



RAJAT RASTOGI

Wildlife Biologist, M.Sc

TOEFL Score (2020) – 93

Website

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Keywords

Community & Ecosystems Ecology
Dry Forests and Savannas
Invasion Ecology
Ecological monitoring & modelling
Awareness & Outreach



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Education

Degree and Affiliation	Percent score (out of 100%)	Years
M.Sc. Wildlife Science Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun	76.3 %	2015 - 2017
B.Sc. (Hons.) Zoology Deshbandhu College, University of Delhi	74.6 %	2011 - 2014

Work Experience

Independent Researcher and Consultant

- Ecosystem functioning and Restoration of dry forests and savanna ecosystems in Central Indian forests – Independent research December 2021 – Present
- State of the Science report on Lantana Removal and Restoration – ATREE – CSEI July 2022- Present
- Survivorship and sustenance of urban wildlife and Black Kites in Delhi – The Black Kite Project March 2022- Present

Junior Research Fellow

Profiling of an alien invasive species in tiger landscape in India National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, India Jun 2019 – December 2021

We aimed to understand the ecological change (ecological communities, soil nutrients, genetic connectivity, etc) driven by *Lantana camara* and co-occurring invasive plants in seasonally dry tropical forests and savanna ecosystems across India. (*Manuscript in-prep*)

Project Fellow

Development of Conservation Action Plan for River Dolphins. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India Oct 2017 – May 2019

We aimed at understanding the distribution of the endangered Gangetic River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*), its prey, habitat and other associated fauna (Qureshi et al. 2018, 2019, 2021).

Master's Research – Wildlife Institute of India

Assessing the synergistic effects of two invasive plants on native plant communities in Kanha Tiger Reserve, Central India. Nov 2016-Jun 2017

I aimed at understanding the effects of two invasive plants (*Lantana camara* and *Pogostemon benghalensis*) in a monospecific tropical forest in Central India (Rastogi et al. 2023; Jhala et al. 2019).

Identifying knowledge gaps in the research and management of invasive species in India (Mungi et al. 2019) Nov 2016-Oct 2017

I worked on the prioritization of invasive species in India along with my colleagues. We prioritized 21 invasive species across four ecosystems.

Project Assistant

Resource utilization by Black Kites in the National Capital Region, India I managed the field component of the Project Black Kites. Work involved nest searching, nest monitoring, and organizing logistics. Oct 2014 – Dec 2014

Field Intern

Project Tiger - Monitoring Tigers, co-predators, prey and habitat in Kanha Tiger Reserve, India Jan 2014 & Jun 2014

The work involved ecological monitoring of radio-collared tigers, camera trapping, vegetation sampling, carnivore sign surveys, and ungulate behaviour sampling (Jhala et al. 2019).

Field Intern

Project Black Kites in National Capital Region, India Jul 2013 – Sep 2014



Skills

R Statistical Software
(Basic and Advanced)
Community Analyses
Population Analyses
(MARK, DISTANCE, PRESENCE)
Geospatial Analyses
(ERDAS, Arc-GIS 10.2, QGIS)
Bio-acoustic Analyses
(Audacity, Spectra Plus, R)
Multivariate advanced statistical modelling

Radio-tracking
Biodiversity assessment
Mist netting (for birds)
Population assessment and surveys
(Camera trapping, transects, block count, quadrat sampling & playback count)
Laboratory techniques for soil analyses
Double-observer survey
(Aquatic species)
Animal handling



References

Yadvendradev Jhala, PhD
Dean, Faculty of Wildlife Sciences,
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Grants and Fellowships awarded (INR 30,14,200 - USD 37,730)

Funding Agency	Grant (in INR)	Funded for
ATREE- CSEI	INR 3,00,000	Restoration document
PPF – CSR Fund	INR 90,000	Restoration mapping
DBT, Gol	INR 1,153,200	Lantana research
SCB Asia Travel grant	INR 25,000	ICCB 2019
<i>Sachin Kundalkar</i> , Bollywood director	INR 10,000	ICCB 2019
De Fries Bajpai Foundation travel grant	INR 8,000	CILS 3, Melghat TR
Nature Conservation Foundation travel grant	INR 6,000	SCCS-Bengaluru 2018
CAMPA, MoEF&CC	INR 8,25,000	River dolphin research
Taj Safari, Banjaar Tola - CSR Fund	INR 80,000	M.Sc. dissertation
Wildlife Institute of India, <i>Grant-in-aid</i>	INR 75,000	M.Sc. dissertation
Government of India – WII Fellowship	INR 532,000	M.Sc. Wildlife Science (2015-17)

Peer-reviewed Publications

- Mungi, NA, Kaushik, M, Mohanty, NP, **Rastogi, R**, Johnson, JA, and Qureshi, Q (2019). Identifying knowledge gaps in the research and management of invasive species in India. *Biologia*, pp.1-7. <https://doi.org/10.2478/s11756-018-00186-8>
- **Rastogi, R.**, Qureshi, Q., Shrivastava, A., & Jhala, Y. V. (2023). Multiple invasions exert combined magnified effects on native plants, soil nutrients and alters the plant-herbivore interaction in dry tropical forest. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 531, 120781. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2023.120781>
- **Rastogi R**, Ratnam, J., Sankaran, M., (*In Prep.* for *Journal of Applied Ecology*). Defining thresholds for multiple plant invasions in the dry tropical forests of India: Insights into impacts on Native plant assemblages and forage availability for tiger sustenance.

