

Project Update: February 2022

Updates on Project implementation

So far, we have documented 13 important cave roosting sites in the region with bat populations, and five large open tree roosts of fruit bats. The total number of bat species documented so far is more than 13.

Total number of calls recorded from multiple individuals and on transacts = >2000.

A 1-day capacity building programme was successfully conducted on 8th January 2022 at Amboli Village for more than 40 participants from five districts (Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Kolhapur, Belagavi, North Goa,) of three states (Maharashtra, Karnataka & Goa.

Programme Time & Venue – Saturday 8th January 2022. Time – 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM Green Valley Resort, AMBOLI, Dist. Sindhudurg, Maharashtra. A detailed report on capacity building programme is attached separately in the same email.

On 13th November 2021, I conducted an online session on bat ecology and conservation for graduate and post-graduate students of Manipal institute of Higher Education, a leading university at national level. An appreciation letter sent by the host institute is attached separately.

On 13th January 2022, I also conducted a basic training session on bat ecology and diversity in a nature guide training programme organised by Karnataka State Forest Department and Ecotourism Board. This programme was for forest guards and watchman from three districts in the Karnataka state. More than 50 participants attended the session and visited a bat cave roosting site (photos attached).

Ongoing work in background – I am analysing the echolocation calls recorded in the field and also working on designing a small foldable brochure on regional bat diversity and importance of bats. I am planning to organize a bat ecology and conservation programme for Maharashtra.

Request and justification for time extension -

In my earlier email in December 2021, I had already requested a 6-8 month extension for the project. We could not conduct any activities from April 2021 – November 2021 due to second wave lockdown for increasing COVID-19 cases. After opening of interstate boundaries, we reinitiated the field work from December 2021. I assure you that my team is well capable of completing this project successfully and achieving all the objectives of the project. I have attached a few photographs of our field activities and habitats our team visited during assessment work. I am grateful for all the support and cooperation extended by respected Bhau Katdare sir and Sahyadri Nisarg Mitra organisation for this project.



Conducting Session on Bat Ecology for Karnataka state Forest guards, Nature guides.



Forest guards and participants visiting a Bat cave roost.



Forest nature guides after the bat roosting site visit.



Tillari dam backwaters & landscape, Deforested Mountain slopes – habitat destruction



Team members documenting bat roosting sites in caves in the region



Team members documenting bat roosting site in Lateritic rock cave



Rahul Prabhukhanolka at the entrance of a cave roost in limestone.



