



Annual Report 2024-25

Ecological Society (ES) completes Forty three years (43) of groundbreaking work in the field of Ecological Education and Research. Ecological Society professes the fundamental principles of ecosystem conservation and restoration coupled with sustainable economic activity leading to “**Conscientious Consumerism**”.

Our progress covered in this annual report was made possible by the generous support of our trustees, donors, partners and all the citizens who supported our vision. Thank you for backing us!

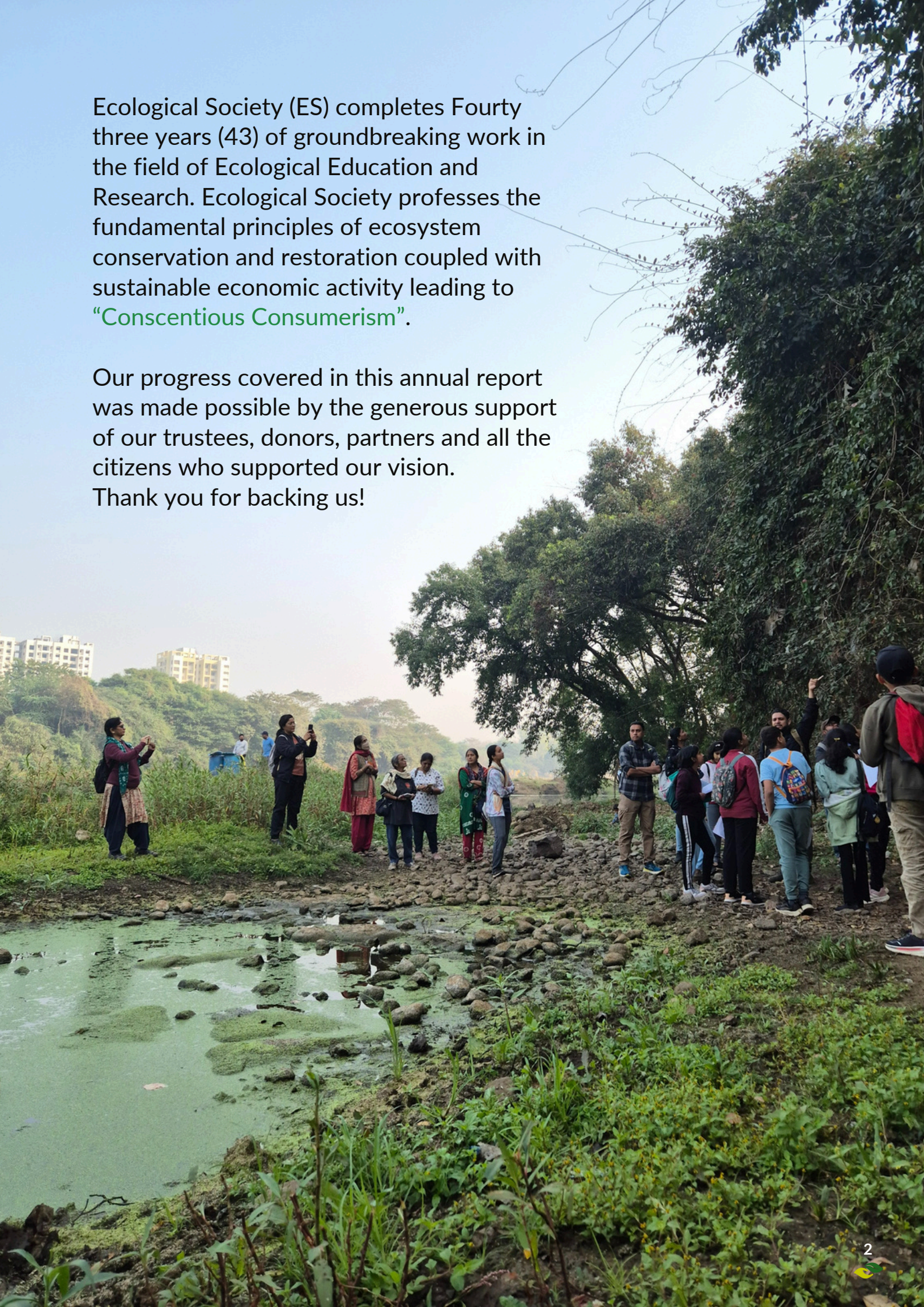


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ABOUT ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Ecological Society (ES) is non-profit organisation founded by the visionary ecologist, economist and ornithologist Late Shri Prakash Gole along with Dr (Mrs) Swati Gole, Mrs Wadia, Late Shri L G Rajwade, Late Mr Keskar & Late Mr J S Tilak. The genesis of the Society goes back to March 1982, when these founding members formulated the plans to set up a trust to further ecological research and education. Over the last four decades, ES has carved a name for itself in the field of ecological education for sustainable development and nature conservation.

We at Ecological Society conduct the following activities.

- Promote ecological understanding of nature conservation.
- Conduct education programmes aimed at building capabilities of restoration & nature conservation projects.
- Undertake studies for the conservation, management & restoration of our natural resources.
- Plan & implement field projects in both rural & urban areas, setting up model units where economic planning & ecological conservation complement each other & form a viable development model to be emulated in future.
- Participate actively in advocacy for awareness across rural and urban areas.





ES conducts a ten-month post-graduate program on '**Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Nature Conservation**' since 1997. The program has earned a reputation as a leading educational program in ecological approach to sustainability and nature conservation. The program imparts theoretical concepts and helps participants gain field experience through camps and field work. ES also conducts various research projects in the field of ecology, nature conservation and sustainability.

Ecological Society profess the fundamental principles of ecosystem conservation and restoration coupled with sustainable livelihood generation. We strive to support and contribute to the following areas.

- Ecological economics and its close linkage with the use of resources and energy
- Contribute to creating conscientious consumers in modern society
- Enable ecological entrepreneurship
- Assist in the development of policy for sustainability

OUR VISION AND MISSION

ES envisions to be an institution ENABLING holistic ecological education and research across disciplines, professions and geographies worldwide. ES Mission is to develop condensed context-specific programs in both the digital and the physical medium over the next five years, and conduct selective research in the field of ecology and environment.