Technical Reports and thesis

- Qureshi, Q., Kolipakam, V., Wakid, A, Deori, S., Gayathri, A., Jacob, M., Bettaswamy, A., Roy, K., Jhala, H., Das. S, Sharma, S., Dutta, A., Singh, V., Sarma, H., Negi, R., Roychowdhury, G., Ray, S., Phukan, A., sarma, H., Negi, R., Prasad, L., **Rastogi, R.**, Warudkar, A., Goyal, N., Ray, S., Pant, B., Mane, S., Kalita, J., Tasfia, T.S., Rokade, A., Raza, R., Choudhary, S.K., Choudhury, B.C & Hussain, S.A. (2021). Monitoring Ganges and Indus River Dolphins, Associated Aquatic Fauna and Habitat: Field Guide 2021-22. Wildlife Institute of India. TR No./2021/09
- Jhala, Y. V., Qureshi, Q., Gopal, R., Nayak, K., Negi, H. S., Chauhan, J. S., Shukla, S., Krishnamoorthy, L., Mohanta, H. S., Shukla, R., Mitra, A., Vettakevan, J., Borah, J., Sharma, R., Yumnam, B., Kumar, U., Awasthi, N., Bora, J. K., Goswami, S. and **Rastogi, R.** (2019). Project report, 2005-2018. Intensive Monitoring and Study of Dispersal of Tigers in Kanha Tiger Reserve. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi; and Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.
- Qureshi, Q, Kolipakam, V, Wakid, A, Ray, S, Hussain, SAH, ..., **Rastogi, R.** (2019). Development of conservation action plan for river dolphins – Part 2. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- Qureshi, Q, Hussain, SA, Badola, R, Kolipakam, V, ..., **Rastogi, R.** (2018). Development of conservation action plan for river dolphins – Annual Report 2018. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- **Rastogi, R.** 2017. Assessing the synergistic effects of two invasive plants on native plant community in Kanha National Park, Central India. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Popular Articles

- **Rastogi R** (2020). Lantana invasion threatens 40% of India's tiger habitat; August 2020 - Mongabay India- (<https://india.mongabay.com/2020/08/lantana-invasion-threatens-40-percent-of-indias-tiger-habitat-reports-study/>)
- **Rastogi R** (2019). On a search of blackbuck in Bihar's grasslands. *Sanctuary Asia – Cub Magazine* for May 2019
- **Rastogi R** (2018). Ganges boy on a Gangetic Spree. *Saevus Magazine* blog. <https://www.saevus.in/ganges-boy-on-gangetic-spreed/>
- **Rastogi R** (in prep). Multiple invasions are draining our ecological resources faster than we anticipated.

Conference Presentations

- **Conference talk** - "Do exotics rule the land?" International Conference on conservation Biology, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 2019
- **Conference talk** - "Odds in the woods: Effects of two invasive plants on native plant assemblage in a tropical forest". SCB India 2018
- **Poster presentation** - "The Green Disease: Effects of invasive plants on plant assemblage and ecosystem functioning in a tropical forest". Central Indian Landscape Symposium - 2018
- **Poster presentation** - "Odds in the woods: a tale of two plant invaders in a tropical forest". SCCS-Bengaluru 2018

Invited talks and outreach activities

- *“Aliens in the wild”* – Deshbandhu College, University of Delhi (August 2020)
- *“Plastic and wildlife”* – Valuearth.com; about effects of plastic products on wild plants and animals (July 2020)
- *“The Great Wild India”* – Mount Litera Zee School, Ghaziabad (October 2018)
- Founder and creator at [ConservationDesi](#), an online platform to present science in a simple manner with the help of videos, artworks, memes, and podcasts
- Organized Wildlife Week Quiz over two consecutive years, 2015 and 2016, to raise awareness among school children at Wildlife Institute of India
- Proactively organized wildlife workshops for undergraduate students in the states of Delhi, Assam, and Jharkhand

Hobbies & interests

- My interests include lyrical freestyle dance, stage theatre, painting, writing poems, photography, baking, and hiking
- I have mentored two undergraduate students into the field of wildlife and they successfully got enrolled in two of the prestigious wildlife master’s programs (WII and NCBS)
- I led the college dance society as a president for two years (2011-2013) and was associated with the dramatics society, photography society, zoology society, and organized many inter and intra college events during B.Sc. years (2011-2014)