

S.S.RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

2024 – 2025



Message from the Director



Dear Friends

Since its inception in 2017, S.S. Research Foundation has remained at the forefront of science-led forest conservation, ecological research, and inclusive community engagement. The financial year 2024–25 marked yet another step forward in our journey, with a series of transformative initiatives, impactful collaborations, and empowering grassroots programs.

Our foundation actively contributed to the Working Plans of both **Gudalur and Coimbatore Forest Divisions** under the **TBGPCCR Scheme**, advancing studies in biodiversity, RET species, forest regeneration, and water yield. These data-driven efforts have laid the groundwork for sustainable forest governance rooted in scientific insight.

A special appreciation goes to **Dr. M. Gunasekaran**, our Principal Scientist, whose leadership as Principal Investigator, GIS trainer, and Van APP educator strengthened institutional capacity through high-quality field training and spatial planning workshops. His expertise continues to inspire our teams and partners across divisions.

We also deepened our commitment to social inclusion through **Participatory Rural Appraisal** in the Paniya tribal village of Kavandankolli, ensuring local wisdom drives development strategies. Environmental advocacy soared during the **Clean Western Ghats initiative**, organized alongside **Vaanam Foundation** and **NCC-PSG Polytechnic College**, igniting awareness and action among youth and communities.

I wholeheartedly thank all our members, field teams, research associates, and volunteers for their relentless support and dedication. Your continued involvement amplifies the reach and impact of our programs. Together, we will keep fostering ecological resilience and community-driven progress across Tamil Nadu and beyond.

Thank you All.

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Chitra

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Areas of Activities & Projects

Programme 1: Ecology, Environmental Sciences & Plant Sciences

1. Advancing Sustainable Forest Management: USAID Forest PLUS 3.0 Workshop on EAFM & Field Inventory Data Collection

The USAID Forest PLUS 3.0 Workshop, held on April 3-4, 2024 in Gudalur, was a pivotal event aimed at strengthening ecosystem-based forest management through advanced data-driven techniques. Bringing together forest officials, researchers, and experts, the workshop provided a collaborative platform to explore innovative approaches to sustainable forestry practices, focusing on Ecosystem Approach to Forest Management (EAFM) and field inventory data collection using the VAN Mobile Application.



The Core Objective: A Data-Driven Future for Forest Management

Forests play a critical role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and mitigating climate change. However, managing them efficiently requires modern tools, scientific data, and collaborative efforts. Through the Forest PLUS 3.0 initiative, USAID aims to enhance forest planning, restoration, and conservation using technology-driven strategies.



Key Themes Explored in the Workshop

Ecosystem Approach to Forest Management (EAFM)

A central theme of the workshop was EAFM, a holistic strategy that integrates ecological, social, and economic considerations to ensure forests are managed sustainably. Discussions focused on:

- Strengthening afforestation and forest restoration through landscape-based planning.
- Implementing carbon sequestration initiatives to support India's climate goals.
- Developing community-driven forest management models that balance conservation with sustainable livelihoods.

VAN Mobile Application: Revolutionizing Forest Inventory Data Collection

Accurate forest inventory data is essential for effective conservation and planning. Participants received hands-on training in using the VAN Mobile Application, a digital tool designed to streamline field data collection, improve forest resource monitoring, and aid in policy implementation. The app enables real-time data entry, providing forest officials with essential insights for decision-making.

The Critical Role of Forest Officials in Sustainable Management

Forest officials play a vital role in policy execution, resource conservation, and land-use planning. The workshop provided them with practical training on:

- Implementing forest conservation policies effectively.
- Enhancing biodiversity conservation efforts using data-driven approaches.
- Utilizing digital tools like the VAN Mobile App for inventory tracking and habitat monitoring.

S.S. Research Foundation: A Key Associated Partner in the Workshop

As an official associated partner, the **S.S. Research Foundation** played a crucial role in shaping the workshop's objectives and execution.



Dr. M. Gunasekaran, representing the foundation, contributed significantly by:

- Delivering expert training sessions to forest officials and researchers on the latest techniques in ecosystem-based forest management.
- Facilitating knowledge transfer by integrating scientific research with field applications.

- Strengthening collaborations between forest authorities, policymakers, and environmental researchers to refine forest management models using advanced data-driven insights.



Workshop Outcomes and Impact

The event had far-reaching impacts on sustainable forestry practices. Some of the key outcomes include:

- Enhanced forest management strategies through technology-led solutions.
- Empowered forest officials with advanced expertise in digital conservation tools.
- Promoted eco-tourism models and sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities.
- Strengthened collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and forest administrators for long-term environmental planning.