Our goal is to enable sustainable societal transition through customized programs (digital and physical) for identified target groups.





OUR FOUNDER

Ecological Society's founder Late Professor Prakash Gole, apart from being an economist and a sustainability thinker, was also well-known for his studies and projects on ecosystems and restoration. He undertook various bird surveys at the international level. His research in Ladakh around habitats for Bar-headed geese as well as the Black-necked crane's habitat in India is very well known. He carried out wetland surveys all over India and vouched for the tremendous economic value of wetlands.

A pioneer in ecological restoration in India, Prof Prakash Gole wrote a number of books in Marathi and English, on multidisciplinary topics of nature, ecology, environmental economics, ecological restoration, and landscape management.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dr. Swati Gole

The Chairperson of ES. She retired as Head of department of Geography, and has been in the founding team of Ecological Society.

She has been deeply involved in the Society's projects and has contributed to development of the education program. She has several journal publications.



Shri. Vishwas Sawarkar

Shri. Sawarkar was the Director of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. He is a well-known researcher and conservationist and has been assisting government departments in this. He has published several research papers in international journals .



Dr. Gurudas Nulkar

Gurudas is an academician. His specialisation is environmental sustainability in industry and he has a PhD and a post-doctorate in sustainable development. He has published seven books and several papers.



Ajay Phatak

Ajay is an engineer turned ecologist. He contributed as an entrepreneur and executive in technology companies in his career. Now he teaches environmental history, energy & ecology and sustainability at the Ecological Society and Symbiosis. His active area of work is at the intersection of energy, economy and ecology.



Rajas Phadke

Rajas started her career in software and worked in an MNC for ten years, before joining her husband in a startup focused on maritime industry. Today their company leads in innovation in maritime logistics industry. She is interested in nature and environment, and is associated with Ecological Society. She is a keen follower of the vegan lifestyle.



THE PROFESSIONAL TEAM



Kedar Bhagwat

Director at Ecological society.
Alumni of batch 2022-23. Kedar's specialisation is transportation and mobility. He worked in transport infrastructure industry extensively for 20 years, before moving to academics. His areas of interests are sustainability and mobility.



Parul Lakhani Ghuge

Administrative and Course Coordinator.
Alumni of batch 2020-21. Parul is a graduate in Cosmetology and an ex-banker. Her interest is introducing ecology and sustainability to school students. She aims to develop a curriculum that educates and empowers students to make informed choices for a sustainable and healthier future.



Aniket Motale

Head of School and College Vertical at Ecological Society, Founder of Earth Shastra, founding member of JeevitNadi. Alumni of batch 2012-13. Aniket has made significant strides in environmental education, and he aspires to build a network of young nature enthusiasts.



Dr. Sayali Nerurkar

Marine biologist and conservationist with 11+ years of experience in taxonomy, coastal ecosystem management, and sustainable coastal tourism. She excels in field surveys, data analysis, project execution, and community engagement.



Chinmay Sonawane

Conservationist and Marine biology enthusiast with a Bachelor's in Zoology and a Master's in Biodiversity. As a field assistant for the Ecological Society, he actively engages in fieldwork, research, and educational outreach.



FACULTY



Ajay Phatak



Dr. Gurudas Nulkar



Manasi Karandikar
Oikos Ecological
Services



Ketaki Ghate
Oikos Ecological
Services



Dr. Swati Gole



Shri Vishwas Sawarkar



Dr. Aparna Watve
Biome Conservation
Foundation



Prof S.D Mahajan



Dr. Mandar Datar
Agarkar Institute



Himanshu Kulkarni
ACWADAM



Ashish Kothari
Kalpavriksh

ADVISORS



Dr. Ravi Pandit
Co-founder and Chairman of
KPIT Technologies



Shri Girish Sohani
Former President, BAIF
Development and Research
Foundation





MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

As we celebrate over four decades of fostering a holistic ecological perspective through research and project work, and more than 25 years since the inception of our ten-month course on 'Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Nature Conservation', we are proud to have expanded our vision significantly last year. This expansion included increasing participation in our classroom course and introducing a self-paced program, which has enabled learners from across the nation and the world to engage with our content. Additionally, we have begun focusing on sharing our ecological perspective with influential decision-making groups whose actions have a profound impact on nature and resources.

To increase global accessibility, we have made our research, articles, and reports available on 'Science Open', allowing us to reach communities worldwide. We continue to advance our research initiatives while actively engaging in on-ground projects that support sustainable practices. It has been heartening to see our efforts resonate with several of these communities this year. We will continue to engage with them through tailored training programs designed to enhance their environmental understanding and stewardship.

As we extend our reach to decision-making communities, including architects, engineers, administrators, and policymakers, we also remain committed to collaborating with students. This partnership keeps us grounded and ensures that our mission remains relevant and impactful across generations. This past year marked a significant milestone as we expanded our team to better align with our vision and mission, a goal that has been central to our discussions with our founder, Shri Prakash Gole. For the first time, we have formally articulated and published these guiding principles, providing a clear roadmap for our future endeavors.

The Board of Trustees would like to express its most profound appreciation to all team members for their dedication and passion over the past year. We warmly welcome new members to the Ecological Society team and look forward to continuing our mission. This mission is twofold: to instill a love for nature among students and to deliver a holistic ecological perspective to decision-makers, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable future for all.

KEY DONORS



PARTNERS



ALUMNI COLLABORATIONS



RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Award Received:

“Dr. Sayali Nerurkar Research Associate at Ecological Society receives 2nd Hasmukh Shah Memorial Jury Award” on November 9, 2024.



