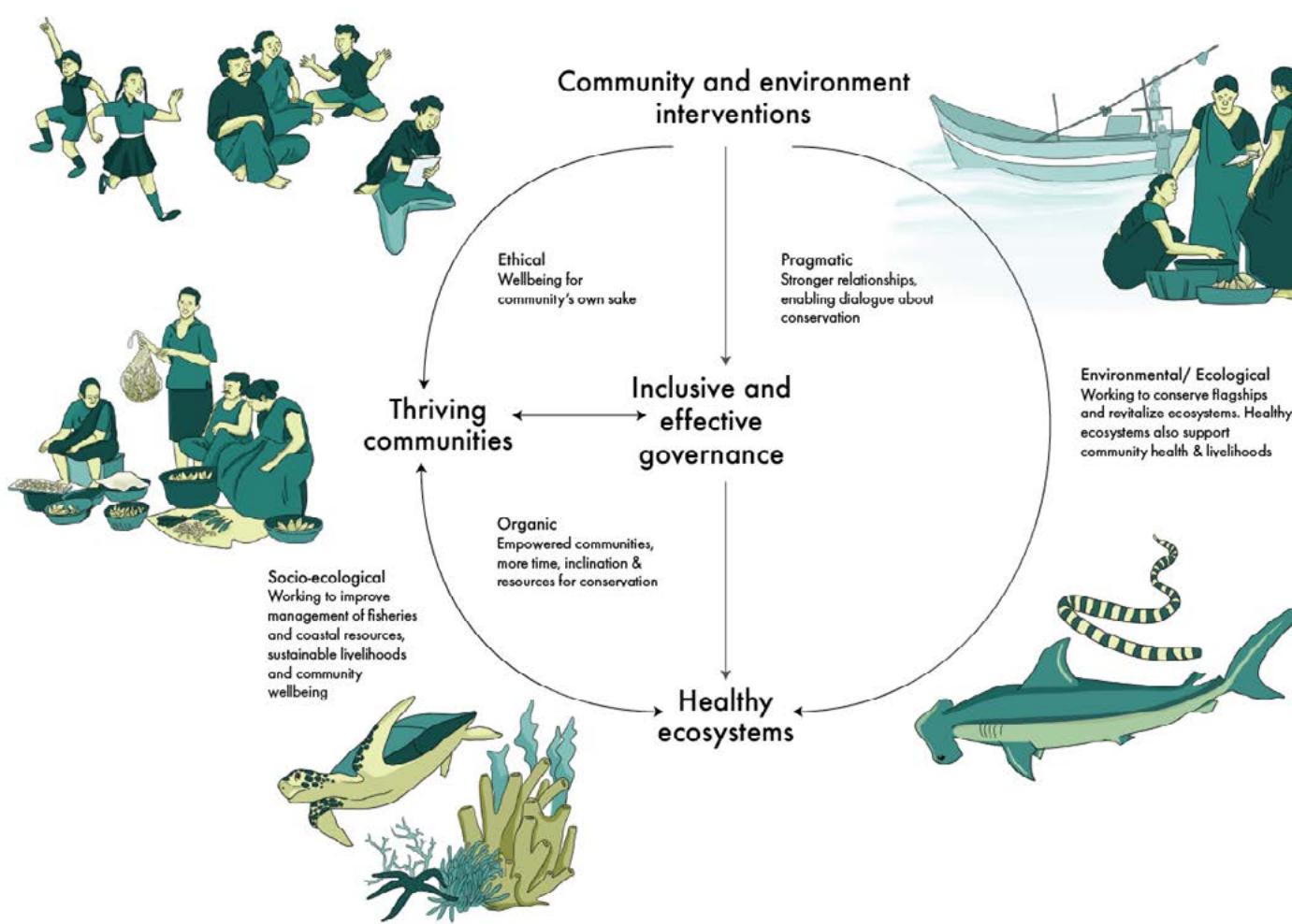


2022

Institutional succession plan operationalised with a non-Trustee taking over the position of Director; Initiated the SeaChange model to begin pilots in Odisha and the Andaman Islands; The EE Programme was put on hold to reorient its activities and to integrate with SeaChange; Dakshin was given recognition and inducted as an R&D organisation under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR); Awarded the Gold Prize in Sustainable Leadership in the Conservation Category as part of the Outlook Responsible Tourism Awards.



4. DAKSHIN'S THEORY OF CHANGE



Our theory of change is centred on the idea that marine conservation is best achieved by working with communities that use, or depend on ocean resources for their livelihoods. First, we believe in contributing to the wellbeing of our stakeholders for ethical reasons, towards social justice and not just as instruments of change. Second, resource-dependent coastal communities such as fishers and fishworkers, who are empowered to manage these ecosystems sustainably, and incentivised appropriately will be able to work towards alleviating local food insecurity, health and livelihood concerns, and poverty over the long-term. Ultimately this will organically lead to healthier ecosystems and greater resilience against external shocks as healthy and empowered communities will have the time, resources and opportunities to contribute to resource management and biodiversity conservation. To this end, by building strong, pragmatic relationships with local communities, Dakshin is able to engage in dialogue and work with them to plan actions that have positive human and environmental outcomes. Finally, healthy ecosystems provide better services and functions to communities through ecological and environmental pathways.

"Our theory of change is centred on the idea that marine conservation is best achieved by working with communities that use, or depend on ocean resources for their livelihoods."



5. KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2020-2022



5.1

Making a 'SeaChange' with Support from Rainmatter Foundation

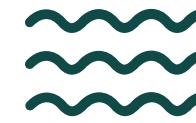
India's coastal, marine and island geographies are characterised by challenges that threaten biodiversity conservation outcomes, reduce ecosystem stability and disrupt locally adaptive lifestyles of coastal communities. SeaChange converges insights from existing projects to leverage environmental and social benefits through an integrated pathway that secures both healthy ecosystems and thriving communities. SeaChange is emphatically intersectoral, addressing themes such as coastal livelihoods, resource governance and community health, and innovative in using a range of approaches to engage with stakeholders across gender and age. Through SeaChange, Dakshin enables inclusive, community-driven models for the sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems by strengthening collective action, capacity enhancement and strategic partnerships with the state and civil society. SeaChange processes are designed to enable communi-

ties to claim their rights, access critical developmental and financial resources and thereby improve their overall wellbeing.

Rainmatter Foundation has partnered with Dakshin to fund the streamlining and expansion of SeaChange across Dakshin's geographies of focus. While the broad sectoral dimensions of the SeaChange model are expected to remain the same across sites, the interventions will be tailored to meet the needs of the different spaces and the diversities of the local context. SeaChange is intended to serve as the initial component of a more ambitious Thousand Hamlets Project, which aims to benefit at least half of the fishing villages along the Indian coastline, and ultimately create changemakers within coastal communities who can accelerate environmental and social goals.



"SeaChange processes are designed to enable communities to claim their rights, access critical developmental and financial resources and thereby improve their overall wellbeing."

