

Enhancing People's
Power for Claiming
Urban Climate
Justice



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1. Summary

Early urban climate resilience initiatives in India, largely supported by international networks, have primarily focused on strengthening state institutions and infrastructure systems. While these efforts aimed to build resilient cities, they often adopted a top-down, technocratic approach that excluded the primary victims of climate change—marginalised urban communities. As climate-induced extreme events intensify, it has become increasingly clear that infrastructural resilience alone is insufficient. Vulnerable populations such as informal workers, migrants, slum dwellers, homeless communities, fisherfolk, sanitation workers, gig workers, persons with disabilities, and socially marginalised groups bear a disproportionate burden of climate impacts despite contributing the least to greenhouse gas emissions.

This project responds to that gap by adopting a climate justice framework that centres equity, participation, and community agency. It seeks to build the capacity of non-state actors in urban India to understand climate crises, their structural causes, and their socio-economic implications. Non-state actors include civil society organisations, people’s unions (domestic workers, informal workers, street vendors), women’s and youth groups, disabled people’s organisations, labour unions, resident welfare associations, environmental justice groups, academics, think tanks, architects, local media, and climate research institutions. By integrating scientific knowledge with lived community realities, the project aims to strengthen grassroots leadership and promote participatory urban climate governance.

The initiative unfolds in three phases. In Phase 1, five regional capacity-building workshops are organised across three geographic clusters—coastal, inland, and mountainous regions—covering climate impacts such as cyclones, inland floods, coastal floods, cloudbursts, landslides, heatwaves, droughts, and urban heat island effects. These workshops are co-developed with grassroots civil society partners and bring together diverse stakeholders including community leaders, researchers, urban planners, policy actors, and elected representatives. The objective is to foster informed dialogue, build networks, and enhance the ability of non-state actors to assert climate justice claims grounded in scientific evidence and community knowledge.

Phase 2 supports ten community-based climate action research projects co-created by workshop participants. These projects document the human dimensions of climate impacts in cities, focusing on loss and damage, livelihood vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies among marginalised groups. The research process is participatory, involving affected communities at every stage—from conceptualisation to validation—while drawing on inputs from academics, climate experts, professional bodies, and policymakers. This approach strengthens science-policy linkages and generates evidence for informed advocacy.

Phase 3 includes Consultation as a Concluding Conference to disseminate findings, share best practices, and strategies policy engagement. These platforms enable cross-learning, transdisciplinary dialogue, and the development of solidarity networks focused

on urban climate justice. The consultation also aimed to influence sub-national and national discourse, linking local experiences with broader climate justice debates.

Grounded in literature that highlights the inequitable impacts of climate change in cities of the Global South, the project recognises that rapid urbanisation, socio-economic inequality, and environmental degradation intersect to intensify vulnerabilities. By shifting the focus from purely infrastructural adaptation to people-centred resilience, the initiative aligns with APN’s Strategic Goals 2, 3, and 4. It strengthens community–science–policy linkages, promotes participatory governance, and advances equitable urban climate transitions in India.

2. Objectives

There are five key objectives:

1. To increase awareness, strengthen capacity and build agency of local and marginalised communities residing in cities, linking their lived experiences with the global climate change discourse and urban climate justice.
2. To provide a learning and reflection space for non-state actors and members from urban marginalised communities in order to address issues related to regional, national and global climate policies.
3. To produce information and evidences towards creating a loss & damage and compensation framework, to ensure climate justice
4. To facilitate cross-pollination of ideas and experiences between various stakeholders of urban practitioners and establish communities of practice and academic-activist knowledge based on scientific fundamentals.
5. To facilitate the formation of solidarity groups and stakeholder networks to influence the state on national and global climate policies focusing on urban resilience.

3. Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
A Curriculum Framework designed for increasing agency of non-state actors with respect to climate justice assertion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardized and structured learning framework implemented across 5 regions • Improved conceptual clarity among participants on climate justice, loss and damage, and rights-based approaches across 5 	Institutional strengthening of non-state actors to sustainably assert climate justice demands

	regions.	
<i>5 regional capacity development workshops conducted - across five different geo-climatic zones (Cyclonic and cyclonic flood (Bhubaneswar), in-land heat, heat waves and draught (Lucknow), city as climate change propellers (Chennai); landslides (Shimla) inland floods (Guwahati) of India.</i>	Strengthened knowledge, leadership skills, and regional networking among participants in each of the 5 regional zones; Improved contextual understanding of region-specific climate vulnerabilities	Stronger regional coalitions formed for advocating for climate justice with increased inclusion of vulnerable communities in local climate governance
<i>Over 350+ non-state actors capacitated to understand the issues of climate justice and the way to lead the efforts to assert the same.</i>	Increased confidence of Non-state actors to engage in policy dialogue and local advocacy	Expanded civil society leadership influencing climate discourse at local, regional, and national levels
<i>10 Pre -Community based Action Research – consultations organized with local experts on climate, City planners, Policy Makers, Civil Society members to input on the action research project</i>	Identification of 10 community-led research themes; stronger collaboration between civil society, Urban planner; academicians and local experts for undertaking grounded research	Locally generated knowledge shaping long-term climate resilience planning and just adaptation pathways
<i>10 action research reports emerging from the Community Based Climate Action Research projects with learnings on impacts faced, loss and damages incurred and adaptation and mitigation strategies adopted.</i>	The creation of a localized evidence reports highlighting the 'lived reality' of climate change offers a clearer understanding of how environmental shocks drive debt cycles; among informal workers families earning under ₹5,000 per month to meet basic health and consumption needs during climate crisis	A Policy dialogue and Planning tool created to advance discussions on climate-induced loss, damage, and compensation for the most vulnerable in the country.
<i>National policy briefs providing a tentative framework to advance the</i>	Strengthened national-level policy engagement; preliminary	Integration of equity and protection mechanisms for vulnerable communities

<i>climate induced loss, damage and compensation discussion.</i>	recommendations aligned with NAPCC implementation	within climate policy frameworks
<i>Compendium of People-led Community-Centred Best Practices of Climate Justice Actions in Indian Cities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional research relocating models with other georgical areas - improved peer learning among cities and CSOs 	Mainstreaming of community-centred climate resilience approaches in Indian urban policy
<i>Multiple communication products targeted towards a varied range of stakeholders</i>	Increased public awareness; amplified voices of informal workers and vulnerable communities; strengthened public discourse on climate justice	Broader societal recognition of climate injustice leading to stronger accountability and policy responsiveness

4. Key facts/figures

- A Curriculum Framework designed for increasing agency of non-state actors with respect to climate justice
- assertion.
- 5 Regional capacity-building workshops were conducted across 5 different geo-climatic zones (Cyclonic and cyclonic flood (Bhubaneshwar), in-land heat, heat waves and draught (Lucknow), city as climate change propellers (Chennai); landslides (Shimla) inland floods (Guwahati) of India.
- 10 Action research reports emerging from the 12 Community Based Climate Action projects with learnings on impacts faced, loss and damages incurred and adaptation and mitigation strategies adopted
- 16 press releases media/ communication, articles, TV Talk shows, blogs, videos and others targeted towards a varied range of stakeholders
- One National Level campaign titled “[Climate Justice Campaign](#)” covering the 5 regions highlight the adverse and disproportionate impact of climate crisis on the urban deprived communities and pushing for assessment of loss and damages on the lives and livelihoods of these communities due to adverse climatic events and demanding compensation for the same.
- A [national consultation](#) with Nomadic pastoralist communities who joined from 13 different states deliberating on addressing pressing issues affecting their rights, livelihoods due to climate change and protecting their cultural heritage.
- 2 National Consultations – Fish workers and Nomadic Pastoralist – to draw up Charter of Demands

5. Publications

No research/ papers were published

6. Media reports, videos and other digital content

1. **People’s agenda for coastal, river erosion: Local climate efforts need not be stalled for want of global action-** While rehabilitating coastal communities, special attention must be given to traditional and customary rights of fishing communities over coastal lands and resources
Article: Down to Earth
Link: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/people-s-agenda-for-coastal-river-erosion-local-climate-efforts-need-not-be-stalled-for-want-of-global-action-95228>
2. **A Region at the cross roads** - The recent events in Tripura (State in North East India) have starkly exposed the harsh realities of climate change and how policies intended for development have, at times, exacerbated the fragility of cities. (Press article)
Link: <https://www.borderlens.com/2024/08/30/a-region-at-the-crossroads/>
3. **How to develop resilient livelihoods in ecologically fragile areas? A case study from Odisha’s Kendrapara district (Odisha) shows how** – ActionAid’s outlook on the importance of providing vulnerable people a diverse basket of livelihoods in an ecologically fragile areas so that they can fall back on various options in times of need. This is often overlooked by agencies which are specialising in just one type of livelihood based on their expertise.
Article: Down to Earth
Link: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/governance/how-to-develop-resilient-livelihoods-in-ecologically-fragile-areas-a-case-study-from-odishas-kendrapara-district-shows-how>
4. **Unequal cities cannot be climate just: Urgent steps needed to curb climate impacts in Indian cities** – An urgent overhaul of urban planning that addresses both inequality and climate change is needed
Article: Down to Earth
Link: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/unequal-cities-cannot-be-climate-just-urgent-steps-needed-to-curb-climate-impacts-in-indian-cities>
5. **A Climate Action Plan for Indian Cities Needs Greater Participation of its Citizens** ActionAid explores impact of climate change on Indian cities and informal workers (Press article: Daily hunt)
Link: https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/republic+news+india-epaper-dhfacc36dfce9c4bb68db0e89d033c921b/a+climate+action+plan+for+indian+cities+needs+greater+participation+of+its+citizens-newsid-dhfacc36dfce9c4bb68db0e89d033c921b_f700c4c02c6011efb6fce6df2a6e11b2?sm=Y
6. **Protect labourers from adverse impact of climate change** - The impact of Climate Change on the lives and livelihoods of Indian informal workers should be well researched and documented to build restitutive policies to address it. (Press articles: Deccan Herald)
Link: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/protect-labourers-from-adverse-impact-of-climate-change-3002811>

7. **In response to the Devastating Floods and Landslide in Wayanad, Kerala** – on India Today (TV Talk Show) 05 August 2024 - Mr. Sandeep Chachra highlights the need to recognise the social impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups such as agriculture workers, nomadic pastoralist and fisherfolks. He stressed that the increasing intensity of extreme weather events is a man-made crisis that requires immediate and comprehensive preparation
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ActionAidIndia/videos/in-a-recent-india-today-debate-on-the-landslides-in-wayanad-kerala-and-the-flood/1255393865447929/>
8. **Awareness on Heat Wave** – The ongoing Heatwave has been India’s longest and worst ever this year, ActionAid responded to this crisis.
Social media link:
https://www.instagram.com/actionaid_india/reel/C737edvPQ2N/
https://www.instagram.com/actionaid_india/reel/C8EwKFRvBAO/
9. **Street Vendors bring life to our streets, yet face daily fight** – harsh weather, eviction, unclear regulation and financial hardship (Short video of ActionAid campaign on “Workers Agenda for Just Futures – promoting rights, recognition and a chance to thrive)
Social media link: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1180770236459243>
10. **Lives and Livelihood – Sandeep Chachra on Climate Impact and Policy Lag** on India Today (TV Talk show) September 2024.
Link: <https://www.indiatoday.in/programme/short-video/lives-vs-livelihoods-sandeep-chachra-on-climate-impact-and-policy-lag-2576065-2024-08-02>
Social media link:
https://www.facebook.com/IndiaToday/videos/899757775529119/?vh=e&fs=e&mi_bextid=wwXlfr&rdid=wijmQbdBBbuK4n1N
11. **Only People’s Voice Can Energise Global Action for Climate Justice!** – It states the What is needed at COP29 to advance the cause of climate justice
Blog link: <https://www.actionaidindia.org/only-peoples-voices-can-energise-global-action-for-climate-justice/>
12. **Traditional Wisdom and Community-led Green Technology Can Combat Climate Change** – ActionAid facilitated efforts in promoting traditional knowledge to combat Climate change in the tribal village of Kiri in Sundergarh district of Odisha. (Press article in CXOToday.com)
Link: <https://cxotoday.com/specials/traditional-wisdom-and-community-led-green-technology-can-combat-climate-change/>
Article link: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/environment/vocal-for-local-combating-climate-change-with-traditional-wisdom>
13. **Empowering Women Farmers and Promoting Climate Resilience in Indian Agriculture** – ActionAid’s strategy in facilitating empowerment of farmers in adopting/ practicing climate-resilience practices for building sustainable agricultural systems, ensuring food security (Press articles in The Hindu – Business line)
Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/empowering-women-farmers-and-promoting-climate-resilience-in-indian-agriculture/article68537451.ece>

14. **Green Technology and Innovation: The Future of Environmental Protection** – ActionAid’s view of combining modern innovations with traditional knowledge, can address environmental challenges effectively and ensure a sustainable and equitable future for all communities. [Press article](#) in CXOToday.com
Link: <https://cxotoday.com/story/green-technology-and-innovation-the-future-of-environmental-protection/>
15. **The role of renewable energy in combating climate change** - The transition to renewable energy must be carefully planned and implemented with a focus on protecting the rights and livelihoods of vulnerable communities. By conducting comprehensive assessments and considering the unique needs of these populations, we can ensure an inclusive sustainable energy transition. ([Press article](#): Pioneer News)
Link: <https://www.manufacturingtodayindia.com/the-role-of-renewable-energy-in-combating-climate-change#:~:text=The%20critical%20challenge%20is%20reducing,implementation%20of%20renewable%20energy%20transitions>
16. **This Earth Day Let Us Prioritise People and the Planet in the Path to Climate Justice** – ActionAid on Earth Day, explores fresh ways to save our planet. ActionAid states the need to make social, economic and ecological justice the aim of all human development. ([Press article](#): Daily hunt)
Link: https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/influencerspro-epaper-dhef9922b8967b405d868ea7e3f267bedf/this+earth+day+let+us+prioritise+people+and+the+planet+on+the+path+to+climate+justice-newsid-dhef9922b8967b405d868ea7e3f267bedf_239a1ca0020111ef8f7f50502639f4d4?s_m=Y Social media link:
https://www.instagram.com/actionaid_india/reel/C8EwKFRvBAO/

7. Pull quotes

“The challenges posed by climate change require a collective effort to develop sustainable urban solutions. The conclave is a crucial step towards building resilient urban communities in the face of climate change.”

