



Wildlife Service Award 2022

Ramana Athreya

Ecologist, conservationist and astrophysicist

You are a vital bridge between academia and field work in Arunachal Pradesh. One of your most important contributions to our knowledge of avians was the description of a new bird species – the Bugun liocichla – in Arunachal Pradesh in 2006. You believe that wildlife conservation will succeed only if the needs and concerns of the local community are part of the solution and toward this undertook the mentoring of the local Bugun tribal community to ensure conservation of this critically endangered species and its habitat. This resulted in the Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve (SBVCR), where you work, winning the India Biodiversity Award in 2018. You and your Ph.D. students are involved in valuable ecology and astronomy research and through your science outreach work, you also spend considerable time engaging with young men and women in colleges and schools across India.

Untangling the complexities of biodiversity conservation and community sustenance is your life's work and mission. Your spirited fight for the natural world and for the dignity and sustenance of local communities is a beacon in the world of today.

For this, we honour you.

Bittu Sahgal
Editor, Sanctuary Asia