



# Dr.S.KULANDAIVEL

## CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

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## PROFILE

I am a senior Civil Servant who has been working for more than two decades in various capacities from the Himalayan ecosystem to the dynamic marine ecosystem of Sundarban (Bay of Bengal). I am a national scholar, scientist, researcher, silviculturist, wildlife expert, and environmentalist working in the field of research and innovative works for about three decades. I am an International patent holder; written and published many scientific and popular articles, I have also gained immense knowledge on people and forests; social forestry, and agroforestry for more than seventeen years. I have gained exceptional orating talent and critically analyzing skills over my years of work and experience. My working exposure in a variety of Forests and wildlife habitat have helped me to acquire a superior knowledge of Forests, Climate Change, energy, environmental laws, and understanding of Coastal and another fragile ecosystem. I have contributed intensely to some of the world's most dynamic ecosystems like Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, and its eco-sensitive zones, Tiger Reserves, Elephant Reserves, many wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, Conservation Reserve, and sacred grooves. I have worked successfully towards the creation of the Sundarban Ramsar wetland site. My extraordinary performances received many awards and appreciation which including the “[Golden Tiger Best Green Administrator Award](#)” in recognition of my exceptional contribution to the Conservation of Nature and the Environment. I am always positive about any problem to find a solution.

## EXPERIENCE

### **AS A NATIONAL SCHOLAR:**

As a junior and senior research scholar, I have received multiple awards from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) from Govt. of India. I stood as National Topper in the field of Agricultural Science, particularly in Agronomy, and have published many scientific articles in national Journals and contributed significantly to various scientific forums; conferences; seminars, and workshops. I am embellished with vast knowledge of agricultural sciences and have had the honor to become a permanent member of Indian Society of Agricultural sciences and the Indian Society of Agronomy

## **AS A SILVICULTURIST**

I have organized many experiments and trials in upper, middle, and lower Himalayan regions and at duars of North Bengal on tree improvement. By working with mega biodiversity hotspots, I have gained a tremendous amount of invaluable experience in the Himalayan Eco-system and northern duars of West Bengal. I have obtained good knowledge on tree improvement and species conservation works and have done large-scale promotion on tree breeding and multiplication of endangered Himalayan species and did ecosystem restoration. I have worked relentlessly for bringing many rare and least common but endemic species to the mainstream population and improve their existence and proliferation.

## **AS A SCIENTIST:**

I joined as a scientist at Central Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute (CSMC&RI) under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in the Ministry of Science and Technology from Govt. of India. During this period, I conducted much research on the vast Indian coastal region from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu Coast and gained knowledge in marine biology and marine ecology. I have been honored with an international patent for my work on Marine Algae.

## **AS A FORESTER:**

From day one, I joined the most coveted Indian Civil Service, particularly in Indian Forest Service, and worked and gained valuable field knowledge on large-scale planting of multi-purpose tree species for food, fodder, fuel, and fruits for wildlife, local tribal, and forest-dependent fringe populations. The work at the field level was a very challenging task but handled very tactfully. I have worked continuously from dawn to dusk and the nights were more demanding than days but it was worth it, this field exposure helped me to enhance my managerial skill and master on resource management in limiting situations. As a team leader at the District and Circle level, I have created more than 20,000 hectares of new plantation forests across the south and north Bengal and converted many thousands of hectares of open and degraded forests into dense and biodiversity-rich ecosystems. With huge responsibility and immense passion, the forests of West Bengal and its wildlife along with local inhabitants were kept happy and satisfied in the peaceful co-existence.

### **AS A WILDLIFE MANAGER:**

Having been posted at wildlife areas like National Parks; Wildlife Sanctuaries; Biosphere Reserve; Tiger Reserves; Ramsar Wetlands; conservation reserves; Elephant Reserves, and sacred grooves, I have performed the statutory duty with great care and concern for the serenity of the ecosystem and its sustainability. I contributed vastly to promoting the proliferation of rare and endangered flora and fauna in their natural habitat with a great level of tranquility. I have indulged myself in the rescue and rehabilitation of many endangered species like the Royal Bengal Tiger, Asian Elephant, Lesser mammals, Primates, Ungulate, Avifauna, Reptiles, etc... For species like River Terrapin (*Batagur baska*) and Salt Water Crocodile conservation work was done by me through breeding and in-situ and ex-situ multiplication and safeguarded this critically endangered species in its habitat.

