



Annual Report 2023-24

Ecological Society (ES) completes Fourty three years (43) of groundbreaking work in the field of Ecological research and education. The Ecological Society profess the fundamental principles of ecosystem conservation and restoration coupled with sustainable livelihood generation.

Our progress covered in this annual report was made possible by the generous support of our trustees, donors and partners. 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 plans to set up a trust to further ecological research and education. Over the last 4 decades, Ecological Society has carved a name for itself in the field of ecological approach to sustainable development and nature conservation. We at Ecological Society conduct 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 Flagship Ten months post graduate program in **“Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Nature Conservation”** since 1997. The program has earned a reputation as a leading education in the 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.

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

1. OUR MISSION

ES envisions to be an institution ENABLING holistic Ecological Education and research across disciplines, professions and geographies across the world. Mission is to develop condensed context specific programs both digital and physical medium over next 5 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.





2. OUR FOUNDER

Ecological Society's founder and then Chairman Late Professor Prakash Gole, apart from being an economist and a sustainability thinker, was also well known for his thoughts on ecology and economics. 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 that wetlands provide.

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



3. 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 publications in journals.



Rajas Phadke

Started her career in Software and worked in MNC for ten years before joining her husband in startup focused on maritime industry. Today their company leads in innovation in maritime logistics industry. She is Interested in nature and environment. Associated with Ecological Society, Pune. Keen follower of vegan lifestyle.



Shri Vishwas Sawarkar

Shri Sawarkar was the Director of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. He is a well know 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 has a PhD and a post-doctorate in sustainable development. He has published three books and several papers.



Ajay Phatak

Ajay Phatak 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 on the intersection of energy, economy and ecology.

4. THE MANAGEMENT TEAM



Kedar Bhagwat

Director at Ecological society. Alumni of Ecological Society, 2022-23 batch. His specialisation is transportation and mobility. 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. She is an ex-banker and Alumni of batch 2020-21. She is a graduate in Cosmetology and her interest is introducing ecology and sustainability in 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

2012-13 alumnus, has made significant strides in Environmental education. As a Head of School and College Vertical at Ecological Society and the founder of Earth Shastra, he aspires to build a network of young nature enthusiasts. He is also a founding member of JeevitNadi.



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.



5. 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



6. KEY DONORS

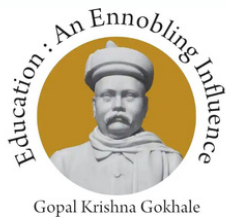
Donation received:



Donation under consideration



PARTNERS



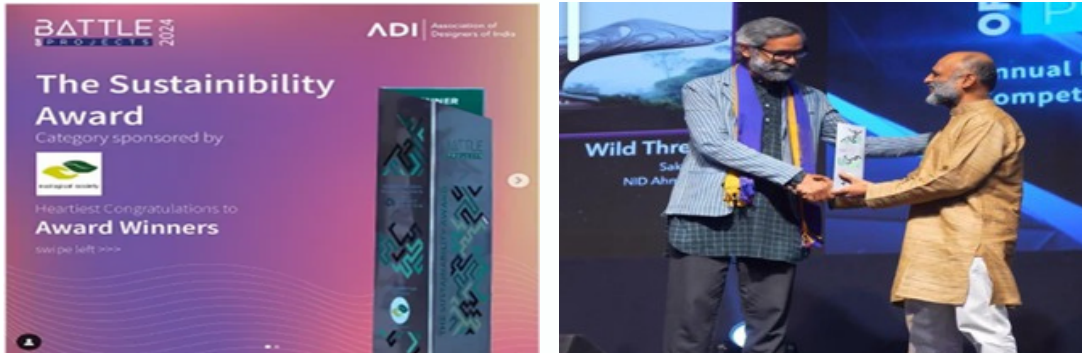
ALUMNI COLLABORATIONS



7. RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Award Sponsored:

Ecological Society presented award for Sustainable Design at Pune Design Festival (24-29 Feb) organized by Association of Designers of India (ADI). Sakshi Soni from NID Ahmedabad receive the award from Shri Ajay Phatak, Trustee, Ecological Society. This award was sponsored by Charuta Palsodkar alumni of Ecological Society



