

# CV of Robert Panipilla

I belong to an indigenous community that possesses ILK (Indigenous and local knowledge) of the sustainable use of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. Though I have limited academic qualifications, I have wide range of experiences and practical knowledge in the field of seabed ecosystems studies, marine biodiversity related documentation, dissemination of ILK and communication with mainstream media and scientific communities and institutions. I have varied experiences in regional, national and international engagements regarding marine biodiversity conservation and livelihood of fishermen. I am seeking opportunities to disseminate sustainable practices and marine biodiversity conservation efforts of my community to the wider world using information and communication technologies.

## Contact Details:

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## Personal details:

- Age & date of birth: 56, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1961
- Sex: male
- Religion & Caste: Christian LC Mukkuva (An Indigenous Coastal Fishing Community)

## Academic Qualification:

- SSLC Passed (Secondary Education) in 1977

## Book Publication:

- Written and published: 'Kadalarivukalum Neranubhavangalum' the experience, knowledge and culture of artisanal fisher folk of south India. (This was translated in English and published in the name of 'Eyes on their finger tips' by ICSF), book PDF link:[http://www.icsf.net/images/occasionalpapers/pdf/english/issue\\_149/149\\_EYE\\_S%20ON%20THEIR%20FINGERTIPS\\_ROBERT%20PANIPILLA\\_01\\_Sep\\_2015.pdf](http://www.icsf.net/images/occasionalpapers/pdf/english/issue_149/149_EYE_S%20ON%20THEIR%20FINGERTIPS_ROBERT%20PANIPILLA_01_Sep_2015.pdf)
- <http://aquaticcommons.org/17541/>.

### Published study report:

- A participatory study of the traditional knowledge of fishing communities in the Gulf of Mannar, Tamilnadu, India, published by International Collectives in Support of Fish workers (ICSF).

### Published articles:

- Abstract accepted for publication in *Biodiversity Journal* on “Construction of Vizhinjam Transshipment Container Port on marine biodiversity hotspots in the Trivandrum district of Kerala, South India” with Jament, J. (2017)
- ‘Stary Stary Night’ It is an article about the astronomical knowledge of Traditional fisher folk of Trivandrum. Published in *Samudra* (An International Magazine on traditional fisheries).

<http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/53-3342-Starry.-Starry.html>

- ‘The Sea around us’ A sharing experience of the first step taken in to study the ecological specificities and biodiversity of the sea on the basis of the traditional knowledge of fishers was initiated in Kerala, South India. Published in *Samudra*.

<http://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/67-3987-The-Sea-Around-.html>

- Traditional knowledge in Marine Fisheries Sector of Kerala Jointly authered with Dr.A Bijukumar, It is ‘Compendium of Invited papers of 26<sup>th</sup> Kerala Science Congress’ published by Kerala State Council for Science , Technology and Environment.- 2014.

### Work Experience

- Since June 2016 Curator of *Sahapedia* (Online Free resource like Wikipedia) module preparation on coastal communities in Trivandrum
- 2013-16 Project coordinator for the Marine Biodiversity Register Preparation by Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSSB), Trivandrum
- 1980-85-KSMTF A traditional fishermen movement as a volunteer Trivandrum District.
- 1986-1995 Programme for Community Organisation (PCO) as community organiser. Primary responsibilities like Youth training- and alternative development programmes for the coastal community of Trivandrum District.
- Landscaping work in different parts of Kerala for the last some years.

## Research Experiences

- 2000-current Traditional and indigenous knowledge (ILK) documentation, conservation dissemination programmes through Friends of Marine Life (FML) a local NGO of coastal Mukkuva community , selected districts in Kerala and Tamilnadu.
- 2012-Current Under water studies (ocean bottom) on marine resources in the Kanyakumari, Trivandrum and Quilon districts in South India
- 2015-2016: *Protsahan* (A local NGO) People's Marine Diversity Register Preparation, Trivandrum, Quilon and Kanyakumari.
- 2013-14 worked as a study team leader of a participatory study of the traditional knowledge of fishing communities in the Gulf of Mannar, Tamilnadu, India for ICSF (International Collectives in Support of Fish Workers).
- October 2014-May 2015: Worked as a project Coordinator for the Preparation of Marine Biodiversity Register, a pilot study first in India, Supported by Kerala State Biodiversity Board( KSBB), Trivandrum, Kerala, India

## Volunteering Experience:

- Founder President of FML (Friends of Marine Life): A voluntary organization undertakes research and other advocacy campaigns to support the protection of ILK and conservation of Marine Biodiversity.
- Founder of SRMERC (Sr. Rose Memorial Education and Resource Centre) -a local initiative to support students from the coastal fishing community backgrounds.
- Founder of CHES (Coastal Higher Education society) an initiative of the local and expatriates of the coastal community, who are financially able to support students to undergo higher studies.

