



Assistant Professor (UGC)

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Soumya Prasad

Applied ecology, specializing in forest ecology in Himalayan ecosystems. My research has focused on addressing climate change for plant communities, impacts of plastic waste on animals, and characterizing plant-animal interaction networks in tropical forests.

Current Areas of Research:

Research is being pursued in four broad inter-related areas of applied ecology and conservation biology, mostly located in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand:

1. Modeling plant and animal distributions, and responses to climate change
2. Examining the effects of landuse change on seed dispersal processes
3. Examining ecological implications of inadequate solid waste management
4. Science communication & citizen science for ecology

Courses taught: Ecology, Biodiversity, Biostatistics at the MSc level, and Applied biostatistics at the PhD level, as well as ecological field techniques. Courses thought previously: advanced statistical modelling, and simulations for biological systems.

Education:

- PhD., (2010) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India
- M.Sc., (2001) Wildlife Science, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India, aggregate 73.6%
- B.Sc., (1999), Chemistry, Botany & Zoology, Bangalore University, India, aggregate 80.3%

Skills: Field techniques in ecology, including telemetry, camera-trapping and vegetation sampling protocols; Applied statistics including linear models, maximum likelihood approaches,

generalized linear mixed models, spatial point pattern analyses, network analyses; a working knowledge of R for statistical analyses.

Research Experience:

- 2014-present: UGC-Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India.
- 2012-2014: National Environmental Sciences Fellow, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.
- 2012-present: Visiting scientist, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Ecosystems Division, Atheron, Australia
- 2011-2012: Post-doctoral Research Associate at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science.
- 2004-10: PhD student at Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science under the supervision of Prof. R. Sukumar.
- 2002-2004: Project Assitant at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India
- 2001-2002: Intern at Rainforest Restoration Program, Nature Conservation Foundation, Anamalais, Tamilnadu, India

Teaching Experience:

- 2014 – present: Main instructor for courses in Ecology, Biodiversity Conservation and Biostatistics at School of Life Sciences, JNU (Delhi, India).
- 2012: Guest lecturer for a course in advanced biostatistical methods for MSc (Wildlife Science) students at Wildlife Institute of India (Dehradun, India)
- 2012: Main instructor at workshop on advanced biostatistical methods for graduate students at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, Chinese Academy of Sciences, hosted by the Program for Field Studies (Yunnan, China).
- 2010: Field techniques in ecology for M.A (Environment & Development) at Ambedkar University (Delhi, India).

Awards:

Alwyn Gentry Award for best student poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC), Bali, Indonesia in July 2010.

David W. Snow Award for the best poster paper at the V International Symposium on Frugivores and Seed dispersal (FSD) at France in June 2010.

Grants and scholarships:

- Department of Science & Technology (Australia-India Strategic Research Fund for Rs. 55,00,000, 2011-2014) and SERB grant under approval (~ for Rs. 67,00,000, 2017)
- Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (National Environment Sciences Fellowship, Rs. 60,00,000, 2012-2014)
- University Grants Commission (Start up Grant), Rs 6,00,000 from April 2015 to March 2017.
- Recipient of travel grants from Department of Science & Technology (2010), and Association for Tropical Biology & Conservation (2010)
- Wildlife Conservation Society Small Grants for Research, 2000.
- PhD fellowship from Indian Institute of Science, and MSc fellowship from Wildlife Institute of India

Students Supervised: PhD = 4 (ongoing); MSc = 1 (completed), 2 (ongoing)

Memberships of Boards / Committees (outside of JNU):

1. Member of the Steering Committee of the Association for Tropical Biology & Conservation, Asia-Pacific Chapter (2014-2016)
2. Chair of the Organizing and Scientific Committee for the VII International Frugivores and Seed Dispersal Symposium (2015-2020)

Publications: 20 + peer-reviewed publications in national and international journals / books

Format: Authors, Title, Name of Journal, Volume, Pages, Year (Impact factor & Citations)

- i. Jaacks, L. and **Prasad, S.** 2016. The ecological cost of continued use of endocrine-disrupting chemicals. *Lancet – Diabetes & Endocrinology* , [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2213-8587\(16\)30399-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2213-8587(16)30399-0) (16.5 & 0)
- ii. Ramaswami, G; Kaushik, M; **Prasad, S;** Westcott, D; Sukumar, R; Dispersal by generalist frugivores affects management of an invasive plant, *Biotropica* , DOI: 10.1111/btp.12343, 2016 (2.351 & 0)
- iii. Mokany, K; **Prasad, S;** Westcott, D; Impacts of climate change and management responses in tropical forests depend on complex frugivore-mediated seed dispersal, *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 24, 685-694, 2015 (5.273 & 2)
- iv. Varma V, Ratnam J, Viswanathan V, Osuri MO, Biesmeijer JC, Madhusudan MD, Sankaran M, Krishnadas M, Barua D, Budruk M, Isvaran K, Jayapal R, Joshi J, Karanth KK, Krishnaswamy J,

