

WILDLIFE INFORMATION LIAISON DEVELOPMENT

Innovative and Collaborative

ANNUAL REPORT
2025-26



JOURNAL OF THREATENED TAXA

www.threatenedtaxa.org

The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) (ISSN 0974-7907 Print; 0974-7893 Online) is the monthly open-access, peer-reviewed journal of Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO), launched in 2009. JoTT publishes original research, short communications, and notes on the conservation, taxonomy, ecology, and natural history of threatened and poorly known species worldwide. With a mandate to make biodiversity science freely accessible, JoTT has grown into one of the most prolific conservation journals in the world.



753
AUTHORS

16
COUNTRIES

213
ARTICLES

~134
DISTINCT
SPECIES

6
RESEARCH
THEMES

12
ISSUES

1832
PAGES

JoTT Monthly Overview: Pages, Publications & Authors
(April 2025 - March 2026)

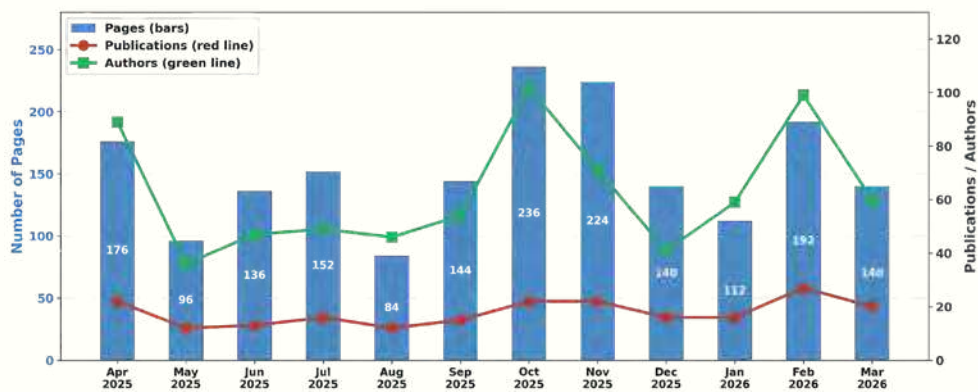


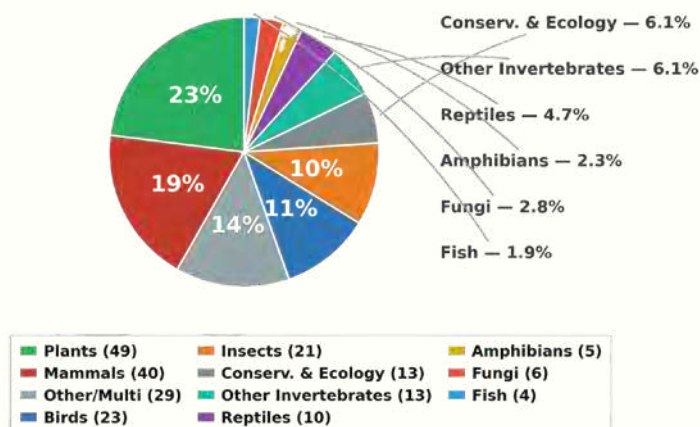
Figure 1. Month-wise data of number of pages, publications, and authors.

Taxonomic Coverage: Articles in JoTT during this period covered a wide spectrum of taxa. **Plants** were the most represented group with 49 articles (23.0%), followed by **Mammals** (40, 18.8%), **Birds** (23, 10.8%), **Insects** (21, 9.9%), **Other Invertebrates** (13, 6.1%), **Reptiles** (10, 4.7%), **Fungi** (6, 2.8%), **Amphibians** (5, 2.3%), and **Fish** (4, 1.9%). An estimated ~134 distinct species were mentioned by scientific name across the 213 publications.

