

# Volunteer Opportunity 1<sup>st</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## Poomale Biodiversity Assessment Project, Coorg, Karnataka



Photo: Poomale (meaning Garland of Flowers –here clouds) estate in Coorg.

### Background

Poomale Estate is roughly 120 acres with 30 acres of coffee plantations and the rest is a forest. This area in Coorg is a high biodiversity area and the owners, Be Forest Lifestyle Solutions ([www.Beforest.co](http://www.Beforest.co)) have innovatively integrated biodiversity conservation and economics for human wellbeing and nature preservation. Poomale is one of the several projects that Beforest LifeStyle Solutions initiated and plans to expand.

Dr. Shekhar Kolipaka is a biosocial scientist and works with partners like Beforest to make their land contribute to local biodiversity conservation. This way these small but important private patches of land can be integrated into the larger conservation landscape and effectively play the role of stepping stones and ensure landscape connectivity. Poomale is unexplored and a series of biodiversity assessments are planned.

We are inviting volunteers willing to participate in field data collection for the Poomale Biodiversity Assessment Project. In the first phase of the project, the goal is to systematically produce species lists. Mammals, Birds, Fish, butterflies, and Insects will be documented. People with experience in identifying birds are a bonus but is not mandatory. The willingness to learn, daring to work in a forest environment and those who wish to enjoy teamwork and camaraderie are welcome to join.

### **What is involved?**

Volunteers, after initial orientation, will be divided into groups and given daily assignments to monitor photo traps, spoor stations, fishnets and record acoustics. Volunteers should be willing to work with little supervision to collect, label and document field data.

### **Volunteer Opportunity between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> October.**

Volunteers willing to stay at least for 10 days on the site will be given priority.

Boarding and lodging will be provided on the site and volunteers should fund their own travel and to and from the Poomale Estate, Coorg and provide for their personal items.

### **People and organizations in the project**

The Biodiversity Surveys are the initiatives of Shekhar Kolipaka and Beforest Lifestyle Solutions.

If you are interested in volunteering please write to Shekhar Kolipaka at

**shekhar\_k\_s@yahoo.com** for more details.

### **Planning**

- Volunteers are expected to work at least 10 days on the project. Travel to and from the study site at Poomale, Coorg is not included.
- Please allocate a min of 2-3 days for travel to and from the site depending on your location.

### **Accommodation**

- Shared accommodation/ tents/ or as applicable are provided by the project.
- Volunteers should be willing to share accommodation with others and work as a team.

## **Food**

- All team members will participate in cooking activities and shopping groceries.
- Locally available food will be cooked.
- Breakfast; Lunch and Dinners are standard.
- Safe boiled and chlorinated water will be made available.
- Volunteers who have special dietary needs or need additional supplements may have to provide for their own needs.

## **Expenses**

- Volunteers are responsible to pay for their travel to the field site and back.
- All fieldwork will be on foot. Project vehicle will be used for local transport at the project site.
- Volunteers are requested to allocate a budget for their personal expenses while on the field.
- Volunteers are not obliged to pay the project any fees or make donations.

## **Day to day camp obligations**

- Volunteers will be obliged to taken part in all camp activities (cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping, and data entry).
- People who have reservations against doing these kinds of jobs are requested not to apply.

## **Health**

- It is mandatory that volunteers have a valid medical insurance policy.
- It is recommended that volunteers disclose if they have allergies. (bees stings, pollen, food, dust and others) and carry suitable medication for their needs.
- Volunteers are responsible for their own pre and post-project health condition. People suffering from heart and lung diseases and other ailments that may require visits to hospitals are advised not to apply for volunteer positions on this project.
- Volunteers will need to sign a declaration of “their own risk” when they arrive at the project site.

## **Language proficiency**

- English is the main spoken language for communication. Hindi, Kannada, Telugu are an advantage.

## **Clothing**

- Coorg is cold during October, especially in the evenings. Always have a few layers of clothing and a sweater for the evening.
- Volunteers are requested to organize their sleeping bags and mosquito nets for the trip.

## **Certificate of Participation**

- All volunteers will be given a certificate of participation upon completion of the volunteer period.

## **Reaching Poomale Estate**

### **Postal address**

Poomale estate

Naladi village

Nopoklu hobli

Madikeri taluk

Kodagu district

Karnataka

India

Gps location - 12°14'46.8"N 75°36'40.8"E

Naladi, Karnataka

<https://goo.gl/maps/6BLdc3HkYgK2cRX6A>

## **Travel**

- The nearest airport is Kannur airport which has daily flights from Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai. The airport is about 80km from the spot.
- There's no convenient station nearby. The closest one is in Mysore. Almost 150km away.
- The most convenient land route to get there is to reach Bangalore and catch the direct bus to Bhagmandala from there. On this route, you have to get off at Bandikad stop and you will be looking at Sameer's place (our back up support site).

For questions please write to Shekhar Kolipaka  
shekhar\_k\_s@yahoo.com