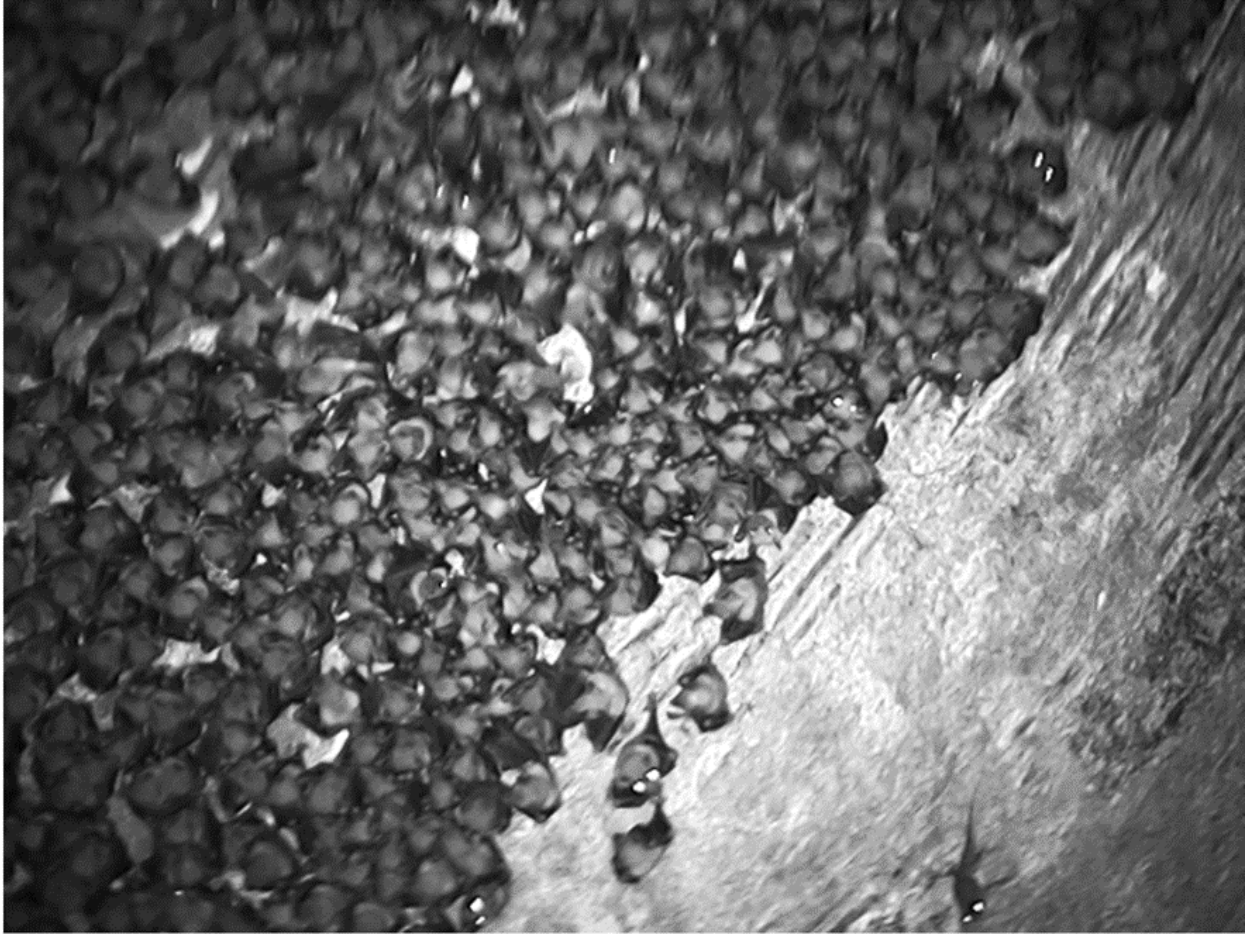
Colony of Rufous Horseshoe nosed bat in the region



Open roost colony of Indian Flying fox in the region.



Colony of a Leaf nosed bats in a neglected tomb in the region.



Night vision camera image to understand bat population in the roost.



MANIPAL
ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION

(Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

11th January 2022

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Mr. Rahul,

We would like to thank you for delivering a talk on "The amazing world of bats," organized by the Nature Club of the Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences, held on 13/11/2021.

The talk was informative, and all the participants appreciated your views on the subject.

We look forward to your participation and collaboration with the Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences in the future as well.

Kindly accept our token of appreciation attached with this letter.

With my best regards,

Director
Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences
Manipal Academy of Higher Education
Manipal - 576 104

Capacity Building programme on “Assessment & Conservation of Bats in Tillari Bioregion”, A threatened wildlife corridor in Northern Western Ghats, India.

वटवाघूळ संशोधन आणि संवर्धन प्रकल्प, उत्तर पश्चिम घाट

Programme Time & Venue – Saturday 8th January, 2022. Time – 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM
Green Valley Resort, AMBOLI
Near Amboli Police Station, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.

For capacity building on Bat ecology and conservation at regional level, a one day workshop was organized at Amboli village.

A total of Forty participants from 5 districts (Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Kolhapur, Belagavi, North Goa,) of Three states (Maharashtra, Karnataka & Goa), participated in the workshop.

A request letter was sent to Eleven regional institutions (including educational institutions local organizations), to send their representatives- teachers and students, to participate in the workshop. All of them were happy and agreed to send their students, but finally students from three institutions could not attend as few of them got infected with COVID-19, and 10 participants could not travel due to interstate level temporary lockdown imposed during workshop time. It was a diverse group of individuals, list of participants is attached in end.

Students and members from following organizations participated in the workshop.