The Hasmukh Shah Memorial Jury Award acknowledges Dr. Nerurkar’s outstanding contributions to marine biodiversity research, conservation education, community engagement in environmental protection and sustainable coastal ecosystem management. This prestigious recognition reinforces the significance of Dr. Nerurkar’s work and its positive impact on coastal conservation efforts in the Konkan region.



Award Sponsored:

Ecological Society was a part of the 19th Pune Design Festival held at Hyatt Regency in Pune on February 28 and March 1. Like last year, Ecological Society sponsored ‘Blue Square award of Sustainability’, which was won by Nirma University. Soumyanshu Ghosh and Arunoday Thakur from Nirma University received the “Blue Square award of Sustainability” for their project titled ‘Tire Tire Narmada’ at the hands of the Ecological Society trustee Ajay Phatak.

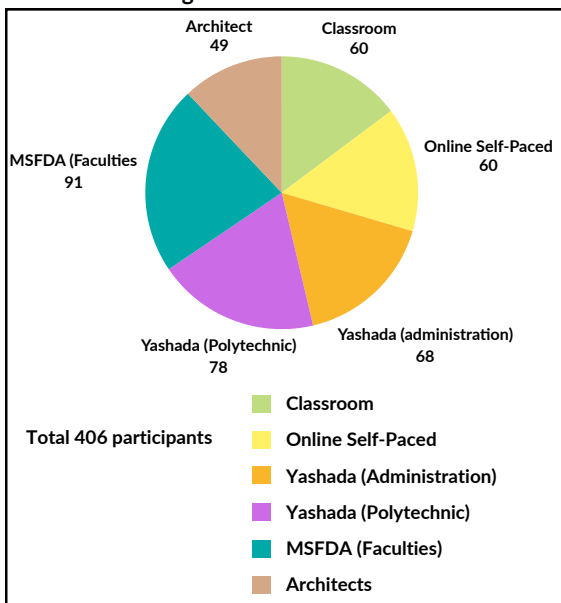
The documentary, ‘Tire Tire Narmada’, explores the sacred Narmada Parikrama, weaving together stunning visuals of the river and heartfelt stories of the Parikramawasis.



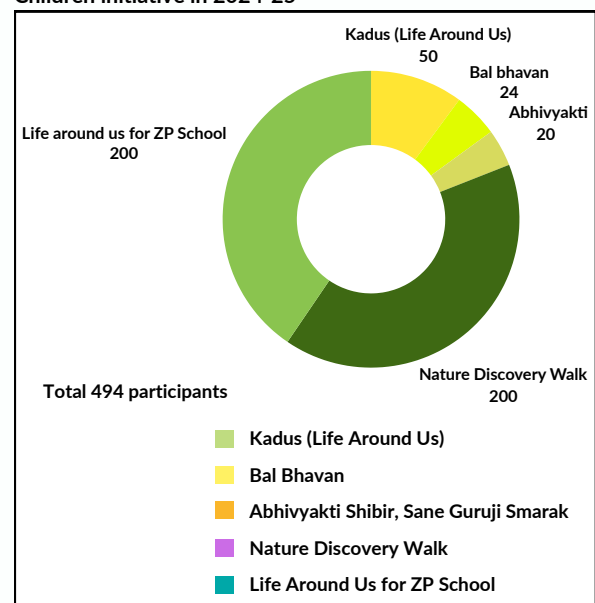
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Built our professional team further towards achieve the stated Vision and Mission.
- Increased the classroom batch size from 40 to 60 students and launched an online self-paced program.
- Created content for online self-paced program from the classroom lecture videos. This was enabled through CSR funding from KPIT.
- In addition to regular 10-month program, curated and conducted **7 short-term programs** in collaboration with Council of Architecture (CoA), Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy (MSFDA), Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA).
- Submitted a research report to Dept of Economics, Mumbai University and two research proposals to OCEAN UK International Development & Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board.
- Established strategic partnerships with Giripremi, Footloose, SNTD Women University, Centre for Sustainable Development at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (CSD-GIPE), MSFDA, and Garware Balbhawan.
- Secured donations and CSR funding from Mahila & Child Vikas section, Autus Wealth, and KPIT & L&T Technologies Ltd.
- Initiated educational programs for school students through collaboration with Garware Balbhawan, offering direct nature walks and the 'Life Around Us' sessions at selected schools and organizations.
- Successfully engaged with 406 adults and 494 children during FY 2024-25 through the flagship ten-month education program and the various context-specific programs for adults and children.

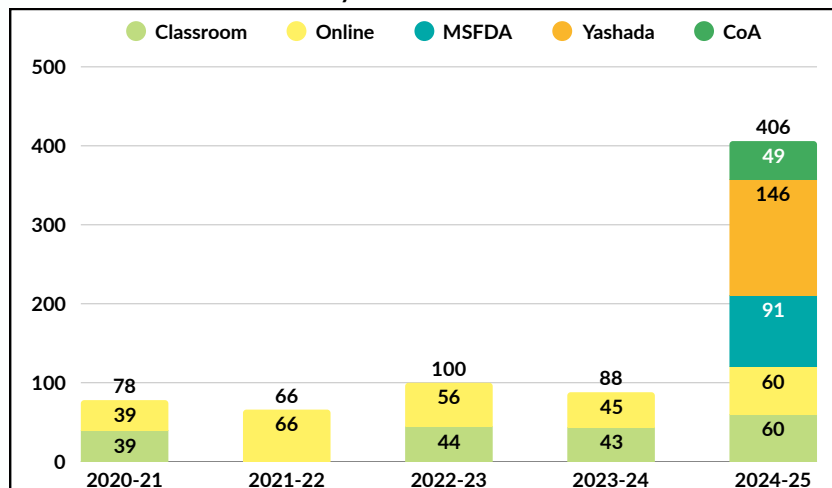
Main & Short Programs in 2024-25



Children initiative in 2024-25



ES outreach over the last five years





Overview of the flagship ten-month program on ‘Sustainable management of Natural Resources and Nature Conservation’ through Classroom and Online Self-Paced Mode

Since 1997, ES has been conducting a ten-month Post-Graduate (PG) Program on ‘Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Nature Conservation’. The program has established itself as a leading educational initiative in ecological approaches to sustainability and nature conservation. Over the past 27 years, more than 1000 participants have completed this PG program, with a majority now working in the field of ecology, environment and sustainability.

