

## ATREE IN THE NEWS

### OP-EDS

#### DECLINE OF POLLINATORS THREATENS FOOD SUPPLY

**Dr Kamaljit S. Bawa**, President, ATREE, wrote an op-ed in The Hindu on the decline of pollinators and how valuable yet understudied they are.

*"For almost 20 years, my colleagues at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) have been monitoring the abundance of colonies of the giant Asian bee, Apis dorsata, in Biligiri Rangana Hills near Mysore. The number of bee colonies has shrunk significantly over the last decade.*

*In the Himalayas, apple yields in recent years have decreased. The*



*decreases have been attributed to reduction in the number of bees, but the exact causes of low yields are not known. In general, for the country as a whole, we have a very*

*poor knowledge of the pollination systems of our animal pollinated crops, and how best we can manage the pollinators for optimal yields." ❧*

#### WHY WE MUST HAVE WATER BUDGETS



**Veena Srinivasan and Sharachandra Lele**, Centre for Environment and Development, ATREE, wrote an op-ed in The Hindu on why groundwater regulation

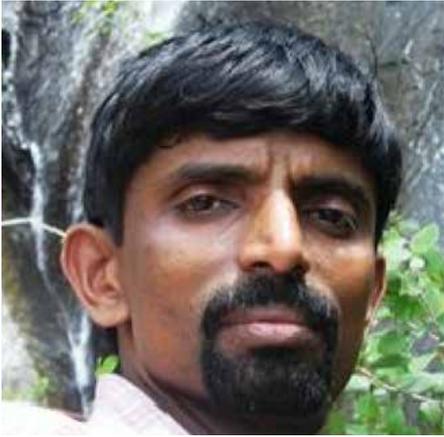


policies need to be informed by sound science.

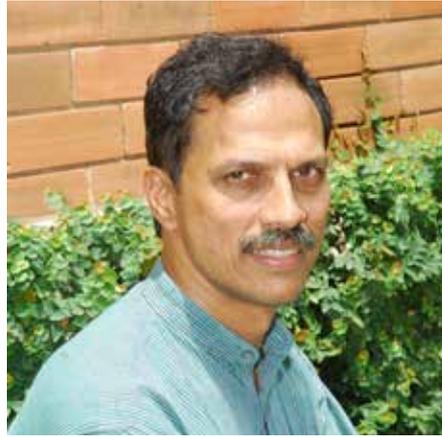
*"Groundwater is inherently difficult to monitor and control, in part*

*because of its invisibility, which also perpetuates the illusion that each well is independent. The myth is enshrined in Indian groundwater law that allows landowners to extract as much as they want. In reality, not only is groundwater within an aquifer interconnected, but aquifers and rivers are also interconnected. So depleting groundwater means drying rivers. Despite this, groundwater and rivers are regulated by different agencies that do not properly account for the linkages between them, often double counting the quantum of the resource." ❧*

## WATER ALSO NEEDS A BUDGET (translated from Kannada)



**Janardhana Kesaragadde** and **Sharachchandra Lele**, wrote an op-ed in Udayavani, a Kannada Daily, on why it is necessary to budget water.



"The recent fiscal budget for the state of Karnataka includes welcome allocations for lift irrigation, drip irrigation and

wastewater treatment. But today's water scarcity cannot be alleviated by these measures alone. The Arkavathy study by ATREE helps us understand that much of the scarcity is because of unbridled groundwater extraction, aggravated by the spread of eucalyptus and other water-intensive tree crops. Policies such as increasing recharge through check-dams or subsidising drip irrigation don't work if the total consumptive use of water is not regulated. Such regulation will require water budgeting at the Gram Panchayat scale and the basin scale." 



## NEWS ARTICLES



**Dr Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan**, Fellow, Suri Sehgal Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation, ATREE, and his team led the discovery of the ant species *Anochetus daedalus*.

Scientists discover ants that gorge on insects, invertebrates- Bangalore Mirror

New species of ant which builds maze-like nests found in Western Ghats- Livemint 



**Aravind Madhyastha**, Fellow, Suri Sehgal Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation, ATREE, talks to scroll.in on why discoveries of frog species may seem like a dime a dozen.

Why are new species of frog being discovered so often? Because there are so many-of-them -Scroll.in 



ATREE's study on Vrishabhavathi Valley Treatment Plant (VVTP) was featured in the Deccan Herald- City's oldest STP in Vrishabhavathi underutilised 

**Priti Gururaj**, a PhD Scholar at ATREE, & team discover a new species of frog.

A tiny frog species discovered at Manipal Mangaluru- Bangalore Mirror 



**Siddappa Shetty**, Fellow, Centre for Environment and Development, talks to Prajavani (a Kannada language newspaper) about human-animal conflict.