### **AS A RESPONSIBLE CIVIL SERVANT:**

I have engaged all stakeholders in and around forests and their fringe populations for the cause of biodiversity conservation and resource sharing. Having posted at the cradle of world pioneering social institutions of Joint Forest Management committees (JFMCs) for people and Forests in South Bengal areas, I worked hard day and night and brought much strength to social fencing particularly the rural woman, SHGs are put part of participatory forest management. During my tenure, so many JFMCs were newly constituted, activated with constant motivation, and in this process, protecting a huge treasure of biodiversity-rich forests and their ecosystem in South Bengal. Needless to say that in the process of conservation and resource management, as a field manager, I have shared more than Rs.100 crores with the Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) members and removed poverty to a greater extent. My work at forest fringe population has significantly helped in creating large-scale self-employment opportunities for the poor and forest-dependent and tried to improve their standard of living to a large extent.

### **AS AN ECO-SYSTEM SPECIALIST:**

I have taken site-specific approaches to the management and conservation of rare and endangered species in many protected areas and tried using many innovative techniques to handle the local-specific challenges. While conserving many fragile ecosystems, critical area management approaches were taken to handle the species' survivability and its proliferation. Under me, so many in-situ and ex-situ conservation projects were implemented on the conservation of critically endangered species and top priority was given to conserving the uncommon and less known local species which are almost at the risk of being wiped out. Utmost care was taken while dealing with migratory species of avifauna and other aquatic and terrestrial species. Large numbers of conservation campaigns were organized with local stakeholders for participatory species conservation in sensitive areas.

### **IN THE CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCING AGENCY ON WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL:**

Trade on wildlife and its articles and illegal act of wildlife killing was brought down constantly under my supervision at a record level for which I have received numerous awards and appreciation from both the state and union governments. I acted as a catalyst in creating large-scale awareness among both urban and rural populations on the conservation and protection of rare and endangered fauna. Stakeholders like police, wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Judiciary, civil administration; Railways, Customs, Civil societies, etc... were brought to the table for discussion for best coordination to curb wildlife crime. I have engaged myself in persuading our tribal friends to bring the act of tribal hunting to near-zero levels

### **PROMOTION ON SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY:**

Under my leadership and guidelines, large-scale seedlings were distributed free of cost to the local villagers, institutions, civil societies, and forest fringe people to promote trees outside forests areas which include social Forestry and Agroforestry. Every year, during the onset of the Monsoon season, Ban-Mahotsav and Forest Week celebrations were organized along with a special drive on private planting which was conducted to promote greening in urban and rural areas and institutional planting. I have arduously campaigned for one of the main goals of the recent National Forest Policy and have vehemently promoted the trees outside the forest lands like planting at wastelands, panchayat common lands, degraded lands, river banks, roadside, and tank areas. During my entire greening campaign, students of schools, colleges, and other institutional units made an integral part of our awareness drive. I have always followed and abided by the concept of 'Think globally and act locally.

### **AS AN ENVIRONMENTALIST AND CUSTODIAN OF FORESTS AND ITS ECOSYSTEM:**

For the safety and wellness of Forests and Environments, I have taken various proactive measures like declaring many protected areas, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Biosphere reserves, Ramsar wetland sites, and Conservation reserves as plastic and thermocouple free zone. Various mass awareness programs were organized under my leadership with the mass support and involvement of School and college Children, NGOs, Civil society, senior officers, JFMC members, etc by involving various celebrities Movie stars, International cricket players, and spiritual leaders to make it more interesting to the participants. I helped in introducing environment-friendly substitutes for plastic and thermocouple like Jute bags, paper bags, Sal leaf plates, Sal cups, bamboo sheath plates, cotton bags, etc. All the soil and river bank erosion-prone areas were identified and put under various biological, mechanical, and physical structures to control erosion loss of critical land areas particularly at Sundarban Biosphere Reserve under my guidance. Due to my efforts, the problem of critically degraded areas of southern districts in West Bengal was tackled effectively through a watershed approach and various types of soil and moisture conservation measures.

# EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

DEGREE	UNIVERSITY
<b>B.Sc. (Agriculture)</b>	Tamilnadu Agricultural University (TNAU)-Coimbatore;
<b>M.Sc. (Agronomy)</b>	Tamilnadu Agricultural University (TNAU)-Coimbatore;
<b>Ph.D. (Agronomy)</b> <b>(AGRONOMY + ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE)</b>	Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) –PUSA Institute New Delhi ; <b>(National Scholar and Rank holder )</b>
<b>M.Sc. (Forestry)</b>	Equivalent degree from Forest Research Institute (FRI) (Deemed to be University) Dehradun;
<b>M.B.A. Agriculture (Marketing Business Administration)</b>	TNAU-Coimbatore; <b>(Batch Topper)</b>
<b>SMP (Senior Management Program)</b>	Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta
<b>L.L.B</b>	Kolkata Police Law Institute, (Calcutta University)
<b>L.L.M (ELECC- Environmental Law Energy and Climate Change)</b>	O.P Jindal Law school ,(Deemed to be University), Sonipet, India. (It was conducted in collaboration with WWF- India, New Delhi).

## HAVING EXTRA KNOWLEDGE THROUGH ADDITIONAL STUDIES AND TRAINING :

- *Environmental Law, Global Climate Change, and Law related to Clean and Green Energy*
- *Bio-energy*
- *Participatory Forest Management (People and Forests)*
- *Agroforestry and Social Forestry*
- *Coastal Zone management*
- *Ramsar wetlands management*
- *Medicinal plant cultivation and conservation*
- *Having an excellent knowledge of landscaping and beautification of indoor and outdoor areas.*
- *Tribal area management*

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

- *Very active and completely fit in both mental and physical health.*
- *Voluntary blood donor regularly.*
- *Fully vaccinated and free from any disabilities*
- *No ailments or medication*
- *Marathon runner*

## AWARDS AND REWARDS RECEIVED

### DURING THE ACADEMIC PERIOD

- Received Two times Junior Research Fellow Award, during the year 1995-96 & 1996-97 from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- Received Two times Senior Research Fellow Awards, during the years 1998 & 1999 (ICAR); IARI & CSIR, Govt. of India. **National Topper in Agronomy.**
- Awarded with NET four times conducted by ICAR and one from CSIR.

### DURING THE SCIENTIST PERIOD

Received **International Patent** on marine Algae

## **DURING INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE**

- Received the *“Golden Tiger Best Green Administrator Award”* in recognition of my exceptional contribution to the Conservation of Nature & Environment.
- The Entire Divisional Team of Crime Control Cell under my leadership received the *“State Wildlife Protection Award”* from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal.
- Received letter of appreciation from Additional Director General of Police, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India on rescue and wildlife protection work.
- Received letter of appreciation from the Special Chief Conservator of Forests for being excellent plantation forests work.
- Received letter of appreciation from Addl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife for doing a commendable job and exemplary performances on wildlife crime control and bringing down the trade against wildlife articles in an unprecedented way.
- Received a letter of appreciation from The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of West Bengal on exemplary work and outstanding leadership for the Protection and conservation of Royal Bengal Tiger and bringing down incidences of Man-Animal Conflict and scientific way of managing Sundarban Mangrove Ecosystem

## **SKILLS AND TRAITS**

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- *Having excellent leadership quality*
- *Outstanding orator*
- *Good writer*
- *Good listener*
- *Honest and Sincere person*
- *Exemplary hard worker*
- *Critical thinker and innovative performer*
- *Having immense knowledge of Forest, wildlife, and Environmental laws*
- *Constant learner*
- *Loyalist and an asset to any institution*

### **LANGUAGES KNOWN -**

**Tamil, English, Bengali and Hindi**

# My vision on National Green Tribunal (NGT)

National Green Tribunal is an extended institution of the Honorable Supreme Court to look after the Nature and Environmental issues of our nation. The larger mandate is for effective and expeditious disposal of cases that are related to the protection and conservation of the environment, forests, and other natural resources. If I get an opportunity to work in this great institution I will surely add more glory and value by using speedy and effective disposal of all the cases related to environmental protection and other natural resources and enforcement of any legal rights relating to environmental injustice. Last but not least, bringing justice to the affected people along with due compensation.



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