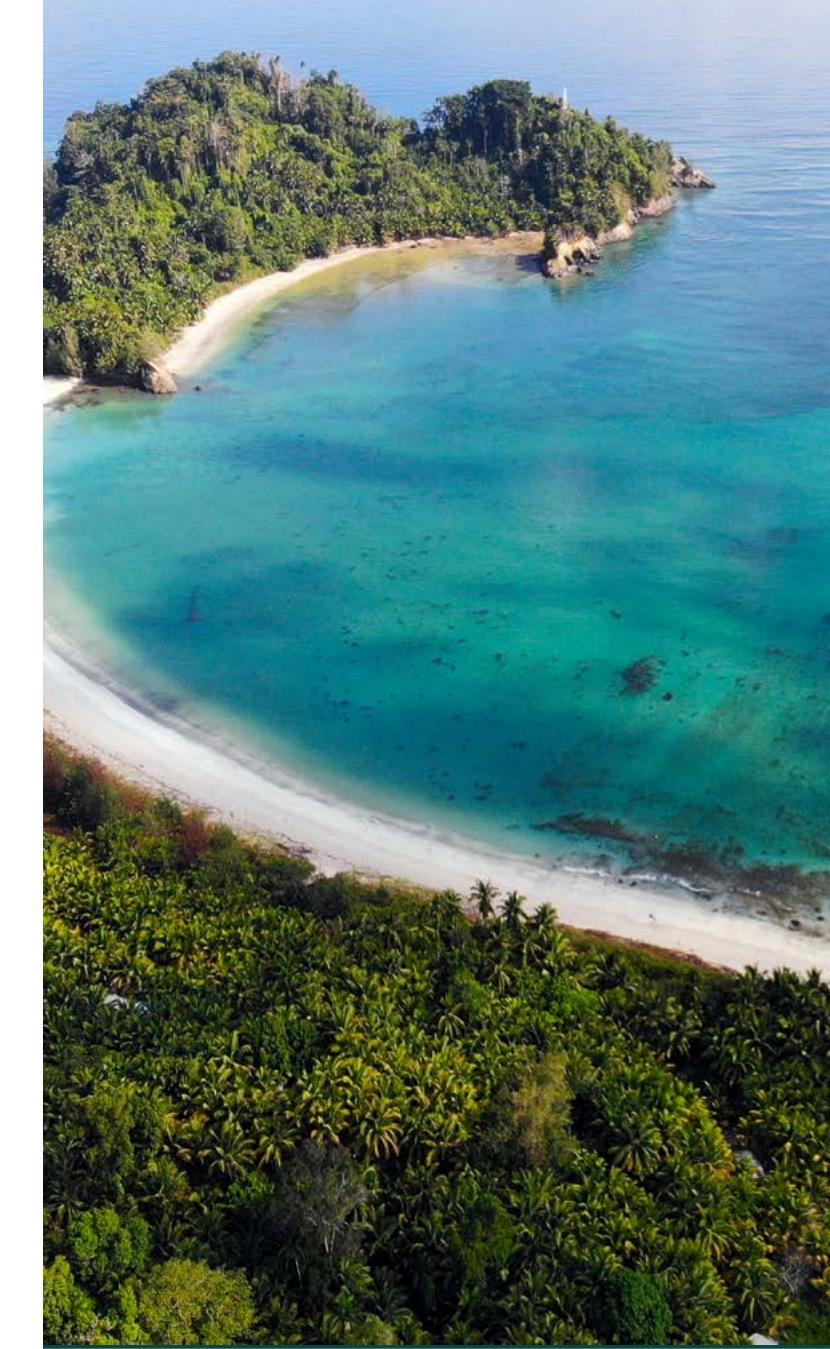


5.2

Building the Centre for Island Sustainability

Dakshin Foundation is currently in the process of establishing the Centre for Island Sustainability (CIS) in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. CIS will serve as a multidisciplinary research and intervention hub that covers a range of vital themes of contemporary significance to the islands. These include addressing ecological, cultural and climatic vulnerabilities that affect small island systems, as well as extra-local influences related to economic growth and development. Covering both marine and terrestrial systems, ecological, socio-cultural and political subjects, as well as environment and development themes, CIS aims to develop a holistic research and intervention programme keeping in mind the interconnectedness of the system. CIS will explore the design and implementation of innovative research and monitoring protocols for social-ecological systems.

A primary objective of the initiative will also be to address the gaps in expertise within the institution as well as to augment capacities by incorporating a network of highly qualified researchers and policy analysts from collaborating institutions. As a facilitation agency for research and action in the islands for several governmental and non-governmental organisations, CIS has the potential to become India's leading centre for island sustainability. Eventually, it may come to serve as a think tank for emerging challenges not only for the Andaman islands and their communities but for other regional island geographies and small island states. The initiation of the CIS idea is made possible by generous support from Sara John and Harsha Viji.



"CIS will serve as a multidisciplinary research and intervention hub that covers a range of vital themes of contemporary significance to the islands."





5.3

Partnership with MCBT on ARRS management



The Agumbe Rainforest Research Station (ARRS) is a permanent field station of the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT) situated inside the Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary and Agumbe Reserve Forest in Shimoga District of Karnataka. ARRS was founded by renowned herpetologist Romulus Whitaker in 2005, with financial support from the late Doris Norden Chattopadhyaya and the Whitley Fund for Nature. ARRS has a long-term mission to study and conserve rainforests through applied ecological research, outreach programs and partnerships. Nestled in the moist evergreen forests of Agumbe, ARRS is the site of the first of a kind King Cobra Telemetry Project. Over the years, the research station has also hosted a large number of research projects as well as educational endeavours. A critical service provided by the staff of the research station includes the



“As part of the new framework, the current scope of the field station, including its research, training and outreach activities will be expanded significantly.”



5.4

Introducing Conservation CrossRoads

In addition to our programmes in the coastal and marine sphere, Dakshin and its partner organisations work on issues related to emerging challenges that are critical to conservation success and environmental sustainability in the new millennium. One such programme is Conservation CrossRoads, which is discipline-agnostic and adopts a diverse range of methods and analytical frameworks, and addresses both research and intervention. The projects currently undertaken through the programme can be classified into three broad categories.

- **Coexistence and conflict:** which encompasses human-wildlife encounters and interactions ranging from the positive to the negative. It pays special attention to the unintended consequences of successful conservation, especially that of charismatic flagships, such as elephants, crocodiles and snakes, that pose danger to human lives and livelihoods, and works towards identifying pathways for coexistence.
- **Conservation enterprise and innovation:** which supports on-the-ground interventions that incorporate elements of enterprise and innovative interventions that promote ideas such as coexistence and well-being of local communities and traditional societies that live and work in natural spaces.
- **Efficient conservation:** which supports decision-making under uncertainty and complexity, using a range of appropriate methods and analytics including procedural decision rules, network-based order-of-magnitude systems, risk analytics, and policy discovery

“One such programme is Conservation CrossRoads, which is discipline-agnostic and adopts a diverse range of methods and analytical frameworks and addresses both research and intervention on challenges related to human-wildlife coexistence and conflict.”



tools incorporating artificial intelligence and heuristics. An AI lab for conflict resolution has also been planned.

Different projects under Conservation CrossRoads are currently being sponsored by Google India, The Elephant Family, and Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, USA.





5.5

Philanthropy for the Ocean

A research team from Dakshin Foundation, comprising Adit Dsouza, Adithya Pillai and Sanjana Chevalam, was awarded a research fellowship by the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy, Ashoka University. Their study mapped philanthropic commitments towards marine conservation and other ocean-related causes in India and explored three broad themes:

- Characterising the present state of resources available for support towards coastal and marine ecosystems and coastal communities
- Prioritising marine conservation and coastal community needs for targeted philanthropic support and outlining challenges faced by the conservation sector
- Documenting recommendations and strategies to mobilise interest and support for marine conservation and allied sectors



This project is the first attempt to:

- Address the gaps in the literature on resource flows and operational aspects of ocean governance and marine conservation in India
- Collate data on marine-specific themes (usually categorised under support for biodiversity-related causes)
- Compile more accurate regional data on public, private and NGO-related support in developing country contexts

This study will serve as the foundation for informed decision-making, improved transparency and better overall public and private support for marine and related causes in India. In the future, this research is expected to provide insights to donors, conservation organisations, the government and others committed to marine conservation and coastal wellbeing in India.

"This study will serve as the foundation for informed decision-making, improved transparency and better overall public and private support for marine and related causes in India."



