



## SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE INDIAN FORESTER

### Call for Papers

### “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”

#### About the Special Issue

The 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in August 2026. The theme of COP 17, “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope,” underscores the urgent need to scale up global efforts to address desertification, land degradation, and drought.

In addition, the United Nations has declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, aiming to enhance global awareness of the critical yet often overlooked roles that rangelands and pastoralist communities play in ensuring food security, strengthening climate resilience, conserving biodiversity, and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Considering the ecological and socio-economic significance of sustainable land management to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), the proposed Special Issue aims to generate state-of-the-art insights into research, policy, and practice aligned with the theme “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope” of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The issue will bring together cutting-edge scientific findings, innovative restoration approaches, and evidence-based policy perspectives to advance sustainable land management, strengthen ecosystem resilience, and enhance livelihoods in vulnerable landscapes.

#### Categories of Manuscripts

- Original Research Articles
- Review Articles
- Views and Expressions
- Case Studies and Best Practices

#### Significance of the proposal

The collection of articles in this Special Issue is anticipated to contribute toward addressing the pressing environmental challenges, including land degradation, desertification, drought, rangeland degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss. By bringing together interdisciplinary research, policy perspectives, and field-based experiences, the issue will advance evidence-based understanding and foster practical, scalable solutions for sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration.

#### Topics of interest for this call for papers include (but are not restricted to):

- Land Degradation, Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change
- Conservation and Management of Rangelands and Pastures
- Regenerative Agricultural Practices to Preserve Soil Health and Land Productivity
- Forest Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change Mitigation
- Building Climate Resilience through Sustainable Land Management
- Advances in Ecological Restoration of the Degraded Lands
- Science and Policy for Scaling Sustainable Land Management to Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) based Mapping of Land Degradation, Climate Change Prediction and Ecosystem Services Valuation

#### Guest Editors

- Sanjeev Kumar, Scientist-F, CoE-SLM
- Hans Raj, Scientist-E, CoE-SLM
- Manish Kumar Singh, Scientist-E, CoE-SLM

**Email:** san.forester@gmail.com,  
drhrajmandi@gmail.com and  
singhmk21783@gmail.com

#### Submission Guidelines/Instructions

Please refer to the Author Guidelines of the Indian Forester to prepare the manuscripts:

<https://indianforester.co.in/index.php/indianforester/about/submissions>

#### Important Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** 30 April 2026
- **Expected Publication Date:** June 2026

The Guest Editors invite researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and scholars to submit original, impactful manuscripts to this Special Issue. Contributions will advance discourse on sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration under the theme “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope,” and support evidence-based solutions for resilient landscapes and livelihoods.