Conclusion: A Step toward Smarter, Sustainable Forest Conservation

The USAID Forest PLUS 3.0 Workshop successfully brought together experts, officials, and researchers in a collaborative effort to advance forest sustainability through digital innovation and ecological intelligence. With the active involvement of the S.S. Research Foundation, the event reinforced the importance of scientific expertise, policy implementation, and technology-driven solutions in shaping a more resilient and sustainable future for India's forests.

2. Transforming Forest Management with Digital Solutions: Van App Training Program

The Van App Introducing Program held on April 7, 2024, was a significant follow-up to the USAID Forest PLUS 3.0 Workshop, focusing on the practical implementation of the VAN Mobile Application for forest inventory data collection.



Program Overview

This event aimed to introduce and train forest officials on the Van App, a digital tool designed to streamline forestry operations. The program emphasized real-time data collection, forest resource monitoring, and policy-driven conservation efforts.

Key Highlights

- Hands-on Training: Forest officials and researchers learned how to use the Van App for efficient data collection in forested areas.

- **Collaboration with Law Enforcement:** The presence of police officials in the program, as seen in the image, suggests a joint effort in forest protection and monitoring.
- **Technology Integration:** The app provides real-time information on plant species, enabling better decision-making for afforestation and conservation projects.
- **Offline Functionality:** Given the challenges of remote forest areas, the app allows data entry without internet connectivity, ensuring seamless operations.

Impact of the Program

- Strengthened forest management strategies through digital innovation.
- Enhanced collaboration between forest officials, researchers, and law enforcement for better conservation efforts.
- Improved data accuracy for forest planning and biodiversity conservation.



3. Working Plan of Gudalur Forest Division under TBGPCCR Scheme: Biodiversity and Ecological Studies

The Working Plan of Gudalur Forest Division (2021-2031) aligns with the National Working Plan Code, 2014, ensuring that forest conservation is guided by scientific research and data-driven strategies. As part of this effort, the S.S. Research Foundation, under the leadership of Dr. M. Gunasekaran, was assigned several assessment studies under the **TBGPCCR scheme**, focusing on biodiversity, RET species evaluation, forest regeneration, and water yield analysis.



Key Focus Areas of the Study

Biodiversity Assessment

- Comprehensive evaluation of forest flora and fauna in the Gudalur Forest Division.
- Identification of ecological indicators influencing forest sustainability.
- Documentation of species diversity and conservation priorities for future forest planning.
- **Financial Allocation:** ₹3,14,000

Assessment Studies in RET (Rare, Endangered, and Threatened) Species

- Surveying endangered species populations and their ecological significance.
- Understanding threats such as habitat loss and climate change.
- Developing long-term species preservation strategies.

- **Financial Allocation:** ₹1,05,000

Assessment of Regeneration Status

- Studying natural forest regeneration patterns and environmental influences.
- Identifying reforestation challenges and recommending restoration models.
- Providing insights into tree dispersal, soil quality, and forest renewal.
- **Financial Allocation:** ₹1,05,000

Water Yield Study

- Collecting hydrological data on rainfall, groundwater recharge, and surface water retention.
- Analyzing water table variations, stream flow, and climate impact.
- Studying the role of forest cover in water conservation.
- **Financial Allocation:** ₹2,10,000



Field Survey & Report Submission

The S.S. Research Foundation conducted extensive field studies, capturing photographic documentation, utilizing GIS mapping, and collaborating with forest officials to validate findings.

Following the completion of assessments, the final scientific study report was submitted in July 2024 and subsequently approved for incorporation into the Gudalur Forest Division's official Working Plan.

Impact and Implementation

- Strengthened forest management policies using scientific research.
- Enhanced conservation strategies for biodiversity, forest regeneration, and RET species.
- Provided valuable insights for water resource sustainability.
- Supported eco-tourism and sustainable forest livelihoods.





Photographs from the Field Survey: Sacred Groves and Mother Trees in Gudalur Forest Division

4. Participatory Rural Appraisal in Kavandankolli: Community-Based Research in Paniya Tribal Village





On **May 26, 2024**, a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) session was conducted in Kavandankolli, a Paniya tribal village in the Gudalur range, as part of the working plan, to engage the local community in research and resource assessment. This approach allows villagers to actively participate in data collection, problem identification, and decision-making, ensuring that development initiatives align with their needs.

