

MAHESH SANKARAN

Curriculum Vitae

Lab 22, Ecology & Evolution Group
National Centre for Biological Sciences, TIFR
GKVK, Bellary Road,
Bangalore, Karnataka, India 560065

Tel: (80) 23666221
Email: mahesh@ncbs.res.in
<http://www.ncbs.res.in/mahesh>

Education

- Ph.D. (Biology) 2001, Syracuse University, USA
- M.S. (Zoology & Wildlife) 1993, Auburn University, USA
- M. Sc. (Tech) Computer Science 1988, Birla Institute of Tech. & Science, Pilani, India.

Employment

- 2019 – Present: Professor, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, India
- 2013 – 2018: Associate Professor, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, India
- 2009 – 2013: Reader, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, India
- 2006 – 2009: Lecturer, School of Biology, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK
- 2002 – 2006: Research Scientist I, NREL, Colorado State University, USA.
- 2001 – 2002: Postdoctoral Research Associate, CPB, Imperial College, Silwood Park, UK.

Honors, awards and recognition

- Review editor for the seventh Assessment Report (AR7) of the IPCC, Working Group II
- R. M. Tupule Chair Professorship for Global Change 2023-2027
- Infosys Prize for Life Sciences 2021
- Elected Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy 2021
- Section lead author the IPCC-IPBES co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change 2021
- Elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Science 2020
- Review editor for IPCC AR6 Special Report on “Climate change, Land use and Food security” (2019)
- SERB, Govt. of India, Distinguished Investigator Award 2018
- Coordinating Lead Author for the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); chapter on ‘Direct and indirect drivers of land degradation’ (2018)
- Kavli Frontier of Science Fellow 2013
- Ramalingaswamy Fellowship, Department of Biotechnology, India, 2009
- Ramanujam Fellowship, Department of Science & Technology, India, 2009 (declined)

- Alexander Gourevitch Award for meritorious achievement by a PhD student, Syracuse University
- Joseph L. Fisher Dissertation Award 1999-2000, Resources for the Future, Washington, DC
- Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship 1999-2000, Syracuse University (declined)

Areas of specialization

Global Change Biology, Savanna ecology, Land degradation, Dynamics of nutrient and energy transfer, Biodiversity-ecosystem function relationships, Conservation Biology.

Theses

- Sankaran, M. 2001. *Disturbance, diversity and community dynamics in a south Indian savanna-grassland ecosystem*. Ph.D. Thesis. Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. (Mentor: Dr. S. J. McNaughton).
- Sankaran, M. 1993. *Population dynamics of the beach mouse (Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis): a simulation study*. M.S. Thesis. Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. (Mentor: Dr. Michael C. Wooten)

Publications (in reverse chronological order)

Published and in press (#papers published with students, Total citations in Google Scholar: 17600, h-index: 51, i-10 index: 99)

1. #Mande, M., Joshi, A. A., Paramjyothi, H., Ratnam, J. & **Sankaran, M.** (2025). Patterns of grass (Poaceae) species distribution and richness across India. *Global Ecology & Conservation* 62. e03741.
2. #Rajashekar, P., Krishnan, A., Varma, V., Ratnam, J., **Sankaran, M.**, & Lehmann, C. E. (2025). Decadal scale fire dynamics in savannas and forests of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India. *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, 34(6).
3. #Rao, R. Y., **Sankaran, M.**, Jathanna, D., & Andheria, A. (2025). Assessing ungulate response to conservation-oriented village relocations and their associated management practices in a tiger reserve in central India. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 1-16.
4. #Shaheen, I., Malik, R. A., **Sankaran, M.**, & Shah, M. A. (2025). Differential impacts of grazing on grassland plant diversity, biomass, soil C, and soil N across an elevation gradient. *Ecological Applications*, 35(3), e70031.
5. Murali, A., Kasinathan, S., Bhat, K., Ratnam, J., **Sankaran, M.**, Mudappa, D., ... & Osuri, A. M. (2025). Structure and dynamics of secondary and mature rainforests: insights from South Asian long-term monitoring plots. *Plant Ecology & Diversity*, 1-13.
6. Benitez, L. M., Parr, C. L., **Sankaran, M.**, & Ryan, C. M. (2025). Fragmentation in patchy ecosystems: a call for a functional approach. *Trends in ecology & evolution*. 40(1): 27-36.
7. Joshi, A. A., Ratnam, J., Paramjyothi, H., & **Sankaran, M.** (2024). Climate and vegetation collectively drive soil respiration in montane forest-grassland landscapes of the southern Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Tropical Ecology*, 40, e16.

8. Jhaveri, R., Cannanbilla, L., Bhat, K. A., **Sankaran, M.**, & Krishnadas, M. (2024). Anatomical traits explain drought response of seedlings from wet tropical forests. *Ecology and Evolution*, 14(9), e70155.
9. Pratzer, M. et al (including **Sankaran M**) (2024). An actor-centered, scalable land system typology for addressing biodiversity loss in the world's tropical dry woodlands. *Global Environmental Change*, 86, 102849.
10. Maes, S. L et al (including **Sankaran M**) (2024). Explore before you restore: Incorporating complex systems thinking in ecosystem restoration. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 61(5), 922-939.
11. Pörtner, H. O. et al. (including **Sankaran M**) (2023). Overcoming the coupled climate and biodiversity crises and their societal impacts. *Science*, 380(6642), eabl4881.
12. Bakker, J. D. et al. (including **Sankaran M**) (2023). Compositional variation in grassland plant communities. *Ecosphere*, 14(6), e4542.
13. Srivathsa, A. et al. (including **Sankaran, M**) (2023). Prioritizing India's landscapes for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being. *Nature Sustainability* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-023-01063-2>.
14. Daleo, P. et al. (including **Sankaran, M**) (2023). Environmental heterogeneity modulates the effect of plant diversity on the spatial variability of grassland biomass. *Nature Communications* 14, 1809 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-37395-y>
15. #Anujan, K., Ratnam, J., & **Sankaran, M.** (2022). Chronic browsing by an introduced mammalian herbivore in a tropical island alters species composition and functional traits of forest understory plant communities. *Biotropica*, 54(5), 1248-1258.
16. Karkarey, R., Arthur, R., Nash, K. L., Pratchett, M. S., **Sankaran, M.**, & Graham, N. A. (2022). Spatial decoupling of α and β diversity suggest different management needs for coral reef fish along an extensive mid-oceanic ridge. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, e02110.
17. Smith, M. D et al. (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2022). Richness, not evenness, varies across water availability gradients in grassy biomes on five continents. *Oecologia*, 199(3), 649-659.
18. Coetsee, C., Wigley, B.J., **Sankaran, M.**, Ratnam, J., & Augustine, D. J. (2022). Contrasting Effects of Grazing vs Browsing Herbivores Determine Changes in Soil Fertility in an East African Savanna. *Ecosystems* 26: 161-173.
19. #Rastogi, S., Chanchani, P., **Sankaran, M.**, & Warriar, R. (2022) Grasslands half-full: investigating drivers of spatial heterogeneity in ungulate occurrence in Indian Terai. *Journal of Zoology* 316(2): 139-153.
20. Ebeling, A. et al. (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2022). Nutrient enrichment increases invertebrate herbivory and pathogen damage in grasslands. *Journal of Ecology* 110 (2): 327-339.
21. #Raghurama, M. & **Sankaran, M.** (2022). Invasive alien plants increase nitrogen availability and cycling rates in a montane tropical grassland. *Plant Ecology*. doi: 10.1007/s11258-021-01188-4.

