



# VANODAYA

## IMPACT REPORT

2024-25

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This report shares our progress, challenges, and impact over the past year. We hope it inspires action and reflects the dedication of our volunteers, partners, and communities in safeguarding nature.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Ever wondered why the  
“World Wildlife day” and  
“Women’s day” fall on dates?

Both celebrate life and the  
power to nurture it.

As I look back on 2024, I feel  
proud to reflect on our  
journey at the Cauvery Wildlife  
Sanctuary and the impactful  
work carried out through  
Vanodaya.



Since inception, Vanodaya continued its commitment to conservation through a range of initiatives including the Eco Club Program, nurturing environmental awareness among children in forest-bordering schools. Local volunteers led ground patrols to safeguard forest peripheries, while crowd management teams ensured peaceful, incident-free Jathres. Seasonal fire prevention campaigns raised awareness during dry months, and ongoing stakeholder engagement was fostered through checkpoint duties, film screenings, watcher programs, crisis response efforts, and training sessions.

Overall, it has been a deeply fulfilling journey that has strengthened our bond with the forest, with every Vanodaya member becoming, in spirit, a child of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

To summarise our efforts, I quote MK Gandhiji “Never question the will of a few committed people, for it is the only thing, that has ever changed the world”.

*Ashwin Gurusrikar*

# OUR STORY

## OUR MISSION

Vanodaya is dedicated to wildlife conservation through community engagement, ethical practices, and independent action in the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary (CWLS) and its surrounding areas. Guided by our values of integrity, teamwork, and discipline, we strive for impactful and sustainable conservation.

## OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to work with communities and the government to protect wildlife and ecosystems, expanding efforts from North to South Cauvery. As a volunteer-led initiative, we operate with minimal funding while upholding high ethical and operational standards.



# IMPACT SNAPSHOT

## FUNDING SUMMARY

Funds raised / Donations

₹15,31,167

Funds utilized

6% Capital Investments

64% Program Delivery

30% Operating Expenses

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## IMPACT SUMMARY

**6**

Projects

**100+**

Volunteers  
Engaged

**4500+**

Hours  
contributed by  
Volunteers

**5300+**

Beneficiaries  
reached



# PROJECT DETAILS 1/2



For the past decade, these flagship projects have reflected our core mission of community-led conservation and sustainable coexistence with nature. Each initiative has been thoughtfully designed to address critical challenges around the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, while fostering awareness, community participation, and lasting impact.

Project	When/What	Outcome
Eco Club	June 2024 to Feb 2025 Conducted awareness sessions and engagement activities for local communities and students.	Strengthened conservation awareness and local engagement through education.
Jaathre	Chikkaluru: Jan 16-17th; Shivarathri: Feb 26 Assisted in crowd management, traffic control, alcohol checks, and tourist education to ensure responsible behavior and wildlife safety.	Prevented unauthorized activities, regulated vehicles, and reduced fire risks during festivals, minimizing impact on protected areas.
Forest Fire Awareness Program	Jan 3rd -4th 2025 Forest fire awareness program conducted in 25 schools over two days	Engaged schools around CWLS to raise student awareness on forests and the impact of forest fires.



# PROJECT DETAILS 2/2

Project	When/What	Outcome
Patrolling	45 Days over the year Monitored and managed tourist activity, guided visitors safely, and reduced risks to wildlife.	Ensured controlled tourism, minimized littering, and prevented unauthorized access to sensitive areas.
Watcher welfare	Over the financial year Mobilised the Emergency Response Team to raise funds for medical emergencies for Forest Department staff	Raised INR 34K to provide medical support for forest department
Manning Checkposts	40 Days over the year Checked vehicles for alcohol, educated visitors, and distributed safety pamphlets.	Promoted responsible visitor behavior, reduced wildlife disturbances, and enhanced forest protection

# MOMENTS FROM THE YEAR



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# ANNUAL DAY REFLECTIONS

We held our first ever Annual Day celebrations in July 2024. It was an opportunity to bring our volunteers together and reflect on the key activities of the previous year, celebrate and honour leading lights in the conservation movement that had passed away, hear from wildlife conservation leaders, and recognize volunteers that have consistently gone above and beyond in support of our purpose.

