

# URJIT BHATT

## PhD

 B 5, Lakshminarayana Society, Saiyad Vasna, Vadodara 390007, India  
 urjit.m.bhatt@gmail.com  
 +91-9924828476, +91-6351177857  
 @Urjit-Bhatt  
 @urjit-bhatt-591913a1  
 @urjit\_bhatt

## PROFILE

Carnivore ecologist with extensive experience in population ecology, community ecology, behaviour ecology, biodiversity assessment, species distribution, and biogeography. Skilled in field methods, analytical/statistical techniques, and scientific writing, with a strong proficiency in various software tools and design applications.

## EDUCATION HISTORY

### 2019 – 2024: PhD in Wildlife Science

*Wildlife Institute of India*

**Thesis title:** Habitat use and interactions of mammalian carnivores in the tropical forest of Manas National Park, Assam.  
**Supervisors:** Dr Salvador Lyngdoh, Dr B S Adhikari

### 2011 – 2013: MSc in Environment Science

*M S University of Baroda*

### 2008 – 2011: BSc in Environment Science

*M S University of Baroda*

## REFERENCES

Dr Salvador Lyngdoh  
Scientist E,  
Wildlife Institute of India.  
Phone no: +91-9411796699  
Email: salvador@wii.gov.in

Dr Bhupendra Singh Adhikari  
Scientist G,  
Wildlife Institute of India.  
Phone no: +91-9412056031  
Email: adhikaribs@wii.gov.in

Dr Yadvendradev Jhala (Retired)  
Former Dean & Scientist G,  
Wildlife Institute of India.  
Phone no: +91-9897027262  
Email: yvjhala@gmail.com

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

### PROJECT ASSOCIATE II

*Wildlife Institute of India*

Jan 2021 – Jan 2023

**Project Title:** Basic study design of biodiversity assessment for Himachal Pradesh. **Supervisor:** Dr Salvador Lyngdoh. **Tasks:** Conducted biodiversity assessments, established baseline data, ranked threats to biodiversity, identified critical conservation areas, and developed biodiversity assessment protocols.

### CONSULTANT

*Wildlife Institute of India*

Nov 2019 – June 2020

**Project Title:** Preliminary survey and framework for assessment of major fauna of Dhauladhar Wildlife Sanctuary. **Supervisor:** Dr Salvador Lyngdoh. **Tasks:** Trained front-line forest staff, conducted field surveys, and developed monitoring protocols for mammalian populations.

### JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

*Wildlife Institute of India*

Nov 2016 – Oct 2019

**Project Title:** Ecology of clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) in an East Himalayan Biodiversity Hot Spot – Carnivore co-existence in Manas National Park, Assam, India. **Supervisor:** Dr Salvador Lyngdoh. **Tasks:** Assessed clouded leopard status, prey base, feeding ecology, and factors influencing carnivore co-existence.

### RESEARCH BIOLOGIST

*Wildlife Institute of India*

June 2015 – June 2016

**Project Title:** The status and distribution of major carnivores and ungulates in Madhya Pradesh. **Supervisors:** Dr Y V Jhala, Sh Qamar Qureshi. **Tasks:** Estimated herbivore abundance and density, and prepared distribution maps for key wildlife species.

### RESEARCH BIOLOGIST

*Wildlife Institute of India*

Oct 2013 – May 2015

**Project Title:** All India Tiger Monitoring Project: Monitoring tiger, co-predator, prey, and their habitat in India. **Supervisors:** Dr Y V Jhala, Sh Qamar Qureshi. **Tasks:** Conducted fieldwork at different tiger reserves and estimated population, distribution, and abundance of tigers, co-predators, and prey species.

