

The University of Queensland - IIT Delhi Academy of Research Joint PhD Project

PROJECT TITLE	CAN HONEY HELP SAVE LARGE THREATENED MAMMALS?
PROJECT CODE	UQIDAR 00202
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	The project aims are to examine the potential of using honey production in rural communities as a tool for enhancing biodiversity conservation and saving threatened species. The project will examine and map native rhino, elephant and other large mammal conservation and hunting in the Indian sub-continent, including in boundary areas. We will map rural communities in areas that have multiple threatened mammals, focusing on large mammals and will overlap these with rural communities that may benefit from creating alternative income streams, such as honey bee growing. This will allow to prioritise areas where environmentally and economically sustainable income can enhance biodiversity conservation of threatened species, The study will combine fieldwork focused on mammals, mapping of habitat and conflict and collaboration with agricultural experts in the honey industry and environmental economists, with whom we have already established ties and collaborations in the region.
PROJECT OUTCOMES	The project will follow a first model trialled recently in a rural community near the border of Nepal and India by our industry partners, who have developed together with an under-privileged local community a plan to reduce illegal hunting of rhinos and replace the villa's income with honey bee growing. This case study has been very successful and is leading to outstanding conservation outcomes and proposed alternative income for the villagers while enhancing conservation. The focus of the proposed study will be on large mammals, including rhinos, elephants and other species that are illegally poached. We will identify and analyse how alternative environmentally-friendly activities and sources of income, such as honey growing, can allow the community to be involved in conservation, economically and environmentally sustainable.
ADVISORY TEAM	<p>Professor Salit Kark Biological Sciences www.KarkGroup.org</p> <p>Dr Kavya Dashora Rural Development and Technology www.iitd.ac.in/content/dr-kavya-dashora-crdt</p> <p>Additional advisors Dr Dibesh Karmacharya Dr Ajay Saini,</p>
TYPE OF STUDENT	Applications are open to i or q students who meet eligibility criteria.
DISCIPLINE BACKGROUND OF STUDENT	Ideally, this project requires students with a background in: The students will need a background in ecology, conservation and biodiversity. They should have some knowledge in statistics and spatial analysis, and preferably have used R and GIS.
IDEAL CANDIDATE	Essential capabilities: Spatial analysis, field work, knowledge on large animals and field experience

APPLICATION
PROCESS

Desirable capabilities: statistical analyses, work with communities, some knowledge in ecological economics or social sciences will be good

Expected qualifications (courses, degrees, etc): Bachelor or BSc degree in biology or life sciences or geography or environmental economics, ecology, conservation, biodiversity. Preferably an Honours or Master degree too.

Apply online by the due date: <https://www.uqidar.org/students/how-to-apply/>