

CURRICULUM VITAE

Divya Soman (Ph.D.)

Environmental Studies

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Employment

Position held	From	To date
Scientist B, ICWMR, TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi (Nature based Solutions)	31 July 2023	Till date
Project Fellow, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Kerala	November 2019	March 2023
Senior Project Fellow, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Kerala	December 2014	December 2015
Project Assistant, Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala	February 2013	June 2013

Education

06.2015-03.2022:	Ph.D. in Environmental Studies, with thesis defense in February 2023, Kerala Forest Research Institute (KSCSTE_KFRI) registered in Cochin University of Science and Technology Title: “Assessment of Ecosystem Services from Parambikulam Tiger Reserve”.
01.2011-05.2011	M.Phil. Research Project Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, India Title: Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services from Forest Ecosystems of Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka
06.2010-06.2011	Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in Ecological Informatics from Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala under the Cochin University of Science and Technology

01.2010-05.2010	M.Sc. Research Project Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi, India Topic: “Bioremediation of Municipal sewage water with <i>Azolla microphylla</i> - Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi”
06.2008-06.2010	M.Sc. Environmental Technology Specialization: Environmental Biotechnology
2005-2008	B.Sc. Graduation in Zoology (Vocational Model II)

Project Associations (Project Associate/ Senior Project Fellow/ Project Fellow)

No.	Project Title	Year
1.	Web GIS-Based Land Resource Information System for Kerala: A Project of Kerala State Land Use Board. Implemented By the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (Kerala State Land Use Board)	February 2013 to June 2013
2.	Study of Tourism in GEF-Munnar Landscape Project Area: Patterns of Development, Impacts and Carrying Capacity and Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood in Tourism Strategy (UNDP-GEF)	November 2014- Dec 2015
3.	Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services from Moist Deciduous Forests of Kerala (Kerala Forest Department)	November 2019- June 2021
4.	Socioeconomic Assessment of Workers at Kerala Forest Development Corporation Plantations –Gavi Division (Kerala Forest Development Corporation)	October 2021- March 2022
5.	Scoping Study to Develop People-Inclusive Livelihood-Based Governance Strategy for The Long-Term Conservation of Mangrove Forests of Kerala (Rebuild Kerala Initiative, Kerala State Government)	March 2022-March 2023
6.	Hydrological Perspective of Myristica Swamps in Kerala (Digital University, Kerala)	March 2023-May 2023
7.	End to End Assessment of Benefits to Communities from Portfolio Company Operations and Footprint	March 2024- September 2024
8.	Carbon Stock Assessment of Green belt developed by Perfetti Van Melle in Rudrapur	August 2024- September 2024
9.	Economics of Invasive Species and Sustainable Livelihood Creation: A Case Study of Water Hyacinth in The Vembanad Kol Wetland of Kerala (Funded by IPCA Centre for Waste Management and Research)	February 2024-till date

10. Assessment of Social, Environmental and January 2025-May
Economic Impact of Waste Management 2025
projects implemented under CSR initiative (funded by Indian Pollution
Control Association, New Delhi)

Awards Received

- **KSCSTE fellowship** for pursuing a Ph.D. in Environmental sciences sponsored by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment
- **SPEED IT Scholarship** for pursuing M.Phil. in Ecological Informatics
- **Qualified National Eligibility Test (NET). UGC Ref No. 28102/(NET-DEC.2015)**
- **Best Paper Award for the paper titled** “Bioremediation as an Ecosystem Function in Constructed Wetland”, in the conference Dwindling Wetlands-Impact on Livelihood and Ecosystem Services presented at Christ University, Bangalore, 2017.
- **Best Paper Award for the paper titled** “Economic Valuation of Recreational Demand from Parambikulam Tiger Reserve”, in the 28th Swadeshi Science Congress from 6-8th November 2018 at CSIR-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.
- **Best Paper Award for the paper titled** “Spiritual and heritage value of Kannimara teak in Parambikulam tiger reserve, Kerala”, in the International Virtual Conference on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in A Climate Change Perspective (IVC-BES) organized by Centre for climate change (CCC), Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Bengaluru, 2020
- **Dr C Chandrasekhara Endowment Award 2021** for the best researcher working in the field of forest and environment in Kerala.

Memberships

- IUCN CEM Nature Based Solutions Thematic Group 2021-2025
- IUCN CEM Forest Ecosystems Specialist Group 2021-2025
- IUCN CEM Ecosystem Services Thematic Group 2021-2025

Papers publications and Proceedings

- Ramachandra, T, V., **Soman D**, Naik, A, D., Chandran, M, D. 2017. Appraisal of Forest Ecosystem Goods and Services: Challenges and Opportunities for Conservation. *J Biodiversity*, 8(1): 12-33. DOI: 10.1080/09766901.2017.1346160
- **Soman D**., Anitha, V., Anju, A. 2018. Bioremediation of Municipal Sewage Water with Azolla microphylla. *International Journal of Advanced Research*, 6(5) : 101-108
- **Soman D**, V Anitha. 2019. A Critical Review on the Valuation of Ecosystem Services from the Forests of India. *International Journal of Research and analytical reviews*. Volume 6, Issue 1588-1600
- **Soman D**, V Anitha. 2020. Community Dependence on the Natural Resources of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala, India- Trees, Forest and People, ELSEVIER PUBLICATION. ISSN 2666-7193.Vol 2 <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.tfp.2020.100014>.
- **Soman D**, V Anitha, Viswanath S, Sreeraj, M. 2025. From cognition to economic valuation of cultural ecosystem services – An evidence from Parambikulam tiger reserve, Kerala. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 84 (2025) 126828. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2025.126828>
- **Soman D**, Kaushik, G., Kansal, A. 2025. Advancing and Integrating waste management and Health. Policy Brief 1(1). ICWMR, TERI SAS.

