



THE NATURE VOLUNTEERS INDORE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



PRINCIPAL FOUNDERS



ABHILASH KHANDEKAR Hon Vice-President and Founder

BHALU MONDHE (Padma Shri) Hon President and Founder

Bhalu Mondhe has been an avid nature lover for over 50 years now. He is an acclaimed wildlife photographer. Besides being a professional lensman, he is also a painter and sculptor. His love for photography took him to every nook and corner of India. He first visited the Kanha National Park to photograph tigers and enjoy the verdant jungle, much before it was formally declared a tiger reserve under the Project Tiger of 1972.

His long stints in Europe and America made him a confirmed environmentalist. So conserving nature became his second nature! His untiring efforts helped protect and conserve a severely threatened bird habitat and wetland called Sirpur Lake, Indore, along with its flora and fauna. Twenty five years down the line, Bhalu Mondhe, is a well known name in the field of environment, wetland protection and bird watching. He was awarded the prestigious civilian honour Padma Shri in 2016 by the President of India.

Abhilash Khandekar, the founder secretary of TNV, continued with his journalistic profession and other interests while still working with us. Even after being elected to the prestigious position of Madhya Pradesh's richest sports body-MP Cricket Association (MPCA) as President in October 2019, his interest and involvement in environmental pursuits remained high as ever. Looking at his passion and ability to deliver, the MP Government again nominated him to the MP Wildlife Board in 2020 and then inducted him into the newly formed MP Wetland Authority for a period of three years (2020-2023). It's an honour for TNV.

The Wetland Authority has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Environment Minister of the State and as per the legal directives of the (MOEFCC), New Delhi.

Along with Mr Mondhe and others, he is trying to expand TNV into a professional organisation that would undertake more and more advocacy and field research works with the help of domain experts.





RAMESH PRATAP SINGH, IFS (R) Chairman and Wildlife Expert

In 35 years of service in the elite Indian Forest Service (IFS), Mr. R.P. Singh has undertaken several outstanding innovations and policy measures having powerful impact in the field of wildlife conservation and forest management. His dedication to forest conservation has been awarded and recognised in illustrious private as well as public forums at the national and state level like Sanctuary Asia Wildlife Service Award (2017), RBS Green Warrior Award (2015), Prime Ministers Award for Wildlife Management (2016) and Chief Ministers Gold Medal for Relocation (2016). He joined TNV as Chairman in 2020. He lives in Bhopal.

VISION

To have a well-protected, healthy and beautifully green environment around us.

MISSION



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear friends,

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

The environmentally restless TNV and its team of dedicated volunteers, was quite busy with various activities throughout 2020-21. We can proudly say that in spite of the pandemic and the resource crunch we are facing, we continued to remain committed to the path of environment protection and conservation virtually



Dev Kumar Vasudevan Secretary

The main activities of TNV in 2020-21 include:

- 27-28 Sep 2020. "Sustaining the Environment- Challenges and Solutions." A three-day webinar on this theme was organised by TNV. On 27 Sep the environmentalist, wildlife expert and author from Pune, Dr Erach Bharucha, a surgeon by profession, spoke on "Wetland management: Challenges and possible solutions." On 28 Sep the speaker was Dr Pankaj Srivastava, IFS, Director IIFM, Bhopal, and an expert on river Narmada who has deeply researched the interlinks between forests and hydrology. He spoke on "Forestry for River Rejuvenation." On 29 Sep Mr Ajay Jha, Director, Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values in India (PAIRVI), New Delhi spoke on "SDGs and India; Progress and Pitfalls." The moderators for the three days were Mrs Vindhyeshwari Kumari, Mr Sajid Lodi and Mr Dev Kumar Vasudevan. Mr Ravi Gupta managed the webinar on the online platform Zoom.
- Nov 7 & 8 2020. A two day webinar on "Harness Solar Power and Compost Green Waste to sustain the Environment" was conducted online. Experts discussed how solar energy can help protect the environment and how to convert green waste to black gold! Nov 7 Speaker Dr Susmita Bhattacharjee, Indore (Founder, Pushan). A solar energy expert, working for innovative solar energy solutions for a sustainable ecosystem from renewable resources Dr Susmita spoke on "Solar power, the bright alternative." Nov 8. Mrs Sarika Gadikar of Indore, an IT Professional and a home composting expert spoke on "Composting -Recycle Smart!"
- Nov 21 2020. MP State Fish Mahseer Conservation Project. The foundation stone was laid for a
 multifacetedproject for the conservation and promotion of Mahseer (genus Tor), the state fish of
 Madhya Pradesh in village Pitambali, in Badwah district, on the banks of the river Narmada.
- Dec 12 2020. A webinar on the topic "Elephants, Habitats and Challenges" by the the elephant expert Mr
 Vivek Menon was very well attended and received. He threw light on the corridors and stressed the need to protect them.
- **Dec 25 2020.** TNV organised the first bird watching programme at Dhar, in association with the INTACH Dhar Chapter and the organisation Kanva Van of Dhar. The event was conducted at all the important lakes

and wetlands of Dhar district, where many species of migratory and resident birds were spotted. Our member Abhyuday Kelkar took the commendable initiative.

