



Environment in Depth: A Knowledge Series with India's Leading Experts

General Description

There seems to be a lot happening in the environment sector. Whether it's the new Environment Impact Assessment 2020 draft, or the links between the COVID pandemic and our deteriorating relationship with natural resources, the environment as a sector has made its way into many (albeit not enough) on-going discussions. The discussions often give the scope of understanding a wide range of issues, but can we also create opportunities to go deep?

The Bastion brings you an opportunity to understand the deeper layers of some core issues in the environment, with a one-month knowledge series, "Environment in Depth," brought to you by experts in this field. Through a combination of hands-on training and knowledge sharing, this series aims to aid you with tools, information, and resources available to keep the "green" conversation going. Over 8 sessions, the series would help develop skills to access environmental information and data, introduce you to GIS Mapping, and help understand the role of media as a tool for policy advocacy.

Curated for (but not limited to) young students, journalists, researchers, development and policy practitioners with a keen interest in ecology and the environment, this series will provide different lenses to view the environment through, and a new set of skills that will help you navigate the environment.

Before moving ahead, some things to keep in mind:

- This series is meant to be a high-engagement experience, where you can interact with and connect to these experts during and after the sessions. To ensure the best interaction possible, there will be only a **limited amount of tickets** sold. **Please fill out this google form before purchasing tickets for the series.** We will inform you when the tickets will be available:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScolFGaQ-LFPGexeknZz5ZynUD8MTa-koDpylHa1WVH2C32-A/viewform?usp=sf_link
- When the tickets go live, one can purchase them either till the day before the event, or till the seats are filled.



- All the sessions will be supplemented by reading material curated by the experts themselves for the participants to “take home”.
- Experts leading some Hands-On Training sessions will also provide participants with assignments. Participants are expected to complete the assignments and would also receive feedback on the same. We envision this will help participants develop skills from the series optimally.
- The last 20 minutes of each session will be open for a question and answer session.
- Sessions will take place over Zoom. The link for each session would be shared a few hours before the session is scheduled.
- Tickets will be sold per module/week for this series that spans over 4 weeks. Please choose the module(s)/week(s) you would like to participate in, after reading through the descriptions. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP WIDE-RANGING SKILLS AND LISTENING TO EXPERTS’ KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR ALL THE MODULES/Weeks.
- **The entire knowledge series will be available at a discounted price of Rs. 1,599.**

Week 1: Information, Data & the Environment Data

Price: Rs. 599

Instructor	Session	Date(s) & Time(s)
<p>Kanchi Kohli Senior Researcher, <i>Centre for Policy Research</i></p> <p>About: Kanchi’s work explores the links between law, industrialization and environment justice. She has authored various publications, research papers and popular articles. She co-edited the book <i>Business Interests and the Environmental Crisis</i> (SAGE-India). Since 2004, she co-coordinates an Information Dissemination Service on forest and</p>	<p>Paper Trailing Environmental Information</p> <p>Hands-on Training: How do you navigate the MoEFCC website for relevant environmental information of proposed development projects? What kind of information and data do these sources have? How can they help in policy advocacy and running campaigns?</p>	<p>24th August 4:30—6:00 PM</p>



<p>wildlife cases in the Supreme Court of India. She co-edited <i>The Case for the Commons</i>, a six part e-publication on the administrative follow up of the 2011 Supreme Court of India judgment on the protection of the commons.</p>		
<p>Ventakesh Nayak Programme Head, Access to Information Programme, <i>Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative</i></p> <p>About: Venkatesh Nayak has trained more than 6000 officers of government and more than 600 executives of public sector enterprises for implementing India's new transparency law. Previously a Doctoral Research Fellow in History, he has authored research and public education documents on the right to information, the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, issues of social justice, electoral reforms, efficacy of public audit mechanisms and fact-finding mission reports on human rights violations.</p>	<p>Unpacking the Right to Information (RTI)</p> <p>Hands-on Training: What is the potential you can unlock by using an RTI? How much information can you get from an RTI? How do you write an effective RTI?</p> <p>This session will be conducted in two different groups—one, for participants who are not familiar with the RTI process, and two, for those who have familiarity but would like to improve their skills and expand their current efforts.</p>	<p>Group 1: 25th August [4.30pm to 6pm], 28th August [5.30 to 7.30 pm]</p> <p>Group 2: 26th August [4.30pm to 6pm], 29th August [4.30 to 6.30 pm]</p>
<p>Dr. Naveen Namboothri Founding Trustee & Director, <i>Dakshin Foundation</i> and</p> <p>Dr. Kartik Shanker Associate Prof., <i>Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bangalore.</i> Founding Trustee, <i>Dakshin Foundation</i></p>	<p>Democratising Data</p> <p>Experience-Sharing: Can data shift from experts and authorities to the hands of communities? Dr. Naveen Namboothri and Dr. Kartik Shanker toy with the idea of “democratising data” while sharing their experience of coordinating a</p>	<p>August 27th, [4.30pm to 6 pm]</p>



