

## NARAYAN SHARMA

Assistant Professor and Head i/c  
Cotton College State University  
Guwahati, India

### Address:

Department of Environmental Biology and Wildlife Sciences  
Cotton College State University, Pan Bazar  
Guwahati – 781001, Assam, India

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### Place and date of birth:

Guwahati, India — February 11, 1977

### EDUCATION

Post doc; 2013 – 2015  
Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, India

PhD; 2013  
National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore / Manipal University, Manipal, India

MSc in Zoology, with specialisation in Animal Ecology and Wildlife Biology; 2002  
Gauhati University, Guwahati, India  
First Class, Tenth Rank

BSc in Zoology (Honours), Botany and Chemistry; 1999  
B Borooah College / Gauhati University, Guwahati, India  
First Class, Third Rank

### RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- Research Grant from The Rufford Foundation, London, UK, for a project entitled “The impact of harvest of a Critically Endangered Dipterocarp *Vatica lanceaefolia* on its population and regeneration in the rainforests of northeastern India”, Ongoing through Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore and Cotton College State University, Guwahati, India
- Research Grant from Ashoka Trust for Research for Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) Small Grants Programme 2009, Bangalore, India for a project entitled “Evaluation of the conservation status of the primates of the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, northeastern India”, 2008–2009
- Research Grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society – India Program, Bangalore, India for a project entitled “Behavioural ecology and conservation of macaque communities in the tropical wet evergreen rainforests of Assam, northeastern India”; 2007–2008 (with Anindya Sinha)
- Research Grant from the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, London, UK, for a project entitled “Coexistence and conservation of seven sympatric primates in the fragmented habitat of Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, northeastern India”, 2009–2011

- Research Grant from the Primate Action Fund, Conservation International, USA, for a project entitled “Community ecology and conservation of four sympatric macaques in a fragmented lowland rainforest of the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, northeastern India”, 2006 to 2011
- Asian-HOPE Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for participating in the XXIII Congress of the International Primatological Society, September 2010, Kyoto, Japan
- Research Fellowship of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore 2005–2012

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Landscape ecology  
 Tropical forest ecology  
 Community ecology  
 Conservation biology  
 Ecological history  
 Human ecology  
 Behavioural ecology  
 Conservation planning  
 Bio-statistics

## PUBLICATIONS

### A. Research Papers

- Ahmad R, **Sharma N**, Bhatnagar YV, Pacchnanda U, Suhail I and Kaul R. Status of Western Tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus* in Jammu and Kashmir, India (in review) *Current Science*
- Regmi GR, Huettmann F, Suwal MK, Nijman V, Nekaris KAI, Kandel K, **Sharma N**, and Coudrat C. First open access ensemble climate envelope predictions of Assamese Macaque *Macaca assamensis* in south and south-east asia: a new role model and assessment (in review) *American Journal of Primatology*
- Singh R, **Sharma N** and Sharma, R. Living with elephants: human-elephant relationships and effectiveness of conflict mitigation measures in Anamalai hills, Tamil Nadu, India (in review) *PLOS One*
- **Sharma N**, Huffman MA, Gupta, S, Nautiyal H, Mendonca R, Morino L, Sinha A. Watering holes: The use of arboreal sources of drinking water by Old World monkeys and apes 2016 *Behavioural Processes* DOI 10.1016/j.beproc.2016.05.006
- **Sharma N**, Sengupta S, Baruah D, Bhuyan N, Borah D, Saikia L and Saikia G. 2015. White-winged Duck *Asarcornis scutulata* in Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, Assam, *Indian BIRDS* 10: 121-123
- Madhusudan MD, **Sharma N**, Raghunath R, Bipin CM, Gubbi S, Johnsingh AJT, Kulkarni J, Kumara HN, Mehta P, Pillay R, and Sukumar R 2015. Distribution, relative abundance, and conservation status of Asian elephants in Karnataka, southern India, *Biological Conservation* 187:34-40

- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan, MD, and Sinha A. 2014. Local and landscape correlates of primate distribution and persistence in the remnant lowland rainforests of the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, *Conservation Biology* 28: 95-106
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan, MD, Sarkar P, Bawri M, and Sinha A. 2012. Trends in extinction and persistence of diurnal primates in the fragmented lowland rainforests of the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, northeastern India. *Oryx* 46: 308-311
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD, Sinha A. 2012. Socio-economic drivers of forest cover change in Assam: A historical perspective. *Economic and Political Weekly* 47: 64-72

## B. Book Chapters

- Gupta AK, **Sharma N**, Dasgupta S, Chakraborty D and Hazarika R. 2005. Conservation of hoolock gibbon (*Bunopithecus hoolock*) in northeast India. *ENVIS Bulletin: Wildlife and Protected Areas* 8(1): 1-26
- Gupta AK and **Sharma N**. 2005. Conservation of hoolock gibbon (*Bunopithecus hoolock*) in Mizoram. *ENVIS Bulletin: Wildlife and Protected Areas* 8(1): 27-86
- Gupta AK and **Sharma N**. 2005. Conservation of hoolock gibbon (*Bunopithecus hoolock*) in Meghalaya. *ENVIS Bulletin: Wildlife and Protected Areas* 8(1): 87-150

## C. Working Papers

- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Raghunath R. Assessing habitat connectivity for the endangered Asian elephant in Karnataka, southern India (in preparation)
- Ahmad, R and **Sharma N**. Preliminary assessment of distribution and conservation status of Kashmir grey langur in Jammu and Kashmir (in preparation)
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. Spatio-temporal variability, turnover and co-occurrence patterns of diurnal primates in tropical rainforest fragments of the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, northeastern India (in preparation)
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. Niche partitioning and coexistence of sympatric macaques in a fragmented habitat of the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, northeastern India (in preparation)

## D. Technical Reports

- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. 2011. Coexistence and conservation of seven sympatric primates in the fragmented habitat of Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, northeastern India, Final Report, submitted to Rufford Small Grant Foundation, UK
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. 2011. Community ecology and conservation of four sympatric macaques in a fragmented lowland rainforest of upper Brahmaputra valley, northeastern India. Final Report, submitted to Primate Action Fund, Conservation International, USA
- **Sharma N**. 2009. Evaluation of the conservation status of the primates of the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, northeastern India. Final Report, submitted to Ashoka Trust for Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore, India

- **Sharma N** and Sinha A. 2007. Survey and conservation status of non-human primates in reserve forests and proposed reserve forests of Eastern Assam Circle. Final Report, submitted to Wildlife Conservation Society–India Program, Bangalore
- **Sharma N** and Sinha A. 2005. Behavioural ecology and conservation of macaques in the fragmented lowland tropical forests of Assam, northeastern India. Phase II: Evaluation of primate communities and their conservation status in the Bherjan-Borajan-Podumoni Wildlife Sanctuaries, Assam. Final Report, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India