5.6

Fish for the Future

The main beneficiaries of Dakshin's work are India's traditional small-scale fishers, more than 61% of whom live below the poverty line. Declines in fish stocks, increasing operational costs, financial insecurity and climate vulnerability have exacerbated existing inequities and the COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed fault lines in the current development paradigm. Despite the wealth of local ecological knowledge that they possess, fisher communities have limited opportunities to participate in decision-making or dialogue on fisheries management. This often leads to poor compliance and buy-in, resulting in conflicts over resource access and use.

Fish for the Future, is a participatory project that aims to leverage the untapped potential of local fisher communities in the design and implementation of integrated monitoring programmes for marine flagship species and marine ecosystems along the Indian coastline. It seeks to empower fisher communities, sensitise resource managers towards participatory marine resource governance, address data gaps and build demonstrable models of co-management in our island systems. The benefits of this project will continue to accumulate in the long-term and enable the sustainable use of fishery resources and coastal commons.

The Waterloo Foundation has committed long-term financial support to the project, enabling Dakshin to attempt two different threads of intervention – building on the success of our previous work in the Lakshadweep islands, and an exploratory effort in the Andaman islands, aimed at first co-creating a roadmap for managing grouper fisheries, followed by implementation.



"Fish for the Future, is a participatory project that aims to leverage the untapped potential of local fisher communities."



6. DAKSHIN'S PROJECTS



6.1 ODISHA

SDGs that were impacted



The coast of Odisha is special in several ways. For one, it has several kilometers of broad sandy beaches, which are the only places where large-scale mass nesting of olive ridley turtles occurs, outside of Central America. Situated along the mangrove forests of its northern districts and off the open surf-worn beaches of the south, Odisha's coastal geography and biodiversity harbours a diverse and rich fisheries tradition practiced by multiple fishing castes. Odisha however also faces varied social and environmental challenges, chief among which are coastal erosion, poor healthcare access, inadequate sanitation and distress migration. As a result over the years Dakshin has worked on a varied but integrated set of issues in the state of Odisha, one of our long-term sites of intervention.

Conserving Olive Ridleys, a marine flagship of Odisha:

Since 2008, Dakshin has been monitoring the onshore and offshore population of olive ridleys in Rushikulya

beach, Ganjam, Odisha, a project that is India's longest-running olive ridley monitoring project. Through the project, we continue to monitor the annual nesting numbers of the population and study their density and distribution in the offshore waters along the Odisha coast. The long-term data we are collecting will also improve our understanding of the effects of climate change on hatchling sex ratios at the nesting site. Through this project researchers aim to shed light on the state of olive ridley populations, the potential impacts of climate change as well as present alternative models of marine conservation that aren't rooted in the exclusion of local fishing communities. Multiple training workshops have been also undertaken for the Forest Department personnel, local NGOs and community members to enable their involvement in the monitoring of sea turtles. These include workshops on arribada census technique for frontline staff and on hatchery practices and maintenance for local NGOs and community members to support the Forest Department in monitoring activities.





Strengthening governance of coastal and marine commons:

In order to strengthen the role played by fishing communities in oceanic and coastal conservation, their role in governance and restoration of the marine and coastal common resources needs to be recognised. Towards this end, we have been working on participatory mapping of coastal spaces and ecosystems, documenting local governance traditions, knowledge and practices within/on common spaces and its uses. One such community-developed map came to use in 2019 when community leaders in Purnabandha village used their map and their acquired knowledge on the CRZ 2011 notification to stop waste dumping by the local municipal authorities near their fish landing and drying site. According to Magatha Behera, President of the Purnabandha Village Committee “Many encroachment disputes could have been avoided if we had a map of our

commons authorised by the panchayat. Every coastal village in Odisha should come up with their own maps demarcating their commons. Fishers should also be made aware of their rights and regulations like the CRZ—many of us are unaware of them”. In order to further engagement on coastal commons by civil society actors, Dakshin also developed a six-part series of modules for researchers and practitioners interested in learning about coastal commons.



Enhancing community wellbeing:

Working towards the wellbeing of the fishing communities, we've conducted various needs assessments and scoping studies on different development aspects such as health, education, livelihoods and sports in our field sites in Southern Odisha. We also conducted the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) surveys in



Purnabandha, Ganjam. Through various workshops, meetings, and contextual health outreach material, we have been generating awareness on non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and health rights and entitlements. Odisha is also a pilot site for our Sports sub-programme. In association with our partner One All, staff use sports as a tool for creating spaces for children and youth to engage with their natural environments, imbibe pro-social behaviour and to contribute to their overall wellbeing.

Improving community resilience and migrant welfare:

In the wake of the pandemic, building resilience among

fishing community members, especially the migrant fishers, has come to the fore. In Odisha, in association with our partner United Artists' Association, we introduced a Coastal Grassroots Fellowship and trained the first cohort of fellows from Odisha comprising 6 women belonging to the fishing communities of Ganjam district. As part of our project on 'Migration and Infrastructures of Resilience', we're working to build local capacities to create a model community-based database on migrant workers belonging to small-scale fisher communities, to aid state and civil society in future times of crises. We are also working on advocating policies to safeguard migrant fish workers' welfare and livelihoods in home and host states. The Coastal Grassroots Fellows have begun preparing community databases on the migrants across 10 villages in the district and have already compiled information on migrant workers from 3638 households. The project, aiming at creating socio-technical infrastructures to address issues of local distress, is also working towards building public engagement and communication skills among coastal women and youth.



6.2

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

SDGs that were impacted



Situated in the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) are two large island systems characterised by diverse, yet distinct ecological and social features that set them apart from the rest of the country. Dakshin currently works in the South, North and Middle Andaman districts and Little Andaman Island. With coral reef, inter-tidal and rainforest ecosystems occurring close to each other, these island groups contribute to two exceptionally diverse global biodiversity hotspots. The islands are home to multiple distinct indigenous and settler communities of various ethnic origins from mainland India and also the Karen from erstwhile Burma. Recent large-scale development plans for the islands and the consequent increase in footfall are likely to exacerbate pressures on a narrow resource base and increase strain on waste disposal systems in addition to threats to the unique ecosystems of the islands such as its coral reefs.

Improving social and economic wellbeing amongst fisher communities:

Most of the settler groups continue to be marginalised either in terms of historical contingencies, ethnicity or caste affiliations and are also natural resource-dependent groups. Dakshin's community engagement work in ANI took a toll due to the COVID-related restrictions between 2020-2021. However, we were still able to provide aid to 225 households in the Junglighat fishing community that were the worst affected due to the nationwide lockdown.

A needs assessment study conducted by Dakshin in 2019, in the fishing communities of South Andaman, revealed that waste management, non-communicable diseases and lack of guidance for the youth are some of





the challenges faced by these communities. There is also pressure on the limited fisheries resource. Once restrictions eased, follow-up studies on aspects such as the impact of COVID-19, relation between sports and youth and Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) surveys were conducted in our field sites. Simultaneously, through various meetings, stakeholder discussions and by disseminating outreach material, we have been increasing awareness on waste management and non-communicable diseases amongst communities in Wandoor, Junglighat and Mayabunder in the Andaman islands. We also initiated our sports initiative in South Andaman in 2020 with a football training camp. Dakshin's work with the Karen community, supporting culturally relevant livelihoods, was also affected due to the lockdown and related restrictions. However, the work was re-initiated in March 2022.

Conserving ecosystems and species unique to these islands

The Nicobar group of Islands as well as Little Andaman Island are among the last remaining active nesting grounds in the northeast Indian Ocean for the leatherback sea turtle. Since 2008, Dakshin has been running a long term monitoring programme in collaboration with Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Andaman Nicobar Forest Department, to better understand the nesting ecology of leatherback turtles through beach monitoring, tagging and surveys at important nesting sites in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The nesting beach in South and West Bay of Little Andaman Island were monitored during the 2020-2021 season and no monitoring work was carried out in 2021-2022 season as the necessary permits were not issued in time. Dakshin is also leading a consortium for the marine theme of the Long Term

Ecological Observatories (LTEO) programme, a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), since 2019. As part of the programme, Dakshin conducted scoping surveys and identified suitable sites to carry out long-term research on coral reef ecosystems and abiotic factors in South Andaman Islands. This research will inform the MoEF&CC's climate change mitigation policies.

