



Aswathykrishna. P. N

Hailing from Trivandrum, Kerala, Aswathykrishna completed her post-graduation in Integrated Climate Change Adaptation from the College of Climate Change and Environmental Sciences, Kerala Agricultural University. She then interned in different projects with the Climate Sustainability Team at Azim Premji University, Bangalore. She also has experience working on GIS Apps such as ArcGIS and QGIS. Being her area of interest, Aswathy aspires to pursue Ph.D. in climate law and policy matters.

At leisure, Aswathy loves to keep herself updated by reading. For her internship, she would be working at National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai



Akash Tiwari

Akash Tiwari holds a postgraduate degree in Disaster Management (with specialization in Conflicts, Peace, & Development) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences – Mumbai, after obtaining an undergraduate honours degree in Geography from the University of Delhi.

Akash has interned with the Indian Police Foundation, a Delhi-based multi-disciplinary think-tank dedicated to work for police reform and the improvement of policing through research, capacity building and policy advocacy, assisting them with Nationwide Citizen Satisfaction Survey on SMART Policing. Before his stint with the Indian Police Foundation, Akash worked with Caritas India, the development arm of the Catholic Churches in India and assisted on Post Flood Recovery & Rehabilitation in Karimganj and Morigaon district of Assam.

Apart from work, Akash is passionate about aesthetically designed book covers and has a keen interest in geopolitics and veganism. He swears by the approach of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and is curious to explore the idea of biodiversity as a human right and its potential of environmental peacebuilding in India.

Akash has been allocated to the Delhi UTBC for the tenure of his internship.



Aparna. A. R.

Aparna is a graduate in Chemistry from St. Mary's College, Thrissur, Kerala and post-graduate in Forestry from Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. She is interested in wildlife and habitat management. She is an active member of International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) since 2019. Aparna has also served as Fundraising Commissioner at IFSA local committee FRI in the year 2020-2021, and has volunteered at Kites Foundation, an NGO in Kerala.

Apart from academic interests, Aparna loves to sketch, paint and above all has a keen interest in creative upcycling of waste to art.

For her internship she would be working at National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.



Amruta Hondappanavar

Amruta obtained her postgraduate degree in Environment Management from Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, after graduating in Geology, Mathematics and Computer Science from Karnatak University, Dharwad. Thereafter she worked at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Krishi Vigyan Kendra (ICAR-KVK), Gadag, on the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Project. She is interested in natural resource conservation and urban forestry.

In addition to work, Amruta enjoys writing and travelling.

For her internship, she would be working at National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.



Ashwin. S.

Ashwin completed his graduation (Hons) and post-graduation in forestry from Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat and Kerala Agricultural University respectively. His thesis on the “Habitat Characterization of Asian Wildlife Elephants in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary” was published for his post graduate degree.

After postgraduation, Ashwin studied habitat distribution of three endangered bird species in general and Black Bellied Tern in particular, as a Junior Research Biologist at SACON, Coimbatore. He aspires to continue studying the intricate relationships between the natural and the human landscape, especially the causes of human-animal conflicts, a major component of his post-graduate research work.

At leisure, Ashwin enjoys birdwatching, nature photography, trekking and travelling.

For his internship, he would be working at Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Kerala.



Kirti Sharma

Kirti Sharma completed her graduation (B.A (H) Geography) from Miranda House, University of Delhi and went on to pursue her post-graduation and M.Phil from Centre for Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University with a specialization in Agricultural Geography. She is registered for her doctorate degree at JNU, Delhi.

Her core areas of interest include climate change and gender related issues. She is passionate about teaching and field-based research activity. Apart from this Kirti has interned for a yearlong research project funded by the University of Delhi under the Innovation Project Award titled “Miles on Yamuna” presented at “Antardhvani” Delhi University Annual Academic and Cultural festival. She has also worked as a campaign leader for Teach for India.

She is also deeply inspired by feminist literature and feels that gendered reflections are necessary in environmental interventions. Therefore, she is keen to take up further research in mainstreaming gender in environmental laws and policies.

Kirti is very fond of travelling and cooking. During her tenure of internship, Kirti will be working from UNDP, New Delhi.



Jayalakshmi Paonam

She is registered for her doctoral studies at the Department of Natural Resources, TERI School of Advanced Studies (SAS), New Delhi. Her research focuses on conservation and its policy perspectives concerning the management of natural resources in the Eastern Himalayas. Before her doctoral studies, Jayalakshmi Paonam graduated with an M.Sc. in Environmental Studies and Resource Management from TERI, SAS and B.Sc. (Hons.) in Botany from Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi.