The curriculum is structured into three modules. The first module explores humanity's journey to the present, exploring planetary evolution, human development, and civilizational progress through the environmental and energy perspectives. It examines the environmental impact of human civilization and the history of economic thought.

The second module deals with developing an understanding of habitats, ecology, ecosystems and delves into the human-nature interface through lens of land use changes and the need for a landscape-approach to development. Participants study the interrelationships between geography, geology, botany, and zoology. The third module deals with aspects of sustainability from the perspectives of application of the concepts and perspectives from the previous two modules and how these could be used for sustainable management of natural resources.



It introduces environmental economics, contemporary challenges, holistic approaches, lifestyle modifications, rural economics, and urban ecology, along with various development models.

At a board level, the course is designed to develop conscientious consumers and professionals who understand the approaches to deal with ecology and economics in tandem.

The program runs annually from the first Saturday of June until late February or early March of the following year. It combines theoretical concepts with practical field experience through camps and fieldwork, offering a comprehensive understanding of environmental management and conservation.

To provide hands-on experience, the curriculum includes four field visits to diverse ecosystems: grasslands, Himalayan mountains, coastal regions, and forests. These visits help participants understand the significance of biodiversity and its interrelationship with various ecosystems and human-centric development.

Since 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ES expanded beyond traditional classroom teaching to include live online batches. Until FY 2023-24, the regular classroom sessions were streamed live for online students. In FY 2024-25, to expand its geographical reach, ES introduced an online self-paced program. With CSR funding from KPIT, ES established a professional recording setup to create high-quality video content of the classroom sessions. This initiative aims to provide online self-paced learners with a more engaging visual experience compared to live streaming.

In the self-paced program, each recorded session is available to the participants for fifteen days. While the students can learn at their own pace, they also have opportunities to interact with the faculty during monthly hangout sessions. Recording of the classroom sessions every Saturday ensures consistent content delivery and maintains educational quality for the future online learners.

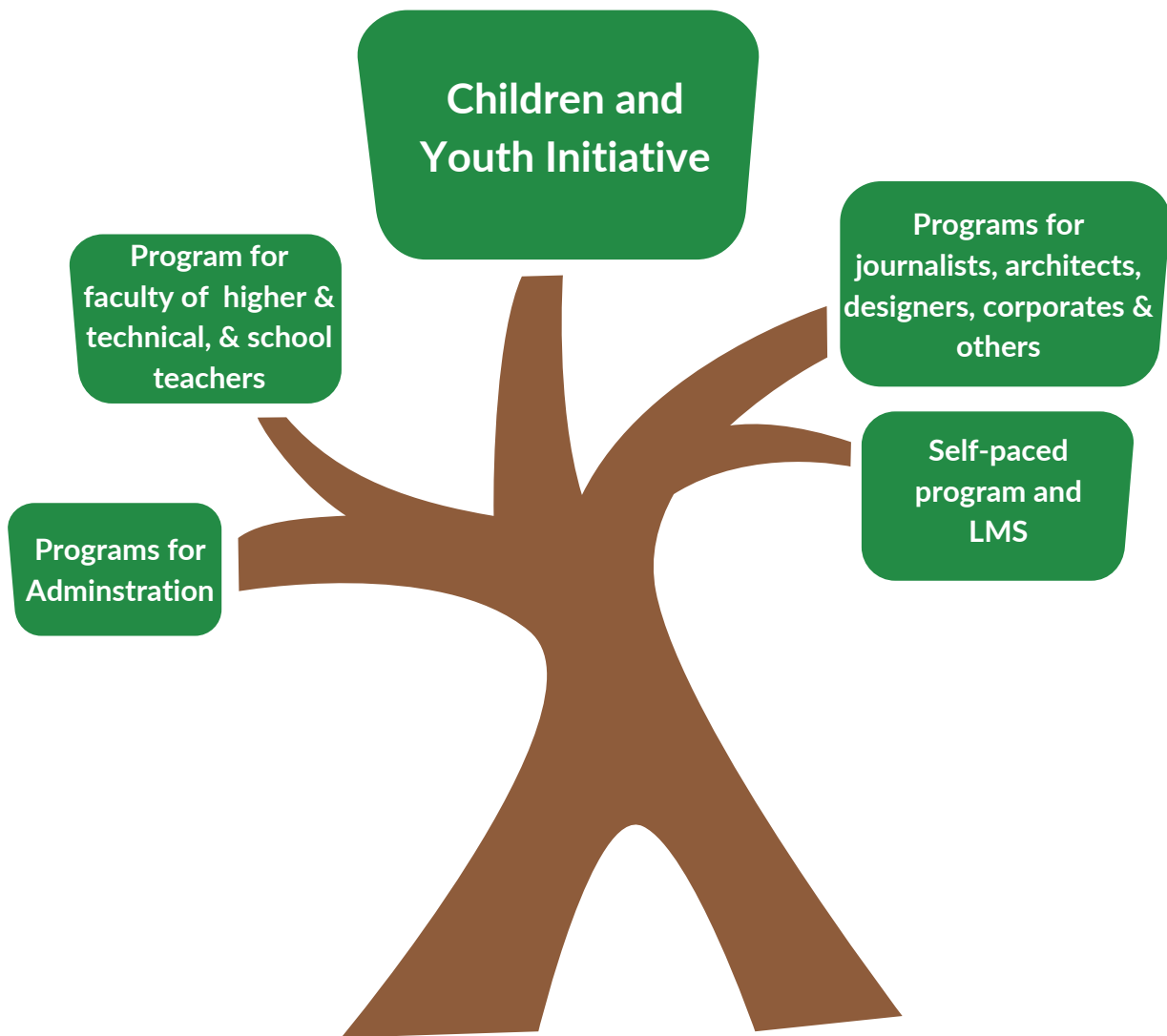
The successful implementation of self-paced program marks a significant step toward digitizing ES's curriculum. This digital transformation will enable ES to develop additional online courses and programs, thereby expanding its educational offerings and reaching a broader audience.

