



IRALE 2026

Social Inclusivity towards Landscape Integrity and Resilience

BAMBOO GROVE (PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE) THEKKADY, KUMILY, IDUKKI, KERALA

 26-28 FEBRUARY, 2026

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The conference will span over three days, and the events include, but are not limited to:

- Pre- &/ post-conference workshops (emerging, in-demand topics)
- Keynote sessions speech by eminent speakers (national and international)
- Panel discussions from interdisciplinary fields
- Oral and flash presentations (showcasing the latest research on landscape ecology)
- Poster presentations
- Post-conference excursions
- Networking opportunities

Special Session on
Securing Big Cat Landscapes in Tropical Countries

**DISCOVER, DISCUSS, AND DESIGN THE
FUTURE OF INCLUSIVE LANDSCAPES**



HOW TO REACH

By Air: Nearest airport – Madurai (140 km) or Kochi International Airport (190 km).

By Rail: Nearest railway station – Kottayam (110 km).

By Road: Well connected by road from Kochi, Kottayam, Madurai, and Thiruvananthapuram. Regular buses and taxis are available to Thekkady.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference aims to bring together innovative ideas, research findings, and practical frameworks that highlight the role of social inclusivity in enhancing landscape integrity and resilience. It will emphasize how inclusive approaches integrating cultural values, traditional knowledge, and scientific understanding can strengthen ecological systems and community well-being. Through interactive discussions on landscape connectivity, nature-culture heritage, ecosystem services, restoration strategies, urbanization challenges, and the One Health approach, the conference seeks to promote collaborative solutions for sustainable landscapes. The event anticipates participation from students, researchers, scientists, professionals, policymakers, conservation practitioners, and representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in environmental and social sustainability.

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Theme: Social Inclusivity towards Landscape Integrity and Resilience

Aligning with the key theme of the United Nations for the year 2026, social inclusivity plays a crucial role in enhancing landscape integrity and resilience. Involving diverse community groups, especially marginalized and indigenous populations, in decision-making processes on natural resource management, we can create more equitable, robust, and sustainable landscapes. Inclusive practices ensure that local knowledge, cultural values, and social needs are recognized and integrated into environmental planning and management efforts. Engagement of various stakeholders in a participatory framework fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the landscapes they inhabit, leading to better conservation outcomes. Moreover, inclusive policies can address social inequities and environmental vulnerabilities, making communities more resilient to climate change and other stressors. Social inclusivity is not merely a moral imperative but a fundamental component of sustainable landscapes when cohabitation is a major subject of discussion.

SUB THEMES



Landscape Structure and Connectivity

This subtheme explores the spatial arrangement and composition of various landscape elements, including their patch size, shape, type, and distribution. A well-structured landscape plays a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity by influencing species distribution, population dynamics, and key ecological processes. It also governs the movement of organisms, genes, and ecological interactions across landscapes. Emphasizing landscape connectivity—an important factor influencing human–wildlife interactions—this theme highlights how connected landscapes facilitate species dispersal and migration, promote genetic diversity, and strengthen ecosystem resilience, thereby supporting both wildlife populations and the ecological services vital to human well-being.



Nature-Culture Heritages

The entwined relationship between natural environments with cultural practices, traditions, historical contexts and how they responsible for shaping the landscapes is one of the significant aspects of landscape inclusivity. The resultant cultural landscapes such as agriculture landscapes, sacred groves, community forests, wetlands, etc would help in balancing the conservation of natural resources and cultural expressions. The cultural landscape also supports rich biodiversity that is often cultivated and preserved through rituals, customs, beliefs, celebrations, and traditional knowledge systems. The session brings landscape architects, spatial planners and managers to discuss the rapid vanishing of rural landscapes into peri-urban and urban agglomerations.



Ecosystem Services and Resilience

The various ecosystem services (functions of the landscape) such as provisioning, regulating, cultural, supporting and the resilience of the landscape will be prudent when the structure and composition of the landscape elements are addressed. The performance of natural landscape across the country is hampered by the economic drivers and development needs. This subtheme discusses the drivers that plays critical role in diminishing the performance of the landscape and enhance the vulnerability towards natural calamities including climate change impacts.



Ecosystem Restoration

Eco restoration has been considered as one of the strategic interventions to develop sustainable landscapes in the context of both proximate and distant management issues. Aligned with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), emphasizing the scalable restoration efforts for biodiversity and climate resilience in the country, the conference will focus on holistic restoration approaches and strategies that enhance ecological processes through community involvement.