Objectives of the PRA

- **Community-Driven Research:** Encouraging tribal members to share their knowledge and experiences related to land use, forest conservation, and socio-economic challenges.
- **Social & Resource Mapping:** Visual tools were used to document habitation patterns, natural resources, and infrastructure for sustainable planning.
- **Problem Identification & Solutions:** Discussions focused on issues such as forest governance, livelihood opportunities, and environmental sustainability.
- **Collaborative Decision-Making:** Tribal representatives voiced their concerns, contributing to policy recommendations and conservation strategies.
-

Impact of the PRA Session

- Strengthened community involvement in forest and land-use management.
- Improved understanding of tribal perspectives for developing inclusive conservation policies.
- Enhanced collaboration between researchers and local residents for data-driven planning.

This PRA initiative fosters participatory governance, ensuring that local knowledge shapes sustainable forest and rural development.



Engaging with the Paniya Tribal Community: Field Survey & Participatory Rural Appraisal in Kavandankolli, Gudalur Range

5. GIS-Based Forest Management Training: VAN Application 3.0 at DFO Office, Coimbatore

Overview of the Training Program

On June 7, 2024, a specialized GIS training session was successfully conducted at the DFO Office, Coimbatore, focusing on the VAN Application 3.0 for forest inventory and conservation. This program aimed to equip Working Plan staff with advanced technical skills to improve digital forest management and decision-making.



Key Experts and Trainers

The training was led by:

- Two GIS specialists from Delhi, bringing expertise in spatial analysis and digital mapping.
- Dr. M. Gunasekaran, Principal Scientist & Principal Investigator of the Working Plan, who provided in-depth guidance on incorporating GIS-based strategies into sustainable forest planning.

Core Training Components

1. VAN Application 3.0: Revolutionizing Forest Inventory

- Comprehensive introduction to VAN Application 3.0, emphasizing its role in data-driven forest monitoring.
- Real-time digital mapping techniques for resource tracking and biodiversity analysis.
- Practical demonstrations on data input, processing, and interpretation for improved conservation efforts.

2. Advanced GIS Applications in Forest Management

- Remote sensing integration for monitoring deforestation trends and ecological changes.
- Spatial data analysis to support sustainable afforestation and habitat conservation.
- Field survey mapping using GIS technologies for efficient land-use planning.

3. Hands-On Technical Training for Working Plan Staff

- Interactive sessions for understanding GIS modeling, GPS mapping, and spatial visualization tools.
- Live demonstrations showcasing how GIS enhances precision in forest management decisions.
- Troubleshooting and best practices for maintaining accuracy in field data collection.

Impact and Implementation

- Enhanced technical capabilities of the Working Plan staff for data-driven conservation.
- Improved efficiency in forest inventory management and environmental planning.
- Strengthened policy frameworks, allowing seamless integration of digital solutions into forest governance.

This GIS training program marks a major milestone in advancing technology-led forest management, ensuring precision, sustainability, and effective conservation strategies.



6. Lake Clean-Up Drive at Vedappati Pudhukulam, Coimbatore



On June 30, 2024, the Lake Clean-Up Drive organized by Vaanam Foundation in association with S.S. Research Foundation was successfully completed at Vedappati Pudhukulam, Coimbatore. This initiative focused on wetland conservation, aiming to restore the lake and create awareness about environmental sustainability.



**Event Highlights:**

- Volunteers, local residents, and college students actively participated in the cleanup efforts.
- Awareness discussions emphasized the importance of wetlands and their ecological role.
- Collaboration with several respected project partners strengthened community involvement.

Project Partners:

1. கலாம் பசுமை இயக்கம்; 2. Nesam Iyarkaiodu; 3. Kathir Social Ventures; 4. Ainhaviththaan Charitable Trust; 5. Goodera; 6. Aanandam Foundation; 7. Aaral

Impact of the Initiative:

- Improved wetland health through debris removal and environmental restoration.
- Strengthened community engagement in conservation efforts.
- Raised awareness about protecting wetlands to sustain our planet.

This successful event showcased the power of collective action, reaffirming the commitment to preserving wetlands and ensuring ecological balance.



Uniting for a Cleaner Future: Volunteers, Local Residents, and College Students Join Forces for the Lake Clean-Up Drive at Vedappati Pudhukulam, Coimbatore (June 30, 2024)

7. Van App Introducing Program in Ooty

On July 9, 2024, the Van App Introducing Program was successfully conducted in Ooty, focusing on the application's role in digital forest management and conservation efforts. The session introduced GIS-based tools designed to enhance forest monitoring, biodiversity tracking, and sustainable resource management.



Dr. Gunasekaran, Principal Scientist, S.S. Research Foundation, speaks during the Van App Introducing Program in Ooty, explaining its impact on forest conservation and digital management strategies

Event Highlights

- Introduction to Van App – A digital solution for forest governance and data-driven conservation.
- Expert-Led Training – Specialists guided participants in app usage, navigation, and practical applications.
- Interactive Demonstrations – Hands-on sessions illustrating how Van App contributes to sustainable forest management.