About: Naveen Namboothri is a founder trustee of Dakshin Foundation and currently serves as its Director. Trained as marine biologist, he has worked in diverse coastal, marine and island systems across India. His engagement cuts across regional, national and local agencies including government and non-government sectors. He has more than 30 publications, and is currently an invited member to the Aquaculture and Marine Biotechnology Task Force of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

About: Kartik Shanker is a founder trustee of Dakshin Foundation. An ecologist by training, Kartik has interests in both mountain and marine systems. His work with marine turtles in the last 20 years has led to broader interests in coastal and marine conservation. Currently, he serves as an Associate Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bangalore.

communities-based fisheries monitoring system in Lakshadweep Islands, which was co-created with the local fisher communities to address data gaps.

Week 2: Technology for Environmental Good: Mapping & GIS

Price: Rs. 599/-

Instructor	Session	Date(s) & Time(s)
------------	---------	-------------------



<p>Shashank Srinivasan Founder & Director, <i>Technology for Wildlife</i></p> <p>About: Shashank is a conservation scientist, spatial analyst and, more recently, a drone pilot. A 2017 Kinship Conservation Fellow, he is the founder and director of Technology for Wildlife, an organization that amplifies conservation impact through the appropriate use of modern technology.</p>	<p>Introduction to Mapping</p> <p>Hands-on Training: This session will introduce the basics of using Google Earth and QGIS for mapping. This will help participants explore the possibilities of using technology and mapping as interventions to conservation problems being faced.</p>	<p>1st September [4.30pm to 6 pm]</p>
<p>Chiranjit Guha Principal Consultant, Analytics, <i>Foundation for Ecological Security</i></p> <p>About: A Hydro-Geologist, Chiranjit has extensive on-ground experience with rural India's water troubles, crop water budgeting, experimental games on water, policy advocacy, GIS, Remote Sensing and much more. He is currently a Principal Consultant at the Foundation for Ecological Security, with special interest in democratising technological tools to the most directly-impacted communities.</p>	<p>Democratizing Technology & Empowering Citizens</p> <p>Experience Sharing: The session will take participants through the benefits of democratizing information. The discussion will be around the use of Composite Land Assessment & Restoration Tool (CLART), developed by Foundation for Ecological Security. CLART is a geographic information system (GIS) tool that enables rural communities to identify the optimum soil and water conservation measures for a particular location.</p>	<p>4th September [4.30-6.30 pm]</p>



Week 3: Storytelling for the Environment

Price: Rs. 599

Instructor	Session	Date(s) & Time(s)
<p>Tish Sanghera Independent Journalist, <i>Pulitzer Centre Grantee</i></p> <p>About: One of the rising stars of environmental journalism, Tish is an independent journalist currently based in Mumbai, India. A Pulitzer Centre grantee, she primarily reports on issues relating to the economy, environment and society at large. She was previously a writer at IndiaSpend - the country's first data-journalism initiative and her work has also appeared in several publications, in India and abroad.</p>	<p>Reporting & Writing for the Environment</p> <p>Hands-on Training: This session will take the participants through looking at the environment as a journalistic subject. The session will outline key aspects of environmental journalism: how and where do you look for environmental stories, the sources to be assessed, protocols to be followed, and addressing challenges that are faced.</p>	<p>7th September [4.30 pm-6 pm]</p>
<p>Kalyan Varma Independent Filmmaker & Photographer</p> <p>About: Kalyan is a wildlife photographer, filmmaker, naturalist and explorer dedicated to documenting wildlife and the environmental issues that define our times. He founded India Nature Watch, an online community which now has become the largest platform for upcoming wildlife photographers in Asia. He is also the</p>	<p>Session 1: Visual Story-Telling</p> <p>Hands-on Training: The session focuses on the art of environmental storytelling-- what makes a good, visual story? How do you combine different forms of media to create impactful stories?</p>	<p>Session 1: 8th September [4.30-6 pm]</p> <p>Session 2: 9th September [4.30-6pm]</p>