Since the beginning of the online module in the year 2021, the batch size has increased from 40 classroom participants to around 100, with additional participants joining through the online mode (live online till 2023 and online self-paced from 2024). **The following chart shows the yearwise number of classroom and online students from 2020-21.**

Year	Classroom Batch	Online Batch	Total
20-21	39	39	78
21-22	-	66	66
22-23	44	56	100
23-24	45	43	88
24-25	60	60	120



A Roadmap for the New Initiatives



New Initiatives: Short Duration Programs & Other Initiatives

In tune with the mission to develop context-specific programs across disciplines and professions, in the year 2024-25, ES has curated and conducted short duration programs for identified professionals who can lead a sustainable societal transition. Under this initiative, ES has conducted short duration programs with Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy (MSFDA) for faculties of colleges and universities across Maharashtra, YASHADA for Central and State Government officials (IAS/IPS cadre) and faculties of Government polytechnic colleges, and Initiatives for School children.

Other Initiatives

ES organised the Ninth Prakash Gole Memorial Lecture, in the loving memory of Prakash Gole Sir, the eminent ecologist who founded Ecological Society in 1982.

Friends of Ecological Society (FES) is an informal group of alumni of Ecological Society, who formed a band called 'Pralay' to take ecological learnings to the society through the medium of music.



MSFDA: 5-day residential program on Holistic Ecological Perspectives for Higher Education

ES and MSFDA entered into MOU on 10th May 2024 to collaborate and conduct a capacity building program on developing a holistic ecological perspective in higher education. The program is intended for teachers from colleges and universities from the state of Maharashtra. The collaboration is for three years from the year 2024 till 2027. Under this collaboration, ES has conducted three programs in the FY 2024-25.



This program is designed to help higher and technical education faculty to integrate a holistic ecological perspective in their discipline-based teaching, understand the impact on ecology through every human action and how we can find practical but sustainable solutions in our day-to-day life. This program will help them to develop solutions that protect the environment and sustain the quality of life and even more so take this knowledge to the students. This knowledge is invaluable in creating a more sustainable world for ourselves and the generations to come.



We at ES believe that teachers have a unique responsibility & opportunity to change the way the students will lead the future towards a brighter tomorrow. The main objective of collaboration with MSFDA is to empower faculties to take holistic ecological learning to students. This program has been designed to help teachers to develop a pedagogy and take these learnings to the classroom in a more holistic way.





The program was spread across a total of 30 Hours over 5 days which includes 24 hours (In-person Training Program) + Half Day (6 hours) field visit. Program-wise number of participants who attended these programs are presented in the table below.

Details	July 2024	December 2024	January 2025	Total
Number of Participants	41	19	31	91

Overall 91 faculty from across the Maharashtra state attended these three programs. The key learnings and feedback received from the participants is as follows:

- 🌱 Practical, hands-on experiences to supplement the theoretical learning made the learning more holistic.
- 🌱 The ecological perspective is missing across various disciplines in higher education and needs to be introduced to improve overall understanding about ecology, environment, and a transition towards sustainability.
- 🌱 Post-program hand-holding is a key to ensure that the participants use these learnings in the syllabus and develop a pedagogy to evaluate its impact and outreach. It is essential to create a platform for ongoing academic collaborations.



YASHADA: Short Duration Programs

ES in collaboration with CSD-GIPE conducted a 3-day program on Holistic Ecological Perspective for Administrators at YASHADA, under a capacity building program in the area of ecology, nature conservation and sustainability for All India Services and Central Services Officers, between 7th to 9th November 2024. The program was attended by 69 participants from All India Services. Majority of the participants who attended this program were IPS cadre (39 participants) & IRTS cadre (10 participants).

This Environment Module aims to equip administrators with the knowledge and tools to understand our complex relationship with the environment, and inspire them to become advocates for sustainable practices in their personal and professional lives. Through this training, administrators understood how they can positively influence citizens' lives by integrating ecological principles into their decision-making processes.

In addition to the program for All India Services and Central Services officers, ES also conducted programs for faculty of government colleges, especially the polytechnic and engineering colleges, at YASHADA. These sessions were half-a-day sessions in the month of December 2024 and January 2025. Overall 78 participants attended these programs.

The half-day sessions were planned in such a way that the participants get a holistic perspective on ecology and sustainability. These sessions were interactive with more focus on case studies and free flowing discussions on identified topics, which are a part of our day-to-day activities such as relationship between mobility and energy, waste management and ways to reduce waste, health of our rivers, etc. These sessions have been designed to help teachers to develop a pedagogy and make it more interesting to the students.

Partnership with SNTD

Ecological Society was a knowledge partner for International Conference of Climate Change (ICCC-2025) organised by SNTD Women's University, Mumbai during 17/19 January 2025 at Chandrapur, Maharashtra. ES supported the university to curate the conference with active support from Shri Shrish Barve, Alumni of ES. ES attended the conference, and Director Kedar Bhagwat was a part of the Panel discussion, on 18th January 2025.



MOU with SNTD

In January 2025, ES and Centre for Holistic Education, Training and Novel Advancement (CHETNA), a centre of SNTD Women's University, entered into an MOU to conduct educational program on Holistic perspective in ecology and sustainability, which is required for betterment of the society, environment and whole ecosystem.



Children and Youth Initiative

Ecological Society, beyond its flagship PG Diploma program, is committed to enhancing ecological literacy across diverse demographics. The Children and Youth Initiative, a key component of this effort, has made significant strides since its inception. This report details the progress achieved through various activities aimed at engaging and educating young individuals.