22. Arnillas, C. A. et al. (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2021). Opposing community assembly patterns for dominant and nondominant plant species in herbaceous ecosystems globally. *Ecology and Evolution* 11 (24): 17744-17761.
23. Bardgett, R. D. et al. (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2021). Combatting global grassland degradation. *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-021-00207-2>.
24. Coverdale, T. C., O'Connell, R. D., Hutchinson, M. C., Savagian, A, Kartzinel, T. R., Palmer, T. M. Goheen, J. R., Augustine, D. J. **Sankaran, M.**, Tarnita, C. E. & Pringle, R. M. (2021). Large herbivores suppress liana infestation in an African savanna. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 (41) e2101676118; doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2101676118.
25. #Raghurama, M. & **Sankaran, M.** (2021). Restoring tropical forest-grassland mosaics invaded by woody exotics. *Restoration Ecology*. doi: 10.1111/rec.13491.
26. Tognetti et al. (including **Sankaran, M** as last author) (2021). Losing the beans: nitrogen overrides positive effects of phosphorus on grassland legumes worldwide. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 118 (28) e2023718118; doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2023718118
27. Pörtner, H.O., Scholes, R.J., et al. (including **Sankaran, M**) (2021). IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change; IPBES and IPCC. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.4782538.
28. Krishnadas, M., **Sankaran, M.**, Page, N., Joshi, J., Machado, S., Nataraj, N., Chengappa, S. K., Kumar, V., Kumar, A. & Krishnamani, R. (2021). Seasonal drought regulates species distributions and assembly of tree communities in a tropical wet forest. *Global Ecology & Biogeography*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.13350>
29. #Ongole, S., Teegalapalli, K., Venkateshwarlu, Ratnam, J. & **Sankaran, M.** (2021). Functional traits predict tree-level phenological strategies in a mesic Indian savanna. *Biotropica*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/btp.12993>
30. Riedel, N., Fuller, D.Q., Marwan, N. et al. (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2021). Monsoon forced evolution of savanna and the spread of agro-pastoralism in peninsular India. *Scientific Reports* 11, 9032 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-88550-8>
31. #Varma, V. & **Sankaran, M.** (2021). Nutrient deposition enhances post-fire survival in non-N-fixing savanna tree seedlings. *Journal of Vegetation Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13020>.
32. Kohli, M., Mijiddorj, T. N., Suryawanshi, K. R., Mishra, C., Boldgiv, B., & **Sankaran, M.** (2021). Grazing and climate change have site-dependent interactive effects on vegetation in Asian montane rangelands. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 58 (3), 539-549. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13781>
33. Bawa, K. S. et al (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2021). Securing biodiversity, securing our future: A national Mission on biodiversity and human well-being for India. *Biological Conservation*, 253, 108867.

34. Bawa, K. S. et al (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2020). Opinion: Envisioning a biodiversity science for sustaining human well-being. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(42), 25951-25955.
35. Hautier, Y. et al (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2020). General destabilizing effects of eutrophication on grassland productivity at multiple spatial scales. *Nature Communications* 12, 630 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-20997-9>
36. Borer, E.T. et al (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2020). Nutrients cause grassland biomass to outpace herbivory. *Nature Communications* 12, 590. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-20985-z>
37. Wigley, B. J., Augustine, D. J., Coetsee, C., Ratnam, J., & **Sankaran, M.** (2020). Grasses continue to trump trees at soil carbon sequestration following herbivore exclusion in a semiarid African savanna. *Ecology*, 101(5), e03008. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3008>
38. Willemsen, L., et al (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2020). How to halt the global decline of lands. *Nature Sustainability*, 3(3), 164-166.
39. Osuri, A. M., Machado, S., Ratnam, J., **Sankaran, M.**, et (2020). Tree diversity and carbon storage cobenefits in tropical human-dominated landscapes. *Conservation Letters*, 13(2), e12699.
40. #Sriramamurthy, R. T., Bhalla, R. S., & **Sankaran, M.** (2020). Fire differentially affects mortality and seedling regeneration of three woody invaders in forest–grassland mosaics of the southern Western Ghats, India. *Biological Invasions*, 22 (5), 1623-1634.
41. #Joshi, A. A., Ratnam, J. & **Sankaran, M.** (2020). Frost maintains forests and grasslands as alternate states in a montane tropical forest-grassland mosaic; but alien tree invasion and warming can disrupt this balance. *Journal of Ecology* 108: 122 - 132. (**this paper was awarded the John L. Harper prize for 2020**).
42. Coverdale, T. C., McGeary, I. J., O'Connell, R. D., Palmer, T. M., Goheen, J. R., **Sankaran, M.**, et al. (2019). Strong but opposing effects of associational resistance and susceptibility on defense phenotype in an African savanna plant. *Oikos*, 128(12), 1772-1782.
43. Augustine, D. J., Wigley, B. J., Ratnam, J., Kibet, S., Nyangito, M., & **Sankaran, M.** (2019). Large herbivores maintain a two-phase herbaceous vegetation mosaic in a semi-arid savanna. *Ecology and Evolution*, 9(22), 12779-12788.
44. Risch, A. C., et al. (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2019). Soil net nitrogen mineralisation across global grasslands. *Nature communications*, 10(1), 1-10.
45. **Sankaran, M.** (2019). Drought and the ecological future of tropical savanna vegetation. *Journal of Ecology*. 107:1531–1549.
46. #Tiruvaimozhi, Y. V. & **Sankaran, M.** (2019). Soil respiration in a tropical montane grassland ecosystem is largely heterotroph-driven and increases under simulated warming. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 276, 107619