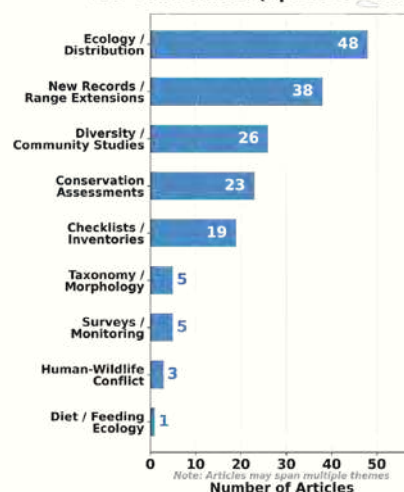
Research Themes: Ecology and distribution studies dominated (48 articles), followed by new records and range extensions (38), diversity and community studies (26), conservation assessments (23), and checklists/inventories (19). Taxonomy and morphology studies accounted for 5 articles.

Article Types: Of the 213 publications, 67 were full Articles, 47 Communications, 38 Short Communications, 32 Notes, 6 Reviews, 2 Book Reviews, 1 Response & Reply, and 20 in the March 2026 issue.

Taxonomic Group Breakdown
213 Publications (Apr 2025 - Mar 2026)



Research Themes
213 Publications (Apr 2025 - Mar 2026)



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Citation: Ravichandran, B. L. Ravikumar, S. Chaithra, P. Noronha & S. Molur (2026). Journal of Threatened Taxa. Zooreach Annual Report 2025–26. In: *Zoo's Print* 41(3): 35–36.

Wetland Restoration at Nallusamy Checkdam



Background

Wetlands are increasingly threatened at an alarming rate by pollution, habitat degradation/loss, invasive species, and over exploitation. This is more so the case with urban and semi urban wetlands that are also threatened by increasing developmental projects that invariably release effluents into wetlands. Some of these threats can to be addressed through ecological restoration. As part of this vision, Zooreach has undertaken ecological restoration of Nallusamy Checkdam with support of Bosch Global Software Technologies.

Activities conducted during the reporting period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

- 🐾 Foster multistakeholder collaboration to ensure holistic restoration and resilience.
- 🐾 Continue running the Coimbatore plains native plant nursery for on-ground restoration
- 🐾 Establish a native aquatic plant nursery to set up the plant polishing zone
- 🐾 Rapid biodiversity assessments at the study site for these taxonomic groups – birds, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, invertebrates, and plants.
- 🐾 Road kill surveys conducted at regular intervals.

Key achievements and outcomes

First-of-its-kind nursery of native terrestrial and aquatic plant of wetlands of the plains

Challenges faced

Delays in permissions from the authorities.

Location

Nallusamy Checkdam, Keeranatham, Coimbatore

Participants

Local community members are being networked with and the education programs will be held in the next financial year

Key partnerships and Collaborations

Kosika Neer Karangal; Keeranatham Panchayat office; Annur Taluka Tahsildar office; District Collectorate Office; Local communities; Local government schools

Measurable outcomes

- 🐾 Setting up of the first-of-its-kind 5,000 native terrestrial plants nursery and 3,000 native aquatic plants nursery for the plains and wetlands of open natural ecosystems of Tamil Nadu.
- 🐾 Educator training manual and flash cards of open natural ecosystems of Coimbatore with over 50 species (plants and animals) with information about the species including warnings about nonnative plant species.





© Koshik V. Rao



Planting native seeds in grow trays. © Koshik V. Rao

Recorded over 130 individual roadkills over 25 surveys.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to all the subject experts who have tirelessly supported and helped with the biodiversity surveys, and collaborators, local community members and Bosch team for supporting this project.

Future plans/next steps

- Outreach with local community members
- Removal of invasive species at the study site around the wetland
- Plantation of 2,500 native terrestrial and aquatic plants to strengthen the bunds,

build riparian vegetation, set up the plant polishing zone and promote native biodiversity.

- Continue the rapid biodiversity assessments and the systematic roadkill surveys
- Conduct surveys for the two endemic plant species *Caralluma diffusa* and *Cordia diffusa*.



BOSCH



Planting native lily plants!
© Kritika P.



Teamwork at the Coimbatore plains native nursery. by the Zooreach office. © Poojitha Dupati

Priyanka Iyer*, Sidharthan, P. Kritika, S. Sushanth, Koshik V Rao, B. Ravichandran, Rajeshkanna, Latha Ravikumar, Payal Molur & Sanjay Molur
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Citation: Iyer, P., Sidharthan, P. Kritika, S. Sushanth, K.V. Rao, B. Ravichandran, R. Rajeshkanna, L. Ravikumar, P. Molur & S. Molur (2026). Wetland Restoration at Nallusamy Checkdam. Zooreach Annual Report 2025–26. In: *Zoo's Print* 41(3): 05–06.

Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation 2025–26 (Batch 5)

A community of career conservationists to lead the world into restoring wildlife

Background

Global biodiversity is at a tipping point with species vanishing and ecosystems degrading, making it an urgent need to build conservation leaders.

The RHATC Program, a brainchild of Dr Sanjay Molur, stepped into its 5th year in 2025, is designed to provide young aspirants and early-career conservationists a unique platform to learn, engage with leaders, and exchange ideas in the field of conservation. The course provides a unique blend of contemporary conservation biology, science, philosophy, finance, policy, outreach along with equipping the participants with on-ground knowledge, tools, and perspectives needed to address real world conservation challenges while being inclusive, holistic, and scientific.

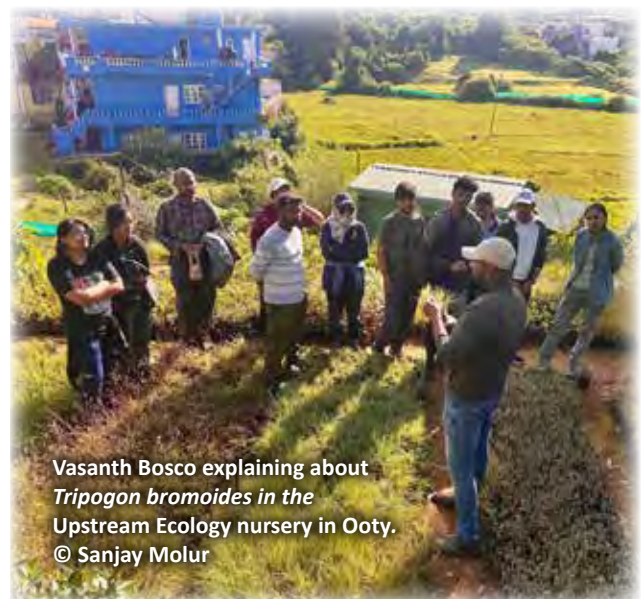
With an alumnus of 49 graduates from 13 states in India, the theme for the fifth Batch was Ecological Restoration where the Fellows underwent training on planning restoration models alongside conservation. RHATC is one of a kind course combining scientific expertise, grassroot engagement, and innovative thinking. The four-month inhouse immersive program is designed to equip conservation enthusiasts with on-field skills from experts across the globe.

Activities conducted during the reporting period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

- The RHATC team interviewed youth from different parts of India to select applicants that fit the fellowship.
- The team conducted sessions for the

Fellows on conservation biology, education & outreach, publication & research ethics, taxonomy, conservation assessment and planning, flora and fauna conservation, restoration, wildlife law & policy, scientific writing, fundraising, and other aspects of conservation.

- The Fellows were taken to field trips across the four months for hands-on training and field exposure to learn from experts.
- The Fellows were trained in scientific and popular writing for conservation and given the opportunity to publish.
- The team invited mentors, leaders, experts, and researchers from across India and abroad to train the Fellows in Conservation.





Examining a spiderweb on the crest trail in Coorg. © Sanjana V.K.

Challenges faced

- Making the younger generation understand the importance of responsibility and sticking to promises made during the selection process.

Participant numbers and locations

- The program supported nine Fellows from seven states during the 5th batch of RHATC.

Key partnerships and collaborations

- The program partnered and collaborated with 109 resource people, mentors, leaders, field contacts, experts, and funders from 37 organizations across the 4-months.

Key achievements and outcomes

- The program successfully ended the fifth batch with nine graduates from seven states.
- More than 60% of the graduates are already working in the field of conservation across different landscapes in India.
- The Fellows published a special edition for Zoo's Print, an international conservation magazine.
- The Fellows completed a 15-day mentorship challenge across three locations – lateritic plateaus at Kasargod, deciduous forests at Annamalai, and rocky outcrops at Tumkur; coming up with detailed project reports on restoring each of these landscapes.