Prakash Gole Memorial Grove at 14 trees

11-Jan-2023 marked the Birth Anniversary of noted ecologist Prakash Gole Founder of the Ecological Society, Pune. In late 2022, discussions between Pravin Bhagwat, FES volunteers, KPIT CSR team and some of the 14 Trees Foundation volunteers led to the conception of grove in the memory of Prakash Gole.



8. Overview of flagship 10 months program on “Sustainable management of Natural Resources and Nature Conservation”

Since 1997, ES has been conducting a 10 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 the majority now working in the field of ecology, environment and sustainability.

The curriculum is structured into three (3) modules. The first module explores humanity's journey to the present, covering planetary evolution, human development, and civilizational progress through environmental and energy perspectives. It examines the environmental impact of human civilization and the history of economic thought.

The second module deals with developing understanding of habitats, ecology, ecosystems and delves into human-nature interface from a lens of land use changes and the need for landscape approach to development. Participants study the interrelationships between geography, geology, botany, and zoology.

Third module deals with aspects of sustainability from the perspectives of application of the concepts and perspectives from previous 2 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. This will enable them to make decisions more in line with sustainability.

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.

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.



Since 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ES expanded beyond traditional classroom teaching to include live online batches. Since the beginning of the online module in the year 2021, batch size has increased from 40 to 100 every year with 60 more participants started attending the program through online mode. Ecological Society generates revenue by collecting fees from both Classroom and Online participants who enroll for this 10-month program.

Introduction to the ES Batch of 23-24

This diverse cohort includes individuals from wide range of fields such as Architects, landscape Architects, Engineers, IT professions, MBA graduates, Botanists, Microbiologists, Zoologists, Commerce Graduates, Master's in Finance, Master's of Law, CFA's, and many others.





9. Nisargayan: The school of nature and happiness

As a part of the 10-month Sustainable Management of Natural Resources & Nature Conservation program the students of each batch visit Kudawale village, in Ratnagiri district, for the last and final Nisargayan camp. Led by Dileep and Poornima Kulkarni, who left urban life in Pune 35 years ago to live sustainably in this village, the camp provided a unique opportunity to learn about toxin-free living and ecological balance.

Through lectures by Dileep sir, we explored the connection between ecology and economy, learning about the importance of Gross Happiness Index over GDP. Poornima ma'am takes the students through Ayurveda for a holistic, toxin-free lifestyle.



With discussions on how human need for growth disrupts nature's cycles and how economic systems ignore the environmental costs of development, leading to pollution and resource depletion. The students also learn how this imbalance impacts happiness, with stress, loss of peace, and increasing mental health issues. Reflecting on the disconnect between technology and well-being, the camp concludes that sustainability and happiness require a holistic, systems-based approach to life, rooted in respect for nature and self-reliance.

The camp inspires students to live in harmony with nature, focusing on renewable resources, decentralized systems, and the principles of the 4 R's: reduce, reuse, recycle, and regenerate.



10. New Initiatives - Short Duration Programs

In line with the mission to develop context specific programs across disciplines, professions, ES has curated and conducted short duration programs for identified professionals who can lead sustainable societal transition. Under this initiative, ES has conducted short duration programs with Council of Architecture (CoA) for faculties of architecture. In future ES plans to collaborate with Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy (MSFDA) for faculties of colleges and universities across Maharashtra and Yashada for central, state government officials (IAS/IPS cadre) and faculties of government colleges and Initiatives for School children.