Jayalakshmi has interned with Kalpavkrish and has worked on “Understanding local system of management of sacred groves and their role in conserving biodiversity” and “Management Effectiveness of a Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam and Keibul Lamjao National Park, Manipur”. Her area of interest spans from conservation of wetlands and other associated landscapes to protected areas with an inclination towards participatory management.

When not engrossed in research work, Jayalakshmi loves to read and goes hiking in the mountains.

For her internship, she will be working at Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi.



Maitreyee Bhawe

Maitreyee Bhawe, from Dombivali, Maharashtra, has an undergraduate degree in Zoology from Ramnarain Ruia College, Mumbai and post graduation in Environmental Sciences from Institute of Sciences, Mumbai. She also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law in Policy from the National Law University, Delhi.

Maitreyee has been an active member of the NGO- NYASS Trust as a project coordinator and naturalist. She has also worked at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park as an Education and Extension Officer. She has also been part of editorial team and an illustrator for a guidebook for people on wildlife education. Maitreyee has been working as environmental consultant since 2018 carrying out biodiversity, tree, soil quality, water quality surveys. She has keen interest in the study of mammalian behaviour and ecology.

She loves to travel, read, bird watch and express art through painting. Maitreyee has been allotted to the Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Board (CSBB) and will be working from there for the tenure of her internship.



Kiran Dhanyakumar
Jagadale

Kiran completed his undergraduate degree in Agricultural Science from Mahatman Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra and went on to complete his master's degree in Political Science from Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. He wishes to pursue his career in interdisciplinary fields involving agrobiodiversity conservation, gender equality and implementation of public policies.

Kiran finds time for his hobbies that include trekking and cycling.

For his internship, he would be working at Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board.



Newsheena Zaffar

Newsheena obtained her Masters in Botany from University of Kashmir in October 2021 after completing her under graduation from Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar. She has also worked on the Floral Diversity of Indian Himalayan Region for her dissertation as part of postgraduation.

Newsheena finds time for her hobby as a numismatist, nature photographer and engrosses herself in reading autobiographies, novels and poems. She is inclined to public speaking and makes sure to include the mention of nature conservation whenever there is a window of opportunity to speak. Newsheena has been allotted to the J & K UTBC and will be working from J & K UTBC for the tenure of her internship.

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Sini Mol V

Sini Mol V from Palakkad district of Kerala, has completed M. Sc. in Environmental Science from Central University of Kerala and B.Sc. in Botany from University of Calicut. Her areas of interest include biodiversity, ecology, pollution and control, waste management, eco-tourism. During her M. Sc and B. Sc, she has done projects on diversity of Lichens and Angiosperms respectively and has special interest to assist in field studies related to them.

Sini loves to read and has also been a National Service Scheme volunteer for 5 years. She has been allotted to the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) and will be working from APSBB for the tenure of her internship.

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Purnendu Paul

Purnendu obtained Masters in Botany and Forestry from Vidyasagar University after his undergraduate degree in Botany from Midnapore College. In addition, he also has completed a certificate course in Bee Keeping and Management. Further, he has interned at CSIR-NEIST, Assam.

As an undergraduate, Purnendu worked on ethnomedicinal plants, their uses and conservation, apart from working on the traditional drink of tribals in West Bengal. Apart from academics, he enjoys travelling, photography, playing cricket and watching movies. Purnendu has been allotted to the West Bengal State Biodiversity Board (WBSBB) and will be working from WBSBB for the tenure of his internship.

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Mohit Sharma

Mohit Sharma from Ambala, Haryana, has an undergraduate degree in Engineering from Kurukshetra University and has completed his postgraduation in Human Rights and Duties from Punjab University, Chandigarh. Mohit has interned with the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), Chandigarh and Haryana Human Rights Commission.

Mohit has been an active participant in international conferences on human rights and sustainability. He wants to do impactful work in the fields of the environment and education to move forward towards sustainable livelihood and peaceful coexistence.

Mohit spends his time off gardening. He has been allocated to the Haryana State Biodiversity Board for his internship.