- Kumar R, Mukherjee S, Nagendra H, Niphadkar M, Owen N, Page N, **Prasad S**, Quader S, Nandini R, Robin VV, Sait SM, Shah MA, Somanathan H, Srinivasan S, Sundaram B, 2015, Perceptions of priority issues in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in India. *Biological Conservation*. 187, 201-211, (3.62 & 3)
- v. Shukla, U; **Prasad, S**; Joshi, M; Sridhara, S; Westcott, D; Nest site characterization of sympatric hornbills in a tropical dry forest., *Current Science*, 108, 1725-1730, 2015 (0.833 & 0)
 - vi. Mokany, K; Westcott, DA; **Prasad, S**; Ford, AJ; Metcalfe, DJ; Identifying Priority Areas for Conservation and Management in Diverse Tropical Forests, *PLOS ONE*, 9, e89084, 2014 (3.057 & 10)
 - vii. **Prasad, S**; Krishnadas, M; McConkey, KR; Datta, A; The tangled causes of population decline in two harvested plant species: a comment on Ticktin et al.(2012), *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 51, 642-647, 2014 (4.74 & 2)
 - viii. Mokany, K; **Prasad, S**; Westcott, DA; Loss of frugivore seed dispersal services under climate change, *Nature Communications*, 5, 3971, 2014 (11.329 & 9)
 - ix. Jadeja, S; **Prasad, S**; Quader, S; Isvaran, K; Antelope mating strategies facilitate invasion of grasslands by a woody weed, *Oikos*, 122, 1441-1452, 2013 (3.332 & 7)
 - x. McConkey, KR; **Prasad, S**; Corlett, RT; Campos-Arceiz, A; Brodie, JF; Rogers, H; Santamaria, L; Seed dispersal in changing landscapes, *Biological Conservation*, 146, 1:13, 2012 (3.762 & 154)
 - xi. **Prasad, S**; Pittet, A; Sukumar, R; Who really ate the fruit? A novel approach to camera trapping for quantifying frugivory by ruminants, *Ecological research*, 25, 225-31, 2010 (1.338 & 23)
 - xii. **Prasad, S**; Sukumar, R; Context-dependency of a complex fruit–frugivore mutualism: temporal variation in crop size and neighborhood effects, *Oikos*, 119, 514-23, 2010 (3.332 & 22)
 - xiii. **Prasad, S**; Krishnaswamy, J; Chellam, R; Goyal, SP; Ruminant-mediated Seed Dispersal of an Economically Valuable Tree in Indian Dry Forests, *Biotropica* 38, 679-82, 2006 (2.351 & 18)
 - xiv. Shahabuddin, G; **Prasad, S**; Assessing ecological sustainability of non-timber forest produce extraction: the Indian scenario, *Conservation and Society*, 2, 235, 2004 (1.031 & 56)
 - xv. **Prasad, S**; Chellam, R; Krishnaswamy, J; Goyal, SP; Frugivory of *Phyllanthus emblica* at Rajaji National Park, northwest India, *Current Science*, 87, 1188-1190, 2004 (0.833 & 15)

Book chapters: *Authors, Title, Pages, Year of Publication (Editors, Publisher)*

- i. Sridhara, S; McConkey, K; **Prasad, S**; Corlett, RT; Frugivory and Seed Dispersal by Large Herbivores of Asia, *The Ecology of Large Herbivores in South and Southeast Asia*, 121-150, 2016 (Editors: Arestani, F, & Sankaran, M, Springer)
- ii. **Prasad, S**; Chellam, R; Krishnaswamy, J; Fruit removal patterns and dispersal of *Emblica officinalis* (Euphorbiaceae) at Rajaji National Park, India, *Tropical Ecosystems: Structure, Diversity & Human Welfare*, 513-516, 2001 (Editors: Ganeshiah, K.N., Uma Shaanker, R. and Bawa, K.S, Oxford & IBH)

General articles

- i. **Prasad, S**, Keeping track of how plants move in changing landscapes, *The Wire*, 04/03/2016, 23738

