

Suneha Jagannathan

sunehajagan@gmail.com

Objective

I am independent marine biologist and educator, looking to conceptualize and implement research and conservation projects within the theme of ecosystem conservation.

Education

- **MSc Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems** **2017**
Erasmus Mundus (Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, University of Florence). **Grade: 17/20**
- **BSc Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology** **2014**
Stella Maris College, Madras University. **CPGA: 7.3/10**
- **Senior Secondary School** **2011**
Bala Vidya Mandir, Chennai. **Percentage: 80%**

Research and Conservation Projects

Title of Project	Affiliated Bodies	Funding Grant	Status
Restoration of marine biodiversity and development of sustainable fishing methods and using artificial reefs in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu	Quest Academy	QTT Adventure Sports Academy Pvt Ltd	Ongoing
Ecological monitoring of artificial reef ecosystems in Pondicherry	Temple Adventures/Temple Reef Foundation	Ravi Sankaran Small Grants Program: Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation	Ongoing
Implement sustainable methods to reduce fishing pressure and replenish marine biodiversity along the Puducherry coastline.	Temple Adventures/Temple Reef Foundation	Wildlife Trust of India, Rapid Action Projects	Completed
Understanding scuba diver perceptions of coral reef health: Case study based in Tioman Island, Malaysia	MSc thesis under TROPIMUNDO: Erasmus Mundus Master's on Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu	Completed
Environmental enrichment of captive Indian Rock Pythons (<i>Python molurus molurus</i>)	Conducted at Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. BSc Project at Stella Maris College	Self-funded/ Madras Crocodile Bank Trust	Completed

Accomplishments

- My project “Restoration of marine biodiversity and development of sustainable fishing methods and using artificial reefs in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu” was long-listed for the Best Wildlife Conservation Award in the Outlook Indian Responsible Tourism Awards 2020.
- Speaker and organizing member at Moving Waters Film Festival, Pondicherry; February 2019.
- Panel member/speaker for inauguration of Citizen Science Marine Program, Centre for Climate Change Studies, Sathyabama Institute, Chennai; October 2018.
- Resource person for session on marine conservation and sustainable fisheries at Learning Festival, organized by Azim Premji Foundation; January 2018.
- Erasmus+ scholarship holder for MSc. Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Selected as Ambassador for Asia for project proposal on ocean education at the Our Ocean Youth Summit in Malta, hosted by Sustainable Ocean Alliance; October 2017.
- Co-author of article titled “Behavior of reptiles in Madras Crocodile Bank” published in the proceedings of National Conference on Perspectives in Ethology in Stella Maris College, Chennai.
- Accomplished Indian classical dancer, trained in Bharatnatyam, Odissi and Kuchipudi.

Press Coverage

- Asiaville Tamil : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrOdGt7pKUM&t=41s>
- The Hindu: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/picking-out-silent-ghosts-in-the-deep/article25146517.ece?fbclid=IwAR1SMT1PriNIS3ty7y5uXkk9RGRTUNSDD-SMIVYdqD35UV906Ywr7fH7y-8>
- Pondy Live: <https://www.pondylive.com/2018/06/this-marine-scientist-moved-to-pondicherry-to-care-for-its-ocean/?fbclid=IwAR1U7hwlf6SbyHPCe0YWk8OwDENLgk2heOzmhspEGplAi0Ao7E3iCPhTQV8>

Work Experience

Quest Academy

June 2019 - Present

- Position: Project Head, Artificial Reef Program.
- **Research:** Fundraising, development of research proposals, liaison with concerned Government bodies, data analysis and documentation, collaboration with related research teams across the country.
- **Conservation and Outreach:** Development and implantation of outreach programs with local communities.

Temple Adventures/ Temple Reef Foundation

Oct 2017- Mar 2018

- Position: Principal Marine Scientist at Temple Adventures and Chief Operations Officer, Temple Reef Foundation.
- **Research and Conservation:** Responsible for coordination of research, education, outreach and conservation activities of the organization; collaboration with other research and conservation organizations across the country. Developed modules to incorporate marine conservation in dive education.
- **NGO Management:** Responsible for fundraising, grant management, project conception and coordination, management of interns and volunteers, preparation of official reports.

Internships

- 1. National Centre for Biological Sciences/Madras Crocodile Bank Trust** **May 2013**
 - Field intern under Dr Ayesha Prasad
 - Project: Collaborative project by NCBS and MCBT on Restoration of *Lantana* invaded forests in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
 - Handled data collection (vegetation sampling), data entry, field station upkeep and maintenance
- 2. Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science** **Apr-Nov 2014**
 - Intern under Dr Naveen Namboothri
 - Project: Impacts of climate change induced bleaching on coral reefs of the Andaman: do population demography and marine protected areas enhance recovery of coral reefs?
 - Performed data extraction by transcribing images to quantifiable data.

Volunteering Experience

- 1. Madras Crocodile Bank Trust/Centre for Herpetology** **2011-2014**
 - Docent, Secretary of Docent Council (2013-2014)
 - Responsible for management of the Docent Program; recruitment and mentoring of new docents; zoo maintenance and upkeep; education and outreach activities; educational events conducted in school.
- 2. Student's Sea Turtle Conservation Network** **2012, 2014**
 - Conducted public interaction and education, hatchery management and maintenance, hatchling release, turtle nest surveys.
- 3. Wildlife Trust of India** **May 2012**
 - Participated in habitat surveys in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu to identify suitable release sites for rescued star tortoises.

Skills

Languages	English, Hindi, Tamil
Field skills	PADI Rescue Diver, PADI Emergency First Responder
Communication	Skilled in preparation of scientific reports, articles, etc. Experience in public speaking.
Software	MS Office, ImageJ, PAST, HOBOWare, PRIMER