- **Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director of ActionAid Association**

“Pastoral communities across the country need to come together to share experiences, [such as facilitated under this project], and together call for policies and schemes that could protect their way of life, which is increasingly important with climate change affecting their livelihoods across different sectors.”

- **Shri Vagtaram Devasi, of the Rajasthan Raika Vikas Sanghathan , a leading people’s organisation**

“This project provided a great platform to bring like-minded individuals from various sectors for developing action research and directly engage with the deprived urban communities to give them voice. Together, we can ensure that no one is left behind in the face of climate change.”

- **Dipali Sharma, Director of Programmes**

8. Acknowledgments

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9. Appendices.

Appendix 1: Planning stage:

A. Inception Meeting

Date of Meeting: 11 January 2024 (Online)

The project was implemented across five geo-climatic regions of India, as outlined in the proposal. Implementation involved the collaboration of 12 regional offices across the country, with overall coordination provided by a central-level team. Prior to the inception meeting, the central coordination team consulted local experts to refine the proposed project framework and develop a detailed plan for discussion with the implementing teams in the five geo-climatic regions.

The inception meeting was organized as a one-day online meeting on 11 January 2024 and was attended by representatives from all 12 states that form part of the study areas across the five geo-climatic zones. In addition, seven proposed collaborating organizations participated in the meeting. During the discussion, the objectives, scope, and implementation strategy of the initiative were presented in detail. Based on inputs from the regional representatives and collaborating partners, the implementation plan was jointly refined and finalized.

As part of the planning process, the project also developed an **issues and geographies matrix** to guide the focus of the study. The matrix identified key **extreme climatic events** and linked them with the geographical contexts where they are most prominent. The major climate-related issues considered under the project included cyclones; inland and coastal floods; cloudbursts and landslides; heatwaves and drought; and the role of cities as climate change propellers, particularly in relation to pollution and the formation of urban heat islands.

For analytical and operational purposes, the study areas were broadly grouped into three geo-climatic clusters: **coastal regions, inland regions, and mountain regions**. This classification enabled the project teams to better align specific climate risks with geographic contexts and helped in designing region-specific approaches for the implementation of the study.

The important summary points were as follows :

Important Summary Points

- It would be important to build and look at the urban -rural linkages, although the focus is Urban.
- The locations and dates for the regional capacity building workshops need to be decided by discussions at regional level and conveyed to us soonest (19.01.24)
- The local stakeholders – state/non-state must be identified at the beginning. And they need to be involved right from the beginning.
- How do we build synergy between the action planned for urban and rural areas?

- How do use the opportunity to build the awareness of vulnerable communities and facilitate their agencies?
- How do we influence the local government to incorporate people’s inputs into their planned action and ensure justice?
- The locations and dates for the regional need to be decided by discussions at regional level and conveyed to us soonest (19.01.24)
- Role of collaborators is crucial (as put in the annexure) and must be elaborated/discussed at regional level.
- Continued conversation with all the stakeholder agencies need to continue to take any corrective measure at the right time

B. Series of Online and Offline Consultations with Experts

Each of the implementing teams across the different geo-climatic regions organized a series of **online and offline consultations with subject experts** to guide the design and content of the regional capacity-building workshops. These consultations brought together researchers, practitioners, and domain specialists with expertise in climate change, disaster risk reduction, and regional environmental issues. The discussions focused on identifying key thematic areas, contextual challenges, and region-specific climate risks relevant to the respective geo-climatic zones. Based on the inputs received during these consultations, the teams refined the structure, curriculum, and learning objectives of the workshops. These interactions played an important role in ensuring that the **capacity-building programmes were scientifically informed, context-specific, and relevant to the needs of stakeholders in each region**. The consultations helped finalize the workshop curriculum, session themes, and overall design of the regional capacity-building workshops.

C. Preparing the Curriculum Framework for the Workshops

The curriculum framework for the regional capacity-building workshops was developed through a series of internal and external consultations. Discussions were held among the implementing ActionAid team members, collaborating partners, and other non-state actors, including academicians, civil society representatives, informal workers, and leaders from vulnerable communities. These consultations helped shape the overall design of the workshops, develop the curriculum framework, and identify suitable resource persons and discussants.

The collaborative process ensured that the workshop content reflected both expert perspectives and the lived experiences of vulnerable communities affected by climate change. It also helped contextualize the learning modules to address region-specific climate risks and social vulnerabilities. As part of the proposed initiative, the curriculum was designed around **five geo-climatic themes**, each focusing on specific climate-related challenges and affected communities:

- **Cyclones and Cyclonic Floods in Coastal Regions:**
Understanding the impact of cyclones and cyclonic floods on vulnerable communities, particularly **slum dwellers and coastal populations**. The workshop for this theme was planned in **Bhubaneswar**.

- **Heatwaves and Drought in Inland Regions:**
Exploring the impact of heatwaves and drought on marginalized communities such as **street vendors, informal workers, and slum dwellers**. The focus areas included **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (Bundelkhand region), and Rajasthan**.
- **Climate Extremes in Mountain Regions:**
Examining the impacts of **landslides, flash floods, and other climate extreme events** in mountainous areas, with a focus on **pastoral communities, fisherfolk, informal workers, construction workers, and local Dalit and tribal communities**.
- **Climate Change and Urbanisation in the North-Eastern Region:**
Understanding the interaction between **urbanisation, environmental changes, and climate variability**, and their impacts on vulnerable communities in the **North-Eastern states of India**.
- **Cities as Contributors to Climate Change in Southern India:**
Analyzing the role of cities as contributors to climate change processes and the resulting impacts such as **urban floods and flash floods**. The focus region included the southern states of **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka**.

These thematic areas formed the basis for designing region-specific workshops aimed at strengthening understanding, dialogue, and capacity among stakeholders regarding climate change and its impacts on vulnerable populations.

Appendix 2: Regional Capacity building workshops

Building on the **equity and justice perspective**, the approach of **urban climate justice** recognises that urban poor and vulnerable groups face a dual burden. On one hand, they are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, and on the other, they continue to struggle with existing socio-economic vulnerabilities. In many cases, these communities also bear an unequal share of the costs associated with climate action in cities, such as **evictions and displacement linked to urban development or climate adaptation measures**.

Furthermore, several policies and initiatives aimed at urban climate adaptation have, at times, inadvertently exacerbated the vulnerabilities of already marginalised communities. Such approaches often exclude these communities from the benefits of climate adaptation while placing additional economic and social burdens on them. Recognising these challenges, the project adopted an approach centred on **people's empowerment and inclusive climate action**.

In this context, a **series of regional capacity-building workshops** were organised to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of local non-state actors, including civil society organisations, community leaders, informal workers' groups, and grassroots organisations. These workshops aimed to facilitate informed dialogue, build collective understanding of climate change impacts, and encourage local actors to take proactive action so that the **negative impacts on vulnerable communities can be minimised**. The workshops also sought to support communities in advocating for **appropriate policy responses and compensation mechanisms from state authorities**.

As outlined in the project proposal, **five regional workshops** were organised across different geo-climatic regions of India:

Workshop 1: Capacity Building Workshop on Fostering People's empowerment for Urban Climate Justice, Eastern Region

Focus : Understanding Cyclonic Floods and Its Impact

Participating States : (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal)

Bhubaneswar, 4th – 6th March 2024

ActionAid Association along with Young India organised a three-day capacity building workshop on 'Fostering People's Empowerment for Urban Climate Justice' in Bhubaneswar, beginning from 4th March. In the workshop, 50 participants from five states of eastern India namely Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha participated. This workshop is first in the series of five capacity building workshops that ActionAid Association has planned to organise in different regions of the country as part of a collaboration with Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Debabrat Patra, Associate Director, ActionAid said that this is an important endeavour in which we can understand various aspects of effects of climate change in urban areas. Dipali Sharma, Director OE, ActionAid commented on

various national and international efforts to mitigate efforts of climate change and how various stakeholders should come together to make this effort a success. N A Shah Ansari, Founder, Young India shared distress conditions of people who are facing coastal erosion in the different districts in Odisha, which has been increasing due to sea level rise as a direct impact of global warming.

In the first day, academicians like Prof Sutapa Pati from XIM University and Dr Shakuntala Pratihary from Sri Sri University addressed the participants and discussed the scientific fundamentals around the global debates on climate change, international policies and agreements on climate governance and the varied ways in which local communities and civil society organisations can address the issues of climate justice.



The participants also visited a nearby slum, Banafula to understand how climate change and extreme weather events like cyclones and flooding are exacerbating the already vulnerable conditions in which urban poor communities live. The residents of Banafula were relocated to their current location due to expansion of railways infrastructure on the land they were living upon earlier, about ten years ago. The relocation has not only increased the distance from existing livelihood options of the residents, public schools, anganwadi centres and public hospitals, the new area is also in a low lying area prone to water logging. With changes in rainfall pattern as a consequence of climate change, the residents face increased intensity and frequency of urban flooding increasing health issues and impacting livelihood days and children's school days as well.

On the second day, other technical experts like Sudarshan Chohotoray, veteran journalist, B. N Durga, Senior Programme Manager, Piramal Foundation, Sujit Mohapatra, Chief Executive, Bakul Foundation, Sadashiv Swain, Secretary CCWD and Bratindi Jena, Climate Change researcher addressed the participants on various issues of climate change and its impact on the communities and possible community action to curb the effects of climate change. Across the three days, the participants have opportunity for group discussions and group activities to prepare ideas for conducting future climate action researches focussing on the impact of climate change on marginalised communities in urban areas.

ActionAid Association has plans to support 10 community based climate action research projects across the country in the next one year as part of the overall programme to advance the issue of climate justice. These action research projects will focus on the

various extreme weather and slow onset climate change effects that are impacting different social and occupational groups across the country. The program aims to strengthen capacity and build agency of local and marginalised communities residing in cities, linking their lived experiences with the global climate change discourse.

The costs of ecological distress and climate change are frontally and disproportionately borne by those lowest in class, caste, and gender hierarchies. Climate risks, as well as the adaptive capacities of local communities, depend on their socio-economic composition and the spatial distribution of the climate hazard. Social justice, then, should not remain an add-on to climate action, but should be a central component of any climate adaptation design. Therefore, climate justice requires us to focus on inequalities, vulnerabilities and the need for localized participation and engagement.

Workshop Curriculum

Capacity Building Workshop on Fostering People's empowerment for Urban Climate Justice, Eastern Region

Day – 1

Time	Activities	Moderator/Speakers
10.00 - 10.30 AM	Registration	Gokul
10.30 – 11.15 AM	Inaugural - Welcome - Self-introduction - Context sharing by Dipali Sharma, Director OE, ActionAid - Address by ED, OSDMA - Address by Chief Guest- Sj Susant Kumar Rout, Member of Odisha Legislative Assembly, Bhubaneswar – Odisha	Debabrat/Surajit Ghasiram/Ansari bhai
11.15 -11.30 AM	Tea break	
Purpose of Session	Impact of Climate Change on urban local communities with special focus on urban climatic impacts across different geographies.	
11.30 – 12.30 PM	- Prof Sutapa Pati, XIM, School of Sustainability- Climate Change - concept and evolution, its impact - international, possible areas of action research - Dr Shakuntala Pratihary, Sri Sri University - State level impact on climate change and possible areas of action research	Ghasiram
12.30 – 1.30 PM	State wise sharing: - Issues, impacts - Challenges - Best practices of coping mechanisms	Surajit/Prem Ranjan
1.30 – 2.30 PM	Lunch break	
2.30 – 4.30 PM	State wise sharing, Contd...	Surajit/Prem Ranjan
4.30 – 4.45 PM	Tea break	
4.45 – 6PM	Field visit to a local climate-vulnerable site to understand the impact of climate crisis, Bhubaneswar (Banafula Basti)	

Day – 2

Purpose	Understanding the role of local communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation processes	
10.30 – 11.30 AM	Presentation of the study: Lost to the Sea, focusing mitigation and adaptation	B.N. Durga, Sr Programme Manager, Piramal Foundation N.A. Shah Ansari, Founder, Namaskar, Community Radio
11.30 – 11.45 AM	Tea break	
11.45 – 1.30 PM	Voices from the ground	Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, moderated by Biren Nayak
1.30 – 2.30 PM	Lunch break	
Purpose	Training on climate change programs and policies of the local, state and national government linking with major international programs and accords	
2.30 – 4.15 PM	<p>Input sessions: Responding Climate Change and District Action Plan Sudarshan Chhotaray, Veteran Journalist and Climate Activist</p> <p>Building Manifesto on the issues of climate change: - Sujit Mohapatra, Chief Executive, Bakul Foundation Urban Flooding and the issue of climate change - Sadashiv Swain, Secy, CCWD Community response to Climate action: - Ms. Bratindi Jena, Thinker and Activist</p>	Saurabh Kumar, ActionAid Association Ghasiram Panda, National lead, Child Rights
4.15 – 4.30 PM	Tea Break	
4.30 – 5.30 PM	Open house discussion	

Day - 3

Purpose	Training on proposal making and draft proposal development for community-based climate action projects (to be finalised later)	
10.00 – 10.30 PM	Community Based climate Action project	Ms. Bratindi Jena, Thinker and Activist
10.30 – 1.30 PM	Developing community based climate action projects/research and Building peoples' agenda	Prem Ranjan
1.30 – 2.00 PM	Wrapping up and vote of thanks	Debabrat Patra/Surajit/Saurabh/Suvendu
2.00 – 3.00 PM	Lunch break	

Workshop #2: Conclave on Climate Change, Impacts and Challenges

Focus : Understanding Climate Change Extreme Climatic Events of Heat Wave, Drought and its impact on vulnerable communities

Participating States : (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan)

Lucknow, 13th – 15th March 2024

Climate change is one of the biggest challenge of the present times. To deal with its widespread impact, Vigyan Foundation, Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research and ActionAid Association organised a “Conclave on Climate Change: Impacts and Challenges”, a three-day meeting in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh where representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan participated.