47. Wigley, B. J., Coetsee, C., Kruger, L. M., Ratnam, J., & **Sankaran, M.** (2019). Ants, fire, and bark traits affect how African savanna trees recover following damage. *Biotropica*, 51(5), 682-691. (awarded the Julie S. Denslow prize for Outstanding Paper in Biotropica in 2020).
48. #Krishnan, L, Barua, D. & **Sankaran, M** (2019). Dry-forest tree species with large seeds and low specific stem density show greater survival under drought. *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 35 (1), 26-33.
49. Ratnam, J., Chengappa, S. K., Machado, S., Nataraj, N., Osuri, A. M., & **Sankaran, M.** (2019). Functional traits of trees from dry deciduous 'forests' of southern India suggest seasonal drought and fire are important drivers. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 7, 8.
50. Wigley, B. J., Coetsee, C., Augustine, D. J., Ratnam, J., Hattas, D. & Sankaran, M. (2019). A thorny issue: woody plant defense and growth in an African savanna. *Journal of Ecology* 107: 1839-51. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.13140>
51. Koerner, S.E et al (including **Sankaran M**) (2018). Change in dominance determines herbivore effects on plant diversity. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 2 (12) 1925 - 1932.
52. #Varma, V., Catherin A. M & **Sankaran, M.** (2018). Effects of increased N and P availability on biomass allocation and root carbohydrate reserves differ between N-fixing and non-N-fixing savanna tree seedlings. *Ecology & Evolution* 8 (16): 8467 - 8476.
53. #Ongole, S., **Sankaran, M.**, & Karanth, K. K. (2018). Responses of aerial insectivorous bats to local and landscape-level features of coffee agroforestry systems in Western Ghats, India. *PloS one*, 13(8), e0201648.
54. #Joshi, A., Ratnam, J. & **Sankaran M.** (2018). 'Foresteering' the grassland: Historical management legacies in forest-grassland mosaics in Southern India, and lessons for the conservation of tropical grassy biomes. *Biological Conservation* 224: 142-152.
55. Goheen JR, Augustine DJ, Veblen KE, Kimuyu DM, Palmer TM, Porensky LM, Pringle RM, Ratnam J, Riginos C, **Sankaran M**, Ford AT et al (2018). Conservation lessons from large-mammal manipulations in East African savannas: the KLEE, UHURU, and GLADE experiments. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*. 1429 (1), 31-49. doi: 10.1111/nyas.13848
56. #Wordley, C. F., **Sankaran, M.**, Mudappa, D., & Altringham, J. D. (2018). Heard but not seen: Comparing bat assemblages and study methods in a mosaic landscape in the Western Ghats of India. *Ecology & Evolution* 8 (8): 3883-3894.
57. Anderson, T. M. et al. (including **Sankaran, M**). (2018). Herbivory and eutrophication mediate grassland plant nutrient responses across a global climatic gradient. *Ecology* 99 (4): 822-831.
58. #Pillai, A.A.S, Anoop, A., Prasad, V., Manoj, M. C., Varghese, S., **Sankaran, M.** & Ratnam, J. (2018). Multi-proxy evidence for an arid shift in the climate and vegetation of the Banni grasslands of western India during the mid- to late-Holocene. *The Holocene* 28 (7): 1057-1070.

59. #Tiruvaimozhi, Y.V., Varma, V. & **Sankaran, M.** (2018) Nitrogen fixation ability explains leaf chemistry and arbuscular mycorrhizal responses to fertilization. *Plant Ecology* 219 (4): 391-401.
60. Scholes, R. J. et al. (including **Sankaran M**) (2018). "IPBES (2018): Summary for policymakers of the assessment report on land degradation and restoration of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services."
61. Barger, N., Gardner, T., **Sankaran, M.** et al. (2018). Direct and indirect drivers of land degradation and restoration. Chapter 3: The IPBES assessment report on land degradation and restoration, IPBES.
62. Prasad, A., Ratnam, J., & **Sankaran, M.** (2018). Rainfall and removal method influence eradication success for Lantana camara. *Biological Invasions*, 20(12), 3399-3407.
63. Hautier, Y. et al. (including **Sankaran M**) (2018). Local loss and spatial homogenization of plant diversity reduce ecosystem multifunctionality. *Nature ecology & evolution* 2: 50 - 56.
64. #Pillai, A. A., Anoop, A., **Sankaran, M.**, Sanyal, P., Jha, D. K., & Ratnam, J. (2017). Mid-late Holocene vegetation response to climatic drivers and biotic disturbances in the Banni grasslands of western India. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 485: 869-878.
65. #Iyengar, S. B., Bagchi, S., Barua, D., Mishra, C., & **Sankaran, M.** (2017) A dominant dwarf shrub increases diversity of herbaceous plant communities in a Trans-Himalayan rangeland. *Plant Ecology* 218: 843-854.
66. #Wordley, C. F., **Sankaran, M.**, Mudappa, D., & Altringham, J. D. (2017). Bats in the Ghats: Agricultural intensification reduces functional diversity and increases trait filtering in a biodiversity hotspot in India. *Biological Conservation* 210: 48-55.
67. Dohn, J., Augustine, D. J., Ratnam, J., Hanan, N. P & **Sankaran, M.** (2017). Spatial vegetation patterns and neighborhood competition among woody plants in an East African savanna. *Ecology* 98: 478–488, DOI: 10.1002/ecy.1659.
68. #Wordley, C. F. R., Foui, E. K., Mudappa, D., **Sankaran, M.** & Altringham, J. D (2016). Range extension of the endangered Salim Ali's Fruit Bat *Latidens salimalii* (Chiroptera: Pteropodidae) in the Anamalai Hills, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 8(12): 9486 – 9490.
69. #Varma, V., Iyengar, S. B. & **Sankaran, M.** (2016). Effects of nutrient addition and soil drainage on germination of N-fixing and non-N-fixing tropical dry forest tree species. *Plant Ecology*. DOI 10.1007/s11258-016-0630-9.
70. Ratnam, J., Tomlinson, K., Rasquinha, D. & **Sankaran, M.** (2016). Savannas of Asia: evidence for antiquity, current day biogeography and an uncertain future. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B* 371: 20150305. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2015.0305>.
71. #Osuri AM, Ratnam J, Varma V, Alvarez-Loayza P, Hurtado Astaiza J, Bradford M, Fletcher C, Breuer-Ndoundou HM, Jansen PA, Kenfack D, Marshall AR, Ramesh BR, Rovero F &

