

DAKSHIN FOUNDATION

Biennial Report
2018 - 2020



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Director's Note

India's coastal and marine resources support the lives and livelihoods of millions through maritime activities such as fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, trade and transport. Despite these services provided by seascapes, coastal communities and ecosystems have historically received little attention. This seems to have changed in the last 4-5 years (at least on the development front). The term 'blue economy' now captures the imagination of the global as well as national leaderships and identifies the coasts and oceans as new frontiers for development.

As resources on land have been overexploited, this shift in the 'gaze' towards the sea has been accompanied by colossal investment plans for various maritime activities, particularly port-based commerce, establishment of deep sea fishing fleets, deep sea mining, tourism development and large coastal infrastructure. If even a few of these proposed plans do materialise, our coastlines will bear the brunt of massive ecological and social changes with worrying consequences. These new development frontiers could very well be spaces for sustainable and inclusive growth or they could lead to further environmental degradation, marginalisation of coastal communities and exacerbate inequities.

While we brace for the impact of such large and ambitious plans, our own decade long experience of working on the ground with coastal communities tells us that development visions and projects need to be rooted in local contexts, should be holistic, co-created, founded on the principles of environmental justice, and focus on empowering marginalised communities. Such initiatives find ready acceptance in rural communities, are more inclusive and can lead to lasting environmental and societal benefits. To respond to these needs, Dakshin has significantly re-aligned its programmatic structure, its institutional mandate and its fundraising focus. This has resulted in two landmark programmatic

developments. The first is the conceptualisation of the Sea Change initiative, which is a holistic intervention framework to secure a better balance between biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and human needs. The second is the inception of a Community Wellbeing and Environment (CWE) programme that aims at focusing on critical wellbeing aspects such as community health and livelihoods. We are also adopting novel approaches to engaging with communities such as sports and art.

While these are exciting activities, this period also saw some exciting and promising developments for Dakshin institutionally. The highlight was the purchase of the ANET field station towards continuing the legacy of this multidisciplinary research hub and environmental conservation and education centre in the Andaman Islands. The other significant achievement was the manner in which the entire organisation was able to mobilise and respond to the needs of fisher communities when the first wave of the COVID pandemic hit and a nation-wide lockdown was announced abruptly in March 2020. Our staff worked tirelessly to offer aid and support to those in need. More than 15,000 migrants (largely migrant fishworkers) stranded due to the lockdown were provided assistance and relief. Additionally more than 2800 vulnerable fisher households across 22 villages in Odisha, 15 villages in southern Tamil Nadu and 1 village in the Andaman and Nicobar islands were provided relief in the form of ration and health kits. We thank the various regional partners who were able to mobilise on the ground without whom we would not have managed to succeed.

Looking ahead as an organisation, we see numerous opportunities, challenges and uncertainties. Challenges in how we stay relevant in times when large-scale development models threaten to change entire seascapes, and uncertainties associated with our own survival in an increasingly restrictive atmosphere for civil society organisations. However, in the spirit of the true seafarer, these challenges will further strengthen our resolve to collectively navigate the Dakshin ship over rough seas. We would like to thank all of you who have supported and encouraged us on our journey this far and hope you will continue to do so.

Dakshin's Mission

Dakshin Foundation 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. We carry out applied environmental research as well as standalone and cross-sectoral interventions that aim for positive outcomes for both people and the ocean. Our 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. Our work also aims at building grassroots' capacities to secure ecosystems and rights, and engage in conservation and environmental decision-making through participatory action.

Rules of Engagement

1. Holistic problem definitions and solutions - Our organisational approach is based on an integrated philosophy that combines our research expertise across multiple disciplines and recognition of the linkages between environmental and social issues to identify and engage with environmental problems within their social contexts. In other words our work actively identifies and engages with the drivers of environmental degradation as well as linked social problems that are roadblocks to effecting positive change.

2. Focus on environmental justice and co-management - We differ from

conventional conservation organisations in that we unapologetically support the rights of local communities to sustainably utilise natural resources and to exercise their cultural rights and worldviews. We believe that change is more likely to be achieved through a focus on equitable and democratic governance of natural resources, which can lead to better social and economic outcomes, and incidentally better environmental outcomes.

3. Long-term commitment to change - Our commitment is to long-term interventions in our geographies of focus. We believe that lasting ecological change and social

transformations are often slow processes requiring sustained efforts over many years, and remain outcomes that are best achieved by long-term embedding in local and regional contexts.

4. Contextual solutions with replicable processes - While our focus is on embedding work in local contexts thereby responding to ground-level needs and limitations, we also aim to develop processes of intervention that are replicable and thus scalable across sites.

5. Actions grounded in knowledge - Our work is grounded in knowledge, both ours and those of our partners and networks. We believe in reflective processes that contain the ability to assess, reflect and correct as needed, irrespective of project or grant cycles.

6. Collaboration and empowerment - We believe in the power of collaboration and networks. By creating, supporting and strengthening state and national civil society or multi-sectoral networks, we amplify our ability to influence and change policy, empower local communities and disseminate our learnings from our sites of engagement to sites across the country.

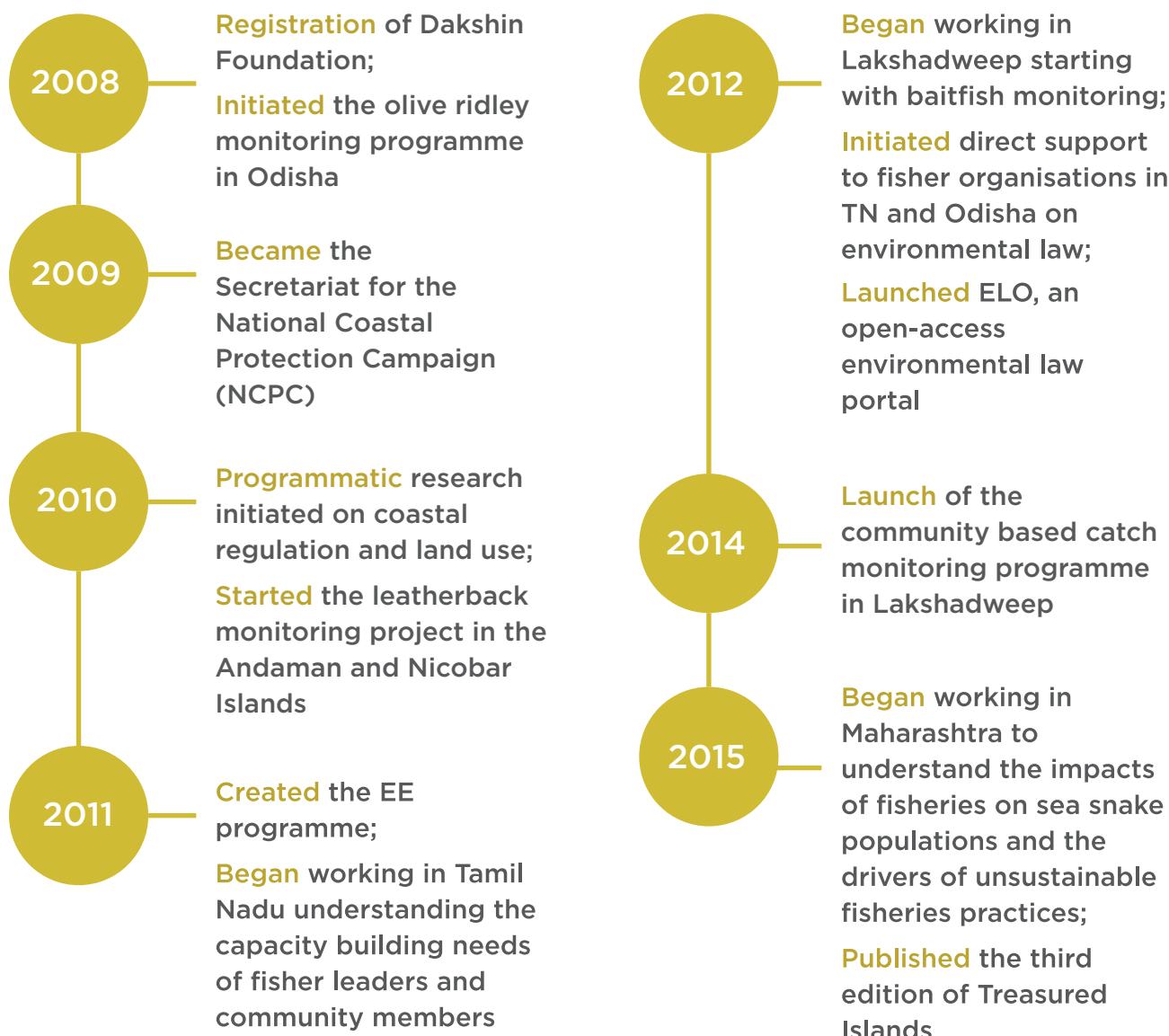
7. Transparent actions and motives - By focusing on transparency, we explicitly attempt to move away from manipulative, exploitative interventions and practices, 'hidden persuaders' and 'nudges' implicit in many traditional environmental interventions.

