

Shawn Dsouza

PROFILE

I'm passionate about research in ecology with a particular interest in community ecology. I believe in the value of high quality fundamental research, especially when communicated effectively to policy makers and civil society.

CONTACT

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ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages: English, Hindi,
Marathi, Konkani.

Software: R, Python, GIS.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Student

February 2021 - Present

Center for Ecological Sciences, IISc.

I plan to work on the effects of predator depletion on coral reef ecosystem function.

Research Assistant

June 2017 – February 2021

Dakshin Foundation

I studied the effects of fisheries on sea snake species' interactions using a combination of stable isotope analysis and fisheries dependent methods. I also, managed the bycatch projects at the organization as well as outreach and communication activities for the same.

Project Associate

September 2016 – October 2016

Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra and GIZ

I assisted with a rapid biodiversity assessment of coastal habitats in the Velas – Anjarla coastal stretch, Maharashtra including beach profiles, sand analysis and invertebrate estimation.

Field Assistant

June 2016

**Dr. Dhanashree Paranjpe, DBT - Ramalingaswami fellow, M.E.S.
Abasaheb Garware College, Pune.**

I assisted with scat collection, behavioral observations and density estimation of peafowl as part of Dr. Paranjpe's post-doctoral work.

EDUCATION

M.Sc. Biodiversity 2017

M.E.S. Abasaheb Garware College, Pune.

CGPA: 8.65/10

B.Sc. Zoology 2015

S.I.E.S. College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sion, Mumbai.

CGPA: 6.17/7

PUBLICATIONS

Peer – reviewed publications

Rao, C., **Dsouza, S.**, Gupta, T., Manoharakrishnan, M., and Lobo, A. Fisheries induced shift in sea snake community assemblages along the Konkan coast, India. *Aquatic Conservation*. (Accepted)

Jojan, A., **Dsouza, S.**, Mukerjee, P., Rao, C. and Shanker, K. Critiquing narrow critiques of convention on biological diversity. *Econ. Polit. Wkly.* 53, 16–18 (2018).

Under review

Dsouza, S., Rao, C., Manoharakrishnan M., and Shanker, K. Changing mesopredator species dynamics in an anthropogenically dominated sea scape. *Submitted to Marine Biology*.

Dsouza, S., and Rao, C. Demographics and reproductive biology make *Hydrophis schistosus* more resilient to bycatch effects than other sea snakes. *Submitted to Regional Studies in Marine Science*.

Dsouza, S. and Padhye, A. Shifts in bird and butterfly communities of Tamhini Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northern Western Ghats of India. *Submitted to Journal of Asia Pacific Biodiversity*.

Conference presentations and posters

“Fishing for sea snakes” – Student talk at SCCS Cambridge 2019.

Can butterflies improve conservation?” - Student poster at SCCS Bangalore 2017.

Popular Articles

Dsouza, S. 2020. Locked Down In a Fishing Town. The Bastion.

Dsouza, S. 2019. Scaly Business - A day in the life of a sea snake ecologist. *Current Conservation*. 13.2.

Creasey, M. and **Dsouza, S.** 2019. Sailing into an uncertain future. *Current Conservation*. 13.3.

INVITED TALKS

“Sea snakes: Ecology and Threats” - Talk at Center for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter (2019)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2018

Mangrove Foundation of Maharashtra

Small Grant – Rs. 4,70,000 (approx.)

Rufford Foundation

Small Grant – Rs. 4,65,000 (approx.; converted from GBP)

World Wildlife Fund – India

Small Grant – Rs. 80,000