- Sankaran M** (2016). Contrasting effects of defaunation on aboveground carbon storage across the global tropics *Nature Communications* DOI: 10.1038/ncomms11351
72. #Osuri, A. M. & **Sankaran, M.** (2016). Seed size predicts shifts in tree community composition and aboveground carbon storage in response to rainforest fragmentation in India's Western Ghats. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 53: 837-845.
 73. #Rasquinha, D. N & **Sankaran M** (2016) Biome shifts in the Indian subcontinent under scenarios of future climate change. *Current Science* 111: 147 – 156.
 74. #Wordley, C. F., **Sankaran, M.**, Mudappa, D., & Altringham, J. D. (2015). Landscape scale habitat suitability modelling of bats in the Western Ghats of India: Bats like something in their tea. *Biological Conservation* 191: 529-536.
 75. Seabloom, E. W. et al. (including **Sankaran M**) (2015). Plant species' origin predicts dominance and response to nutrient enrichment and herbivores in global grasslands. *Nature communications* 6 Article number: 7710 doi:10.1038/ncomms8710
 76. #Varma, V., Ratnam, J., Viswanathan, V., Osuri, A. M., Biesmeijer, J. C., Madhusudan, M. D., **Sankaran, M** et al (2015). Perceptions of priority issues in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in India. *Biological Conservation* 187: 201-211.
 77. Krishnaswamy, J., Vaidyanathan, S., Rajagopalan, B., Bonell, M., **Sankaran, M.**, Bhalla, R. S. & Badiger, S. (2015). Non-stationary and non-linear influence of ENSO and Indian Ocean Dipole on the variability of Indian monsoon rainfall and extreme rain events. *Climate Dynamics* 45: 175 - 184.
 78. #Osuri, A. M., Madhusudan, M. D., Kumar, V. S., Chengappa, S. K., Kushalappa, C. G. & **Sankaran, M.** (2014). Spatio-temporal variation in forest cover and biomass across sacred groves in a human-modified landscape of India's Western Ghats. *Biological Conservation* 178: 193 - 199.
 79. #Osuri, A. M., Kumar, V. S & **Sankaran, M.** (2014). Altered stand structure and tree allometry reduce carbon storage in evergreen forest fragments in India's Western Ghats. *Forest Ecology & Management* 329: 375 – 383.
 80. #Wordley, C. F., Foui, E. K., Mudappa, D., **Sankaran, M.**, & Altringham, J. D. (2014). Acoustic Identification of Bats in the Southern Western Ghats, India. *Acta Chiropterologica*, 16(1), 213-222.
 81. #Kohli, M., Suryavanshi, K. S., **Sankaran, M.** & Mishra, C. (2014). A penny saved is a penny earned: lean season foraging strategy of an alpine ungulate. *Animal Behaviour* 92: 93-100.
 82. Hautier, Y. et al. (including **M. Sankaran**) (2014). Eutrophication weakens stabilizing effects of diversity in natural grasslands. *Nature* 508: 521 – 525.
 83. Lehmann, C., T.M. Anderson, **M. Sankaran**, S.I. Higgins, S. Archibald, W.A. Hoffmann, N.P. Hanan, R.J. Williams, R. Fensham, J. Felfili, L. Hutley, J. Ratnam, J. San Jose, R. Montes, D. Franklin, J. Russell-Smith, C. M. Ryan, G. Durigan, P. Hiernaux, R. Haidar, D. M. J. S.

- Bowman & W.J. Bond (2014). Savanna vegetation-fire-climate relationships differ between continents. *Science* **343**: 548 - 552.
84. Seabloom, E. W. et al. (including **Sankaran M**) (2013). Predicting invasion in grassland ecosystems: is exotic dominance the real embarrassment of richness? *Global Change Biology* **19**: 3677 - 3687.
85. **Sankaran, M.** Ratnam, J. & Augustine D. J. (2013). Native ungulates of diverse body sizes collectively regulate long-term woody plant demography and structure of a semi-arid savanna. *Journal of Ecology* **101**: 1389 – 1399.
86. Moustakas A., Kunin, W. E., Cameron, T. C. & Sankaran, M. (2013). Facilitation or competition? Tree effects on grass biomass across a precipitation gradient. *PLoS ONE* **8**(2): e57025. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0057025
87. #Velho, N., Ratnam, J., Srinivasan, U. & **Sankaran, M.** (2012). Shifts in community structure of tropical trees and avian frugivores in forests recovering from past logging. *Biological Conservation* **153**: 32-40.
88. Ratnam, J., Bond, W. J., Fensham, R. J., Hoffmann, W. A., Archibald, S., Lehmann, C. E. R., Andersen, M. T., Higgins, S. I. & **Sankaran, M.** (2011). When is a forest a savanna and why does it matter? *Global Ecology & Biogeography* **20**: 653 - 660.
89. Moustakas, A., Wiegand, K., Meyer, K. M., Ward, D. & **Sankaran, M.** (2010). Learning new tricks from old trees: revisiting the savanna question. *Frontiers of Biogeography* **2.2**: 49 – 55.
90. Higgins, S.I., Scheiter, S. & **Sankaran, M.** (2010). The stability of African savannas: insights from the indirect estimation of the parameters of a dynamic model. *Ecology* **91**: 1682-1692.
91. **Sankaran, M.** (2009). Diversity patterns in savanna grassland communities: implications for conservation strategies in a biodiversity hotspot. *Biodiversity & Conservation* **18**: 1099-1115.
92. Srivastava, D. S., Cardinale B. J., Downing A. L., Duffy J.E., Jouseau C, **Sankaran, M.** & Wright J. P. (2009). Diversity has stronger top-down than bottom-up effects on decomposition. *Ecology* **90**: 1073 – 1083.
93. Cardinale, B. J., D. S. Srivastava, J. E. Duffy, J. P. Wright, A. L. Downing, **M. Sankaran**, C. Jouseau, M. W. Cadotte, I. T. Carroll, J. J. Weis, A. Hector, and M. Loreau. (2009). Effects of biodiversity on the functioning of ecosystems: A summary of 164 experimental manipulations of species richness. *Ecology* (Data Paper) **90** (3): 854.
94. Ratnam, J., **Sankaran, M.**, Hanan N. P., Grant, R. C & Zambatis, N. (2008). Nutrient resorption patterns of plant functional groups in a tropical savanna: variation and functional significance. *Oecologia* **157** (1): 141 – 151.
95. **Sankaran, M.**, Ratnam, J & Hanan, N. P. (2008). Woody cover in African savannas: the role of resources, fire and herbivory. *Global Ecology & Biogeography*. **17**: 236 - 245.
96. Grace, J. B., Anderson, M. T., Smith, M., Seabloom, E., Andelman, S., Meche, G., Weiher, E., Allain, L. K., Jutila, H., **Sankaran, M.**, Knops, J., Ritchie, M.E. & Willig, M. R. (2007). Does