Measurable outcomes

- The team organized 100+ sessions led by 109 resource people for the Fellows.
- The course organized 20 field trips across different landscapes and ecosystems in southern India.
- Five graduates are working in conservation and research positions with different government institutes and NGOs across India.
- Three detailed project reports for eco-



Exploring a hill stream at twilight in Coorg. © Sanjay Molur

Fireflies sparkling around Iyal farm in Pollachi. © Gokul K

Interaction with Srinivasan Kasinathan from NCF Annamalai restoration project in Valparai. © Trisa Bhattacharjee

restoration of three landscapes produced.

- 28 articles published in Zoo's Print magazine.

Acknowledgments

The RHATC team is grateful to: all the funders and supporters – Coromandel International (Murugappa Group), Mansukhani Family, Chandrakala and Satwady Govardhan Shetty, and Sanjay Manohar Family & Friends; all the research institutes, NGOs, and individual researchers who collaborated throughout the course for sessions, mentorship, and field trips; and the admin team back at Zooreach for all their efforts and support.

Group photo with the Rainforest Retreat team in Coorg. © Sanjay Molur

RHATC team after plantation in Ooty. © Sanjay Molur

Discussion with Joss Brooks at Pitchandikulam Library. © G. Pannagasri



Future plans/next steps

After successfully completing five batches, the RHATC team is now working towards launching a one-year internship-cum-training program as an extended pathway of RHATC, designed to deepen learning and provide more immersive conservation experience. Stay tuned for what's coming next!

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Citation: Bhattacharjee, T., P. Molur, P. Iyer, L. Ravikumar, P. Kritika, B. Ravichandran & S. Molur (2026). Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation 2025–26 (Batch 5). Zooreach Annual Report 2025–26. In: *Zoo's Print* 41(3): 18–21.

**Mansukhani
family**

Coromandel
FUTURE POSITIVE

murugappa

Chandrakala and Satwady Goverdhan Shetty Fellowship

**Sally Walker
Conservation Fund**

**Sanjay Manohar
family & friends**

South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAsISG) & Invertebrate Conservation Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

Background

SAsISG and ICINSA focuses on conserving invertebrates in the South Asian region. The project targets on expanding membership and building networks with invertebrate experts across South Asia; completing global Red List assessments for more invertebrate groups; identifying important invertebrate habitats; identifying overlooked & exploited invertebrate groups; develop and implement conservation action plan model for invertebrate groups; promoting research on taxonomy & natural history; promoting conservation awareness among the public and wildlife enthusiasts; develop policy interventions; capacity building workshops to train conservationists in all aspects of invertebrate conservation; and supporting more invertebrate conservation works in the region.

Activities, key achievements, and outcomes during the reporting period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

🦎 Five subnetwork groups under SAsISG have been formed: Marine Molluscs, Tiger Beetles, Tarantulas, Diplopoda. Five leaders have been nominated to lead the subnetwork groups for the South Asian region: R. Ravinesh (Marine Molluscs), J. Chaithra Shree (butterflies), V. Sharan (Tiger Beetles), (Gautam Kadam & A. Abinash (tarantulas), and Aparna Kalawate (Diplopoda). They have been tasked to expand the network across South Asia and to take up activities to promote the



Observations from 'Tiger Beetle Quest' conducted by Tiger beetle watch group and Rhopalocera and Odonata Association of Rajapalayam (ROAR) © Bikash Kumar posted on Tigerbeetlewatch insta page

conservation of their respective invertebrate groups in the region.

🦎 More than 250 members (major representations being from India and fewer from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Abu Dhabi, Bangladesh, Maldives, and UK) joined ICINSA. Based on the commitment and actions of active members in the upcoming years, they will be appointed to SAsISG membership. Around 24 members have been added to the SAsISG given their contributions to invertebrate conservation.





'Spend time with butterflies', one day workshop to butterfly enthusiasts in collaboration with Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park (NBNP) on 9 August 2025 at NBNP. © Usha Ravindra

🦋 The SASISG vision, activities, and invertebrate conservation topics were communicated in international conferences, regional talks, workshops, and social media posts. To name a few, SCB's International Conference for Conservation Biology Conference at Brisbane 15–20 June 2025; Butterfly workshop with Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park on 09 August 2025; A talk & field visit on firefly conservation by Sri Ram Murali & Chandrasekhar Ratnam



***Quedara basiflava*, a Western Ghat endemic. One of the 350+ species of butterflies of India that will be assessed in the future IUCN Red List workshop for butterflies. © Tarun Karmakar**

for Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation fellows in December 2025; and seven SASISG social media posts.