<p>co-founder of Asia's largest nature photography festival Nature InFocus. Apart from winning BBC's Wildlife Photographer of the year in 2013, his most well-known work is the David Attenborough narrated film, <i>Wild Karnataka</i>.</p>	<p>Session 2: Films for the Environment</p> <p>Experience Sharing: Focusing on some of his films, including <i>Wild Karnataka</i>, Varma ties together some technicalities of film-making with bringing about policy and social changes with film making.</p>	
<p>Pankaj Sekhsaria Member, <i>Kalpavriksh</i> Associate Professor, <i>Centre for Technology Alternatives, IIT-Bombay</i> Associate Faculty, <i>Centre for Policy Studies, IIT-Bombay</i></p> <p>About: Pankaj Sekhsaria has worked extensively in the fields of environment and development, citizen science, wildlife conservation, media studies, and science and technology. He wears the hats of a researcher, writer, photographer, activist, and academic. Sekhsaria is currently an Associate Professor at the Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas, and associate faculty, Centre for Policy Studies, both based out of IIT Bombay.</p>	<p>Marrying Research & Media</p> <p>Experience-Sharing: Using his experience of reporting on the Andamans and Nicobar Islands, writing fiction based on the Islands, as well as preparing research oriented media analysis, Pankaj Sekhsaria will give you an insight into the opportunities and challenges of bringing together research and media.</p>	<p>11 September [4.30-6pm]</p>



Week 4: “How do we envision our climate action to look like in the near future?”

— A Panel Discussion

Price: Rs. 179 (Note: Free for those who purchase passes for 2 weeks or more)

Instructor	Session	Date(s) & Time(s)
<p>Prathigna Poonacha Consultant — Practice, <i>Indian Institute of Human Settlements</i></p> <p>About: Prathigna’s work focuses on understanding climate change impacts and responses in urban and peri-urban geographies both from top-down and bottom up perspectives. In peri-urban Bangalore, her research looks at how communities are responding to climatic and non-climatic risks in the context of rapid social and ecological changes with a particular focus on gender dynamics. She is also interested in understanding and applying various tools to enable multi-stakeholder participation in decision making especially in the urban context.</p> <p>Kanchi Kohli Senior Researcher, <i>Centre for Policy Research</i></p> <p>Tish Sanghera Independent Journalist, <i>Pulitzer Centre Grantee</i></p>	<p>Envisioning Climate Action in the Near Future</p> <p>Panel Discussion: In this multi-disciplinary panel, panelists discuss what kind of turn they hope the climate action would take 10 years down the line, in their particular fields. This will also be open to extensive audience interaction.</p>	<p>16 September [4.30 to 6pm]</p>



Remember, **please do fill out this google form before purchasing tickets for the series.** We will inform you when the tickets will be available:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScolFGaQ-LFPGexeknZz5ZynUD8MTa-koDpylHa1WVH2C32-A/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you have any issues, please reach out to either sourya.reddy@thebastion.co.in or vaishnavi.rathore@thebastion.co.in.

About The Bastion

Founded in 2017, The Bastion is an independent digital magazine that publishes ideas and reportage on issues of development for India's youth. We publish ground stories, analyses, debates, data stories, documentaries and much more across a few core verticals — Education, Environment, Technology, Healthcare and Sports. Using the best of knowledge from academia, public policy, research and work on the ground, our coverage cuts through the noise and presents well-researched, simply presented and informed journalism on developmental issues for the youth.

You can learn more about us and our work on our website, [The Bastion](#) or follow us on our social media handles — Twitter (@_thebastion_) & Instagram (@thebastionofficial).