## Training

- Three months Social Analysis Training conducted by Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, in 1988.
- English Language Training: Six months English language skill training course conducted by a local NGO VESS (Venad Education Social Services) from October 2013 to March 2014.
- In-house training on species classification by Dr. Bijukumar (Scientist and Head, Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala) since 2013.
- On the job training on Marine Biology by Dr. Srinivasu, Marine Biologist since 2014.

## Media Coverage of my work in English news papers

### 1) Deccan Chronicle-ILK related

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/280816/unesco-project-to-decode-mukkuvars.html>

### 2) 200-year-old Dutch Ship Wreck Discovered Off Anchuthengu Fort in Kerala

The New Indian Express

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/200-year-old-Dutch-Ship-Wreck-Discovered-Off-Anchuthengu-Fort-in-Kerala/2015/07/04/article2902020.ece>

### 3) The Hindu-Marine biodiversity

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/marine-survey-documents-rare-sea-slugs-off-vizhinjam/article8909267.ece>

### 4) Deccan Chronicle-Marine biodiversity

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/lifestyle/pets-and-environment/280716/sea-slugs-spotted-first-time-in-india.html>

### 5) Indian Express-Marine biodiversity

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/New-slimy-sea-friends/2016/07/29/article3551793.ece>

### 6) Colony of Marine Worms Faces Wipeout-destruction of marine biodiversity

The New Indian Express

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/Colony-of-Marine-Worms-Faces-Wipeout/2016/01/08/article3217097.ece>

### 7) Soft coral poses threat to marine biodiversity-invasive species

The Hindu

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/soft-coral-poses-threat-to-marine-biodiversity/article8067057.ece>

8) Danger Sign on Seabed off Kovalam

The New Indian Express

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/Danger-Sign-on-Seabed-off-Kovalam/2016/01/06/article3213041.ece>

9) Waste-dumping in coastal waters a big worry

The New Indian Express

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/Waste-dumping-in-coastal-waters-a-big-worry/2016/06/20/article3490436.ece>

10) Book unravels several mysteries of the sea

The Hindu

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/book-unravels-several-mysteries-of-the-sea/article7388355.ece>

11) The Hindu: Marine biodiversity

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/attempts-to-save-beached-porpoises-fail/article8962195.ece>

12) Deccan Chronicle-marine biodiversity

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/lifestyle/pets-and-environment/090816/rare-porpoises-die-at-valiyathura.html>

13) Indian Express-marine biodiversity

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/Rare-finless-porpoise-netted/2016/08/09/article3569836.ece>

## **Awards/Recognition**

- Shortlisted for the Indigenous Peoples Fellowship Initiative under The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) by the United National Development Programme (UNDP) in 2016-17 for the field of biodiversity conservation which has a Global component as well as National component.
- Working Journalist Association Trivandrum Honour, in January 2016
- Community Biodiversity Researcher Award, VESS in April 2016

## Participation in National and International events

- 2016 IPBES ILK South West Asia sub-regional Dialogue Workshop in Nepal.
- 2016 ILK Asia – Pacific Regional Workshop in Thailand 2014-15 organised by UNESCO-IPBES
- CMS Vadhavaran Programme in New Delhi, A Biodiversity workshop and Film Festival.
- 2012 participated in side event of CBD –COP in Hyderabad.

## Programmes Organized Under my leadership

- Dissemination Programmes in Gulf of Mannar, Kanayakumari district, Trivandrum district based on Marine Biodiversity Studies.
- Photo and Video Exhibition on Marine biodiversity of Trivandrum, Kanayakumari and Quilon seabed ecosystems and its challenges.
- Conducted Local ILK workshops for UNESCO and IPBES in Trivandrum city and Karumkulam village Panchayath.
- Youth training and seminars on marine biodiversity conservations.
- Conducted Seminars on Climate Changes and Shoreline Changes.
- Conducted A dialogue workshop with experts of traditional fishermen and Journalists on present scenario in fisheries 2016.

## References

### 1. Prof. Dr.Oommen.V.Oommen FNASc. FRE

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