🦋 The IUCN Red List Training workshop was conducted on 18–22 October 2025, training 12 people from across India in the Red Listing framework & methods.

🦋 11 November launched as World Tiger Beetle Day by SASISG during the Tiger Beetle Red List workshop in July 2024 was successfully celebrated the following year in 2025 by Graphic Era University, Wildlife Institute of India, Rhopalocera and Odonata Association of Rajapalayam (ROAR) organisations via international talk. The event was celebrated by ROAR & Tiger



New members, Sriram Murali & Chandrasekar Ratnam, added to the SASISG network by SASISG co-chair, Dr. Sanjay Molur. © Usha Ravindra

Beetle Watch group by conducting a 'Tiger Beetle quest' on iNaturalist from 28 June 2025 – 06 July 2025 which yielded good observations.

🦋 11 'Bugs r all' publications focused on invertebrates taxonomy, natural history, conservation published in Zoo's Print.

🦋 For Red List assessments for butterflies of India, a checklist of a total of 1,383 butterfly species found in India was listed from

literature, of which, 151 species are endemic and 190 species are near-endemic to the country. Data like distribution, habitat type, habitat threats, species threats, natural history, host plant data (including their distribution and threats) required for assessments from literature have been collated for all endemics from 420 papers and consulting more than 30 experts to keep the database updated. Partial funds needed for the Red List workshop have been raised from the MbZ Species Conservation Fund & IUCN.

Challenges faced

Lack of funds remains to be the core challenge given the humongous amount of work we are yet to do for invertebrate conservation. Being rich in invertebrate diversity, it is crucial we move fast and are able to support the network/s to carry on the tasks.

Key partnerships and collaborations

Partnerships were formed with Tigerbeetlewatch group, The Naturalist School, Rhopalocera and Odonata Association of Rajapalayam (ROAR), Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park (NBNP), IUCN SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group, and Wild & Dark Earth for various SAsISG & ICINSA activities.

Acknowledgments

We thank IUCN, MBZ Conservation fund for supporting SAsISG network expansion project and Butterfly Red List assessment works.

Next steps

We will be maximizing the SAsISG & ICINSA networks in South Asian regions with the help of current members and leads; launch website for SAsISG; plan taxonomy & conservation training workshops; Conduct Red List assessment workshop for butterflies of India; plan Red List assessments for more invertebrate groups; and develop a first Conservation Action Plan model for invertebrates.



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Citation: Ravindra, U., L. Ravikumar & S. Molur (2026). South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAsISG) & Invertebrate Conservation Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA). Zooreach Annual Report 2025–26. In: *Zoo's Print* 41(3): 24–26.

Snake Conservation Coalition of the Western Ghats



Background

Snakes are one of the most misunderstood and persecuted animals in India. They are often killed at sight due to fear or misconception, negating the ecological role they play. With a rich diversity of snakes, Western Ghats is facing increasing human-snake interactions, unscientific protection measures like relocation, and stress from habitat loss & other anthropogenic pressures. This emphasizes on the need to develop a region specific, stakeholder-led conservation action plan for the region to ensure coexistence. The need of the hour is to bring together all the stakeholders to work with each other despite the differences and put away personal opinions and beliefs to forward scientific, evidence-based, systematic approach to conservation of snakes in the Western Ghats. This stakeholder initiative was the brainchild of Dr Sanjay Molur and the participants of 25+ organizations ratified the need for a coalition.

Activities conducted during the reporting period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

🐍 18–19 April 2025 -- Zooreach conducted a 2-day Scoping Workshop on Snake Conservation in Western Ghats at Lonavala, Maharashtra. The program was funded by the Upadhyaya Foundation and supported by Naturefuture. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Sanjay Molur of the Conservation Planning Specialist Group South Asia & Zooreach, followed by sessions conducted by Gerry Martin, Dr Kartik Sunagar, Dr S.R. Ganesh, Dr Chelmala Srinivasulu, Nachiket Utpat, Lisa Consalves, Dr Navaz Sharif, Gnaneshwar Ch, Sumanth Bindumadhav, and Dr Freston Marc Sirur. There were several working groups set up throughout the



A few SCC-WG members in a panel discussion about the Coalition at the India Animal Welfare Forum 2026 in Mumbai.



