



Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) is a research organization working in the areas of conservation and sustainable development. ATREE addresses the ecological, social and economic impacts of India's environmental decline through research, education, and policy and action outreach. ATREE works in some of the most unique and breathtakingly beautiful landscapes of the world: the Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalayas. These also happen to be among the most biodiversity-rich, resource-rich, and the most vulnerable landscapes in world. These are areas where the conflicting demands of issues of conservation versus development come most prominently to the fore in the form of deforestation, mining, land use changes, and inequitable distribution of the benefits of natural resources.

ATREE's work in the Eastern Himalayas takes the form of long-term investment and engagements with communities, government organizations, NGO partners, and transboundary neighbours of Nepal and Bhutan. Researchers and PhD scholars from ATREE are currently studying issues of conservation, governance, climate change, resource use and invasive species management across Assam, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Darjeeling as well as with part ners in Bhutan and Nepal



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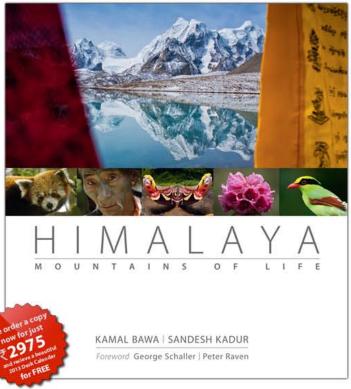
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The Eastern Himalaya—land of Gods, of ancient mountain kingdoms, of icy peaks and alpine meadows—is like no other place on Earth. The life and landscapes of the region are as diverse, spectacular and fragile as the mountains themselves. Even today, these mountains hold many mysteries: unnamed species, primeval cultures and the promise of magical cures to heal all of humanity. Himalaya—Mountains of Life takes us on a journey of biocultural dis covery, from the great canyon of Yarlung Tsangpo and the Siang Gorge in the east to the Kali Gandaki Gorge in the west. Along the way, Himalaya demonstrates through breathtaking imagery and words, why the preservation of this heritage is so important—not just for us, but for the future of all life on Earth.









A few years ago he founded Felis Creations - www.felis.in a media and visual arts company that focuses on creating content that inspires conservation. Images, Sandesh feels, have the power to move people in a way nothing else can. He hopes to harness this power through his work, and inspire his audience to protect and appreciate what remains of the wilderness.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Kamal Bawa is Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and Founder-President of the Bangalore-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE). His quest to understand biodiversity and peoples' interactions with nature has taken him from the Himalaya to the lowland tropical forests of Central America and back again. His work has produced more than 190 scientific papers and 10 authored or edited books and monographs. He has been the recipient of many international awards: Bullard, Cabot, and Giorgio Ruffolo Fellowships at Harvard University Guggenheim Fellowship, Pew Scholar in Conservation and the Environment, Hon-



orary Fellow of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, the Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Conservation Biology, and the Gunnerus Award in Sustainability Science from the Royal Norwegian Society of Letters and Sciences. He is also an elected member of the American Acad emy of Arts and Sciences.

Himalaya: Mountains of Life is Kamal's second book with Sandesh, a sequel to Sahyadris: India's Western Ghats. These books, blending imagery with description, represent Kamal's desire to share his passion for natural places and living things, so that one can embark on a new path to explore the unknown, while protecting and cherishing what is known, www.kbawa.com

Sandesh Kadur is an award-winning wildlife photographer and cinematographer with a passion for natural history. His photographs have been published widely in books and magazines, while his documentaries on subjects ranging from cobras to elephants have been aired worldwide on the BBC, Discovery, and National Geographic networks. Over the years, Sandesh's work has garnered many top awards including the CIWEM Environmental Photographer Award, Nature's Best Award, BBC Camera-trap Award, International Conservation Photographer Award, and has twice been nominated for a Green Oscar at Wildscreen. He is an associate Fellow of the International League of Con-



servation Photographers (ILCP) and the International Environmental Photographers Association (IEPA), and serves as board member for the International Association of Wildlife Filmmakers.