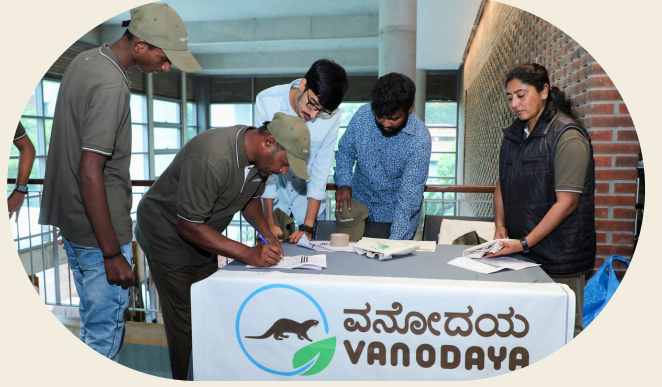
The highlight of the event was having over 40 volunteers from Sathanur and surrounding areas join us with their families. Many of them shared their experiences volunteering with Vanodaya over the past decade, the impact this has had on them and how it has inspired others as well.

The keynote followed by Q&A, was delivered by Mr. Praveen Bhargav (Managing Trustee, Wildlife First), a stalwart in the wildlife conservation community and an inspiration to many volunteers.

Volunteers and their families left the celebrations inspired to continue supporting wildlife conservation efforts around the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.



# CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS



# CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS



# TESTIMONIALS



2024 - 2025 was great, especially the Eco Club program, super thanks to Sreesha Sir and Tejas Sir. This year activities happened like it was planned every year, next year we should try to do more work 🙌. We could not do much patrolling, we did it when we got time. If possible, this year, if all the lines are patrolled once a month, like South Cauvery patrolling, it will be more useful. Apart from that, everything is going well.

-- MAHENDRA

My experience with VANODAYA has been nothing short of inspiring. Throughout the year each day was an opportunity to learn and explore myself in team building, community engagement, eco-club activities etc.. The passion of the team, especially volunteers is remarkable. The dedication and commitment of the team inspires me a lot and I'm looking forward to continuing my journey working and contributing to the team's vision.

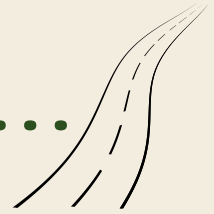
-- TEJAS



I have really experienced very good moments in field visits and I have learnt so many things during this period of time. And attended crowd controlling activity during Chikkalur jatre for the first time and it was my pleasure to be there with team Vanodaya. I'm eagerly waiting for my upcoming days to have more experience and new innovations.

-- ARUN

# WAY-AHEAD.....



As we look ahead to coming year, we plan to continue to focus on the following areas

Community engagement - we plan to build on the expansion of our Eco Club program over the last few years, with the aim of making it self sufficient in established schools, which allows us to expand to new schools. One area we plan to explore further is understanding and addressing conflict between people and wildlife. This is something we had started earlier, but were not able to pursue effectively. Our awareness activities with the community on forest fire prevention and the need for wildlife conservation will continue.

Government engagement - we plan to continue to work closely with the forest department to prevent forest fires, add additional support during key festivals where many people pass through the forest, provide financial support to watchers that are injured in the line of duty and ongoing patrolling on public roads.

In addition to these two areas, we plan to add to the understanding of key species (for example, the Grizzled Giant Squirrel) in this landscape through scientific study, and explore opportunities to collaborate with like minded organizations that are also focused on this and the broader landscape.

All of these will be grounded in our stated purpose, values and beliefs as an organization.





# THANK YOU!




We sincerely thank all our volunteers, community members, forest department staff, advisors and supporters for being a part of our journey. Your support and dedication keep us motivated to continue our work in protecting Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

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