Impact of the Program

- Strengthened scientific decision-making for ecological conservation.
- Improved efficiency in biodiversity monitoring and land-use planning.
- Enhanced collaboration between researchers, forest officials, and environmental organizations.

The Van App Introducing Program showcased the future of digital forest management, demonstrating how technology can support conservation efforts effectively.



8. Workshop on Technological Innovations in Forest Management



The Forest-PLUS 3.0 Program successfully conducted a workshop on Technological Innovations in Forest Management in India on July 31, 2024, in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. The event brought together experts, policymakers, and practitioners to explore advanced technologies for data-driven forest management practices.

Event Highlights

- Presentations on the latest technological advancements in forest management.
- Experience sharing by State Forest Departments on using modern tech tools.
- Hands-on demonstrations of innovative forest management tools & systems.
- Interactive sessions for knowledge exchange and networking.

Key Trainer: Dr. M. Gunasekaran



Dr. M. Gunasekaran, Principal Scientist, S.S. Research Foundation, delivering a key training session on technological advancements in forest management during the Forest-PLUS 3.0 workshop in Coimbatore

Dr. M. Gunasekaran, Principal Scientist of S.S. Research Foundation, played a crucial role as one of the key trainers during the workshop. His session focused on:

- Integrating technology into forest governance.

- Practical applications of digital tools for biodiversity monitoring.
- Advanced GIS techniques for sustainable forest management.

Impact of the Program

- Strengthened scientific decision-making for ecological conservation.
- Improved efficiency in biodiversity monitoring and land-use planning.
- Enhanced collaboration between researchers, forest officials, and environmental organizations.

The workshop successfully demonstrated how technological innovations are transforming forest management, ensuring efficiency, sustainability, and better conservation strategies.

9. Guest Lecture at Kalignar Karunanidhi College of Arts and Science, Kulithalai, Tamil Nadu



On July 31, 2024, Kalignar Karunanidhi College of Arts and Science, Kulithalai hosted an enriching event focused on bird conservation and environmental responsibility. The day began with a guest lecture by Dr. M. Gunasekaran, Principal Scientist at S.S. Research Foundation, who delivered an engaging talk on “Why Do We Need to Conserve Birds.” His presentation highlighted the **ecological significance of birds, emphasizing their crucial roles in pollination, seed dispersal, and natural pest control.**



Dr. Gunasekaran discussed the **growing threats to bird populations**, including **habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, and human activities** that disrupt delicate ecosystems. He explained how **birds serve as environmental indicators**, and their declining numbers reflect deeper ecological problems that require immediate attention. Throughout the session, he encouraged students and faculty to **actively participate in conservation efforts**, emphasizing the importance of **scientific research, sustainable practices, and community engagement** in protecting avian species.

Following the lecture, the college organized a **tree-planting drive**, reinforcing the conservation message with real-world action. **Students, faculty members, and volunteers** took part in **planting trees** within the campus, creating natural habitats for birds and contributing to local biodiversity. This initiative was designed to **provide shelter, nesting spaces, and food sources** for various bird species, ensuring their continued survival in an ever-changing environment.

The event successfully combined **education and hands-on action**, inspiring participants to become **advocates for environmental protection and wildlife conservation**. By merging scientific insights with tangible conservation efforts, it fostered a deeper understanding of the **importance of preserving bird populations for the balance of ecosystems**.

This initiative not only **raised awareness** but also **empowered students** to take responsibility for their surroundings, ensuring that future generations continue to protect and appreciate the **vital role birds play in nature**.



Tree-Planting for Bird Conservation: Strengthening Habitats at Kalignar Karunanidhi College of Arts and Science

10. Clean Western Ghats Initiative

On **October 2, 2024**, **Vaanam Foundation** and **S.S. Research Foundation**, in collaboration with **1/4 (TN) BN NCC-PSG Polytechnic College**, organized the **Clean Western Ghats initiative** to commemorate **Gandhi Jayanthi**. The event, held at **Ponnuthu Amman Temple, Paneer Madai, Coimbatore**, aimed to honor **Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a Clean & Green Bharat Nation** through **environmental conservation and community engagement**.



The initiative began with a **cleanliness drive**, where volunteers, including students, faculty members, and NGO representatives, worked collectively to make **Ponnuthu Hills plastic-free**. Their dedication resulted in the collection of **15 bags of plastic waste and garbage**, reinforcing the importance of **sustainable waste management**.



