

Indian Regional Association for Landscape Ecology

# PANORAMA

IRALE NEWS #1 · APRIL 2021

## The Road to IRALE

RAMESH KRISHNAMURTHY

Indian Regional Association for Landscape Ecology (IRALE, also called as IALE India or India IALE) is a recognized national chapter of International Association of Landscape Ecology (IALE). The idea to establish Indian chapter dates back to two decades ago, with initial efforts by landscape ecologists from India. I became aware of this while attending the US-IALE Annual Symposium in 2002 at Nebraska, which marked an important trajectory in my professional career. The interest in landscape ecology further drew me to IALE World Congress in 2007. Here, the absence of Indian chapter was clearly felt. Knowing that it needed renewed efforts, I decided to give it a try. But soon realized that it was not as easy as it seemed. The major challenges were requirement for dedicated time and much needed support with diverse opinions and interests. A significant bottleneck was also to bridge the statutory compliances. But the momentum was kept alive, despite inertia and oscillating enthusiasms, and received a definitive push at the IALE World Congress in 2015. It is true that gatherings of such nature can be a catalyst, especially after seeing India being missed. With the constant support of Dr. Felix Kienast and Dr. Christine Fürst, the past Presidents of IALE, the Indian Chapter came into being on 3rd August 2018 as a registered organization in Dehradun. Equally it was possible due to the support of Wildlife Institute of India and the active role played by colleagues within and outside the Institute, who now form the ad-hoc Executive Council.

IRALE is determined to promote the science and application of landscape ecology as a knowledge base and scientific support to balance the conservation and development in the country. We are pleased to bring out this long-awaited newsletter (first in the series of many to come) and with active participation of the members, it will hopefully grow into useful communication and engagement medium.

## This issue

The Road to IRALE

Message from IALE

Vision and Mission

1st Annual Symposium

In Focus: Biogeographic Zones

Members' Page



Awardees at the US-IALE Annual Symposium at Lincoln, Nebraska, USA in 2002

## Message from IALE's President

ROBERT SCHELLER

Hello Members of IALE!

The launching of your newsletter is a good occasion to reflect on the role of the International Association of Landscape Ecology (IALE), the global organization to which you all belong. Our primary mission at IALE is to promote and sustain global collaborations. Why is this so important? The last year has amply demonstrated what we intuitively understood: the world is rapidly shrinking. All of our environmental, health, and social challenges are amplified by the emergence of a unified global economy. There are no more local problems. At the same time, never has it been easier to learn, collaborate, communicate, and ideate at a global scale. These two countervailing forces propel us to embrace both the challenges and opportunities of our globalized world.

As your chapter launches and grows, IALE will strive to help sustain your efforts. This is, however, a mutualistic relationship: IALE is also dependent on the energy and creativity of our regional chapters. We are only as healthy as our chapters; we are only as engaging and collaborative as our members act. Consider joining one of the numerous regional and international committees that make our society function. We are landscape ecologists and landscapes throughout the world depend on our science, our expertise, and our commitment to a more just and sustainable future. And please stay in touch! We want to celebrate your successes and learn how we can improve our services to our members.

Finally, I look forward to meeting some of you in Nairobi, Kenya for the World Congress in 2023! More details will soon follow.





## Vision and Mission

### IRALE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The vision of IRALE is to integrate the science and application of landscape ecology in sustainable development of nature and human societies, through education, research, policy and management inputs.

IRALE strives to

- establish a network of professionals who are involved and/or interested in science and management, focusing on landscape ecology principles and related policy development.
- enable communications and knowledge sharing amongst scientists, planners, practitioners, policy makers and various stakeholders towards effective nature conservation strategies and quality environment for human societies.
- promote education and research in landscape ecology in India and other neighboring countries; and
- foster national and international collaborations for policy development and problem solving strategies both within and across regions.

