

NIKUNJ JAMBU

MEL SPECIALIST | SPATIAL DATA ANALYST | CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST

IN A SNAPSHOT

For as long as I can remember, I just wanted to be left alone to marvel at nature. I still pretty much want to do just that. As an adult, I realised that unravelling the mysteries of the natural world was my calling. I do understand that all my education and training are mere methods to try and explain, document and preserve what we humans perceive as natural.

In my career, I aim to achieve nothing more, nothing less.

EXPERIENCE

MEL Officer

PRESENT*The Nature Conservancy*

- I develop and implement Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning frameworks for projects in community conservation, agroforestry and human elephant conflict mitigation.
- I design Survey123 and XLSForm tools for structured field data collection, and manage the spatial workflows and ArcGIS dashboards that track project outcomes across several geographies.
- As Technical Lead, I am adapting a global Nature Based Solutions portal to Indian ecological and cultural contexts.

Senior Project Manager (Ecologist)

2020–2023*Foundation for Ecological Security*

- On the Integrated Forest Management System (IFMT), I provided technical expertise for preparing Working Plans across forest divisions and trained over 2,500 forest staff in data collection. The system is used by the entire Rajasthan Forest Department, and its scaled version, VanApp, is now used by more than seven states. A [write-up on FES The Common Pool](#) explains how it works.
- On the Indian Biodiversity Information System (IBIS), I led the team that rebuilt the national biodiversity portal on a GIS engine using international data standards and taxonomy. I also developed an eco restoration tool based on Species Distribution Modelling, which helps people plant native species.

Junior Research Biologist (GIS Analyst)

2018–2019*Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History*

I worked as GIS Analyst on a study of the status, distribution and threats to the Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) in Gujarat, carrying out landscape change detection across 60 years.

Project Biologist

2017*Wildlife Institute of India*

The Black Necked Crane Conservation Project examined the habitat requirements of the species in the Nyamjang Chhu river basin of Arunachal Pradesh, a site proposed for a hydel power project.

Consultant, GIZ GmbH

2016–2017

Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

This consultancy studied bird habitat linkages at Khijadiya Wildlife Sanctuary and Gosabara Wetland in Gujarat, covering the habitat needs of the species using both wetlands.

Principal Investigator, Rufford Small Grant

2015–2016

Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat

I designed and led a project on avifaunal conservation in Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, combining diversity estimation and a socioeconomic study of indigenous farming tribes during droughts with nature workshops, guided trails and training for local bird guides.

Research Biologist

2013–2015

Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

On the All India Tiger Monitoring Project, I carried out carnivore sign surveys, line transects for prey density, and camera trapping in Ranthambore, Manas and Kaziranga Tiger Reserves.

Independent Researcher

2012–2013

Funded by Nature Club, Surat

I documented the amphibian, reptilian and avian diversity of Purna Wildlife Sanctuary in the Dangs. Reports were submitted to Nature Club, Surat and the Gujarat Forest Department, and the data also formed my M.Sc. dissertation.

Research Assistant

2009–2010

Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun

I worked on biodiversity characterisation at landscape level in Gujarat using remote sensing and GIS, which involved ground truthing of satellite imagery, nested plot sampling in protected areas and a state wide plant inventory.

EDUCATION

M.Sc. Zoology

2013

Division of Avian and Wildlife Biology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Dissertation: Avifaunal Diversity of Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Dangs · GPA 6.68 (66.8%)

B.Sc. Zoology and B.Sc. Botany

2011 / 2009

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara (double graduation)

CONVENING & OUTREACH

Core Organiser, Young Ecologist Talk and Interact (YETI)

2018

National conference, Vadodara

I was one of six core organisers of this national conference, responsible for fundraising, abstract selection, the website, logistics and media. It drew more than 400 students and researchers nationally.

Co-founder, Dangs Bird Festival

2016–PRESENT

With the Gujarat Forest Department

I was one of the founders of this three day festival, started in 2016 with the support of the North Dang Forest Division. It is held every year to promote birding and eco-tourism in Purna Wildlife Sanctuary and to encourage local youth to protect birds rather than hunt them.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Jambu, N. & K. Patel (2021). Birds of Surat-Dangs: a consolidated checklist of 75 years (1944–2020) with special emphasis on noteworthy bird records and bird hotspots from northern Western Ghats of Gujarat, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 13(7): 18752–18780.
2. Maslehuddin, A., Yahya, H. & Jambu, N. (2020). Identification of Warbler species using Bioacoustics in Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat, India. *Indian Forester* 146(10): 924–931.
3. Jambu, N. (2020). New record of erythrism in *Eutropis cf macularia* from Vadodara, Gujarat. *Reptile Rap* #200, In: *Zoo's Print* 35(6): 03–04.
4. Jambu, N. (2019). Observatory note on territorial fight of Common Krait *Bungarus caeruleus* from Anaikatti Hills, Kerala, India. *Reptile Rap* #197, In: *Zoo's Print* 34(12): 19–21.
5. Jambu, N. (2019). Note on first record of Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* at Mokarsagar Wetland Complex, Gujarat, India. *Bird-o-soar* #33, In: *Zoo's Print* 34(9): 14–16.
6. Jambu, N. (2017). Avifaunal Survey to Understand Bird-Habitat Linkages at Khijadiya Wildlife Sanctuary and Gosabara Wetland in Gujarat. CMPA Technical Series No. 35, GIZ India. pp 67.
7. Kushwaha, S.P.S., Nandy, S., Bhatt, D.G., Daniel, M., Nagar, P.S., Tadvi, D. & Jambu, N. (2011). Biodiversity Characterisation at Landscape Level in North-West India and Lakshadweep Islands using Satellite Remote Sensing and GIS. Bishen Singh Mahendrapal Singh, Dehradun.
8. Tadvi, D.S., Jambu, N.K. & Nagar, P.S. (2009). Amla Facts and Figures. In: *Amla: An Indigenous Tree with Enormous Potentialities*, The M. S. University of Baroda, Chapter 6.

CERTIFICATIONS

- [Career Essentials in Data Analysis](#) (Microsoft and LinkedIn)
- [15 Days of SQL: The Complete SQL Masterclass 2025](#) Udemy
- [Data Analytics in R](#) eCornell
- [A Comprehensive Guide to PostGIS and Spatial Queries](#) Udemy
- [Python in 5 Weeks](#) Credly
- [Data Science Essentials](#) eCornell
- [Data Science With SQL and Tableau](#) eCornell
- [Data Visualization in Tableau](#) eCornell
- [Project Management Foundations](#) LinkedIn Learning

LINKS, AVOCATIONS & PERSONAL

[ResearchGate](#) · [LinkedIn](#) · Citizen science work covered in [Mongabay India](#)

I was a member of the National Cadet Corps (Air Wing) during my graduation, attending 10 camps including two National Integration Camps, and won a Silver medal in Skeet Shooting.

Date of birth: 8 July 1987 · Languages: English, Hindi, Gujarati

I declare that all stated facts and information are authentic. Originals and copies of certificates and testimonials can be produced on request.

Nikunj Jambu, September 2026, Chennai

0  KM