1. 'Life Around Us' Workshops

Successfully conducted a 'Life Around Us' workshop at Rambhau Mhalgi School, Kudus, reaching over 50 students from 4th to 10th grade.



2. Garware Balbhavan Course

Delivered a 'Life Around Us' course, including three field visits, for 24 children aged 8 to 14 at Garware Balbhavan, Pune.



3. Abhivyakti Shibir Workshop

Conducted a workshop at the Abhivyakti shibir at Sane Guruji Smarak, engaging approximately 20 children (8-14 years) from various cities.



4. Nature Discovery Walks

Organized over 8 Nature Discovery Walks in Pune at locations like Mhatoba Hill, Hanuman Hill, and Taljai Hill, with participation from over 200 parents and children from 4 schools.



5. Nature Educator Volunteer Network

- Established a network of over 25 Nature Educator Volunteers to facilitate the educational experiences for children.
- Ongoing capacity-building efforts are underway for this volunteer group.




6. Workshops for Nature Educators

ecological society L&T Technology Services

22nd February
Saturday
2 to 3.30 pm IST


Online Session on

Pedagogy For Nature Education




Expert talk by Dr. Gurudas Nulkar
An academician, his specialisation is environmental sustainability in industry and has a PhD and a post-doctorate in sustainable development.

Who Can Attend?
This session is ideal for:
 ✓ School & College Teachers
 ✓ Naturalists who conduct trails
 ✓ Environmental Enthusiasts
 ✓ Educators working with children
 ✓ Nature Conservationists



Scan to participate



Registration is mandatory
In case of any queries contact: +91 98508 12747

ecological society L&T Technology Services

15th March
Saturday
2 to 3.30 pm IST

A demonstrative session on

Inquiry-Based approach for Nature Education



with Anjali Chipalkatti
an educator, writer, and farmer with a diverse background in engineering, science education, and literature. Expert on inquiry-based approach in education.

Who can join:
 ✓ Nature Educators
 ✓ EVS Teachers
 ✓ Naturalists
 ✓ Nature Conservation professionals

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your nature education skills!



Scan to participate




Registration is mandatory
In case of any queries contact: +91 98508 12747

ecological society L&T Technology Services

16th March
Sunday
2 to 5 pm

Online Workshop on


Basics of Tree Identification and Phenology




with Sayee Girdhari
who holds a Masters in Botany and currently works as the SeasonWatch Project Coordinator.

What to expect?
 ✓ Train your vision to observe plants.
 ✓ Note the structural details of plants.
 ✓ Categorize plants into plant families.
 ✓ Learn about phenology (cyclic patterns in a tree's life)
 ✓ Track these patterns to understand the impact of climate change with SeasonWatch.

For Nature educators, Teachers, Naturalists, Students
Don't miss this opportunity!



Scan to participate



Registration is mandatory
In case of any queries contact: +91 98508 12747

- Outdoor session on philosophy for nature education at Hanuman hills by Ganesh Jagdale
- Outdoor session on inquiry-based approach for Nature Walks by Anjali Chipalkatti
- Nature Guiding Techniques for Nature Educators by Siddharth Binniwale
- Pedagogy for Nature Education by Dr. Gurudas Nulkar
- Online session on inquiry-Based approach for Nature Education by Anjali Chipalkatti
- Basics of Tree Identification and Phenology by Sayee Girdhari



7. Trail Guide Development

Conducted recce to develop trail guides at 12 locations in Pune like Mhatoba Hill, Hanuman Hill, and Taljai Hill, with a team of nature educators.



8. Rural Outreach

In collaboration with Sustainable Initiatives (VK Architects' NGO arm), conducted 'Life Around Us' workshops for over 200 children in ZP schools across 3 villages in Khed Taluka.



9. Big Green Fest Participation

Established a stall at the Big Green Fest, organized by Pune Climate Worrier, showcasing our educational offerings to guests from over 50 schools and organizations.



10. YouCAN 2.0 Participation

Established a stall at the YouCAN Climate Emergency Conference, Preconference "Youth Centric" event organised by Youth Climate Action Nexus at Pune International Centre (PIC). We showcased our educational offerings to guests who attended the event.





Coastal 2.0: Advancing Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Tourism in the Konkan Region

Ecological Society has successfully progressed with the Coastal 2.0 project, which is an initiative focused on marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism in the Konkan region. The year 2024 marked significant milestones in our efforts to safeguard this rich ecological landscape while fostering responsible tourism practices.

Launched in May 2023, this is a follow-up project conducted by Prof. Prakash Gole in the year 1997. It builds on previous studies to assess human impacts on marine habitats through research, community engagement, and policy advocacy. The Konkan region's rich marine biodiversity faces threats from coastal development, pollution, and overfishing.. Project Coastal 2.0 engages with these issues by conducting biodiversity assessments, engaging local communities, and promoting eco-tourism to balance ecological preservation with economic growth.



Phase I Achievements

Biodiversity Assessment and Stakeholder Engagement Phase I of Coastal 2.0 focused on comprehensive biodiversity research and assessing the state of the coastal tourism. Our dedicated field teams conducted extensive surveys across the Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts, documenting over 500 species of marine flora and fauna, many of which are new records for Maharashtra and India.

In the first quarter of FY 2025-26, ES plans to release Biodiversity Assessment Report and Field Guide on Intertidal Marine Biodiversity.

Phase II Activities

Building upon Phase I, Phase II aims to enhance awareness and promote sustainable practices among local communities, tourists, and develop guidelines for sustainable tourism in the Konkan Region.





Sagar Mahotsav at Ratnagiri

The fourth annual Sagar Mahotsav, hosted in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, marked a significant milestone in marine conservation education and research collaboration. The event was jointly organized by the Aasamanta Benevolence Foundation, Ecological Society, Centre for Sustainable Development - Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics, NIO, Goa, Gogate-Jogalekar College, Ratnagiri, and Fisheries Collage, Shirgaon, Ratnagiri.