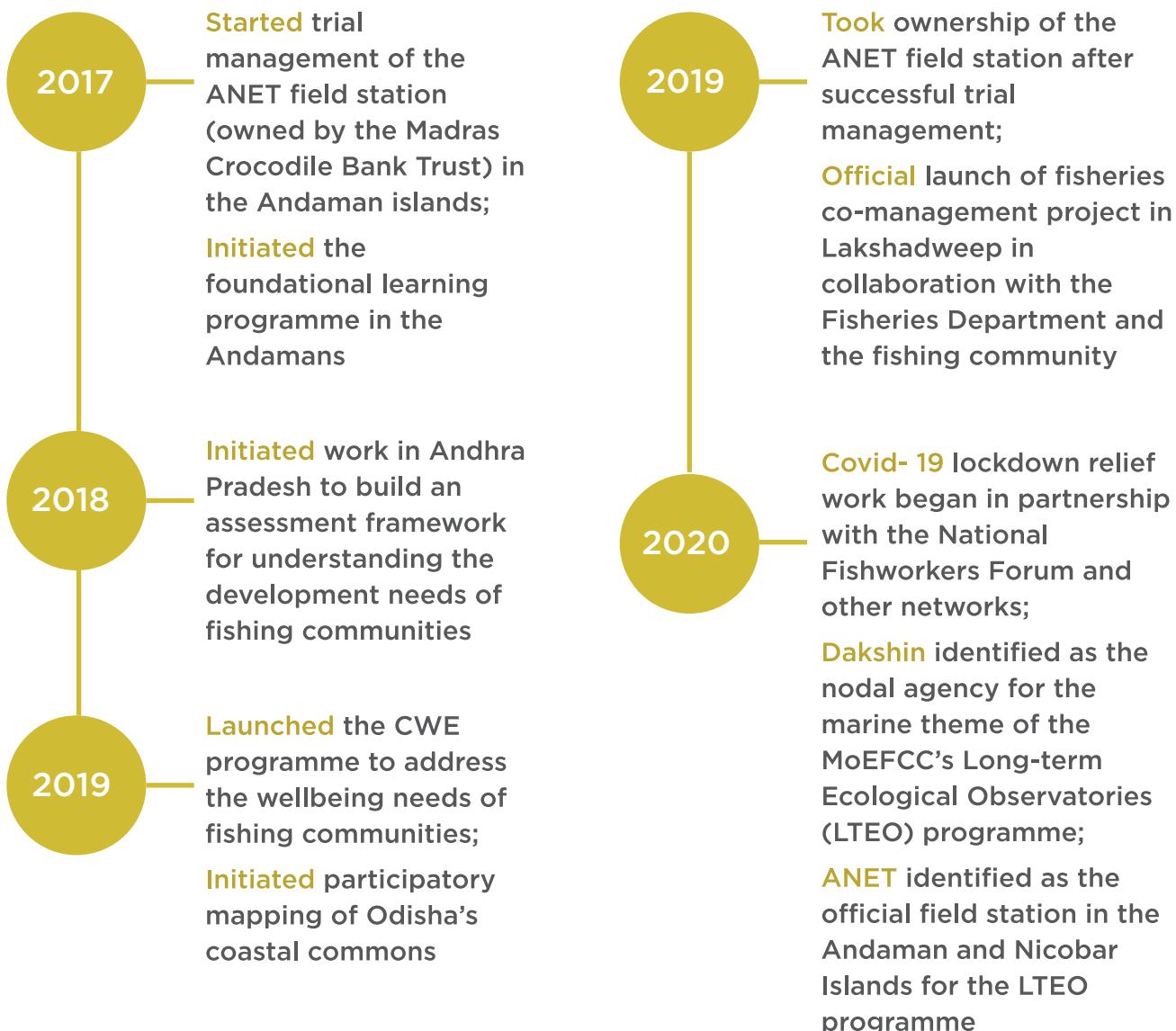




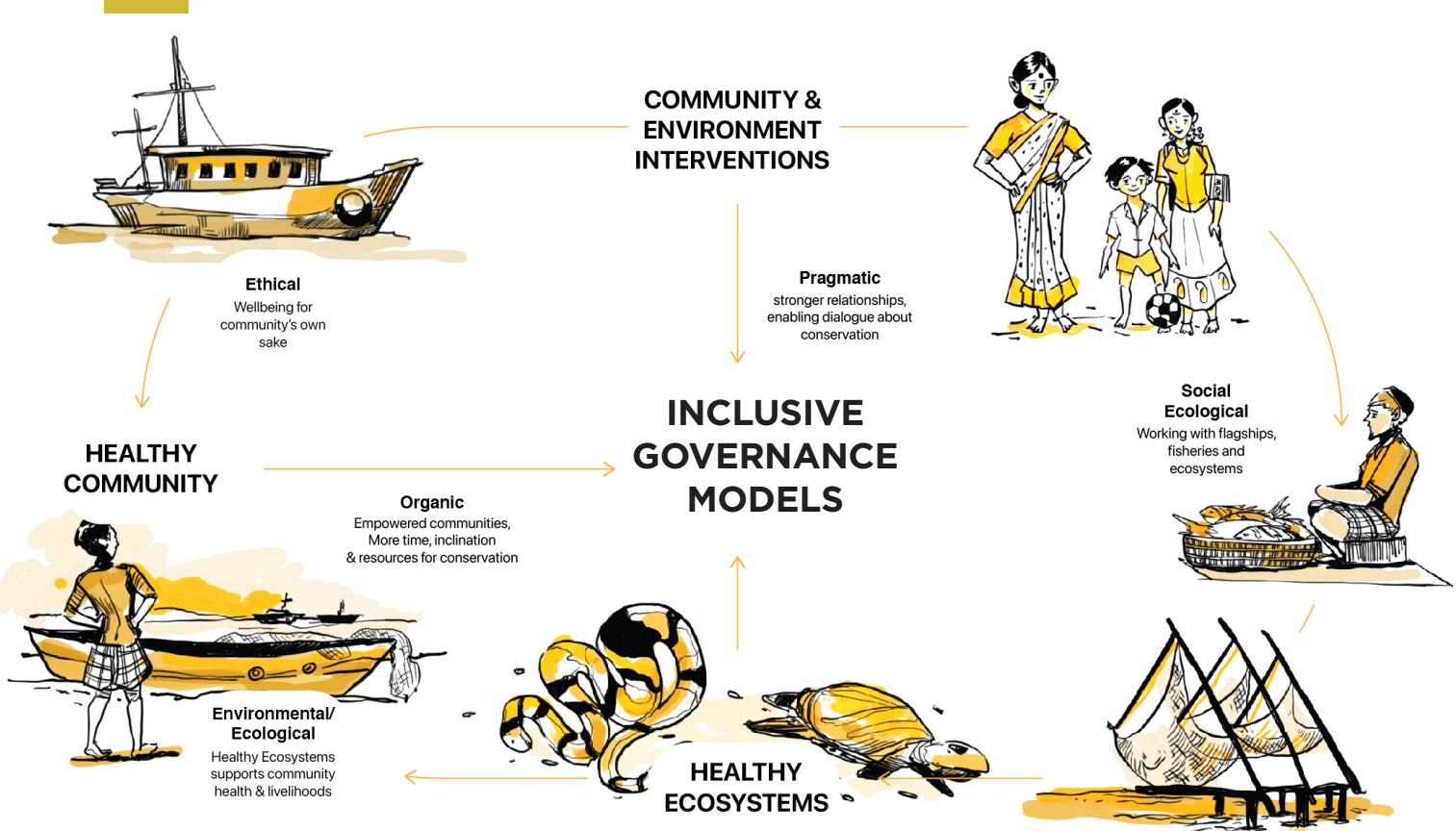
OVERVIEW OF WORK

Dakshin Timeline for Sites, Programmes and Key Projects





Dakshin's theory of change



As one of the world's longest coastlines and biggest contributors to global fish production, India's coasts - integral to both global marine sustainability and environmental outcomes - are home to diverse communities who live and work in its seascapes, with over 15 million people directly dependent on fishing; and countless others indirectly. On account of their lived experiences in these regions for generations, these communities are custodians of immense traditional ecological knowledge and resource governance regimes. However, coastal, marine and island geographies across India are characterised by large-scale interrelated

crises such as poor biodiversity conservation outcomes (e.g. impending fisheries collapses), food security and livelihoods concerns, pervasive climate impacts and incongruous developmental activities. These are in turn reflected in problematic environmental, developmental and social justice scenarios.

As the only environmental research and intervention organisation with a primary focus on coastal, marine and island systems in India, Dakshin Foundation has learnt through its longstanding engagements that conservation and development often take place in silos. Working closely with local communities, over the last ten years, Dakshin has built sectoral strength in multiple programmatic areas along the Indian coastline.

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, heath and livelihood concerns, and poverty over the long-term.

While all of these thematic foci are important, we have recognised the need to integrate these overlapping priorities to ensure healthy communities and ecosystems.

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, heath 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 work differs from that of mainstream conservation organisations, which typically advocates exclusionary and culturally inappropriate conservation practices and community-centred conservation organisations that focus singularly on social development, usually resource-based livelihoods. Instead, we partner with stakeholder communities to regulate use by developing participatory, intersectoral interventions and hybrid, sustainable-use models. 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.

Impact

Knowledge generation

- Runs India's oldest long-term project monitoring project for olive ridley and leatherback turtles. The team has collated nesting habitat and monitored the nesting numbers since the projects were initiated in 2008.
- Conducted the 1st successful satellite telemetry project on leatherback turtles in India
- First to generate in-water fishery independent data on Lakshadweep baitfish population dynamics, a data set that has grown to span over 3 years
- Developed the first detailed profile of fisheries in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Developed Reeflog, India's first underwater citizen science programme, to monitor sensitive coral reef ecosystems
- Runs India's only community based fisheries monitoring programme for open-ocean tuna
- Conducted pioneering studies on the environmental and social impacts of the port sector and on coastal commons
- Has the most updated comprehensive datasets on sea turtle nesting records, offshore densities and habitat characteristics for olive ridleys and leatherbacks in India.
- Carried out the only detailed long term study on the impacts of fisheries

on sea snakes and other associated marine fauna in Malvan, Maharashtra.

- Community-generated dataset consisting of over 4000 fishing records about pole and line tuna fishery dynamics contributed by a total of 50 fishing boats from 4 islands in the Lakshadweep archipelago - Agatti, Kavaratti, Kadmat and Minicoy
- Approximately 1200 calendars in English, Malayalam and Mahl printed and distributed every year among the fisher community and local government bodies.

Policy

- Secretariat to the National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC) and coordinates the networks engagement with national policy
- In collaboration with NCPC and the National Fishworkers' Forum, Dakshin was instrumental in revising regressive legal frameworks and promoting fisher participation in India's Coastal Regulation Zone notification (2011)
- Member of the Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority, constituted under the Island Protection Zone notification 2011 since 2019
- Produced the first comprehensive bilingual manual on the Coastal Regulation Zone notification, 2011 (English and Tamil, English and Bengali) and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (English and Tamil)
- Facilitated the formation of the Orissa Marine Resources Conservation Consortium and the Island Resource Network in the Andamans to build collaborations between stakeholders and to forge positive change.
- Active ally and supporter of the National Fishworkers Forum, a national federation of fisher unions

Capacity Building

- Legal workshops on the CRZ 2011 and WLPA, 1972 carried out for fisher leaders and community members across 4 districts in TN
- Mapped coastal commons used by 1500 fisher community members in Ganjam District, Odisha
- Engaged 20 community members annually on sea turtle conservation and protection since 2008 in Odisha and ANI
- Trained an average of 50 forest department officials in Odisha and ANI annually on sea turtle monitoring and conservation since 2011.
- Till date 5 schools, have adopted the third edition of Treasured Islands as their textbook for environmental education in the Andaman islands
- 20 children currently enrolled in then after-school learning programme in Wandoor, Andaman Islands
- An average of 80 men and women involved annually in community monitoring of fisheries in Lakshadweep since 2014
- Coordinate the Turtle Action Group (TAG) a network of organizations and individuals involved in sea turtle conservation activities along the Indian coast to provide technical training and capacity building exercises to improve sea turtle conservation practices

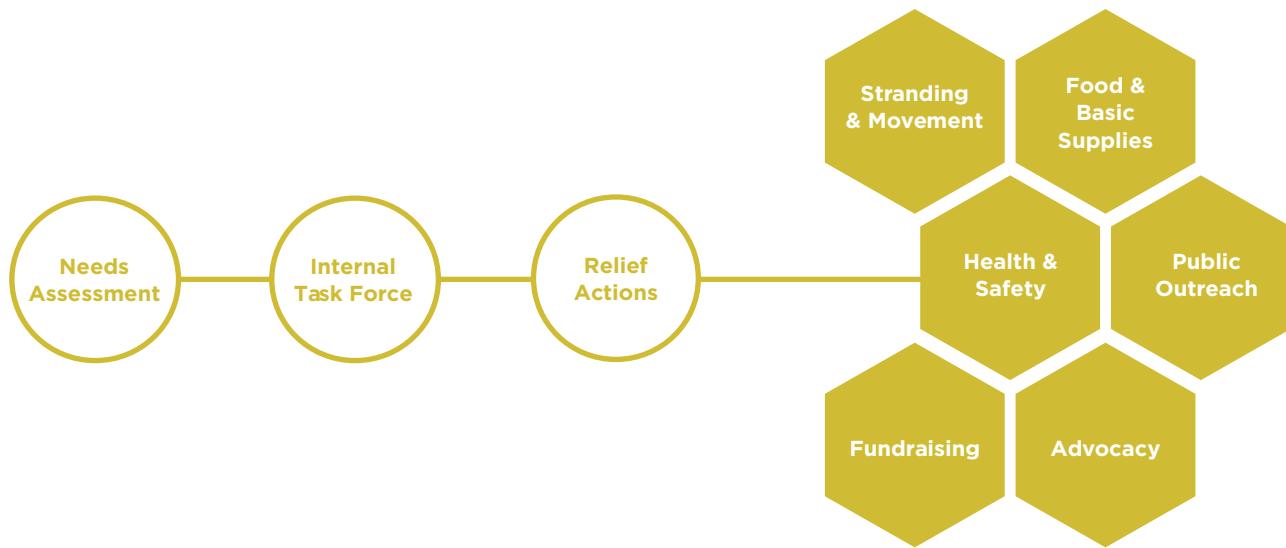
HIGHLIGHTS

2018-2020





COVID-19 response



Calls from field assistants and community members in our sites of engagement regarding the stranding of thousands of migrant fishworkers in harbours and on boats across the country, launched a rapid assessment of the needs of the community and a restructuring of our internal staff from our 4 programmes into six strategic task forces.

Our team ofstaff and .. volunteers worked with civil society networks, fisher unions, government departments and officials to bring aid to migrant and non-migrant fishworkers and their families.

- Migrants supported - 15703 (13360 fishworkers, 256 members of fishing/coastal communities, 2087 non-fishworker migrants) supported with food (8500), travel (7702), advocacy (4000)

- Non-migrants -

- Health (7000 fishworkers) - Information kits on Covid-19 and precautionary measures were prepared in 9 coastal languages reaching at least 7000 fishers from more than 25 coastal districts in Odisha, Andhra, TN, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra as well as ANI and Lakshadweep.
- Fundraising - Through grants, crowdfunding and donations Dakshin raised INR 40,80,054 which supported rations and health supplies for 3,337 of the most vulnerable fisher households (approx 13348 individuals) in Odisha, Tamil Nadu and ANI with the help of our local partners UAA, SNEHA and the Junglighat Boat Committee.

Looking ahead

Given the critical role that fisherwomen play in sales and marketing of fish and the importance of this income source to their families, there is a pressing need to invest in digital empowerment to offset the impacts of the growing number of online seafood retailers hampering their businesses. Additionally, given that fisher migration is largely distress migration fuelled by depleting income opportunities in their home villages, we are planning new initiatives and scaling existing programmes that will improve resilience of fishing communities and ocean ecosystems. Additionally as a short-term but immediate measure, we designed our relief efforts in ways that ensured that our relief funds supported the broader local economy.

More information about our relief efforts and our partners can be found in the report “Towards Calmer Seas: Dakshin’s relief efforts during the lockdown ”.

Sea Change: Integrating community well-being and ocean sustainability

Coastal, marine and island geographies across India are characterised by large-scale interrelated challenges such as poor biodiversity conservation outcomes and reduced ecosystem stability as a result of over-exploitation of coastal and ocean resources; as well as disruptions to locally adaptive lifestyles of coastal communities compounded by malnutrition, poor access to healthcare and other livelihood struggles. When combined with climate change and other emerging crises, India's coastal and marine spaces are in critical need of holistic intervention.

Dakshin's extensive and longstanding engagements in coastal regions have demonstrated that when local communities are empowered to manage their own natural resources sustainably, local food insecurity, health and livelihood concerns, and poverty are likely to be alleviated in the long-term. Improved socio-economic well-being is also likely to catalyse superior environmental stewardship and resilience against external shocks. Dakshin's recently conceptualised flagship initiative, Sea Change intends to address this issue, to secure a better balance between biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and human needs. Complementary to Dakshin's existing research and interventions, Sea Change activities will aim to improve human wellbeing and ecosystem health through four broad interlinked domains: (i) health, nutrition and fitness; (ii) education; (iii) livelihoods, and, (iv) policy and governance. In addition to conventional approaches, Dakshin also plans to use sports and arts to empower communities in these domains.



Dakshin will attempt to bring together successful elements of the participatory fisheries co-management project it has been implementing in Lakshadweep, its community health and tourism projects in Odisha and its livelihood programme in the Andaman islands. While the broad sectoral dimensions of the Sea Change model are expected to remain the same across sites, the interventions will be tailored to meet the needs of the different geographies and the diversities of local context. Sea change 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.

Fish for the Future - Save to savour / Khaane ke liye bachao

Marine fisheries across the world are grappling with collapses in fish stocks, a widespread concern that can be ascribed to overfishing, the mechanisation of fishing fleets and the intense, unregulated exploitation of commercial marine species. India's coasts are no different. Indian fisheries serve as a direct or indirect source of livelihood for over 15 million people and provide nutritional sustenance to a population many times this size. However, in recent years, the decline in fish stocks, increasing operational costs, poor financial security and climate vulnerabilities have exacerbated existing socio-economic inequities, further marginalising fisher communities. Furthermore, despite the wealth of local ecological knowledge that fisher communities possess, they are seldom part of any decision-making or dialogue on fisheries development, leading to myopic policies and top-down management regimes that are blind to local contexts.

