Conservation ecology is the branch of ecology and evolutionary biology that deals with the preservation and management of biodiversity and natural resources. It is a discipline that is emerging rapidly as a result of the accelerating deterioration of natural systems and the worldwide epidemic of species extinctions. Its goal is to find ways to conserve species, habitats, landscapes, and ecosystems as quickly, as efficiently, and as economically as possible. The theoretical base of conservation ecology is synthetic, based not only on principles of ecology but on those of genetics, systematics, population biology, and other disciplines.

The main aim of the seminar is to highlight the importance and value of biodiversity as well as review the basic concepts of ecology and conservation. Ecologists in diverse subfields ranging from behavioral ecology, conservation biology, and ecosystem theory are increasingly interacting with social scientists to address questions related to global environmental change. Understanding the fundamental character of linkages between human and natural systems is essential to explore solutions to environmental problems. Most ecosystems are strongly influenced by human activities, leading environmental problems such as global warming, degradation of biogeochemical and hydrological cycles, and threats to biodiversity.

Human activity in turn dynamically changes in response to alteration of ecosystem states. Because of the feedback between ecosystems and social systems, the study of coupled socio-economic and ecosystem dynamics has become an important research field in the environmental sciences, especially in sustainability sciences. In the fields of conservation biology and natural resource management, researchers have found that initiatives led by local stakeholders and communities can be much more effective than top-down driven efforts. The recent extreme rainfall and widespread flooding in Kerala exemplify the enormity of extreme rainfall and large-scale floods in India. The persistent and extreme rainfall occurred in August 2018 in Kerala affected all the aspects of human lives including socioeconomic conditions, transportation, infrastructure, agriculture, and livelihood and the potential causes (heavy rain and reservoir operations) of flood have been greatly debated. The Kerala flood of 2018 is probably the worst flood in a century and as per the preliminary estimates, the death of more than 440 people and economic damage exceeding $3 billion. The flood encourages us to judiciously utilize the environment and the ecological sustainability. This extreme environmental damage made us to rethink to integrate ecology, conservation, economic, social, and psychological factors in models of human decision-making, in order to inform successful ecosystem-based management. This special feature aims to introduce some theoretical trials to couple socio-economic decision-making and ecological dynamics.

Being one of the oldest Departments of the University, the Department of Zoology strives to promote the various aspects of the animal and ecological sciences by inculcating spirit of inquest, discipline and adventure. In this context we would like to bring all who involved in the Ecology and Conservation Research under one umbrella by organizing a National Seminar on Ecology and Conservation for making a platform to present and interact their research findings.

Structure of the Seminar

The seminar will be held in the Department of Zoology, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram. It features keynote address, lead talks and paper presentations by participants. Participants are requested to send papers related to the following themes for presentation.

Major Theme Areas in the Seminar

- Aquatic Ecology
- Biodiversity
- Environmental Pollution
- Flood Related Biodiversity Issues
- Global Warming/Climate Change and Conservation Challenges
- Parasitology and Vector Borne Diseases
- Post -Flood Conservation Challenges
- Taxonomy of Plants and Animals
- Terrestrial Ecology
- Wild Life Conservation etc.

Call for papers

Papers are invited on the above themes for oral/poster presentation session. A student prize will be awarded for the best presentation among the young scientists (Ph. D. and Post-doctoral students below 35 years). Those who intend to compete for the student prize should send two copies of full papers, proof of date of birth and a certificate from the Head of the Department/Research Supervisor that the work is bonafide.

Submission of Abstracts

Abstract of scientific papers on various themes not exceeding 500 words must be submitted on or before 10th January 2019 as an e-mail attachment and the name of the presenting author should be underlined. The abstract should be prepared in Times New Roman 12 point size. The title should be bold and followed by the author/s and the affiliation address in full along with e-mail. Organizers have a choice to select the abstract either for oral or poster presentation. Please e-mail the abstracts to: probios1@gmail.com.

Registration

Those persons intending to register for the Seminar should do so on or before 14th January 2019. To register, please contact the Organizing Secretary or send the Registration form directly to the organizing secretary.

The registration fee is

Rs. 1000/- for Faculty and Scientists

Rs. 750/- for Research Scholars.

Rs. 500/- for PG Students.

The payment can be made on the first day of the Seminar at the Registration desk. Registration includes the programme, Conference kit, morning and afternoon tea, lunch and grand dinner. For more details contact the Organizing Secretary.

Accommodation

Accommodation should be arranged by participants and local help will be provided by the organizers. Limited accommodation facility is available in the University Guest house which will be allotted on first come first serve basis.