On the first day of the conclave wide range of panelist from academicians, scientists, policymakers to youth, activists participated in the technical and plenary sessions. Lt Gen Y. Dimri, Vice Chairman of State Disaster Management Authority, Uttar Pradesh, who was the chief guest, shared the plans of the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSDMA) and its commitment to build climate resilient futures. Lt. Gen. Dimri shared that climate change has caused differential impact on vulnerable sections of the society and he acknowledged that the three-day workshop is a much needed initiative as the impact of climate change is going to increase with every passing day



Dr Heera Lal, (IAS) Spl. Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources, Government of Uttar Pradesh stressed individual responsibility in conserving water and oxygen, advocating for plastic reduction, afforestation, and water conservation for future generations. He asserted on minimize consumption, reiterating that section of the society has to come forward and work collaboratively to deal with climate change.

Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director, ActionAid Association set the context of the meeting by sharing that this was the second meeting in a series of conversations that started in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, and will continue in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Guwahati, Assam. He cited that the attempt is to strengthen



the voice of the deprived sections living in urban areas and connect them with the global discussion of climate justice. Sandeep said that though the impact of climate change affects everyone, it has a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable, and therefore the quest for climate justice calls for a framework to compensate for loss and damages while encouraging people centric, community-

led solutions to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. He emphasized the need to understand the impact of climate change on agricultural labourers, small farmers, fisher folk, construction workers, and street vendors, and the imperative to draw these sections into conversations on climate justice.

On the second day of the conclave, an interactive and deliberative session was conducted by Soumaya Dutta, Climate Change Expert. He emphasised that demand of climate justice is directly related to climate change and it is essential to incorporate the approach of loss and damage, adaptation and mitigation while understanding extreme climatic events. He also explained the strategies on a policy level that the government can deploy during heatwaves such as reflecting roofing and emergency cooling rooms for the labourers. The discussion was followed by the field visit to Paltan and Jughauli which is local climate – vulnerable site to understand the repercussions of climate change on the marginalised communities and how the disruption has been caused in the lives and livelihood due to climate change. During the field visit, construction workers, domestic workers, health staff shared their plights as to how after floods they don't have access to clean drinking water for months, their wages is affected during summers.



On the third day, a planning meeting was organised to plan a research study on climate change in 3 States that are Uttar Pradesh (Bundelkhand and Lucknow), Madhya Pradesh (Damoh, Panna and Tikamgarh) & Rajasthan (Sirohi, Barmedh, Jodhpur) to understand how communities are affected and impacted by the different climatic events. The aspects of the impacts would range from

the change in living conditions, health, education, social security and housing and other amenities. The focus of the study would be urban areas and the occupational group will be construction workers, home based workers and street vendors. A methodology of

the research will be survey, questionnaire & FGD for which a pre- workshop will be organised with volunteers & other staff. The conclave saw the presence of government officials, environmental experts, academicians, representatives of civil society organizations, research students and members of various communities. Other speakers of the meeting included Khalid Chaudhary of ActionAid Association, Sandeep Khare from Vigyan Foundation and Prof Nand Kishore More from Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow.

Workshop Curriculum

Conclave on Climate Change, Impacts and Challenges

Day – 1

Time	Activities	Moderator/Speakers
10.00 - 10.30 AM	Registration	AAA-University Volunteers
Inaugural session		
10:30 AM to 10:45 AM 10:45 AM – 11: AM.	Welcome and Introduction of conclave. Introduction of Participants	Khalid Chaudhary Self - Introduction by Participants
11: AM: 12:00 Noon	Context Setting Chief guest Address. The climate debate, issues. The state Climate Action Plans; Challenges in execution. Govt response and initiatives.	Mr Sandeep Chachra , Executive Director, AAA Lt Gen Y. Dimri , Vice Chairman of State Disaster Management Authority Uttar Pradesh Govt Dr Heera Lal , (IAS) Spl. Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. Mr Inderjeet Singh , (IAS) Commissioner-Lucknow Municipal Corporation Prof N K More , BBAU, Lucknow Moderator- Khalid Chaudhry/Sandeep Kharey
12:00 to 12:15 PM	High TEA	
12:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Understanding Climate change, Various Climate change induced extreme climatic events and its impact on people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What climate change is? (GHG gases, warming and resultant climate events) • What anthropogenic actions are leading to climate change? Who is responsible? • How the poor and vulnerable who contribute less are more vulnerable? • What are the extreme climatic events – Sea level Rise, Cyclone, cyclonic rainfall et; heat wave, drought etc; eccentric and heavy rainfalls, riverine flash floods etc; Mountainous rainfall, landslide, flood etc • How the Communities are impacted by these –the loss and damage they suffer - health, livelihood, children’s education, displacement and resettlement, social security • What are the ecosystem (based) services that can help? 	

	Theme 1 : Urban Services and Climate Change: Concepts and Issues	PANELISTS: Prof M A Khalid, (HoD) Integral University Lucknow Mr Tikender, Ex Dy. Mayor, Shimla Dr Poonam Jayant Singh, NBFGR Dr Jonnada A V P R, DDUGU Mr Sudhir Mishra, Chief Editor, Noida-Nav Bharat Times. Dr Urvashi Chandra- Unicef Moderator Prof N K Morey
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	LUNCH	
2:30 PM-4:00 PM	Theme 2: Adaptation, Mitigation Measures and Addressing Loss and Damage	PANELISTS: Prof Vijay Kumar, DDUGU, GKP. Dr Shiraj Vazih, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, Prof Anoop Bharti, Social Work Dept Lucknow University Dr Bhanu, Advisor SDMA and Convenor IAG Mr Pankaj Chaturvedi, Author Dr Utkarsh Sinha, Jubilee Post Dr Kashif Imdad Advisor SDMA. Moderator Prem Ranjan Sinha
4:00 PM to 4:30 PM	TEA	
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM	Community speaks – Sharing by community leaders on their perception of Climate change and the way they are impacted	Panel Discussion Ajay Shrivastav, SJS, Lalitpur Rich ji (Rajasthan) Brijesh Bharati, Banaras Mukesh Kumar, Meerut Arun Khote, Malti/Poonam Santosh Yadav, DMS Rajinder Nigam- Mahiba Representatives from Rajasthan Representatives from MP Moderator- Sion Kongari
DAY 2	Understanding the role of local communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation processes	
9:30 AM– 11:30 AM	State wise sharing: - Various Climatic Events with Issues, impacts - Challenges and Best practices of coping mechanisms	Moderator- Soumaya Dutta New Delhi UP, MP, Rajasthan
11:30 AM to 12:00	TEA	
12:00 Noon - 1:00PM	Sharing Continues	
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM	LUNCH	
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Field visit to a local climate-vulnerable site to understand the impact of climate crisis – Any local basti	
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Discussion on field Visit	

Workshop #3: Shimla Climate Summit: Towards Climate Justice for Mountain Towns in Himalayas

Focus – Extreme Climate change Events in Mountainous regions – Landslides, Flash floods etc

Participating States : Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab
Shimla, 19th to 21st March 2024

The Himalayas are considered to be one of the most sensitive zones to climate change as per several reports. IPCC reports highlights that due to rise in global temperatures, changes in monsoon pattern and melting of glaciers from the Hindukush ranges, extreme weather events like flash floods, glacial outbursts, landslides, etc. are on the rise in the Himalayan region. The costs of ecological distress and climate change are frontally and disproportionately borne by those lowest in class, caste, and gender hierarchies. Climate justice requires us to focus on inequalities, vulnerabilities and the need for localized participation and engagement by affected or vulnerable communities in climate action.

It was in this context, ActionAid Association (India) along with Shimla Collective, Human Development Organisation and Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research organised a three-day capacity building workshop to fostering people's empowerment for urban climate justice in Shimla, beginning from 19th March to 21st March. Titled "Shimla Climate Meet", the workshop was attended by more than 80 participants from the four Indian states and union territories of western Himalayas namely Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

This workshop is third in the series of five capacity building workshops that ActionAid Association has planned to organise in different regions of the country as part of a collaboration with Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, the others being in Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Guwahati and Chennai.

Welcoming the participants, Captain NPS Bhullar, Chairperson, Shimla Collective reminded those gathered about the horrific floods and landslides that Himachal Pradesh witnessed last year and how collective efforts are required to address such issues in the future. Uma Mahajan from Shimla Collective spoke on how the prevalent extractive economic growth model is linked to the global climate crisis and how scientific development patterns are increasing the vulnerabilities of local communities in mountainous regions.

Mr Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director of ActionAid Association spoke about how climate justice can be achieved by ensuring leadership of marginalised communities in the climate discourse, recognising the role played by indigenous communities, pastoralists, fisher folk, etc. in providing ecosystem services and enhancing mitigation efforts and also compensating for loss and damages that marginalised communities are facing due to climate change.

Renowned architect, Romi Khosla, delivered the keynote address for the workshop, sharing his decades of experience in the field of sustainable urban design. He spoke on the importance of democratic and decentralised planning process involving local communities to achieve sustainable urban futures.



Ms Satwal Atwal, Additional Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh, spoke on how the recent rise of unchecked tourism activities are affecting mountain communities by increasing resource stress in the mountainous areas and fostering unsustainable infrastructure development. This increases the vulnerability and risk of local communities living in the mountain areas in the face of extreme weather events.

Ms Pawna Kumari from Himachal Ghumantu Pashupalak Mahasabha spoke on how local communities need to be recognised as custodians of natural commons like forests, water commons, village grazing lands, etc. through proper implementation of existing legislations like the Forest Rights Act among others. Having been involved in various action research projects on the issues of pastoral communities, she has spoke on how local communities who depend on natural commons lead the most sustainable lives, ensuring that those ecological commons are not exploited for private gain.

Across the three days, the participants learnt about sustainable development models, alternate planning models, how climate change affects different communities and also impact public health, agricultural activities and food securities among others. They also had opportunity for group discussions and group activities to prepare ideas for conducting future climate action researches focussing on the impact of climate change on marginalised communities in urban areas of western Himalayas of India.

ActionAid Association has plans to support 10 community based climate action research projects across the country in the next one year as part of the overall programme to advance the issue of climate justice. These action research projects will focus on the various extreme weather and slow onset climate change effects that are impacting different social and occupational groups across the country. The program aims to strengthen capacity and build agency of local and marginalised communities residing in cities, linking their lived experiences with the global climate change discourse.