Dakshin's flagship initiative, Fish for the Future, is a participatory project that aims to leverage the untapped potential of local communities in the design and implementation of integrated monitoring and management programmes for marine species and ecosystems along the Indian coastline. It seeks to empower fisher communities, sensitise resource managers towards participatory processes in marine resource governance, address data gaps and build demonstrable models of fisheries co-management. It presents opportunities for locally empowered decision-making, the benefits of which will continue to accumulate in the long term and enable the sustainable use of fishery resources and coastal commons.



Fish for the Future is expected to benefit a large number of ecologically and commercially valuable marine species that form critical links in marine trophic chains. It underscores that fish are a multi-faceted ocean resource intricately tied to the future of fisher people and the environment, and that fisheries can be conserved and utilised sustainably without creating exclusionary conservation spaces, while simultaneously promoting livelihoods, well-being and long-standing cultural connections.

Towards co-management: Lakshadweep Islands

The Lakshadweep islands, with its coral reef, lagoon and ocean ecosystems and a population significantly dependent on ocean resources, provided the perfect site to test Dakshin's Fish for the Future model. The Lakshadweep islands are home to one of India's few sustainable fisheries - a pole-and-line tuna fishery. However when Dakshin began work here in 2012, rising operational costs and the unavailability of adequate amounts of bait fish (for catching tuna) were already beginning to drive a transition towards intensive, export driven reef fishing with long-term impacts for the ecosystem's health and viability. There were also visible mismatches between larger national and state fisheries goals and the needs of the local fisher community.

In order to bring these two groups together, Dakshin's initial work on the islands focussed on implementing a community-based catch monitoring system, designed in collaboration with the fishers. This catch monitoring programme allowed community members to collect and make decisions based on their own data. The strong networks established through the programme paved the way for Dakshin to facilitate dialogues between the Fisheries Department and the fisher community on a co-management system for the Lakshadweep islands.

In May and June 2019, more than 50% of active fishing boats on the major tuna fishing islands -Kavaratti, Agatti and Minicoy - participated in co-management consultations organised by Dakshin Foundation. Resolutions for phasing out unsustainable bait-fishing practices were adopted by the fishers and supported by the Fisheries Department, a first step towards formulating sustainable management plans and a milestone in



our transition from research and monitoring to interventions and community buy-in.



ANET - A new field station in the Andaman Islands

The Andaman and Nicobar islands (ANI), situated in the Bay of Bengal, are characterised by immense ecological and biogeographic wealth. They contribute to two exceptionally diverse global biodiversity hotspots - the Indo Burma and Sundaland hotspots. With a rich settler history, and coral reef, inter-tidal and rainforest ecosystems occurring in close proximity to each other, the islands offer excellent field opportunities for both terrestrial and marine biodiversity research. However, due to the logistical constraints of collecting data from its many islands, there are glaring deficits in data from ANI.

In 2018, Dakshin acquired the Andaman Nicobar Environment Team (ANET), a field facility, multidisciplinary research station and education centre dedicated to environmental conservation and education in the Andaman Islands. Established in 1993 as an initiative of the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT) - the oldest civil society representation on the islands - ANET's aim is to address issues of contemporary significance to the islands and to develop effective conservation strategies based on a sound understanding of the islands' diverse socio-ecological systems.

ANET's research can be categorised within broad interlinked focus areas that encompass marine, terrestrial and communities-oriented themes. ANET's work includes independent projects that are carried out by ANET/Dakshin researchers as well as collaborative efforts and projects that are being facilitated for other institutions and independent researchers. ANET also spearheads grassroots interventions that focus on the preservation



of biodiversity, improving local livelihoods, place-based and experiential education, training and support for environmental stewardship, and community well-being, in partnership with local communities and government departments. Recently, ANET has been selected as the field station which hosts the Long Term Ecological Observatories project (of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) in the islands.

In the future, Dakshin hopes to establish India's first Centre for Island Sustainability (CIS) at ANET. CIS will serve as a multidisciplinary research and intervention hub to address key sustainability challenges in India's islands; and launch marine biology field courses and summer schools for researchers and students.

A long term ecological observatory in the Andaman Islands

The threats that climate change possesses to life on our planet are familiar to all of us by now. However, the specifics of how climate change will affect ecosystems and communities in India remains speculative given the lack of long-term data on how these systems have been changing. To address this data gap, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has set up the Indian Long-term Ecological Observatories (ILTEO) initiative which is a multi-ecosystem, multi-institutional initiative to understand the drivers and responses of climate change. The programme covers a wide range of themes including soil, forests, grasslands, invertebrates, fish, herpetofauna, birds, animal movement and marine ecosystems and will be carried out at six index landscapes across the country. These include the Northwestern Arid Zone, Western Himalaya, Eastern Himalaya, Central India, Western Ghats and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Dakshin Foundation plays a dual role in this new initiative. Apart from heading the marine theme of the LTEO programme, which will be executed in collaboration with the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) – India, Pondicherry University and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Dakshin's field station ANET located in the Andaman and Nicobar islands has been selected as the field station for the islands. As a result ANET will host and facilitate LTEO network partners who are carrying out marine and terrestrial research on the islands.

The Andaman and Nicobar islands harbour a wealth of species in its rich forest, inter-tidal and marine ecosystems. The islands are also home to



several indigenous tribes and a growing settler population. With the threat of sea-level rise, as well as the challenges of sustainably developing these islands, ANET's selection as the field station for the LTEO programme provides us with an exciting opportunity to anchor the critical research needed to safeguard these islands.



Foundational learning - a learning center for the future

Within the public education system, learning is rendered into a passive activity rather than an active process of absorbing and sharing information and ideas. As a result, only some students in the classroom see its benefits, while others are likely to fall behind, experience difficulties with other subjects, and are unable to develop adequate literacy and numeracy. Over time, this inadequacy can lead to discouragement and apathy towards learning and education, leaving children vulnerable to dropping out.

Through our long-standing engagement with islands' communities in the ANI, Dakshin recognised the need for foundational literacy and numeracy training in primary schools, where children lacked dedicated learning spaces that encourage curricular comprehension and place-based competencies. In collaboration with the Wipro Applying Thought in Schools (WATIS) initiative, Dakshin established the Islands of Wisdom project in 2017, which takes a holistic approach to education in order to strengthen foundational learning. The project is run as an after-school intervention in the South Andaman village of Wandoor in partnership with local schools. Employing learning-level appropriate, contextualised, and hands-on activities, students are encouraged to explore concepts individually and in a manner that cuts across traditional subject boundaries. This approach helps support differentiated learning given the learner diversity in the class, towards the project's overall aim to create an environment which stimulates each child, not just intellectually, but also socially and emotionally. Additionally, as part of the Islands of Wisdom project, Dakshin's Learning Lab serves as a space "outside" school to complement students' formal education by in-



tegrating environmental education objectives through a place-based education (PBE) lens.

The Islands of Wisdom programme is currently being adapted for long-term use, as a replicable model that will rely on contextualised content and the integration of school teachers and local facilitators into the centre of the education sphere, creating a shared space that relies on an integrated model of teaching, and employing educated young women as community teachers who live and work in the same environment as their students. Through this programme, our hope is that island communities engage with both formal and informal education spaces in order to support a child's natural way of learning and help develop independent thinkers and curious learners with a strong sense of appreciation for their environment.





DAKSHIN'S PROJECTS

Odisha



Being one of Dakshin Foundation's oldest sites of engagement, coastal Odisha has been the primary testing ground for various models of intervention from monitoring Olive Ridleys, to working on fisher rights over coastal commons, to initiating our community well-being and environment programme. While Dakshin staff have primarily been working with communities based in South Odisha i.e in the Ganjam district, they have provided support from time to time to partner organisations in the districts of Puri and Kendrapara.

Knowledge generation

Our engagement in Odisha began in Rushikulya, Ganjam district, as part of our effort to address the increasing conflicts between turtle conservation, conservationists and the traditional fishing community. Rushikulya is one of the three mass nesting rookeries for olive ridley sea turtles in Odisha. Along with Gahirmatha and Devi, Rushikulya represents the only mass nesting

beaches for Olive Ridley Turtles outside Central America. However the presence of turtles in this area has had socio-political and economic implications for the fishing communities of the region who are banned from fishing during the nesting season. Moreover, frequent cyclones and increasing coastal erosion as a result of natural as well as sea-level rise several anthropogenic activities have contributed to making this coastline vulnerable.

In order to study, understand and improve the conservation of Olive Ridley turtles, in 2008 Dakshin began India's longest running olive ridley monitoring project. Through this project researchers aim to shed light on the state of olive ridley populations, potential impacts of climate change as well as present alternative models of marine conservation that aren't rooted in the exclusion of local communities. Additionally, with communities increasingly impacted by coastal industrialization, Dakshin has been working closely with local fishing communities to document their existing use and management of coastal commons in order to develop strategies to legally establish their management rights. *

Action

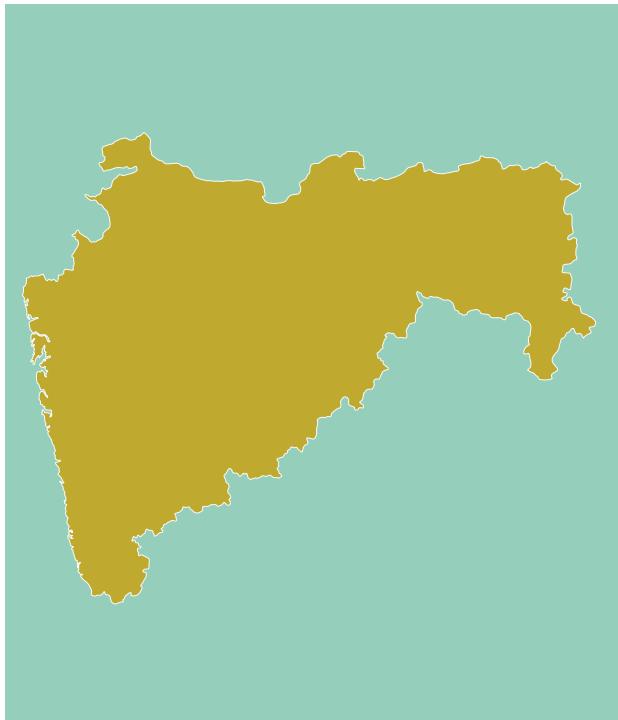
Most recently, we have initiated a project on community health as part of our Community Wellbeing and Environment programme in two fishing villages in Ganjam. The project aims to improve both community health and environmental health by conducting awareness on health issues, building capacities of community health workers, improving WASH practices and waste management practices, initiating environmental monitoring and dialogue on fisheries management; and to strengthen community institutions.

Capacity building

Besides fishing communities, we have also focused on developing and strengthening scientific capacities of other stakeholders which include Forest Department staff, local organisations and research students to enable them to undertake long-term monitoring of turtles during arribadas

and to collect data that would help understand the effects of global climate change on these sea turtle populations for long-term conservation. By developing skills in sea turtle monitoring, individuals from local community-based NGOs have managed to find employment in sea turtle research and monitoring programmes carried out by academic research institutions and by the Forest Department. Dakshin has been working closely with five local NGOs that are involved in sea turtle conservation in this region.

Maharashtra



The diversity of the Maharashtrian coastline and the scale of commercial fishing operations in the state, led Dakshin to initiate work in Malvan, a coastal town in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

Knowledge generation

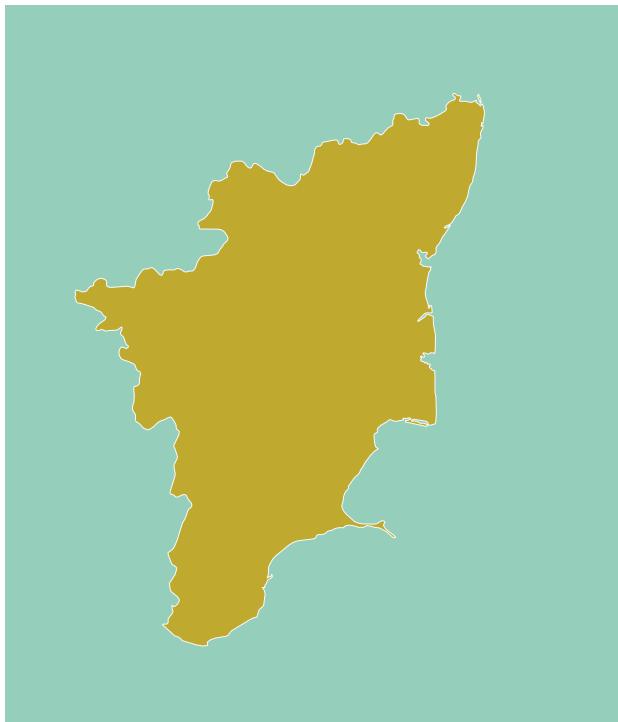
Our work in this location is geared towards filling in gaps in our collective understanding of the interactions between fisheries and the marine ecosystem, in order to improve fisheries management and ecosystem health. For instance, despite sea snakes being the most diverse groups of marine reptiles, occurring primarily in the Indian Ocean, the knowledge of their ecology, behaviour and population(s) is lacking. Moreover, impacts of commercial fisheries on sea snake populations, despite their presence in the bycatch of these fisheries, is unknown. Recognising the potential impact of fisheries such populations, Dakshin began working in 2015 to characterize long-term trends in abundance,

diversity, and mortality of sea snakes, and gain a better understanding of how patterns in the local fisheries affect their ecology, physiology, and life history.