species diversity limit productivity in natural grassland communities? *Ecology Letters* 10: 680 – 689.

97. Cardinale, B. J., Srivastava, D. S., Duffy, J. E., Wright, J. P., Downing, A. L., **Sankaran, M.** & Jouseau, C. (2006). Effects of biodiversity on the functioning of trophic groups and ecosystems. *Nature* 443: 989 - 992.
98. **Sankaran, M.**, Niall P. Hanan, Robert J. Scholes, Jayashree Ratnam, Brian S. Cade, Jonas Ardo, David J. Augustine, Feetham Banyikwa, Andries Bronn, Gabriela Bucini, Kelly K. Caylor, Michael B. Coughenour, Alioune Diouf, Wellington Ekaya, Christie J. Feral, Edmund C. February, Peter G. H. Frost, Jacques Gignoux, Pierre Hiernaux, Steven I. Higgins, Halszka Hrabar, Xavier Le Roux, Fulco Ludwig, Kristine L. Metzger, Herbert H. T. Prins, Susan Ringrose, William Sea, Jörg Tews, Jeff Worden, Nick Zambatis. (2005). Determinants of woody cover in African savannas. *Nature* 438: 846 - 849.
99. Bunker, D. E., De Clerck, F., Bradford, J. C., Colwell, R. K., Perfecto, I., Phillips, O., **Sankaran, M.** & Naeem, S. (2005). Species Loss and Above-ground Carbon Storage in a Tropical Forest. *Science* 310: 1029-1031.
100. **Sankaran, M.** (2005). Fire, grazing and the dynamics of tall-grass savannas in the Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve. *Conservation & Society* 3(1): 4 – 25.
101. **Sankaran, M.**, Ratnam, J & Hanan, N. P. (2004). Tree grass coexistence in savannas revisited – insights from an examination of assumptions and mechanisms invoked in existing models. *Ecology Letters* 7: 480-490.
102. **Sankaran, M.** & Augustine, D. J. (2004). Large herbivores suppress microbial abundance in a semi-arid grazing ecosystem. *Ecology* 85(4): 1052-1061.
103. **Sankaran, M.** & McNaughton, S. J. (1999). Determinants of biodiversity regulate compositional stability of communities. *Nature* 401: 691-693.

Book chapters, proceedings and communications

104. Pilon, N., Peixoto, F., Oliveira, R. S., Oliveira, A. C. C., Alquéres, J., Alvarado, S., ... & Durigan, G. (2025). Open letter: There are more than just trees and forests to be conserved and restored. Plants, People, Planet.
105. Veldman, J. W., et al. (including **Sankaran, M.**) (2019). Comment on “The global tree restoration potential”. *Science*, 366(6463), eaay7976.
106. Ratnam, J., Sheth, C., & **Sankaran, M.** (2019). African and Asian Savannas: Comparisons of Vegetation Composition and Drivers of Vegetation Structure and Function. In *Savanna Woody Plants and Large Herbivores*, PF Scogings & M Sankaran (eds), Wiley, pp 25-49.
107. Augustine, D. J., Scogings, P. F., & **Sankaran, M.** (2019). Mesobrowser Abundance and Effects on Woody Plants in Savannas. In *Savanna Woody Plants and Large Herbivores*, PF Scogings & M Sankaran (eds), Wiley, pp 551-583.
108. Scogings, P. F., & **Sankaran, M.** (2019). Woody Plants and Large Herbivores in Savannas: Ancient Past–Uncertain Future. In *Savanna Woody Plants and Large Herbivores*, PF Scogings & M Sankaran (eds), Wiley, pp 683-712.