Mitigating human-crocodile conflict

Along with sea turtles, the marine ecosystems of the Andaman Islands are home to multiple charismatic flagship species, one of which is the saltwater crocodile. The conservation attempts of the saltwater crocodile, a large predator known for attacking people and livestock in ANI, present a challenging situation, marked by increasing incidences of conflict. To address this, Dakshin has been working to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence in the development of order-of-magnitude models of the system as a whole as well as that of local, agent-based models for creating simulations of interactions between local people and crocodiles. This modelling exercise will allow for a better understanding of the interactions between agents (e.g. livestock, subsistence fishers) and elements (e.g. availability of infrastructure like jetties and garbage disposal systems) that produce these systems, as well as changes that might take place in them over a period of time. The eventual aim is to develop an intelligent decision support system (IDSS) for resolution of conservation conflict in the Andaman Islands. Dakshin has also been a part of a project to develop visual education materials on safety around crocodiles with a view to improving the safety and thereby helping promote tolerance for these important but potentially dangerous apex predators.

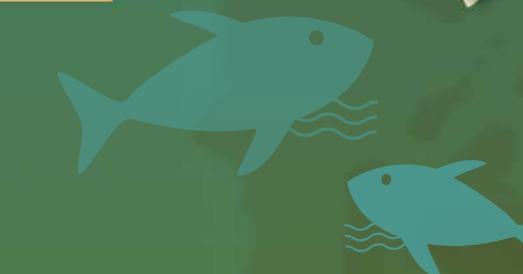


6.3 LAKSHADWEEP



SDGs that were impacted

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
		
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
		
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	
		



Island systems are paradigmatic sites of human-nature relationships. Islanders depend on the land and marine resources that surround them for livelihood and sustenance. The Lakshadweep is one such unique island system of 36 biogeographically significant islands scattered in the Arabian Sea, southwest of peninsular India. In Lakshadweep, fishing is not just a source of livelihood but an activity that is deeply embedded in the social fabric of the islands and a crucial element of the cultural identity of the islanders. The main fishery practised in Lakshadweep - the “live-bait pole and line tuna fisheries” (P&L) is a unique fishery that targets the oceanic skipjack

tuna using baitfish in a low-impact, selective manner that diverts fishing pressure off the sensitive coral reefs.

Over the past few years, however, this fishery has been facing challenges at various levels - operational challenges like rising costs, inadequate postharvest infrastructure and problems posed by production-centric fisheries development doctrines. Such developments have triggered transitions in the fishery that threaten a departure from its inherent sustainability. Dakshin Foundation’s work in the islands has focussed on preserving the P&L fisheries and buffering unsustainable transitions.





Participatory governance of Lakshadweep's fisheries

Socio-ecological systems like the Lakshadweep are dynamic and often incompatible with blanket development and policy interventions. Dakshin has also been working towards creating systems for participatory fisheries governance in the Lakshadweep. The team has been strengthening SF's flagship initiative - a Community-based Fisheries Monitoring programme (CBFM) that involves P&L fishers in regular, voluntary monitoring of everyday fishing activity. This helps us in building strong networks within the community and the local administration, and initiating larger dialogues around community-based management for Lakshadweep's P&L tuna fisheries. This work finally led to the first ever fisheries co-management consultation in the islands in 2019, where fishers and other stakeholders collectively discussed local fishery issues and adopted sustainable fishing resolutions for baitfish management. Although the COVID-19 lockdowns significantly slowed down work, we are currently finalising plans to reinitiate the co-management dialogue with the fisher community and fisheries department in the islands.

Understanding ecological and social systems critical to fisheries management

Recognizing the importance of baitfish (small-bodied schooling fish) as a critical limiting factor for P&L fisheries, Dakshin initiated ecological surveys to fill knowledge gaps that can inform sustainable management. After the initial in-water surveys, we are now working towards developing a long-term baitfish monitoring strategy and exploring collaboration with local divers to participate in the monitoring. In 2019, we also started documenting the unique natural resource management systems of Minicoy, a geographically isolated island in Lakshadweep. Minicoy's Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and customary management systems have evolved over a long time and our work reveals the erosion of existing management structures and also presents an opportunity to mainstream the narratives of community-based fisheries management.



6.4

TAMIL NADU

SDGs that were impacted



In Tamil Nadu, Dakshin's interventions straddle the East Coast and the Nilgiris in the Western Ghats. Our coastal work during this period was focused on the Coromandel coast of Nagapattinam, while our terrestrial work was in Gudalur, in the Nilgiris district. Nagapattinam, is an important fishing site, and is home to varied categories of fishing communities, mechanised and small scale. As a site that was seriously impacted by the 2004 tsunami, it remains a site of tremendous coastal change and civil society action. In Nagapattinam, Dakshin works on the interlinked issue of coastal degradation and distress migration which affects several fishing villages along this stretch.

Migration and resilience within fishing communities

Migration on account of multiple stressors and distress, such as the decline in fish catch, lack of employment

opportunities other than fishing, and decline in returns from fishing, is on the rise among small-scale marine fisher (SSF) communities, particularly across the east coast of India, with sites such as Nagapattinam showing a range of migration patterns, domestic and international. However, little is known about the scale and nature of migration among SSF, and few attempts have been made to build the social or technical infrastructure to address such issues at the grassroots. Local capacities to generate public interest in issues of local distress and related migration are poor and interested youth (especially women) have few outlets and platforms for mentorship or opportunities to demonstrate leadership traits. Dakshin's work aims to build capacities to address these shortcomings. In Tamil Nadu, in partnership with SNEHA, Dakshin has initiated a Coastal Grassroots Fellowship programme to build coastal leadership, focused entirely on women from fishing communities. We are also working towards building public engagement and communication skills



among coastal youth. We initiated a series of focused training workshops on using open data software for creating village-level databases, photography, social media engagement and engaging in context-specific practices of coastal environmentalism. We are also working on building tangible policy options for government officials to safeguard migrant fish workers' welfare and livelihoods in home and host states.

Supporting conservation enterprise

In the Nilgiris, despite the best efforts of government and conservation agencies, lantana an invasive weed continues to pose a significant threat to native flora and fauna and has resulted in a range of challenges to species and habitats. Currently, there are limited, cost-effective and long-term options for removal of lantana and the restoration of ecosystems affected by it.



Dakshin has been working on a project which aims to explore radical new approaches to understand the spread of this weed and to research options for repurposing lantana to benefit local communities, who inhabit this landscape. Supported by The Elephant Family, UK, and in collaboration with The Shola Trust, Gudulur, the project aims to work in select sites in southern India (Mudumalai, Bandipur, Sathyamangalam) to collaboratively map lantana presence along with the Forest Department, to develop a self-financing lantana removal programme, and to research options for long-term restoration of removal sites. It is hoped that this project will contribute to better biodiversity outcomes including that of elephant conservation, as well as open avenues for livelihood generation for local communities living in this landscape.



6.5

INTERVENTIONS IN OTHER STATES



SDGs that were impacted

Maharashtra & Karnataka



Assam



Maharashtra and Karnataka

Reduction fisheries refer to the practice of converting or reducing fish caught from the ocean into products like fish meal and fish oil (FMFO) to feed sectors like poultry and export-oriented aquaculture, instead of direct human consumption. Unsustainable use of fisheries catch for large-scale production of FMFO can harm marine ecosystems and jeopardize the nutrition and livelihoods of dependent fishing communities. Dakshin has initiated a project to understand the reduction fisheries sector in India and address their multifaceted implications. While this is a large-scale issue that needs coordinated efforts from multiple stakeholders and policy engagement at the national level, Dakshin is starting with building baseline information on Mangaluru in Karnataka and Mumbai in Maharashtra.

