

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Paromit Chatterjee

Ph.D. (Zoology) | M.Sc. Conservation Biology

CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST / BIODIVERSITY & E&S SPECIALIST

CV

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Director, Habitat Lens Private Limited

Senior Consultant – Biodiversity, Sustainability Intelligence Pvt Ltd

LOCATION Kolkata, West Bengal, India

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Conservation biologist and biodiversity specialist with a Ph.D. in Zoology and ten years of applied experience across the Sundarbans, Lower Gangetic plains, Indian Himalaya, Nepal and other human-modified landscapes. His work combines field ecology, geospatial analysis, species distribution modelling, ecological restoration, freshwater biodiversity monitoring and lender-oriented environmental and social due diligence. He has led and supported technical assignments for conservation organisations, government institutions, development projects and private-sector clients, translating complex ecological evidence into defensible screening outputs, field-verification plans, mitigation measures and decision-ready reports.

10 YEARS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

102

GOOGLE SCHOLAR CITATIONS

6

H-INDEX

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA, & NEPAL

CORE TECHNICAL DOMAINS

BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGY

Biodiversity risk and critical-habitat screening

Project-centred receptor screening; protected and recognised areas; habitat plausibility; field-verification triggers.

Field ecology and baseline design

Terrestrial, freshwater, wetland and coastal survey design; habitat condition assessment; monitoring protocols.

Geospatial analysis and modelling

GIS overlays, habitat suitability, species distribution modelling, spatial data validation and map-based decision support.

Nature-based solutions and restoration

Mangrove restoration, living shorelines, shoreline stabilisation and climate-resilient ecological interventions.

LENDER & PROJECT ADVISORY

IFC PS6 / World Bank ESS6

Biodiversity due-diligence framing, Critical Habitat trigger review, mitigation hierarchy and lender-ready evidence trails.

Environmental and social due diligence

Site sensitivity review, compliance checking, ESAP inputs, E&S risk interpretation and practical mitigation.

ESMS / ESMP implementation support

Monitoring systems, compliance tracking, construction-phase risk management and coordination with project E&S units.

Freshwater and wetland biodiversity

River dolphin, gharial and crocodile assessments; aquatic monitoring systems; habitat and threat analysis.

CAREER HISTORY

Professional Experience

January 2025 – Present

India

Senior Consultant – Biodiversity

SUSTAINABILITY INTELLIGENCE PRIVATE LIMITED

Leads biodiversity and geospatial assignments for infrastructure, renewable-energy, conservation and development-sector clients.

- Develops and applies EBS Screen workflows integrating ecological records, protected areas, land use, elevation, hydrology and habitat filters.
- Provides IFC PS6 / World Bank ESS6-aligned screening, critical habitat review, monitoring and due-diligence inputs, including ecological baseline assessments, biodiversity screening and field-verification assignments.

July 2024 – Present

India

Director / Head – Conservation & Action Research

HABITAT LENS PRIVATE LIMITED

Directs conservation research, digital biodiversity systems, species recovery, restoration and science-led action planning.

- Develops methodologies, proposals, grant documents and conservation reports.
- Guides spatial analysis, research design, data interpretation and digital monitoring platforms.

September 2024 – January 2025

West Bengal, India

Consultant – Biodiversity

WWF-INDIA, SUNDARBANS PROGRAMME OFFICE

Provided specialist inputs on aquatic biodiversity, gharial habitat assessment, dolphin hotspot mapping and digital monitoring.

- Assessed navigation and habitat priorities for Gangetic dolphin conservation and gharial reintroduction.
- Contributed to app and dashboard development for freshwater biodiversity monitoring in West Bengal.

March 2022 – May 2024

Sundarbans, West Bengal

Senior Project Officer – Biodiversity

WWF-INDIA, SUNDARBANS PROGRAMME OFFICE

Managed biodiversity conservation and nature-based solution initiatives, including technical delivery, partnerships, finance and monitoring.

- Completed Living Shoreline implementation across four islands and led Gangetic dolphin assessment in the Hugli River.
- Supported the first release of 37 captive-bred gharials in West Bengal, small-carnivore surveys and crocodile assessment.

March 2021 – January 2022

India

Assistant Manager – Biodiversity

ICLEI SOUTH ASIA

Led habitat-degradation assessment under SECURE Himalaya and contributed to urban biodiversity and nature-based solution work.