Curriculum of the Workshop

Shimla Climate Summit: Towards Climate Justice for Mountain Towns in Himalayas

Date	Agenda of Discussion
Day 1, 19 March 2024	
10:00 am to 11:00am	Initiator- Ms. Maala Singh Welcome by Capt. NS Bhullar, Chairperson = Shimla Collective Inauguration -Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh (tbc)
11:00am to 11:30 am	Tea Break
11:00am to 1:00pm	Chair: Ms. Kalyani Negi Keynote Address- Mr. Romi Khosla, Celebrated architect, Founder & Principle- Romi Khosla Design Studios (Virtual) Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director, Actionaid Association • Prof P.K. Khosla, Chancellor, Shoolini University, HP
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Lunch Break
2:00pm to 3:30pm	The current development model in the region- its challenges for the sustainable eco system, Land use pattern and building typologies- in historical perspective, Development Models and Lesson learnt from the recent disaster. Chair- Ms. Satwant Atwal- Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tikender Panwar- Ex Mayor Shimla • Ms. Uma Mahajan- Simla Collective • Mr. Ashutosh Garg, Special Secretary, Dept of Personnel, Govt of HP • Mr. Prashant Sirkek, Addl. Director HIPA, Shimla • Mr. Sajjad Kargili, Member of the Kargil Democratic Alliance and the High-Powered Committee. • Mr. Soumya Dutta, Convenor - Energy & climate change group - Beyond Copenhagen collective • Mr. Sandeep Minhas Himalaya Niti Abhiyaan
3:30pm to 4:00pm	Tea Break
4:00pm to 5:30pm	Climate change and its impact on Marginalised communities and other stakeholder in Northwestern Indian Himalayan Region, Chair- Dr. PK Attri, Faculty Environmental Sciences DIS, HPU Shimla Dr Rajesh – Regional Manager, HelpAge India Dr. Saif Ali Choudhary, Dept of Chemistry, Jamia Millia Islamia (Central University), New Delhi Mr. Hasandeen- President, Gujjar Kalyan Sabha Ms. Ranjna Jaret – Women Mr. Sukhdev Vishwapremi – Director, RTDC Mr. Laxman Negi, Social activist from Joshimath, Uttarakhand Ms. Rupali Thakur, Director women and child welfare (TBC) Mr. Vijendra Mehra- Labour (trade unionist)
Day 2, 20 March 2024	

10:00 am to 1:00pm Tea Break at 11:00am to 11:30am	<i>Climate Change and Building typologies in Northwestern Indian Himalayan Region</i> Chair ADM Shimla <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. NK Negi- Former Chief Architect, HP Govt. • Prof Arunava Dasgupta, Professor, Department of Urban Design, School of Planning and Architecture (New Delhi) • Prof Chandel, Director-Centre of Excellence in Energy Science & Technology. Shoolini University • Mr. Kuldeep Verma, Director- People’s Action for People in Need • Mr. Om Prakash Bharuta, • One Representative from Vernacular Architecture (TCP/IIT Mandi)
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Lunch Break
2:00pm to 4:30pm Tea Break at 4:30pm to 5:00pm	<i>Climate change and its impact on Himalayan Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest, and allied activities</i> Chair- Secretary, Rural Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sohan Thakur- Apple Growers association • Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist at HFRI, Shimla • Mr. Akhter Hussain Najjar, Social activist from Kashmir • Ms. Khima Jethi, Social activist from Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand • Ms. Sumitra Sharma, from Sirmaur- Himachal Pradesh • Representative from All India Gujjar Mahasabha • Representative from Rural Technology and Development Center (Dalit Farmers / FRA)
5:00pm	Closing & Vote of Thanks

Workshop #4: Chennai Climate Summit: Building People’s Power for asserting Urban Climate Justice

Focus : Understanding Cities as contributors to Climate Change and its impact on vulnerable communities

Participating States: Southern Region (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Pondicherry)

Venue: Loyola College, Chennai, 26th – 28th March 2024

ActionAid Association (India) along with Thozhamai and Loyola College organised a three-day capacity building workshop on ‘Fostering People’s Empowerment for Urban Climate Justice’ in Chennai, commencing from the 26th of March 2024. During the workshop, there were 92 attendees representing regions across southern India, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Pondicherry, hailing from five states and one union territory. This workshop aligns with a sequence of five capacity-building workshops designed by ActionAid Association across various regions of the nation, as part of a partnership with the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research.

Esther Mariaselvam, Associate Director at ActionAid Association, extended a warm welcome to the participants, emphasizing the significance of this initiative as an opportunity to explore and discuss the climate justice dimension of climate action in urban settings. Dipali Sharma, Director of Operational Effectiveness at ActionAid

Association, addressed the diverse national and international endeavours aimed at alleviating the consequences of climate change. She stressed the necessity of shifting these efforts towards a more people-centric approach, especially focusing on communities disproportionately affected by climate change. Ms. Sharma emphasized the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders to promote localized and community-driven solutions to tackle the crisis.

G. Sundararajan, Coordinator of Poovulagin Nanbargal, in his keynote address issued an urgent call to action, urging everyone to raise their voices and reclaim our world. He emphasized the critical importance of civil society speaking out about climate change, highlighting it as an existential threat to humanity. Sundararajan warned against waiting until it's too late to address the issue, as by then, there may be nothing left to save.

A. Devaneyan, the Founder and Director of Thozhamai, drew attention to the dire circumstances faced by individuals who have been forcefully displaced and resettled due to disasters, enduring ongoing challenges from natural calamities in the outskirts of Chennai, which are increasingly affected by climate change. Mr. Mr. Tikender Singh emphasized the need for cities and urban centres to be built based on a master plan that takes into account risk factors. Such plan to be people centric and prioritize the inclusion of more cycle tracks and efficient public transportation systems.

The first session focused on the theme "Urban Service and Climate Change: Concepts and Issues," with Irfan Mohammad serving as the moderator. He provided insights into the prevailing scenario before inviting speakers to the platform. The first presenter, Ms. Veneesa Peter, a Policy Researcher from the Information and Resource Centre for Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC), addressed the audience on the topic of "The imperative for inclusive and equitable climate action plans to tackle multidimensional vulnerabilities in urban areas, with a focus on Tamil Nadu." During her presentation, she critically examined various policies, frameworks, and existing programs in Tamil Nadu. She stressed the necessity of adopting an empowerment and rights-based approach in climate change discourse and urged for the documentation of local ecological knowledge, experiential knowledge, and resilience strategies of vulnerable communities.



The Chief Guest stressed the contemporary era of ICE (Information, Communication, and Electronic) amidst environmental change, highlighting how our interconnected world operates akin to a global village, with climate impacts resonating globally. Thus, it's crucial to universally tackle the underlying causes of climate change. In the first day, academicians like **Dr. Gladston Xavier**, Dept. of Social Work, Loyola College, **Prof. Vinolia Nicholas** Architect, Dr. MGR University; Environmentalists **Mr. JV Ratnam** from Vizag, Andhra Pradesh, Civil society Actors like **Ms. Sheelu Francis**, Head, TN Women's Collective, **Mr. Thomas Franco**, Former general Secretary of AIBOC, **Mr. CK Vishnudas**, Director, Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, Urban planners like **Mr. Sudhir**, **Ms. Vanessa Peter**, Policy Researcher, Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC), **Mr. Nicholas**, Convenor, Dalit Land Rights Federation; **Ms. Geetha R.**, Advisor, Unorganised workers Federation; Environmentalists like **Mr. Ananth Mariganti**, Telangana addressed the participants, they delved into the foundational science behind the ongoing global discourse on climate change, as well as the international policies and agreements governing climate governance. Furthermore, they explored the various approaches available to local communities and civil society organizations in addressing issues related to climate justice.

Following this, the states engaged in discussions to consider the effects of climate change on marginalized communities, with a scheduled field visit to the impacted community for further observation and reflection. One group was tasked with visiting Perumbakkam and Semmancheri, which are rehabilitation areas. These places have

been established to accommodate displaced communities, and the team aimed to assess how climate change has affected their living conditions. The other group was assigned to visit Paris Corner, where a significant number of homeless individuals reside. Their objective was to investigate the specific challenges faced by this



vulnerable community in the context of climate change. Post-field visit, the groups highlighted the adverse effects of climate change on livelihoods, including job insecurity and resource scarcity, which negatively impact the community's well-being. They stressed the importance of a rehabilitation process tailored to the needs of the community, advocating for rehabilitation sites to be located within two kilometres of their current residences to ensure continued access to livelihood opportunities.

Ultimately, the three-day Chennai Climate Summit concluded successfully, with fruitful discussions, insightful presentations, and the formulation of project proposals aimed at addressing the challenges posed by climate change across different states.

Workshop Curriculum: Chennai Climate Summit: Building People’s Power for asserting Urban Climate Justice

Day I

Time	Session Details	Speakers
09.00 am to 10.00 am	Registration and Introduction of Participants	Ms. Swathi Consultant, ActionAid
10.00 am -11.30 am	<p>Welcome and introduction to Chennai Climate Summit The climate debate, issues The state Climate Action Plans Challenges in execution. Govt response and initiatives</p> <p>Inaugural Address</p> <p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Special Address</p> <p>Chief Guest Address Vote of Thanks</p>	<p>Ms. Esther Mariaselvam Associate Director, ActionAid</p> <p>Mr. Sandeep Chachra Executive Director, ActionAid</p> <p>Mr. G. Sundar Rajan Coorodiantor, Poovulagain Nanbargal</p> <p>Rev.Dr.B. Jeyaraj SJ * Secretary & Correspondent Loyola College</p> <p>Mr. Tikender Singh Panwar Former Deputy Mayor, Shimla</p> <p>Mr. A. Devaneyan, Director, Thozhamai</p> <p>Ms. Dipali Sharma OE Director, ActionAid</p> <p>Rev. Fr. Jebamalai Raja S.J. Provincial and President, Loyola Institutions, Chennai</p> <p>Ms. K.M.Abinaya, Project Consultant, ActionAid</p>
11.30 am – 11.45 am	TEA	
<p>Understanding Climate change, Various Climate change induced extreme climatic events and its impact on people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What climate change is? (GHG gases, warming and resultant climate events) • What anthropogenic actions are leading to climate change? Who is responsible? • How the poor and vulnerable who contribute less are more vulnerable? • What are the extreme climatic events – Sea level Rise, Cyclone, cyclonic rainfall et; heat wave, drought etc; eccentric and heavy rainfalls, riverine flash floods etc; Mountainous rainfall, landslide, flood etc. • How the Communities are impacted by these –the loss and damage they suffer - health, livelihood, children’s education, displacement and resettlement, social security • What are the ecosystem (based) services that can help? 		
11.45am to 1.00 pm	Theme 1: Urban Service and Climate Change: Concepts and Issues	Moderator: Irfan Mohammed, ActionAid Association

		<p>Panellists Mr. CK Vishnudas, Director, Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology Ms. Vanessa Peter, Policy Researcher, Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC) Mr. Ratnam Andhra Pradesh Prof. Vino Nicholas Architect, Dr. MGR University</p>
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	LUNCH	
2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	<p>Theme 2: Adaptation, Mitigation Measures and Addressing Loss and Damage Climate resilient sustainable agriculture Education institution and climate action</p> <p>Monetization of Land through Policy & Planning and Commoning & Customary Rights as strategies to reclaim Autonomy Addressing the Intersection of Climate Justice and Disaster Risk Reduction: Strategies for Building Resilient and Equitable Communities</p>	<p>Moderator: B. Ragavendra,2 ActionAid Association</p> <p>Panellists Ms. Sheelu Francis Head, TN Women’s Collective Dr. Gladston Xavier, Dept. of Social Work, Loyola College Mr. Thomas Franco Former general Secretary of AIBOC Mr. Sudhir, Architect Mr. Ananth M. Telangana</p>
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	TEA	
4.30 pm – 5.30 pm	<p>Community speak – Sharing by CSO, Activists, community leaders on their perception of Climate Change and the way they are impacted</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Jaisreekumar Panel Discussion Mr. Nicholas Convenor, Dalit Land Rights Federation Ms. Geetha R. Advisor, Unorganised workers Federation Mr. Saravanan Coastal Resource Centre Ms. Burnad Fatima*</p>
5.30 pm – 7.00 pm	Cultural Programme	Alternative Media
7.00 pm	DINNER	

DAY 2

Time	Understanding the role of local communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation processes	
10.00 am– 11:30 am	State wise sharing: - Various Climatic Events they are impacted with - Issues, impacts - Challenge - Best practices of coping mechanisms	Moderator- Dipali Kerala Mr. Pradeesh Kurutchya Tamil Nadu - Ms. Juliet Teresita - Mr. John Arockiaraj, Caritas India
11:30 am to 12:00	TEA	
12:00 Noon - 1:00 pm	Sharing Continues	Karnataka AP / Telangana Pondicherry
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	LUNCH	
2:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Field visit to a local climate-vulnerable site to understand the impact of climate crisis	

Day - 3

Purpose	Reflection on field visit Evolving Climate Action Research and Projects	
10.00 am – 11.00 am	Reflection on filed visit	Mr. Prem Ranjan
11.00 am – 11.30 am	TEA BREAK	
11.30 – 12.30 pm	Developing community-based climate action projects/research and Building peoples' agenda	Mr. Irfan Mohammed
12.30 pm – 1.00 pm	Wrapping up and vote of thanks	Mr. Sandeep Chachra
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch break	

Workshop #5: Conclave on climate change and urbanization: eastern Himalayas - NorthEast India

Focus : Factors leading to Climate change; And the impact of climate change extreme events

Participating States: 8 North- Eastern States

Guwahati , 5-6 July, 2024

Venue: Indian Institute of Banking Management, Jawahar Nagar, Guwahati

Extreme climate events are the new normal in the North-East!

A two-day conclave on climate change and urbanization – Eastern Himalayas-Northeast India was recently organized by ActionAid Association in Guwahati. The event took place on 5-6 July 2024. The emphasis was on scoping out mitigation possibilities and people-led climate action.

The conclave brought together a diverse range of eminent speakers, discussants, and participants from across the northeastern states and a few from the other states of India. The event brought together city planners, academics, local representatives, civil society organisations, activists, and key stakeholders, including marginalised communities like vendors, fisherfolk, and construction workers who are affected by the climate change crisis. Discussions focused on themes such as land management, integration of traditional institutions, transportation and mobility concerns, the concept of sponge cities, building codes, regional planning, equitable cities, housing, water, and finance for urban areas.

Mrinal Gohain, Regional Manager & National Lead, ActionAid Association, NE Cluster welcomed all the participants and set the context for the conclave. He said that this conclave is aimed at flagging the pertinent issues and impacts deriving from the climate crisis. This conclave aimed at chalking out further actions by stakeholders engaged on the ground, planning action research by educational institutions, and so on. Dipali Sharma, Director, Organisational Effectiveness, ActionAid Association, Delhi, in her opening address, talked about ActionAid's interventions and opportunities created on the ground towards climate justice and urged the esteemed gathering to connect for greater possibilities.