11. Program in collaboration with Council of Architecture (CoA):



Ecological Society (ES) with CoA has taken an initiative to integrate an ecological perspective into architectural education and consequently, into architectural practice. This program was curated with an aim to empower teachers to embed ecological concepts in architectural education & see their future work through a more holistic ecological lens. This program was open to teachers, Post graduate students, PhD scholars who have been teaching various subjects, studying or engaged in research, to collaborate and join hands to initiate a movement to bring ecological perspective in the Architecture profession in future.

The Program was conducted from 29th January 2024 to 2 February 2024. Overall 49 (14 from Pune, 17 of Maharashtra excl Pune and 18 outside Maharashtra) teacher of architecture program and practicing architects attended this program.

The program received enthusiastic responses for the participants indicating the content's effectiveness in the current context.



12. Restructuring Architecture Syllabus

During the year 2023-24, ES faculty and Architect alumni of ES - Aditi Navgire, Isha Umrani, Minal Sagare and Yashashree Lambey worked on and finalized the bridging concepts for our objective, focusing on four main areas:

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

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

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

Optimization: We strived for optimization through space design, prioritizing passive design, and optimizing envelope, facade, and fenestration design. We also focused on the use, reuse, and repurposing of available resources, along with service optimization. These bridging concepts laid the foundation for our continued efforts in embedding ecology in architectural education and practice.

Year	I	II	III	IV
Cluster	DESIGN			
Subjects	Basic Design	Architectural Design II and III	Architectural Design IV and V	Housing
	Architectural Design I	-	Landscape Architecture	Urban Design
Cluster	TECHNOLOGY			
Subjects	Building Construction and Material I and II	Building Construction and Material III and IV	Building Construction and Material V and VI	Advanced Building Construction and Services I and II
	Theory of Structures I and II	Theory of Structures III and IV	Theory of Structures V and VI	Quantity Surveying and Specification Writing I and II
	Workshop I	Building Services I and II	Building Services III and IV	-
	-	Site Survey and Analysis	Working Drawing I and II	-

Cluster	HUMANITIES			
Subjects	History of Architecture and Culture I and II	History of Architecture and Culture III and IV	Contemporary Architecture	Urban Studies I and II
Cluster	ALLIED			
Subjects	Fundamentals of Architecture	Climatology	-	-
	-	Environmental Sciences	-	-



13. Coastal 2.0

Project Coastal 2.0, launched in May 2023 is a follow up project conducted by Prof Prakash Gole in the year 1997. Coastal 2.0 focuses on marine biodiversity conservation and promoting sustainable coastal tourism in the Konkan region. It builds on previous studies to assess human impacts on marine habitats through research, community engagement, and policy advocacy.

Introduction: The Konkan region's rich marine biodiversity faces threats from coastal development, pollution, and overfishing. Project Coastal 2.0 addresses these issues by conducting biodiversity assessments, engaging local communities, and promoting eco-tourism to balance ecological preservation with economic growth.

Aims and Objectives:

- Conduct marine biodiversity assessments in Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts.
- Identify critical marine habitats for urgent conservation.
- Develop sustainable eco-tourism models benefiting local communities.
- Strengthen local capacity through education, training, and conservation awareness.
- Advocate for policy recommendations to regulate fishing, tourism, and coastal development.

Future Prospects:

- Strengthen biodiversity monitoring and scientific collaborations.
- Secure additional funding for expanded research and conservation.
- Develop eco-tourism destinations with sustainable infrastructure.
- Implement stricter policy measures to protect marine ecosystems.
- Enhance community-led conservation programs for sustainability.

Conclusion: From May 2023 to April 2024, Project Coastal 2.0 highlights the importance of integrated conservation and sustainable coastal management. Through rigorous research and community involvement, it sets a benchmark for marine biodiversity conservation in the Konkan region, ensuring a balanced approach to economic development and environmental protection.



14. Publications

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Journal of Ecological Society

The Journal of Ecological Society is a Gold Open-Access and peer-reviewed journal, accepting articles on ecological, environmental, and social issues. We encourage interpretations from an ecological perspective. Articles are accepted throughout the year and are immediately published online, after the review and acceptance process.

