

DR DEVICA RANADE

PROGRAM MANAGER, NATURE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
FOUNDER, ECOLOGY EXPLAINED

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Place: Bengaluru, India

A trained behavioural ecologist, passionate about connecting the larger audience with nature

WORK HISTORY

Program Manager

Nature Conservation Foundation | 2024 - Present

- Part of **Education Engagement Program**, leads the '**Nature on Campus**' initiative, engaging **college students**, college **nature club** representatives, and **corporate** participants in hands-on nature activities.
- Oversee birdalliance.in and manage the monthly bird-focused newsletter, [The Flock](#).
- Continue project management activities initiated in previous role.

Project Manager

Nature Conservation Foundation | 2021 - 2024

- Part of a team '**Collaboration and Capacity Building**'. Collaborate with **young ecologists** and **bird researchers** across India to build research capacity and collaborative networks.
- Manage ornithology.in, serving as a central platform for ornithological knowledge and learning in India.
- Coordinate the online [Basic Course in Ornithology](#) hosted on the government-run platform [NPTEL](#), enabling accessible ecology education nationwide.

Founder

Ecology Explained, 2020 - Present

- Established a social media platform to **translate ecology research into engaging content** for the public.
- Produced 150+ short videos on [Instagram](#) (13k+ followers), concise animated videos on [YouTube](#), and blog articles on ecologyexplained.com, creating a multi-platform ecosystem for ecology education and outreach.

EDUCATION SUMMARY

PhD, Behavioural Ecology

Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India | 2014-2019

Advisor: Dr Kavita Isvaran

Thesis Title: Intrasexual Competition in Females of a Socially Polygynous Mating System

MSc, Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology

University of Exeter, UK | 2010-2011

Advisor: Dr Nina Wedell

Thesis Title: Group Structure in a Wild Giraffe Population at Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, South Africa

BSc, Zoology

University of Pune, Pune, India | 2006 - 2009

Extra curricular projects on Indian Gazelles, spider diversity and participated in bird census programs, gaining early experience in field-based ecological research.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD Research

Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India | 2014-2020

Thesis Title: Intrasexual Competition in Females of a Socially Polygynous Mating System

- Study Species: Peninsular Rock Agama.
- Study area: Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh, India
- Work involved: Literature surveys, designing study, collecting data & conducting experiments on the field, statistical data analysis using R, scientific writing, project and people management

Project Assistant

Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India | 2013

Work involved land-use classification of Nannaj Wildlife Sanctuary (Solapur, India) by remote sensing techniques using software GRASS, QGIS and ERDAS IMAGINE.

Field Assistant

Kalahari Meerkat Project, University of Cambridge | 2011 - 2012

Tasks included habituating, handling & tracking animals, collecting, transcribing & analyzing long term data, training volunteers & accompanying guests & BBC film crew on the field.

Analysis Project: Are Group-Splits in a Wild Meerkat Population Random?

Work involved analysing long term data and writing a project report

MSc Dissertation

University of Exeter, UK | 2010-2011

Thesis Title: Group Structure in a Wild Giraffe Population at Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, South Africa

Work Involved: Identifying wild giraffe individuals, collecting focal samples of wild giraffe behaviour in the field, vegetation surveys, data analysis using SOCPROG, scientific writing and project management

Summer Research Fellowship

Karnatak University, Dharwad | 2009

Advisor: Dr Bhagyashri Shanbagh

Project Title: Feeding Behaviour of Tadpoles of *Sphaerotherca breviceps* in the Presence of Predators

Work involved collecting eggs & tadpoles & rearing them in the laboratory, tadpole staging, laboratory experiments, data analysis & project management

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Ministry of Human Resource Development Scholarship

Govt of India | 2014 - 2020

Scholarship for conducting PhD research

International Masters Scholarship

University of Exeter | 2010 - 2011

Full Masters degree tuition fees

Summer Research Fellowship

Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru | 2009

A 2-month highly competitive fellowship which offers undergraduate students a chance to work with scientists on research-oriented projects

SELECTED INVITED POPULAR TALKS

Shrishti School of Design, Bangalore | 2025

"From Awareness to Action: Fostering Meaningful Engagement with Nature"

An in-person 3-hour interaction with bachelors students from the Arts and Design background

Modern College, Pune | 2024

"Behavioural Ecology and Other Field Stories"

An in-person 2.5 hour interaction with bachelors and masters students pursuing Zoology, Microbiology & Biotechnology

Young Birders Network | 2024

"Animals of the Kalahari"

Online interaction with children about meerkats and other animals of the Kalahari

Kirloskar Vasundhara EcoRangers | 2022

"Behavioural Ecology and Other Field Stories"

Online interaction in Marathi with college students and nature enthusiasts from across Maharashtra

Modern College, Pune | 2022

"Behavioural Ecology and Other Field Stories"

An online interaction with bachelors and masters students pursuing Zoology, Microbiology & Biotechnology

