

Fellow Trails: Learning from the Alumni

As part of the Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation course, we had the opportunity to interact with Supriya Samantha, an alumna from the inaugural batch of RHATC, to gain insights into his experiences during his time at the course and shared valuable perspectives on how RHATC shaped his understanding of conservation and equipped him with essential skills. He also discussed his current endeavors in the field of conservation, shedding light on the projects he is actively involved in.

Presently, Supriya is working on biodiversity & ecosystem services monitoring and its response to climate change in the central Indian landscape. Always being fascinated in understanding effects of climate change and wanting to efficiently involve in mitigating it, previously he interned with Dr. Umesh Srinivasan at Global Change Lab in Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore from October 2021–April 2022. There he was part of the team identifying and understanding arthropods as bird food sources depending on Himalayan altitudinal gradient. It was quite interesting to understand his views on the relations altitudinal shift of birds has due to climate change.

Then he told us about his experience in RHATC course. He was quite nostalgic while talking about his memories and mentioned that RHATC was probably the most productive four months of his life. It was quite interesting and fascinating to know that this course not only taught him about the tools and techniques for wildlife conservation, but also gave life lessons which equipped him for his present projects, be it to do with workshop development, intragroup management, managing ego issue between the members of large team, project planning, stakeholder interaction etc. Being part of the fourth batch and learning from someone who is quite an expert in his own field today after 3 years since the course, his journey serves as an inspiring example of how RHATC alumni continue to contribute meaningfully to conservation efforts, applying their learnings to create tangible impacts on the ground.

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