- Jan 3 2021. Sirpur Lake Cleaning Drive in Association with the YHAI. To create awareness regarding cleanliness and good health, TNV and the Youth Hostels Association of India (YHAI), Indore chapter, jointly organized a large-scale cleaning drive at the Sirpur Lake area. It generated a very good response. Almost 100 volunteers participated in it. A cycle rally was also organised from the Gangwal Bus Stand to Sirpur Lake on the occasion to promote the message of good health. O.P. Maheshwari took the initiative.
- Jan 10 2021. Bird survey at Sardarpur, Dhar. The Forest department organised the first ever bird survey at
 Sardarpur Sanctuary, in Dhar district, about 105 kms away from Indore. There were 27 participants on 5
 trails who took part in the survey. A total of 71 species were spotted. Shri Ajay Gadikar, ornithologist and
 TNV member, helped the forest department in compiling and finalising the technical report of the
 sightings.
- Jan 24 2021. Webinar on butterflies. The speaker was the former CCF, MP Forest Department, Shri Anil Nagar, an expert on butterflies. He conducted a very enriching and informative talk titled "Jungle ki baat, titli ke saath."
- **Feb 12-14 2021.** 3rd Bird Survey at Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary Districts Neemuch and Mandsaur. The three-day bird survey was conducted by the MP Forest Department. A total of 80 participants from 7 different states participated in it. The survey was conducted on 24 trails and a total of 222 species were documented. Many TNV members, along with Secretary Dev Kumar Vasudevan participated in it. Our member and ornithologist Shri Ajay Gadikar helped in collating the technical report of the outcomes.
- Mar 07 2021. The first bird survey was conducted at Ralamandal Sanctuary by the Forest department. An enthusiastic group of 24 conducted the survey on 5 trails and a total of 84 species were documented. TNV members, along with Secretary Shri Dev Kumar Vasudevan also participated in good numbers and our member Shri Ajay Gadikar helped in collating and finalizing the technical report of the survey. TNV pledges to continue its activities to monitor and protect the environment and we thank all individuals and organizations including EPCO Bhopal, IMC Indore and the MP Forest Dept who support us in our mission. We also appeal to various individuals, industrial houses and other patrons to come forward to extend their support to TNV.

Have a great year ahead...

ABOUT TNV

The Nature Volunteers (TNV) is a leading conservation movement NGO and a not-for-profit organisation, functioning from Indore, MP. It celebrated its silver jubilee in 2016-17. TNV is a registered organisation with a top track record of variety of works such as wetland conservation, bird habitat protection, save tiger campaign, raising environment and climate issues at national and international fora, publishing books to create awareness in the masses, organising bird watching camps, participating in vulture counts, and so on. Much before the climate change and environment degradation emerged as global challenges, TNV had started its modest field work in these areas.

Indore's famous Sirpur Lake, which is about 120 years old, was a natural bird habitat but fell on bad days due to the negligence of its owners, the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC). TNV, led by its president - an acclaimed environmentalist, Mr Bhalu Mondhe (Padma Shri), took upon itself to conserve the wetland and its flora and fauna.

Upon his return from Germany, Mr Mondhe found his hometown Indore in the grip of growing pollution and urban chaos. To get away from this polluted and frenzied city, he took off to his favourite 'outing' spot-Sirpur. But he was in for a rude shock! The state of the once-beautiful, sprawling Sirpur Lake unfolded a picture far removed from his wonderful school boy memories. Trees being felled, water contaminated, garbage heaps, leaves and timber being burnt and anti-social elements vitiating the environment. Sirpur appeared nobody's priority or responsibility. A person who chose Indore over Düsseldorf, was quite disturbed to see the appalling state of the Lake. He soon, along with his young journalist friend Abhilash Khandekar, then working with Free Press Journal as a sports correspondent, set up The Nature Volunteers (TNV) - "an

Their love for the city and its well being was a common point of interest. They teamed up to save Sirpur. It was 5th June 1992. Since then their untiring multi-pronged efforts have resulted in the Lake and its biodiversity being protected completely.

It took them and their colleagues almost 15 years of sustained efforts which brought back to life the sprawling Lake, the biggest chunk of carbon sink around Indore and ensured it regained its pristine glory.