- Conducted high-altitude grassland surveys, restoration prioritisation and stakeholder coordination in Himachal Pradesh.

June 2016 – December 2020

Kolkata & Indian Himalayan Region

Research Fellow / Senior Researcher

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Implemented MoEF&CC-funded biodiversity assessment, long-term monitoring, habitat modelling and technical reporting across the Himalaya.

- Developed permanent-plot and faunal-monitoring protocols; managed field teams and multi-location datasets.
- Applied GIS and statistical analysis and contributed to national toolkits, books, training and peer-reviewed publications.

2025–2026

Selected Consulting & Technical Assignments

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

EBS Screen-Assisted Biodiversity Baseline Assessment for Selected Restoration Sites

Foundation for Resilience Actions (RA) | 2026 | West Bengal & Rajasthan, India

SENIOR BIODIVERSITY SPECIALIST

Undertook site-specific EBS screening and biodiversity-baseline planning for two plantation sites on Sagar Island, an integrated mangrove-aquaculture site at Jharkhali and the Udaipur Lakes landscape. The assignment included field biodiversity and habitat surveys at the three West Bengal sites; desktop baseline review for Udaipur; survey design for birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, fishes and invertebrates; and analysis of species richness, relative occurrence, diversity indices and habitat relationships for site-specific reporting.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Environmental and Social Support – Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project, Phase 2

Nepal Water & Energy Development Company Private Limited | 2025–2026 | Nepal

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Supported the project Environmental and Social Unit in applying lender requirements, strengthening ESMS and ESMP implementation, monitoring construction-phase environmental risks and coordinating safeguard compliance. Provided biodiversity inputs on screening, ecological safeguards, monitoring requirements and integration of biodiversity compliance tracking within the digital ESMS platform for the 216 MW hydropower project.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Environmental and Social Screening for Electric Bus and Depot Infrastructure under PM-e Bus Sewa

GreenCell Mobility Private Limited | 2025–2026 | Andhra Pradesh, India

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Conducted environmental, biodiversity and social screening for 350 e-buses across six depot sites, including three greenfield and three brownfield facilities. Reviewed site sensitivity, charging and maintenance infrastructure, drainage, utilities and associated civil works through desktop assessment, field verification, regulatory review, gap analysis and mitigation recommendations aligned with national requirements and IFC Performance Standards.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

E&S Due Diligence and GHG Review for a Solar-Module Manufacturer

GEF Capital | 2025 | Maharashtra, India

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Reviewed project policies, permits, monitoring records, ESG management practices and ESAP commitments. Assessed biodiversity and environmental risks, identified compliance gaps, prepared risk-management recommendations, reviewed the GHG inventory framework and value-chain emission sources, and supported management capacity building for implementation of the ESG action plan.

2024–2025

Selected Consulting & Technical Assignments

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Environmental and Social Support – Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project, Phase 1

Nepal Water & Energy Development Company Private Limited | 2024–2025 | Nepal

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Provided technical support for supervision of project E&S performance, including application of lender requirements, ESMS implementation, ESMP compliance monitoring, environmental monitoring and construction-phase risk management. Facilitated coordination across leadership and operational teams so that E&S commitments were understood, tracked and implemented.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Environmental and Social Due Diligence – Upaya City Cargo

Upaya City Cargo Pvt. Ltd. | 2025 | Banepa, Nepal

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Reviewed biodiversity sensitivities around a proposed third-party logistics warehouse, including land use, habitat condition, drainage pathways and construction-phase ecological risks. Prepared biodiversity-related ESAP inputs covering habitat disturbance, vegetation clearance, drainage management and alignment with applicable IFC Performance Standards.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Environmental and Social Due Diligence – SR Foods

SR Foods Pvt. Ltd. | 2025 | Rupandehi, Nepal

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Assessed biodiversity and habitat-related risks associated with expansion within an existing industrial premises. Reviewed modified land use, site condition, drainage pathways and nearby receptors, and prepared ESAP recommendations on construction controls, waste and runoff management, and prevention of localised ecological disturbance.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Habitat Assessment of Gharials in Rivers of West Bengal for Translocation and Release

WWF-India | 2024–2025 | West Bengal, India

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Surveyed candidate river systems for water depth, flow, bank structure, human disturbance, prey base and threats. Shortlisted viable river stretches, coordinated with local stakeholders and state authorities, and developed the ecological basis for release-site selection and post-release monitoring.