- **Soman D**, Anitha V, Viswanath, S. 2023. From Cognition to Economic Valuation of Cultural Ecosystem Services - A Perspective. Presented at the Asia Consultative Workshop on Ecosystems and Nature-Based Solutions held at KSCSTE-Kerala Forest Research Institute. Jointly organized by IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management at KSCSTE Kerala Forest Research Institute from 15-17 March 2023.
- Anitha, V, **Soman D**, Sarada, D. 2023. Linking Poverty and Vulnerability: A Case Study of the Workers in Gavi. Conference Proceedings, International Conference on Disaster, Risk and Vulnerability, jointly organized by School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University and Department of Geology, University of Kerala. 19-21 January 2023.
- Anitha, V, **Soman D**, Sarada, D. 2023. The Paradox of Mangrove Conservation and Community Vulnerability in Kerala, India. Presented in the International Conference on Disaster, Risk and Vulnerability Conference jointly organized by School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University and Department of Geology, University of Kerala. 19-21 January 2023.
- **Soman D**, Viswanath, S., Anitha V. 2021. The Economics of Endangered Species Protection in a Protected Area: The Case of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala, India. *International Commonwealth Forestry Conference, Canada* held online from 16-18 August 2021. Virtually hosted by the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- **Soman D**, Anitha V, Viswanath, S. 2021. An Embodied Perspective on the Existence Value of a Heritage Tree in Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala, India. *International Conference on Natural and Cultural Heritage in Forests –Contemporary Challenges*. Forest Culture Centre in Goluchow. 9-10 December 2021
- Anitha V., **Soman D**. 2021. An Assessment of Recreational Services and Ecotourism Development of Athirappilly - Vazhachal Waterfalls in the Natural Forests of Southern Western Ghats, India. *International Conference on “Natural and cultural heritage in forests – contemporary challenges”* held online from December 9-10, 2021. Virtually hosted by Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland.
- **Soman D.**, Anitha, V., Viswanath, S., Sandeep, S. 2021. Insurance Value of an ecosystem function provided by the natural forest in Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, India. *11th International Conference on Ecological Informatics conducted online by the Digital University, Kerala*. 9-13 November 2021.
- Anitha V., **Soman D**. 2020. Economic valuation of ecosystem services: bridging the gap between natural resources conservation and environmental accounting, *UGC-ISF International Workshop on ‘Ecosystem service assessment for the sustainable Management of Ashtamudi and Sasthakotta Lakes, Kerala, 17-18 January 2020*; Organized jointly by the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala and Natural Resources Management Institute, University of Haifa, Israel.
- **Soman D**, V Anitha. 2019. The Cultural Significance of a Monumental Tree in Parambikulam Tiger Reserve for the *International Conference on Energy and Environment, TKM College of Arts and Science, Kollam* from 12-14 December 2019.
- **Soman D**, V Anitha. 2019. Cultural Services and Forest Dependency: Assessment of Recreational Demand for Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala, India. *Proceedings Indian National Society for Ecological Economics-Centre for Economic and Social Studies (INSEE-CESS) Biennial Conference, from 6th to 8th November 2019 at CESS, Hyderabad. (International Conference)*

- **Soman D**, Anitha V. Forest Dependence and Community Wellbeing in Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala. *Proceedings, 31st Science Congress held at Fatima Mata National College, Kollam from 2-3rd Feb, 2019.*
- **Soman D**, Anitha V. Economic Valuation of the Recreational Demand for Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala. *Proceedings, 28th Swadeshi Science Congress, 2018 held at CSIR- National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, Trivandrum, Nov 6-8th 2018.*
- **Soman D**, Anju Arora. Bioremediation of Secondary Treated Sewage Water with *Azolla microphylla*. 2016. *Proceedings, 26th Swadeshi Science Congress, held at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.*
- **Soman D**, Anitha V, Anju Arora. Bioremediation as an Ecosystem Function in Constructed Wetland. *Proceedings Dwindling Wetlands-Impacts on Livelihood and Ecosystem Services (DWILES, 2017), Bangalore held at Christ University, Bangalore.*

Books/Chapters in Books published

- Anitha V, Joseph N, Krishnakumar J, Nipin M, **Soman D**. 2018. The medicinal plants sector supporting livelihood and industry: Problems and Probable explanations in Kerala, India in the book “Prospects in Conservation of Medicinal Plants”. Published by KSCSTE-KFRI. URL: <http://www.kfri.res.in>.
- **Soman, D.**, Anitha, V. 2018. The Cultural Value of Ecosystem Services: The case study on Kannimara Teak in the resource manual “Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Green GDP”, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC, GOI). Course Duration: Nov 21- Dec 8, 2018, at Kerala Forest Research Institute.
- **Soman D**, Anitha, V. 2020. The economic valuation of ecosystem services: The case study of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Green GDP, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC, GOI). Course Duration 17 Feb to 5 March 2020 at Kerala Forest Research Institute.
- Anitha V, **Soman D**, Sandeep S, Sreejith K A, Sreekumar V B. 2024. The Nexus of Ecosystem Services and Human Wellbeing: Case Study from the Forests of Western Ghats, Kerala, India. In: Joseph, S., Pradeepkumar, A. (eds) Ecosystem Services Valuation for Sustainable Development. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-4688-0_4

Blog

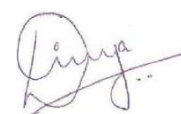
- Soman, D. 2023. The Paradox of Forest Conservation Amendment Act and Green Credit Programme. Central Mirror. <https://icwmr.terisas.ac.in/index.php/blog>

Declaration

I do hereby declare that the above-furnished details are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 14-07-2025

Place: New Delhi



Divya Soman