- ii. **Prasad, S.**, Witt, A., Williams, A.C., & Sitompul, A. 2011. Invasive plant species in Asian elephant habitats. *Aliens: The Invasive Species Bulletin*. 31:30-35
- iii. Shanker, K. and **Prasad, S.** 2009. Introduction: Field assistants and field biology in India. *Current Conservation* 3(1): 4.
- iv. **Prasad, S.** and Aiyadurai, A. 2009. Looking beyond acknowledgements. *Current Conservation*. *Current Conservation* 3(1): 6-8.
- v. **Prasad, S.** 2004. Feathered touch (review of the book 'Birds of Western Ghats, Konkan and Malabar' by Satish Pande, Saleel Tambe, Clement Francis M and Niranjana Sant). *Down to Earth* 12 (23): 56-57.

Reports

A.J.T. Johnsingh, K. Ramesh, Q. Qureshi, A. David, S.P. Goyal, G.S. Rawat, K. Rajapandian and **S. Prasad**, 2004. Conservation status of tiger and associated species in the Terai Arc Landscape, India. RR-04/001, WII, Dehradun

Presentations at Seminars and Conferences:

1. 2016; Prasad, S. Do Big Players Matter in Seed Dispersal Networks? India-Behavior, Ecology & Evolution. 1st Symposium, March, 2016
2. 2015: Prasad S and Westcott D, Developing a generic functional classification for seed dispersal. 6th International Symposium-Workshop on Frugivores and Seed Dispersal, Drakensberg, South Africa, June 21-26th.
3. 2015 Westcott D, Prasad S, Mokany K, Seed dispersal processes and their influence on global change impacts in tropical forests. 6th International Symposium-Workshop on Frugivores and Seed Dispersal, Drakensberg, South Africa, June 21-26th.
4. 2015 Sridhara S, Prasad S, Westcott D, Edwards W, Behaviour mediated by habitat heterogeneity and not fruiting trees better predicts seed deposition patterns by a tropical ruminant. 6th International Symposium-Workshop on Frugivores and Seed Dispersal, Drakensberg, South Africa, June 21-26th.
5. 2015. Prasad S, Do big players matter in seed dispersal networks, 1st India-Behaviour, Ecology & Evolution Conference, Corbett, Uttarakhand, 10-12th March, 2016
6. 2014 Soumya Prasad. Delivered talk titled "Seed dispersal in changing landscapes: incorporating plant movement properties into models predicting vegetation responses to climate change." *Tropical Ecology Congress, JNU, Delhi*

7. 2014. Soumya Prasad & David Westcott. Not so far? Seed dispersal by a large-bodied avian frugivore, the Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*). *Talk delivered at ATBC Annual Meeting, Cairns, Australia.*
8. 2012. Soumya Prasad “Whose fruits are they anyway”. *Invited talk at CSIRO, Atherton, Australia, 11th September 2012.*
9. 2012. Soumya Prasad, R. Corlett, K. McConkey “Seed dispersal in changing landscapes”, *Plenary Address, Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Asian Chapter Meeting, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, Menglun, Yunnan, China, 25-28th March 2012.*
10. 2010. Presented a poster titled ‘Seed dispersal and spatial patterns of trees in a tropical dry forest’ at the annual meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC), Bali, Indonesia in July 2010.
11. 2010. Presented a poster titled “Community-wide characterization of seed dispersal in a faunally-intact dry tropical forest: examining the relative contribution of extant mega-fauna” at the V International Symposium on Frugivores and Seed dispersal (FSD) at France in June 2010.
12. 2009. Presented an oral paper titled ‘Community-wide patterns of seed dispersal in a dry tropical forest at Mudumalai, southern India’ at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology at Beijing, China.
13. 2008 Presented an oral paper titled ‘Fruit-frugivore interactions in a dry tropical forest’ at the 2nd Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) Asia-Pacific conference at Kuching, Malaysia.
14. 2007. Presented an oral paper titled ‘Factors influencing fruit removal of an economically valuable tree in dry tropical forests of Mudumalai, south India’ at the 1st ATBC Asia-Pacific conference at Mahabalipuram, India.
15. 2005. Presented a talk titled ‘Dispersal of seeds that ruminants regurgitate: *Phyllanthus emblica* Linn. (Euphorbiaceae) at Rajaji national park, India’ at the IV International Symposium-Workshop on Frugivores and Seed dispersal, Brisbane, Australia.
16. 2001. Presented a poster titled ‘Fruit Removal and Seed Dispersal of *Emblica officinalis* at Rajaji NP, India’ at the ATBC international conference in Bangalore, India.