The complete conservation of Sirpur Lake, as an urban water body, is now a well known success story across the country. It also has recently got an international recognition. Sirpur has been declared as 'Important Bird Area' (IBA) by the International body, Birdlife International, London, on the recommendation of BNHS. We refer to it as the Sirpur Bird Sanctuary (SBS) in reverence to the 140 colourful species of resident and migratory birds.

HELP US CONSERVE - PARTICIPATE AND DONATE हमारी सहायता करें - सहभागी बने और दान करें

Help us in our mission to conserve birds and their habitats, secure wetlands and their biodiversity, protect wildlife, improve upon our natural ecology and urban chaos whileensuring the well being of flora and fauna. Your participation and donation will help us fulfil our vision of a well protected and healthy environment for all.

पिक्षयों और उनके आवासों को संरक्षित करने, आर्द्रभूमि और उनकी जैव विविधता को सुरिक्षत रखने, वन्यजीवों की रक्षा करने, वनस्पितयों और जीवों की भलाई सुनिश्चित करते हुए हमारी प्राकृतिक पारिस्थितिकी और शहरी अराजकता में सुधार करने के हमारे मिशन में हमारी मदद करें। आपकी भागीदारी और दान हम सभी के लिए एक अच्छी तरह से संरिक्षित और स्वस्थ वातावरण के हमारे प्रयासों को पूरा करने में मदद करेगा।

The Nature Volunteers
Bank of Baroda,
A.B. Road, Indore
SB Account No. 12010100015777
IFSC Code - BARBOCOLIND (Fifth Character is Zero)







Mahseer Conservation Project - On 21st November 2020, in village Pitambali, in Badwah (Khargone District), on the shores of River Narmada, the foundation stone was laid for a multifaceted project for the conservation and promotion of Mahseer (genus Tor), the state fish of Madhya Pradesh.





Dhar Bird watching programme - On 25th December 2020, TNV organised the first bird watching programme at Dhar, in association with the INTACH Dhar Chapter and the organisation Kanva Van of Dhar. The event was conducted at all the important lakes and wetlands of Dhar district, where many species of migratory and resident birds were spotted.



Sirpur cleaning programme with YHAI, Indore - To create awareness regarding cleanliness and Civic Responsibility, TNV and the Youth Hostels Association of India (YHAI), Indore chapter, jointly organised a large-scale cleaning drive at the Sirpur Lake area on 3rd January 2021.

Around 100 volunteers participated in it.



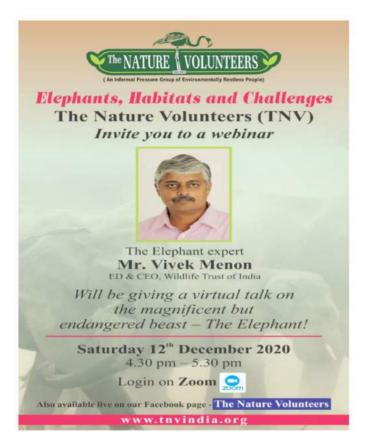








Glimpses of various webinars...



While the world was grappling with the corona pandemic and people were forced to stay indoors, The Nature Volunteers continued to connect people with the environment and nature by conducting webinar and online talks on a regular basis.





Glimpses of various webinars...







Gandhisagar bird survey - A three-day bird survey was conducted at Gandhisagar sanctuary from 12th Feb 2021 to 14th Feb 2021, by the M.P. Forest Department, the third one at this location. A total of 80 participants from 07 different states had participated in it. The bird survey was done on 24 trails and a total of 222 species were documented. Many TNV members, along with Secretary Mr. Dev Kumar Vasudevan participated in it. Our member and ornithologist Mr. Ajay Gadikar helped in collating the technical report of the outcomes.









Ralamandal Bird Survey - The first-ever bird survey was conducted at Ralamandal Sanctuary on 7th March 2021 by the M.P. Forest Department. An enthusiastic group of 24 had gone birding, on 5 trails and a total of 84 species were documented.





Bird survey at Sardarpur - On 10th January, 2021, the Forest department organised the first ever bird survey at Sardarpur sanctuary, in Dhar district, about 105 kms away from Indore.

There were 27 participants who were part of the survey, on 5 trails. A total of 71 species were spotted.















Ashutosh Gokhale & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Branch Office: 206, Manas Bhawan Extn. 11 R N T Marg. INDORE IM P Ph 0731 - 4094192 Mob 98270-23989 E-mail gokhale206@gmail.com

FORM NO. 10B

[See rule 17B]

Audit report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions

We have examined the balance sheet of THE NATURE VOLUNTEERS SOCIETY [name of the trust or institution] PAN AABAT4992Q as at 31/03/2021 and the Profit and loss account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said Trust or institution. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the above named trust visited by us so far as appears from our examination of the books. and proper Returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by us. subject to the comments given below:

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view-

- in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named trust as at 31/03/2021
- the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit or loss of its accounting year ending on 31/03/2021

FRN 008833C

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto

for ASHUTOSH GOKHALE AND COMPANY

Chartered Accountants

Ashutosh Gokhale (PARTNER) M. No.: 073693

Indore-452001 MADHYA PRADESH

FRN: 0008833C 206, MANAS BHAWAN, 11, RNT MARG.