### LABORATORY CHEMIST

*Oxive Environment and Management Pvt. Ltd.*

Aug 2013 – Oct 2013

**Tasks:** Conducted EIAs, collected samples from industrial and municipal effluents, analysed samples using treatability parameters (pH, conductivity, colour/turbidity, BOD, COD, DO, etc.), operated analytical instruments (drying ovens, desiccators, distillation units, flame photometers, spectrophotometers, etc.), prepared reports & presentation, and delivered training to undergraduate technicians.

### PROJECT FELLOW

*The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda*

May 2013 – July 2013

**Project Title:** Butterflies of arboretum at botany department of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. **Supervisor:** Dr P S Nagar. **Tasks:** Assessed butterfly diversity and promoted the conservation of rare and endangered species.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2024). Carnivore chronicles: Co-occurrence and habitat use in the tropical forest of Manas National Park, North-East India. *Journal of Wildlife Science*, 1(1): 16–30.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2024). Caught in the act: Camera-traps capture rare mammal species from biodiversity hotspot of Manas National Park. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, 121(1).
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2023). Do dholes segregate themselves from their sympatrids? Habitat use and carnivore co-existence in the tropical forest. *Mammalian Biology*, 103(6): 591–601.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2023). Secrets of the clouded leopard: abundance, habitat use and carnivore co-existence in tropical forest of Manas National Park, Assam, India. *Oryx*, 57(6): 757–768.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2023). Further photographic record of Asiatic Brush-tailed Porcupine *Atherurus macrourus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Mammalia: Rodentia: Hystricidae) from Manas National Park, Assam, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 15(6): 23446–23448.
- Singh, N., **Bhatt, U.,** Chaudhary, S., Lyngdoh, S. (2023). First photographic evidence of Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* Geoffroy, 1803 (Mammalia: Pholidota: Manidae), in Colonel Sher Jung National Park, Himachal Pradesh, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 15(1): 22505–22509.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Shankla, E., Sidat, A. (2022). New state record and range extension of three butterfly species from Gujarat, India. *Tropical Natural History*, 22(1): 67–71.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Adhikari, B.S., Lyngdoh, S. (2022). Monitoring diversity and abundance of mammals with camera-traps: a case study of Manas National Park, Assam, India. *Check List*, 18(5): 1023–1043.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Adhikari, B.S., Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2021). Temporal interactions and moon illumination effect on mammals in a tropical semievergreen forest of Manas National Park, Assam, India. *Biotropica*, 53(3): 831–845.
- Sidat, A., **Bhatt, U.** (2020). Annotated checklist of butterflies of Ankleshwar – an industrial town in Gujarat, India. *Checklist - The Journal of Biodiversity Data*, 16(4): 997–1015.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2018). Chital: photographic evidence of *Axis axis* after two decades in Manas National Park, Assam, India. *Zoo's Print*, 33(8): 5–8.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Nagar, P.S. (2017). Diversity of butterflies in an arboretum of Vadodara, Gujarat, India. *Checklist – The Journal of Biodiversity Data*, 13(2): 2073.

## EDITORIAL BOARD / PEER REVIEWER

- (2024): Reviewer – *Biotropica*
- (2023): Reviewer – *Mammal Study*
- (2022): Reviewer – *Plos One, Ecology & Evolution*