In order to further understand the issues related to bycatch and fisheries, we conducted another project in Malvan from January 2018 to April 2019. This project studied the issue of the reduction and commercialisation of small sized 'trash fish' captured by trawlers, into aquaculture and poultry feed. Through this work we hope to build a much-needed understanding of the different lenses of this issue and apply this towards guiding improved policy and management of trawl fisheries.

Just like sea snakes, elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) are vulnerable to human activities such as fishing. In fact, elasmobranchs represent some of the most endangered marine species across the globe. India is among the top 3 elasmobranch fishing nations, and these species contribute to livelihood and food security of thousands in the country. However, catches in the country have been declining over the past few decades, indicating that elasmobranch populations are under serious threat. Building on the work on sea snakes, in 2019, the Dakshin team initiated another project to study the biology, ecology, fishery and conservation of sharks and rays. Through this work, our goal is to align elasmobranch conservation with the needs of the fishing community, by formulating management strategies for a more sustainable fishery.

Tamil Nadu



With the second longest coastline in the Indian mainland and the highest number of fisher households in India, Tamil Nadu has been the site for various projects since 2011.

Knowledge generation

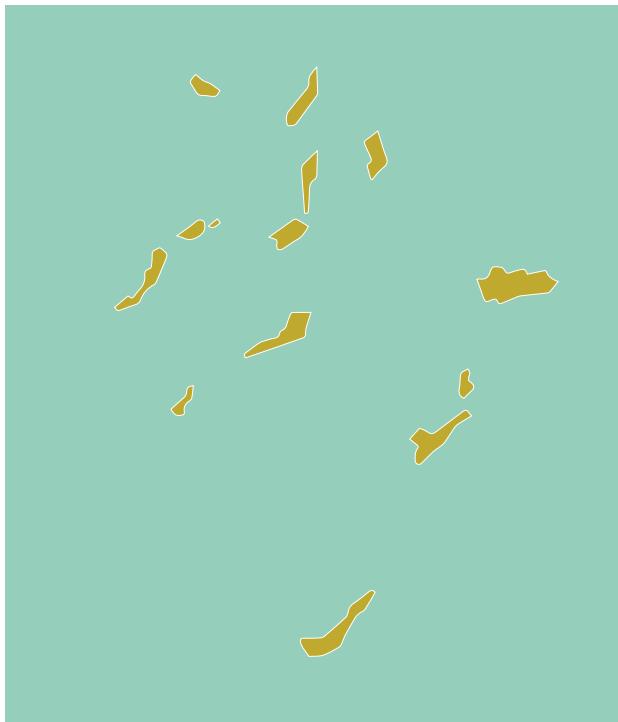
Conservation efforts and conflict resolution often need to rely on the capabilities and agency exercised by local community leaders and representatives. In order to understand the dynamics of governance and leadership in fishing communities, Dakshin initiated a study in the Ramanathapuram district. The study enquired into existing frameworks of coastal governance and the legally mandated spaces for community participation in coastal regulation. It provided a better understanding of traditional as well as emerging forms of leadership and representation in new natural resource governance frameworks.

Dakshin's interest in developing solutions for mitigating human-wildlife conflict has led the team to explore this issue not just marine and coastal systems but also in terrestrial ones. Dakshin has certain projects focussed on human - elephant conflict, which is one of the biggest challenges for the long term survival of the Asian Elephant. Beginning in 2018, and in collaboration with the Shola Trust and with support from International Elephant Foundation, Dakshin worked on a project in the Gudular Forest Division that aimed to monitor elephants outside protected areas through a crowd sourced approach. The project involved local informants reporting elephant presence through a simple text message, and the information is automatically disseminated to a wider audience around them. The reports were used to better understand the elephants; working with local people to identify individual elephants, know their 'personalities' and monitor their movement over time. Complementing this, Dakshin, in partnership with The Shola Trust, initiated a project to establish human elephant coexistence baselines in Southern India in 2018, with support from Elephant Family. The project aims to compare the context of different human elephant coexistence landscapes to understand what kind of solutions will work where. This project covered sites in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Capacity Building

The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), 2011, is the main legislation that ensures the protection of the coast while allowing for a range of sustainable development activities within it. Since 2013 Dakshin has been working with fisher leaders and community members across Ramanathapuram, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari to build greater awareness both on the CRZ as well as other critical legislations such as the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Towards this end, Dakshin has conducted capacity building workshops and produced bilingual material on these legislations that can be used as references by leaders.

Lakshadweep Islands



India's only coral islands, the Lakshadweep Islands, are home to about 90,000 people who are directly or indirectly dependent on the ocean around them. With sustainable fishing practices still in operation today thanks to the rich traditions of the islanders and a unique geography, these coral atolls present the opportunity to develop novel approaches to sustainable fisheries management that can later be scaled to more complex systems on the Indian mainland.

Knowledge generation

The Dakshin team has been working since November 2012 to support and strengthen Lakshadweep's pole-and-line tuna fishery, which is not only inherently sustainable but also keeps fishing pressure off the sensitive reefs. There are multiple pressures, internal and external, driving the increasing transitions towards a reef-based fishery, needing the team to focus not

only on ecological questions but also on social, cultural and political contexts. This has meant conducting interdisciplinary action research on areas such as baitfish ecology, traditional ecological knowledge and resource governance in the islands to working with the islanders on fisheries monitoring. In 2013, the team worked with the fishers to develop a community-based fisheries monitoring programme for the tuna fisheries, resulting in a dataset generated and owned by the community with the potential for local management and decision-making. Till date, a total of 50 fishing boats from 4 islands have participated in this programme contributing over 4000 fishing records to a unique, community-generated dataset. The team also produces an annual calendar in the local languages - Malayalam and Mahl, that showcases the boats involved in the monitoring programme as well as carries pertinent information to sustainable fisheries management on the islands. With every year that passes, the calendar becomes an increasingly anticipated output due to the publicity boat owners receive as well as the information it carries. Fisheries are, of course, closely linked to the fate of various other marine ecosystems and species. For instance, the lagoons of Lakshadweep are also home to green turtles, whose increased numbers have meant that the seagrass meadows of Lakshadweep have decreased greatly due to intense grazing by the green turtles. This has severely impacted the abundance of seagrass dependent fish important for the subsistence of local fisher communities, leading to resentment amongst fishers and increasing fisher-turtle conflict. Dakshin's work on mapping green turtle presence in the different island lagoons and their foraging patterns on seagrass has helped us identify regions of spatial overlap with fishers. In the coming years we are aiming to use a combination of telemetry and photo ids of individual animals to get a better understanding of their fine scale movement patterns.

Based on our work in Lakshadweep and in other parts of the country, Dakshin Foundation was invited to provide scientific and technical support to the Department of Environment & Forest, Lakshadweep Administration for the '1st National Conference on Marine Turtle Conservation'. The conference was conducted in Kadmat on the 2nd and 3rd of December and was attended by representatives of NGOs, including many members

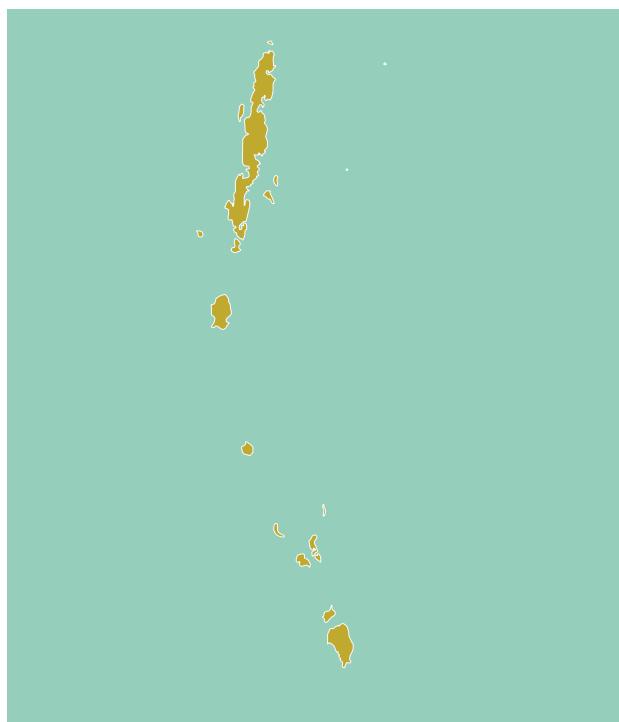
of the Turtle Action Group (TAG), experts from scientific institutions, and Forest Department officials from across the country. The conference covered 2 primary themes - Research and Monitoring, Conservation Management and Conflict Mitigation. The conference served as a knowledge sharing platform for the mitigation and management of turtles across the country.

Capacity Building

The knowledge generated through focused fisheries research and the engagement and relationships built through the community-based fisheries monitoring programme together feeds into our goal to build an effective co-management process that brings together the island administration and fisher community. In 2019, with the support of the Tata Trusts, the first co-management meetings were successfully held across various islands taking us closer to arriving at an effective and inclusive fisheries management system for the islanders.

Besides pole and line tuna fishing, Dakshin also engages with the traditional octopus fishery on these islands. What makes this fishery stand out is the active role that women play in hunting octopus. Dakshin studied the Lakshadweep's octopus fishery over the past two years, in collaboration with CARESS, Chennai, and with the support of Blue Ventures, UK. In 2018 , Dakshin initiated a community-based octopus fisheries monitoring programme that involved octopus hunters in collecting regular information about their catch to understand trends in the fishery. Going forward, Dakshin plans to continue the engagement with Lakshadweep's octopus hunters through outreach activities to rebuild consciousness on resource management and ensure a sustainable octopus fishery.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands



The Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, situated 1200 km from the Indian mainland between the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, comprises several hundred tropical islands of outstanding beauty and biological diversity. Four species of marine turtles nest along these islands, including the leatherback turtle, the largest marine turtle. The islands are also rich in social and cultural diversity represented by the various indigenous tribal and settler communities living here. Dakshin has been working on the islands since inception, and over time our work has expanded from biological monitoring of sea turtles to working on issues related to livelihood, education and community wellbeing. All of our work in the Islands has been based out of ANET - Andaman and Nicobar Environment Team - which Dakshin purchased from the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust

in 2019. ANET continues to facilitate research and interventions of many researchers, NGOs and government institutions.

Knowledge generation

Our work on the islands began in 2008 with a long term monitoring and conservation project focusing on the leatherback sea turtles, for whom the Little Andaman and the Nicobars are among the last remaining nesting grounds in the Indian Ocean region. With a strong focus on developing networks for conservation in the region and a long-term education and outreach component, this project also aims to sensitize government authorities and local communities to the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats. Besides monitoring sea turtles, Dakshin, in 2015, initiated an underwater citizen science project called Reef Log where recreational divers can help document ongoing changes in marine systems to better ensure ecosystem health and stability.

Most recently in 2019 ANET was identified as the field station for the Long-Term Ecological Observatories (LTEO) Programme, launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC). This is a multi-institutional, interdisciplinary programme aimed at understanding the impacts of climate change on India's various ecosystems and taxa.

Action

With the understanding that environmental awareness is the single most powerful tool required to inculcate sensitivity and responsibility towards issues of conservation and sustainability in a significant manner, Dakshin initiated its Environmental Education (EE) Programme. As a first step in 2014, the team collaborated with ANET (owned and operated at that time by its founder the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust) and the Srishti School of Design to update Treasured Islands - a place-based and contextual environmental education teachers training manual - first published by Kalpavriksh. This third edition of Treasured Islands was developed utilising

the guidelines laid out by NCERT and CBSE while relying on the concepts of place-based and experiential learning. Through their engagement with teachers and students for Treasured Islands, the team quickly identified the gaps in their current education system which led to the launch of the Islands of Wisdom project in 2017. Dakshin also set up a foundation learning programme - The Learning Lab - at Wandoor where ANET is located. The programme seeks to create space “outside” school to complement students’ formal education by integrating environmental education objectives through a place-based education (PBE) lens.

Since 2017, Dakshin has also been involved in supporting the Andaman Karen Crafts (AKC) Cooperative Society. Based in the Mayabunder region of Middle Andamans, this initiative focuses on members of the Karen community who settled in the islands during the late colonial period. It aimed to facilitate their exploration of self-sustaining livelihood opportunities while restoring cultural connections and generating positive environmental outcomes. Dakshin supported craft activities of the Andaman Karen Crafts Cooperative Society, setting up a nursery of local plants of medicinal and use value, rejuvenating traditional Karen cuisine, organising environmental workshops and documenting local history.

Building on our work with coastal communities on a range of social and environmental issues relevant to their local contexts, the Community Wellbeing and Environment programme was initiated in 2019 to work on the wellbeing of coastal communities through interventions in community health, sanitation, sports and livelihoods. The pilot project has been initiated in Wandoor, next to the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and Junglighat, the largest fishing community on the islands.

