

**IBA 2020 Elections
Candidate for Councillor
Trishna Dutta**

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I am a carnivore conservation biologist with a research focus on bears for the last one decade. A majority of my research has a strong conservation implication, but I am also interested in understanding species ecology. I often use a combination of genetics and spatial analyses to address my research questions. I am currently working on a project to quantify the amount and determinants of functional connectivity within and among all brown bears populations in Europe, noninvasive population monitoring of brown bears in the Himalaya, and diets of sloth bears in peninsular India.

I have been a member of IBA since 2011, when I received my first research grant to study the genetic connectivity of sloth bears in central India. Since then, I have been awarded / co-awarded three more IBA grants to continue research on sloth bear ecology, and to initiate new research on population monitoring of brown bears in the Himalayan population. I have attended two international IBA conferences so far, 2012 (Delhi) and 2018 (Ljubljana), and would have attended the third one in 2020 (Montana!).

I would now like to play a more active role in the Association. I have always felt welcomed at IBA. It is a passionate community that is open to new ideas and encourages collaboration between people from all career stages. As a council member, I would strive to further encourage this collaborative atmosphere. I would work towards improving the diversity, equity, and geographic representation, especially from Asia.

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