Dr Sanjay Molur facilitating session at the Snake Scoping Workshop in Lonavala. © Payal Molur



Working group discussion on various threats snakes face in the Western Ghats. © Payal Molur



Working Group discussing on different solutions to conserve snakes.
© Payal Molur

workshop to discuss different related topics.

🐍 8–9 December 2025 -- 2nd workshop called the Snake Rescue Lab was organised in Bangalore, focusing on the development of effective rescue protocols for snake conservation. Again supported by Upadhyaya Foundation, Naturefuture, and Zooreach, the event was facilitated by Dr. Sanjay Molur, who began with an introduction about the objective and the need for the workshop. It was followed by an open conversation among the participants about the present issues and malpractices regarding snake handling.



SCC-WG members launching the Coalition at the India Animal Welfare Forum 2026

There were sessions on legal compliance, decision making, scientific challenges, snake handling, importance of understanding snake physiology for snake bite mitigation and more led by Subhra Sottie, Kedar Bhide, and Gerry Martin. Jose Louise engaged the participants further by explaining about the SARPA app and shared his experience of engaging with snake handlers/ rescuers in Kerala.

Key achievements and outcomes

🐍 At the end of the first workshop the Snake Conservation Coalition of the Western Ghats (SCC-WG) was set up with the vision to 'Ensure conservation of snakes of the



SCC-WG members at the Rescue Lab Workshop in Bangalore. © Sanjay Molur

Western Ghats through multi-stakeholder collaborations and science-based actions through a conservation planning workshop by 2026'.

- 2 The team finalized and launched the SCC-WG logo designed by Aaron Fernandes during the second workshop with all the stakeholders.
- 2 On 31 January 2026, the Snake Conservation Coalition of the Western Ghats website was officially launched with all the stakeholders at the Indian Animal Welfare Conference, Mumbai. The team at present is working towards organizing the Assess-to-Plan and Conservation Action Plan workshops for the snakes in the landscape.

Challenges faced

Fund raising has been the most challenging part. The Secretariat needs support for personnel, infrastructure, and logistics to follow through with various responsibilities and deadlines committed by the coalition members for activities committed.

Key partnerships and collaborations

The Snake Conservation Coalition of the Western Ghats was founded by the following



Working group at the Rescue Lab workshop discussing about the different rescue guidelines for snakes.
© Amrin Ansari

organizations: Centre for Wilderness Medicine (Department of Emergency Medicine, Kasturba Medical College), Chameleon Wildlife Organization, Conservation Planning Specialist Group South Asia, Evolutionary Venomics Lab, Humane World For Animals India, India Snakes, Kalinga Foundation, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Malabar Awareness and Rescue Center for Wildlife, Mhadei Research Centre, MVR Snake Park & Zoo, Nature future, PfA Wildlife Rescue & Conservation Centre, RESQ Charitable Trust, South Asian Reptile Network, Spreading Awareness On Reptiles & Rehabilitation Programme, Thackeray Wildlife Foundation, The Green Cross, The Last Wilderness Foundation, The Liana Trust, Upadhyaya Foundation, Wildlife Information



Participants of the Rescue Lab Workshop after a successful wrap up. © Sanjay Molur



Participants at the end of Snake Scoping Workshop in Lonavala, Maharashtra.

and Liaison Development, Wildlife SOS, and Zoo Outreach Organisation.

Measurable outcomes

- 2 30+ stakeholders (experts, conservationists, researchers, rescuers, policy makers, and others) from 20+ organisations identified the need for three focused workshops and establishing SCC-WG to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive conservation action plan.
- 2 The Snake Rescue Lab with 24 participants from 19 organisations shared their knowledge, opinions, and ongoing works directed towards compiling a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for scientific snake rescue.
- 2 Seven major working groups formed, and deadlines finalised for their specific tasks.
- 2 Partial funds raised for the Assess-to-Plan workshop in June 2025.
- 2 SCC-WG Secretariat established at Zooreach.