As part of the event, a **tree-planting drive** was conducted near the **temple and foothills**, emphasizing the role of afforestation in **enhancing biodiversity and creating natural bird habitats**. Experts from the **Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Vaanam Foundation, and S.S. Research Foundation** led awareness sessions, educating participants on key topics such as the **importance of forests, aligning harmony with nature, and the significance of the Western Ghats**.

A **NCC-led March Past Awareness Rally** was organized at **Varappalayam Village**, spreading the message of **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** and the need for cleanliness in rural communities. Additionally, students showcased their **artistic expressions** through drawings that promoted the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and environmental consciousness**.



The event concluded with a **tree donation initiative**, where students, inspired by discussions on **air, water, and soil conservation**, enthusiastically collected **50 trees** from **Vaanam Foundation's office** to plant in their respective localities.

This initiative was a **remarkable demonstration of collaborative action**, successfully integrating **environmental education, practical conservation, and community participation**. With continued efforts, the vision of a **clean, green, and sustainable Western Ghats** can be realized for future generations.



Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere gratitude to the following organizations and individuals whose unwavering support made the **Clean Western Ghats Initiative** a success:

Tamil Nadu Forest Department – For their guidance, expertise, and continuous efforts in forest conservation. **PSG Polytechnic College Management, Staff, and NCC Students** – For their enthusiastic participation and commitment to environmental protection. **Project Partners – Tholamai Foundation** – For their valuable collaboration in promoting sustainable practices. **Vaanam Foundation & S.S. Research Foundation** – For leading the initiative and inspiring community-driven environmental action. **Volunteers & Participants** – For their dedication in cleaning, planting trees, and spreading awareness about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Together, we have contributed to a **cleaner and greener Western Ghats**, reinforcing the importance of **nature conservation and sustainable living**.

11. 128th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Dr. Sálim Ali & Sálim Ali Memorial Lecture

128 th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Dr. Sálim Ali & Sálim Ali Memorial Lecture	
Date:15th November 2024; Time :15.00-17.00;	
Venue :Champion Hall, CASFOS Forest Campus, RS Puram , Coimbatore	
15.00 – 17.00	Programme
15.00-15.10	Welcome Address and Opening Remarks by <i>Dr. P. Pramod, Senior Principal Scientist SACON</i>
15.10- 15.25	<i>Presidential Address:</i> <i>Shri. Ramasubramanian IFS, Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore</i>
15.25-15.30	Introduction about the Speaker <i>Dr. Rajah Jayapal, Senior Principal Scientist SACON</i>
15.30-16.15	<i>Memorial Lecture</i> <i>Topic: Beyond Birding: The remarkable power of Citizen Science</i> <i>Dr. Suhel Quader. Scientist, Nature Conservation Foundation</i>
16.15-16.30	Interactions [Question & Answer session]
16.30-16.50	<i>Prize distribution of Sálim Ali Trophy Nature Competitions 2024-25</i>
16.50-17.00	Vote of thanks <i>Dr. Aditi Mukherjee, Scientist & Extension Officer, SACON</i>

The 128th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Dr. Sálim Ali, hosted at Champion Hall, CASFOS Forest Campus, commemorated the legacy of India's pioneering ornithologist, whose contributions have profoundly shaped bird studies and conservation efforts.

The program featured an engaging lineup of scientists, conservationists, and environmental advocates, beginning with a Welcome Address by Dr. P. Pramod, Senior Principal Scientist, SACON, and a Presidential Address by Shri. Ramasubramanian IFS, Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore. This set the stage for a compelling memorial lecture, introduced by Dr. Rajah Jayapal, and delivered by Dr. Suhel Quader, Scientist, Nature Conservation Foundation, on "Beyond Birding: The Remarkable Power of Citizen Science." His talk illuminated the significance of community-driven research, highlighting its potential in wildlife conservation and ecological protection.

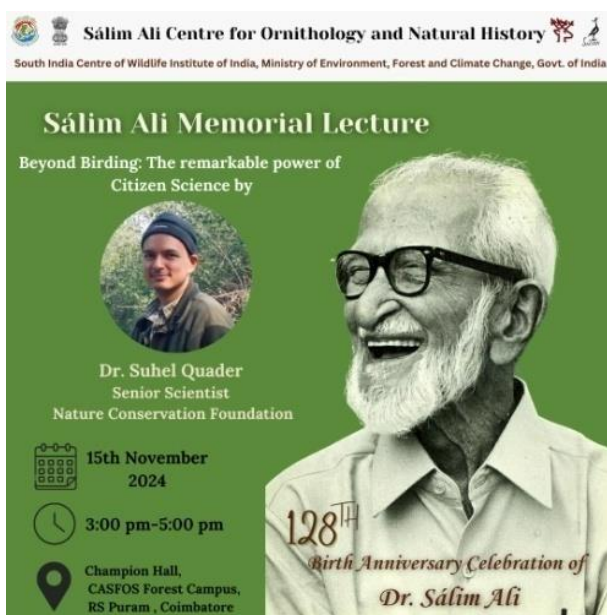
The session included an interactive Q&A, fostering dialogue between speakers and attendees, followed by the prize distribution ceremony for the Sálim Ali Trophy Nature Competitions 2024-25, recognizing outstanding contributions to environmental awareness.