In addition to being among the major fishing harbours along the west coast, Mangaluru and Mumbai are also hubs of FMFO processing in their respective states. Mangalore houses about 13 fishmeal plants (the highest in the country) while 4-5 fishmeal plants are located in Mumbai. This makes them ideal sites to initiate our work on reduction fisheries. At these sites, we are currently mapping the supply chains of reduction fisheries and building knowledge on species utilization, stakeholders and the scale at which the sector operates. In the next stage, we plan to use the evidence produced through this work to help facilitate stakeholder consultations towards policy and practice changes that will manage the reduction fisheries sector in India sustainably.





Assam

Dakshin's work under the Conservation CrossRoads programme addresses research on charismatic species in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems and hopes to find ways to reconcile emerging challenges related to conflict and coexistence. Supporting a population of over 2000 elephants, the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape in Assam, is a crucial habitat for elephants in the Northeast Region. This landscape also includes extensive swathes of human-dominated spaces such as tea estates and cropland, making human-elephant conflict a challenging problem. The current project, funded by the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden (CZBG), aims to understand both ecological as well as

social aspects of conflict and coexistence in this region. The project will aim to understand elephant movement and behaviour across the landscape, particularly with respect to individual elephants that are involved in crop-raiding. The social aspects of conservation will be explored through a range of methods including but not limited to understanding political ecological chains of explanation and historical analyses of land tenure and ownership. It is hoped that these efforts will eventually lead to creating adequate steps towards coexistence in this region. These efforts are carried out in partnership with the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation and the Assam Forest Department.



Pan India

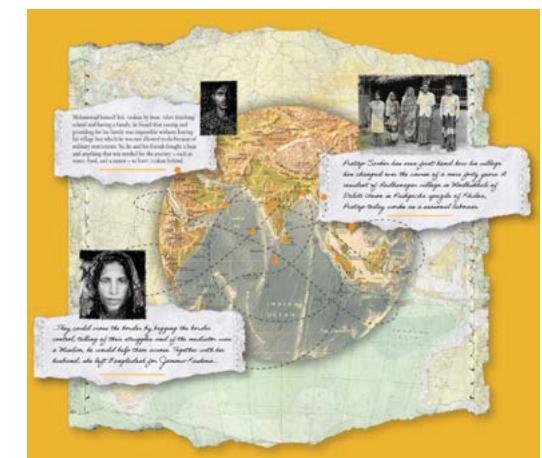
Efforts towards marine conservation are heavily restricted by the paucity of data and a lack of continuous monitoring of marine species. [Reeflog](#), a marine citizen science initiative started by Dakshin, hopes to address this while also increasing ocean and scientific literacy and encouraging responsible tourist behaviour across India. Working alongside the dive tourism industry, and in partnership with SSI-India, a dive certification agency, Reeflog aims to involve scuba divers in surveying marine ecosystems across India. Towards this end, the team at Dakshin Foundation has developed a training manual on Reeflog for participating divers, created survey slates to monitor fish species around the East Coast of India, and set up a website and online interface for data collection.

Regional

Collaborations across the Indian Ocean region

The *Southern Collective* is a collaborative that was set up in the year 2020 by bringing together diverse members from across various countries with a common interest in addressing coastal and marine challenges in the Indian

Ocean region and having a desire to promote meaningful South-South collaborations. Crafted at the height of the pandemic, the Collective in its initial formulation relied heavily on digital communications and has built a series of web platforms that curate diverse knowledge about the Northern Indian Ocean region, encompassing the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and parts of the Andaman Seas. [Migration Diaries](#) was the Collective's idea for an online platform to curate the experiences of coastal migrant communities from across the Indian Ocean, many of whom migrate due to complex conditions of distress. [Sea Lexicon](#) gathers descriptive field accounts associated with specific oceanic objects and phenomena (such as "monsoon," or "tuna") to draw insights into the diverse and connected cultural and social life of the Indian Ocean. The Southern Collective hosted an online [Asian Bestiary](#), an online pedagogic project that brings together scholarly knowledge and artistic engagement, and an exhibition "[Imagining 'Asian' Nonhumans](#)" on this region's relationship with nonhumans. The Asian Bestiary was funded by the National University of Singapore, the Université de Paris and the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche. Starting from November 2021, Dakshin Foundation will play the central coordinating role and will facilitate, build and host the Collective's initiatives.



7. COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

The communications team at Dakshin Foundation follows a multipronged approach to communication which is guided by four related objectives:

- To spread awareness about coastal and marine ecosystems in India
- To build a network and support system for partner organisations
- To improve programmatic communications with various stakeholders
- To strengthen cross-programmatic communications and build internal communications capacity

In 2021, the team devised a communications strategy for Dakshin's digital channels based on an analysis of Dakshin's audience and their interests, and the performance of previous digital outreach. This strategy took shape in the form of social media posts, blog articles and newsletters with inputs from programme members and current project activities, and was tweaked based on the audience's response.

The team held various online events during this period; an open day called 'A Day With Dakshin' was organised to celebrate Dakshin's anniversary and to engage our online audience. Attendants had the chance to meet our team members and ask them any questions during

Growth through our communications strategy



5,980 followers
8% increase



5,197 followers
333% increase



1,853 followers
107% increase



128 subscribers
204% increase



2,514 followers
202% increase

this event. Various [online talks](#) were organised in collaboration with other organisations and individuals, on topics such as Harnessing the Power of Sport, Coastal Tourism, Divers for Conservation, etc., and Dakshin participated in online trends by organising a meme contest and Wordle.

Dakshin also participated in events in between waves of the coronavirus; one event was at the BIC Hubba for NGOs, where Dakshin held a stall to interact with attendants and conducted a book reading of a children's book called 'Moonlight in the Sea,' written by one of Dakshin's Trustees, Kartik Shanker.

Between 2020 and 2022, biannual newsletters were sent to Dakshin's external database primarily to keep our subscribers and key stakeholders updated with the latest activities and events. Dakshin's subscriber list grew by 202% in this period which resulted in a better open rate. The communications team also helped facilitate the publication of about 50 popular articles on media platforms such as The Bastion and Roundglass Sustain. Articles published by The Bastion were produced as part of a formal collaboration for a series called "The Shore Scene".

In order to improve programmatic communications with various stakeholders and strengthen cross-programmatic communications and build capacity, the communications team conceptualises and puts together

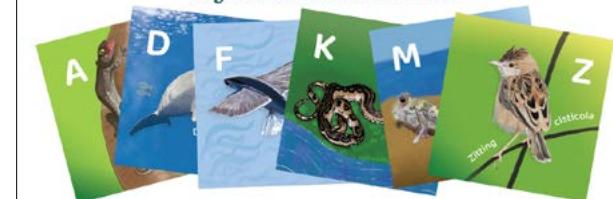
various output documents such as brochures, reports and outreach material. Some outputs during this period were institutional brochures introducing Dakshin and the Andaman Nicobar Environment Team (ANET) as well as brochures introducing specific programmes/ sub-programmes such as the Sports and Community Wellbeing sub-programme and the Sustainable Fisheries programme.



TREASURED ISLANDS *whiz!*

Test your knowledge in a quiz about the animal denizens of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Date: 29/08/21 | Time: 5 pm | Venue: Zoom
Register via the link in our bio!



7.1 CURRENT CONSERVATION



The team published over 116 articles in total, including online-only articles on Current Conservation's website. This is also in part because of a large number of high-quality article submissions.