Acknowledgments

The team is thankful towards all the partnering organizations, funders, collaborators, participants, and researchers who made the coalition and the events possible. Also, a special thanks to the admin team at Zooreach

and Upadhyaya Foundation for making sure that all travel, lodging, and project activities could be conducted smoothly.

Future plans/next steps

The Coalition is all set to conduct the Assess-to-Plan workshop in June and the Conservation Planning workshop in the coming months. The team is positive about the impact the planning will play towards snake conservation and human-snake coexistence in the Western Ghats.



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Himalayan Restoration Project: Ecologically restoring species, livelihoods, and landscape



Background

The Himalayan Restoration Project seeks to ecologically restore the long-neglected and largely unfamiliar, deteriorated broad-leaf oak and pine forest habitat nestled in the mid-elevations of the Himalaya, in Himachal Pradesh. The Chamba Valley is currently reduced to having one small wildlife sanctuary (Khajjiar-Kalatop) and several isolated small fragments of the lesser-known forests interspersed with ever-increasing terraced agriculture that occupies more than 90% of the landscape. The HRP collaborates with the communities and educates them on the importance of forests and the need to protect it. We have established a community-led nursery in 2022 and are currently growing 21 species of native Himalayan species.

In 2022, with an extensive outreach program during the pilot studies, the Rathiyar Village Panchayat, Chamba head has issued an undertaking on behalf of seven wards of the panchayat (including 28 villages with a population of 2,282 in 503 families owning nearly 860 hectares of farmland) to be our partners in the restoration program. We partner with local farming communities, empowering them with ecology-based adaptations & sustainable livelihood options, and collaboratively rewilding this degraded landscape using native plant species grown in a community

managed nursery. By actively involving the local communities as integral members of our team and fostering partnerships with key stakeholders such as the forest department and other NGOs, we holistically bring decision-making, ensuring scientific and ecological restoration of this precious ecosystem.

Active conservation is the need of the hour, and the Himalayan Restoration Project aims to do just that through stakeholder-run restoration and conflict mitigation programmes. The area of focus is around the Khajjiar-Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary, western Himalaya and lies within the recently demarcated eco-sensitive zone of



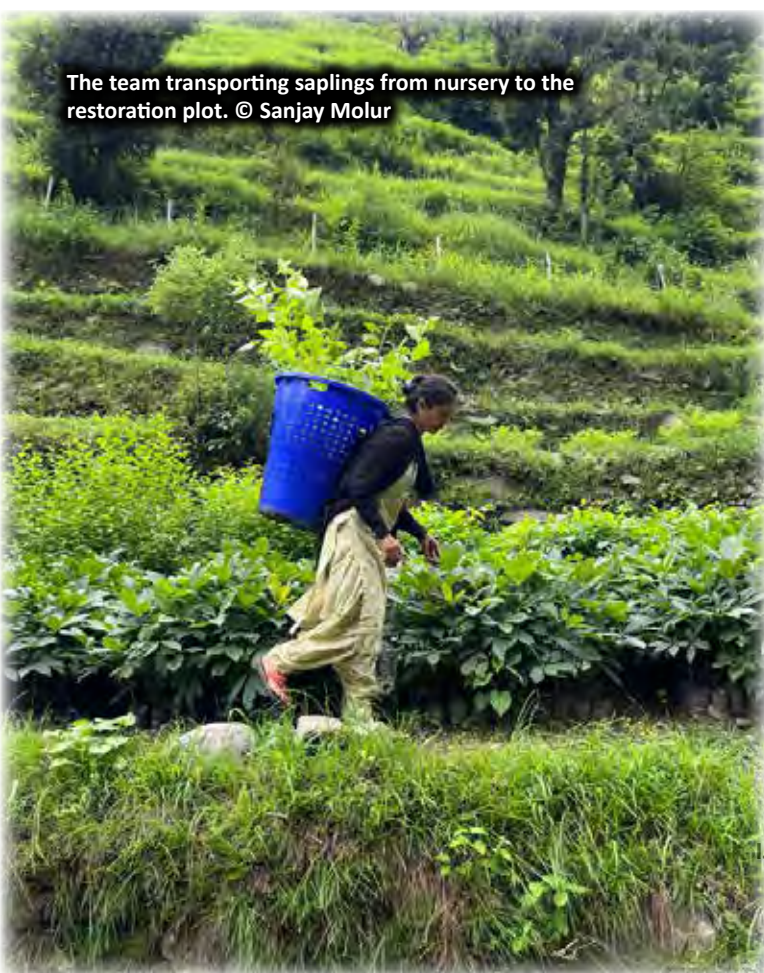
HRP team arranging saplings in the nursery. © Lakshay Tyagi