#### E. Conference/Workshop Abstracts and Presentations

- **Sharma N** and Sinha A. 2005. Stepchildren of the seven sisters: The threatened primate diversity of northeastern India. *Fifth Göttinger Freilandtage – Primate Diversity: Past, Present and Future*, Deutsches Primatenzentrum, Göttingen, Germany, December 2005
- **Sharma N** and Sinha A. 2006. Primates in isolation: Managing fragments as a key to their conservation. *National Seminar on Zoology for Human Welfare*, Zoological Society of Assam, Gauhati University, Guwahati, India, February 2006
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. 2007: Diminishing habitat, vanishing primates: Conservation of primates in the upper Brahmaputra valley, northeastern India. *Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS)*, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, March 2007
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. 2007: Primates on the edge: Conservation of non-human primates in fragmented habitats of the Upper Brahmaputra valley, northeastern India, *Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Asia-Pacific Chapter*, Chiang Mai, Thailand, February 2009
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. 2008: Primates on the edge: Conservation of non-human primates in fragmented habitats of the Upper Brahmaputra valley, northeastern India, *Students' Meet on Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Science (SMEECS)*, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, August 2008
- **Sharma N**. 2010: *Luit paror gatha*: Deforestation of the Upper Brahmaputra Valley – A historical perspective, *Annual Meeting*, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, India, July 2010
- **Sharma N**. 2010: Forest history, plantation and conservation. *General Training on Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), Standard Workshop*, Ooty, India, August 2010 (Invited talk)
- **Sharma N**, MD Madhusudan and Sinha A. 2010: Shutter islands: Future of primate communities in the fragmented forest remnants of upper Brahmaputra valley, northeastern India. *Quest for Coexistence with Non-Human Primates, Asian Hope 2010 – IPS Pre-Congress Symposium and Workshop*, Primate Research Centre, Kyoto University, Inuyama, Japan, September 2010
- Sankaran S, **Sharma N**, Rawat GS, Kumar RS and Sinha A. 2010. Ranging and foraging behaviour of the western hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*) in a lowland rainforest fragment of the upper Brahmaputra valley, northeastern India. *Quest for Coexistence with Non-Human Primates, Asian Hope 2010 – IPS Pre-Congress Symposium and Workshop*, Primate Research Centre, Kyoto University, Inuyama, Japan, September 2010

- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. 2010. Co-existence and conservation of sympatric primates in the fragmented habitat of the Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, northeastern India. Twenty-third Congress of the International Primatological Society, Kyoto, Japan, September 2010
- **Sharma N**. 2011. A race against time: The uncertain future of the primates in the fragmented rainforests of upper Brahmaputra valley in Assam. *Annual Meeting*, Nature Conservation Foundation, Valparai, India, July 2011
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. 2011. Co-existence of sympatric primates in the fragmented habitat of the Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, northeastern India, *Young Ecologists Talk and Interact (YETI)*, Guwahati, India, December 2011
- Sengupta S and **Sharma N**. 2012. Foraging association of pig-tailed macaques with drongo in Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Jorhat, Assam, India. *Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS)*, Bangalore, India, August 2012
- **Sharma N**, Madhusudan MD and Sinha A. 2012. Forests, people and primates: Conservation in the human-dominated fragmented floodplain of the Upper Brahmaputra Valley, Assam. *Rivers and Flood Plain: Landscape and Identity in the Brahmaputra Basin*. The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, November 2012 (**Invited talk**)
- **Sharma N**. 2013. I propose, they dispose: An anatomy of my rejected proposals. *Annual Meeting*, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, July 2013
- **Sharma N**. 2013. Over one hundred years of solitude. *Young Ecologists Talk and Interact (YETI)*, Nagaland University, Lumami, India, December 2013 (**Invited talk**)
- **Sharma N**. 2014. Plantation, people, fragment and primate: Is long-term co-existence possible? Environment and Development: New Frontiers of Research on North-East India, HSS Graduate Workshop, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India, January 2014 (**Invited talk**)
- **Sharma N**, Raghunath R and Madhusudan MD. 2014. Making room for elephants. *Annual Meeting*, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, India, July 2014
- Regmi GR, Huettmann F, Suwal MK, Nijman V, Nekaris KAI, Kandel K, **Sharma N**, Coudrat C. 2014. Spatial Distribution Estimates of Assamese macaque *Macaca assamensis* in South and South-East Asia based on a first Open Access Ensemble Model-Prediction, *Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS)*, Beijing, China, November 2014 (**Received the best poster award**)
- **Sharma N**. 2014. Environmental Challenges in the North East: Focus on Assam. NIAS Course for Ishan Vikas – Udhan Programme, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India, December 2014
- **Sharma N** 2015. Over one hundred years of solitude: Ecological history of the primates, people and forests of the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, Upper Brahmaputra Valley, Assam, Seminar on *Cultural Ecology of the Brahmaputra*, Indian Institute of Technology – Guwahati, Guwahati, India, March 2015 (**Invited talk**)
- **Sharma N**, Raghunath R and Madhusudan MD. 2015. Assessing habitat connectivity for elephants in Karnataka. *Annual Meeting*, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, India, July-August 2015
- Singh R, **Sharma, N** and Sharma, RK. 2016. Elephant in a tea cup: understanding human-elephant relationships and assessment of the effectiveness of conflict mitigation measures in