Dr. M. Gunasekaran's Participation

Dr. M. Gunasekaran actively participated in the event, engaging in discussions that reinforced the scientific collaboration necessary for wildlife conservation. His presence highlighted the importance of integrating field research with conservation strategies, further strengthening the legacy of ornithological excellence pioneered by Dr. Sálim Ali.

Event Significance

This celebration was a powerful tribute to Dr. Sálim Ali, inspiring continued commitment to ornithology and ecological conservation. The insights shared emphasized the interconnectedness between scientific research and citizen participation, reinforcing the vital role of collective action in protecting biodiversity.



12. Society for Care and Share Meeting

On December 7, 2024, in Coimbatore, the Society for Care and Share hosted an insightful meeting featuring a lecture on Fossils by Dr. S. Sabapathy, retired Mines Manager. The session delved into the formation, classification, and scientific significance of fossils in understanding Earth's prehistoric past.

Dr. Sabapathy discussed the processes involved in fossil excavation and analysis, emphasizing their role in paleontology, geology, and environmental studies. The event provided an excellent platform for knowledge exchange, allowing attendees to deepen their understanding of fossil preservation and scientific research.

Dr. M. Gunasekaran, who was invited to participate, contributed valuable insights, reinforcing the importance of scientific collaboration in geological studies. This meeting fostered intellectual curiosity, strengthening awareness of the historical and scientific importance of fossils, making it a valuable session for all participants in Coimbatore.



13. Resource Assessment Studies in Coimbatore Forest Division – 2024-25

The **Resource Assessment Studies** for the **Coimbatore Forest Division** under the **TBGPCCR Scheme** were officially assigned, with a total financial support of **₹5,14,600**, of which **₹2,60,000** was released in **December 2024** as the first installment. The project involves key assessments, including **biodiversity evaluation, studies on Rare, Endangered & Threatened (RET) species, regeneration status assessment, and water yield studies**, all contributing to informed forest management decisions.

Between **December 2024 and March 2025**, extensive fieldwork was conducted across various locations in the **Coimbatore Forest Division**, covering regions such as

Saadivayal



Velliangiri



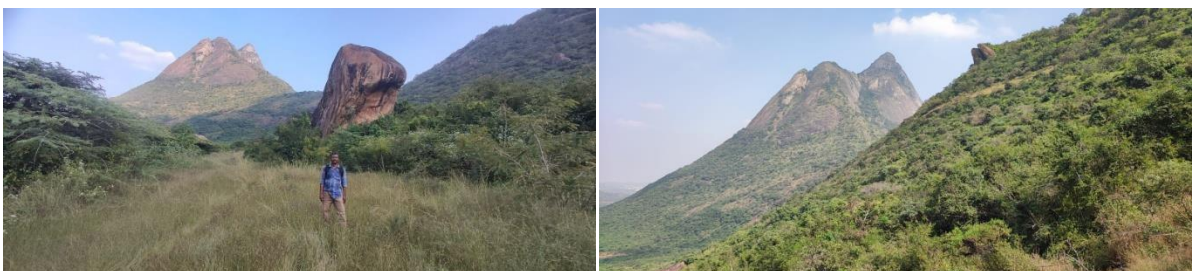
Vaidehi Falls



Navakarai, Ponnuthu, and Chinnampathy in the Madukkarai range



Near Ayyasamy Malai





Kalkuthi Parai (Bolampatty)



Thenkarai



Anaikatty near SACON



These areas, rich in biodiversity, provided critical insights into ecological health and conservation needs.

As part of the research, **Mr. Nithishkumar**, an **M.Sc. Botany (II Year)** student from **PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore**, joined the project as an **intern from January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025**, contributing to **plant biodiversity studies**. His involvement helped document flora diversity and ecosystem interactions across various forest zones.

Additionally, a specialized team led by **Dr. C. Selvakumar**, **Assistant Professor at The Madura College, Madurai**, along with his research scholar, provided expert support in the **biodiversity assessment of aquatic macroinvertebrates**, strengthening the study's scope in freshwater ecosystem conservation.



