

Brief Biodata : Dr. Ankur Arun Patwardhan

I, Dr. Ankur Patwardhan, hold a doctoral degree in Environmental Sciences of University of Pune with core knowledge of plant sciences. I am also a Chairman of Board of Studies in Biodiversity at Savitribai Phule Pune University. I am heading the Annasaheb Kulkarni Biodiversity Department of the Garware college, Pune.

I am an awardee of Elsevier Foundation's Green and Sustainable Chemistry Challenge for the project addressing topical area of improving ecosystem balance. I also served as a Chairman of a *High Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC)* constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC, GOI) for Eco-Sensitive Zone of Mahabaleshwar-Pachgani. I was also a Member of Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, a policy level body of the Maharashtra State. I also contributed in drafting Wildlife Management Plan for the State of Maharashtra.

Besides teaching assignments, I am also involved in research activities. My main research contributions focus on recovery, including *ex-situ* and bioprospecting of threatened high value medicinal plant taxa from Western Ghats of India, one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots. Quantification of plant resources and mapping of biodiversity, besides documenting traditional knowledge and community conservation practices are the significant contributions from this research.

Assessment of ecosystem services, understanding impact of climatic factors on phenological changes in plants and seed biology are other key areas I am working in. To make this research meaningful, I have acquired a working knowledge of animal taxa. I am also associated with grass root level NGOs and CBOs and initiated formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) under the aegis of The Biological Diversity Act (2002).

I conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) projects and Biodiversity Management Plans for industries and developmental projects. The research projects in above mentioned areas are supported by International and National funding agencies of repute such as Ruffords Small Grants, UK, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MOEFCC, GoI), Department of Biotechnology (DBT, GoI) & Department of Science and Technology (DST, GoI), ISRO-UoP, State Forest Department, State Reserve Police Force, and industrial houses like Skoda-Volkswagen India Pvt. Ltd. Maharashtra State Forest department has entrusted the responsibility of '*Authentication of Flora & Fauna*' of selected industrial establishments for its Ecological Audit.

Major research findings about these works are published from time to time in SCI Journals and were also presented at various International and National symposia. More than 35 research publications and about 5 presentations in the international conferences are to my credit. Along with this, I am on the editorial board of various scientific journals and was invited as an expert of the project advisory committee of DST-WOS(B) project.

In addition to these activities, I am working as Honorary Secretary of 'RANWA', an NGO active in the field of environmental education and awareness.

One national conference was also organized at Pune which was supported by CSIR, National Biodiversity Authority, University of Pune and few industrial houses. Efforts to disseminate the knowledge were made by organizing training camps for forest department staff, writing popular articles in the local media and interactions with the farmers.