In day 1, covered topics ranged from **Climate Change across NE India and its implications on urban scapes/ urbanization**, urban ecologies, the changing scenarios on water, sanitation, drainage, waste management, urban economy & livelihoods, public health, governance and financing for urban futures, land, housing, markets, public spaces, and mobility challenges amongst others. **The session** provided an overview of the Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India have been grappling with the devastating impacts of climate change, affecting communities across the region. From the pastoralists of West Kameng and Sikkim to the mandarin orange growers in Tamenglong, Manipur, and Sohra, Meghalaya, climate change has disrupted traditional livelihoods. The erratic weather patterns have left *jhumias* (indigenous farmers who practice shifting cultivation) across the region struggling to adapt. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events has become common, traumatising communities and undermining their resilience. Water shortages have become a pressing issue, even in some of the world's wettest places, such as the East Khasi Hills. Altered precipitation patterns and extensive deforestation have caused critical water sources, like springs and streams, to dry up. Forest fires have become more frequent and devastating, as witnessed in Mizoram in 2021, when uncontrollable fires spread rapidly, threatening towns like Lunglei and Lawngtlai. On October 4th, the South Lhonak glacial lake overflowed, triggering downstream havoc and breaching the Teesta Stage III hydropower project dam at Chungthang. In Dima Hasao district, torrential rains

unexpected for the season caused substantial damage to farmlands, orchards, infrastructure, and homes, echoing the catastrophic events of 2022.

Rizwan Uz Zaman, a representative from Assam Climate Management Society, talked about the state action plan on climate change (SAPCC) and the importance of an integrated implementation by different line departments. He said that mainstreaming climate action into rural governance and policy is now one of the priority strategies in the SAPCC. **Dr. Narayan Sharma** from the Department of Environmental Biology and Wildlife Sciences, Cotton University shared an interesting presentation on the changing habitation of wildlife in the backdrop of the urbanization in and around Guwahati city. He mentioned that places of garbage disposal have increased the population of canines in the city.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) report highlights the broader environmental crisis in the Eastern Himalayas, predicting threats to farming systems, food productivity, and biodiversity. Hydrological analyses forecast increased evapotranspiration, leading to more frequent droughts and other related disasters. Amidst these challenges, rapid urbanisation has swept across the Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India, transforming small cities and rural landscapes into burgeoning urban hubs. This urban expansion has been primarily organic, often resulting in disorder and chaos. Governments and local bodies struggle to provide essential services and improve infrastructure: acute water shortages, outdated sanitation systems, and inadequate waste management plague urban areas. The conversion of streams and rivers into drains and the pollution of wetlands have led to a severe decline in biodiversity, affecting food supply chains and the nutritional well-being of residents. Urban areas face mounting environmental issues, with conflicts over resources exacerbated by the challenges posed by climate change.

Gyastso Lepcha from Sikkim mentioned that the traditional knowledge and systems of constructing a bridge have eventually been useful at a time when the cloud burst leading to landslides and a major breach of the dam took place in October 2023. Other speakers, discussants, and panelists included Partha Jyoti Das, Supongnukshi Ao, Dr Uttam Bathari, Linda Chhakchhuak, Ravindranath, Mayfereen Ryntathiang, Dr. Jayanta Kumar Sarma, Paresch Sharma, Ashangbam Swapan Singha, Ramanand Wangkheirakpam, Pelenuo Yhome, Siddharth Rasaily, Ranju Dodum, Renemla Ozukom, Anjulika Samom, Salam Rajesh, Bonojit Hussain, Dr. Yengkhom Jilangamba, Tikender Singh Panwar, Arshel Akhter, Dipankar Sarma, and Subhashis Borah. Amongst other speakers, Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director of ActionAid Association, emphasized in his speech that “the challenges posed by climate change require a collective effort to develop sustainable urban solutions. This conclave is a crucial step towards building resilient urban communities in the face of climate change.”

Day 2, opened with discussions on the fragility of Food security, Public health, Governance, Financing Urban Futures and Mobility challenges. Talking about the fragility of food security with that of the climate crisis, **Amba Jamir**, environmentalist and vice president of Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), gave an overview by

connecting the food security & system with that of the other dynamic systems such as the environment, ecosystem services, agriculture, land, income, education, culture, tourism, market, nutrition, and health. **Bonojit Hussain**, Farmer, Researcher, provided an insight into the changing trends in food systems and market dynamics in the north-eastern region. He stated that , “Every year, during the month of April, May and June, price of vegetables in Guwahati suddenly shoot up so high that everybody blames the vendors and traders for the sharp price rise.” The state was never self-sufficient in cultivated vegetables and it is not self-sufficient even today; it barely meets half of annual requirement of cultivated vegetable, which is around 80 lakh metric ton. Bulk of vegetable comes to Assam from other parts of India. Assam’s traditional food system will not be able to sustain city with a population like Guwahati or anywhere in the Brahmaputra valley unless conscious efforts are made through policy intervention to integrate the traditional food system into the supply chain mechanism to maintain the rising urban population. **Dr. Benedicta Sthuti Kumar** from the Indian Institute of Public Health Shillong said that adaptation is not the same as coping. She further said that Climate change not only has direct impacts on human health but also threatens the capacity of health systems to manage and protect population health. Health systems should, therefore, be increasingly strengthened so that they continue to be efficient and responsive to improve population health in an unstable and changing climate. Talking about urbanization in Assam, **Dr. (Prof.) Abhijit Sharma**, IIBM, Guwahati, said that “historically urbanization was primarily driven by the expansion of administrative functions. Guwahati - the gateway of the northeast was structurally an administrative urban cluster. Thus, bureaucratic setup played an important role in the governance of the city, with very little people’s participation.” Land Development and management are entirely in the hands of private market operators (mostly land brokers), which has created inequity because of the climate crisis. Senior architects like **Kailash Pradhan, Aiban Mawkhroh, and Urmi Buragohain** from Sikkim, Shillong, and Guwahati respectively aired common views about plans of places depicting people-friendly inclusive spaces with strong cultural vibes. They stated that it’s imperative for decision makers to adopt collaborative approach and involve local experts in designing future urban cities

Subhasish Borah stated that in terms of mobility and transport systems, only capital cities are growing in the north-eastern region. Other small and medium towns are not growing at all. Because of this exclusionary urbanization, investments are only coming to the capital cities. While Ramananda Wangkheirakpam, Director, Indigenous Perspective, raised two issues highlighting the problems of public mobility in the Imphal valley, comprising the state capital and greater Imphal areas. The city roads in the hills are clogged with cars, and many more hit the road almost every day with the facilitation of easy car loans by pro-active banks; all this is contributing to increasing carbon footprints and vehicular pollution and affecting human health and environment. The poor, the marginalized and the pedestrians suffer more than anyone else. This environmental injustice cannot be allowed to continue. He felt radical measures are necessary to bring about a change in the situation and one of the ways may be to ask people to reduce their car usages or use other cars wisely. Or there may be a way

through policy intervention that discourages people to take out cars. At the same time, alternative transport system has also to thought about to improve people's mobility.

In the session of **Reimagining Inclusive Urbanization in the NE and Eastern Himalayas for Climate Conscious Urbanization**. **Kailash Pradhan** stated that inclusive urbanisation will require efforts to bring together the diverse stakeholders of the society, especially the grassroots communities, to ensure their participation in deliberations and discussions on various urban issues and arrive at a collective vision; participation of people and collective decision-making is a key to inclusive urbanisation. For the last ten years, many urban infrastructure development projects are going on in the Himalayan region, including Sikkim and other north-eastern states under the PPP mode. However, there is a very little participation of local stakeholders in the process of planning, design and execution. **Tikendra Singh Panwar**, former Dy Mayor, Shimla, stated that any discussion of urbanisation must take into consideration the geo-physical environment. He observed, disasters are imminent, as the case with north-eastern states are in the most vulnerable zones. So, the preparedness for disasters has to be very paramount. As Closing remarks by **Sandeep Chachra** stated that one phenomenon that needs to be explored a lot more in the context of urbanisation as well as in the context of social and popular politics, is the emergence of different social classes with their protagonist that have been influencing social and political discourses.



The discussion came to an end with closing remarks. Dr. Abhijit Sharma who reiterated the importance of the community institutions (formed under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule and Article 371), which play an effective role in local governance in the region. However, in the context of urban governance, their roles are missing. There has to be a mechanism to bring them on board in urban planning and governance. **Urmi** stated that after two days of in-depth deliberations, there is one issue that has come up again and again is the question of inclusion, but she says that the language of discourse is still not changing – it's a kind of experts-laymen divide - because everyone is talking about development *for* people, infrastructure *for* people, inclusive development *for* people; but the language is now has to change (from development *for* people to) *with* people and then *by* the people. While **Subhasish Borah** felt that if there is any neighbourhood where people want to do something, explain their needs, and then they come up with

their ideas and a plan, which is data driven, not just a superficial plan that reflects the need of the community, it is possible for government to look at the proposals and take them up. The government has a lot of resource but does not find good ideas or projects to channelize funds. **Linda Chhakchuak reiterated that** there has to be mountain-specific construction codes for the Himalayan region. Besides, the natural resources and biodiversity of the region have to be protected. **Ranju Dodum** a follow up to this discussions is really needed, to work together and help with expertise in data collection, analysis and policy matters.

The goal of these conclaves is to foster a deeper understanding of the issues and chart a path forward for research, planning, and implementation. By documenting and disseminating the insights gained from this conclave, we hope to extend the conversation and engage more stakeholders in addressing the region's climate crisis.

At the conclave, participants drew up and shared plans for action research to better understand and document how climate change impacts urban centers in the Northeast, laying the pathway to a better understanding of the challenges and how to lead mitigating efforts under the leadership of deprived urban communities. Participants also emphasized the need for awareness of the respective SAPCC amongst common people for effectiveness, better implementation, and accountability.



Workshop Curriculum: Conclave on climate change and urbanization: eastern Himalayas – North-East India

Time	Activities
9:30 am	Registration
10 to 10:30 am	Welcome address & context setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrinal Gohain, Regional Manager and National Senior Lead, ActionAid Association.
Session I	Climate Change across NE India and its implications on urban scapes/urbanization Conversation Initiators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partha Jyoti Das, Head, 'Water, Climate and Hazard Division', <i>Aaranyak</i>

10:30 to 11:40 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rizwan Uz Zaman, Technical Consultant, Assam Climate Change Management Society, Govt. of Assam <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supongnukshi Ao, Chief Conservation of Forest and Member Secretary, Nagaland State Biodiversity Board (Environment, Biodiversity & Research)
11:40 to 12 noon	Tea Break
Session II 12 noon to 1:15 pm	<p>Urban Ecologies</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Narayan Sharma, Department of Environmental Biology and Wildlife Sciences, Cotton University ▪ Gyatso Lepcha, Campaigner & Social activist, Sikkim ▪ Rituraj Phukan, Environmentalist & writer, Assam <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Uttam Bathari, Department of History, Gauhati University, Guwahati
1:15 pm to 2 pm	Lunch
Session III 2 to 2: 30 pm	<p>Urbanization – Perspectives from the Global South</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director, <i>ActionAid Association (India)</i> and Ex Chair Co-Chair, <i>World Urban Campaign</i> <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linda Chhakchhuak, Senior Journalist and Co-Founder, <i>Grassroot Options</i>, Shillong
Session IV 2:30 to 4 pm	<p>THE CHANGING SCENARIO: Impacts of climate change on key essentials for urban areas</p> <p><u>Breakout Session A [Kaziranga Hall]</u></p> <p>Water, Sanitation, drainage, waste management etcetera</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ramananda Wangkheirakpam, Director, <i>Indigenous Perspectives</i>, Manipur ▪ Pelenuo Yhome, Architect, Coordinator <i>The Zubzub India</i>, Nagaland ▪ Representative of <i>The Midway Journey</i> ▪ Azing Pertin, Journalist and Campaigner, Arunachal Pradesh <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ravindranath, Founder, <i>Rural Volunteer Centre (RVC)</i>, Akajan, Dhemaji, Assam <p><u>Breakout Session B (Loktak Hall)</u></p> <p>Urban economy & livelihoods (fisher folk, urban poor, construction workers, vendors and other categories)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renemla Ozukom, Social worker and activist, Nagaland ▪ Thingnam Anjulika Samom, Author & Independent Researcher, Manipur ▪ Tapan Sarma, General Secretary, CITU Assam State Committee ▪ Chandan Goswami, Secretary, Assam Street Vendor’s Association ▪ Salam Rajesh, Environmentalist, freelance journalist, Member, State Wildlife Board Manipur. <p>Chair:</p> <p>Mayfereen Rynthathiang, President, <i>Grassroot</i>, Shillong</p>
4 to 4:15 pm	Tea Break

4:15 to 5:30 pm	Joint sharing session (All participants reassemble at Kaziranga Hall) Moderator: Urmi Buragohain, Founding Director, <i>PlaceMaking Foundation</i>
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Day 2: 06.07.2024 (Saturday)

