
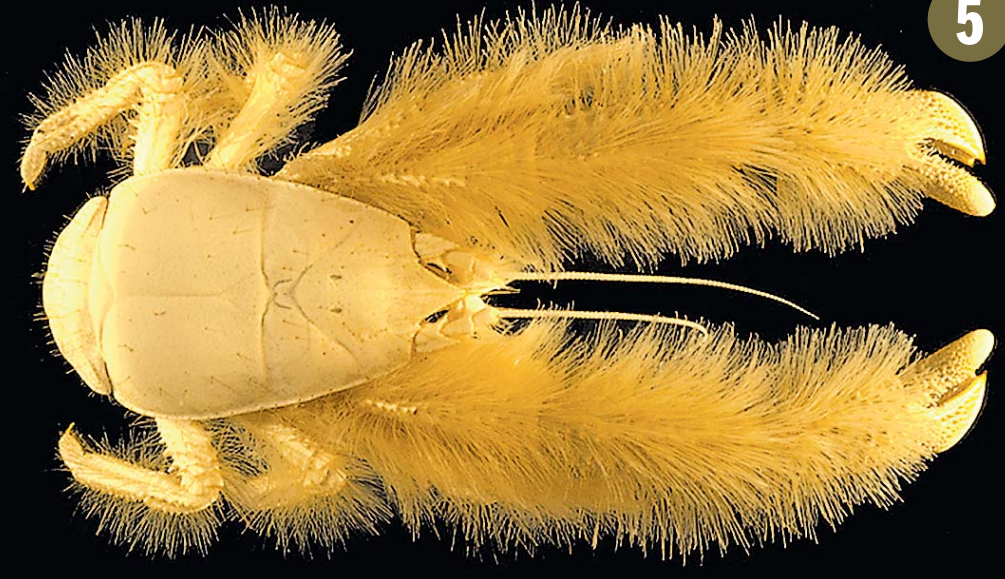


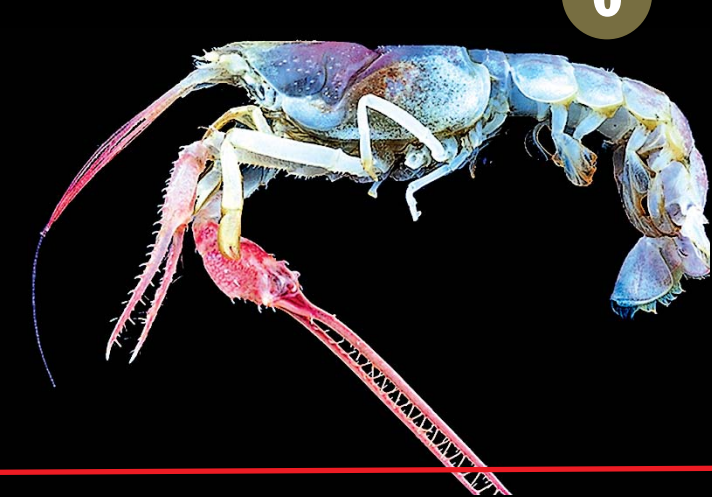


There are 328,000,000 cubic miles of seawater on earth, covering approximately 71 percent of earth's surface









The first ever Census of Marine Life

Project duration: 10 years
Number of expeditions: 540
Workforce: 640 institutions, 2700 scientists, 80 nations
Species catalogued: 120,000 including 6000 newly discovered species

After a decade of research and more than 540 ocean expeditions, scientists presented the world with the first-ever Census of Marine Life on 4th October, 2010. It brings the estimate of known marine species to nearly 250,000, a figure that still represents only a fraction of the species that inhabit the seas. The full number of species could be nearly one million, researchers said. If microscopic life like bacteria and viruses are included, that number could be in the hundreds of millions, or billions. Three-quarters of these species are yet to be discovered.