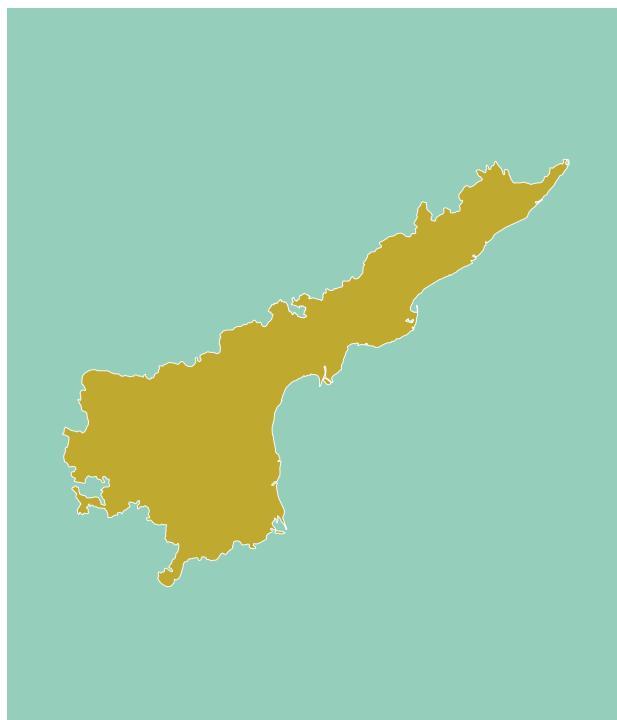
Policy

In the period 2018-2020 ANET continued to be a part of several state-level policy committees. At present these include the State Board for Wildlife, Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA), Blue Flag certification, Coral reef and mangrove monitoring and Compensatory Afforestation

Fund Management and Planning Authority (Campa). Dr. Meera Oommen and Dr. Kartik Shanker were also invited to participate in an expert consultation held in May 2018, on ways to mitigate human-crocodile conflict in the islands and we are in the process of compiling an account of best practices from across the world. Apart from these, several of us contributed to discussions on sustainable tourism in an internal Divisional Forest Officers' meeting; management plan consultations for Rani Jhansi Marine National Park and Important Marine Mammal Areas.

Interventions in other states

Dakshin has carried out interventions in areas apart from the above long-term sites, as opportunities for such engagements arose. These projects have helped flesh out and test ideas that we plan to build into our future work.

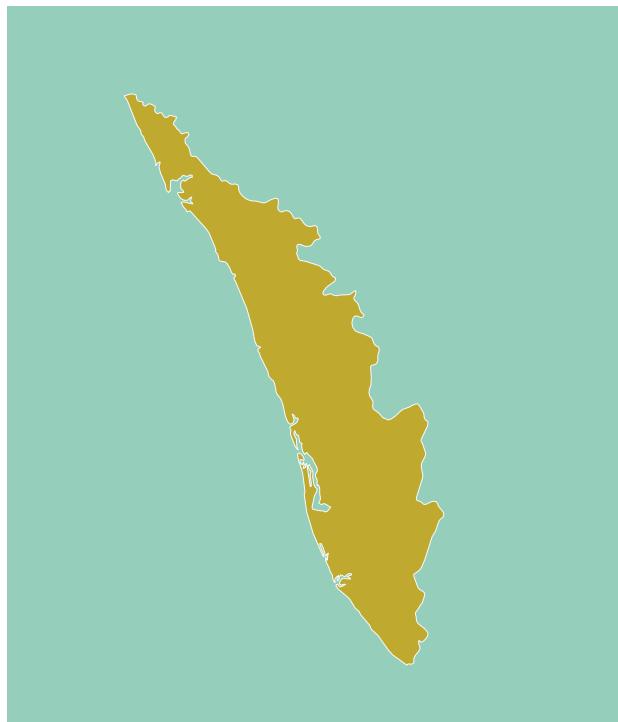


Andhra Pradesh

Considering the large economic contribution and the employment and livelihood opportunities that the fishing sector generates, there is an immediate need to focus on improving the lives of the coastal fisher communities. However, the diffuse and diverse nature of the small scale fishery sector in India (purportedly there is a fishing village along every 3 km of the coastline) combined with the serious lack of information on the key issues and challenges faced by the sector, makes scalable development planning a major challenge. While the idea of bottom up data driven governance is gaining momentum in policy making circles in India, a number

of existing initiatives rely on purely quantitative data (often for logistical reasons).

Dakshin, with the support of the Tata Trusts, has built a methodology for assessing quality of life, social development, ecological conditions and political economy in fishing communities. The methodology was tested in Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh and has been refined based on the pilot results. The methodology is bottom up and sufficiently robust so as to yield reliable information on the communities studied, taking into account the (micro)politics, history, social relations and human-nature interactions at the village, mandal/taluk and district scale. At the same time the methodology is sufficiently practical so as to be carried out in a reasonable amount of time with minimal training in a wide variety of circumstances while still maintaining its integrity. Being able to combine this qualitative methodological framework with existing government data collection initiatives, may hold the key to conducting holistic assessments and developing sector-specific developmental reforms.



Kerala

Coastal areas in India are undergoing drastic transformation with little concern for diverse ecosystems and different fishing communities living around it. Indiscriminate exploitation of the coastal areas are undertaken despite the efforts of the dependent communities challenging at multiple levels through diverse means the destruction and pollution of coastal areas, and even their dispossession.

An unfortunate gap in India's coastal biodiversity governance

is the neglect of the marine and coastal sector in general; and the inertia in adopting a participatory coastal conservation, management and governance approach even while acts such as the Biodiversity Act, 2002 calls for it. With support from the Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust's fellowship, Dakshin's research affiliate Alphonsa Johan, has been working with fishing communities in Kadalundi, Kerala to develop a participatory framework to develop a fishing communities' bio-cultural register. The framework will assist the communities in expressing their bio-cultural practices and knowledge linked to coastal and marine biodiversity.

Besides human-wildlife conflict, the spread of the pan global invasive weed Lantana camara also poses a challenge since about 30% of South India's prime elephant habitat has been taken over by it, subsequently leaving it unusable for the elephants. Keeping this in mind, a project titled 'Managing Lantana camara to improve elephant habitat' was also initiated in 2018 with support from the Elephant Family. The aim of this project is to show proof of concept for a self sustaining/financing methods by which lantana is continuously removed by local communities.



Goa

The Goa Forest department, in collaboration with the Dakshin Foundation, developed an action plan for the conservation of Galgibaga beach, with the olive ridley sea turtle as a flagship species. Detailed surveys were conducted to assist the Goa Forest department in managing the biodiversity and supporting the coastal communities of Galgibaga. We examined the local livelihoods, governance structures, dependence on the coastal

commons, concerns and aspirations of the coastal communities living in Galgibaga. This was accompanied by detailed biodiversity surveys which surveyed the fauna of the intertidal zone, arachnids, insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds of Galgibaga as well as marine turtles in the region. The final report submitted to the Goa Forest Department contained key recommendations on the management of the land it has acquired for sea turtle conservation reserve for the simultaneous benefit of the marine wildlife and coastal communities of the area.

Pan India



While much of Dakshin's work is located within specific state geographies, a significant portion cuts across state lines and takes place at a national or regional scale. This is possible due to the multiple networks that Dakshin has founded, coordinated or been a part of. These networks help Dakshin staff scale their learnings to other sites by sharing information with network partners across different locations, a translocal approach central to Dakshin's work.

Knowledge generation

On the research front, in 2019, Dakshin was appointed the Indian partner for the Illuminating Hidden Harvests project, a global initiative run by the FAO along with collaborating organisations (Duke University and WorldFish) to understand the contribution of small-scale fisheries (SSF) to food security and sustainable livelihoods. The initiative deals with various aspects of SSF including

governance, economics, social components and the fisheries environment. The final global report is due for publication in 2021 and the goal is to influence how countries view their SSF and to push for stronger support to this sector.

Dakshin also joined a regional network of organisations from five Indian Ocean countries - India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia - to study the potential impacts of the region's Blue Economy model on fishing communities and marine ecosystems. Based on the studies the network plans to organise Independent People's Tribunals towards the end of 2020 to shed light on this topic and begin a regional dialogue to develop an alternative model of development that addresses national growth needs but also safeguards local communities and ecosystems.

Policy

Key national networks that Dakshin supports are the National Coastal Protection Campaign* (NCPC), the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF)** and the Turtle Action Group (TAG)*. As the Secretariat for the NCPC Dakshin has continued to coordinate the network's response to changing policies such as the draft CRZ 2019 and the CRZ 2019. Dakshin staff have supported NFF unions and leaders with research on the National Mariculture Policy 2019 and the potential impacts on small scale fishers and marine fisheries from its increasing emphasis on mariculture. Dakshin has also worked with various marine biologists and fisheries scientists to submit a collective response to the draft National Fisheries Policy 2020, draft Environmental Impact Assessment notification 2020 as well as the draft Access and Benefit Sharing Rules under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Dakshin continues to be engaged in discussions with network partners on ways to improve and strengthen coastal and marine governance in India.

Capacity building

In 2009, Dakshin helped establish and coordinate the Turtle Action Group

(TAG), a consortium of organisations and individuals working along the Indian coastline on marine turtle and coastal conservation through collective and collaborative action. The members include community based organisations, environmental groups and non-governmental organisations along with independent researchers. Dakshin plays a role in coordinating the different activities and capacity building programmes undertaken by TAG. With the addition of two new members in this period - OPSA (Odisha) and Ujwala Manthini Welfare Society (Andhra Pradesh), TAG now has over 20 active NGO members from across the Indian coast. In 2019 and 2020, TAG supported the Students' Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSTCN), Sea Turtle Action Programme (STAP), Prakruti Nature Club (PNC), Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA) and Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan (OPSA) in local conservation activities across the coast. Apart from this, TAG assisted with the preparations for the National Conference on Marine Turtle Conservation that was held in Lakshadweep on the 2nd and 3rd of December, 2019. Several members of TAG also participated in the conference by making presentations and posters highlighting the conservation efforts in their respective regions.



COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH





Approach

Dakshin's approach to communications involves the following four main objectives - one, engaging the general public with the aim of building a larger community; two, building a network and support system for our partner organizations; three, improving the existing programmatic communications with project stakeholders and four, strengthening internal cross-programmatic communications and building capacity.

Building a community

One of the main goals is to create awareness among the general public on coastal and marine issues and the work that we do. The digital era has made it possible for us to reach a larger audience and initiate conversations with them and create meaningful engagement that doesn't depend on in-person conversations and we leverage that opportunity by creating platform-specific content strategies, analyzing the performance of that content and the demographics of our audience, and adapting our strategy to the results. Dakshin has a growing, engaged community following us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube and about 5000 people visiting our website on a monthly basis to read our blog articles, research papers and other outreach material. We also send out an external newsletter on a quarterly basis.

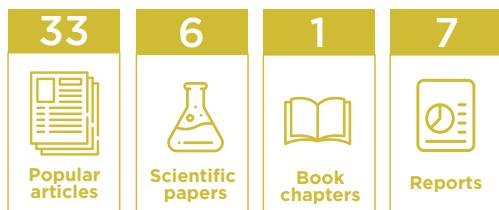


Supporting partners

We also leverage our communications to put the work of our partner organizations in the spotlight, many of whom don't have a large (or any) digital footprint. This helps create more awareness about their work which might be useful especially when the organization is looking to raise funds for their projects.

Enhancing programmatic outreach

At Dakshin, we also focus on enhancing the outreach of our programmes - be it the creation of innovative and engaging project output documents or identifying the right publication platforms for staff to publish their work, or developing workshops to build communications capabilities within staff. In 2019, we conducted a workshop on conservation and nature writing for children's books, in collaboration with Pratham books. In 2020, we initiated a partnership with The Bastion, an independent digital development platform, with a series called "The Shore Scene" and published various articles on a variety of topics. Going forward we hope to build multiple such media partnerships ensuring that our staff are able to share their learnings with bigger audiences.



Strengthening internal communications

Our internal communications involves a quarterly internal newsletter with updates from different programmes, organizing informal sessions and events, and annual retreats. These initiatives help facilitate conversations that not only build strong personal bonds but also help us build cross-programmatic and holistic interventions in our sites of engagement.

Current Conservation

Current Conservation works towards communicating conservation-related issues and science in a visually engaging manner to a wide audience, through open access online content and a hard copy version at affordable prices. A quarterly publication, the magazine consists of feature articles, opinions, research summaries, book reviews, and photo-essays. The magazine is freely available for download on the website.

From 2018–20, we produced three volumes of Current Conservation, featuring a repertoire of fantastic voices in science and ecology. The volumes introduced new contributors, illustrators and columnists. In Issue 14.2—in collaboration with Ferenc Jordán, Director of the Balaton Limnological Institute, Hungary— we featured a special section on the theme of freshwater conservation. In response to the growing reach of the magazine and a high volume of article submissions, we increased the amount of content that we publish exclusively online on our website. The website got a complete makeover after six years, thanks to a fantastic design agency—3SidedCoin.

We conducted several exciting workshops and events during this period. For example, the second edition of our annual event, Current Conservation Conversations was organised in March 2019 in Bengaluru which included a panel discussion on “Connecting conservation to the real world” and a talk by Dr. Vik Mohan on “Empowering communities to live with the sea”. At SCCS-Bengaluru 2019, we brought illustrators and researchers together to learn how to communicate science more effectively, followed by a mural painting workshop. We conducted creative workshops for school children in Bangalore at the Parikrama Science Festival, and in collaboration with Balipara Foundation in Assam, in 2019 and 2020. 2020 was also the year when we took Current Conservation to Mumbai. CC was the official content partner for Y3K: Planet Lost & Found, a full-day event where we



organised a conservation-themed zine-making workshop.

Current Conservation's social media has grown substantially with nearly 12,000 followers on Instagram. It has played an important role in staying engaged with the readers through weekly quizzes hosted by the experts on various species, regular informative posts, and the 'CC on the go' series which aims to encourage the followers to notice and identify the wildlife around them. In October 2020, CC hosted Inktober for the first time across social media platforms with carefully curated prompts related to conservation. We received over 1000 entries from around 100 people, some of which were featured in Issue 14.3.

Finally, we started partnering with Nature inFocus and RoundGlass Sustain, for the syndication and co-production of content on our websites as well as across social media platforms. Current Conservation is published by an informal consortium of organisations to promote interdisciplinary research in conservation.