Place: Indore

Date : 22/09/2021

UDIN: 21073693AAAADB7454

Branch Office: HN-30, Sterling Green View Phase II, Chuna Bhatti. BHOPAL - 462 016 (M.P.) Mob.: 98930-23989 Head Office: 49, Gokul Palace, Flat No. 102, Kshirsagar Colony, UJJAIN - 456 010 (M P) Phone. 0734-4014536 E-mail: ashutoshgokhaleandco@yahoo.com.

Balance Sheet

The Nature Volunteers (As At 31st March 2021)

LIABILITIES	Amoun	t (in Rs.)	ASSETS	Amount	(in Rs.)
Capital Account		652623.68	Fixed Assets		179068.00
Corpus Fund	69200.00		Camera	123000.00	
Reserve and Surplus			LENOVO LAPTOP	34500.00	
Opening Balance	656241.48		Mobile	5968.00	
Less: Deficit for the year	72817.80		Printer	15600.00	
	583423.68		Investment		433884.00
Current Liabilities		21800.00	Accrued Interest on FDR	7664.00	
Accounting Charges Payable	10900.00		FDR with Bank of Baroda	426220.00	
Audit Fees Payable	10900.00		Current Assets		61471.68
			Cash-in-Hand	1104.50	
			Bank Accounts	60367.18	
TOTAL		674423.68	TOTAL		674423.68

Profit & Loss A/c

The Nature Volunteers (As At 31st March 2021)

EXPENDITURES	Amount in Rs.	INCOMES	Amount in Rs.
To Accounting Charges To Annual Return Filling Fees To Audit Fees To Bank Charges To Environmental Incidental Exps To Environment Awareness Program, Dhar To Petrol Expenses To Photo Copy Exp To Postage Expenses To Printing Exp To Rent A/c To Repairing & Maintenance To Salary To Sirpur Pond Cleaning and Bird Watching	5000.00 15000.00 5000.00 744.80 60000.00 6600.00 1000.00 244.00 2172.00 65361.00 120000.00 6800.00 66000.00	By Donations By Grant from Environmental & Planning Comm By Interest on FDR By Interest on SB A/c By Miscellaneous Receipts By Deficit - excess of expenditure over income	19450.00 250000.00 24478.00 4852.00 6412.00 72817.80
To Stationery Exp. To Subscription to Zoom	6862.00 15576.00		
TOTAL	378009.80	TOTAL	378009.80



TEAM TNV



Ramesh Pratap Singh Chairman



Bhalu Mondhe Hon President



Abhilash Khandekar Hon Vice President



Hon Secretary



Dev Kumar Vasudevan Vindhyeshwari Kumari Hon Joint Secretary



OP Maheshwari Hon Treasurer



Ajay Gadikar Ornithologist



Ravi Gupta **ECMember**



Dilip Phadke Founder Member



Sudhir Soni Founder Member



Sunil Deshpande Founder Member



Vijay Rangnekar



Sajid Lodi Life Member



Abhyudaya Kelkar Life Member



Nilesh Bendre



Neeraj Bagwan Office Secretary

EYE ON FUTURE

• The construction of a wetland interpretation centre in the Sirpur Lake area, Indore with the help of Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC).

- Creating a Butterfly Conservatory at Sirpur Lake.
- Launching Save Sarus Campaign at Yeshwant Sagar, Indore.
- Large scale awareness campaign for Lesser Florican in Dhar, Ratlam, Jhabua
- Annual certificate courses on ornithology.
- Interventions in urban planning.
- · Renew "Save tiger campaign".
- Intensive study of migratory patterns of birds at Sirpur.
- Creating a Biodiversity Park like the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Delhi.
- Mahseer Conservation Project in the Narmada river, Madhya Pradesh.
- Efforts for getting Sirpur Lake declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site by the Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Bhopal.
- Efforts for getting economic valuation of the Sirpur Lake done from IIFM, Bhopal.

BHALU MONDHE

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DEV KUMAR VASUDEVAN

Secretary TNV +91 98930 76711 dev.kumar.vasudevan@gmail.com



(An Informal Pressure Group of Environmentally Restless People)

Rag No 03/2703/09466/06 Esto 1992 80 G No. F. No CIT-nd/Tech-B04/07/2011 12

-REGD. OFFICE-

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