



RENIE THOMAS

ECO-HYDROGEOLOGIST | REFLECTIVE PRACTITIONER

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ABOUT ME

I am a professional field geologist & an ecohydrologist with 11 years' of experience in aquifer and groundwater management, ecohydrology, and groundwater resource vulnerability mapping, with a regional foci on arid, semi-arid and forested ecosystems. I am a passionate researcher and work at the intersection of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, Indigenous (native) communities and geo-cognitive mental models to address water security & related risks. My aim is to deconstruct science & bridge gaps that exist between field realities and policy for effective management of common pool resource. My overall goal is to work with less privileged communities and work towards using my research rigour to help communities take ecologically sound paths in restoring their ecosystems.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- ▲ Sep 2012 – present **PRINCIPAL GEOLOGIST | Founder**
RT's Geological and Environmental (RTGeoEnviron) Consultancy & Research, Pune
- May 2018 – Sep 2018 **APPLIED FRESHWATER SCIENTIST - Consultant**
The Nature Conservancy (TNC), New Delhi
- Jul 2015 – Apr 2018 **Sr. RESEARCHER (Water & Ecology) - Consultant**
Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) – Centre for Resilience Studies (W-CReS), Pune
- Sep 2014 – Jun 2015 **PROJECT OFFICER (Geology) – Consultant**
Urdhvam Environmental Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Pune
- Mar 2013 – Jan 2014 **RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (Water) - Consultant**
Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi
- Oct 2011 – Mar 2013 **WATERSHED PROJECT COORDINATOR (Eco-Hydrogeology) - Consultant**
Initiatives of Change, India (IofC) – Grampari, Satara
- Feb 2011 – Jul 2011 **HYDROGEOLOGIST - Consultant**
Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), Ahmednagar
- Oct 2010 – Jan 2011 **ASSISTANT QUALITY MANAGER & LABORATORY TECHNICIAN**
Accurate Metallurgical Laboratory, Pune

EDUCATION

- ▲ Apr 2018 **ADVANCES IN AQUIFER CHARACTERIZATION & PARAMETER ESTIMATION (Course)**
Anna University, Chennai and Freie Universität, Berlin
- Jul 2017 **SUMMER SCHOOL FOR FUTURE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEADERS**
Indian Institute of Management (IIM- Udaipur) and the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University, USA
- Aug 2015 **FIELD HYDROLOGY (Course)**
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru
- June 2015 **INTERDISCIPLINARY SUMMER SCHOOL IN WATER AND SOCIETY**
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru
- 2011 – 2012 **PG DIPLOMA: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND NATURE CONSERVATION**
Ecological Society, Pune
- 2008 – 2010 **MASTER OF SCIENCE – GEOLOGY**
Fergusson College, University of Pune
- 2005 – 2008 **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – GEOLOGY (Hons.)**
Fergusson College, University of Pune
- 2003 – 2005 **HIGHER SECONDARY CERTIFICATE**
St. Vincent's high School and Junior College (Science), Pune
- 1993 – 2003 **SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**
St. Francis De Sales High School, Pune



RENIE THOMAS

SYSTEMS THINKER | RESEARCHER

SKILLS

WORK

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| AQUIFER MAPPING | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| RESEARCH | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| SCIENCE COMMUNICATION | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| WATER QUALITY | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| DATA ANALYSIS | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| EIA & RISK ANALYSIS | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| GIS / RS | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

RESEARCH INTEREST

- Ecology, Hydrogeology
- Geo-cognition
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem
- Isotope hydrology
- Physical Volcanology & Disaster Mitigation

TRAITS

PERSONALITY TYPE :
The Mediator (INFP-T)

ROLE: Diplomat

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| ETHICS | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| REFLECTIONIST | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| COMMITMENT | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| TEAM PLAYER | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| CREATIVITY | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| INQUISITIVE | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| INTUITIVE THINKER | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| CRITICAL THINKER | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| PLANNING | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

LANGUAGES

| | Speak | Read | Write |
|---------------------|-------|------|-------|
| ENGLISH - FLUENT | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| HINDI - FLUENT | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| MARATHI - FLUENT | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| MALAYALAM - BASIC | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| GERMAN - ELEMENTARY | ■ | ■ | ■ |

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

Bajaj, K., **Thomas, R.**, Yadav, A., Datye, A., Chakraborty, S., (2019). Hydrological linkages between different water resources from two contrasting ecosystems of western peninsular India: A stable isotope perspective, *Isotopes in Environmental & Health Studies*, Volume 55, Issue 6, pp. 1 - 18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10256016.2019.1666121>

Thomas, R., Duraisamy, V., (2018). Hydrogeological delineation of groundwater vulnerability to droughts in semi-arid areas of western Ahmednagar district, Egpt. *Jrn. Remote Sensing & Space Sciences*. Volume 21, Issue 2, pp. 121 - 137. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrs.2016.11.008>

Buono, J., **Thomas, R.**, Kulkarni, H., Mahamuni, K., Karandikar, M., Ghate, K., Kulkarni, K., Mahesh, N., Ambrale, D., More, A., (2015). Ecohydrologic description of Springs in the North Western Ghats, Maharashtra, *Journal of Ecological Society*, Vol. 28 , pp. 8 - 24. <http://dx.doi.org/10.54081/JES.024/02>

NON-PEERED REVIEWED

Krishnaswamy, J., Bunyan, M., Solomon, D., Duraisamy, V., Bazaz, A., **Thomas, R.**, (+9 co-authors from African region) (2019). Changing ecosystem services are increasing people's vulnerability in semi-arid regions: an ASSAR cross-regional insight ([Report](#))

PRESENTATION/POSTER

Misquitta, K., **Thomas, R.**, (2021). Moral Geology: Making model villages and model aquifers in western India, *Envirolab Conference on 'Placing': New engagements with the 'Environment'*, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology.

Thomas, R., Bendapudi, R., Yadav, A., Chemburkar, S., (2018). Adaptation or Maladaptation: Case of farm ponds converted into storage tanks in Maharashtra - Implications for groundwater governance, 5th Adaptations Futures, Cape Town

Mascarenhas, K., **Thomas, R.**, Bazaz, A., (2018). Identifying changing groundwater regimes and ecosystem services of groundwater recharge for a rapidly urbanizing watershed in Bengaluru, India, 5th Adaptations Futures, Cape Town

Thomas, R., Thakur, G., Duraisamy, V., (2016). Ecohydrological status of natural springs in Akole and Sangamner blocks of Ahmednagar district and their significance to environmental flows, 19th International River Symposium, New Delhi

Buono, J., **Thomas, R.**, (2013). Lateritic springs: A threatened resource, Conference on Policy for Conservation and Management of Rocky Plateau Biodiversity, Pune

PROJECTS

List of projects/studies (Academic & Professional) till date - Click [here](#)

HOBBIES

Trekking, collecting mineral oddities, reading, cycling, swimming, photography, cooking, drawing, observing animal behaviour and science blogging.