109. Griffith, D. M., Lehmann, C. E., Strömberg, C. A., Parr, C. L., Pennington, R. T., **Sankaran, M.**, Ratnam, J. et al. (2017). Comment on “The extent of forest in dryland biomes”. *Science* 358 (6365), eaao1309.
110. **Sankaran, M.** (2016). Grazing and fire effects on community and ecosystem processes in tall-grass mesic savannas in southern India. In *The ecology of large herbivores in South & South East Asia*, FS Ahrestani & M Sankaran (eds), Springer pp 187 - 205.
111. Ahrestani, F. S. & **Sankaran, M.** (2016). The large herbivores of south and southeast Asia: a prominent but neglected guild. In *The ecology of large herbivores in South & South East Asia*, FS Ahrestani & M Sankaran (eds), Springer pp 1 - 13.
112. **Sankaran, M.** & Ahrestani, F. S. (2016). Large herbivores of south and southeast Asia: synthesis and future directions. In *The ecology of large herbivores in South & South East Asia*, FS Ahrestani & M Sankaran (eds), Springer pp 237 - 249.
113. Marthews, T. R., Nelaballi, S., Ratnam, J. & Sankaran, M. (2015) Ecosystem monitoring and forest census studies in South Asia. *Current Science* 108: 1779 - 1782.
114. **Sankaran, M.** & Ratnam, J. 2013. African and Asian Savannas. In ‘Encyclopedia of Biodiversity’ 2nd Edition. Simon Levin (Editor-in-Chief). Elsevier Press pp 58 – 74.
115. **Sankaran, M.** & McNaughton, S. J. 2012. Terrestrial plant-herbivore interactions: Integrating across multiple determinants and trophic levels. In *Vegetation Ecology* 2nd Edition (ed.) van der Maarel, E. Blackwell Science, Oxford pp 233-259.
116. Duffy, J. E., Srivastava, D. S., McLaren, J., **Sankaran, M.**, Solan, M., Griffin, J., Emmerson, M. & Jones, K. E. 2009. Forecasting decline in ecosystem services under realistic scenarios of extinction. In *Biodiversity, Ecosystem Functioning, and Human Wellbeing: An Ecological and Economic Perspective*. Shahid Naeem, Daniel E. Bunker, Andy Hector, Michel Loreau & Charles Perrings (eds). Oxford University Press. pp 60: 77.
117. **Sankaran, M.** & Anderson T. M. 2009. Management and restoration in African Savannas: Interactions and feedbacks. In *New Models for Ecosystem Dynamics and Restoration*, Richard Hobbs & Kate Suding (eds). Island Press. Pp 136 – 155.
118. Varma, V., Moustakas, A. and **Sankaran, M.** 2009. Effects of fire and density on patch survival and growth in savannas. In *Vegetation Processes and Human Impact in a Changing World*. 52nd IAVS International Symposium Abstracts, Chania, Crete. Wiley-Blackwell.
119. Ojima, D. S., Wall, D. H., Moore, J., Galvin, K., Hobbs, N. T., Hunt, W. H., Paustian, K., Swift, D., Boone, R. B., Conant, R. T., Klein, J., Christensen, L., **Sankaran, M.**, Ratnam, J., Ayres, E., Steltzer, H., Simmons, B. and Williams, G. 2006. Don’t sell social science short. *Science* 312: 1470.
120. **Sankaran, M.** & McNaughton, S. J. 2005. Terrestrial plant-herbivore interactions: Integrating across multiple determinants and trophic levels. In *Vegetation Ecology* (ed.) van der Maarel, E. Blackwell Science, Oxford. pp 265-285.
121. **Sankaran, M.** 2001. Vegetation classification and land-cover change in the Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, south India, as inferred from satellite imagery: implications

for conservation of a bio-diversity hotspot. In *Tropical Ecosystems: Structure, Diversity and Human Welfare*, K. N. Ganeshaiah, R. Uma Shaanker, K. S. Bawa (eds.), Oxford & IBH Publishing, New Delhi, pp 145-149.

122. **Sankaran, M.** & McNaughton S. J. 2001. Dry season nitrogen dynamics in three contrasting savanna grassland communities: temporal patterns and the effects of fire and grazing. In *Tropical Ecosystems: Structure, Diversity and Human Welfare (Supplement)*, K. N. Ganeshaiah, R. Uma Shaanker, K. S. Bawa (eds.), Oxford & IBH Publishing, New Delhi, pp 61-62.

Books

1. Ahrestani, F. S. & **Sankaran, M.** (eds) (2016). *The ecology of large herbivores in South & South East Asia*, Ecological Studies 225, Springer.
2. Scogings, P.F. & **Sankaran, M.** (eds) (2019). *Savanna woody plants and large herbivores*. Wiley.

Selected presentations, conferences & workshops

- 2025 “Forest grassland mosaics: Past, present and future”, Indian Conservation Conference 2025, Dehradun (*invited plenary*), Jun 2025; “Of grasses & grazers, fire and rain”, Nature Conservation Foundation (*invited talk*), Jun 2025; “The untold story of grasses”, Science Gallery, Bengaluru (*invited talk*), May 2025; “Forest grassland mosaics: Past, present and future”, Healing Earth 5.0, Ashoka University (*invited presentation*), May 2025; “Ecological integrity in savannas & grasslands”, IUCN Task Force meeting on Ecological Integrity, University of Melbourne, Australia, Mar 2025 (*invited talk*); “Towards an ecological understanding of Open Natural Ecosystems in the Indian peninsula region”, Kawal Bird Festival, Telangana Forest Department, Mancherla, Telangana, March 2025 (*invited talk*) “Legacy impacts of woody plant invasions in the upper Nilgiris: implications for restoration”, AIWC symposium, Chennai, Feb 2025.
- 2024 “Impacts of woody plant invasions on community and ecosystem processes in montane forest-grassland ecosystems of the Western Ghats, India”, Association for Tropical Biology ATBC 2024, Kigali, Rwanda, July 2024; ‘Tree demography & carbon dynamics in Indian forests: Insights from a network of monitoring plots’, Indian Wildlife Ecology Conference (IWEC), Bengaluru, June 2024; ‘Climate change and the future of grasslands’, National Workshop on the 'Impacts of Climate Change on Soil and Land', Karnataka Science & Technology Association, Bengaluru, June 2024 (*invited speaker*); ‘The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve: habitat and species diversity’, Nilgiriscares, Conoor, TN, June 2024 (*invited speaker*); Shola-grassland restoration network meeting, Conoor, TN, June 2024 (*invited participant*); ‘Savanna dynamics: balancing tree cover for ecosystem resilience and community wellbeing’, NASA SARI Synthesis Meeting on Scientific Foundations of Natural Climate Solutions in Tree Based Systems of LCLUC in South Asia, Ashoka University, April 9-11, 2024 (*invited speaker*).

