

Our Climate Action

We are a civil society in India incorporating a forward looking climate action agenda through synergistic efforts of both top-down and bottom-up approach via advocacy, knowledge deepening, policy analysis, capacity building, engaging key partnerships & stakeholders. This is necessary because Climate change is the biggest threat we face in the 21st century and if we don't tackle it, the consequences are grim. Hence, our collective and individual responsibility is to secure our environmental resources against climate adversity that can help us build back better and maintain healthy human-environment relationships.

With the COVID hitting us hard, transformative paradigms, policies and practices have to be re-assessed across environment, technological, cultural, socio-economic factors including paradigm, goals and values, which will be different from non COVID times. We're called upon to be our best selves with patience, compassion and fortitude adapting towards an undefined 'new normal' in the post pandemic world. For purpose of climate oriented recovery, reformatory change is needed especially when we have pledged to avoid a rise of more than 2°C and meet our SDG aspirations by 2030 and I must say that it is very reassuring to hear COP26 is going to be held next year but before that, we all have to be well prepared.

Citing an example in New Delhi, the capital of India and the place I reside, pollution during lockdown phase declined with improved air quality, rejuvenated rivers, I could witness the city healing which was not the case before because Delhi is counted as world's one of the most polluted capital. This pandemic has already given us challenges but also an opportunity to call for urgent climate action in post COVID world. Sustain the good things in air, water and clear environment, such case study will prove useful to humanity in many ways.

We propose to call for more action oriented and less "business as usual" if we expect for a successful COP and combating the climate crisis as well. Being a dedicated opportunity, multi-stakeholders must together come to collectively fight climate crisis. Although sub-national, regional and local governments are key agents in delivering actions, crucial role is played by NGOs and civil society in bridging global-local perspectives, offering examples of successful collaborations where knowledge and policies become grounded in work with local partners. We all have different visions and mandate towards climate action, but as a civil society, we understand fundamental changes must happen at grass root level. Identifying knowledge gaps and priority development areas, as a catalyst, we have understood actions can trigger a shift towards climate sustainability and create a last mile impact. Women, Youth and indigenous communities have the strength to transform from 'invisible to visible' actors and their contribution shall be largely recognized right from planning to implementation stage.

We are able to bring influence, experiences and harmonise actions through multi-level engagements and in this regard, we, at India Water Foundation have consistently made efforts sharing our experiences in water, biodiversity, energy and environment sectors at multiple forums. Currently, we are working our understanding towards peer review, scoping assessments of IPBES, CBD, IPCC, UNEA, UNFCCC, etc. in realms of biodiversity, marine plastics, climate action and SDGs realisation under various capacities especially in the light of pandemic. Our network of Friends of Water have shown keen interest to align with the

Foundation's objective to foster sensitization of climate awareness, disseminating best practices and scientific temper through their networks and they regularly send us feedback regarding the same.

We are quite aware that Super Year of Nature and Biodiversity is immediately relevant towards protecting our natural resource management and realizing ecosystem services. Here, climate resilient approaches like water-energy-food nexus and Eco-system based Adaptation addresses the crucial links between climate change and nature based solutions and is known to be natural defenders of environment. We have been including these in our interventions and our capacity building measures are targeted towards climate resilient strategies to bring a paradigm shift towards livelihood sustainability and good quality of life.

Looking up to UNFCCC, we look up to suggest that collective and combined pathways can be the lynchpin to achieve our climate goals and believe that in the fight against the deadly pandemic, life and livelihood are also essential along with climate action. We are still not too late to correct our course and live in harmony with environment.