

# Tejas Bhagwat

<https://tejasbhagwat.github.io/>

Bürgerstraße 50, 37073 Göttingen

tejas.bhagwat@biologie.uni-goettingen.de

## Appointments

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**Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Göttingen** 2025-Present  
*Department of Conservation Biology*

**Research Scientist, DDA (Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten)** 2025-Present

## Education

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**PhD in Conservation Biology, University of Göttingen** 2021-2025

**MSc Global Change Ecology, University of Bayreuth** 2015-2018

**BSc Biology and Environmental Science, George Mason University** 2008-2012

## Research

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### Peer reviewed publications

Shirko Shokri, Mahmoud-Reza Hemami, Mohsen Ahmadi, Saeid Pourmanafi, **Tejas Bhagwat**, Johannes Kamp, Matthias Waltert, and Mahmood Soofi. 2026. “Ecological drivers of change in waterbird communities of Iranian wetlands.” *Journal for Nature Conservation* 89:127150.

**Tejas Bhagwat**, Philippe Rufin, Tobias Kuemmerle, and Johannes Kamp. 2025. “Landscape composition drives winter bird assemblages in agriculture–savanna mosaics of Western India.” *Ecological Applications* 35 (2): e70016.

Johannes Kamp, **Tejas Bhagwat**, Norbert Hölzel, and Ilya Smelansky. 2025. “Collapse and recovery of livestock systems shape fire regimes on the Eurasian Steppe: A review of ecosystem and biodiversity implications.” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 380 (1924): rstb.2024.0062.

**Tejas Bhagwat**, Tobias Kuemmerle, Mahmood Soofi, Paul F Donald, Norbert Hölzel, Albert Salemgareev, Ingrid Stirnemann, Ruslan Urazaliev, Matthias Baumann, and Johannes Kamp. 2024. “A novel, post-Soviet fire disturbance regime drives bird diversity and abundance on the Eurasian steppe.” *Global Change Biology*, 30(1).

Roman Bonnier, Tobias Plieninger, **Tejas Bhagwat**, and Johannes Kamp. 2024. “Viticulture abandonment benefits the bird community of the French Mediterranean.” *Basic and Applied Ecology* 79 (September):46–56.

Emmanuel Da Ponte, Fermín Alcasena, **Tejas Bhagwat**, Zhongyang Hu, Luca Eufemia, Ana Paula Dias Turetta, Michelle Bonatti, Stefan Sieber, and Poppy-Louise Barr. 2023. “Assessing wildfire activity and forest loss in protected areas of the Amazon basin.” *Applied Geography*, 157:102970.

**Tejas Bhagwat**, Igor Klein, Juliane Huth, and Patrick Leinenkugel. 2019. “Volumetric analysis of reservoirs in drought-prone areas using remote sensing products.” *Remote Sensing*, 11(17).

Andrew Tilker, Jesse F Abrams, Azlan Mohamed, An Nguyen, Seth T Wong, Rahel Sollmann, Jürgen Niedballa, **Tejas Bhagwat**, Thomas NE Gray, Benjamin M Rawson, et al. 2019. “Habitat degradation and indiscriminate hunting differentially impact faunal communities in the Southeast Asian tropical biodiversity hotspot.” *Communications Biology*, 2(1):396.

Andrew Tilker, An Nguyen, Jesse F Abrams, **Tejas Bhagwat**, Minh Le, Thanh Van Nguyen, Anh Tuan Nguyen, Jürgen Niedballa, Rahel Sollmann, and Andreas Wilting. 2018. “A little known endemic caught in the South East Asian extinction crisis: the Annamite striped rabbit *Nesolagus timminsi*.” *Oryx*, 1–10.

Robert Brozovic, Jesse F. Abrams, Azlan Mohamed, Seth T. Wong, Jürgen Niedballa, **Tejas Bhagwat**, Rahel Sollmann, Sam Mannan, Johnny Kissing, and Andreas Wilting. 2018. “Effects of forest degradation on the moonrat *Echinosorex gymnurus* in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.” *Mammalian Biology*, 93:135 – 143.

**Tejas Bhagwat**, Andrea Hess, Ned Horning, Thiri Khaing, Zaw Min Thein, Kyaw Moe Aung, Kyaw Htet Aung, Paing Phyo, Ye Lin Tun, Aung Htat Oo, Anthony Neil, Win Myo Thu, Melissa Songer, Katherine LaJeunesse Connette, Asja Bernd, Qiongyu Huang, Grant Connette, and Peter Leimgruber. 2017. “Losing a jewel: Rapid declines in Myanmar’s intact forests from 2002-2014.” *PLOS ONE*, 12(5):1–22.

### Under peer review

**Tejas Bhagwat**, Ruslan Urazaliyev, L. Nill, Matthias Baumann, M. Koshkin, R. Sheldon, Johannes Kamp, Tobias Kuemmerle. 2025. Changes in year-round habitat suitability for the Critically Endangered Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) are associated with agricultural change across the flyway. *Revisions Requested by Journal of Ornithology*.

### Other publications

Jesse F. Abrams, Jan Axtner, **Tejas Bhagwat**, Azlan Mohamed, An Nguyen, Jürgen Niedballa, Rahel Sollmann, Andrew R. Tilker, and Andreas Wilting. 2018. “Studying terrestrial mammals in tropical rainforests: A user guide for camera-trapping and environmental DNA.” Leibniz-IZW, Berlin, Germany.

### Teaching experience

Data analysis for field biologists, University of Göttingen	2024 - Present
Remote sensing for nature conservation, University of Göttingen	2021 - Present
Introduction to R, University of Bayreuth	2016 - 2018

### Professional experience

Researcher at the German Aerospace Center, Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany 2018-2020

- Volumetric analysis of reservoirs in drought-prone areas using Landsat time-series data

- Monitoring urban growth and vulnerability to natural hazards for Africa

Research associate Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin, Germany 2016-2018

- Supervised land-cover classifications in Vietnam and Malaysia using RapidEye satellite imagery
  - Land-use land cover analysis of habitat - species associations for occupancy modeling

Research associate at Earth Observation Center, Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany 2016

- Mapping for refugee camp structures and expansions using high-resolution satellite data

Research associate at Ecodev/Alarm (NGO), Yangon, Myanmar 2014-2015

- Forest cover change mapping for Myanmar using field data and Landsat archive

GIS and remote sensing intern at Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Virginia, USA 2014

- Habitat suitability mapping for Asian wild elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in Sri Lanka using remote sensing data
  - Digitization of human infrastructure in Mongolian steppes to analyze impact on Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*) distribution

GIS and remote sensing intern at Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA), Maryland, USA 2014

- Work on remote sensing based habitat suitability analysis for reintroduction of Scimitar-horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*) in Chad

## Technical strengths

**Field** Land cover mapping, scientific survey methods (camera trapping, transect sampling)  
**Proficient** GIS software, R programming, Google Earth Engine, High-Performance Computing  
**GitHub** <https://github.com/tejasbhagwat>

## Grants

Oriental Bird Club Conservation Grants (2022)

- Project title: Impacts of agricultural land-use on migratory birds in fragmented grasslands of peninsular India

## Conferences

Poster presentation at European Ornithologists' Union Congress, Lund (2023)

Oral presentation at Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, Leipzig (2023)

Oral presentation European Congress of Conservation Biology, Bologna (2024)

## Other

### Citizenship:

Germany and India

### Languages:

Marathi (native), English (fluent), Hindi (fluent), German (proficient)