Current Conservation is housed by Dakshin Foundation and supported by Duleep Mathai Nature Conservation Trust (DMNCT), WIPRO, Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and Balipara Foundation.

Sea Turtles of India

Over the course of the last two years, several updates have been made to the Sea Turtles of India (STOI) website. This has included creating a new logo, updating the materials available on the platform, and creating and curating content for the social media page on Instagram. New outreach materials on field protocols and hatchery management in regional languages have been added to the repository.

Currently, the team is in the process of developing a report highlighting the work over the last decade at the 3 monitoring sites of Odisha, Lakshadweep, and the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The creation of a coffee table book illustrating the history of sea turtles in the country is also underway.

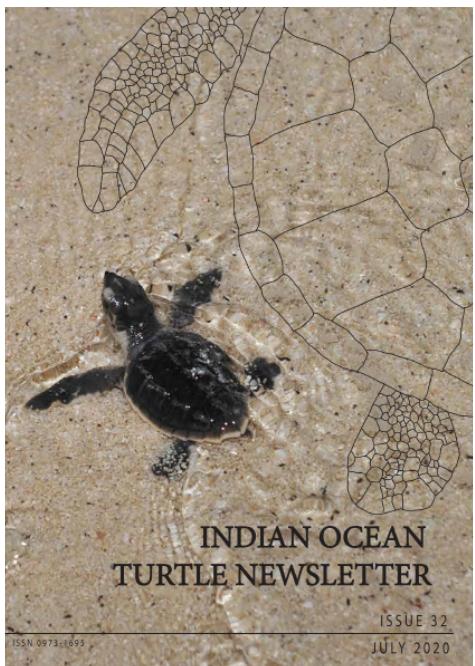
Due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, no activities were undertaken for TAG. However, TAG did welcome some new members, including Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan OPSA (Odisha), Ujwala Manthini Welfare Society (Andhra Pradesh) and Coastal Impact (Goa).

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.

1st National Conference on Marine Turtle Conservation

In 2019, the first National Conference on Marine Turtle Conservation was held in Kadmat, Lakshadweep. Many members of the Turtle Action Group (TAG) participated in the conference proceedings. Participants presented research and conservation activities in their respective regions either as a formal presentation or in the form of a poster. Along with this, a panel discussion was held and a few documentaries were screened.

Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter (IOTN)



Seven issues of the Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter (IOTN) have been published since January 2018. Issue 27 highlighted the use of sea turtle hatcheries in South Asia, including their uses and purposes in different countries. Issue 28 and 29 were special issues that covered satellite telemetry studies of sea turtles from the South West Indian Ocean, South East Asia and the Southern Indian Ocean. They highlighted the importance of such studies in determining migratory pathways, behaviours, neonate dispersal, etc. as well as its use in identifying conservation hotspots and creating protected areas. Turtle stranding emerged as the common theme in Issue 30, with large numbers being reported across several coasts. Issue 31 covered varied topics from across the world - from nests and hatchlings in Kenya and Kuwait to stable isotope studies in sea turtles. Finally, 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.

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climate change are more linked than you'd think. Scroll

- **Oommen, M.A.**, Book Review. M. Ramnath. 2018. Woodsmoke and Leaf cups: Autobiographical Footnotes on the Anthropology of the Durwa. Seminar
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- **Sharma, D., S. Bijoor, and M. Ramesh.** 2018. Development in Andaman and Nicobar Islands – for tourism or by tourism? Andaman Chronicle
- **Shanker, K.** and S. Krishnan. 2018. Age, privilege and gender hierarchies plague Indian academia – and #MeToo is one fallout of this. Scroll
- **Shanker, K.** and **M. Muralidharan.** 2018. For conservation to work, we need to rescue crocodiles from animal rights. The Wire
- **Shanker, K.** and **M. A. Oommen.** 2018. Engaging Communities in Resource Monitoring: The Political Ecology of Science as the Language of Power. Radical Ecological Democracy

Scientific Papers

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- **Namboothri, N.**, R. Arthur, V. Patankar and **T. Wagh**. 2018. Climate change impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems. In: Bhatt, JR, A. Das, and **K. Shanker** (eds.). Biodiversity and Climate Change: An Indian Perspective. New Delhi, India: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

Reports

2020

- The Dried Fish Industry of Malvan - Supply chain, economy and relationship with the fishmeal industry
- Island Sustainability Pathways: Towards participatory fisheries governance in the Lakshadweep Islands

2019

- Does fishing pressure affect the feeding ecology of sea snakes?, 2019
- Dakshin Foundation Green Turtle Project Report, 2019
- Tourism Today in the Andaman Islands - An assessment of challenges through two case studies, 2019
- Advancing the Conservation of Sea Turtles in India through the

Monitoring of Index Sites and Coordination of Coastal Management Efforts with a Network of Partners, Project report submitted to the USFWS, 2019

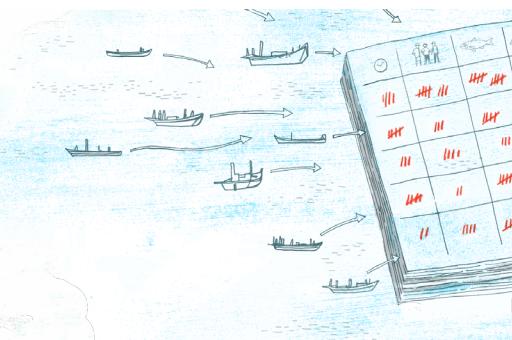
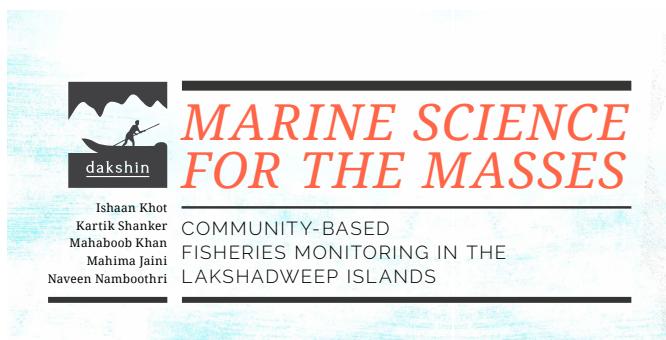
2018

- Management of marine protected areas in the Andaman Islands: two case studies, 2018

Outreach Material

- Posters (in English and Marathi) on sea snakes of Sindhudurg
- Field Guide on Sea Snakes of Sindhudurg
- Fish for the Future Calendar 2019
- Brochure (in Malayalam) on fisher perceptions regarding baitfish management in Lakshadweep

Academic Poster



5th International Marine Conservation Congress, June 2018



A vertical photograph on the left side of the page showing a flooded landscape. The water is brown and turbulent, with white foam at the bottom. In the background, there are several large, dark trees standing in the water. The sky is overcast and grey.

PEOPLE

Trustees



Naveen Namboothri

Naveen is a Founder Trustee of Dakshin Foundation and currently serves as its Director. He is a marine biologist with more than 20 years of experience working on the diverse coastal, marine and island systems in India. He has a doctoral degree from the Centre for Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University. At Dakshin, he additionally heads the Sustainable Fisheries and the Environmental Education programmes and has been instrumental in the establishment of several marine conservation projects at Dakshin's field sites. With an interest in balancing human dependence on marine systems with conservation needs, he engages on a range of research and intervention projects that include long-term monitoring of coastal ecosystems, developing participatory knowledge frameworks and platforms to facilitate bottom-up natural resource management.



Meera Anna Oommen

Meera is a Founder Trustee of Dakshin Foundation and is the Associate Director - Institutional Strategy. She holds a doctoral degree from the University of Technology, Sydney. At Dakshin, Meera coordinates academic programmes and institutional development of the Andaman Nicobar Environment Team (ANET). Her research focuses on incorporating multidisciplinary insights to understand conflicts in natural resource governance and conservation. Meera's expertise lies in applying heuristics, satisficing approaches and elements of bounded rationality to understand complex, uncertain systems. Her current work also focuses on research at the interface of environmental history, anthropology and ecology.



Aarthi Sridhar

Aarthi is a Founder Trustee of Dakshin Foundation and heads its Communities and Resource Governance Programme. Trained in the social sciences, she has over 20 years of experience in the field of environmental governance, and has led several research and grassroots action projects across the West and East coast of India. Her research interests cover a range of historical and contemporary socio-legal studies, with a focus on regulating resource use, environmental justice and democratic and collaborative practices. She has also facilitated the creation of some of India's first collaborative experiments for coastal and marine environmental governance. Aside from writing, she works with other communicative forms such as photo essays and web-based forums. She has researched and produced documentary films on fisheries, field manuals and other learning material on environmental subjects. She is also pursuing doctoral research at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on historical sociology of institutionalised fisheries science in India.



Kartik Shanker

Kartik is a founder trustee of Dakshin Foundation. He is Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru, where he works on the ecology and evolution of frogs, reptiles, birds, plants and marine fauna. He has worked on marine turtles for over 20 years, including on olive ridleys in Odisha, leatherbacks in the Andamans and green turtles in the Lakshadweep Islands. His work at Dakshin is embedded in the belief that social, cultural and political contexts largely determine conservation outcomes. To this end, Kartik works with colleagues to develop and implement programmes that integrate community wellbeing and environmental concerns. Kartik is also the Founding Editor of *Current Conservation*, a magazine that bridges conservation and art by bringing together researchers, writers and artists from different parts of the world. He is the author of the book *From Soup to Superstar, a historical account of sea turtle conservation in India*. In his spare time, Kartik also seeks to distract young minds through children's stories which include *Lori's Magical Mystery, Turtle Story* and *Moonlight in the Sea*.

Senior Management

Along with the Director (Dr. Naveen Namboothri) and Associate Director-Institutional Strategy (Dr. Meera Anna Oomen), Dakshin's senior management includes:



Marianne Manuel

Marianne is the Associate Director at Dakshin and Head of Communications. In her role as Assistant Director, Marianne supports the Director and Associate Director with the long-term vision and strategy for the institution, institutional fundraising, and administration. Apart from this, she works closely with fishworker unions and NGOs on issues around coastal governance, strengthening networks for collaborative action and to strengthen coastal laws and policies.



Muralidharan Manoharakrishnan

Muralidharan is the Field Director of the Flagship Species sub-programme under the Biodiversity and Resource Monitoring Programme. As Field Director, his work largely focuses on studying marine flagship species such as sea turtles, sea snakes, sharks and other similar species across the Indian coast. His projects use charismatic marine species as the primary theme to address wider issues of coastal development patterns and exclusionary conservation.

Programme Staff



Adhith Swaminathan

Adhith's work has been primarily focused on olive ridley and leatherback sea turtles. Currently, he is the Base Manager at the Andaman Nicobar Environment Team (ANET) and is responsible for the management and smooth functioning of this field station. Additionally, Adhith oversees Dakshin's long-term monitoring programme on leatherback sea turtles based in Little Andaman Island.



Ishaan Khot

As the Programme Officer of the Sustainable Fisheries sub-programme, Ishaan coordinates and manages Dakshin's interdisciplinary research and intervention projects on sustainable fisheries. Broadly his work focuses around efforts to build sustainable and equitable resource governance scenarios in Indian fisheries.



Madhuri Mondal

Madhuri is the Programme Officer of the Community Wellbeing and Environment Programme at Dakshin. Her work primarily involves designing and implementing interventions for fishing communities in Odisha and South Andaman to improve their socio-ecological wellbeing, with a special focus on health and nutrition.



Tanmay Wagh

At Dakshin, Tanmay is the Project Coordinator for the Marine Theme of the Long-Term Ecological Observatories (LTEO) programme initiated and funded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The broad goal of this project is to understand the long-term impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and taxa in the Andaman Islands.



Manini Bansal

Manini is the Art Editor & Managing Editor for Current Conservation magazine. Her role involves overseeing the production and design of the quarterly print magazine as well as supervising the virtual outreach via the website and social media pages. She is also a part of the Communications team at Dakshin, specifically focussing on design of materials.

Mahaboob Khan CP

Mahaboob hails from Kadmat Island in Lakshadweep and is currently coordinating the community mobilisation initiatives in Lakshadweep. These initiatives are aimed at building a fisheries co-management framework in collaboration with the fisher community and the local administration of these islands.



Ajith Raj R

Ajith is a part of Dakshin's team working towards the development of a community-based fisheries management system for the pole and line tuna fishery of Lakshadweep. Specifically, his work focusses on stakeholder mapping and analysis from a fisheries management perspective.



Karishma Modi

Karishma oversees the Islands of Wisdom project in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The project aims to build a replicable model of community engagement that provides after-school support using innovative teaching methods to assist in language learning, curricular comprehension and expression skills for marginalised communities.



Abel Job Abraham

Abel's work looks at the usage of commons and the legally pluralistic systems of governance on Minicoy Island. His research is part of Dakshin's larger work towards creating a rights-based model of fisheries co-management in the Lakshadweep Islands.



Sanjana Chevalam

As part of Dakshin's fundraising team Sanjana has been involved with institutional fundraising, proposal development and prospect research. Additionally, as a Research Fellow with the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy, along with two other Dakshin colleagues, she is investigating how philanthropy for the ocean can better address community and conservation needs.



Prerana Gawde

Prerana is currently working on a long-term monitoring plan to study the population patterns of baitfish, a collective of small pelagic fishes that are a prerequisite for the sustainable pole and line tuna fisheries of the Lakshadweep islands. Her work forms part of Dakshin's efforts to strengthen fisheries management in these islands.



