

INSEE

Indian Society for Ecological Economics

Established 1999, New Delhi

Call for Abstracts

Ecological Restoration for a Resilient Society

Economics, Policies and Institutions

XIII Biennial Conference

of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE)

11-14 January 2026

Venue: To be Announced

Ecological restoration is about preventing, halting and reversing the loss of nature. 1.56 billion ha of the world's land is already degraded, and degradation is increasing at 4% every four years (UNCCD data dashboard 2023). This has proven implications for poverty reduction efforts, biodiversity and water availability. Restoring degraded ecosystems to their functional and productive state while ensuring equitable and sustainable access to the resource-poor has become inevitable for a progressive and development-oriented society. United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on land) emphasises the social need to restore degraded ecosystems, with target 15.3 further envisaging a "Land Degradation Neutral" world by 2030. To accomplish this target, UNCCD declared 2021-2030 as the decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

India, the seventh largest country in the world with 3.28 million sq. km of geographical area, has only 2.4% of the world's land to support nearly one-fifth of the world's population and 12% of the world's livestock. With 97.84 million hectares of its scarce land resources under different stages of degradation, about 251.71 million Indians or 18.39 per cent of the country's population, are exposed to land degradation in 2019 (The UNCCD data dashboard 2023), and this proportion is increasing over time. Its deteriorating ecological health is challenging India's development aspirations and its prospects of equitable and sustainable development. Estimates show that the economic benefits of restoration range from 7 to 30 times the investment, and the cost of inaction to restore land is estimated to be significant in different biogeographic regions across India.

However, there are unanswered questions about restoration that must be tackled before specifying targets and committing significant resources. We need scholarly work to answer the open questions on the social, economic and ecological trade-offs entailed in restoration across economic classes, social categories, gender and ecological dimensions; as also across different sectors of the economy, and in a rural-urban gradient. As a sunrise investment sector, restoration's political economy and ecological justice also need to be made explicit. The XIII Biennial Conference of INSEE hopes to bring together scholars nationwide to deliberate these open questions and contribute towards equitable and sustainable land restoration efforts in the country.

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We invite submissions that make focused conceptual and methodological contributions of a theoretical or empirical nature, as well as those contributing to the practice dimension of restoration. Research and praxis on the topics listed below could be on restoration of Land (Forest, Agriculture, Village commons, Mountains, etc.), Waterbodies (Oceans, Rivers, Ground water, etc.) or Urban landscapes (Wetlands, Parks & Plantations, Farming, Waste management, etc). Specific studies undertaken in any of these landscapes could cover any of the following topics.

1. Policy and governance for restoration
2. Social institutions and restoration
3. Gender dimensions of restoration
4. Livelihoods and restoration
5. Science and technology for restoration (includes energy, biodiversity etc)
6. Restoration economics
7. Methods of evaluating degradation and restoration
8. Other relevant topics related to the theme

While research outputs will be presented in sessions of oral presentations, scholarship from practicing restoration on any of the above topics should be presented as photo essays or short videos. There will be dedicated posters and/or audiovisual sessions for these.

Submission Guidelines

We will follow a two-step screening process.

In the first stage, each submission requires an extended abstract clearly describing the work in at least 1,000 words (excluding references). The abstract must include (a) Objectives, b) Methods (including important theories or frameworks discussed / selection of study site and sampling details etc, (c) Findings.

In the second stage, only qualified abstracts from the first stage will be invited to submit a full-length paper/ photo essay/ short video for final review.

A review committee will select the submission based on its merit and quality.

Selected papers from the conference (not all accepted submissions) will be considered for an edited volume or journal special issue.

Please submit abstracts to abstract.biennial@gmail.com with the title 'Abstract Submission: INSEE - Thirteenth Biennial Conference 2026'.

Registration Fees

	Early Bird Registration	Ordinary Registration
Last date of registration	31 October 2025	15 November 2025
For INSEE Members	INR 2300/-	INR 3300/-
For Students	INR 1200/-	INR 1700/-
For Students (INSEE Member)	INR 700/-	INR 1200/-
Others	INR 4500/-	INR 5500/-

Contact us

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