## BLOGS / POPULAR ARTICLES / NEWS / MEDIA COVERAGE

- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2024). Clouded leopard and leopard cat occupy same habitat but differently, shows study. June 11, 2024. *Mongabay India*.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2024). Majestic Manas: Several new species captured for the first time in Nat'l Park. May 02, 2024. *EastMojo*.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2023). In search of the clouded leopard. December 03, 2023. *Sanctuary Asia*.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2023). Clouded leopards develop ways to survive competition. October 19, 2023. *Mongabay India*.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2023). Prey, habitat dictate Asiatic wild dog-tiger co-existence, says study. October 08, 2023. *The Hindu*.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2023). With nimble feet, clouded leopards play hide-and-seek in the forests. August 06, 2023. *The Hindu*.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2023). Clouded leopards in Assam's Manas National Park play hide-and-seek with other carnivores, reveals new study. August 06, 2023. *India Today NE*.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Lyngdoh, S. (2023). Mysteries unveiled: exploring the enigmatic world of the clouded leopard in Manas. August 04, 2023. *Oryx*.
- **Bhatt, U.,** Adhikari, B.S., Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2021). Wildlife Behaviour: Temporal interaction. *Current Science*, 120(6): 976.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- Naseem, K., Karki, G.S., Anwar, M., Guleria, H., Borah, J., Adhikarimayum, A.S., Bora, B.J., Pal, R., Talegaonkar, R.K., Sharma, R., Bhagat, R.B., **Bhatt, U.**, Basu, P., Jhala, Y.V., Qureshi, Q. (2015). Ramnagar Forest Division (Uttarakhand). In: Jhala, Y.V., Qureshi, Q., Gopal, R. (eds). *Status of tigers, copredators, and prey in India, 2014*. Wildlife Institute of India, 143–145 pp.
- Habib, B., Usmani, A.A., Latafat, K., Davate, M., Dashare, A., Chatterjee, N., Prajapati, R., **Bhatt, U.**, Jhala, Y.V., Qureshi, Q. (2015). Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra). In: Jhala, Y.V., Qureshi, Q., Gopal, R. (eds). *Status of tigers, copredators, and prey in India, 2014*. Wildlife Institute of India, 209–211 pp.
- Kumar, A., Usmani, A., Laha, D.R., Katara, N.M., Puranik, R., Banerjee, S., **Bhatt, U.**, Dubey, V., Yadav, S.P., Jhala, Y.V., Qureshi, Q. (2015). Similipal Tiger Reserve (Odisha). In: Jhala, Y.V., Qureshi, Q., Gopal, R. (eds). *Status of tigers, copredators, and prey in India, 2014*. Wildlife Institute of India, 212–214 pp.
- Roy, M., Bora, B.J., Naha, D., Kaneria, M., Talegaonkar, R.K., Sadhukhan, S., **Bhatt U.**, Qureshi, Q., Jhala, Y. V. (2015). Sundarban Tiger Reserve (West Range & Sajnekhali Range). In: Jhala, Y.V., Qureshi, Q., Gopal, R. (eds). *Status of tigers, copredators, and prey in India, 2014*. Wildlife Institute of India, 275–277 pp.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

- Lyngdoh, S., Habib, B., **Bhatt, U.** (2023). *Ecology of Clouded Leopard (Neofelis nebulosa) in an East Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot — Carnivore Co-existence in Manas National Park, Assam, India*. Final Technical Report, Wildlife Institute of India, Technical Report No. 2021/05, 142 pp.
- Lyngdoh, S., Adhikari, B.S., **Bhatt, U.**, Chaudhary, S., Sharma, P., Chattopadhyay, A., Parab, T. (2023). *Floral and faunal values of Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary*. Technical Report, Wildlife Institute of India, Technical Report No. 2023/15, 58 pp.
- Lyngdoh, S., Rohane, R., **Bhatt, U.**, Hussain, A. (2020). *Preliminary survey and framework for the assessment of major fauna of Dhauladhar Wildlife Sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh*. Technical Report, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department & Wildlife Institute of India, 50 pp.
- Bhardwaj, A.K., Lyngdoh, S., **Bhatt, U.**, Hussain, A. (2020). *Reintroduction of spotted deer in Bir Mehas and Bir Bhadson Wildlife Sanctuary, Patiala, Punjab*. Technical Report, Wildlife Institute of India.
- Jambu, N., **Bhatt, U.**, Patel, N., Sharma, K., Makwana, R., Vyas, V. (2018). *Young Ecologist Talk and Interact – Baroda*. Conference Report, 56 pp.
- Jhala, Y.V., Rajvanshi, A., Qureshi, Q., Shrivastava, A., Chinnasamy, R., Lal, P., Pradhan, A., **Bhatt, U.** (2015). *Mitigation measures for Gondia-Jabalpur gauge conversion project, Madhya Pradesh, India*. Technical Report, Wildlife Institute of India, 43 pp.

## CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

- **Bhatt, U.**, Lyngdoh, S. (2024). Carnivore chronicles: Co-occurrence and habitat use in the tropical forest of Manas National Park, North-East India. Oral talk, *103rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM)*, June 07 – 11, Boulder, Colorado, USA.
- **Bhatt, U.**, Adhikari, B.S., Lyngdoh, S. (2021). Temporal interactions and moon illumination effect on Mammals of tropical semi-evergreen forest of Manas National Park, Assam, India. Oral talk, *International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB)*, Dec 13 – 17, Kigali, Rwanda.
- **Bhatt, U.**, Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2021). Mammalian behaviour: Do animals respond to moonlight? Oral Talk, *Himalaya Day*, Sept, Dehradun, India.
- **Bhatt, U.**, Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2019). Interactions of forest-dwelling small and meso carnivores in Manas National Park, Assam. Speed talk, *4th Himalayan Research Seminar (HRS)*, Aug, Dehradun, India.
- **Bhatt, U.**, Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2019). Catch me if you can: species interactions and moon illumination effect on mammals of tropical semi-evergreen forest of Manas National Park, Assam, India. Oral talk, *56th Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology & Conservation (ATBC)*, July 30 – Aug 3, Antananarivo, Madagascar.
- **Bhatt, U.**, Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2018). Catch me if you can: does moon illumination influence mammal activity in Manas National Park? E-poster, *33rd Annual Research Seminar (ARS)*, Sept, Dehradun, India.

- **Bhatt, U.**, Nagar, P.S. (2018). Diversity of butterflies in an arboretum of Vadodara, Gujarat, India. Poster, *Young Ecologist Talk & Interact (YETI)*, Jan 22 – 25, Vadodara, India.
- **Bhatt, U.**, Habib, B., Lyngdoh, S. (2017). Carnivores of the light and darkness: activity pattern, habitat use and niche segregation in a tropical semi-evergreen forest, Assam. Oral talk, *13th Internal Annual Research Seminar (IARS)*, Aug, Dehradun, India.

## ACHIEVEMENTS / HONOURS / AWARDS

- (2020): Awarded the "CSIR Foreign Travel Grant" and the "BES Training & Travel Grant" to participate in the *Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS)* at Cambridge University, UK.
- (2019): Awarded the "ATBC Grant (Evan-Meggers Fund)" to participate in the *56th Annual Meeting of the ATBC* at Antananarivo, Madagascar.
- (2018): "Core Organizer", *YETI conference* – Coordinated and organised a conference for ecology students and professionals at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

## SKILLS / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Project Management:** Budget management, timeline development & tracking, team leadership & coordination, grant writing & fundraising
- **Conservation Techniques:** species recovery planning, conservation education & outreach, community-based conservation initiatives
- **Research & Analysis:** Literature review, report writing, scientific communication
- **Field Methods:** Camera-trapping, line transect, sign survey, habitat assessment
- **Remote fieldwork in different parts of India:** Rajaji NP, Tadoba Andhari TR, Sunderban TR, Ramnagar TR, Simlipal TR, Pench TR, Kanha TR, Manas NP, Dhauladhar WLS, Bir Bhadson WLS, Bir Mehaswala WLS, Simbalbara NP, Kalesar NP, Pin Valley NP, Chandratal WLS, Churdhar WLS
- **Analytical Techniques:** Capture-mark-recapture framework, distance sampling, occupancy modelling, GIS mapping, hypothesis testing, data interpretation
- **Data/Statistical Analysis:** R programming
- **Geospatial Tools:** ArcGIS, QGIS
- **Software:** MARK, PRESENCE, DENSITY, DISTANCE, SPSS
- **Design:** Canva