

Kushlani Dissanayake

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CAREER OBJECTIVE

I aspire to be an award-winning marine scientist making a difference to the welfare of marine life and the global marine environment

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Population Genetics
- Connectivity of Populations/Ecosystems
- Marine Protected Areas
- Biological Oceanography
- Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Sep 2015 – Sep 2017: Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management with a Great Distinction (82/100) at Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Ghent University and University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Main Areas Covered: - (English medium)

- Environmental Impact and Remediation, Biodiversity and Ecology, Conservation Biology and Ecosystem Management

Thesis Title: -

DNA barcoding and phylogeography of giant clams (*Tridacna* spp.) in the Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean.

- Nov 2008 – Dec 2013: Bachelor of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (Special) with First Class Honors (GPA=3.88/4.00), University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.

Main Areas Covered: - (English medium)

- Oceanography and Marine Geology (Specialization), Limnology, Fisheries, Aquaculture

Thesis Title: -

Species diversity and influence of adverse impacts to the sustainability of Pigeon Island Marine National Park, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.

- 08th June 2015 – 29th July 2015: Postgraduate certificate in Integrated Coastal Management. (GPA = 3.67) at Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.
- December 2013 – February 2014: Trainee at Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department, Colombo under the observation of NAITA.
- March – May 2013: Certificate Course in Quality Management, Sri Lanka Standards Institution.

- October 2012: Training Program on Ornamental fish breeding by NAQDA, Ornamental Fish Breeding and Training Center, Rambodagalle.
- May- July 2011: Marine Chart Reading Communication and Operation of Satellite Navigators, National Institute of Fisheries & Nautical Engineering.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 28th March 2019 – to date: Lecturer (Probationary) at Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, Matara.
- 15th Aug 2018 – 27th March 2019: Lecturer (Probationary) at Faculty of Engineering and Management, Ocean University of Sri Lanka, Colombo 15.
Degree program: Coastal and Marine Resource Management.
- 23rd Oct 2017 – 14th Aug 2018: Temporary Lecturer at Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, Matara.
- 15th Sep 2014 – 03rd Sep 2015: Temporary Lecturer at Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, Matara.
- 03rd March 2014- 14th Sep 2014: Demonstrator at Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna, Matara.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- February 2014 – March 2016: Junior Researcher in the project “Biophysical monitoring of the Pigeon Island Marine National Park to understand its ecosystem dynamics” funded by IFAD/GEF under Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department, Colombo.
- Aug 2014 – Aug 2015: National project team member (Mobile and Sessile Fauna Group) of “Port Biological Baseline Survey” conducted by Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Sri Lanka.
- 2015: Research Assistant in the project of "Coastal Ecosystem and Changing Economic Activities: Challenges for Sustainability Transition along Southern Coast of Sri Lanka" conducted by Asia Pacific Network & Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, University of Ruhuna.
- 2015: Biological Data collection for the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in Sampoor Coal Power Plant at Shell Bay and Foul Point.
- May 2013: Field Training with the Integrated Coastal Zone Management at Madu Ganga, Negombo, Hikkaduwa and Kalpitiya conducted by Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department, Sri Lanka.
- 2008 – 2013: Field Training for Preparation of a Training Curriculum for Undergraduates in assessing biodiversity, socio-economic dimensions and impacts on the ecosystems in Badagiriya, Rekawa, Nilwella, Polhena, Madiha, Maweralala, Ahangama, Koggala, Kanneliya and Hikkaduwa.
- 2013: Workshop on Preparation of a Training Curriculum for University Undergraduates in Marine Non-Living resources exploration conducted by the Petroleum Resources Secretariat.

- 2012: Field Training on Preparation of a Training Curriculum for Undergraduates in Marine Archeology in Galle conducted by Galle Maritime Museum.
- 2011: Workshop on Preparation of a Training Curriculum for University Undergraduates in Drinking and Waste Water Treatment at Malimboda Drinking Water Treatment Plant, Board of Investment, Biyagama and MAS Fabric Holding Company Limited, Thulhiriya.