Search publications Statistics Submit a manuscript

197 publications LATEST PUBLICATIONS	52,720 views MOST VIEWED	14 highest altmetric TOP ARTICLES	0 reviews HIGHEST RATED	13 recommends + 1 RECOMMEND	84 shares SHARE	8 followers FOLLOW
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These metrics are updated across the whole ScienceOpen platform every 24 hours.

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 civil society in general to researchers and practitioners in this field. While scientific rigor is expected in the research papers, essays and short pieces based on opinions and perspectives will be encouraged.

15. Financial Statement

BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950 SCHEDULE VIII VIDE RULE 17 (j)					
Name of the Public Trust Registration No.		THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY E-822 (PUNE)			
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2024					
FUNDS & LIABILITIES	Rs.	Rs.	ASSETS	Rs.	Rs.
Trust Fund or Corpus		5,27,576.50	Fixed Assets		6,12,539.56
Other Earmarked Funds			Investment on RBI Bonds		
Depreciation Fund			Investment in Mutual Funds		1,52,330.00
Reserve Fund			Tax deducted at source		
Sinking Fund			Loans		
Any Other Fund			(Secured & Unsecured)		
Loans			MSEB Deposit		42,235.00
(Secured & Unsecured)			Sundry Debtors		
From Trustees			Advances :		
Liabilities :			To Trustees		
For Expenses			To Employees		
Library Deposit	-		To Contractors		
For TDS Collected	15,199.00		To Lawyers		
Advance for land	17,000.00		To Others		
Advance Tution Fee Received	7,74,002.00		Income Outstanding :		
For Sundry Credit Balances	96,311.16	9,02,512.16	Rent		
			Dividend receivable		
			Interest Accrued		
Income & Expenditure A/c			Cash & Bank Balances		
As per Balance Sheet			Cash on Hand	17,403.00	
Less	79,05,107.46		a) Bank of India - 4428	67,04,667.22	
			(in the name of Trust)		
Surplus as per			b) With the Trustees	-	
Income & Expenditure A/c	(5,17,422.22)	73,87,685.24	c) With the managers		
			d) Bank of India - 7929	3,399.12	
			e) In Fixed Deposit	12,85,000.00	80,10,669.34
			Income & Expenditure A/c		
			As per last Balance Sheet		
			Deficit as per		
			Income & Expenditure A/c		-
TOTAL		88,17,773.90	TOTAL		88,17,773.90

The above Balance Sheet to the best of our belief contains a true account of the funds and liabilities and of the property and assets of the Trust.


Place : Pune

Dated :

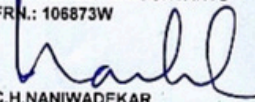
THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Swati Gole


(TRUSTEE)



As per our report of even date
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C.H.NANIWADEKAR
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UDIN: 24033032BKCAQH5840
Date : 20/09/2024



Thank you for your support

The year 2022–23 has been remarkable for us all. The Ecological Society Pune has made significant strides in the field of ecological research and education. This year has been filled with celebrations, rewards, and recognition for the contributions of our fellows, researchers, scholars, and students, both locally and internationally.

This was a transformational year for the Ecological Society Pune with new leadership and a renewed strategic programmatic outlook, leveraging our interdisciplinary work and place-based research across our centers and landscapes.

The Ecological Society Academy continues to nurture and produce future environmental leaders. We are proud to see our students successfully placed across various sectors and a growing interest from new students in our unique conservation practice program.

We sincerely thank all our principal donors and other organizations for their generous support. Their support has significantly enriched our endeavors, fostered innovative research and enabled us to progress and create impactful work in our thematic areas.

We also extend our gratitude to our Board of Trustees for guiding the Ecological Society Pune towards the next dynamic phase of development and growth. Thanks to the entire team at the Ecological Society Pune for their dedicated commitment to building a world-class organisation in ecological research and education


Kedar Bhagwat

Director, Ecological Society





ecological society

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