Session V 9:30 to 10:15 am	The fragility of food security Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amba Jamir, Environmentalist and Vice President, Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) ▪ Bonojit Hussain, Public Intellectual & Farmer Discussant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Jayanta Kumar Sarma, Consultant, <i>Aaranyak</i>, Natural Resource Management and Livelihood
Session VI 10:15 to 11 am	Two critical issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Public Health- Urbanization and Emerging Challenges Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benedicta Sthuti Kumar, One Health Fellow, Indian Institute of Public Health, Shillong b. Climate Change, Urbanisation, and a Spectre of Conflict Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Yengkhom Jilangamba, Faculty, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, TISS Guwahati Off-Campus Discussant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Munin Bayan, Senior journalist & author
11 to 11.15 am	Tea Break
Session VII 11:15 to 1:15 pm	Governance & Financing for Urban Futures Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kailash Pradhan, Architect and City Planner, Sikkim ▪ Aiban S Mawkhroh, Architect, Shillong ▪ Dr. Joydeep Baruah, Professor, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University ▪ Tikender Singh Panwar, Public intellectual and former Deputy Mayor, Shimla city Discussant: Paresh Sharma, Former Chief Town Planner, Town Planning and Valuation Department, Urban Development Department, Government of Gujarat
1:15 to 2 pm	Lunch
Session VIII 2 to 3:30 pm	THE CHANGING SCENARIOS Breakout Session A (Kaziranga Hall) Land use – Housing, Markets, Public spaces etcetera Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Abhijit Sharma, Professor, Indian Institute of Bank Management, Khanapara, Guwahati ▪ Urmi Buragohain, Founding Director, <i>PlaceMaking Foundation</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Natasha Hazarika, Faculty, Centre for Undergraduate Studies, TISS Guwahati Off-Campus ▪ Syeda Mehzebin Rahman, Project Lead, YUVA, Guwahati ▪ Avner Pariat, Researcher & Campaigner, Shillong <p>Chair: Aiban S Mawkhroh, Architect, Shillong</p>
	<p>Breakout Session B (Japhu Hall - TBC) Mobility challenges – roads, railways (Inter & Intra) Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arshel Akhter, sustainable urban transportation advocate, Bicycle Mayor of Guwahati & Walkability Correspondent ▪ Dipankar Sarma, General Secretary, Assam Rail Passenger Association (ARPA) ▪ Subhasish Borah, Assistant Director at Town and Country Planning, Dept. of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of Assam ▪ Ramananda Wangkheirakpam, Director, <i>Indigenous Perspectives</i>, Manipur <p>Chair: Kailash Pradhan, Architect and City Planner, Sikkim</p>
3:30 to 3:45 pm	Tea Break
3:45 to 4:30 pm	<p>Joint sharing session (All participants reassemble at Kaziranga Hall) Moderator: Ashangbam Swapan Singha, Founder, <i>Barak Dairy</i>, Cachar</p>
<p>Session IX 4:30 to 5:15 pm</p>	<p>Reimagining Inclusive Urbanization in the NE and Eastern Himalayas for Climate Conscious Urbanization</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supongnukshi Ao, Chief Conservation of Forest and Member Secretary, Nagaland State Biodiversity Board (Environment, Biodiversity & Research) ▪ Kailash Pradhan, Architect and City Planner, Sikkim ▪ Aiban S Mawkhroh, Architect, Shillong <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Abhijit Sharma, Professor, Indian Institute of Bank Management, Khanapara, Guwahati <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director, <i>ActionAid Association (India)</i> and Ex Chair Co-Chair, <i>World Urban Campaign</i>
5:15 to 6 pm	Blue Sky: Closing Thoughts
6 pm	<p>Valedictory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dipali Sharma, Director, Organizational Effectiveness (OE), ActionAid Association, Delhi <p>Vote of Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tirtha Prasad Saikia, Director, North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS), Jorhat, Assam

Appendix 3 : Grounded Research of Climate Change

In the second phase, the project is supposed to support 10 community-based climate action research projects across India, which had to be co-developed by groups of participants from the regional workshops. The following grounded research were undertaken and completed:

a. Climate Justice for Informal Workers Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Abstract: This study report, titled "*Climate Justice for Informal Workers: An Action Research in Jaipur, Rajasthan(2026)*", highlights the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on the city's most vulnerable workforce, including construction labourers, sanitation workers, and waste pickers. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research combines a survey of 402 informal workers with focus group discussions across 10 settlements to capture both quantitative trends and experiential insights. The study finds that extreme weather—specifically extreme heat, cited by 65.3% of respondents—is severely disrupting livelihoods by reducing workdays, increasing health risks like heatstroke and respiratory issues, and deepening poverty through a cycle of lost income and high debt. Findings reveal that caste and gender significantly intersect with climate risk: Scheduled Castes and Tribes are overrepresented in hazardous, exposed occupations, while women bear the dual burden of increased unpaid care work and water collection in harsh conditions. Despite these mounting challenges, there is a "glaring inadequacy" of government support, with over 98% of workers reporting they received no compensation for climate-related damages. The report concludes by calling for a Just Transition that integrates inclusive urban planning, universal social protection, and the active participation of worker collectives in climate policy to ensure that those least responsible for climate change are not left to bear its heaviest costs alone.

Key words

Climate Change, Informal workers, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Extreme heat, Occupational Health, Livelihood insecurity. Informal Settlements

b. Living with Uncertainty: Climate Change, Informal Work, and Everyday Vulnerability in Tamil Nadu

Abstract: This study examines the differentiated impacts of climate change on informal workers across Chennai, Chengalpattu, and Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu, as they navigate the intersecting crises of climate change and socio-economic precarity. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines household surveys and focus group discussions, the research captures how climate variability intersects with informality, spatial inequality, and inadequate service provision. The findings highlight the region-specific nature of climate risks: recurrent urban flooding and heat stress in Chennai, peri-urban water insecurity and livelihood transitions in Chengalpattu, and drought-prone agrarian distress in Tiruvannamalai. Findings also reveals that workers suffer significant income loss (often exceeding two months annually) due to extreme heat and flooding, which restricts mobility and reduces labor productivity. In urban and peri-urban areas like Chennai and Chengalpattu, recurrent flooding causes cumulative damage to housing and livelihood assets, forcing households into cycles of high-interest debt and "erosive" coping strategies, such as reducing food intake and

delaying healthcare. While respondents demonstrate high climate awareness rooted in lived experience, their adaptation remains short-term and reactive due to institutional gaps. The report concludes that achieving climate justice requires integrated policy interventions—including climate-resilient housing, urban employment guarantees, and expanded social safety nets—that prioritize the inclusion of informal workers in governance and planning.

Key words

Climate Change, Urban Flooding, Informal workers, Livelihood insecurity, Regional Inequality, Tamil Nadu

c. **Heat, Rain, and Uncertainty: Climate Change and Informal Workers in Bengaluru**

Abstract: This study examines the impacts of climate change on informal workers in Bengaluru, Karnataka, through a climate justice lens that foregrounds the lived experiences of marginalised urban communities. Using a mixed-methods approach, including surveys of 158 workers and focus group discussions, the research captures the intersection of environmental risks with socio-economic precarity. Findings show that 80% of respondents lose more than a month of work annually due to rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, urban flooding, and water stress are significantly disrupting livelihoods, reducing working days, and increasing health risks, particularly for outdoor workers. These impacts are intensified by precarious housing, inadequate urban infrastructure, and limited access to social protection. Climate change acts as a ‘risk multiplier’ intensifying existing inequalities, pushing households into cycles of debt and financial instability, with coping strategies remaining short-term and largely unsupported institutionally. The study highlights the need for integrated urban policy responses that combine climate adaptation with social protection, infrastructure improvement, housing and the inclusion of informal workers in city planning to advance equitable and resilient urban futures.

Key words

Climate Change, Informal workers, Bengaluru, Urban Vulnerability, Livelihood insecurity, Social Protection, Heat Stress.

d. **Impact of climate change on Slum Dwellers in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha**

Abstract: The study, encompassing 150 households across six slums, reveals that rapid urbanization and the obstruction of natural drainage channels have significantly heightened the vulnerability of slum dwellers to extreme climatic events, particularly heatwaves, cyclones, and flash floods. A majority of these residents live in low-lying areas and inhabit temporary or semi-pucca housing, leaving them highly susceptible to waterlogging that can last up to five days at waist height. These environmental stressors result in substantial socio-economic disruptions, including an average loss of 7 to 21 working days, a corresponding decline in income, and increased out-of-pocket expenditures for healthcare and house repairs—often exceeding INR 10,000 to 20,000. Health-wise, the community faces a high prevalence of vector-borne and water-borne diseases like fever, malaria, and skin infections. Despite these challenges, there is a notable lack of government assistance for repairs, forcing 91% of affected families to rely on informal loans from social circles to cope. The report concludes that policy makers must expedite safe housing allocations under the “Mo

Jaga Mission” and empower communities through participatory hygiene and ecological management.

Key words

Climate Change, Informal workers, Odisha, Urban Vulnerability, Health, Flash floods, Cyclone.

e. Climate Change in a Mountain City: Impacts, Perceptions, and Vulnerabilities of Informal Workers in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Abstract:

This study investigates the intersection of climate change and socio-economic precarity among informal workers in the ecologically fragile mountain city of Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. Grounded in a climate justice framework, the research utilizes a mixed-methods approach—combining surveys of 200 workers with focus group discussions—to document how erratic weather patterns act as a "risk multiplier" for marginalized populations. Findings reveal that informal workers, including construction labourers, street vendors, and waste pickers, possess a sophisticated, experiential understanding of climate change, reporting a significant rise in unpredictability, extreme rainfall, landslides, and heat stress. These climatic shifts directly erode livelihoods, with roughly 40% of respondents losing between 20 to 90 workdays annually, leading to severe income instability, increased debt, and health burdens. Despite these mounting pressures, the report identifies a critical institutional gap, noting that nearly a quarter of workers are excluded from welfare schemes and lack access to government compensation for climate-related damages. To build urban resilience, the study advocates for integrated policies that prioritize climate-resilient housing, portable social protection for migrants, and the formal inclusion of informal workers in urban climate governance.

Key words

Climate Change, Informal workers, Shimla, Urban Vulnerability, urban resilience, landslides, heat stress.

[Under internal review](#)

f. Study of impacts of climate change on informal workers and marginalized communities in the urban centers of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Abstract: This study examines the impacts of climate change on informal workers and marginalized communities in the urban centers of Srinagar and Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research captures the intersection of extreme environmental shifts with deep-seated socio-economic precarity. Findings reveal a dual climate challenge: a staggering winter precipitation deficit (reaching 80%) alongside a persistent threat of high-intensity flooding. These stressors significantly disrupt the livelihoods of the urban poor, 64.5% of whom are illiterate and 93.5% of whom survive on less than ₹50,000 annually. The study highlights a critical dependency on the wetland ecosystem, with 75% of respondents relying solely on lotus stem (*nadru*) cultivation—a profession highly vulnerable to water stress and pollution. The research underscores the need for targeted ecological restoration and social safety nets to break the cycle of poverty and climate vulnerability in the region.

g. Study of impact of cloudbursts, landslides, erratic rainfall on the local Dalits, Tribals, Construction Workers of Pithoragarh and Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.

Abstract: This study explores the intersection of climate-induced disasters and socio-economic marginalization among urban communities in the high-altitude districts of Pithoragarh and Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Through household surveys and environmental analysis, the research documents how the fragile Himalayan terrain amplifies the risks of landslides, flash floods, and cloudbursts. Findings show that nearly 80% of households have been impacted by landslides in the recent past, with 82.6% of those with damaged homes facing recovery costs exceeding ₹1 lakh—often surpassing their annual savings. These environmental risks are compounded by housing insecurity, as 82.47% of the population lives in rented accommodations with limited agency for adaptation. Despite higher school completion rates than other regions, workers remain concentrated in the precarious informal construction sector. The study advocates for disaster-resilient urban planning and housing policies that prioritize the specific vulnerabilities of mountain-dwelling informal workers.

h. Impact of climate change on marginalised urban population in the North Eastern states of Assam and Meghalaya

Abstract: This study analyses the climate change experiences of marginalized urban populations in the North Eastern states of Assam and Meghalaya, focusing on the cities of Guwahati, Dibrugarh, and Shillong. Using a mixed-methods lens, the research highlights the compounding effects of riverine flooding, extreme heat, and erratic rainfall on informal economies. In Assam, findings reveal that 80.85% of households suffer from extreme heat, while 33.33% are routinely impacted by floods or storm surges. In Meghalaya, 96.36% of respondents reported highly irregular rainfall patterns affecting their daily lives. Livelihoods in both states are dominated by petty trade and street vending, which offer little protection against weather-related disruptions. While Meghalaya shows a higher penetration of health insurance (74.55%), the broader region remains vulnerable to climate-induced financial instability. The research emphasizes the necessity of integrating transboundary water management with inclusive social protection and resilient urban infrastructure to foster climate justice in the North East.

i. Study of impact of climate change on agriculture workers in Madhya Pradesh

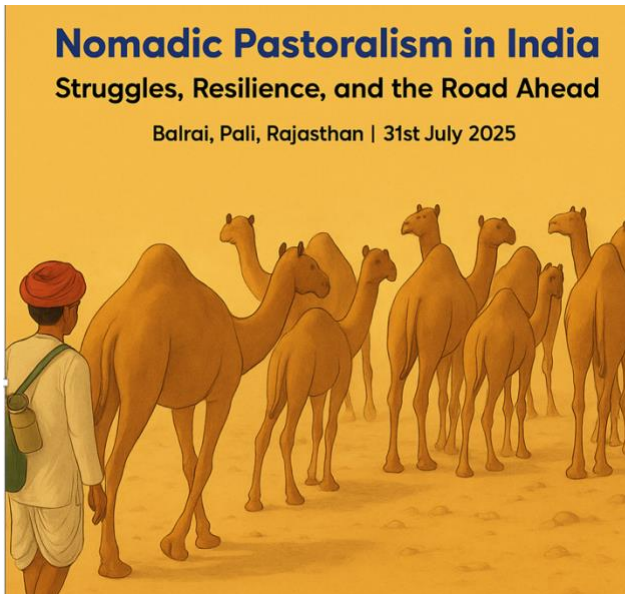
Abstract: This research focuses on the intersection of water scarcity and heat stress in the arid landscapes of Panna and Damoh, Madhya Pradesh. The study records a persistent decline in rainfall and the drying up of traditional "Ken" river tributaries. Socio-economic surveys show that 67.5% of the population is illiterate and 97.5% earn less than ₹50,000 annually, primarily through seasonal agriculture and stone quarrying. Findings indicate that 90% of respondents have lost cattle or crops to extreme heat in the last five years. The study calls for the implementation of solar-powered irrigation and the revival of traditional Bundelkhand water harvesting structures to ensure climate-resilient livelihoods.

