

Early Career Researcher? Apply for space on our fully funded 2-days workshop to develop a systems approach framework for

‘Building Ecological Resilience in Vulnerable Mangroves of the Indian Sundarbans: Sustainable and Equitable Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the era of Climate Change’

- Time:** Arrive 28/11/2021, late afternoon. Leave 01/12/2021, after breakfast.
- Location:** [Brathay Hall](#), Lake District
- Costs:** Free. Your participation is fully funded. The funding covers your travelling costs, your accommodation at the Hall, and full catering. In exchange, we expect you to bring your expertise and skills and passion for the project.
- UK team** **Newcastle University** (Dr Marion Pfeifer, Dr Zarah Pattison, Prof Andy Large, Prof Yit Arn Teh), **University of Aberdeen** (Prof David Burslem)

The workshop is funded as Newton Bhabha Fund Researcher Link Workshop, through British Council in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. It will run in parallel to workshops in India, led by our lead Indian partner, Dr Krishna Ray (West Bengal State University, Department of Botany, Kolkata). The workshop will be followed by a virtual conference on 17/12/2021 to enable knowledge exchange, finalise key outcomes, and outline ways forward working across both countries.

We are looking to invite **up to 15 Early Career Researchers** from a wide range of disciplines (geography, environmental sciences, social science, remote sensing, oceanography, coastal management, botany, landscape or restoration ecology, data analyses).

Our objectives for this workshop include:

- Identify Nature-based Solutions for restoring/enhancing the eco-resilience of the Indian Sundarbans to climate change with co-benefits for biodiversity conservation
- Discuss evidence & knowledge/data gaps that need to be filled to manage key threats and monitor progress towards human wellbeing and biodiversity outcomes.
- Facilitate the co-development of a systems approach framework that models direct & indirect pathways with which climate change and human decision-making impact on human well-being and biodiversity outcomes in the Sundarbans
- Bring together a UK and India cohort of early career researchers with potential for building strong and long-lasting working relationships

Expected outcomes for this workshop include:

- Conceptualisation of the systems approach framework.
- Data gap/knowledge gaps (social, ecological, political, biophysical, policy needs?) needed to parameterise the framework identified and a plan for filling gaps developed
- Modelling approaches (regression, machine-learning, network analyses) that could be used on calibrating pathways in the model identified

- Method approaches to maximise stakeholder participation and engagement in the restoration/conservation process in this region identified
- Videos/Communication material/Pictures/Transcripts: these are needed to allow knowledge exchange with our Indian team.
- A synthesis paper drafted to be finalised post-workshop with the partnering Indian team (Project leads & ECRs). Join co-authorship

Our expectations on participants:

- You will come prepared: we will have to work through pre-workshop tasks to maximise impacts from our time together. This involves reading material produced by our Indian team in the Sundarbans and identifying literature/methods you feel would be cool to try and you may want to introduce during the workshop.
- You are willing to learn and listen – working across disciplinary boundaries. We will run break out groups to facilitate the workshops running.
- You will aim to attend and/or present during the virtual platform conference following the workshop. This will be the exciting part, as you will be able to meet our Indian team members and exchange knowledge with them.
- You don't have to like trees/mangroves/coastal landscapes, but it might help 😊

If we receive more than 15 applications, we will run a selection process on candidates. We will use the following criteria for the selection process:

- Applicant is within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or within six years of their first academic appointment
- Skills/discipline of applicant: our aim is to maximise diversity of disciplines and method approaches we can explore during the workshop
- Relevance of workshop to the applicant's career plan
- Understanding of topic: conceptually or method wise
- UK based. We can not permit more than 5 applicants from the same institution.

Interested? Please send a letter of interest to the project team leads (see below) outlining (1) why the participation would be important for your academic career plans, (2) what aspects you think would be especially important when planning for the management of the impacts of climate change on human well-being and biodiversity in mangrove ecosystems, and (3) what skills you would bring to the workshop. Please add your full institutional affiliation. **Deadline: 10/10/2021.**

Send the letter to: Dr Marion Pfeifer (marion.pfeifer@newcastle.ac.uk) and **Dr Krishna Ray** (krishna@wbsu.ac.in). We will independently assess your application against set criteria and will check with the wider team (Prof Andy Large, andy.large@ncl.ac.uk; Dr Zarah Pattinson, zarah.pattinson@newcastle.ac.uk; Dr Tuhin Gosh, tuhin.ghosh@jadavpuruniversity.in; and Prof Babu, crbabu26@gmail.com). Ask for receipt of email to make sure we have found it in our inbox and follow up if needed.

Final decisions will be announced by latest 20/10. You will then be briefed on the next steps.

We look forward to meeting you!