The festival's inaugural session featured a keynote address by Dr. K. Kathiresan, Honorary Professor and UGC-BSR Faculty Fellow at Annamalai University. Dr. Kathiresan, ranked among the top 2% of global scientists and first in India for marine biology and hydrobiology, shared insights from his groundbreaking research on mangrove ecosystems, including his discovery of a new mangrove species.

Ecological Society curated an educational exhibition featuring 30-40 photo-plates of marine fauna, with bilingual descriptions (English and Marathi). This display, developed through the Coastal 2.0 project, served as an effective educational tool for both students and general visitors. Dr. Sayali Nerurkar from Ecological Society presented the comprehensive findings of the Coastal 2.0 project on the third day of the festival; titled 'Intertidal Marine Biodiversity of Maharashtra: A Treasure Under Threat'.



Enriching the Architecture Syllabus

Since the year 2023-24, ES faculty and Architecture alumni of ES - Aditi Navgire, Isha Umrani, Minal Sagare, and Yashashree Lambey have been working on the bridging concepts for our objective to enrich the architecture syllabus, focusing on four main areas:

Contextuality: We aim to understand the larger environmental context of buildings, sites, and settlements. This includes defining what is local for a given building or site, assessing the impact of buildings on their surroundings, and examining how the built structures respond to natural features. We view architecture as part of a socio-ecological (culture-nature) system.

Scale: We explore the applicability of vernacular and traditional architecture in a scaled-up context. This involves innovating construction technology and materials appropriate to the local context and scale.

Energy, Life Cycle Analysis, and Circularity: Our efforts include analyzing the embodied energy of building materials, optimizing space organization to reduce energy use, and implementing material circularity through design strategies. We focus on energy in operations and maintenance (O&M), promoting the use, re-use, refurbishing, repurposing, and upcycling of materials. We emphasize the concept of buildings as resources that can be reused or repurposed.

Optimization: We strive for optimization through space design, prioritizing passive design, and optimizing envelope, facade, and fenestration design. We also focus on the use, reuse, and repurposing of available resources, along with service optimization.

These bridging concepts lay the foundation for our continued efforts in embedding ecology in architectural education and practice.

In the year 2024-25, we have completed the work for design of all the subjects such as design, technology, humanities, and allied. We have completed the draft and plan to complete the guide book by the end of the first quarter of the next FY 2025-26. Post the completion of the guide book, we will submit this updated syllabus to the Board of Studies (BOS) at SP Pune University for approval and implementation.





Net Zero Dialogue

Ecological Society has been one of the founding members of this open forum along with IIT Kanpur and 14 Trees foundation. On this forum, contributors from various sections of society, including NGOs, Government, experts, Industry and academia come together to discuss and debate issues around the net zero transition (transition to zero carbon emissions) from a holistic perspective to include Ecology, Economy, Society and Technology. 2024 marked a 4th dialogue in our quest to unravel the issues and approaches to the problem of energy transition.

Research Project and Proposals

ES and the Department of Economics, University of Mumbai researched the District Development Plan for Ratnagiri District with a 'sustainable development' approach, ensuring minimal impact on the district's environment & social fabric. In the report, ES has proposed interventions through cluster-based bioeconomy, responsible tourism and robust disaster management for a sustainable development. ES has submitted a report to Dept of Economics, University of Mumbai. Based on the sustainable development approach suggested by ES, Department of Economics further submitted a Final Report on the District Development Plan for Ratnagiri District to Government of Maharashtra.

ES submitted research proposals to Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board for the Maharashtra Gene Bank Project for the conservation of Marine Biodiversity in Coastal Maharashtra with the Coastal Conservation Foundation.

ES along with CSD-GIPE submitted proposal for Ocean Community Grant for Project SAGAR: Sustainable Advancement for Green and Resilient coastal communities.



Gole Memorial Lecture



On 30th November 24, Ecological Society conducted the **Ninth Prakash Gole Memorial Lecture**. The Lecture was in the loving memory of Prakash Gole Sir, the eminent ecologist who founded the Ecological Society in 1982.

The distinguished speaker on this occasion was **Shri Soumya Dutta**. The title of his talk was 'Global to Local: Earth Systems Disruptions Impacting India and Govt of India's Responses'.

The session resonated well with the participants, and we felt it was a seamless extension of Ecological Society's educational program. The session prompted profound reflection on the impact of human activities on earth's systems and the future for life on our planet.



PRALAY

Friends of Ecological Society (FES), an informal group of alumni from the Ecological Society, formed the band Pralay in July 2024 to spread ecological awareness through music. The name Pralay symbolizes the global climate crises we face, with the band aiming to unite humanity and inspire action by connecting with diverse audiences through the universal language of music.

Since its inception, Pralay has performed at notable events, including:

- Pune Kabir Festival on 2 February 2025 at the Ram-Mula Confluence, where their debut, Kabir and Climate, was attended by over 300 people and covered by Pune Times and Indian Express.
- Trans-ACT contemporary art exhibition on 1-2 January 2025 at The Box.
- Sane Guruji Smarak, Mangaon, on 15 January 2025, engaging volunteers of the Smarak.
- Pune Design Festival on 22 February 2025, performing at the inaugural session attended by designers, architects, and students.
- Swachh chi Jatra on 9 March 2025 at Kalakar Katta, entertaining Swachh members who help maintain Pune's cleanliness.



Team Engagements

Ajay Phatak:

- 🌱 Ajay Phatak continues to explore the intersection of energy, ecology, economy, and society through various engagements.
- 🌱 Delivered a faculty & researcher-focused lecture on 'Energy transition challenges and opportunities' at IIT Kanpur.
- 🌱 Conducted several open lectures on energy transition.
- 🌱 Delivered a keynote address at ICCCU 24 - International Conference on Carbon Capture & Utilization at JNCASR, placing carbon capture in the context of energy transition.
- 🌱 Presented a session on energy transition for IIT Bombay Alumni at the PMA - Pune Management Association.
- 🌱 Engaged with NTPC's management training program, broadening perspectives on interventions with and beyond CCUS for hard-to-abate sectors.
- 🌱 Participated in expert consultation on energy transition at IIT Bombay to provide inputs to Niti Aayog.