Selected Conservation Assignments

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Site Assessment and Release of 37 Captive-bred Gharials in the Jalangi River

WWF-India / West Bengal Forest Directorate | 2024 | West Bengal, India

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Conducted field assessment of proposed release rivers, evaluated habitat suitability and threats, coordinated with government authorities and supported post-release monitoring design for West Bengal's first gharial translocation and release programme.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Population Estimation of Saltwater Crocodile in the Indian Sundarbans

WWF-India | 2024 | Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, India

TRAINER - ECOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES

Trained front-line staff in field data collection, boat-based population counts, double-observer survey logic and recording of environmental covariates for systematic crocodile population assessment.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Living Shoreline for Protection and Stabilisation of Coastal Sundarbans

WWF-India / HSBC India | 2022–2024 | Sundarbans, India

BIODIVERSITY / NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS LEAD

Supported design, implementation, monitoring and technical reporting for an estuarine living-shoreline intervention combining toe-line protection, sediment retention, mangrove regeneration and coastal stabilisation. The work generated field evidence on a nature-based alternative for erosion-prone inhabited islands.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Sound of Safety: Testing Pingers for River Dolphins and Fishers

WWF-India / Darwin Initiative Innovation | 2022–2024 | India & Pakistan

ECOLOGICAL EXPERT & DATA ANALYST

Assessed habitat suitability and priority field locations, supported river-dolphin population estimation and analysed population trends alongside acoustic data to inform pinger testing and bycatch-mitigation strategies for dolphins and fishing communities.

2016–2022

Selected Research & Landscape Assignments

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

SECURE Himalaya Study on Alpine and Sub-alpine Habitat Degradation

ICLEI South Asia / National Institute of Himalayan Environment | 2021–2022 | Himachal Pradesh, India

ASSISTANT MANAGER – BIODIVERSITY

Undertook biodiversity and habitat-degradation assessment, identified ecological and anthropogenic drivers, supported restoration prioritisation and contributed to practical mitigation planning for high-altitude landscapes.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Biodiversity Assessment through Long-term Monitoring Plots in the Indian Himalayan Landscape

Zoological Survey of India / National Mission on Himalayan Studies | 2016–2019 | Indian Himalaya

RESEARCH FELLOW

Implemented permanent-plot and landscape-level biodiversity monitoring; contributed to survey design, field protocols, data management, analysis, technical reporting and stakeholder capacity building under a national Himalayan monitoring programme.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Assemblages of Lepidoptera in the Indian Himalaya through Long-term Monitoring Plots

Zoological Survey of India / National Mission on Himalayan Studies | 2016–2020 | Indian Himalaya

RESEARCH FELLOW

Supported multi-season field sampling, faunal documentation, spatial analysis, publication outputs and technical reporting on butterfly and moth assemblages under long-term ecological monitoring frameworks.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENT

Conservation and Long-term Monitoring of Threatened Vertebrates through Capacity Building

Zoological Survey of India / National Mission on Himalayan Studies | 2017–2020 | Indian Himalaya

RESEARCH FELLOW

Contributed to threatened-vertebrate documentation, protocol development, field training, monitoring design and national technical outputs intended to strengthen institutional and local capacity for Himalayan biodiversity assessment.

CREDENTIALS

Qualifications, Capabilities & Professional Standing

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy

Zoology – Small Mammals

University of Calcutta | 2024

Master of Science

Conservation Biology; University Gold Medal

University of Burdwan | 2014

TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

ECOLOGY & BIODIVERSITY

- Ecological baseline design and field-verification planning
- Critical Habitat and biodiversity receptor screening
- Protected/recognised area and habitat-sensitivity analysis
- Species distribution and habitat-suitability modelling
- Terrestrial, freshwater, wetland and coastal survey methods
- Biodiversity monitoring plans and management inputs

PROJECT & LENDER ADVISORY

- Environmental and social due diligence and ESAP inputs
- IFC PS6, World Bank ESS6 and mitigation-hierarchy framing
- ESMS / ESMP implementation and compliance monitoring
- GIS, remote sensing and spatial database workflows
- Nature-based solutions, mangrove restoration and living shorelines
- Technical reporting, proposals, training and stakeholder consultation

TOOLS AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

QGIS / ArcGIS / R / MaxEnt / spatial databases / species distribution modelling / multivariate analysis / diversity indices / habitat and land-use screening / technical data visualisation

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AWARD

IUCN Species Survival Commission

Member, Small Mammal Specialist Group; Commission Member, IUCN SSC Asia.