<http://www.prajavani.net/article/????????????-????????-????????>  
Image: indiasendangered.com 



A new paper on the decline of tigers in India's tropical dry forests, co-authored by **Abi Tamim Vanak**, Fellow, Suri Sehgal Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation, ATREE, was featured in an article on Firstpost.

Encroachment on critical tiger habitats is leaving the big cats in grave danger - Firstpost 



**Aravind Madhyastha**, fellow, Suri Sehgal Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation, ATREE, **Preeti Gururaj**, PhD Scholar, ATREE, and team were featured in The Hindu and Bangalore Mirror for the discovery of a frog species in Biligiri Hills

New frog species found in Biligiri- The Hindu

New frog species found in Biligiri hills - Bangalore Mirror 



**Jagdish Krishnaswamy** was part of a panel discussing the current 'heat-wave' in Bangalore, in News9 TV. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gstCkVIrgM&feature=youtu.be> 

Abi Tamim Vanak talks to the Economic Times about the importance of grasslands in conservation in an article about improving India's biodiversity. How to improve india's record in biodiversity 

## FISH KILLS AT ULSOOR

### Press coverage on ATREE's work investigating fish kills in Ulsoor Lake

On March 7, thousands of dead fish were found floating on Ulsoor lake. This was followed by massive public outcry on a number of citizens fora. A team from ATREE went to Ulsoor Lake to collect lake water samples for a rapid water quality assessment early in the morning of March 8th. The samples were taken from a number of different points around the lake and brought back to be tested at ATREE's Water and Soil Lab.

The team, led by Dr. Priyanka Jamwal, found that DO levels were extremely low and ammonia levels were high. The ATREE water quality test results were widely reported in various media outlets. Following the water quality reports, ATREE was asked to provide expert input at various media events and channels.

Complete list of links:

TV 9 Panel discussion, 7th March 2016  
Sharachchandra Lele participates in a TV Panel debate discussing the Ulsoor fish kill.



Times of India, 9th March, 2016:  
Release treated sewage into water to save lakes aquatic life -Experts

Times of India, 10th March, 2016:  
Oxygen levels in Ulsoor Lake way below limit ammonia content high

NDTV News, 10th March, 2016  
Thousands of fish died due to negligence of government departments

The Hindu, 10th March, 2016:  
Majority of polluters go unpunished

Public TV News Report, 11th March, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/>

[watch?v=fB7ILLIU-pWA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fB7ILLIU-pWA)

Prajavani, 12th March, 2016:  
Ulsoor\_fish\_kill

Vijay Karnataka, 14th March, 2016:  
[http://atree.org/sites/default/files/Vijaya\\_Karnataka\\_ulsoor\\_lake\\_14\\_March\\_2016.pdf](http://atree.org/sites/default/files/Vijaya_Karnataka_ulsoor_lake_14_March_2016.pdf)

The Hindu, 16th March, 2016:  
Result of the tests on Ulsoor lake is alarming

Economic Times, 19 March 2016  
Bengaluru's Ulsoor lake turns into fish graveyard is pollution plaguing water bodies

The Wire, 19th March 2016  
Bangalore's dead fish are just a symptom of the time bomb that lies ahead

The Hindu, 22 March 2016  
World Water Day save water now or there will be nothing left to save 

## NEW@ATREE

**Bejoy K Thomas,**  
fellow,

Centre for Environment  
and Development,  
ATREE,

delivered a

Water Institute seminar  
at University of Waterloo,  
Canada,

on 28 March 2016 during his tenure as  
Royal Bank of Canada visiting fellow ✦

**Sharachandra Lele,**  
senior fellow,

Centre for Environment  
and Development,  
ATREE,

delivered a public talk titled

*'From water supply to integrated  
water management,'*

as part of

World Water Day Celebrations  
organized by Bangalore Water Supply  
and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Indian  
Waterworks Association and District  
Legal Services Authority ✦

**Ulka Kelkar,**  
fellow,

Centre for Environment  
and Development, ATREE,  
made a presentation on

*"Climate change research  
at ATREE",*

at the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on  
Climate Change, organized by

Environmental Management and Policy  
Research Institute (EMPRI), Department  
of Forest, Ecology & Environment,

Government of Karnataka, in Bangalore,  
on 29 March 2016 ✦