- 2023 Panel Discussion on Climate Change (Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru August 2023; *invited participant*); Restoring ecosystem cycles (Restoration Workshop; Nature Conservation Foundation, Valparai, May 2023; *invited speaker*).
- 2022 ATREE@25, Bengaluru (*invited speaker*); Workshop on 'Effects of Climate Change on Himalayan Biodiversity', U. Chicago & Delhi University, New Delhi (*invited speaker*); Carbon Summer School, Science Gallery, Bengaluru (*invited speaker*); Webinar on Understanding India's Open Natural Ecosystems (*invited speaker*); IPBES Dialogue Workshop for Asia and the Pacific, IPBES (*invited participant*); Civil Society Dialogue on Forestry and Land Management to Achieve Climate Change, Land Degradation and Biodiversity Goals, organized by iFOREST (*invited participant*); ICAR-Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, India (*invited speaker*); International Seminar on Ecosystem Functioning in the Anthropocene, Centre for Advanced Study in Botany, Banaras Hindu University, India (*invited speaker*).
- 2021 IAVS 63rd Annual Symposium, Online (*Plenary Lecture*); Tropical forest resilience and restoration workshop, Leuven, Belgium (*Invited speaker*)
- 2016-2020 IPCC-IPBES joint workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change (*Invited Participant*); Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Kerala, India (*Invited presentation*); Webinar on Biodiversity and Pandemics, Bangalore Sustainability Forum, India (*organizer*); Webinar on the National Mission on Biodiversity & Human well-being, Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity Collaborative, India (*Organizer*); Webinar on the National Mission on Biodiversity & Human well-being, Climate change & Disaster mitigation, Biodiversity Collaborative, India (*Organizer*); Bangalore Sustainability Forum: Biodiversity Retreat, Bengaluru, India, (*co-organizer*); Bangalore Sustainability Forum: Water Retreat, Bengaluru, India (*co-organizer*); Workshop on drivers of grassland degradation and restoration, Murren, Switzerland (*Invited Participant*); Nagaland State Council for Science & Technology, Kohima, Nagaland, India (*Invited presentation*); Workshop on drivers of grassland degradation and restoration, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK (*invited participant*); XII Agricultural Science Congress, UAS, Bangalore (*invited presentation*); Frontiers of Biology Meeting, Coorg, India. (*Invited Participant*); IPBES, Bonn, Germany (*Coordinating lead author*); StoichNutNet, Leipzig, Germany (*Invited Participant*).
- Before 2015 National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore; Jain University, Bangalore, India (*Invited presentation*); Curtin University, Perth, Australia (*Invited presentation*); Okinawa Institute of Science & Technology, Okinawa, Japan (*Invited lecturer*); Indo-US Frontiers of Science Symposium, Agra, India (*Invited presentation*); Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, India (*Invited presentation*); Research & Monitoring in the Banni Landscape, Bhuj, Gujarat, India (*Invited presentation*); Mammalian herbivory and savanna structure, Mammal Research Institute, Bialowieza, Poland (*Invited workshop participant*); ARC-NZ Working Group, Darwin, NT, Australia (*Invited workshop participant*); National

Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, India (*Invited presentation*); Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER), Pune, India (*Invited presentation*); Institute of Environmental Sciences, Universität Zürich, Switzerland (*Invited presentation*); University of Groningen, The Netherlands (*Invited presentation*); Horizon scanning India workshop (UKIERI) NCBS, Bangalore, India (*Organizer*); Pollinators and pollination in a changing world, UKIERI, NCBS, Bangalore, India (*Workshop Organizer*); Cross continental comparison of savanna dynamics, ARC-NZ Vegetation Function Working Group, Sydney, Australia (*Invited participant*); Linking biodiversity, ecosystem services and conservation, UKIERI, NCBS, Bangalore, India (*Workshop Organizer*); The next generation of biodiversity research & Biodiversity and carbon sequestration, DIVERSITAS workshop, Sabah, Malaysia (*Invited participant*); The interface between intrinsic and extrinsic drivers.' NSF BioMERGE workshops (*Invited Participant*); Differing perceptions, Common grounds: Complexity in African Savannas, Luiperdskloof Game Reserve, South Africa (*Co-organizer*).

Grants & Fellowships

Current

- 2024 – 2027: *Legacy effects of woody plant invasions in the montane forest-grassland mosaics of the Western Ghats*, SERB, Govt. of India (PI; INR ~60,00,000)
- 2023 – 2026: *Characterizing the sensitivity of Indian forests to droughts and extreme temperatures using functional traits*, DBT, Govt. of India (PI; INR ~1,05,00,000)
- 2023 – 2026: *Pastoral Ecologies in Alpine and Savannah Grasslands of India*, Centre for Pastoralism (co-PI; INR ~50,00,000)
- 2020 – 2026: *Long-term monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem processes in Indian grasslands*, Multi-institutional grant from the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MOEFCC), Govt. of India, Long Term Ecological Observatories (LTEO) program. (PI; INR ~3,20,00,000)
- 2018-2025: Bangalore Sustainability Forum consortium grant, WIPRO (co-PI; ~INR 30,00,000 annually).

Past Research Support

- *Precursor phase of the National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Wellbeing*, Multi-institutional grant from the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt. of India (co-PI; INR ~7,00,00,000)
- *Climatic and environmental controls of carbon budgets and the CO₂ source-sink potential of Indian tropical forests*. DST SERB (PI, INR ~45,00,000).
- *Shaping savanna landscapes: the long-term influence of large herbivores on the spatial organization of savanna ecosystems*. National Geographic Society (PI, \$14,300)
- *Carbon flux measurements in island rainforest ecosystems*, UKIERI (co-PI, INR 10,65,000)
- *Linking plant functional traits to ecosystem services across tropical forest communities in the Western Ghats*, Dept. Of Science & Technology, Govt. Of India (PI; INR 50,00,000)

- *Impacts of forestation on water cycle and hydrologic services in the Western Ghats: Response of forests and agro-ecosystems to extreme rainfall events.* NERC-MOES Changing water cycles grant (co-PI; INR 2,36,00,000)
- *Patterns and processes underlying complex ecological and social dynamics in an arid pastoral system,* Ford Foundation (co-PI; \$200,000)
- DBT Ramalingaswami Re-entry fellowship Contingency grant (PI; INR 25,00,000)
- *Programme support for technological innovations and ecological research for the sustainable use of bio-resources in the Sikkim Himalaya.* Dept of Biotechnology, India. (PI: INR 5,00,00,000).
- *Science Bridges: sustainable agriculture initiative.* RCUK-DST INDIA. (co-PI; £998,369).
- *Modeling the impacts of altered precipitation regimes on savannas: integrating plant demography, spatial structure and disturbance.* NERC. (PI; £370,000).
- *Linking biodiversity to ecosystem service in a global biodiversity hotspot.* UKIERI (co-PI, £149,340).
- *Bat communities in the Western Ghats: status, ecology & conservation,* CEPF Western Ghats program Small grant, PI: Sankaran M (\$15,000).
- Earth & Biosphere Institute Small Grant, University of Leeds (£1600)
- UKPopNet grant (£3600)
- WCS (India) Small Grants Program (\$1,000)
- Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund (\$1,500)
- Syracuse University Graduate School Creative Grants Competition (\$1,500)
- KMTR Forest Research Education & Extension Project (FREEP), World Bank (\$6,000)