Prateek Balaji Ojha

Prateek Balaji holds a B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering from Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Chennai and Masters in Polymer Science and Engineering from College of Engineering, Guindy. He has interned at the IIT Madras, where his work on polymeric membranes for Carbon-Di-Oxide separation was filed for patent at the Indian Patent Office. Thereafter, Prateek has worked as a Senior Engineer R&D in TVS Sundaram Auto Components Ltd, Hosur.

Prateek has a “Top 2% Elite” Certification in “Wildlife Conservation” from the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) along with QGIS from Central University of Karnataka. He has also completed a course, “Fundamental and Technical Analysis for Capital Markets” from NSE Academy.

Apart from academics, Prateek is into blogging and freelance writing, mainly on topics related to sustainability and sustainable products. He also finds time to travel and to paint. He is also trained in the traditional art of Thanjavur painting with a certificate of ‘superlative performance’ from the Vivekananda Kendra. In the domain of conservation, Prateek looks forward to study and reduce the impacts of plastic pollution on biodiversity and explore ‘Other Effective area-based Conservation Methods’ (OECMs). Whereas, in the domains of sustainable use and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) he seeks to explore business models based on ePBRs.

Prateek will be working at NBA for the tenure of his internship.



Varsha S

Varsha S obtained a Masters in Heritage Conservation and Management from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in July 2021. She completed her undergraduate degree in Social Work from the Madras School of Social Work, Chennai. After her postgraduation, she interned at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris from July-December 2021, where she was responsible for assisting the European and North American unit in the statutory processes related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Varsha is interested in exploring the policy frameworks for natural resource management in the country. Apart from her professional interests, she enjoys reading, writing, and learning new languages. For her internship, Varsha will be working with the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Chennai.



Yerra Aravind Reddy

Yerra Aravind Reddy hails from rural area in Telangana from an agricultural family. Aravind completed his B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering before pursuing his Masters in Public Administration from IGNOU.

Aravind has also done a mini project from the DRDO, Hyderabad and has studied nanoparticles and composites. He wishes to contribute to the conservation of nature. He also joins with his family in the agricultural activities and finds time to play cricket and swimming.

Aravind has been allotted to the Telangana State Biodiversity Board for the tenure of his internship.



Prerna Malhotra

Prerna Malhotra, from Rohini, Delhi completed her schooling from Kendriya Vidyalaya. She has an undergraduate degree in Life Science from Delhi University and completed her Masters in Botany from Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi.

While pursuing her Masters, Prerna completed a summer internship with the MoEFCC, New Delhi. She also has experience of working with the Inter-governmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Environment services (IPBES) and Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) related works and has submitted the report titled “A study on the importance of pollination and protection of pollinators”.

Prerna enjoys hosting events, which she has been doing from school days and loves dance and listen to music. She spends some time to watch National Geographic documentaries and other series too. During her tenure of internship she will be working from UNDP, New Delhi.



Uparna Chatterjee

Uparna completed her graduation from University of Calcutta in 2019 and post-graduation from Doon University in 2021. She worked as a trainee in the UNFCCC plastic tide turner programme wherein she reached champion level of plastic tide turner challenges and has contributed to plastic free projects. Prior to that she interned with CEE-Ahmedabad (Centre For Environment Education) and South Asian Forum For Environment (SAFE), Kolkata.

Uparna's interests include urban sustainability, wetland management, ecology and environment, habitat management, restoration of ecology and biodiversity conservation and social surveys.

Uparna is also a content writer, loves to sing, dance and is an outgoing personality. She has been allotted to the Bihar State Biodiversity Board during her internship period.



Shivakanta Kshetrimayum

Shivakanta completed his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Zoology from Zakir Husain Delhi College and Masters in Environmental Science from Manipur University. He has been a team member in the project providing technical services for the preparation of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) of Imphal East Zilla Parishad BMC and Imphal East Urban Local Bodies BMC and was also the founding member of "Environment Conservation Group- Sustainable Manipur" and a Member of Global Shapers Community, Imphal Hub. He has interest in biodiversity conservation with focus on animal conservation and study on ethology.

Shivakanta is a musician and loves to listen, sing and play western and Indian percussion instruments. His interests also extend to bodybuilding and Powerlifting, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), trekking, long drives and cooking.

For his internship, he would be working at Manipur State Biodiversity Board.



Pooja Rani

Pooja is from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh and has completed her Masters in Botany from Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. Pooja also completed a weeklong Training Programme on Mushroom Cultivation Technology from ICAR-Directorate of Mushroom Research (DMR), Chambaghat, Solan, Himachal Pradesh in the year 2021.

