



National Conference on Ecological Research in the Era of Global Environmental Change (ERGEC-26)

Date: 19th -21st November, 2026

Venue: Malviya Moolya Anusheelan Kendra, BHU

Organized by

**International Society for Tropical Ecology
(ISTE)**

**Department of Botany, Institute of Science
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India**

Rationale:

We are in the Anthropocene—an era dominated by human activities that affect Earth's climate and ecosystems. India's tropical forests, Himalayan glaciers, 7500 km of coastline, urban ecosystems, and monsoon-dependent agriculture are already feeling the effects: changing rainfall patterns, biodiversity loss, heatwaves, and ecosystem degradation. Ecological research now goes beyond describing nature; it can predict changes, evaluate solutions, and frame policy interventions effectively and quickly. This National Conference will bring together ecologists, environmental experts, climate scientists, technologists, and practitioners to show how advances in ecological research and innovation can address global environmental challenges and propel climate action toward a resilient India. The conference's emerging, cross-cutting themes, such as '*Advancing Ecological Science for People and Planet*' and '*Research, Innovation, and Climate Action for Planetary Resilience*,' will highlight the importance of ecological science as an integral solution to India's environmental and sustainability challenges.

Conference Objectives:

- Advance Knowledge: Present cutting-edge ecological research on how global environmental change is altering species, ecosystems, ecosystem services, and the livelihoods of people.
- Promote Innovation: Highlight new tools—AI, eDNA, Remote Sensing, Genomics, NbS—for monitoring and managing ecosystems.
- Bridge Science-Policy Gap: Translate research into actionable strategies for India's NDCs, Green India Mission, and Biodiversity Targets. Build Networks:
- Foster collaboration between Academia, Government, Industries, NGOs, and Communities for climate solutions.
- Capacity Building: Mentor young scientists and practitioners in climate-relevant ecological research.

Theme 1: Advancing Ecological Science For People And the Planet

Sub-Theme 1: People, Land, Ecosystems & Landscapes

- Forest Ecology & Carbon Science - Old-growth Forests, Reforestation, Soil Carbon, REDD+; Wetland, River & Freshwater Ecology - Ganga Basin, Floodplains, Groundwater, e-flows
- Coastal & Marine Ecology - Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Blue carbon, Ocean Acidification
- Mountain & Himalayan Ecology - Cryosphere, Biodiversity, GLOFs, Water Towers
- Ecosystem Services Valuation & Carbon Markets - Natural Capital Accounting and Financing
- Agroecology & Food Systems - Regenerative Agriculture & Climate-Smart Agriculture, Soil Health, Drought
- Urban Ecology & Green Infrastructure - Heat islands, Urban forests, Sponge cities
- Indigenous & Traditional Ecological Knowledge - Community Resilience and Co-management

Sub-Theme 2: Biodiversity & Species

- Global Environmental Change & Biodiversity Loss - Hotspots: Western Ghats, Himalaya and NE India, Species Extinction Risk
- Climate-Driven Evolutionary Change and Adaptive Radiation
- Phenology, Migration & Climate Mismatch - Pollinators, Birds, Butterflies, Crops
- Conservation Genomics & Assisted Adaptation - eDNA, Heat-resistant Species, Gene Banks
- Invasive Species & Biosecurity - Climate-driven Spread and Management

Theme 2: Research, Innovation, and Climate Action for Planetary Resilience

Sub-Theme 1: Technology, Monitoring & Policy

- Digital Ecology: AI, Remote Sensing & Big Data - Drones, Satellites, Ecological Forecasting
- Environmental DNA & Microbiome Research - Soil, Plant, and Aquatic Microbiomes for Climate Resilience
- Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem-based Adaptations for Environmental Stewardship
- Ecological Restoration & Rewilding - Landscapes, Forests, Rangelands, Grasslands, Wetlands, Marginal & Degraded Lands, Mine Sites for Sustainable Development
- Science to Policy Implementation - Science for NDCs, NBSAP, CAMPA, and State Climate Action Plans

Sub-Theme 2: Cross-Cutting & Future Themes

- Ecological Tipping Points & Planetary Boundaries - Early Warning Signals in Forests, Wetlands, and Oceans
- One Health & Eco-health - Linkages between Ecosystem Health, Zoonoses, and Human Well-being

Target Audience: Researchers, Faculty, PhD/Masters Students, Scientists from ICAR, FRI, ZSI, BSI, MoEF & CC, State Forest Depts., NGOs, CSR, International Agencies, and Industry.

Expected Outcomes:

- National Research Agenda: Priority areas for ecological research in the context of India's 2070 Net-Zero Emission Targets.
- Policy Brief: "Ecological Solutions for Climate Adaptation in India" to be submitted to MoEF & CC.
- Conference Proceedings + Special Issue in a Peer-reviewed Journal.
- Young Scientist Awards to encourage next-generation Ecologists.