- Sant Rawool Maharaj College, Kudal,
- Aamdar Deepakbhai Kesarkar Science College, Dodamarg,
- Shri Pancham Khemraj College, Sawantwadi,
- Govindram Seksaria Science College, Belgaum
- Malabar Nature Conservation Club, Amboli
- Corbett foundation, Banda
- Sahyadri Nisarg Mitra, Chiplun
- Vanashri, Dodamarg.

Following are names of few key individuals who attended all the sessions.

No	Name	Designation
1	Akshay Dalvi	Member, Corbet Foundation
2	Kaushalika Hoshing	Animal psychologist, Goa
3	Vikram Hoshing	Animal rescuer & trainer, Goa
4	Hemant Ogale	Butterfly Expert, Member, Village Biodiversity management committee
5	Mahadev Bhise	Honorary Wildlife Warden, Sindhudurg District, President – Malabar Natura Conservation Club
6	Raman kulkarni	Honorary Wildlife Warden, District Kolhapur
7	Dr. Rutuja Kolte	Recipient of Rufford small grant in the region
8	Anushka Rege	PhD Student (Ecology) at Nanyang Technological university, Singapore
9	Amit Sutar	Field Biologist, Wildlife Conservation Trust
10	Soham Ghorpade	Field Biologist, Sahyadri Nisarg Mitra
11	Sagar Redij	Field Biologist, Sahyadri Nisarg Mitra
12	Sanjay Sawant	President, Vanashri Organization, Dodamarg
13	Dr. Ganesh Margaj	Professor of Zoology, SPK College Sawantwadi

The programme included introductory sessions on following topics

Bat Ecology & conservation

Bat Taxonomy

Bat capture & handling

Bioacoustics – Science, recording & Analysis

Networking for bat diversity documentation.

All the sessions were conducted in an interactive format. Prof. Praveen Patil from Physics department, G.S.Sc college, Belgaum conducted a session on Ultrasonic sounds.

A written feedback was taken from all the participants, which has revealed that it was very informative and thorough learning experience for all. (few copies of scanned feedback forms are attached in the end)

All the materials designed (Banner, Certificates, Writing pads etc.) had logos of Rufford Foundation long with other collaborating organizations. (Photographs attached in the end).

Photographs of the various sessions.



Rahul Prabhukhanolkar explaining the ongoing work supported by Rufford Foundation





Prof. Pravin Patil, G.S.Sc College, Belgaum, Conducting session on Ultrasonic sounds



Rahul Prabhukhanolkar explaining Bat Detectors and sound recording.



Rahul Prabhukhanolkar demonstrating setting up Mistnets in the field

Group Photo of all the participants



Youtube news - <https://youtu.be/7TOWzBdd-HI>

Breaking Malavani news - <https://breakingmalvani.in/89143/>

Sindhudurg 24hrs - <https://sindhudurg24taas.com/?p=114070>

Sindhudurg live - <https://sindhudurglive.com/?p=98485>

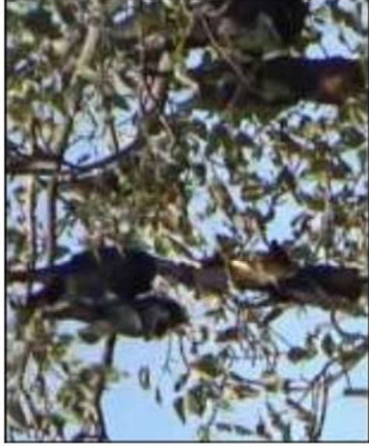
News Article in the print Media

वटवाघूमुळे जंगल संवर्धन !

सावंतवाडी: वटवाघूमुळे शेतकऱ्यांचा मित्र आहे. वटवाघूमुळे जंगल संवर्धनही होते. त्यामुळे वटवाघुळे महत्त्वाची आहेत. त्याबाबत संशोधन सुरू असून आंबोली येथे नुकतीच कार्यशाळा झाली. त्यावेळी वटवाघूमुळेचे महत्त्व समोर आले.