RESEARCH REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Kochzius, M., Dissanayake, P.A.K.N, Hui, M, and Nuryanto, A, (2018). Molecular evolution of giant clams. *4th Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium*. 4-8 June 2018, Marco Polo Plaza, Cebu, Philippines.
- Athukoorala, A. A. S. H., Kumara, W.A.A.U, Dissanayake, PAK.N., Guruge, K.P.G.K.P., Pethiyagoda P.D.R.S., and Kumara, P.B.T.P., (2017). Marine environmental indicators in the aspects of biodiversity at port of Trincomalee. *Proceedings of the International Research Symposium on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Environment*. Sri Lanka NEXT, BMICH, Colombo.
- Dissanayake P.A. Kushlani N., and Kochzius Marc, (2017). DNA barcoding and Phylogeography of giant clams (*Tridacna* spp.) in the Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean. *3rd International Marine Connectivity Conference (iMarCo 2017)*. September 11-13, 2017, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. Pp. 41-42.
- Dissanayake, P.A.K.N., (2017). DNA barcoding and Phylogeography of giant clams (*Tridacna* spp.) in the Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean, MSc., Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Ghent University and University of Antwerp, Belgium.
- Dissanayake, P.A.K.N., Balawardhana, D.G.T.C. and Terney Pradeep Kumara P.B., (2017). Preliminary study on ecology and possible threats of Upparu mangroves forest, Kinniya, Sri Lanka. *NARA Scientific Sessions 2017*. Pp. 59-61.
- Dissanayake, P.A.K.N., Athukorala, S.M.D., Terney Pradeep Kumara, P.B., (2017). Assessment of coral reef health of Pigeon Island, Sri Lanka using indicator species: Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon* spp.) *Proceedings of National Research Symposium on Sustainable Management of Pigeon Island National Park*, 28th April, Trincomalee P. 13.
- Dissanayake P.A. Kushlani N., and Kochzius Marc, (2017). Population structure and connectivity patterns of Giant Clams (*Tridacna* spp.) along the Western Indian Ocean. Jan Mees and Jan Seys (Eds). 2017. Book of abstracts – *VLIZ Marine Science Day. Brugge, Belgium*, 3 March 2017. VLIZ Special Publication 79. Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee – Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ): Oostende, Belgium. P.33.
- Terney Pradeep Kumara, P.B., Dissanayake P.A. K. N. and Aziz Hasan., (2017). Coral reefs at risk: Sri Lankan context. *European conference of tropical ecology*. The Society of Tropical Ecology. Feb 6 – 10, 2017, Brussels, Belgium. P. 236.
- Hiroke Roy, Aziz Hasan, Dissanayake P.A. Kushlani N., and Rahman, M., (2017). A Review on the threat and vulnerability to cultural extinction of Sunderbans mangrove forest, South Asia *European conference of tropical ecology*. The Society of Tropical Ecology. Feb 6 – 10, 2017, Brussels, Belgium. P. 404.
- Terney Pradeep Kumara P.B., and Dissanayake, P.A.K.N., (2017). Marine alien invasive species: records from Pigeon Island Marine National Park. *Proceedings of the National Symposium on Invasive Alien Species*. Waters Edge, Colombo. P. 19.
- Terney Pradeep Kumara P.B., and Dissanayake, P.A.K.N., (2016). Effects of recent thermal stress on coral communities in Polhena reef in Southern Sri Lanka. *The International*

Workshop proceedings on Climate Change and Anthropogenic Activities: Impact on Coastal Development and Management. Pp. 31-34.

