NISHANT BHARDWAJ

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RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Population ecology, behavioural ecology, human-animal interactions, conservation, policy, and management

EDUCATION:

MSc Ecology and Wildlife Conservation, Newcastle University, United Kingdom   *2019-2020*

Thesis: *Topic Modelling mammal ecology: A case study of British terrestrial mammals*

BSc (Honours) Zoology, Ramjas College, University of Delhi, India   *2016-2019*

SKILLS: data analysis and visualisation, project management, report writing, GPS, R, Python, QGIS, ArcGIS, MaxEnt, Camera trapping, Google Earth Engine

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:

Google Earth Engine Advance (Forest fire), TGIS   *August 2023*

Course **Introduction to Python programming** and   *January 2023*
Understanding and visualising data with Python
University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan, and Coursera

Course **Fundamentals of GIS**   *June-July 2019*
University of California, Davis, and Coursera

Course **Field based training course in Wildlife Biology**   *December 2018*
Ecology and Rural Development Society & Rajasthan Forest Department
India

Course **Species conservation in protected areas**   *September-October 2018*
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland (EPFL-IUCN)

Certificate Course **Animal behaviour: an introduction**
Department of Continuing education, University of Oxford   *September-December 2017*

Certificate course on **Conservation techniques and field methods**   *May 2017*
Wild Otters Research, Goa, India

EXPERIENCE:

Project Associate-I, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun   *September 2023-Present*

Project- "Supporting trans-boundary tiger recovery in India and Nepal (Phase-III)"

Indian Forest Service Exam   *June 2021-June 2023*

Prepared for the exam and took the exam in 2022 and 2023. Understood variety of subjects ranging from economics to sociology which gave me holistic understanding of social and economic factors which are vital in conservation and wildlife management.

Intern, International Institute of Waste Management, Bangalore   *February-May 2021*

Organized a national-level workshop for government officials (Pollution Control Board). Handled all operations and communications, including content development of the information booklet.

GIS assistant, People's Trust for Endangered Species, London   *October 2020-December 2020*

Digitised traditional orchards from historical maps provided by Landmark and PTES to support restoration of orchards (a priority habitat in UK's Biodiversity Action Plan). Overlayed aerial imagery to identify the status of traditional orchards at present.

Volunteer, Natural history Society of Northumbria, Newcastle   *2019-2020*

Managed the habitat at the reserve. I dedicated several hours to practical conservation work at Gosforth Nature Reserve with tasks including tree planting at a new native 'wildwood', hide maintenance, cutting reed bed, invasive species control, and board walk maintenance.

Research Intern, Wild Otters Research, Goa, India   *June-July 2018*

- Conducted field surveys for Smooth-coated otters in mangroves.
- Identified Smooth-coated otter signs like pugmarks, defecating areas.
- Set up and monitored trail cameras.
- Used GPS and Google earth for digital mapping.
- Analysed and sorted content from trail camera data

Main lead, Project on "Seed preference in Pigeons (*Columba livia)"* in Delhi   *February-April 2018*

Designed and proposed the study, coordinated with team members for successful completion of the project within given timeline, and analysed the data and presented the study outcomes.

Volunteer, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-India)   *2016-2018*

Waste Segregation, Adopt a tree campaign and Earth hour campaign.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED:

Workshop on Quantitative Population dynamics with R   *June 2023*

- Used wolf data from France to learn occupancy, detection probability, Markov models and how the analyses is done in R using 'mark' package

Workshops at Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS), Bengaluru *September 2018*

- The complexity and variety in human-large carnivore interactions in India
- Writing grants and fellowships in Ecological Sciences
- Managing and working effectively with people and teams
- Language & Ecology- Communicating Nature through local languages

National conference on "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction, Thane, *February 2017* Maharashtra, India organised by Paryavaran Dakshta Mandal in collaboration with Association of Teachers in Biological Sciences and Enviro-vigil, Thane

AWARDS/ SCHOLARSHIPS:

NHSN Student Naturalist Award (Academic Associate), Natural History Society of Northumbria *January 2020*

Newcastle Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship, Newcastle University *September 2019*

3rd prize for poster presentation, National conference on "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction" Maharashtra, India *February 2017*

PUBLICATIONS:

Borker, A., Gogi, K., Krupa, H., Savage, M. and **Bhardwaj, N. (2022).** Otter Survey in Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, Eastern Himalayas of India. *IUCN Otter Spec. Group Bull*. **39** (1): 29 - 38