Pooja intends to promote eco-friendly lifestyles among people and awareness regarding sustainable use of bio-resources. She enjoys farming, singing, cooking and a day is never complete for her without reading the newspaper. Pooja has been allotted to the Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (HPSBB) and during the tenure of her internship.



Chanakya Bohra

Chanakya holds a dual degree (B.Tech & M.Tech) in Environmental Sciences from the Amity University, Jaipur, Rajasthan. As part of his Masters, Chanakya pursued an internship in WaterHarvest, UK and Prayas Kendra Harsoli's Project "Charasada", which was in phase-3 and focused on issues relating to water and sanitation in villages around DuDu block of Jaipur, Rajasthan. This project aimed at holistic progress of the community by social mobilization focused at promoting good health and sanitation practices and gender equality and providing technical and financial assistance for spreading awareness related to rainwater harvesting. Chanakya also had brief stints at the Environmental Management Cell in Grasim Industries Ltd. Nagda, Madhya Pradesh and Kanchan India Ltd. Bhilwara, Rajasthan.

Chanakya loves hiking, painting, and watching movies and his perpetual interest has been in biology and the environment, especially in the management of natural resources. Chanakya has been allotted to the Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board (RSBB) and will be working from RSBB for the tenure of his internship.



Kaustubh Deshpande

Kaustubh completed his post-graduation in International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy in 2018. His dissertation dealt with the conflicts arising in transboundary water governance and sharing between India and Bangladesh. He is currently pursuing another Masters in Ecology, Society, and Sustainable development.

As part of his internships, Kaustubh has worked on multiple projects at National Institute of Advanced Studies and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment in Bangalore. These internships involved work in projects on the geo-politics and development problems in Northeast India at NIAS, and on riverine fisheries and bat-human interactions at ATREE. He has also received a certificate in Productivity and Employability Skills from the Institute of Productivity, United Kingdom. In addition, Kaustubh has completed an intensive course in “Transforming development: The Science and Practice of Resilience Thinking” with the GRAID programme hosted by Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Apart from his academic endeavors, Kaustubh has a keen interest in Hindustani and Carnatic classical music, parallel cinema, and theatre. Kaustubh has been allotted to the Karnataka State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) and will be working from therefor the tenure of his internship



Kunal Chanda

Kunal Chanda, from Tinsukia District, Assam is pursuing his doctoral studies in Animal Ecology and Wildlife Biology from Guwahati University, Assam from where he obtained his masters in Zoology too.

After obtaining his master's degree, Kunal Interned with the Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) and was adjudged the Best Intern under the course. Kunal continued to work as a Biodiversity Research Associate Programme Fellow under Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) and continued as a Project Assistant under ASBB on UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC-ABS Project to document tradable bioresources and associated traditional knowledge from Assam for establishing framework of Access and Benefit Sharing Mechanism in the year 2018-19.

Later, Kunal went on to work as a Technical Assistant under NMHS Him-Nature Learning Centre, Assam in 2019-20. Kunal is interested in the field of biodiversity conservation with particular focus on avifauna, community-based conservation, and traditional knowledge, which he developed working alongside ASBB.

Kunal finds time for his hobbies in birdwatching, hiking, writing, videography and photography of wildlife. Kunal would once again get a chance to work with the ASBB during this tenure of internship.



Simran Sharma

Simran is a postgraduate in Environmental Sciences from Department of Environmental Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University and holds a bachelor's degree in Zoology (Hons.) from Gargi College, University of Delhi. She has interned with Development Mirror, a non-profit organization, where she conducted research focusing on environmental and sustainable development issues and is currently pursuing PG Diploma in Environmental Law and Policy. She is an environmentalist with a zeal to contribute towards ongoing conservation efforts and is keen on exploring ways to utilize technologies like GIS & RS for improved natural resource management.

Simran has been allotted to the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) and will be working from GSBB for the tenure of her internship.



Sonalika Mamgain

Sonalika completed her Bachelors and Masters in Environmental Science from the Amity University, Noida. She completed her dissertation from Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and did her field work in India's first marine protected area- the Gulf of Kachchh Marine National Park, Gujarat.

Sonalika wishes to work in the field of marine conservation and pollution and study the long-term impact of microplastics on marine ecosystem. Her hobbies include painting, cloud spotting, hiking, snorkeling, bird watching and photographing and identifying moths. She has been allotted to the Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board (UKSBB) and will be working from UKSBB tenure of her internship.