HRP team deweeding the saplings. © Sachin Verma

the sanctuary. The project is trying to work towards conserving the fragile landscapes of western Himalaya, through an interconnected multi-pronged approach using science and traditional knowledge for holistic wellbeing of communities, livelihood, and species.

Activities conducted during the reporting period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

- 🌱 Germination of native saplings of western Himalaya in the nursery.
- 🌱 Restoration of degraded patches of land across the project landscape.
- 🌱 Education outreach, upskilling, and training workshops for students, teachers, women, youth, and community members.
- 🌱 Roadkill surveys across the landscape area over 8+ months.
- 🌱 Perception and knowledge surveys with community members and other stakeholders.
- 🌱 Representation of the project at national and international conferences.



The team transporting saplings from nursery to the restoration plot. © Sanjay Molur



Shanti deweeding the saplings before they are transported to the restoration plots. © Sanjay Molur

Key achievements and outcomes

- 🌱 The community nursery germinated 20,000+ saplings of 21 native species.
- 🌱 3 ha of degraded land restored with 3,000+ native saplings. Additional 2 ha of land conserved.
- 🌱 500+ students and youth educated, 200+ women trained and upskilled, and 500+ community members sensitized in conservation, restoration, coexistence, and climate change.
- 🌱 Provided 25 livelihoods for local community members (5 permanent and 20 seasonal).
- 🌱 35+ days of roadkill surveys across a 35-km stretch since June 2025 to document the threats to wildlife species over seasons from vehicle movement.
- 🌱 50+ knowledge and perception surveys with the local stakeholders on their understanding of climate change, crop raiding, restoration, and eco-based livelihood opportunities.
- 🌱 Representation through posters, talks, and films in ERA India, 2025 GLF



The team stocks up nursery supplies to germinate saplings before winter sets in.
© Amrin Ansari

functions.

Key partnerships and collaborations

The HRP is part of the Global Landscape Forum chapters and is called GLFx Himachal. HRP is a member of the Global Alliance for Rights of the Nature and Youth in Landscape initiative. In the past year the project has strengthened its existing relations with the Rathiyar Gram panchayat,

Asia Community & Action Week, and Tropentag 2025.

- Collaborated with Green Hub India to produce a film on the Himalayan Restoration Project.

Arpana Trust, and Himachal Pradesh Forest Department to collaborate and work in the area towards a climate positive future.

Challenges faced

The climate crisis remains one of Chamba's biggest challenges. This year, heavy rains and landslides left the team stranded at the field station without electricity, food supplies, or network connectivity. The situation became extremely challenging and even posed a serious risk to one of the community members working with the team. At the same time, shifting climate patterns are becoming visible through altered flowering and fruiting cycles, which are beginning to influence the success of the flora in the region.

Team members and locations

The project presently has 13 members working. Ten team members are based in Chamba of which six belong to the local and indigenous communities, while three members are based in Coimbatore coordinating the technical and administrative

Acknowledgments

The team is thankful towards the partners, the community, students, women, and youth in the landscape for their support and encouragement. Thanks are to: Randoh Higher Secondary School for collaboration; the forest department and panchayat officials for the administrative support and help during on-field action; the Arpana Trust for providing the facilities for the field station; Mr. Shakthi for the nursery space; and Salesforce for funding the project.



The HRP teams signs MoU with Rathiyar Panchayat pradhan. © Lakshya Rathore



Future plans/next steps

The Himalayan Restoration Project is a long term programme to restore the 800+ ha of degraded landscape with the communities. As part of the vision the 2026–27 target is to restore 10 ha of degraded land and reach out to many more schools and communities for a climate positive future.



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