John Collins / NYT

- 1** A magnified crustacean, a tiny copepod collected from the Atlantic abyss
AFP / Census of Marine Life
- 2** A new copepod, *Ceratonotus steiningeri*, that was first discovered 5,400 meters deep in the Angola Basin
Jan Michels / Census of Marine Life
- 3** A leafy Seadragon, camouflaged to resemble a piece of drifting seaweed
AFP / Census of Marine Life / Karen Gowitz-Holme
- 4** A polychaete worm found at a whale fall at Sagami Bay, Japan at a depth of 925 meters,
REUTERS / Yoshihiro Fujiwara
- 5** Yeti Crab, a newly discovered species found south of Easter Island
AFP / Census of Marine Life
- 6** A blind lobster found in Australia. AFP / National Taiwan Ocean University / Tin-Yam Chan
- 7** A squid worm found in the Celebes sea in Southeast Asia
AFP / Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution / Laurence Madin

A dazzling underwater world comes alive in the first ever Census of Marine Life

The life Aquatic



Dan Kitwood/Getty Images

Vaishalli Chandra visits Bandipur and finds out there's a need to restore the elephant corridor

Make way for the PACHYDERMS

Innocent lives are lost, both sides seek claim over land, but both co-existed in perfect harmony, until the encroachments and deforestation led to one taking away portions of the others' land.

Elephants roamed in the wild at Bandipur just as the tribes settled on the fringes. An imbalance spiralled down to disaster as animal-human conflict became inevitable. Deforestation bruised the delicate balance between the two.

To alter it back to the harmony that was shared between animals and humans and to provide a win-win solution — the local or reserve forest lands allotted to Village Forest committee are being afforested, says Ramesh Venkataraman, managing trustee, Junglescapes, an NGO that promotes wildlife conservation initiatives that are inclusive of communities living on the fringes of the forest. "As far as elephants are concerned, these reserve forests when restored will help increase their habitats," points out Venkataraman, adding that, "their migratory routes are protected. This area [Lokkere corridor] lies in a critical migratory route between the Western and Eastern ghats that is regularly used by

elephants for migration in the dry summer months towards the water sources along the Cauvery basin."

Currently, the main reason why elephants venture into human settlements and fields is in search of food. With the forest cover restored, the pachyderms wouldn't veer towards crop fields. This in turn will ensure lesser animal-human conflict," explains Venkataraman.

Ramesh Venkataraman
Managing trustee, Junglescapes

With the forest cover restored, the pachyderms wouldn't veer towards crop fields. This in turn will ensure lesser animal-human conflict

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) interacted with the communities at Lokkere and Chikyelchetty to understand what kind of trees could be planted. "They give us the technical inputs on aspects

like plant species selection, water harvesting, etc and also act as the independent monitoring agency," says Venkataraman.

So far, a total of 8500 seedlings have been planted over an area of about 30 acres in Lokkere. Saplings of trees like teak, honge, nelli, tare, sele and muttuga have been sowed.

The afforestation drive has helped villagers generate an income during the lean farming period. The community has a nursery that provides these saplings, a single costing Rs15. "The afforestation of 30 acres has generated wages of about Rs1.6 lakhs already," points out Venkataraman, adding that, "This translates to about 1200 days of work spread over 30 families of Lokkere and Guddukere."

The long term benefit of increased forest cover will ensure increased water table and ability to raise crops. The top soil also remains fertile and is not washed away by flash rains.

City dwellers can contribute either by "volunteering for activities with the community. This can be an excellent learning experience. Or sponsor sapling planting on occasions like birthdays. For instance, one can sponsor 60



Vaishalli Chandra

Due to deforestation Elephants venture into human settlements and fields in search of food

saplings at a cost of Rs1000."

Corporates can offset their Carbon footprint: A normal corporate in the services industry like IT has a carbon footprint of 3-4 tonnes per employee per annum. At a cost of just Rs70 per employee per annum, a corporate can offset their carbon footprint. If they were to do this by buying carbon credits in the global exchange, it would cost around Rs3000 per employee. It would give them a strong brand image as a carbon neutral business, particularly with their US and European clients.

Afforestation helps villages — here's how: The entire afforestation is done using manual labour. Mechanised equipments like excavators are not used. Hence, providing opportunity for villagers to involve and earn. From growing the sapling, digging pits (done

a month before actual planting to ensure pits soak rain water), planting saplings, maintenance like deweeding, singling, etc — all these activities get approx Rs15 per sapling to the villager. Both men and women are engaged.

CLARIFICATION

In the article 'The reinvention of Ragl' the Ragl Waffles/pancakes and Morning Harvest Muffins recipes were wrongly attributed to chef Aditya Fatepuria, executive chef, Higher Taste, Iskon. They were from chef Tanmoy Savardekar, pastry chef, Olive Beach. The error is regretted