- Dissanayake, P.A.K.N., Terney Pradeep Kumara P.B. and Niroshana, K.H.H., (2016). Impacts of nutrient loading followed by macro algal invasion on coral reefs at Pigeon Island Marine National Park, Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of the International Research Symposium on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Environment*. Sri Lanka NEXT, BMICH, Colombo. Pp. 96-97.
- Dissanayake, P.A.K.N., and Terney Pradeep Kumara P.B., (2015). Impact of *Acanthaster Planci* (Crown of Thorns starfish) population expansion on the coral ecosystem of Pigeon Island Marine National Park, Sri Lanka. *NARA Scientific Sessions 2015*. Pp.59-61.
- Dissanayake, P.A.K.N., and Terney Pradeep Kumara P.B., (2015). Present status of macro species diversity in Pigeon Island Marine national park, Trincomalee. *Proceedings of 21st SLAFAR (Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources) Sessions*. P.33.
- Dissanayake, P. A. K. N., Guruge, K. P. G K. P., Bandara A. M. K. A. and Ratnasiri J., (2015). Southern Fishers' perception on the present status of offshore and deep sea fishing industry in Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of 21st SLAFAR (Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources) Sessions*.
- Terney Pradeep Kumara P.B., Dissanayake, P. A. K. N. and Guruge, K. P. G K. P., 2014. National Park of Sri Lanka, Pigeon Island Marine National Park. Stamp Bulletin No. 849 Commemorative Issue. Published by Philatelic Bureau, Department of Posts, Sri Lanka.
- Dissanayake, P.A.K.N. and Balawardhana, D.G.T.C., 2014. Ecological and Economical importance in Kinniya mangrove forest submitted to Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department, Colombo.
- Dissanayake, P., A., K., N., (2013). Species diversity and influence of adverse impacts to the sustainability of Pigeon Island Marine National Park, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, BSc., University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2014: Resource person in "Responsible Tourism Workshop" organized by Matara District Chamber of Commerce and Industry held at Weligama Bay Beach.
Lecture Title: "Environmental Aspects in Sustainable Tourism"
- 2014: Resource Person in the "Tourist Guide Awareness Workshop" organized by Sri Lanka Police (Matara) held at Polhena Beach Inn.
Lecture Title: "Species (fauna) Identification at Polhena Coral Reef"

ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Sep 2017 – Obtained the best student award in MSc. in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management (Oceans & Lakes) degree offered by Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB), Ghent University and University of Antwerpen.
- Sep 2015 – Sep-2017: VLIR-UOS Full Scholarship provided by the Belgian Federal Government to follow International Course Program: Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management (Oceans & Lakes), Brussels, Belgium.
- June 2015 – July 2015: Scholarship offered by Mangroves for the Future (MFF), IUCN to follow Postgraduate Certificate in Integrated Coastal Management conducted by Asian Institute Technology, Thailand.

- 2014: Won the Gold Medal, awarded to the graduate obtaining First Class Honours with the highest aggregate marks at the BSc in Fisheries and Marine Sciences at 21st General Convocation, University of Ruhuna.
- 2014: Nominee of Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal, awarded for the overall performance on core curricular and extracurricular activities.

SKILLS

- 2015: Open water (PADI) Diver. License number: 1504AV8645.
- Swimming and Snorkeling.
- Literacy of academic computing in GIS applications; Ilwis Academic 3.3, Arc GIS, Statistical packages including R software, PRIMER, SPSS package and genetic data analysis software including Arlequin, MEGA, ChromasPro and STRUCTURE.
- Computer Skills including Microsoft Office, Excel, Power Point, Internet & Email.
- Excellent oral and written communication abilities in Sinhala (native) and English.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- 2012: Vice-captain of University Women's Hockey Team.
- 2012-2013: Secretary of Society of Oceanography and Marine Geology (SOMaG)
- 2012: Committee Member of University of Ruhuna Kala Mandalaya.
- 2009-2012: Faculty captain of Hockey, Badminton and Swimming.
- 2005: School House captain.
- 2002: Junior Prefect.
- 2002: Project officer of school media unit.
- 2001: Assistant secretary in Sinhala Literary Association.
- 1998-2003: Member of college dancing group

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2012 & 2013: 1st Hockey, Inter-faculty tournaments, University of Ruhuna.
- 2010: 3rd Netball, Inter-faculty tournaments, University of Ruhuna.
- 2009: 2nd Swimming (50m & 100m breaststroke), Inter faculty tournaments, University of Ruhuna.
- 2003: All island winner- Drama, Sri Lankan Festival for Performing Arts.
- 2001, 2002 & 1998: 1st -Dancing, "Kala Ulela", Ananda College, Colombo.
- 1999: 2nd Reading (provincial), Sinhala Language and Literary Competition, Ministry of Education.
- 1998: 1st Reading (provincial), Sinhala Language and Literary Competition, Ministry of Education.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Pulukkutti Arachchige Kushlani Nayanahara Dissanayake

Date of birth: 03.05.1987

Citizenship: Sri Lankan

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REFEREES

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09/05/2019

Date



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