Urbanization and Climate Change

This subtheme focuses on urban landscapes—among the most dynamic cultural landscapes—facing complex challenges and opportunities in the context of climate change. As cities increasingly evolve into heat islands, the need for green spaces and sustainable green infrastructure becomes essential. The active involvement of technocrats and policymakers is critical in driving this transformation. With over half of the global population now residing in urban areas, the focus is on fostering environment-friendly mass transport systems, promoting low-carbon development, and engaging diverse stakeholders, including civil society and resident associations, to reshape urban environments into healthier, climate-resilient, and ecosystem service-oriented landscapes.



One Health Landscapes

This approach emphasizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, recognizing that many diseases arise from complex interactions among these domains, especially where human activities alter natural ecosystems. With the rise of zoonotic diseases and increased interactions between wildlife and human-influenced landscapes, development strategies must adopt the One Health Approach. The most vulnerable are communities living close to natural ecosystems, in constant contact with both wild and domestic animals. This session aims to provide a platform for medical professionals, landscape managers, scientists, and other stakeholders to discuss challenges and develop proactive One Health strategies.



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ABOUT IRALE

Indian Regional Association for Landscape Ecology (IRALE), the Regional Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE), was founded to advance the field of landscape ecology in India and its neighbouring nations to manage natural resources sustainably and promote human well-being. The mission of IRALE is to enable a better understanding of natural phenomena through the principles of landscape ecology towards inclusive growth of the natural world and human societies involving landscape scale policy and management strategies.



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Dr. PV Karunakaran, Chair
- Dr. Parabita Basu, Co-Chair
- PU Saju IFS, Deputy Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve, Co-Chair
- Dr. Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Member
- Dr. Debajit Datta, Member
- Dr. Areendran Gopala, Member
- Ms. Sohini Neogy, Member
- Dr. Vidyadhar Atkore, Coordinator



ABOUT THE VENUE



Periyar Tiger Reserve, located in the Western Ghats of Kerala, is part of India's most celebrated biodiversity hotspots and a flagship protected area for tiger conservation. Encompassing rich tropical forests around the scenic Periyar Lake, the reserve shelters thriving populations of tigers, Asian elephants and countless endemic flora and fauna. Beyond its ecological value, PTR is renowned for its successful community-based conservation initiatives involving local forest-dependent communities, making it a global model for participatory wildlife management and ecotourism.

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Call for Abstracts

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- The author/ presenter must ensure that the work related to the abstract has not been published or presented elsewhere and, preferably, is an outcome of recent research.
- The abstract must be prepared in English (either UK or US), and should mention the background/ justification of the study, objectives/ research questions, methods applied, results obtained, and major findings/ implications.
- The word limit for the abstract is 300 words.
- The main text (body) of the abstract should be written in font Times New Roman, font size 12, justified alignment, and 1.5 line spacing.
- The title and author details of the abstract will be in the same font (Times New Roman) with 14 font size (bold) and center-aligned. The title should not have more than 20 words. The author details should include names of the author(s), affiliation(s), and symbol(s) in superscript for the presenting author and corresponding author.
- The abstract should be accompanied by four to six keywords. The authors are encouraged not to use common phrases, acronyms, and vernacular terms/ words already used in title as keywords.
- Each person may be listed on multiple abstracts but cannot be the presenter for more than one submission. Keynote speakers/ experts are exempted from this rule.
- The decision of the scientific committee of IRALE 2026 Conference regarding the acceptance, category selection, and slot scheduling will be final.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

- Abstract call opens November 1, 2025
- Abstract call closes December 15, 2025



SUBMIT

Click the Submit button above or scan the QR code to submit your abstract

Registration details



REGISTRATION OPENS ON: 20 NOVEMBER 2025
REGISTRATION CLOSES ON: 20 DECEMBER 2025

Category	INR
*Student Member with double occupancy Accommodation for 4 nights	5000
#Student Member without Accommodation	3000
*Student non-Member with double occupancy Accommodation for 4 nights	7000
#Student non-Member without Accommodation	4000
*Professional Member with double occupancy Accommodation for 4 nights	7000
#Professional Member without Accommodation	4000
*Professional non-Member with double occupancy Accommodation for 4 nights	10000
#Professional non-Member without Accommodation	5000
*Registration fee includes conference kit, double occupancy accommodation for 4 nights, food (4 breakfast, 3 lunch, 4 dinner and 6 tea/coffee & snacks), access to all conference events including one trekking/boating	
#Registration fee includes conference kit, food (3 lunch, 4 dinner and 6 tea/coffee & snacks), access to all conference events including one trekking/boating	



Click the Submit button above or scan the QR code to Register