वटवाघूमुळे म्हटलं की सर्वसामान्यांमध्ये एक प्रकारची भीती असते किंवा मग वटवाघुळ हा पक्षी समजला जातो परंतु प्रत्यक्षात वटवाघूमुळे हा पिल्लांना जन्म देणारा एक प्राणी आहे ज्याला उडता कोल्हा असे म्हटले जाते याच वटवाघुळा विषयी जनजागृती व त्याच्या संवर्धनासाठी काम करत असलेल्या बेळगाव येथील वटवाघुळवरती संशोधन करत असलेले राहुल प्रभू खानोलकर यांनी नुकतेच आंबोली येथे वटवाघुळांचे संवर्धन आणि संशोधन याबाबतची कार्यशाळा स्थानिक व निसर्गत संवर्धनासाठी काम करत असलेल्या लोकांसाठी आयोजित केली होती.

या कार्यशाळेत राहुल खानोलकर यांनी



वटवाघुळांचे निसर्गचक्रातील महत्त्व व वटवाघुळं विषयीची शास्त्रोक्त माहिती ध्वनीचित्रफितीच्या माध्यमातून व फोटोच्या माध्यमातून उपस्थितांसमोर मांडली राहुल खानोलकर हे गेली अनेक वर्षे महाराष्ट्र तसेच देशभरातील विविध भागांमध्ये वटवाघुळं वरती अभ्यास करत असून त्या बाबतची इत्यंभूत माहिती त्यांनी गोळा केली असून वटवाघुळं विषयीचे समज-गैरसमज व फायदे तोटे या बाबत सुद्धा त्यांनी यावेळी माहिती

मांडली शेतकऱ्यांच्या भात शेती वरील ऊस शेती वरील किंवा फळबागायती वरील कीटकांचा शत्रू हा प्रमुख्याने वटवाघुळ असतो वटवाघुळ हे शेतकऱ्यांचे एक प्रकारे मित्र असल्याचे त्यांनी सांगितले

तसेच तिलारी ते आंबोली घाट व संपूर्ण सिंधुदुर्गमध्ये वटवाघुळांचा अधिवास, वटवाघुळांच्या प्रजाती याबाबत सुद्धा त्यांनी माहिती दिली विशेष करून केळीच्या बागांमध्ये परागीभवनासाठी महत्त्वाची भूमिका वटवाघुळे निभावतात तसेच मोठ्या प्रमाणावर जंगलातील फळे खाऊन जी बी टाकली जाते त्यातूनही मोठ्या प्रमाणात जंगले निर्माण होण्यास मदत होते असे त्यांनी यावेळी सांगितले. यावेळी कोल्हापूर येथील मानद वन्यजीव रक्षक रमण कुलकर्णी, फुलपाखरू अभ्यासक हेमंत आंगले, वनस्पती अभ्यासक ऋतुजा कोलते, विक्रम होशिंग, सिंधुदुर्ग मानद वन्यजीव रक्षक काका भिसे, डॉ.प्रा. गणेश मर्गज तसेच विद्यार्थी उपस्थित होते.

आंबोली येथे आयोजन : शास्त्रोक्त माहिती ध्वनिचित्रफितीच्या माध्यमातून उपस्थितांसमोर

वटवाघूळ संशोधन, संवर्धन कार्यशाळेस प्रतिसाद

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क
आंबोली : वटवाघूळ म्हटलं की, सर्वसामान्यांमध्ये एक प्रकारची भीती असते. वटवाघूळ हा पक्षी समजला जातो; परंतु प्रत्यक्षात वटवाघूळ हा पिल्लांना जन्म देणारा एक प्राणी आहे. ज्याला उडता कोल्हा असे म्हटले जाते. याच वटवाघळाविषयी जनजागृती व त्याच्या संवर्धनासाठी काम करत असलेल्या बेळगाव येथील वटवाघळांवर संशोधन करत असलेले राहुल प्रभू खानोलकर यांनी नुकतीच आंबोली येथे वटवाघळांचे संवर्धन आणि संशोधन याबाबतची कार्यशाळा स्थानिक व निसर्गात संवर्धनासाठी



आंबोली येथील कार्यशाळेत निसर्गप्रेमी उपस्थित होते.

काम करत असलेल्या लोकांसाठी वटवाघळांचे निसर्गचक्रातील महत्त्व व आयोजित केली होती.