Rotary Club of Pune Metro | 2018

"Behavioural Ecology: Of Giraffes, Meerkats and Lizards"

An in-person interaction with Rotary Club members about animal behaviour and my experience of studying animals in the wild

National Institute of Virology, Pune | 2014

"My experiences with Behavioural Ecology"

In-person interaction with masters and PhD students pursuing Virology, Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology

Modak Classes, Pune | 2013

"Career options in Ecology"

Interaction with Grade 12 students on taking up ecology as a career

Nature Walk Katta | 2012

"My experiences with Behavioural Ecology"

An in-person interaction in Marathi with nature enthusiasts in Pune on my experiences in South Africa

Garware College, Pune | 2012

"My time with Meerkats"

An in-person interaction with bachelors and masters students pursuing Zoology

PODCAST GUEST

['Meerkats, Grasslands and Coexistence'](#) Marathi podcast with **Jungle Echoes** | 2025

['समजून घेऊ निसर्गाचे जग'](#) Marathi podcast with **People of Nature** | 2024

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

Student Conference in Conservation Science (SCCS) Bengaluru

Animal Behaviour and its Applications in Conservation | Every year, 2021 - Present

Workshop for ecology students on animal behaviour and its applications in conservation

Mt Carmel College, Bengaluru | 2025

Documenting Neighbourhood Biodiversity

An in-person workshop introducing college students to citizen science using mobile applications like iNaturalist, eBird and SeasonWatch

India Science Fest | 2025

Documenting Neighbourhood Biodiversity

Conducted 2 in-person workshops for students in higher education attending a science festival on citizen science and using applications like iNaturalist, eBird and SeasonWatch

BioBlitz at Wipro Campuses | June 2025

Led organisation of a BioBlitz for Wipro employees at 5 campuses in 3 cities: Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore. Participants were introduced and encouraged to use iNaturalist during the BioBlitz

BioBlitz at Cisco Campuses | October 2025

Led organisation of a BioBlitz for Cisco employees at 2 campuses in Bangalore and Chennai. Participants were introduced and encouraged to use iNaturalist during the bioBlitz

Family BioBlitz at Wipro Campus | November 2025

Led organisation of a BioBlitz for adults and a nature activity event for children of employees at 2 Wipro campuses in Bangalore.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Student Conference in Conservation Science (SCCS) Bengaluru | 2025

Title: Careers in Conservation | 2025

Panellist to talk about opportunities in the field of ecology and conservation. Audience was students pursuing conservation and ecology

Ecology, Evolution & Everything, CES @ 42 | 2025

Title: The Future of Ecology

CES@42 was an event to celebrate 42 years of research and teaching at CES, IISc. A panellist to talk about what the future of ecology in India looks like, and available opportunities in science communication

Science Journalist Association of India Conference | 2024

Title : Reel-in: Reaching new audiences with social media

Conference Theme 'The Underreported: Bridging Gaps in Science Journalism'
Panel theme: 'Potential of social media in reaching diverse audiences in India'

Nature Communicators Community | 2024

Title: Social media influencers in conversation

Hosted an online panel discussion where panellists discussed opportunities and challenges of communicating the secrets of nature using social media

Rotary Club of Pune Shivajinagar | 2009

Title: Choosing out-of-the-box careers

A panellist to discuss the diverse career paths students can take up post their high school

CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIONS

BioConserve Summit 2025: A conference for biodiversity through campuses | 2025 **IIHS (Indian Institute of Human Settlements Initiative, in partnership with Infosys)**

Represented NCF at the summit, to network with representatives of biodiversity of campuses across the country

Indian Wildlife Ecologists Conference (IWEC) | 2024 **Stall for Ecology Explained**

Put up a stall for Ecology Explained, to reach to the wildlife ecologists community and encourage them to popularise their research

Symposium: Animal Signals: Function and Evolution | 2019 **Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore**

Talk title: Signalling in intrasexual competition in females of a polygamous lizard.

Behaviour 2017, Portugal | 2017 **Association for Animal Behaviour (ASAB)**

Presented a poster of a paper titled 'Intrasexual competition in females of a tropical agamid, *Psammophilus dorsalis*'.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Ranade, D., et al. (2025). [What's Next for Indian Ornithology? 101 Key Research Questions.](#) bioRxiv, 2025-07.

Ranade, D., et al. (2022). [Competing Females Strategically Combine Signals and Physical Aggression Differently from Males in a Polygynous Tropical Lizard.](#) bioRxiv, 2022-09.

Ranade, D., & Isvaran, K. (2022). [Inferring Social Interactions over a Lifespan from Space-Use Patterns in a Tropical Agamid.](#) Journal of Herpetology, 56(2), 164-171.

Ranade, D. (2020). [Intrasexual Competition in Females of a Socially Polygynous Lizard, *Psammophilus dorsalis*](#) (Doctoral dissertation).

REFERENCES

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