

Title: Digitizing the Socio-Cultural & Ecological History of the *Kolis*, *Bhandup Gaon*, Mumbai

Principal Investigator (PI)

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Overview of the project:

The proposed project aims to map and digitize the socio-cultural & ecological history of the *Kolis*, an indigenous fishing community, considered to be the original inhabitants of Mumbai. It examines the everyday lives of the *Kolis* of Bhandup Gaon and the community managed nature-based solutions for protecting the mangroves and wetlands of the region and their efforts towards climate disaster preparedness in the wake of increasing extreme weather events. In doing so, the emphasis is on developing a digital archive of the socio-cultural and ecological history of the *Kolis* through their songs and stories and their collective memory and place making practices in the making and remaking of nature.



Research Methodology:

- Visual anthropology methods will be used to elicit culturally relevant reflections from the Koli community.
- Using the feminist political ecology approach, one will examine the impact of the urban environmental transformations on the everyday life of the Koli communities. In doing this, the relations between urban natures, culture and power will be examined as it shapes the natural world around them as well as their lives.
- Ethnographic techniques, case studies and narrative analysis would be used to illustrate the cultural politics of the urban environments.

Deliverables:

- Develop a digital archive of narratives, using the medium of films, audios, videos and photo essays that will give an insight into the everyday lives of the *Kolis* and their ecological histories.
- Articles to be published in National and International indexed journals