Current Conservation crossed 18K followers on [Instagram](#) and also launched a newsletter, Snail Mail, in an endeavour to engage better with their audience.

CC established five new partnerships between 2020 and 2022, such as with RoundGlass Sustain, for content on the publication's website and its social media platforms, the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)—the largest international membership society dedicated to advancing the science and practice of conserving biodiversity, Technology for Wildlife, Nature in Focus and Voices for Biodiversity.

In other news, CC has been busy expanding the Editorial and Advisory Boards, with nine new members from across the world, many of whom came via the partnership with SCB.

Current Conservation (CC) brings current issues in conservation and science to scientific and non-scientific audiences through jargon-free writing and engaging artwork. A quarterly publication, the magazine consists of feature articles, field notes, photo essays, opinions and more available as a downloadable PDF on the website.

From 2020 - 2022, Current Conservation produced nine issues of the print magazine, including the annual CC Kids supplement ([all available here](#)).



Various online workshops/webinars were also conducted. In March 2021, CC co-organised a panel discussion on 'Science communication for biodiversity conservation' with SCB. In September 2021, CC's first ever virtual workshop on conceptualising artistic creations with illustrator Karunya Baskar was conducted, and CCInktober 2021 was hosted throughout October. Besides this, the team held a Comic Contest in collaboration with Rohan Chakravarty aka Green Humour on the theme- "The tables have turned: Animals & plants are now the conservationists". In January 2022, Indrani Ghosh and Pari Satarkar conducted a drawing workshop where the art of conservation storytelling through drawings was discussed. CC also hosted a virtual nature journaling workshop with Abhishek K. Gopal which gave the audience a guide and inspiration to observe and document their natural surroundings. More recently, in March 2022, a fun in-person event (for the first time in two years!) in Cubbon Park, Bangalore, was organised and was well attended. The team distributed free copies of the magazine, and had an open art session, among other activities.

7.2 OUTREACH FOR FLAGSHIPS

Sea Turtles of India

[Sea Turtles of India \(STOI\)](#) is an online repository of turtle-related material in the form of research papers, popular articles, blogs, outreach material, etc. It contains information about different projects and papers relating to sea turtles across the country as well as stories and accounts from the people working on them.

In 2020, new outreach in the form of protocol manuals for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Odisha as well as posters (Hindi and English) and a brochure (Hindi) on 'Best Practices for Sea Turtle Hatcheries', which had been prepared as part of the long-term monitoring programmes, were uploaded to the site. Apart from this, several updates were made to the website, including the creation of a new logo, and content was created and curated for the upcoming page on [Instagram](#) which was launched in 2021.

Creating and executing a content strategy for the Instagram page primarily included utilising material from the website through a mix of articles, blogs, photostories, etc. as well as generating new content for both the website and the social media page respectively. The Instagram page also welcomes contributions from followers and numerous submissions have been showcased over the past year. Collaborations with other Instagram pages were also done to host contests, including [photography](#) (with Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises of India, Coastal Conservation Foundation and Marine Life of Mumbai), [illustrations](#) (with



Current Conservation) and [memes](#) (with Dakshin Foundation and Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises of India). Each of these collaborations saw good participation and a large number of entries. By March 2022, STOI's Instagram page had close to 1,200 followers.



In 2021, the newly created digital exhibition "[Arribada](#)" was also unveiled. This exhibition, containing artefacts collected by Aradhana Seth, Kartik Shanker (Dakshin Foundation) and Sejal Worah (WWF - India), was a travelling exhibition before the start of the pandemic. The artefacts were used to tell stories of sea turtle conservation and culture along the coast of India and on the islands. Currently, material from this website is also hosted on the STOI Instagram page to draw traffic to the website.

TAG and General Outreach

Due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, no activities were undertaken for TAG. The Small Grants Programme that was successfully awarded over the last 10 years, has ceased due to groups becoming more independent of the grant programme to conduct their activities. As a result, no grants were distributed in 2020 or 2021. However, TAG did welcome some new members, including Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan OPSA (Odisha), Ujwala Manthani Welfare Society (Andhra Pradesh) and Coastal Impact (Goa).

Apart from this, the team also engaged with Storyweaver, to publish the English and Malayalam versions of 'Moonlight in the Sea' by Kartik Shanker on their platform.

A set of t-shirts was also created for the long-term monitoring programmes for olive ridleys, leatherbacks and green turtles respectively. While some of these were distributed to the researchers as well as the field staff, the rest were given to members of the Forest Departments and other key individuals. A coffee table book on turtle conservation in the country and a report highlighting the work carried out over the last decade at the long-term monitoring sites are also in the works.

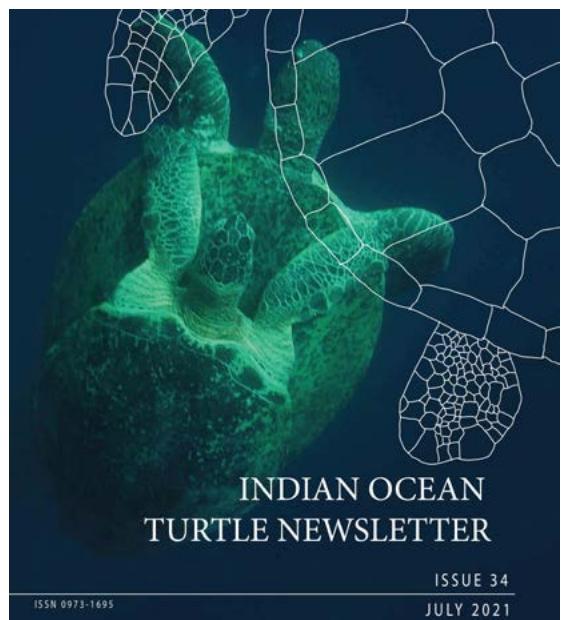


Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter

The Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter (IOTN) is released biannually and comprises information on various topics relating to sea turtles, including their biology, conservation, research, laws and policies, etc. It aims to serve as a medium of disseminating information and making it accessible across the region of SouthEast Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Three issues of the Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter (IOTN) have been released between April 2020 and March 2022. Issues [32](#) and [33](#), released amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, covered the effect of lockdowns on sea turtle researchers and conservationists at a regional level and included relevant research and reviews conducted at this time. Issue [34](#) was released in July 2021 and covered a variety of topics from different countries such as stable isotope analyses, beach monitoring, outcomes from fisher-turtle interactions, and smuggling activities on some nesting beaches.

The content for IOTN is also promoted through STOI's Instagram page.



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1. **Oommen, M.A.** Forthcoming. The pig and the turtle: an ecological reading of ritual and taboo from ethnographic accounts on Andamanese hunter-gatherers.
2. **Oommen, M.A.** Forthcoming. Catfights and crocodile tears: conflict, charismatic species and nature professionals in India's conservation history.
3. **Oommen, M.A.** Forthcoming. Conflict, coexistence and conservation: cultural and material entanglements between people and pigs in India. In, *Nature's Present*, Mahesh Rangarajan et al. eds.
4. Vattakaven, T., Barve, V., Ramaswami, G., Singh, P., **Jagannathan, S.**, and Dhandapani, B. 2022. [Best Practices for Data Management in Citizen Science – An Indian Outlook](#). *Biodiversity Outlook*.
5. Jaini, M., **Horo, J. and N. Namboothri.** 2022. [Incidental sightings and local ecological knowledge on Cardisoma carnifex \(Herbst,1796\) from the Andaman Islands](#). *Marine Biological Association of India*
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7. Theo, A.H. and **K. Shanker.** 2022. [Composition and behaviour of mixed-species foraging groups of reef fish in the Lakshadweep Islands, India](#). *Bulletin of Marine Science*.
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9. **Dsouza, S. and C. Rao.** 2021. [Demographics and reproductive biology of Hydrophis schistosus may make it more resilient to bycatch effects than other sea snakes](#). *Regional Studies in Marine Science*