j. Study of the impact of heatwave and drought on Street vendors, construction workers and domestic workers in Lucknow & Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

Abstract: This study examines the impact of the intensifying "Heat-Rain" cycle on the marginalized communities of the Indo-Gangetic plains in Uttar Pradesh. The study documents a rise in extreme humidity and peak summer temperatures reaching 48°C. Socio-economic findings indicate that 65% of respondents are illiterate and 95% live in high-density informal settlements with no green cover. The research reveals that 75% of the workforce, primarily rickshaw pullers and street vendors, lose an average of 30 working days per year due to extreme weather. The study emphasizes the need for urban "Green-Blue" corridors and public cooling centers to protect the health and productivity of the state's massive informal workforce

Appendix 4: Conference on the Nomadic Pastoralism in India: Struggle, Resilience and Road Ahead – Balrai, Pali, Rajasthan – 31 July 2025

1. Background and Introduction



Nomadic pastoralist communities in Rajasthan and across India are a vital yet under-recognized part of the country's socio-economic and cultural landscape. Communities like Raikas, Rabaris, Dewasis, and Gaderia sustain livestock rearing, wool and milk-based economies, and ecological balance by conserving grasslands and supporting agricultural systems through seasonal migration. These communities embody a distinctive way of life, one rooted in mobility, adaptability, and ecological stewardship. Through seasonal

migration, pastoralists conserve fragile grasslands, regenerate soil fertility, and maintain ecological balance. Their herds feed directly on natural vegetation, reducing pressure on cultivated lands and sustaining a form of food production that is both low-carbon and climate-resilient. The contributions of pastoralists extend beyond economics; they carry rich cultural traditions, oral histories, and indigenous knowledge systems that continue to shape India's heritage.

India's pastoralists—an estimated 20 million in number—span more than 50 communities across 17 states and 2 Union Territories. They manage close to 75 million sheep, 150 million goats, and a significant portion of the country's camel and cattle population. Their contribution to the national economy—estimated at ₹1.31 lakh crore annually through livestock products like milk, wool, meat, and manure—is immense but poorly recognised. Despite their central role, pastoralists remain on the margins of policy and society, facing multiple layers of systemic exclusion. One of the most critical challenges is the loss of grazing lands and mobility routes. Over the last few decades, common pastures have steadily diminished as village commons have been privatized, diverted for industrial projects, converted into agricultural fields, or absorbed by expanding towns and cities. Restrictions by the forest department have further curtailed access to traditional grazing corridors. What were once established migratory routes are now fragmented or closed, leading to conflict between pastoralists, farmers, and government authorities. This erosion of land rights undermines the very foundation of pastoralist livelihoods, forcing many families into debt, distress sales of livestock, or migration to urban centers for unskilled labour.

Another significant challenge lies in the lack of recognition in laws and policies. India has no comprehensive national pastoralist policy, and while scattered provisions exist under

legislations such as the Forest Rights Act (2006) or the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), these remain poorly implemented. The absence of clear legal recognition leaves pastoralists invisible in government records, depriving them of targeted welfare schemes and entitlements. In many cases, their mobile lifestyle does not fit neatly into administrative categories designed for settled populations, further reinforcing their exclusion from social protection systems.

This invisibility is directly linked to limited access to education, healthcare, and welfare. Because pastoralists often lack permanent addresses or official identity documents such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards, or voter IDs, they are frequently excluded from government services like the Public Distribution System (PDS), health insurance schemes, and housing benefits. For children, the lack of mobile schools or flexible education models means high dropout rates, perpetuating intergenerational poverty. Similarly, access to healthcare remains poor, as services are designed for settled populations and seldom reach migratory groups. Veterinary care, which is crucial for livestock survival, is also inaccessible during migration, making pastoralists more vulnerable to animal diseases and economic shocks.

Within these broader struggles, gender inequality adds another layer of marginalization. Pastoralist women play a central role in livestock rearing, wool shearing, milk processing, and even marketing of animal products, yet their contributions often remain undervalued and unrecognized. Women face double discrimination—first as members of marginalized nomadic groups, and second due to patriarchal norms within their own communities. Social practices such as early marriage, bride price, and restrictions on women's mobility reduce their opportunities for education and personal development. Women also bear the brunt of poor healthcare services, especially during pregnancy and childbirth, leading to higher maternal and child health risks. Despite these challenges, women remain at the frontline of sustaining pastoralist households, often managing both domestic work and economic activities.

The vulnerabilities of pastoralist communities are being further intensified by climate change. Erratic rainfall, recurrent droughts, and rising temperatures are reducing fodder availability and water resources, making traditional grazing cycles increasingly unsustainable. For instance, prolonged droughts in Rajasthan and Gujarat have forced many pastoralist families to abandon their ancestral migration routes, selling off herds at distress prices. Rising fodder costs add further financial strain, while the unpredictability of weather patterns makes pastoralist livelihoods precarious. Climate-related shocks also disrupt the delicate ecological balance between pastoralists and farming communities, weakening age-old symbiotic relationships where livestock manure enriched farmlands in exchange for fodder and crop residues.

In sum, while nomadic pastoralist communities embody resilience, cultural richness, and ecological wisdom, they are being systematically marginalized by land alienation, policy neglect, inadequate social protection, gender inequities, and climate vulnerabilities. Their struggles highlight the urgent need for legal recognition, inclusive policies, and climate-resilient strategies that safeguard their livelihoods, strengthen their agency, and ensure their continued contributions to India's society, economy, and environment.

The conference was conceived as a space for pastoralist voices to be heard and to engage directly with policymakers and elected representatives. Held in Balrai, Pali, Rajasthan on 31 July 2025, the programme brought together pastoralist communities, civil society organizations and government officials to deliberate on urgent issues and chart a collective way forward.

2. Programme of the Conference

The programme was conceived as a democratic platform to bring together nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist communities, government representatives, elected leaders, and civil society organizations in an open dialogue around the challenges and aspirations of pastoralists. It was organized at a time when pastoralist livelihoods face increasing stress due to shrinking grazing lands, exclusion from state welfare, and the absence of policy recognition, despite their critical role in livestock rearing, biodiversity conservation, and sustaining rural economies.

The programme was designed with the following goals:

1. Create a participatory platform for pastoralists to share their lived realities, struggles, and aspirations.
2. Highlight the socio-economic contributions of pastoralists and stress the urgency of policy recognition for their rights and livelihoods.
3. Facilitate direct interaction between pastoralist community representatives and elected representatives, ensuring dialogue and mutual understanding.
4. Develop a collective Nomadic Pastoralists Demands Charter and strengthen community collectives to pursue sustained advocacy and systemic change.

The conference concluded with the presentation of the Charter of Demands to the State Minister of Panchayati Raj, Rajasthan, Mr. Oataram Dewasi, along with senior officials of the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department. This closing act symbolized the commitment to take forward the voices and demands of nomadic pastoralists into the policy and governance arena.

This structured programme enabled knowledge-sharing, dialogue, and collective strategizing to reaffirm the dignity, rights, and contributions of nomadic pastoralists in India.

3. Programme participants

Over 1000 participants, including pastoralist leaders from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, government officials, and representatives from ActionAid and partner NGOs, attended the programme. The gathering itself reflected the community's strong will to be part of policy dialogues.



4. Programme Proceedings

The conference commenced with a keynote address by Mr. Sawaram Dewasi, Convenor of Rajasthan Raika Vikas Sangathan, who set the stage for deeper conversations on pastoralist identities, governance, and historical trajectories. His address emphasized the lived realities of nomadic pastoral communities and the urgent need for recognition of their rights, thereby laying the foundation for the discussions that followed.

Throughout the day, eminent speakers and practitioners examined critical themes, including:

- The socio-economic contributions of pastoralists to India's economy and society.
- The urgency of policy recognition for nomadic and semi-nomadic communities.
- Pastoral mobility and its integral links to conservation and climate change adaptation.
- The gendered nature of pastoral economies, highlighting the pivotal role of women.

Case studies were presented from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar, illustrating the diversity of pastoralist practices, challenges, and resilience strategies across regions.

Session 1: Land, Forest, and Grazing Rights

The first session of the programme featured a presentation on the current status of pastoralist communities across the country. Experts highlighted that the loss of grazing lands emerged as one of the most pressing challenges, with India losing 31% of grazing pastures during the previous 15 years. Loss of commons such as grazing lands and water bodies on which cattle depend have been due to privatisation of land, enclosures and agricultural reclamation, and diversion of lands to development projects. Furthermore, climate change and extreme weather events have meant disturbances in ecosystems, adversely impacting the livelihood of pastoralists.

The dialogue that followed deepened the analysis through the voices of pastoralists themselves. In the first session on land, forest, and grazing rights, community members

narrated their lived experiences of losing access to traditional pastures and migration corridors. Pastoralist leader of Rajasthan described how their herds were frequently penalized when grazing in forests of other states, despite generations of customary use. Pastoralist leaders spoke of harassment faced at the hands of forest guards, and how the shrinking commons have disrupted not only livelihoods but also social cohesion within the community. The session closed with a strong collective demand for recognition of pastoralists under the Forest Rights Act (2006), restoration of village commons, and state-level protection of migration routes.

Session 2: Livelihoods and market access

Leaders of Gujarat, Jharkhand and Bihar states described their increasing economic vulnerability due to rising fodder costs, recurring droughts, and lack of access to fair markets for their livestock and animal products. Wool, once the backbone of pastoralist income, has lost its market due to the spread of synthetic materials, leaving many households without sustainable earnings. Testimonies revealed how middlemen exploit pastoralists in livestock markets, with no guaranteed minimum price. Participants called for the introduction of a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for pastoral produce, subsidies for fodder and water, and livestock insurance schemes that could protect against sudden losses during droughts or disease outbreaks.

Session 3 - Education, health, and social protection

This session brought forward some of the most moving testimonies of the day. Community leaders emphasized how pastoralist children are excluded from mainstream education systems because of seasonal migration. A young Rabari boy from Madhya Pradesh narrated how he had to drop out after primary school since no provisions existed for mobile schooling along his family's migration routes. Women spoke of the absence of maternal healthcare and the difficulties of accessing hospitals while on the move. Communities described their exclusion from welfare schemes like the Public Distribution System (PDS), pensions, and housing schemes due to lack of identity documents and residence proof. This session concluded with a strong call for mobile schools, mobile Anganwadi centres, mobile health and veterinary services, and flexible welfare delivery models that reflect the pastoralist way of life.

After the thematic discussions, pastoralist leaders were invited to share their perspectives in a consolidated session. Their voices reflected a mix of pain and resilience. Elders reminded participants of the ecological role played by pastoralists—improving soil fertility, conserving biodiversity, and sustaining agriculture through a symbiotic relationship between farmers and herders. Women leaders highlighted the double burden they bear marginalized by mainstream society and by patriarchal norms within their communities. Youth expressed both frustration and hope, demanding recognition of pastoralism as a dignified livelihood while also aspiring for modern education and opportunities.

In the afternoon, the dialogue moved into reflections from government Minister who had been invited to listen to and respond to community concerns. The Panchayati Raj Minister emphasized the role of local governance institutions in protecting grazing lands

and promised to explore measures for securing common pastures and also acknowledged the tensions between conservation and pastoralism and assured that departmental practices would be reviewed to reduce conflicts with grazing communities. The officials of Animal Husbandry Department committed to reviewing possibilities for livestock insurance, market linkages, and improved veterinary services. While these commitments were welcomed, community members emphasized the importance of strong follow-up to ensure that promises are effectively translated into action.

The final sessions of the day were devoted to collective planning and consolidation. Pastoralist leaders, civil society representatives, and facilitators came together to draft a Charter of Demands to be submitted to the state and central government. This document summarized key demands: recognition of pastoralists as a distinct livelihood group in state and national policies; restoration of grazing lands and protection of migration routes; introduction of MSP for pastoral products; provision of mobile education, healthcare, and welfare services; and gender-sensitive measures that empower women within pastoralist societies. The planning process also resulted in the decision to form a pastoralist collective at the state levels to take forward advocacy and monitor government responses.

The programme concluded with a summary of recommendations and solidarity messages from supporting organizations and civil society leaders. They reaffirmed their commitment to work alongside pastoralists to amplify their voices, generate research and evidence, and build pressure for policy reforms. The vote of thanks expressed deep gratitude to all participants, especially the pastoralist community members whose courage and clarity in sharing their experiences formed the heart of the programme.

The programme succeeded in creating an unprecedented space for dialogue where pastoralist voices were heard directly by minister and officials. Its outcomes included a Charter of Demands, commitments from government representatives, and the commitments of the pastoralist collectives for sustained advocacy. Moving forward, the challenge will lie in ensuring that these discussions translate into concrete actions. The next steps agreed upon include submitting the Charter of Demands to the government, organizing follow up meetings, building alliances with national-level networks, and preparing a state-level policy paper on pastoralist rights. The programme has thus laid a strong foundation for advancing the dignity and rights of nomadic pastoralist communities in Rajasthan and beyond.