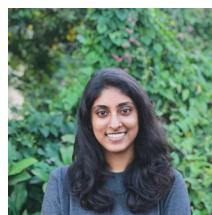
Adit Dsouza

Adit is part of Dakshin's fundraising team where he develops proposals, maintains funding databases, and does prospects research, among other things. Additionally, as a fellow at the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP), he examines 'Philanthropy for the Ocean' in India, and how civil society navigates the philanthropic oceanscape.



Biswa Swaroop Das

Biswa works with Dakshin in the Community Wellbeing and Environment Programme aiming to improve the health of fishing communities in Odisha. Prior to this his work at Dakshin involved documenting the coastal commons in Odisha with the goal of strengthening the coastal communities' claims over their commons.



Chandana Pusapati

Chandana is part of the long-term monitoring project of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles in Odisha. Currently, she is undertaking fieldwork, that involves onshore and offshore transects for population estimation, and manages the sea turtle hatchery in Rushikulya.



Greta Ann Sam

Greta is the Assistant Managing Editor at Current Conservation and coordinates the production of the magazine. She is interested in using personal stories and scholarship to bridge the growing gap between environment and society.



Hariprasath R

Hari spends his time in the Lakshadweep archipelago to understand the movements and ecology of green turtles. He is interested in studying different kinds of organismal movements and their significance in shaping biological communities, ecosystem processes and reducing human-wildlife conflict.



Kanishk Srinivasan

A member of the Community and Wellbeing Programme, Kanishk is currently harnessing his avid interest in sports and the outdoors, to develop a programme at Dakshin that aims to link sports, community wellbeing and environmental education for coastal communities across the country.



Rhea Elizabeth George

Rhea is the Outreach Coordinator for the Marine Flagships sub-programme, working primarily with the sea turtle team. As part of this role, she manages the content and outreach for the Sea Turtles of India website and assists with the social media content for the Sea Turtle monitoring programmes.



Fousiya CK

As part of the Sustainable Fisheries sub-programme, Fousiya is looking into the livelihood of women in the Lakshadweep islands and the role of women in island fisheries. She is also a part of Dakshin's larger work on fisheries co-management in Lakshadweep.



Aplonia Topno

Aplonia has been a teacher in the Islands of Wisdom Learning Lab that Dakshin Foundation has been operating in Wandoor, South Andaman since 2018. She holds a Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) and has experience in the domain of school-support and curricular training for students of primary and upper-primary school.



Moumita Bhowmick

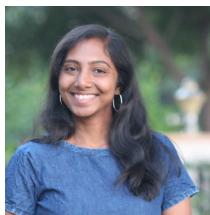
Moumita has been a teacher in the Islands of Wisdom Learning Lab that Dakshin Foundation has been operating in Wandoor, South Andaman since 2018. She has been tutoring school students from the Wandoor community for several years and is an active member of the local community.

Alumni



Chetan Rao

Chetan was a Programme Officer with the Marine Flagships sub-programme. He and his team were involved in monitoring the population of sea snakes on the west coast using an integrated approach (genetics, population systematics, stable isotope analysis etc.).



Deepti R Bhat

Deepti, has a passion for making learning fun for children and has been working towards this over the past few years in various capacities as a teacher, facilitator, researcher and student. At Dakshin she has been involved in designing and facilitating nature based experiential programmes for children.



Kabini Amin

As a Dakshin, Kabini worked towards the effective translation of scientific knowledge and research, through various media, to diverse audiences. She designed and tested communication interventions for specific communities that can bring together scientific and artistic methods.



Mahira Kakajiwala

Mahira was the Programme Officer for the Environmental Education (EE) Programme and coordinated the programme's work. She was also the Education Officer at ANET, developing and running immersion, ecology focused courses for middle and high school students.



Mahima Jaini

Mahima's role as Marine Programme Officer at the Andaman Nicobar Environment Team (ANET) focused on developing and strengthening in-house marine research and education programmes. In addition to leading new marine research projects at ANET, she also helped coordinate ANET's marine research, dive operations, higher education courses, base and field safety protocols.



Prakriti Mukerjee

Prakriti worked on communications and programme development with the Biodiversity and Resource Monitoring Programme. She also helped coordinate the Turtle Action Group, a collective of NGOs and individuals in India working towards sea turtle conservation.



Prabha Mallya

Prabha is an illustrator and comics creator who, since 2010, has been creating editorial illustrations for Current Conservation and has been the 'Art Editor' for a number of issues of the magazine. At Dakshin, she engaged with and interpreted scientific knowledge through design and storytelling approaches and coordinated, planned and directed book projects and other outreach efforts.



Shruti Sunderraman

Shruti joined Current Conservation as its first ever Executive Editor in 2019. Over the course of her work with Dakshin Foundation, she produced four issues of the magazine.



Shiba Desor

While at Dakshin Shiba worked in Middle Andamans with the Karen community; collectively exploring livelihoods grounded in socio-ecological connections with the place.



Tanya Koshy

As Communications Officer, Tanya worked and collaborated with researchers to find compelling and engaging ways to communicate marine and conservation issues to diverse audiences.



Alissa Barnes

During her three years at Dakshin, Alissa worked with the olive ridley turtle monitoring programme and explored the trends of elasmobranch fisheries along the coast of Odisha.



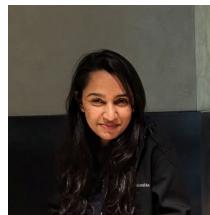
Anadya Singh

Anadya worked as the Communications Officer at Dakshin Foundation. Her responsibilities included developing and coordinating Dakshin's communications and media strategy.



Deepika Sharma

Deepika was involved in assessing management policies, engagement of different stakeholders and the state of the infrastructure of the Marine Protected Areas in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Gayathri Loka

As Communications Officer, Gayathri managed Dakshin's social media handles and the website. She also supported projects as needed with visual documentation.



Mohit Mudliar

Mohit was part of the olive ridley long term monitoring project in Rushikulya. His work primarily included onshore and offshore population estimation, arribada census, and nesting beach monitoring.



Mythreyi Kumaraswamy

Mythreyi worked as the Education Officer at ANET and was also involved in the implementation of "Treasured Islands" by organising teacher training workshops, extending environmental education content and pedagogy support to local government schools.



Nupur Kale

Nupur first joined Dakshin Foundation as a Field Coordinator of the olive ridley turtle monitoring project in Odisha. Later, Nupur studied green turtles and their foraging habitat to determine their population size and feeding strategies in Lakshadweep.



Shawn D'souza

Shawn joined Dakshin Foundation in 2017 and studied the effects of trawl fishing on sea snake diet and competition in Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra.



Sadaf Sethwala

Sadaf's work with Dakshin in the South Andaman Islands involved the use of activity and place-based approaches to strengthen foundational learning of young learners through an after-school intervention.



Trisha Gupta

Trisha worked on bycatch from fisheries in Malvan, Maharashtra focussing on the landings of trash fish and elasmobranchs from fishing vessels.



Avik Banerjee

As a Project Assistant from 2018 to 2019, Avik helped implement the organisation's ongoing monitoring and conservation efforts at Odisha.



Shimul Bijoor

At Dakshin, Shimul studied mechanisms of governance and interventions for improved management of Marine Protected Areas, as well as ecotourism in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago.



Jisha Jacob

Jisha joined Dakshin in 2018 as an Environment Education Officer. She helped design, monitor and facilitate experiential nature-based programmes for school and college students.



Yogesh Waghmare

Yogesh was part of a project studying the effect of trawl fishing on sea snake diet and competition in Malvan, Sindhudurg District.

Administrative Staff



Raji Avy

Raji was the Finance, HR and Admin Manager from 2018 to 2020. Her role included overseeing the overall Finance and HR operations of the organisations, ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements.



Narasimha M

Narasimha has 10 years of experience in finance and accounting roles, and is currently the Accounts Officer at Dakshin Foundation. In this role he carried out the day to day accounting for the majority of Dakshin's Indian grants and donations and works with the project staff on the financial reporting to donors.



Jithin Sivan

With around 10 years of experience in multiple organisations, Jithin plays two roles at Dakshin. He is the HR and Admin Officer and also the Secretary to the Director. As HR and Admin Officer he executes all HR related tasks, such as contracts, appraisals etc. and oversees the maintenance and upkeep of the office.

Alumni



Kavitha Manjunath

Kavitha Manjunath was a Senior Accountant at Dakshin Foundation and worked with Dakshin part-time from 2011 to 2019.



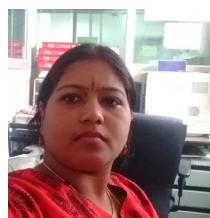
Keshav B.J

Keshav had over 8 years of experience when he joined Dakshin as an Accounts Officer in 2018. He handled the day to day accounting operations for the FCRA grants at Dakshin, including maintaining the books of accounts, securing cash box, cheque books, reconciling bank statements, making payments, settling accounts of project staff and other related activities.



Renuka V. Reddy

R Renuka Reddy was the Human Resource and Admin Officer at Dakshin Foundation from October 2017 to May 2019.



Deepa Thyagaraj

Deepa has a Bachelors in Business Administration from Annamalai University and initially started working part-time with Dakshin in 2010 but later transitioned to a full time Office Manager position till March 2019. At Dakshin, she handled various office responsibilities including administrative and bank tasks, documentation support, coordination and maintenance of project bills and expenses, coordination of payments or advances, and assistance with the distribution and inventory of Current Conservation. She also acted as a substitute for administrative and HR positions when needed.

Field Staff - Andamans



Saw Thesorow

Saw Thesorow has been part of the leatherback monitoring programme since 2009. He has been in charge of the monitoring camps in South and West Bay and ensures that the monitoring protocols are followed by other team members. He has spent months at a stretch camping at these remote sites and walking countless hours on the beach.



Sushil Lakra

Sushil Lakra joined the team in 2013 and fell in love with the project from day one. At the end of his first season in West and South Bay, he said he would definitely join us the next season and has continued to do so without hesitation every year. His dedication and attention to detail is something the team always counts on and he has some great culinary skills as well.



Saw Momong

Saw Momong joined the team in 2013 as the boat captain for M.V.Thisopa. He is an expert fisherman, boat captain and naturalist. Having visited the islands in his younger days as a fisherman, he now returns to these coasts without the aid of a GPS.



Vipin Tirkey

Vipin Tirkey visited the monitoring camps along with a documentary film crew in 2018. Following this exposure, he was keen to come back in the following years. Vipin enjoys the challenge of conducting field work in remote sites.



Suresh Kujur

Suresh Kujur also visited the monitoring camps with the same film crew in 2018. As Vipin and Suresh are inseparable and have previously worked together in many research projects at ANET, Suresh was also keen to return along with Vipin to the remote beaches of Little Andaman Island.

Short-term field staff:

Saw Thoma, Saw Colombus, Yakub Kerketta and **Saw Kenik** also assisted in the leatherback monitoring camps between 2018 and 2020. Saw Colombus, Saw Kenik and Yakub Kerketta had previously been part of the team and were happy to join us again briefly.

Field Staff - Odisha



Madhusudan Behera

Madhusudan joined the ranks of the field team at Rushikulya in 2010. He is best known for serenading the fish he fries and cooking up a storm to feed all the residents of the base camp. He is also an important part of the field monitoring work and his neat handwriting makes transcribing field notes easier.



Mahendra Nayak

Mahendra Nayak (Moyo) has been part of the sea turtle monitoring team at Rushikulya since 2008 and has been in charge of maintaining the hatchery and daily night patrols. His meticulousness in nest excavation and recreating the exact measurements in hatchery nests are a huge asset to the team.



Judishtir Behera

A well-travelled and trained electrician by profession, Judishtir came back to his home village to spend more time with his family and decided to join his father (Dhambru) and his brother (Bipro) in the field monitoring of turtles in 2014. His professional training proves useful with managing project equipment.



Bipro Behera

Bipro joined the monitoring team in the footsteps of his late father Dhambru in 2008 and was quick in picking up the skills of both fieldwork and documenting the activities happening around the beach with his natural eye for photography. His photography has garnered him over 10k followers on Instagram.



(Late) Dhambru Behera

No story of monitoring turtles in Odisha is complete without mentioning Dhambru, who pioneered several of the field activities in the region. He was instrumental in informing the scientific community about the mass nesting events at Rushikulya in 1992 and remained an active part in both conducting fieldwork as well as training and inducting new members from the community into the research and conservation activities. His untimely demise in 2017 has left a void in our field team but his legacy continues through the rest of the field team currently working at Rushikulya.



Surendra Behera

Surendra joined the team in 2010. A man of few words he manages most of the field logistics for the team such as organising travel, arranging boats and other requirements. He always makes sure new researchers feel at ease with fieldwork and helps them familiarise themselves with the area and work.



Shankar Rao

Shankar along with Dhambru was an active member of the Rushikulya Sea Turtle Protection Committee (RSTPC) since the mid 90's. He, along with Surendra, has been the backbone of conducting the patrolling of the offshore waters and any other work that requires strenuous hours of work in the day or night.



Magata Behera

Magata joined the crew in 2010 and is currently head of the village committee. Magata has always had his work cut out trying to be a part of everything happening around the village ranging from evening volleyball to conducting camps and sharing poetry about turtles with visitors to Rushikulya.

Short-term field staff:

Krishna Rao, Kedar Rao, Sri Ramulu were part of our monitoring staff for offshore patrols and beach monitoring and have later joined the cadres of the state forest department as watchers and boat drivers.

Dakshin - ANET Base Staff



Mrinal Kanti Bhowmick

Mrinal Kanti Bhowmick is ANET's first employee. As the Housekeeping in-Charge, he is the face behind everyone's clean bedding, termite-free walls and shiny, stocked bathrooms. He is also experienced in snake handling and rescue and has an interest in birding. He is a man of few words but is known to silently orchestrate elaborate pranks.