Valparai. *Young Ecologists Talk and Interact (YETI)*, Amity University, Noida, India, January 2016

- **Sharma N.** 2016. Can gibbons save natural forests? *Conserving the 'hoolu': Hoolock gibbons in the threatened Community Forests of Meghalaya*. Appraisal and Action Development meeting Khliehriat & Sonapyrdi, Meghalaya, India. February, 2016 (**Invited talk**)
- **Sharma N.** 2016. Counting primates for conservation. National training workshop on fauna of Hotspots-3: Eastern Himalaya. North Eastern Regional Centre, ZSI, Shillong. 17 – 21 March, 2016 (**Invited talk**)

## F. Popular Articles

- Saikia U, **Sharma N** and Das A. 2008. What is a species: An endless debate. *Resonance: Journal of Science Education* 13: 1049-1064
- **Sharma N.** 2009. Wildlife under wheels. <http://conservation.in/blog/wildlife-under-wheels/>
- Saikia U, **Sharma N** and Das A. 2010. Vanishing species: The planet in crisis. *Resonance: Journal of Science Education* 15: 321-336
- **Sharma N.** 2010. Where have all the monkeys gone? *Bushchat*, Nature Conservation Foundation Newsletter 6: 18-19
- **Sharma N.** 2010. A monkey watcher's diary. *The Sanctuary Asia* 30: 38-41
- **Sharma N.** 2010. In the land of primates. *The Horizon, The Assam Tribune*, 25 September 2010
- **Sharma N.** 2011. Over one hundred years of solitude: History of the Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary. *Zoo's Print Magazine* 26: 5-8
- **Sharma N.** 2011. A remnant tale. *The Sanctuary Asia* 31: 42-47
- **Sharma N.** 2012. The singing farmers of the forest. *The Hindu*, 21 November 2012. <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/the-singing-farmers-of-the-forest/article4117519.ece>
- **Sharma N.** 2013. Three different voices. *The Hindu*, 17 July 2013. <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/three-different-voices/article4921694.ece>
- **Sharma N.** 2014. At a crossroad. *The Hindu*, 10 September 2014. <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/at-a-crossroads/article6395237.ece>

## WORKSHOP / SEMINAR ATTENDED

- State Level Inception Workshop on strengthening Participatory Forest Management in India in Collaboration with Assam Forest Department organised by Enviro Legal Defence Firm at NEDFi House, Guwahati, Assam, 7 August, 2015
- Workshop on human-elephant conflict and restoration of elephant corridors and home range through private initiatives / community reserves organised by Karnataka Forest Department, Aranya Bhavan, Mysuru, Karnataka, 26 August 2015

## EXPERIENCE AS A CONSULTANT

- Consulted and written the first draft of Tiger Conservation Plan of Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram on invitation from the Department of Environment & Forests, Govt. of Mizoram, India 2012.
- Consulted and provided inputs to Rainforest Alliance (RA) and the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) to draft the local interpretation guidelines for sustainable tea and coffee production in India, 2011.
- Provided expert inputs into a few projects to National Board of Wild Life (NBWL), Steering Committee, Government of India.
- Provided expert inputs into discussion meeting on elephants corridors of North East”, conducted in Guwahati on 1st and 2nd August 2003 by Wildlife Trust of India and contribute to filling in of information gaps on certain corridors and sharing views on elephant habitats of northeastern India.