These **resource assessment studies** play a **crucial role in forest conservation and sustainable management**, ensuring informed decision-making for the **Coimbatore Forest Division**. By evaluating biodiversity, ecological dynamics, and water resources, the findings will contribute to **long-term conservation efforts** and enhance the **scientific understanding of the forest ecosystem**.

Programme 2: Health Sciences

14. Health Assessment Report: Blood Pressure Screening in Kallidaikurichi

In the second and third weeks of December 2024, a community-based blood pressure screening was carried out among elderly residents of rural Kallidaikurichi using validated digital sphygmomanometers and WHO protocols to evaluate hypertension prevalence, raise awareness, and shape long-term follow-up. The survey found that 72.5% of participants had elevated blood pressure, yet only 57.3% were aware of their condition, 50.5% were on antihypertensive treatment, and just 27.5% had their blood pressure under adequate control—underscoring critical management gaps.



Home Visit Survey: BP Screening

Key drivers included alcohol use, sedentary lifestyles, solitary living arrangements, family history of hypertension, high salt intake, and limited access to affordable medication. To bridge these gaps, the programme will distribute culturally tailored Tamil-language leaflets on blood pressure risks and prevention, establish referral pathways to nearby health centres, and reconvene for a follow-up screening in three months to monitor progress and recalibrate interventions. These urgent steps aim to reduce cardiovascular risk and improve long-term health outcomes for the community.

15. LIST OF PROJECTS/GRANTS RECEIVED

Regional (Ongoing)

Title	Financial Support	Principal Investigator
Biodiversity Assessment of Coimbatore & Nilgiris Forest Division 2024-25	National Working Plan Code - 2014, Coimbatore Division, Tamil Nadu Forest Department	Dr.M.Gunasekaran
Assessment of Regeneration in Coimbatore & Nilgiris Forest Division 2024-25		
Water yield Study in Coimbatore & Nilgiris Forest Division 2024-25		
Assessment Studies in RET Species –Coimbatore & Nilgiris Forest Division 2024-25		

International Collaboration:

Title of the Project	Name of the Researchers	Role & Program(s)	Financial Support
Brazilian Biodiversity Observatory	Dr. Sundar Dr.Gunasekaran	Team members & National Institutes of Science and Technology – INCT Program	National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) https://biologiadaconservacao.com.br/p/pbio-observatorio-biodiversidade

LIST OF PROJECT (Under Evaluation in Central Govt. Scheme)

S. No	Title of the Project	Name of the Researcher(s)	Role (s)	Funding Body/Agency
1.	Strengthening STI policies to foster collaboration for Biodiversity Conservation and climate change mitigation (File No. TPN/123427)	Dr. S.Sundar Dr.M.Gunasekaran	Principal Investigator Co- Principal Investigator	Department of science & Technology (DST), Government of India

16. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

2025

Book Chapter:

1. Prashanth Rajan, A., Vijaya Anand, A., **Sundar, S., Gunasekaran, M.,** & Anand Prem Rajan. (2025). Repercussion effects of climate change, global warming, and urbanization on the biological diversity in the riparian zones of River Noyyal. In *Climate Resilience* (pp. 263–271). Society for Environment and Development (India).
2. Selvakumar C, Ashokkumar C, **Sundar S,** De Oliveira Roque F, **Gunasekaran M.** Diversity and distribution of mayflies (Insecta: Ephemeroptera) in the “sky islands” of Palni Hills, Western Ghats, India. *J. Insect Biodivers. Syst.* 2025; 11 (2): 303-321. <http://dx.doi.org/10.61186/jibs.11.2.303>

2024

3. **Gunasekaran M.,** Balasubramanian P., Vimalarani M., de Souza K.A.A., Roque F.O., Laps R.R. & **Sundar S.** 2024. Conservation perspective of ethno-medicinally important *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corrêa through Sthalavriksha (temple tree) worship in Tamil Nadu, India. *Geophytology* 54(2): 265-268.
4. **Gunasekaran M.,** Ramasubramanian S., & Ramakrishnan B. 2024. Demography, distribution, and threat assessment of *Cycas circinalis* L. in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu, India. *Geophytology* 54(2):213-220.
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S.S RESEARCH FOUNDATION
PAN - AATTS9644M
NO.130/123, VEERAPPAPURAM STREET, THERKU KALLIDAIKURICHI,
TIRUNELVELI (DIST), TAMIL NADU - 627416

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS CASH ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31-03-2025

