

I'm a Geographer ...



David Lindenmayer

Professor of Ecology and Conservation Science, Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow, Research Director of the Threatened Species Research Hub

I studied Geography to Year 12, majored in Geography as part of my Diploma of Education at University of Adelaide in 1986, and taught and lectured in Landscape Ecology in the Department of Geography at The Australian National University.

I have worked as a forest ecologist since 1983, on an almost continuous basis since then. I have written more than 940 scientific articles on forests, woodlands and biodiversity in Australia and overseas, including 38 books.

I use Geography skills a lot in learning how to “read” a forest or woodland landscape – determining what factors influence where animals and plants occur and why they occur where they do. I also work with other geographers especially those that use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and computer-based mapping to help explain the population dynamics of animals as well as the landscape dynamics of forests and woodlands and the biodiversity they support.

I was inspired to study Geography many years ago – my parents used to go on epic car drives to far-off places in eastern and northern Australia when there were no DVD players, CD players, or even radios. I used to look at the Australian landscapes and wonder about how they came to be the way they are. Then I had excellent and inspiring teachers at school and created a passion for the kind of work I do now.

There are huge opportunities for geographers in careers through computer-based mapping and connecting such skills to how resources and biodiversity exist in landscapes, even more so with satellite imagery and related kinds of data and spatial coverage.