या कार्यशाळेत राहुल यांनी ध्वनिचित्रफितीच्या माध्यमातून व

फोटोच्या माध्यमातून उपस्थितांसमोर मांडली. राहुल खानोलकर हे गेली अनेक वर्षे महाराष्ट्र तसेच देशभरातील विविध भागांमध्ये वटवाघळांवरती अभ्यास करत असून त्या बाबतची इत्थंभूत माहिती त्यांनी गोळा केली असून वटवाघळांविषयीचे समज-गैरसमज व फायदे-तोटे याबाबतसुद्धा त्यांनी यावेळी माहिती मांडली. यावेळी कोल्हापूर येथील मानद वन्यजीव रक्षक रमण कुलकर्णी, फुलपाखरू अभ्यासक हेमंत ओगले, वनस्पती अभ्यासक ऋतुजा कोलते, विक्रम होशिंग, सिंधुदुर्ग मानद वन्यजीव रक्षक काका भिसे, डॉ. गणेश मर्गज आदी उपस्थित होते.

Participants Feedback



Assessment & Conservation of Bats in Tillari Bioregion,
A threatened wildlife corridor in Northern Western Ghats, India.
वटवाघूल संशोधन आणि संवर्धन प्रकल्प, उत्तर पश्चिम घाट
Feedback on the Capacity Building programme



Name - *Kaushalika*

Designation - *Assistant for
Zoo manager Bandla Zoo, Goa*

Email - *Kaushalika@gmail.com*

1. How was the overall learning experience in the workshop.

It was eye-opening, engaging and very easy to understand for everyone.

2. How this workshop increased your understanding & skills related to Bat ecology.

The physiological features made me understand ~~the~~ its speciality as an animal and as a provider of ecological services. The Bio-acoustics part was also an eye-opener.

3. After the workshop are you confident enough to undertake a small bat documentation project in your region.

Yes, very much so. ^{honesty about unknown information only encouraged me} more for more work

4. Any suggestions

I would like to suggest a few excursions with a small group of experts - for identification, capture and marks and for ultrasound recording. It will help to understand the theory.



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Feedback on the Capacity Building programme



Name - *Anushka Rege*

Designation -

Email -

1. How was the overall learning experience in the workshop. *Well done for a basic 1 day workshop. I enjoyed!*

2. How this workshop increased your understanding & skills related to Bat ecology.

I learned many new things such as do's & don'ts of basic documentaⁿ.

3. After the workshop are you confident enough to undertake a small bat documentation project in your region.

Yes!

4. Any suggestions

I would say to keep this up & maybe add follow up sessions later on.

Name - Alister Fernandes

Designation - Student

Email - alisterfernandes08@gmail.com

1. How was the overall learning experience in the workshop.

It was very good interacting and learning about the diversity of bats

2. How this workshop increased your understanding & skills related to Bat ecology.

~~It~~ Showed overall taxonomy and species identification
also various behaviour of bats

~~It~~ Also very nice presentation and experience sharing by ~~Khanolkar~~ ^{PoabhuKhanolkar}

3. After the workshop are you confident enough to undertake a small bat documentation project in your region.

Yes, very eager to discover some

4. Any suggestions

Name - Sagae Reddy

Designation - Project Officer

Email - sedysagae786@gmail.com

1. How was the overall learning experience in the workshop.

It was a wonderful experience. Got to learn a lot - Not just about bats

2. How this workshop increased your understanding & skills related to Bat ecology.

Before attending this workshop, my knowledge regarding bats were non-existent. Now I can say, I ~~do~~ know a little bit about bats and would love to ~~to~~ know more about it.

3. After the workshop are you confident enough to undertake a small bat documentation project in your region.

I am Not sure yet but I would love to work on this

4. Any suggestions



Name - Soham Anil Ghorpade

Designation - Project Officer (SNM) Email - ghorpadesoham@gmail.com

1. How was the overall learning experience in the workshop.

Excellent presentations.

2. How this workshop increased your understanding & skills related to Bat ecology.

This workshop has provided the basic identification & handling knowledge.
This will definitely help while observing/studying and also while rescue of
the Bats.