## 1st IRALE Annual Symposium

3-5 OCTOBER 2021, SARISKA

The first IRALE Annual Symposium will take place during 3-5 October, 2021. Considering the second wave of COVID-19 and travel restrictions across India, the event will be restricted to small group of <50 participants. Also, it will be a hybrid event (combination of in-person and virtual presentations) at the exclusive location in Sariska, Rajasthan, with possible exploration of the picturesque landscape of Sariska Tiger Reserve. In addition to current and past IALE Presidents, we will have some of the leading landscape ecologists from India and abroad to join us, in person or virtually. Stay tuned at [irale.org](http://irale.org) and social media platforms of IRALE on Facebook and LinkedIn. We will soon be on Instagram and Twitter.

**“The great challenge of the twenty-first century is to raise people everywhere to a decent standard of living while preserving as much of the rest of life as possible.”**  
— Edward O. Wilson



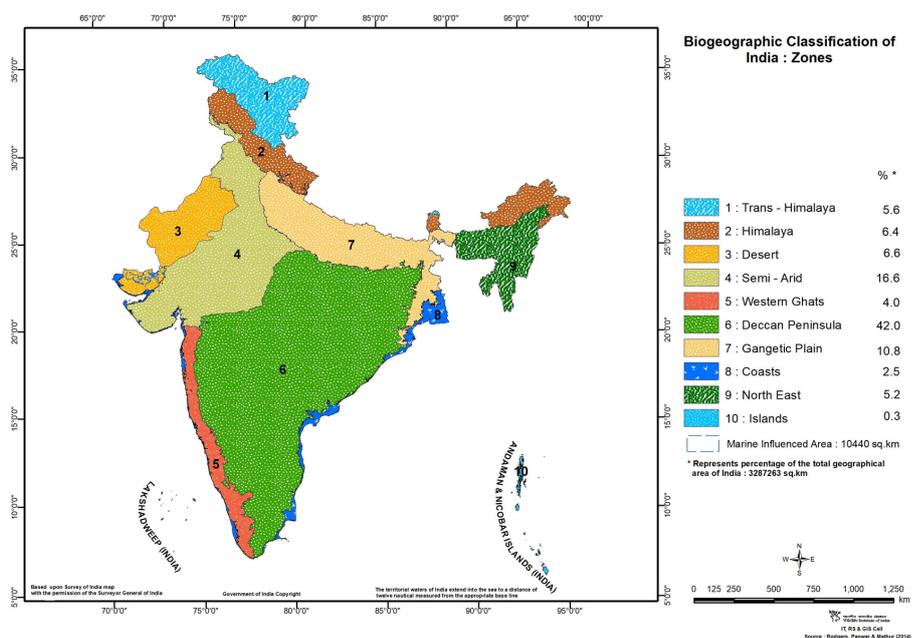


# In Focus: Biogeographic Zones of India

AMRITA NEELAKANTAN

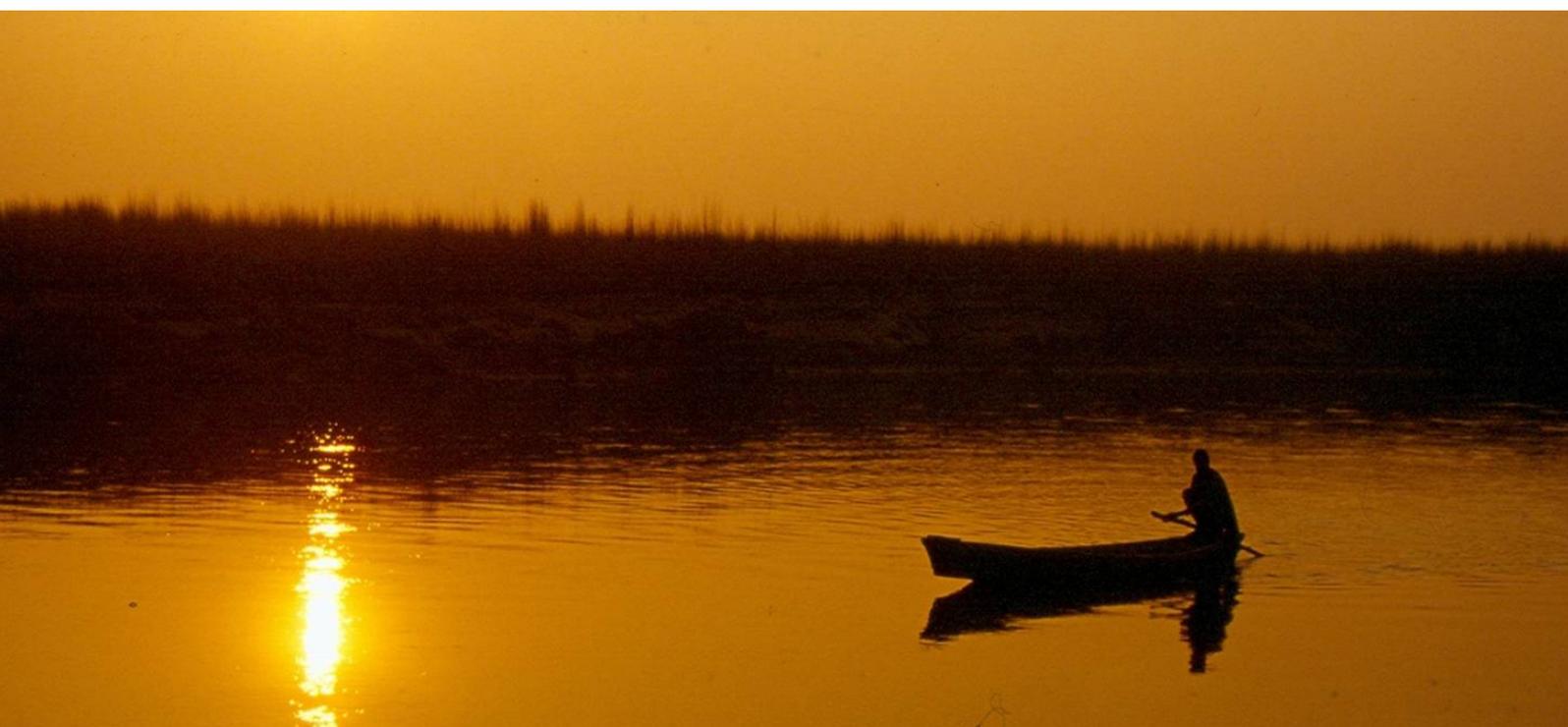
Biogeographic classification includes areas of animal and plant distribution with similar or shared characteristics within distinct geographic environments. India has 10 biogeographic zones, classified by the Wildlife Institute of India. India is home to a vast number of endemic species and ranks among the 12 mega biodiversity hotspots of the world with four of the world's terrestrial biodiversity hot spots and its 10 distinct biogeographic zones. About 225 million years ago, the India subcontinent was a large island still situated off the Australian coast that broke away from Gondwana, the ancient super continent. About 40-50 million years ago, the Indian subcontinent began to forge northward and collided into mainland Asia, forming the Himalayas and what is present day India with all its biogeographic complexity.

Our culture has also meticulously adapted and seamlessly blended in and around India's diverse ecology. Respecting and conserving wildlife have been part of many cultural ethos in India for millennia. Join us as we showcase these diverse landscapes taking biogeographic zones as windows into more in-depth explorations in the subsequent IRALE News.



## Member's Page

- Join IRALE (<http://irale.org/>). Also be a part of Working Groups and steer as a Thematic Champion. Once you are member of IRALE, you are automatically member of the International Association of Landscape Ecology (IALE) (<https://landscape-ecology.org/>). Being a member allows you to avail the benefits such as newsletters, access to landscape ecology journal, participation in conferences, resource materials and updates on recent developments in the science and application of landscape ecology.
- Share your views, findings and field actions that can be showcased in IRALE Newsletter. You can email your contribution to [irale.info@gmail.com](mailto:irale.info@gmail.com) and [info@irale.org](mailto:info@irale.org).
- Log on to our social media pages (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12529134/>, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/907760236714054>) for updates and share posts such as news items, publications, resource materials and funding opportunities.



Contributions:

A. Arunkumar (Logo), Panna Lal (Map), Ramesh Krishnamurthy (Photos) and Vaishali Vasudeva (Layout & Design)