Supervision

PhD Students

Nisha Owen (Leeds, UK) Graduated 2013
 Claire Wordley (Leeds, UK, co-supervisor), Graduated 2015
 M. O. Anand (NCBS, India), Graduated 2015
 Varun Varma (NCBS, India) Graduated 2017
 Anusree A.S (NCBS, India) Graduated 2018
 Yadugiri V.T. (NCBS, India), Graduated 2019
 Atul Joshi (NCBS, India), Graduated 2019
 Lalitha Krishnan (NCBS, India) Graduated 2021
 Manaswi Raghurama (NCBS, India) Graduated 2024
 Dayani Chakravarthy (NCBS, India) Graduated 2025
 Mukta Mande (NCBS, India) submitted 2025
 Kaikho D (NCBS, India) 2018 – present
 Aparna Krishnan (NCBS, India) 2022 – present

Post-doctoral

Aristides Moustakas (Leeds, UK) 2007-2010
 Bharath Sundaram (NCBS, India) 2011-2012
 Ayesha Prasad (NCBS, India) 2012 – 2014
 Asmita Sengupta (NCBS, India) 2016 – 2017

Joyshree Chanam (NCBS, India) 2014 - 2020
Benjamin Wigley (NCBS, India) 2015 – 2019
Karthik Teegalapalli (NCBS, India) 2016 – 2021
Sandeep Pulla (NCBS, India) 2018 – 2020
Rucha Karkarey (NCBS, India) 2018 - 2020
Sachin Sridhara (NCBS, India) 2018 – 2020
Mayank Kohli (NCBS, India) 2020 – 2021
Hansraj Gautam (NCBS, India) 2022 - 2024

Teaching

NCBS, India: Basics of Ecology, Plant-animal interactions, Community Ecology, Basic Statistics, Advanced Statistics
UoL, Leeds, UK Advanced Statistics, Ecology in a changing world, Living planet, Advanced topics in Plant-herbivore interactions, Field course in African Ecology

Service & Outreach

Associate Editor Journal of Ecology (2016 – present)

Subject Editor Biotropica (2014 – 2020)

Associate Editor Conservation and Society (2009-2012)

Manuscript reviews: Acta Oecologia, American Naturalist, Applied Vegetation Science, Australian Journal of Botany, Biogeochemistry, Biological Conservation, Biotropica, Current Science, Conservation & Society, Ecography, Ecology, Ecological Applications, Ecological Modeling, Ecology Letters, Ecosystems, Forages & Grazing Lands (e-journal), Frontiers in Ecology & Environment, Functional Ecology, Global Change Biology, Global Ecology & Biogeography, International Journal of Wildland Fire, Journal of Applied Ecology, Journal of Arid Environments, Journal of Biosciences, Journal of Ecology, Journal of Hydrology, Journal of Tropical Ecology, Journal of Vegetation Science, Land Degradation and Development, Nature Climate Change, New Phytologist, Oecologia, Oikos, Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics, Plant and Soil, Plant Ecology, Plant Ecology & Diversity, Restoration Ecology, Science.

Grant proposal reviews: DST (India), DBT (India), NERC (UK), NSF (USA), NSERC (Canada), IFS (Sweden), National Geographic Society (USA), CEPF (USA/India).

External examiner for PhD theses: University of Leeds (UK), University of Sheffield (UK), Rhodes University (South Africa), University of Kwazulu-Natal (South Africa), University of Cape Town (South Africa), University of Pretoria (South Africa), University of Nairobi (Kenya), Bharatidasan University (India), Bharatiar University (India), Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, Bangalore (India)

Scientific & Academic Advisory Boards/ Review committees

WWF India (2023 – present)

Indian Institute of Human Settlements (2022 – present)

Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, India (2017-2020)
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Bangalore, India (2009)
Foundation for Ecological Research and Literacy, Pondicherry, India (2009-11)
Institute of Bioresources & Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, India

Service

Task Force Committee for Inclusivity Research Grants, Anusandhan National Research Foundation, Govt. of India (2025 – Present)
Program Advisory Committee, Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences (PAC-EOAS), Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India (2024 – present)
Program Advisory Committee (PAC) member, Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB), Government of India, Organismal and Evolutionary Biology - Plant Sciences (2019 – present)
Expert Committee Member, Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities & other Higher Educational Institutions (FIST), Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, 2024
Expert Committee, SERB special call for ‘Plants in Extreme Environments (2022)
Technical Expert Committee, ‘Energy, Environment & Forest Biotechnology’, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India (2022 – present)
Review Editor for for upcoming IPCC AR7 report, Chapter 8, Working Group II (2025-present)
Section lead author for IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change (2021)
Review Editor for IPCC AR6 Special Report on “Climate change, Land use and Food security” (2019)
Coordinating Lead Author for chapter on ‘Direct and indirect drivers of land degradation’ as part of the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES; 2018)
Steering Committee, MSc Wildlife Biology & Conservation, NCBS (2021 – present)
Steering Committee, Bangalore Sustainability Forum (2018 – present)
Research Advisory Board, Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS) (2023 – present)
Research Advisory Board, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) (2023 – present)
Academic Committee, MSc Wildlife Biology & Conservation, NCBS/ CWS, Bangalore (2010-2016)
Steering Committee, MSc Wildlife Biology & Conservation, NCBS/ CWS, Bangalore (2012-16)
NCBS Institutional Committees: Library Committee (current), Sports committee (past), Transport Committee (past), Faculty hire committee (past), Security committee (past)

References

Available upon request