In addition to the State Minister of Rajasthan, the issues and demands of nomadic pastoralists were also presented to elected representatives from Gujarat, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, and the Hon'ble Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairy. These leaders responded positively and expressed their willingness to take forward the agenda of nomadic pastoralists, signaling an encouraging step toward policy recognition and support at both state and national levels. (*Letters are attached with the mail*)

5. Key demands from conference

This Charter outlines the urgent demands of pastoralist communities to ensure livelihood security, recognition, and dignity.

1. Recognition and Policy Framework

- Recognize pastoralists as a distinct livelihood group in national and state policies, on par with farmers and fishers.
- Develop a National and State Pastoralist Policy Framework, in consultation with pastoralist leaders, to protect mobility, livelihoods, and cultural identity.
- Include nomadic and semi-nomadic groups under the Panchayati Raj Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) and Forest Rights Act (2006) provisions.
- Ensure representation of pastoralist communities in policy planning, monitoring committees, and government welfare boards.

2. Land, Forest, and Grazing Rights

- Secure Community Forest Rights (CFRs) under the Forest Rights Act (2006) for pastoralist groups across all potential districts. Expedite pending CFR claims (over 200 nationwide).
- Restore and protect village commons (charagah lands) from encroachment and diversion for industrial, mining, or private use.
- Ensure unhindered access to traditional migration routes, with legal safeguards against harassment, extortion, and eviction.
- Establish state-level monitoring mechanisms to protect pastoralist commons, grazing lands, and migration corridors.
- Review restrictive laws (Indian Forest Act 1927, CAMPA, FCA, Wildlife Protection Act) and harmonize them with FRA provisions.

3. Mobility, Security, and Livestock Protection

- Issue Transit Permits/IDs and state-wise guidelines to secure the seasonal movements of pastoralist families and their herds.
- Provide livestock insurance under the National Livestock Mission to cover theft, accidents, diseases, and climate shocks.
- Ensure mobile veterinary services along migration routes, with equal focus on small ruminants as well as large livestock.
- Expand fodder development programmes on grazing lands, especially during droughts and lean seasons.

4. Livelihoods and Market Access

- Introduce a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for pastoralist produce, including wool, milk, hides, and livestock.
- Revive the wool industry by supporting weavers, cooperatives, and sustainable processing units.
- Promote indigenous wool for diverse uses (insulation, bio-manure, eco-friendly packaging).

- Ensure pastoralists' direct access to mandis and markets to prevent middlemen exploitation.
- Facilitate artisan and craft linkages through NBCFDC, TRIFED, and FSSAI recognition for wool and non-bovine milk products.

5. Education, Health, and Social Protection

- Establish mobile schools, Anganwadi's, and health units that move along migration routes.
- Introduce flexible curricula, bridge courses, and scholarships for pastoralist children to reduce dropouts.
- Ensure access to maternal and reproductive health services for women pastoralists.
- Guarantee inclusion of pastoralist households in welfare schemes (PDS, pensions, housing, MGNREGA, social security), with relaxed residence proof requirements.

6. Women's Rights and Gender Justice

- Recognize and support the economic and cultural roles of pastoralist women in markets, livestock care, and traditional knowledge systems.
- Introduce special schemes for women pastoralists – scholarships, maternal health services, livelihood support, and access to credit.
- Implement gender-sensitive programming to address patriarchal practices such as child marriage and barriers to girls' education.

7. Climate Resilience and Ecological Role

- Acknowledge pastoralists as ecological justice defender who conserve biodiversity, maintain soil fertility, and sustain indigenous livestock breeds.
- Integrate pastoralists into state climate resilience strategies and national adaptation programmes.
- Include pastoralist communities in disaster relief and drought mitigation schemes.

8. Governance and Institutional Support

- Establish Pastoralist Welfare Cells at national and state levels, with representation from pastoralist communities.
- Ensure departmental convergence (Animal Husbandry, Forest, Education, Social Justice, Rural Development, Women & Child Development) to address pastoralist issues holistically.
- Strengthen youth leadership and intergenerational transfer of knowledge.

राजीव रंजन सिंह उर्फ ललन सिंह
RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH



पंचायती राज मंत्री
और मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन एवं डेयरी मंत्री
भारत सरकार
Minister of Panchayati Raj and
Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Government of India

DO. No. 762/MN/PRA/FAHD/2025

13 AUG 2025

Dear Shri Parshottam Rupala ji,

I am in receipt of your letter No. MP(LS)/Rajkot/2024-25/62 dated 24.07.2025, forwarding there with a representation from Shri Savaram Devasi, Livestock Leader, Action Aid Association, New Delhi, regarding framing of Policy Guidelines addressing the issues/ grievances related to Nomadic Pastoralist Communities.

The matter has been forwarded to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for examination and necessary action.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


(Rajiv Ranjan Singh)

Shri Parshottam Rupala,
Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha),
26 Tughlak Crescent,
New Delhi-110 011.

परशोत्तम रुपाला

संसद सचिव, (लोकसभा) राखडीट,
तुहलक (भारत)

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NO - MP(LS)/Rajkot/2025/64

Dtd. 24.07.2025

Dear Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh ji,

I am forwarding a request received from Shri Savaram Devas (Mob 8290617507), Livestock Leader, Action Aid Association, New Delhi regarding framing of Policy Guidelines issues/grievances related to Nomadic Pastoralist Communities, which is self-explanatory.

I shall be grateful, if you could kindly look into the matter favourably and take necessary action.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-
(Parshottam Rupala)

Encl: As above.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh,
Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying,
Govt. of India,
Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110 001.

Copy to: Shri Savaram Devas, Livestock Leader, Action Aid Association,
New Delhi for information.


(Parshottam Rupala)

Response letter from the policymakers regarding the Nomadic Pastoralists' Demands Charter.

Appendix 5: National Consultations for reflection and sharing learnings

The project conducted consultation which provided strategic platform for transdisciplinary engagement on urban resilience, centering the lived experiences and priorities of marginalised and vulnerable communities. It allowed for diverse stakeholders to convene—including community representatives, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers—to foster inclusive dialogue and inform context-responsive approaches.

National Conclave of Small Scale Fisherfolk

*Securing Tenure Rights and
Advancing Climate Justice*



State Agriculture Management & Extension Training Institute,
Narendrapur, West Bengal



4th September 2025



Background

India's small-scale fisheries form the backbone of the country's aquatic food systems, employing millions and sustaining coastal and inland communities across states. Despite their ecological sustainability and contribution to local food security, small-scale fishworkers face growing precarity due to climate change, industrialization, policy neglect, and the increasing dominance of aquaculture and large-scale corporate fishing. The consultation on Small-Scale Fisheries, organized by ActionAid Association in partnership with the Global Partnership Network, brought together fishworker leaders, researchers, civil society representatives, and activists to deliberate on the challenges confronting fishing communities and to strengthen collective advocacy for tenure, livelihood, and gender justice.



Photograph 1 Panel Discussion: Tenure Rights and Legal Gaps

Programme Overview: Workshop Proceedings and Key Issues Discussed

1. Status of Small-Scale Fisheries in India

Participants noted that small-scale fishers account for nearly 90% of India’s fishing workforce, yet remain largely unrecognized in official data. Definitions of who qualifies as a fisher remain unclear, with many practicing multiple livelihoods due to seasonal vulnerabilities. Aquaculture has overtaken capture fishing globally, raising concerns about ecological imbalance and dispossession of traditional fishing communities. While global production and trade in fish have expanded, the livelihoods of small-scale fishers have become increasingly insecure. Discussions emphasized the urgent need to strengthen documentation and advocacy for recognizing small-scale fishworkers as primary custodians of India’s aquatic ecosystems.

2. Tenure Rights and Legal Gaps

The consultation underscored that small-scale fisherfolk remain *legal non-entities*—unlike farmers, who are recognized under agrarian laws. Development projects, port expansions, and protected area declarations have frequently led to the eviction of fishing communities without due consultation. Participants from multiple states—Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, and West Bengal—shared how privatization of water bodies and contract-based systems have further marginalized traditional fishers. Calls were made to enact a **national law guaranteeing tenure rights** for small-scale fishers, ensuring access to and control over water bodies. Participants demanded legal recognition for fisherfolk, participatory management of aquatic resources, and community-led monitoring of environmental degradation.

3. Women in Fisheries: Invisibility and Struggle for Recognition

The panel on women fishworkers brought to light the severe gender disparities in the sector. Despite their central role in processing, vending, and sustaining fishing households, women remain invisible in fisheries policy and welfare boards. They face multiple challenges—lack of identity cards, exclusion from compensation during fishing bans, and limited access to cooperatives and financial schemes. Speakers highlighted cases of harassment, unsafe market conditions, inadequate sanitation facilities, and additional unpaid care work. The discussion called for an **exclusive national policy for**

women fishworkers, ensuring recognition, financial inclusion, infrastructure support, and legal entitlements. Strengthening women’s cooperatives and leadership in the fisheries value chain was seen as key to achieving equity.



Photograph 2 Panel Discussion: Rights of Women Fish Workers

4. Climate Change and Fisherfolk Livelihoods

Participants from across India shared lived experiences of climate-induced disruptions—floods, cyclones, pollution, and rising temperatures. In Bihar and Assam, erratic rainfall and floods have destroyed riverbank settlements, while in Odisha and coastal Maharashtra, sea-level rise and erosion have displaced entire villages. Speakers emphasized that **climate justice frameworks must integrate fisherfolk rights**, calling for fair compensation, comprehensive rehabilitation, and protection of mangrove ecosystems. The need for a **Coastal Employment Guarantee Scheme** to support fishers during lean and disaster periods was strongly advocated. The intersection of climate change with class, caste, and gender inequalities was recognized as a critical challenge.



Photograph 3 Plenary: Climate Change Impacts on Fisherfolk Livelihoods

Culmination in the Charter of Demands

The consultation culminated in the collective drafting and release of a **Charter of Demands**, articulating the aspirations and rights-based claims of small-scale fisherfolk across India. Developed through extensive deliberations and contributions from participants, the Charter was finalized and issued in **three languages—Hindi, English, and Bangla** to ensure accessibility and ownership by communities across regions.

The Charter serves as a comprehensive framework to guide advocacy, policy engagement, and collective mobilization. It calls for urgent and sustained state action to secure tenure, livelihood, gender, and climate justice for fisherfolk communities. The demands are organized across four broad domains:

1. Legal Demands

- Legal recognition of small-scale fishers as a distinct category with enforceable rights to tenure, water bodies, and social protection.
- Grant of free fishing rights and resolution of conflicts arising from sanctuary designations.
- Abolition of the contractor system and recognition of community ownership over inland water bodies.

2. Tenure Rights

- Secure tenure rights for small-scale fishers and participation in decisions on protected areas, ports, and tourism projects.
- Right to access and manage water bodies for fishing and aquaculture.
- Land rights for pre- and post-harvest activities.
- Right to protect and restore water bodies and fish resources from pollution, encroachment, and unsustainable exploitation.
- Preferential and inalienable access rights for small-scale fishers.
- Protection from eviction and exploitation under lease arrangements, with guaranteed tenure security.
- Regular water body audits to monitor ecological and social integrity.

3. Women Fishworkers' Rights

- Adoption of an **exclusive policy for women fishworkers**, ensuring gender-segregated data collection and policy inclusion.
- Equal wages, dignified working conditions, and women-specific welfare schemes.
- Preferential access to infrastructure (markets, toilets, drying platforms), credit, training, and cooperatives.
- Recognition and protection of half-widows, with timely compensation for loss of partners at sea.
- Establishment of medical camps, social security mechanisms, and safeguards in markets and transport systems.
- Promotion of women-led cooperatives, SHGs, and producer groups.

4. Climate and Environmental Justice

- Preferential access to fish resources as a climate resilience measure.
- Accurate weather forecasting, safer anchorage facilities, and climate-resilient storage systems.
- Ban on destructive fishing practices such as bottom trawling and purse seining.
- Establishment of a **Climate Compensation Fund** and climate-resilient housing for coastal and inland fishers.
- Participatory disaster management frameworks and inclusive policy design.

- Independent scientific assessment of inland water bodies and pollution control.

5. Miscellaneous Demands

- Allocation of 3% of the Union budget to fishworker welfare.
- Regulation of fish prices and eradication of the middleman system.
- Legal recognition of traditional ecological knowledge and its integration in fisheries management.
- Comprehensive rehabilitation framework for erosion and flood-affected communities.
- Recognition of subsistence fishing as a **nutrition security right** beyond its economic value.

The Charter represents the collective voice of India’s small-scale fisherfolk—a declaration of rights rooted in justice, equity, and sustainability. It affirms that fishworkers are not beneficiaries but custodians of the aquatic commons, whose recognition and empowerment are essential for a just blue economy.



Photograph 4 Participants from across India

Conclusion

The consultation marked a significant step in consolidating national dialogue on small-scale fisheries in India. It foregrounded the intersectional realities of caste, class, gender, and ecological justice within the sector. Participants stressed that small-scale fisherfolk are not merely beneficiaries but *custodians of aquatic commons*—their recognition in law, policy, and practice is essential to achieving sustainable and equitable blue economies.

The event concluded with a call to action: to build a stronger, inclusive, and rights-based movement that ensures every fisher, especially women and marginalized communities, have secure access to their livelihoods and waters.
