



**Sireesha Nemana**  
Lead Advisor  
Complex Casework  
Team

I moved to the UK in 2016 from India, where I did a Masters in Biodiversity and Conservation. I was very keen to continue nature conservation focused work I'd been doing in India and when I learned about Natural England, this was the first organisation that ticked all my boxes in terms of biodiversity, conservation, ecology and environmental policy.

I joined in 2017 as a Support Advisor and, with promotion across different roles, I'm now Lead Advisor in the Complex Casework Team where I support the management of protected sites or licencing reform cases from all over the organisation and ensure risks are identified and mitigated. Every case is different, so I'm constantly learning and developing, and that keeps me really engaged in my role. I recently worked on a project to issue a licence for the reintroduction of the White Tailed Eagle to England, which I'm very proud and happy to have been part of.

Working with Natural England has given me opportunities to develop both my technical and my soft skills, as well as boosting my confidence through teamwork and exposure to different projects, people and organisations. It's a flexible, supportive and wellbeing-focused environment too, which has also helped me to grow. I work with like-minded colleagues who made me feel very welcome when I joined.

When Natural England launched their Ethnicity & Race Network last year I jumped on board. I'm currently EDI champion for the Complex Casework Unit and an ambassador for the Network. Increasing diversity within the organisation is very important to Natural England, and there's a big push for change. They're focusing very heavily on EDI and we have champions in place who are actively engaging in external and internal projects and looking at ways we can improve. The senior leadership team are visible and completely on board and that really matters. Everyone feels that they're heard, and there's lots of good communication and conversation going on. That's definitely a big positive for the organisation moving forward.