## TEACHING AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

- Conducted workshop on Managing research workflow: An introduction to reference management to learn, discover, organise and write up your research. *Young Ecologists Talk and Interact (YETI)*, Amity University, Noida, India, January 2016
- Taught two modules (Conservation Biology and Behavioural Ecology) for UGC sponsored Career Oriented Course on Wildlife Conservation Biology at Department of Zoology, Digboi College, Assam from 18 – 20 March 2015.
- Conducted two-days intensive workshop on use of EndNote—a reference manager software for the students and faculties of Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati, March 2015
- Taught Primate Community Ecology module for PhD students at School of Natural Sciences and Engineering, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, March 2011.
- Conducted training cum workshop on primate census technique 18 – 19 July 2008, Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Jorhat, Assam
- Delivered several lectures and interacted with over 600 students during Assam Government’s Chief Minister’s Gyan Jyoti Programme (2008 & 2009) at Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Jorhat, Assam.
- Taught Fundamental Ecology and Zoology at Department of Zoology, B Borooah College, Gauhati University, Guwahati from July 2001 to January 2002 (Six months)

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANISATION RESPONSIBILITY

- One of the core organisers of Young Ecologists Interact and Talk (YETI) (website: <http://www.meetyeti.com>) held at Nagaland University, Nagaland (2013), Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun (2012), Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati, Guwahati (2011) and Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore (2010).
- One of the key volunteers of Student Conference on Conservation Sciences (SCCS) held in Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (2013, 2011 and 2010); and International Tree and Flying Squirrel Colloquia held in Periyar, Kerala (2006).

- One of the key volunteers in preparation of Mysore City Bird Atlas to systematically document the distribution and abundance of birds across the city, Karnataka (June 2015).
- Co-ordinated the Campus Bird Count held at Cotton College State University, Pan Bazar, Guwahati, Assam (February 2016)
- Co-ordinated the National Science Day jointly organised by Cotton College State University (CCSU) and Institute of Advanced Studies in Science and Technology (IASST) at Guwahati, Assam (February 2016)

## LITERARY, CULTURAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- I have been actively writing in popular media such as newspaper (At a crossroad. *The Hindu*, 10 September 2014. <http://tinyurl.com/n5dzwf4>, **Three Different Voices**, July 17, 2013 *The Hindu* URL: <http://tinyurl.com/q9t9uar>; **The Singing Farmers of the Forest** <http://tinyurl.com/m7e7z8x>), **At a Crossroads** <http://tinyurl.com/n5dzwf4>, blog articles (**Wildlife Under Wheel** <http://tinyurl.com/7t7avvf>) and popular magazines. I am extremely interesting in reading varieties of books: fiction, non-fiction, nature writing, biography, philosophy etc., and spent considerable time in reading articles in various blogs.
- I was engaged with a cultural group in my locality for a long time during which I had staged various cultural shows including a few short dramas on local social issues.
- I am an avid movie aficionado and frequently watch movies from around the world.

## COMPLETED ONLINE COURSE

- '**The Language of Hollywood Storytelling Sound and Color**,' Wesleyan University, USA from 4 February 2013 to 11 March 2013 through Coursera (<https://www.coursera.org/course/hollywood>).
- '**Questionnaire Design for Social Surveys**,' University of Michigan, USA from 1 June 2015 to 11 August 2015 through Coursera (<https://www.coursera.org/course/questionnairedesign>)
- '**Animal Behaviour**,' The University of Melbourne, Australia from 1 June 2015 to 27 July 2015 through Coursera (<https://www.coursera.org/course/animalbehav>)
- '**Writing in the Sciences**,' Stanford University from 1 September to 3 November 2015 <https://lagunita.stanford.edu/courses/Medicine/SciWrite./Fall2015/info>

## MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- Member, SSC/Primate Specialist Group, IUCN, 2006 onwards
- Member, IUCN/SSC Re-Introduction Specialist Group – South Asia, 2010 onwards
- Member, International Primatological Society, 2010 onwards

## INVITED PEER REVIEWS

*Biological Conservation, Animal Conservation, Environmental Conservation, Current Science, Endangered Species Research, Tropical Ecology, National Geographic Society, Science Vision, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.*