

# RAMNATH CHANDRASEKHAR KRISHNAMOORTHY

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**Executive Summary** Practitioner with 13 years of experience in conceptualizing and implementing environmental education programs for schools and creating nature conservation stories from concept to completion through photography and filmmaking. Published columnist in The Hindu Metro Plus, a supplement of one of India's leading news dailies. Expertise in community organizing, oral storytelling, experiential learning facilitation, program management, nature photography, and documentary filmmaking.

**Experience** **TRUST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ([www.treeindia.in](http://www.treeindia.in))** Chennai, India  
*Non-governmental organization promoting environmental literacy in India since 1986*

May '18 – Present **Trustee & Conservation Educator**

- Co-founded the initiative Youth Conservation Action Network ([YouCAN](http://YouCAN.org)). Launched the *Earth Ambassadors*, a pan-India, one-year fellowship for youth to lead eco-clubs in schools. 13 Fellows organized sessions for 1,500 middle schoolers. They developed edible school gardens, participated in garbage cleanup drives, and practiced environmental stewardship.
- Launched and facilitated the *Earth Authors*, a four-month storytelling program on ecology and conservation for middle school children. 14 of them participating in the program and are writing and illustrating their children's books due to be published in August 2021.

**HEADSTART LEARNING CENTRE ([www.headstartschool.org](http://www.headstartschool.org))** Chennai, India  
*IGCSE School committed to inclusion, public problem solving, and sports integrity*

Jun '16 – May '17 **Resident Faculty**

- Co-developed and taught a 72-hour public problem-solving program called *Karthavyam* for middle schoolers, supported by the Ashoka Innovation Fund. 45 students addressed social and environmental issues, wrote storybooks, and engaged in community outreach. The school's learning facilitators have subsequently implemented the program every year.

**YOUTH FOR CONSERVATION ([www.yfc.in](http://www.yfc.in))** Chennai, India  
*A Trust for Environmental Education initiative to connect children with nature and conservation*

May '10 – Sep '14 **Co-Founder & Executive Director**

- Facilitated and managed a six-month conservation education program called *The Planet and You* in 21 schools across Tamil Nadu, India. 3,500 students became aware of natural ecosystems, climate change, urban wildlife, and conservation action while expressing their learning through arts.
- Organized a *Young Naturalists Camp* for 23 students at Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala. They practiced responsible trekking, bird watching, and nature journaling.
- Collaborated with nature photographer J. Ramanan to organize a traveling photo-exhibition and outreach program called *Mountains of our Destiny* in three cities. 1000 students visited the exhibition and improved their knowledge of the Western Ghats and the Himalayas.
- Convened and led *The Truth About Tigers* and *Save Our Sholas* outreach programs using films in 112 schools in 18 cities and towns across Tamil Nadu. 38,500 students learned new perspectives on ecology, raised questions, and expressed their motivation using arts to protect rainforests and save tigers.

## VISUAL STORYTELLING ASSIGNMENTS ([www.ramnathshekar.com](http://www.ramnathshekar.com))

India

*A list of notable documentary filmmaking and photography projects for the Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, and individuals.*

Mar '08 – present

### **Roles: Producer, Assistant Producer, Video Editor, Photographer & Production Assistant**

- Produced three films on transdisciplinary learning in kindergarten and middle school. The films improved school-parent relationship and promoted 21st-century teaching and learning. Client: Chettinad Sarvalokaa Education.
- Worked as the Assistant Producer, Video Editor, and Contributing Photographer for the conservation films *India's Disappearing Beaches*, *Making Room for Nature*, and *The Race to Save the Amur Falcon*. The films were viewed 1,00,000 times on online platforms. Used by conservationists and outreach campaigners across India to deepen people's understanding of ecosystems and conservation. Producer: Shekar Dattatri.
- Traveled 1,600-miles on an expedition along the River Ganges from sea to its source to photograph people and culture of the Gangetic plains. A coffee-table book called *Ganga – More than a River* was published. 1000 copies were distributed. Client: Chinmaya Mission.
- Commissioned to photo-document the scientific research initiatives and biodiversity of Chilika Lake. Pictures used in films, publications, and educational outreach materials. Client: Chilika Development Authority, a Government of Odisha enterprise.
- Worked as a Production Assistant for the documentary *Secrets of the King Cobra*. Telecast in National Geographic Channel. Producer and Cinematographer: Sandesh Kadur, Felis Creations.

## **Education**

### **EAST-WEST CENTER**

Honolulu, HI.

#### **Asia-Pacific Leadership Program Fellowship, Aug 2017 – May '18**

##### *Leadership Fellow & George R. Ariyoshi Scholar*

- Coursework: Adaptive Leadership; Cross-border Collaboration; Foresighting; Personal Action Plan; Peer-to-Peer Learning; Place-based learning; Regional Core Issues in the Asia-Pacific.
- Awarded a grant to study the challenges & opportunities to improve eco-literacy in schools. 50 focused group discussions and interviews organized with diverse stakeholders from the education sector in Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Thailand, and India. A report was published and presented to non-profit leaders, educators, and decision-makers at the U.S. Embassy, Bangkok, and the schools and individuals who participated in the study.

### **ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY**

Karaikudi, India

#### **Bachelor of Arts in English, May 2014**

## **Honors & Awards**

- East-West Center Innovation Fellow, 2020
- The New Indian Express 40-under-40, India's most inspiring young Eco-sapiens, 2019
- Profiled by [The Indian Express](#) (2019); [The Hindu](#) (2017); [Deccan Chronicle](#) (2017)
- Torchbearer of the Environment Award by the Government of Tamil Nadu, 2013
- Young Naturalist Award, Sanctuary Asia Magazine, 2011
- Shortlisted for the Rolex Young Laureates Programme, 2010
- Fujifilm's Super Six photographer. Photography exhibition hosted in major Indian cities, 2008

## **Interests**

- Enjoys cooking, gardening, high altitude hiking, and abstract photography.