10. **Oommen, M.A. and K. Shanker.** 2021. [Signals from the Hunt: Widening the Spectrum on Male Pursuits of Dangerous Animals](#). *Journal of Anthropological Research*.
11. **Dsouza, S., Rao, C., Muralidharan, M. and K. Shanker.** 2021. [Resource use and the impacts of fisheries on two sympatric sea snake species on the west coast of India](#). *Marine Biology* 168:146
12. **Sridhar, A.** 2021. [Dignifying 'Indian' Environmentalism](#). *Seminar* 744
13. **Oommen, M.A.** 2021. [Beasts in the garden: human-wildlife coexistence in India's past and present](#). *Frontiers in Conservation Science*
14. **Rao, C., Dsouza, S., Gupta, T., Muralidharan, M.** and A.S. Lobo. 2021. [Fisheries induced shift in sea snake community assemblages along the Konkan coast, India](#). *Aquatic Conservation*.
15. **Pusapati, C., M. Muralidharan, A.D. Phillott, and K. Shanker.** 2021. [Effect of Hatchery Nest Environment on Olive Ridley \(*Lepidochelys olivacea*\) Hatchling Performance](#). *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 20(1), 60-70.
16. **Shanker, K. and Oommen, M.A.** 2021. The authoritarian biologist reloaded and deep ecology redux: conservation imperialism and the control of knowledge, money and space. *A functioning anarchy? Essays for Ramachandra Guha*, pp.37-54.
17. **Shanker, K. and Oommen, M.A.** 2021. India's strategies for conservation and sustainability. *India's Marathon : Reshaping the post-pandemic world order*, pp.261-277.
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23. **Oommen, M.A.** 2020. [Colonial pig-sticking, imperial agendas and natural history in the Indian subcontinent](#). *The Historical Journal* 64(3): 626-649.



Reports

1. [Development needs of small scale fisher communities: insights from Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh](#)
2. [Financing the Blue Economy](#)
3. [Commoning Coastal Odisha](#)
4. [Island Sustainability Pathways: Towards Participatory Fisheries Governance in the Lakshadweep Islands](#)
5. [Island Sustainability Pathways: Fisheries Co-Management in the Lakshadweep Islands](#)

Outreach Material

1. [Handbook on Coastal and Marine People's Biodiversity Register \(English\)](#)
2. [Handbook on Coastal and Marine People's Biodiversity Register \(Malayalam\)](#)
3. [A-Z Picture Cards: Fauna of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#)
4. [Learning Module on Commons](#)
 - [What are the Commons?](#)
 - [Commons and Governance](#)
 - [Commoning Practices - Towards becoming 'incommon'](#)
 - [The role of 'LEK' in governing the commons](#)
 - [Linking biodiversity to concept of commons](#)
 - [Legal concepts and principles governing coastal and marine commons](#)
5. [Outreach book on Sharks and Rays of Malvan \(English\)](#)
6. [Outreach book on Sharks and Rays of Malvan \(Marathi\)](#)
7. [A manual on 'Monitoring olive ridley turtles at Rushikulya, Odisha'](#)
8. [A manual on 'Monitoring sea turtles in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands'](#)





9. PEOPLE

Admin Team



Marianne Manuel
Director



Meera Anna Oommen
Associate Director



T.R. Gopi
Finance Manager



Basavaraj Pujar
Accounts Manager



Jithin Sivan
HR, Admin Officer



Narasimha M
Accounts Officer

ALUMNI

Raji Avy
Finance Manager



Aarthi Sridhar



Kartik Shanker



Marianne Manuel



Meera Anna Oommen



Naveen Namboothri



Jagdeesh Rao

Programme Heads and Advisors





Programme Team



Abel Job Abraham



Abhilasha Sharma



Adhith Swaminathan



Adit Dsouza



E. Haripriya



Esha Gokhale



Greta Ann Sam



Hariprasath R.



Adithya Pillai



Anand Rao



Aplonia Topno



Biswa Swaroop Das



Kumar Sahayaraju



Madhuri Mondal



Madhushree Rao



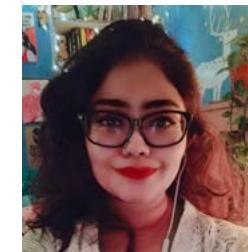
Mahaboob Khan C.P.



Chaitanya Arjunwadkar



Chandana Pusapati



Debangini Roy



Devathi Parashuram



Meghana S. Teerthala



Moumita Bhowmick



Namrata Lunia



Pavitra Vasudevan





Pradeep Elangovan



Pragya Solanki



Prerana Gawde



Rhea Elizabeth George



ALUMNI

Ajith Raj R

Anadya Singh

Aruna Manjunath

Ashwini Petchiappan

Chetan Suresh Rao

Deepti Bhat

Elwin Varughese

Fousiya C.K.

Ishaan Khot

Kanishk Srinivasan

Karishma Modi

Manini Bansal

Mohit Mudliar

Muralidharan M

Shawn Dsouza

Shruti Sunderraman

Trisha Gupta

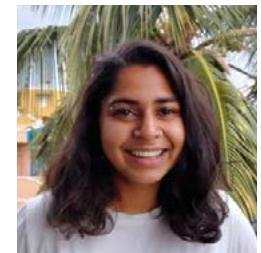
Vineetha Venugopal



Sanjana Chevalam



Saw John Aung Thong



Shivangi Pant



Tanmay Wagh



Vishrutha Rao





Field Staff - Odisha



Bipro Behera



Judishthir Behera



Madhusudhan Behera



Magata Behera



Field Staff - Andaman And Nicobar Islands



Anand James Tirkey



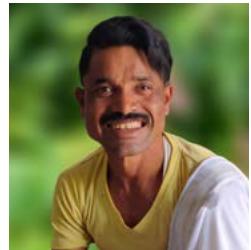
Jeevan Horo



Johnson Kongari



Jonsan Topno



Mahendra Nayak



Shankar Rao



Surendra Behera



Manisha Singh



Mrinal Kanti Bhowmick



Naveen Ekka



Niraj Kumar Minj



P. Babu Kutty



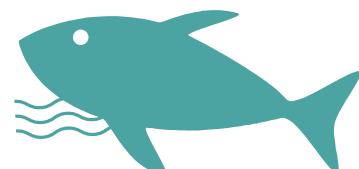
Sarojini Tirkey



Sanjay Tirkey



Saw Momong





Saw Thesorow



Saw Watha



Sebian Horo



Suresh Kujur



Adjunct Fellows

Prof. Andrea Phillott

Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, FLAME University

Dr. Annu Jalais

Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore

Dr. Caitlin Kight

EdD researcher in the Graduate School of Education, University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Dr. Madhuri Ramesh

Assistant Professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University

Prof. Meena Balgopal

Professor, Department of Biology, Colorado State University

Mr. Adam Jadhav

Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley

Ms. Radhika Viswanathan

Communications specialist, Producer of 'In the Field' podcast, Bangalore

Ms. Samyuktha Varma

Communications specialist, Producer of 'In the Field' podcast, Bangalore

Dr. Sahir Advani

Post-doctoral researcher, University of British Columbia

Dr. Tarsh Thekaekera

Founder Trustee, The Shola Trust

Affiliates

Alphonsa Jojan

Caleb Daniel Gnanaolivu

Mariam Ali

Meenakshi Shankar Poti

Rahul Demello

Shawn Dsouza

Suneha Jagannathan





Research Ethics Review Committee



Project Partners

HUMAN RESEARCH

Ms. Aarthi Sridhar
Dakshin Foundation

Mr. Adithya Pillai
Dakshin Foundation

Dr. Bharath Sundaram
Nalanda University, Raigir

Ms. Kanchi Kohli
Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

Dr. Siddhartha Krishnan
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore

ANIMAL RESEARCH

Andrea Phillott
Department of Environmental Studies, FLAME University

Ms. Chandana Pusapati
Dakshin Foundation

Dr. Maria Thaker
Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Dr. Robin Vijayan
Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, Tirupati