3. After the workshop are you confident enough to undertake a small bat documentation project in your region.

Yes.

4. Any suggestions

Please arrange 5-7 days workshop cum training based on handling &
ecology.



Name - Raman S. Kulkarni

Designation - Hon. Wildlife Warden, Kohapur Email - pugmarkartgallery@gmail.com

1. How was the overall learning experience in the workshop.

10/9

2. How this workshop increased your understanding & skills related to Bat ecology.

10/9

3. After the workshop are you confident enough to undertake a small bat documentation project in your region.

10/10

4. Any suggestions

No. Thanks



Name - Gurunath Gopal Kadam

Designation - Student

Email - gurukdm7@gmail.com

- How was the overall learning experience in the workshop.
- It was amazing. Such a very very nice presentation and overall workshop.
- How this workshop increased your understanding & skills related to Bat ecology.
- Today's workshop of Bat Ecology is a fully audio-visual and therefore these whole workshop is easy to understand, and presentation skill of prabhukhalkar sir is very nice.
- After the workshop are you confident enough to undertake a small bat documentation project in your region.
- Yes.
- Any suggestions
- No.



Name - नंदीश मिश्रा

Designation - Wildlife warden

Email - ~~msblekara29@gmail.com~~

- How was the overall learning experience in the workshop.
- अप्रतीम, ना विनियुक्त
- How this workshop increased your understanding & skills related to Bat ecology.
वटवाघूल संशोधन प्रकल्प मध्ये शुद्ध माहिती देली. या वरून शोध गुट व संरक्षक मध्ये जी माहिती मिळाली त्या गुट व संरक्षक अदीनाय संरक्षण कार्याची जी स्वतः फील्ड वर उतारा काढण्याची योजना आहे.
- After the workshop are you confident enough to undertake a small bat documentation project in your region.
sure (नासकीच)
- Any suggestions
आपण करा आग्रहिलेला कामाचा उपयोग होऊ शकतो काही-
वेगळे काही नसकी आणून करावेत.

Photographs of the poster, Certificate, diaries etc.

Assessment & Conservation of Bats in Tillari Bioregion,

A threatened wildlife corridor in Northern Western Ghats, India.

वटवाघूळ संशोधन आणि संवर्धन प्रकल्प

उत्तर पश्चिम घाट

Project funded by



Project Collaboratorss



Field note pads were distributed for all the participants

Assessment & Conservation of Bats in Tillari Bioregion,

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वटवाघूळ संशोधन आणि संवर्धन प्रकल्प
उत्तर पश्चिम घाट

Project funded by



Project Collaborators



Certificates were given to all participants after successful completion

Capacity building Programme on
Assessment & Conservation of Bats in Tillari Bioregion,

A threatened wildlife corridor in Northern Western Ghats, India.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that

has participated in a Capacity building workshop on Assessment & Conservation of Bats in Tillari Bioregion, A threatened wildlife corridor in Northern Western Ghats, India, held at Amboli, Maharashtra, on 8th January 2022.

Mr. Mahadev Bhise

President, Malabar Nature Conservation Club
Honorary Wildlife Warden, Sindhudurg

Mr. Nirmal Kulkarni

President, Mhadei Research Center
Member, Goa State Biodiversity Board

Project funded by

The Rufford
Foundation
www.rufford.org @ruffordgrants 

Project Collaborators



One Day Capacity Building Programme on Bat Ecology, 8th January 2022. AMBOLI

No	Name	Organisation	Class	Contact	Email	Signature
1	Dr Yogesh Koli	SRM College				
2	Tejas Tukaram Sawant	SRM College	TYBsc	7620882245	tej.sawant05@gmail.com	
3	Gurunath Gopal Kadam	SRM College	Msc II	9404869028	gurukdm7@gmail.com	
4	Chavan Mayuri Chandrakant	SRM College	TYBsc	9420884506	chavanmayuri0320@gmail.com	
5	Pravin Shashikant Sawant	SRM College	Research student	9359125984	pravinsawant2615@gmail.com	
6	Dr. Ganesh Margaj	SPK College		9420209013	ganesh_margaj@yahoo.com	
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