

Curriculum Vitae

Gitanjali Banerjee

503 West 121 Street, Apt 53 C, New York, New York-10027, U.S.A.
T: 001-212-853-8536 ♦ email: gb2025@columbia.edu

Education

- ♦ Doctoral candidate. September 2002 to present. Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology. Columbia University in the City of New York. USA.
- ♦ M. Sc. (Wildlife Science). July 2001. Wildlife Institute of India. Dehra Dun, India.
- ♦ B.Sc. July 1999. Panjab University. Chandigarh, India.
- ♦ Certificate in Conservation Biology. June 2002. Center for Environment Research and Conservation, Columbia University in the City of New York. USA.

Work Experience

Program Assistant-September 2003-present

Certificate Program in Conservation Biology, Centre for Environment Research and Conservation, Columbia University, 1200 Amsterdam Avenue, NY-10027, New York. USA.

- ♦ Assist Program Officer with day to day organization and compiling materials and information required to teach the classes
- ♦ Assist with the smooth running of modules and liase between students and the administration.
- ♦ Provide teaching assistance and compilation of records

Program Manager for Biodiversity- February 2004- September 2004

High School Science Research Program,. Education Department, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street , NY-10024-5192, New York. USA.

- ♦ Design curriculum and teach the principles of biodiversity conservation and policy formulation and mentor high school students in the after school science research program.

Program Intern- August 2001-June 2002

Wildlife Trust, 61 Route 9W, Palisades, NY- 10694, New York. USA

- ♦ In consultation with the Executive Vice President and Senior Program Officer, assisted with the day-to-day administration and special project needs of the conservation program
- ♦ Served as a secondary conduit of communication between field staff and New York Office
- ♦ Assisted Executive Vice President and Senior Program Officer in planning, organizing and compiling materials and information for workshops and meetings

- ◆ Involved with developing a web based information portal for the Greater New York Metropolitan region to disseminate information and help build partnerships and collaborations within the region to promote biodiversity conservation.

Research Experience

- ◆ Conducted a field-based study on the nutritional ecology of four sympatric endangered herbivores in order to explore the significance of habitat management measures on their ecology in Kaziranga National Park, Assam. India.

The goal of the project was to understand how grassland quality influenced by habitat management measures affects use of the habitat by the Indian rhinoceros and other sympatric large herbivores. The ultimate aim was to develop an understanding about how Indian rhinos choose to move across a “nutritional landscape”, which might in the long run help in devising better solutions for human-rhino conflict.

- ◆ Conducted a study on the potential and benefits of carbon sequestration, emission reduction for the North Dakota agriculture community and formulated policy recommendations for the USGS-North Dakota Farmers Union.

Uncertainty clouds the future of carbon markets and emission reduction programs in the United States. Limiting fossil fuel and sequestering carbon in agricultural lands are soem of the ways to limit emission of carbon to the atmosphere. Carbon sequestration is the use of practice to increase the soil carbon retention to offset carbon dioxide emissions from other sources. North Dakota farmers can accrue carbon credits by implementing practices that cause the land to act as a sink for carbon and decreasing emissions of greenhouse gases from agricultural production activities, or by participating in other activities such as biofuels production. Supporting such carbon sequestration projects on their lands, farmers could trade their certified permits in the carbon trading markets when they develop in the United States. The project involves drawing us policy recommendations for the clients based on the above premises.

- ◆ Working on a GIS project to devise a global poverty index based on the satellite images of the global night lights and other indices of human wellbeing such as infant mortality and malnutrition for the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Awards and Scholastic achievements

- ◆ Elected 2005 Carey Fellow
- ◆ Maude I. Welles Field Research Award. March 2005. Wings World Quest. Sponsored by Rolex USA.
- ◆ Whitley Laing Ph.D. Fellow, 2002-present.
- ◆ Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University, 2002-present.
- ◆ Prince Bernhard Scholarship for Nature Conservation, 2000-2001 awarded by WWF-International, Switzerland.
- ◆ Species Survival Fund Scientific Leader Fellow, Wildlife Trust project leader for the year 2001.

- ◆ Sir Ratan Tata Trust Scholarship for academic excellence. 1999-2000.
- ◆ Completed M.Sc. (Wildlife Science) first class and with distinction.

Publications

Banerjee, G (2001). Habitat Use by Great One Horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) And Sympatric Species in National Park, Assam, India. M.Sc thesis. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun, India. (Unpublished).

Banerjee, G (2001). Evaluating Fire as a tool to aid Management of grasslands for the Great One Horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) And Sympatric Species in Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India. Report submitted to the Forest Department, Assam and Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India.

Banerjee, G. Relating Indian rhino abundance to the nutritional status of its habitat: Management measures and implications. (In prep)

Banerjee, G. Explaining seasonal variation in diurnal activity patterns for Indian rhinos and sympatric large ungulates in Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India. (In prep).

Workshops attended and invited lectures

- ◆ Satellite Telemetry Workshop for the South East Asian Region held at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun. December 1999. Jointly organized by WII and USGS and partner institutions.
- ◆ “Rhinos in the backyard? Conservation lessons from the field” Third Student Conference in Conservation Science to be held at the University of Cambridge, March 2002.
- ◆ “Conservation in an overcrowded world: How to ensure the continued survival of Indian rhinos amidst fragmented, shrinking habitats in a human dominated matrix?” Fourth Student Conference in Conservation Science to be held at the University of Cambridge, March 2003.
- ◆ The 2003 Open meeting on Human Dimensions of global environmental change, Montreal, Canada. October 2003.
- ◆ “Indian rhinos and grassland conservation: Why should we care?” Talk at the American Museum of Natural History. Biodiversity program of the after school activities class. May 2003.
- ◆ Teaching “Conservation in the Tropics: Issues and Caveats” to the After School Biodiversity Program at the American Museum of Natural History. Spring semester 2004.
- ◆ “Conserving large herbivores in an overcrowded world: Issues and Challenges” Talk presented at the Explorers Club, New York. February 2004.

Interests and Skills

- ◆ Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, ArcGIS, EndNote Bibliographic software and both Microsoft and Macintosh OS.

- ◆ Keen interest in working with local communities towards more effective conservation of endangered and threatened species
- ◆ Founded and chaired several successful conservation education programs for children and adults during school and college.
- ◆ Keen ornithologist, mountaineer and conservation educator.
- ◆ Prolific writer focusing on naturoscapes and the influence of the natural world on the lives of those who live in close proximity to it.

Languages

French: Fair reading and comprehension.

Hindi, Bengali and Assamese: Excellent speaking, reading and writing.

References

Available upon request