Dr. Shomita Mukherjee
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore

Andaman and Nicobar Forest Department

Andaman Karen Crafts Society

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Lakshadweep Forest Department

Madras Crocodile Bank Trust

Odisha Forest Department

One All

Purple Octopus Ventures LLP

SNEHA, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu

Society for Conservation Biology

The Shola Trust

United Artists' Association, Ganjam, Odisha

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), India





Funding Partners



Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies
Rainmatter Foundation
Sundaram Finance Limited
Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden
Blue Ventures Conservation
Tata Education and Development Trust
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt of India
The Waterloo Foundation
Commonwealth Foundation
Wipro Foundation
Seacology
International Institute for Sustainable Development - IISD
Google India Pvt Ltd
The SOL Foundation
The Ocean Foundation

Elephant Family
Foundation for Ecological Security
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and The Environment
Harish R
Hinduja Foundation
Elephant Conservation Trust
United Way Bengaluru
Food and Agriculture Organisation
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF- TRUST)
Wildlife Conservation Trust
Sagar Rubber Products Pvt Ltd
Aroon Raman
Keimed Pvt Ltd
Balipara Tract and Frontier Foundation





9. FINANCIALS

Auditor's report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustees of Dakshin Foundation

Report on the Audit of Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dakshin Foundation, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021, and the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipts and Payments Account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 31st March 2021, and of its financial performance for the year ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by the ICAI. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the ICAI

and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the Trust in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Management is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Management is also responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from



fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in Annexure A of this Auditor's Report.

Place : **Bengaluru**

Date: **23-12-2021**

**For G. Anantha & Co., Chartered
Accountants (FRN 005160S)**

Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 21214318AAAAHN7289



ANNEXURE A TO THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards

Place : **Bengaluru**

Date: **23-12-2021**

**For G. Anantha & Co., Chartered
Accountants (FRN 005160S)**

Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 21214318AAAAHN7289



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustees of Dakshin Foundation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dakshin Foundation ("Trust"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022, and the Income and Expenditure Account and the Receipts and Payments Account including a summary of significant accounting policies for the year then ended.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 31st March 2022, and of its financial performance for the year ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by the ICAI. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the said Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the Trust in accordance with the aforesaid Accounting Standards and accounting principles generally accepted in India and for such internal controls as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Management is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intends to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are also responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from



fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in Annexure A of this Auditor's Report.

Place : Bengaluru

Date: 09-08-2022

For G. Anantha & Co., Chartered Accountants (FRN 005160S)

Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 22214318APWCID9179

ANNEXURE A TO THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

As a part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of Internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have compiled with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Place : Bengaluru

Date: 09-08-2022

For G. Anantha & Co., Chartered
Accountants (FRN 005160S)

Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 22214318APWCID9179



Balance sheets & expenses

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31-03-2021

(Rupees in thousands)

SOURCES OF FUNDS	As on 31-3-2021
1. Fund	
a. Corpus Fund	5.00
b. General Fund	4,925.01
c. Utilised Fund	51,495.26 (Balance sheet 2020-21)
	56,425.27
2. Current Liabilities	
Project Fund	9,104.84
Statutory Liabilities	53.36
	65,583.47
Total	
APPLICATION OF FUNDS	
1. Fixed Assets	
a. Project Assets	3,985.70
b. Dakshin General Assets	361.57
c. Land and Building	47,147.99
	51,495.26
1. Current Assets , Loans & Advances and Deposits	
a. Deposits	500.00
b. Tax Refund Receivable	77.99
c. Loans and Advances	57.15
d. Cash and Bank Balances	8,953.07
e. Deposits in Bank	45,00.00
	14,088.21
Total	

65,583.47

As per our report of even date attached

for G. Anantha & Co., Chartered

Accountants Firm Regn No.005160S

Rani.N. R

Partner

Membership No.214318

UDIN: 21214318AAAHN7289



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the year ending 31st March 2021

(Rupees in thousands)

PARTICULAR	AS ON 31ST MARCH 2021
Income	
a. Project Income	35,728.78
b. Donation and other Income	85.10
c. Interest	1,050.72
d. Contribution towards Overhead	367.22
Total	37,231.82
EXPENDITURE	
Project Expenses:	
a. Salaries and Consultancies	16,621.23
b. Travel	853.44
c. Communication	53.72
d. Printing and Stationery	302.78
e. Other Programme Expenses	5,743.50
f. Capacity Building & Outreach	2,034.99
g. Establishment and Administrative Expenses	8,203.77
h. Donation	3,105.06
Less: Contribution towards Institutional Overheads	1,050.72
Total Project Expenses (a)	35,867.77
Institutional Expenses:	
Establishment and Administrative Expenses	250.26
Depreciation	755.75
Total Institutional Expense(b)	1,006.01
Total Expense (a+b)	36,873.78
Surplus/Deficit	358.04

Place : Bengaluru

Date: 23-12-2021

Trustee

As per our report of even date attached
for G. Anantha & Co., Chartered
Accountants Firm Regn No.005160S
Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 22214318APWCID9179



BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31-03-2022

(Rupees in thousands)

SOURCES OF FUNDS	As on 31-3-2022
1. Fund	
a. Corpus Fund	5.00
b. General Fund	6,963.42
c. Utilised Fund	52,892.05
	59,860.47
2. Current Liabilities	
Project Fund	
Statutory Liabilities	
	23,169.40
	16.76
Total	83,046.63
APPLICATION OF FUNDS	
1. Fixed Assets	
a. Project Assets	1,970.89
b. Dakshin General Assets	3,773.18
c. Land and Building	47,147.99
	52,892.06
1. Current Assets , Loans & Advances and Deposits	
a. Deposits	1,190.00
b. Tax Refund Receivable	60.41
c. Loans and Advances	5.58
d. Cash and Bank Balances	17,898.58
e. Deposits in Bank	11000.00
	30,154.57
Total	83,046.63

As per our report of even date attached
for G. Anantha & Co., Chartered
Accountants Firm Regn No.005160S
Rani.N. R

Partner

Membership No.214318

UDIN: 22214318APWCID9179





INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the year ending 31st March 2022

(Rupees in thousands)

PARTICULAR	AS ON 31-03-2022
Income	
a. Project Income	
a. Project Income	45,869.14
b. Donation and other Income	168.00
c. Interest	627.76
d. Contribution towards Overhead	2,655.52
Total	49,320.42
EXPENDITURE	
Project Expenses:	
a. Salaries and Consultancies	23,369.11
b. Travel	3,440.72
c. Communication	105.02
d. Printing and Stationery	454.89
e. Other Programme Expenses	10,437.07
f. Capacity Building & Outreach	2,814.02
g. Establishment and Administrative Expenses	8,507.30
h. Donation	50.00
Less: Contribution towards Institutional Overheads	2,655.52
Total Project Expenses (a)	46,522.61
Institutional Expenses:	
Establishment and Administrative Expenses	759.41
Depreciation	1,326.01
Total Institutional Expense(b)	2,085.42
Total Expense (a+b)	48,608.03
Surplus/Deficit	712.39

Place : Bengaluru

Date: 09-08-2022

Trustee

As per our report of even date attached
for G. Anantha & Co., Chartered
Accountants Firm Regn No.005160S
Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 22214318APWCID9179



Dakshin Foundation

2203, 8th Main, MCECHS Layout, D Block, Sahakar Nagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560092

Phone: +91 80 42113509

Email: dakshinfoundation.india@gmail.com

Website: www.dakshin.org

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