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
To Opening Balance	4,694	To Personnel Costs	3,10,662
To Cash Withdrawal from Bank	4,77,000	To Consumables (Project Materials)	44,173
		To Project Reports - Preparing Cost	23,411
		To Publication Charges	2,574
		To Training Programme Participation Fee	6,735
		To Office Rent	60,000
		To Telephone & Interent Charges	6,976
		To Electricity Charges	2,579
		To Water Tax	1,320
		To Renewal Charges - Website	9,000
		To Meeting & Other related Expenses	4,305
		To Miscellaneous Expenses	7,283
		Closing Balance	
		Cash In Hand	2,676
	4,81,694		4,81,694

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31-03-2025

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
To Opening Balance	5,809	By Bank Charges	1,056
To Received from Project Funds	15,69,520	By Consumables	1,105
To Donation Received from Public	138	By Professional Charges	5,000
		By Research Expenses	7,16,958
		By Cash Withdrawal	4,77,000
		Closing Balance	
		Bank	3,74,348
	15,75,467		15,75,467

For Pravin & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Pravin
15/03/25
Sankar.P
Partner

CA P.SANKAR, B.Com,FCA

M.No :230760

No.6/2, ST-2, Nellaiyappur Illam,
AVR Nagar, Anamalai - 642014.

FRN:0139615

S.S RESEARCH FOUNDATION
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TIRUNELVELI (DIST), TAMIL NADU - 627416

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31-03-2025

<u>EXPENSES</u>		<u>INCOME</u>	
To Personnel Costs	10,06,734	By Projects Funds	15,69,520
To Consumbles (Project Materials)	44,173	By Donation Received from Public	138
To Project Reports - Preparing Cost	23,411		
To Publication Charges	2,574		
To Training Programme Participation Fee	6,735		
To Bank Charges	1,056		
To Office Rent	60,000		
To Telephone & Interent Charges	20,928		
To Electricity Charges	2,579		
To Water Tax	1,320		
To Renewal Charges - Website	9,000		
To Professional Charges	5,000		
To Meeting & Other related Expenses	4,305		
To Miscellaneous Expenses	15,322		
To Surplus	3,66,521		
	15,69,658		15,69,658

For Pravin & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Pravin
15/04/25
Sankar.P
Partner
CA P.SANKAR, B.Com,FCA
M.No :230760
No.6/2, ST-2, Nellaiyappur Illam,
AVR Nagar, Anamalai - 642014.
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TIRUNELVELI (DIST), TAMIL NADU - 627416

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31-03-2025

LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
CAPITAL		33,48,860	FIXED ASSETS		1,28,119
S.S Research Foundation Capital Fund	33,48,860		Computer & Accessories	39,700	
			Digital Thermometer	731	
			Filed Kit	3,000	
			Furnitures	49,702	
			Laptop	31,600	
			Lap Instruments	3,386	
			CURRENT ASSETS		4,16,924
			Deposits (Asset)	32,500	
			Cash in Hand	2,676	
			Cash at Canara Bank	3,74,348	
			TDS Receivable	7,400	
			EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE		
			OVER INCOME		
			Opening Balance	31,70,338	
			Less: Surplus	3,66,521	
			Closing Balance	28,03,817	28,03,817
		33,48,860			33,48,860

For Pravin & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Pravin
01/07/25

Sankar.P
Partner

CA P.SANKAR, B.Com,FCA

M.No :230760 .

No.6/2, ST-2, Nellaiyappur Illam,
AVR Nagar, Anamalai - 642014.

FRN:0139615

RESEARCH PROJECTS
National Working Plan Code 2014 - Tamil Nadu Forest Divisions for the Period of 2024-25

Sl.No.	Study Name	Tamil Nadu Forest Division	Amount (Rs.)
1	Biodiversity Assessment	Gudalur	7,34,000
2	Assessment Studies in RET Species	Dindigul	2,09,000
3	Assessment of regeneration	Coimbatore	2,60,000
4	Water Yield Study	Nilgiris	3,66,520
Grand Total Rs.			15,69,520



S.S.RESEARCH FOUNDATION		
EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024-2025		
Description	Research Grants	
	Expenditure	
	Amount (Rs)	
RESEARCH EXPENDITURE		
Personnel Costs	1006734	1083627
Consumables	44173	
Preparing for Project Reports	23411	
Publication charges	2574	
Training Programmes	6735	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE		
Bank Charges	1056	119510
Rent	60000	
Telephone	20928	
Electricity	2579	
Website renewal *	9000	
Payment Gateway integration	5000	
Meetings & Other related expenses	4305	
Miscellaneous	15322	
Water charges	1320	
Total	1203137	

