Intellectual debt is always difficult to summarise. The supervision and guidance that I received from my Supervisor Dr. S.S. Deora is so immense that giving them expression does not even remotely approximate my reverence toward him. Sir, was always the motivating factor in making me work and ignoring all my mistakes. Thank u sir. I am also thankful to Professor Rajesh Rajagopalan, Professor Murthy, Professor Sahani, Professor Qureshi, Professor Atiya Habib, Krishnendu Meena sir for the whole idea and their help in putting up the thesis in this shape is undeniable.

Among the libraries I wish to acknowledge that the help rendered by those, JNU, WWF- India, CDA (Chilika Development Authority) Bhubneshwar, DSE (Delhi School of Economics), IWMI (International Water Management Institute) Colombo, DWLC (Department of Wildlife & Conservation) Colombo, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Colombo, CEA (Central Environmental Authority) Colombo and Colombo University are immense.

I would like to thank Mr. Sudarsana Panda, then CEO of CDA, Bhubneshwar for providing immense insight during my visit to Chilika Lake, Orissa. My due thanks also to Mr. Ratnanayeke, Director, DWLC, Colombo, Professor S. Kotagama, Colombo University, Ms. Esha, Community Development coordinator, Bundala National Park, and the Park Warden, Mr. Indrajith, Bundala National Park for giving me all needed insight and information about the Bundala lagoon wetland conservation.

This thesis is an outcome of excessive pain and support on the part of my family. My entire family provided unflinching support without complains. My brother Anuj Bhaiya, and brother - in law Manu bhai, Shivam bhai, Vimal bhai, Vivek bhai and my sisters Nutan and Rani di and sis -in law, Subhi di, Anu di, Neha di, Bhavana Di, Neeta di, Pappan di, Anshu di, Rachna di, Sapana di, Usha bhabhi and Priya bhabhi always saw something worthy in me without them this work would not have materialized. I will be ever grateful to my parents and in laws for their selfless support in my every endeavour.
Friends it's said make the world go around, Arun ji, Paulomi di, Praveen sir, Vipul Tripathi, Meenakshi, Jasso, Deep, Osama, Shireen, Nivedita, Naveen, Sanjayji, Vikash and Suchi are part of my extended family. The time we spent together will be a cherishing memory. These moments in flashback would always bring smile to my face whenever I will feel lonely. They stood by me in both thick and thin.

I am thankful to Deep for taking out his precious time in getting my maps prepared. To say thanks will belittle his efforts. I wish him bright future. I will ever be thankful to Tushahthi and Apsara, a Sri Lankan friend for giving her precious time in making my ways into Colombo. Without her help my stay in Colombo and trip inside Sri Lanka would not have been that pleasant.

Last but not the least I am grateful to Vaibhav, my husband for bearing me all these years. He was not only the support, but the inspiration behind this work.

It would be betrayal if I don't acknowledge my gratitude towards JNU, a place which motivates you to strive for your dreams, the very air here is educating and enlightens ones about true meaning of life. JNU taught me how to be humble, compassionate irrespective what I am and I will possibly be. Godavari hostel where I spent crucial years of life calling it a home would not be a misnomer. The memorable moments that I have gathered here will accompany me forever. Descartes once said 'I think therefore I am' but I believe that 'I was here therefore I am'.

Ruby Choudhary