Gurudas Nulkar:

- 🌱 UNFCCC COP29 Side event "Empowering the Future" Green Skill and Green Talent Development for Young People in the Global South: Gurudas Nulkar were a panellist in this Blue Zone event at #COP 29 Baku, Azerbaijan. 2024
- 🌱 Gurudas Nulkar were Moderator for Pune Samvad. 2024
- 🌱 Talk on "Sustainable Development and Agriculture" with All India Radio. 2024
- 🌱 Part of Panel Discussion "Landscapes of Coexistence" on 15th ISOLA Conference. 2024
- 🌱 Part of Panel Discussion at "Observer Research Foundation: India Think Tank Summit; New Delhi, 2024
- 🌱 Kolkata Centre for Creativity: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam 3.0, 2024
- 🌱 Ecological Restoration Alliance Keynote speech, Panchgani. 2024
Podcast: Root Cause Ep 01



Ketaki Ghate & Manasi Karandikar

- 🌿 “Aplya Shalet Nisarg Shala” moderated by Ketaki Ghate & Manasi Karandikar
- 🌿 Seed Stories Symposium partners Oikos for Ecological Services
- 🌿 Stories of Conservation and Restoration Lavasa, Shilim and Others by Ketaki Ghate, Oikos for Ecological Services
- 🌿 Maharashtra Vruksh Samvardhini “Jagbharatil Angtuk Vanaspatinchya Goshti” by Ketaki Ghate

Kedar Bhagwat

- 🌿 Kedar Bhagwat, Yogesh Mahajan, Amita Deshpande, Madhvi Sethi (2024), Case Study “reCharkha: Scaling Production and Staying Sustainable,” Ivey Publishing (Indexed in Harvard Publishing)
- 🌿 Panel Discussion on Climate Change - International Conference on Climate Change by SNTD Women’s University. Mumbai (17/19 January 2025)
- 🌿 Talk on Urban sustainability - Refresher Course on Sustainable Education organised by SIES college, Mumbai on 21st March 2025



Sayali Nerurkar

- 🌿 Presented “Coastal 2.0” at Sagar Mahotsav 2025, which was organised by Aasamant Benevolence Foundation and Fisheries College, Ratnagiri.
- 🌿 Advait Ghatpande, Sayali Mukund Nerurkar and Deepak Apte (2024): Taxonomic records of *Tenguella granulata* (Duclos, 1832) and *Tenguella ceylonica* CIBTech Journal of Zoology, Vol. 13: pp. 1-15.
- 🌿 Sayali Mukund Nerurkar and Deepak Apte (2024): Distribution extension to India of *Nassarius punctatus* Journal of the Marine Biological Association of India, 66 (1): pp. 98-102.
- 🌿 Abdulla-Al-Asif and Sayali Nerurkar (2024): Taxonomy in crisis: Addressing t... Journal of Aquatic Research and Sustainability, 1 (2): pp. 1-4.
- 🌿 Sayali Mukund Nerurkar and Deepak Apte (In press): Rediscovery of holotype and validation of *Nassarius subsimilis* Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.



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The Journal of Ecological Society is a peer-reviewed, Gold Open-Access, international scholarly journal available in the online form. Our aim is to offer research, analysis, and perspectives in the field of ecological conservation and management of natural resources, to scientists and civil society. The journal invites authors to submit research papers and essays which showcase a variety of perspectives in this domain and invites contributions that employ an interdisciplinary approach with a strong scientific analysis.

The Journal is unique since we offer a 'Research' section for the research and academic communities, and an 'Article' section that aims to unravel issues of sustainable development to civil society.

The subjects of interest are (but are not limited to) ecosystems, nature services, natural resources, land use, environmental economics, arguments for change, recommendations in policies, implications of urbanization, and issues arising from man-nature interactions.

The Journal continues to cater to a wide variety of audiences ranging from researchers and practitioners in this field to civil society in general. While scientific rigor is expected in the research papers, essays and short pieces based on opinions and perspectives are also encouraged.

Article published in the Journal:

1. Employment and Energy (Ajay Phatak 2024)
2. Documenting Fodder as an Important Provisioning Service of Sada Grasslands in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra. (Pooja Ghate, Bhushan K. Shigwan, Sarang Bokil, Aparna Watve. 2024)
3. Rethinking Economics (Ajay Phatak 2024)
4. Avifauna of the Sada landscape in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra (Manali Rane, Sonali Mestry, Suhas Gurjar, Parth Bapat, Aparna Watve. 2024)



THANK YOU

As the Ecological Society proudly celebrates 43 years of transformative work in ecological research and education, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, funders, and well-wishers. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in our achievements this year:

1. Expansion of our 10-month program with larger classroom batches and the launch of an online self-paced batch, funded by KPIT.
2. Development of seven short-term programs with partners like CoA, MSFDA, and YASHADA, impacting over 900 participants.
3. Strengthening our children's initiatives through the 'Life Around Us' program and nature walks, supported by L&T Technologies Ltd.
4. Significant progress on the Coastal 2.0 marine conservation project, documenting over 500 intertidal marine species.
5. Advancements in enriching the architecture syllabus to integrate sustainability into education and practice.
6. Inspiring ecological awareness through Pralay, the music band formed by our alumni, which has touched hearts with performances at notable events like the Pune Kabir Festival.

Going forward, we plan to extend our short programs to professions like journalism, design, and corporate sectors through Management Development Programs (MDPs). We aim to complete Phase II of Coastal 2.0 with sustainable tourism guidelines, finalize the architecture syllabus for the Board of Studies at Pune University, and expand digital offerings with a Learning Management System (LMS) and a Docuseries based on our flagship program.

We deeply value your role in our journey. Let's join hands to create a brighter, sustainable future for our planet!

Kedar Bhagwat

Director, Ecological Society





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