RISCINSA

Member, Rodentia, Insectivora & Scandentia Conservation and Information Network of South Asia.

Ecological Restoration Alliance

Member.

University Gold Medal

University of Burdwan, M.Sc. Conservation Biology, 2014.

LANGUAGES & PERSONAL

English

Excellent speaking, reading and writing

Bengali

Good speaking, reading and writing

Hindi

Good speaking and reading; fair writing

Nationality

Indian

SELECTED TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- SERB School in Avian Biology, DST, Government of India - Gurukula Kangri University, 2015.
- National Workshop on Identification of Fauna of the Western Ghats - Zoological Survey of India, 2016.
- Capacity Building for Long-term Monitoring of Himalayan Biodiversity - workshops at Gangtok, Solan and Itanagar, 2017–2019.
- Green Skill Development Programme for Biodiversity Conservationists - foundation and field training with ZSI/BSI.
- Field Training on Identification of Common Plants - West Bengal Biodiversity Board, Botanical Survey of India and Visva-Bharati University, 2014.

Peer-reviewed Publications

Google Scholar: 102 citations | h-index 6 | i10-index 2 | metrics recorded 17 June 2026

- 01 Abedin, I., **Chatterjee, P.**, Singha, H., Kim, H. W., & Kundu, S. (2025). Climate-Driven Habitat Shifts of Two Palm Squirrel Species and Projected Expansion of Their Range Overlap with Indian Agroecosystems. *Biology*, 14(12), 1666.
- 02 **Chatterjee, P.**; Hazra, S.; Danda, A.; Bhadury, P.; Chaudhuri, P.; Sarkar, S. (2025). Living Shoreline: Preliminary Observations on Nature-Based Solution for Toe-Line Protection of Estuarine Embankments and Mangrove Regeneration. *Sustainability*, 17(7), 3168. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su17073168>.
- 03 Chakraborty, S., **Chatterjee, P.**, & Saha, G. K. (2025). Prey profile of Jungle cat in human dominated landscape of Southern West Bengal: evidence from camera traps. *Ethology Ecology & Evolution*, 37(2), 236–242.
- 04 Chakraborty, S., Mukherjee, T., Dutta, S., Barik, S., Mazumdar, S., **Chatterjee, P.**, & Saha, G. K. (2024). Cat out of the bag: Coastal and Gangetic plains outside protected areas require focus for fishing cat conservation in southern West Bengal, India. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 82, 126754.
- 05 Ghosh, D., **Chatterjee, P.**, Karjee, R., & Subramanian, K. A. (2023). Flower Visitor Assemblage and Foraging Profile of a Pollinator Attractant Non-crop Plant *Isodon coetsa* from Eastern Himalayas, India. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society*, 76(3), 321–333.
- 06 Thapa, A., Pradhan, A., **Chatterjee, P.**, & Singh, A. (2023). A note on Indian hare *Lepus nigricollis*: presence beyond the IUCN distribution in the Himalayas. *Academia Biology*, 1.
- 07 Chakraborty, S., Mitra, S., **Chatterjee, P.**, Dey, D., Mazumdar, S., & Saha, G. K. (2022). State Representative Beaten to Death: A Decade Long Conflict Scenario of Fishing Cats from Southern West Bengal, India. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society*, 75(4), 449–455.
- 08 **Chatterjee, P.**, Mukherjee, T., Dutta, R., Sharief, A., Kumar, V., Joshi, B. D., et al. (2022). Future simulated landscape predicts habitat loss for the Golden Langur: A range level analysis for an endangered primate. *Science of The Total Environment*, 826, 154081.
- 09 **Chatterjee, P.**, Bhattacharyya, K., & Bhattacharyya, S. (2022). First record of the Long-snouted Bhutan Squirrel *Dremomys lokriah bhotia* from the state of West Bengal, India. *Journal of Animal Diversity*, 4(1), 52–57.
- 10 Gayen, D., **Chatterjee, P.**, & Bhattacharya, T. (2021). A survey on the mammal species from a peri-urban coal mining plateau of Eastern India. *Journal of Animal Diversity*, 3(3), 56–71.
- 11 **Chatterjee, P.**, Chandra, K., & Saha, G. K. (2021). A review on the subspecies of *Dremomys lokriah*. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society*, 74(3), 241–248.
- 12 **Chatterjee, P.**, Dam, D., Tripathy, B., & Chandra, K. (2020). Status, distribution and research gaps of rodents in North-Eastern states of India. *Travaux du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle 'Grigore Antipa'*, 63(2), 261–277.
- 13 **Chatterjee, P.**, Tripathy, B., Chandra, K., Saha, G. K., & Mondal, K. (2020). Climate change alarms the survival of Near Threatened Malayan giant squirrel in India. *Mammal Study*, 45(4), 289–302.
- 14 **Chatterjee, P.**, Mondal, K., Tripathy, B., & Chandra, K. (2020). First photographic evidence of *Panthera tigris* from Neora Valley National Park, Central Himalayas, India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, 120(1), 89–91.
- 15 Saján, S., Pall-Gergely, B., Tripathy, B., **Chatterjee, P.**, & Chandra, K. (2020). Redescription and ecological niche of a land snail *Dicharax strangulatus* in the Himalaya. *Journal of Conchology*, 43(5), 521–530.
- 16 Ghosh, D., Saján, S., **Chatterjee, P.**, Tripathy, B., & Chandra, K. (2019). Empowering stakeholders for monitoring biodiversity in the Indian Himalayan region. *Current Science*, 117(10), 1563.
- 17 **Chatterjee, P.**, Mondal, K., Tripathy, B., & Chandra, K. (2019). Evidence of presence of Marbled Cat in Neora Valley National Park, Central Himalaya, India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, 119(2), 193–196.
- 18 Tripathy, B., Saján, S., Sethy, P. G. S., **Chatterjee, P.**, & Chandra, K. (2018). A new record expanding the range of *Amphidromus sinensis*. *Folia Malacologica*, 26(4).
- 19 **Chatterjee, P.**, Mondal, K., Chandra, K., & Tripathy, B. (2018). First photographic evidence of Asian Golden Cat from Neora Valley National Park, Central Himalayas, India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, 118(2), 128–132.

