

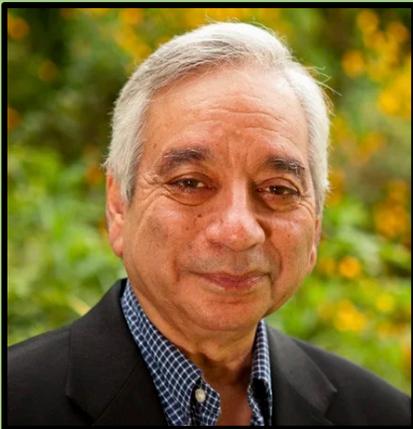


# Building Institutions for Sustainability Science: Opportunities and Challenges

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday): 3-4pm ET

Maxwell Dworkin G125 or on Zoom ([register here](#))

## Kamal Bawa



Twenty-five years ago, I founded ATREE, an interdisciplinary research organization focused on carrying out policy-oriented research, outreach, and education in the field of environmental conservation and sustainable development in India. ATREE generates rigorous interdisciplinary knowledge for achieving environmental conservation and sustainable development in a socially just manner, to enable the use of this knowledge by policymakers and society, and to train the next generation of scholars and leaders. I will talk about the history of ATREE, its work, and the impact it had on conservation and sustainable development. I will then address the current challenges as well as opportunities for advancing the sustainable development agenda using examples from two ATREE-led initiatives in biodiversity conservation and biodiversity science. I will conclude with suggestions for possible engagement of people outside India in biodiversity research in the country.

[Kamal Bawa](#) is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and Founder-President of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), ranked among the top 20 global environmental think tanks. For five decades Bawa has worked on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, setting up a number of institutions in India. He has received many international awards such as Gunnerus Prize in sustainability, Midori Prize in biodiversity, Linnean Medal, and honorary doctorates from the University of Alberta, and Concordia University. He is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society, the American Philosophical Society, and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Kamal Bawa is the founding Editor-in-Chief of [Conservation and Society](#) and Editor of [Ecology, Economy and Society](#).

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