Naveen Ekka

Naveen Ekka currently serves as the Operations and Purchases Manager at ANET. He is a certified diver with field experience in marine research, birding, snake handling and turtle surveys. Having served various roles at the base as well as at field sites, he is full of stories. He has an unmatched sharpness in the field, both in the forest and the sea.



Jeevan Horo

Jeevan Horo is a Boat Operator and Field Assistant. He has experience in boat surveys and sample processing techniques, having had experience with plankton monitoring. He also has interests and expertise in birding, diving and forest surveys. He is always enthusiastic to help new projects and determined to learn new skills.



Sebian Horo

Sebian first served as a field assistant at the turtle camp in Little Andaman. He is experienced in forestry censusing techniques and takes a keen interest in botany and natural history, and also birding and diving. More recently, Sebian has served as a field assistant for the Long-Term Ecological Monitoring Network (LEMoN) plots established by NCBS in the Andaman Islands.



Johnson Kongari

Johnson Kongari is a Chef and Field Assistant at ANET. He has field experience in birding and forestry, having worked regularly on forestry plots in the Andamans. He might seem quiet and shy but is highly skilled in work and play – watch him chop onions at lightning speed (while looking away) before dinner, and demolishing veterans at table tennis after.



Vishal Kujur

Vishal has been serving as the project in-charge for the Long-Term Ecological Monitoring Network (LEMoN) plots established by NCBS in the Andaman Islands. He is experienced in all major forestry censusing techniques and also has short-term experience in turtle surveys, diving, birding and mangrove census protocols.



Niraj Kumar Minj

Niraj Kumar Minj is the Administrative Assistant and the main person to contact for the bills and internet troubles. Besides his desk job, he is interested in surveys, birding and diving. Niraj is from Manpur in South Andaman and speaks Hindi and English. He has his finger on the pulse of local news and is helpful with questions about logistics in the islands.



P. Babu Kutty

Babu Kutty is the Boat Captain of the research vessel Khlee and Maintenance in-charge. He is a certified diver and with his knowledge and experience navigating the seascape around Wandoor, he has been integral to several marine research projects in the past. He is the embodiment of an episode of Man vs. Wild; at odds with nature, on an eternal conquest and willing to eat the most unusual things raw.



Manisha Singh

Manisha Singh has responsibilities in the kitchen and in housekeeping. She magically cleans dirty vessels, dusty rooms and also manages the laundry. Outside of base duties, she is interested in birding and forestry fieldwork. Although the only female staff member, she fearlessly calls out disorderliness and keeps everyone at the base accountable.

Sanjay Tirkey



Sanjay Tirkey is the Head Chef at ANET, responsible for maintaining the kitchen and providing regular, rately-reviewed meals to researchers and education programmes. He is also a certified diver with research experience serving as a field assistant in coral and seagrass ecosystem research. He runs the kitchen on a tight rein and will tolerate no nonsense in his kingdom.

Anand James Tirkey



James is the Base Coordinator at ANET. James has extensive research experience in forestry research, including censusing and data entry, herpetology research, birding and mangrove censusing. His scientific temperament and experience make his advice invaluable to planning new projects. He hides from the limelight and can be exceedingly polite, but volleyball and table tennis can bring out his competitive side.

Saw Wathu (Agu)



Agu has been with ANET for more than 20 years and has contributed to the planning and construction of most of the current buildings on the campus and the afforestation of the property. A veteran of marine turtle surveys and monitoring across the islands, he single-handedly managed the data collection and research activities of ANET's sea turtle camp at Galathea in Great Nicobar for many years. Agu's own story of surviving the 2004 tsunami is one of great courage and determination. He currently serves as the Carpenter and Maintenance in-charge at ANET.



Saw John Aung Thong

John is the Operations Manager at ANET. Hailing from Webi in Middle Andaman, John is one of ANET's first employees, and has been instrumental in all aspects of the field station's growth and expansion. John currently oversees the operations of the Andaman Karen Crafts (AKC), a cooperative that ANET helped establish to facilitate local economic empowerment of the Karen community while revitalising their cultural heritage and conserving local ecosystems and sustainable resource use practices.

Alumni



Sumit Dung Dung

Sumit Dung Dung worked in ANET as the administrative assistant between 2018 and 2019. During this time, he was instrumental in setting up the administrative systems for ANET. He now works in Little Andaman Island with the Agricultural Department.

Research Affiliates



Alphonsa Jojan

A lawyer by training, Alphonsa's research interests lies in exploring inter-relations of power, politics, and culture in environmental matters. Personally, she is interested in practising sustainable living as a way of life. In the past, she has worked as a legal consultant for The Trans-Disciplinary University, Natural Justice and the National Biodiversity Authority of India. At Dakshin, she worked in the Communities and Resource Governance Programme in 2018, looking at the role that the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 could play in legitimising the traditional knowledge of fishing communities. Currently, as a Research Affiliate at Dakshin she is exploring the potential of Biological Diversity Act and the Peoples Biodiversity Register to engage fishing communities in decentralised marine biodiversity governance.



Meenakshi Poti

Meenakshi is fascinated by the interactions between people and nature in small islands. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), and an affiliate with Dakshin Foundation. Her research focuses on the Indian Ocean region, with specific interest in the Andaman Islands. Under the framework of social-ecological

systems, her ongoing PhD focuses on understanding how actors (individuals, groups or organisations) and institutions respond to environmental change in islands and the conflicts that may arise. She is passionate about science communication and amplifying the role of youth in environmental decision making. Through her project 'Storytelling through brushstrokes', she uses vibrant art and creative writing to communicate science and policy to a wider audience



Caleb Daniel G

Caleb has been fascinated by the natural world and the animals in it for as long as he can remember. Over the years, he approached a lot of disciplines which fostered an element of being outdoors and working in wild systems. In that journey, he found a deep fascination towards reptiles and amphibians. He eventually started volunteering and working in various herpetofaunal studies and completed his masters in Ecology and Environmental science from Pondicherry University to further his commitment to academia. In the past he has worked towards understanding life history, thermal, nutritional and behavioural trade-offs towards anthropogenic disturbances, invasive species spread and climate change effects mostly on lizards. Currently, he is carrying out a study to determine the threat that tourism poses to native biodiversity of herpetofauna and birds in the Andaman Islands.

Adjunct Fellows

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

Senior Adjunct Fellows

Prof. Andrea Phillott

Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, FLAME University

Dr. Annu Jalais

Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore

Dr. Madhuri Ramesh

Assistant Professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University

Prof. Meena Balgopal

Professor, Department of Biology, Colorado State University

Ethics Committees

Human Subjects Research Ethics Review Committee

- Dr. Madhuri Ramesh, Azim Premji University, Bangalore
- Ms. Kanchi Kohli, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
- Dr. Siddhartha Krishnan, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore
- Dr. Bharath Sundaram, Nalanda University, Rajgir

Animal Research Ethics Review Committee

- Mr. Muralidharan Manohar Krishnan Field Director, Dakshin Foundation
- Dr. Shomita Mukherjee, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore
- Dr. Maria Thaker, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Dr. Robin Vijayan, Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, Tirupati
- Dr. Abi Vanak, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore

Project Partners

Government agencies and institutions

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi, India
- Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Administration
- Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Maharashtra
- Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Odisha
- Department of Environment & Forest, Lakshadweep Administration
- Department of Fisheries, Lakshadweep Administration
- Department of Science and Technology, Lakshadweep Administration
- Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India
- Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Pune, India

NGOs and collectives

- Blue Ventures, Bristol, UK
- Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society, Chennai, India
- Law Trust, Cuddalore, India

- Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Chennai, India

NGOs and collectives

- Blue Ventures, Bristol, UK
- Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society, Chennai, India
- Law Trust, Cuddalore, India
- Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Chennai, India
- National Coastal Protection Campaign, India
- National Fishworkers' Forum, India
- Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, India
- Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA), Nagapattinam, India
- Southern Collective
- The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, India
- The Shola Trust, Gudalur, India
- United Artists Association, Ganjam, India
- Wildlife Conservation Society, Bengaluru, India
- Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India

Funding Partners

Institutional funders

- Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, Bengaluru, India
- Duleep Mattha Nature Conservation Trust, Anand, India
- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington DC, USA

Project funders

- Mr. Aroon Raman, Bengaluru, India
- Bajaj Electricals, Mumbai, India
- Balipara Foundation, Mumbai, India
- Barefoot Resorts & Leisure Pvt. Ltd, Chennai, India
- Blue Ventures, Bristol, UK
- Department of Environment and Forest, Goa, India
- Elephant Family, London, UK
- Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy
- Foundation for Ecological Security, Anand, India
- International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Washington, USA

- Mangrove Foundation, Mumbai, India
- Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCA), US Fish and Wildlife Service, USA
- National Center for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, India
- PADI Foundation, USA
- The Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation, New Delhi, India
- Tata Trusts, Mumbai, India
- The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, India
- The Ocean Foundation, Washington, USA
- The Pollination Project, California, USA
- The Rufford Foundation, London, UK
- Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai, India
- WIPRO Foundation
- WIPRO Applying Thought In Schools, Bengaluru, India
- WWF-India, New Delhi, India

FINANCIALS





Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustees of Dakshin Foundation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dakshin Foundation, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019, 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 2019, 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 intends 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: **30-10-2019**

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

Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 19214318AAAAFA1706

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: **30-10-2019**

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

Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 19214318AAAFA1706

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 2020, 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 2020, 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 Trusts 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**

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

Date: **22-10-2020**

Rani.N. R, Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 20214318AAAFH3396

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

Place: **Bengaluru**

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

Date: **22-10-2020**

Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 20214318AAAAFH3396

Balance Sheets & Expenses

As on 31-03-2019

(Rupees in thousands)

SOURCES OF FUNDS	As on 31-3-2019
1. Fund	
a. Corpus Fund	5.00
b. General Fund	3,034.20
c. Utilised Fund	1,652.85
	4,692.05
2. Loan	50.00
3. Current Liabilities	
Project Fund	58,217.64
Total	62,959.69
APPLICATION ON FUNDS	
1. Fixed Assets	
a. Project Assets	1,154.21
b. Dakshin General Assets	498.63
c. Land and Bulding	1,652.85
2. Current Assets , Loans & Advances and Deposits	
a.Deposits	500.00
b.Tax Refund Receivable	94.77
c.Cash and Bank Balances	60,712.07
d.Loans and Advances	61,306.84
Total	62,959.69

Income & Expenditure

For the year ending 31st March 2019

(Rupees in thousands)

PARTICULARS	As on 31-3-2019
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Income

a. Project Income	34,475.64
b. Donation and other Income	313.74
c. Interest	862.63
d. Contribution towards Overhead	975.03

TOTAL	36,627.04
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Expenditure

Project Expenses:

a. Salaries and Consultancies	21,125.63
b. Travel	4,341.95
c. Communication	317.24
d. Printing and Stationery	718.52
e. Other Expenses	7,972.29

f. Capacity Building & Outreach -

Less: Contribution towards Institutional Overheads -

Total Project Expenses (a)	34,475.64
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Institutional Expenses:

Travel	136.90
Printing & Stationery	29.50
Operating expenses	459.06

Depreciation	87.02
Total Institutional Expense(b)	712.48
TOTAL EXPENSE (A+B)	35,188.11
Surplus/Deficit	1,438.92

Place: **Bengaluru**

Date: **30-10-2019**

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

Rani.N. R
Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 19214318AAAFA1706

Balance Sheet

As on 31-03-2020

(Rupees in thousands)

SOURCES OF FUNDS	As on 31-3-2019
1. Fund	
a. Corpus Fund	5.00
b. General Fund	3,811.21
c. Utilised Fund	50,222.75
	54,038.96
2. Loan	50.00
3. Current Liabilities	
Project Fund	15,992.92
Total	70,081.88
APPLICATION ON FUNDS	
1. Fixed Assets	
a. Project Assets	2,650.17
b. Dakshin General Assets	424.59
c. Land and Bulding	47,147.99
	50,222.75
2. Current Assets , Loans & Advances and Deposits	
a.Deposits	500.00
b.Tax Refund Receivable	96.64
c.Cash and Bank Balances	18,751.11
d.Loans and Advances	511.38
	19,859.13
Total	70,081.88

Income & Expenditure

For the year ending 31st March 2020

(Rupees in thousands)

PARTICULARS	As on 31-3-2019
Income	
a. Project Income	
a. Project Income	37,186.62
b. Donation and other Income	32.10
c. Interest	1,153.67
d. Contribution towards Overhead	1,390.56
TOTAL	39,762.95
Expenditure	
Project Expenses:	
a. Salaries and Consultancies	24,603.82
b. Travel	3,315.74
c. Communication	342.79
d. Printing and Stationery	557.15
e. Other Expenses	4,955.42
f. Capacity Building & Outreach	4,802.26-
Less: Contribution towards Institutional Overheads -	1,390.56
Total Project Expenses (a)	37,186.62
Institutional Expenses:	
Travel	
Printing & Stationery	
Operating expenses	469.72
Depreciation	74.05

Total Institutional Expense(b)	543.77
TOTAL EXPENSE (A+B)	37,730.38
Surplus/Deficit	2,032.56

Place: **Bengaluru**

Date: **22-10-2020**

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

Rani.N. R, Partner
Membership No.214318
UDIN: 20214318AAAAFH3396

Dakshin Foundation

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Bengaluru - 560092

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Twitter: [dakshin_seas](https://twitter.com/dakshin_seas)

Facebook: [dakshin.seas](https://facebook.com/dakshin.seas)

Instagram: [@dakshin_seas](https://instagram.com/@dakshin_seas)

Linkedin: Dakshin Foundation