BOOKS, BOOK CHAPTERS AND TECHNICAL VOLUMES

- 01 **Chatterjee, P.**, Payra, A., & Sen, S. (2018). Insecta: Phthiraptera. Faunal Diversity of Indian Himalaya, 297–304. *Zoological Survey of India*.
- 02 Mondal, K., Bhattacharya, K., **Chatterjee, P.**, Dey, P.K., Maheswaran, G., & Alam, I. (2018). Aves. In *Faunal Diversity of Indian Himalaya*, pp. 831–854. *Zoological Survey of India*.
- 03 Chandra, K., Tripathy, B., Sharma, L.K., et al. (2018). Toolkit for Long-Term Monitoring of the Faunal Resources in the Indian Himalaya. *Zoological Survey of India*, pp. 1–84.
- 04 Chandra, K., Joshi, B.D., & **Chatterjee, P.** (2020). Establishing Permanent Plots and Protocols for Vertebrates Monitoring in Indian Himalayan Region. *Zoological Survey of India*. ISBN 978-81-8171-560-9.
- 05 Bhattacharyya, K., **Chatterjee, P.**, Mazumder, A., et al. (2020). Moths and Butterflies of Neora Valley West Bengal. In *Assemblages of Lepidoptera in Indian Himalaya through Long Term Monitoring Plots*, pp. 87–102. *Zoological Survey of India*.
- 06 Chandra, K., Raghunathan, C., Singh, L.R.K., Ahmed, I., Gupta, D., & **Chatterjee, P.** (2021). Chordata: Vertebrata. *Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zones of India: Semi Arid*, 215–247. *Zoological Survey of India*.
- 07 Saján, S., Tripathy, B., Mondal, K., & **Chatterjee, P.** (2025). Tiny Survivors in a Changing Climate: Modelling the Future Distribution of Vallonia Snails in India. In *Navigating Climate Change: Impacts on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience*, pp. 333–355. Springer Nature Singapore.