Registration Fee: *Early Registration up to October 31st, 2026:* Research Scholars: ₹1500 | Faculty/Scientists: ₹3000 | Industry Delegates: ₹4000. *Late and on-the-spot Registration:* Research Scholars: ₹2000 | Faculty/Scientists: ₹3500 | Industry Delegates: ₹5000 (Note: Registration includes a kit, meals, and proceedings. Existing ISTE members will get a 25% discount on the registration fee. For registration, please visit: <http://www.tropecol.in>)

Abstract format: Word limit: 250; Font: Times New Roman; Title: 12 pt, Bold; Author (s): 11 pt, Bold; Affiliation: 10 pt, Italic; Text: 11 pt, Regular; Last date for Abstract submission: *October 31st, 2026*. Kindly send the 'Abstract' along with the duly filled Registration form and online payment details to the Organizing Secretary at admin@tropecol.in. **Bank Details:** Name of the Account: **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TROPICAL ECOLOGY**; Account Type: Current; Account No: **10654900774**; Name of the Bank: State Bank of India; Branch Code: 00211; Branch Address: SBI, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005; IFSc Code: **SBIN0000211** or pay with UPI Code: **intsocietyfortropicaecology@sbi**

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About the Society & Host Institute

International Society for Tropical Ecology (ISTE): The need for a society exclusively devoted to tropical ecology was widely felt in the late 50s. Leading ecologists discussed the idea at the IV World Forestry Conference in 1954, the UNESCO symposia in Kandy (1956) and Bogor (1958), and the Pacific Science Conference in 1958. The International Society for Tropical Ecology (ISTE) was founded in 1956 in India and formally inaugurated in 1960 at the 47th Session of the Indian Science Congress Association in Bombay, with the objective of fostering and promoting the cause of ecology in the tropics and subtropics. Initially located at 10, Chatham Lines, Allahabad (now Prayagraj), the ISTE headquarters was moved to the Department of Botany, Banaras Hindu University, in 1962. The Society is registered in India with the Registrar of Societies, Uttar Pradesh, Varanasi, and on the DARPAN portal of Niti Aayog, Govt. of India. ISTE published its first journal, the Bulletin of the International Society for Tropical Ecology, in 1960. The journal was renamed Tropical Ecology in 1961. Starting in 1968, two issues of the journal were published each year; currently, Springer, India, publishes four issues annually, which have a Clarivate Impact factor of 1.9. The ISTE has been organizing international symposia periodically in different tropical countries to sustain the flow of information amid expanding ecological research activities in tropical and subtropical regions. The Society offers membership to individuals of all nations who are interested in tropical or subtropical ecology. Currently, the Society offers Life membership to individuals of all nations who are interested in ecology. The Society now welcomes individuals of all nations who are interested in ecology to become Life members.

Department of Botany, BHU: The Botany Department was established in 1916 and became the second-oldest department in the country to offer postgraduate teaching in Botany, starting in 1919. The department was established and nurtured by notable botanists such as Birbal Sahni (FRS), Y Bhardwaja (FNA), R Misra (FNA), RN Singh, and RY Roy. The Department is internationally known for contributions to various domains of Botany, including Ecology, Phycology, Mycology, and Plant Pathology. The department offers excellent teaching programs in diverse areas of the life sciences, including master's degrees in Botany, Environmental Sciences, and Applied Microbiology, and maintains modern laboratory facilities. In recognition of its outstanding contributions, the department was selected under the UGC Special Assistance Programme in 1972, designated a Centre of Advanced Study (CAS) in 1980, and recognized as the "Centre of Excellence" in 1984 under the COSIST program. Recently, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, has selected the department for financial assistance under the FIST scheme (Level II).

Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development: Aligned with the UN vision that higher education must build knowledge for sustainable development, the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD) emerged at BHU as a national-level institute for education *about* and *for* sustainable development, to address scientific and social issues linked to the SDGs through research. Its foundation stone was laid by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri B.L. Joshi, on 30 December 2009. IESD officially started in 2010 as the fourth Institute of BHU, with teaching commencing in 2011 under the vision of its founding Director, Prof. A.S. Raghubanshi. On 6 October 2016, HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurated BHU's first energy-efficient Green Building, to which IESD shifted in July 2017. It also houses the DST-Mahamana Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Research. Currently, the teaching and research activities of the Institute are being carried out by 14 faculty members.

Banaras Hindu University: Banaras Hindu University is an internationally renowned temple of learning, situated in the holy city of Varanasi. This creative and innovative university was founded in 1916 by the great nationalist leader Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, with the cooperation of great personalities like Dr. Annie Besant, who viewed it as the University of India. Banaras Hindu University was created under the Parliamentary legislation, the B.H.U. Act 1915. It played a stellar role in the independence movement and has developed into the greatest center of learning in India. It has produced many great freedom fighters and builders of modern India and has immensely contributed to the progress of the nation through a large number of renowned scholars, artists, scientists, and technologists who have graced its portals. The main campus of this premier Central University covers 1300 acres, with well-maintained roads, extensive greenery, a temple, an airstrip, and buildings that are an architectural delight.

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