

Sub-Regional Workshop on Community Resilience to Climate Change in Bay of Bengal - 2012

12th -14th
July 2012



Facilitators



Background

A considerable number of the world's poorest people live on the coast of Bay of Bengal, which is also the world's largest bay. Bay of Bengal is endowed with rich natural resources and monsoon that provides the livelihood support to millions living across the coast. It is also the source of some of the deadliest cyclones in the past century and demonstrates the phenomenon of climate change impact due to increased intensity of cyclonic activities, sea level rise, salinity intrusion - posing additional and significant threat to an already vulnerable population and environment. The coast of Bangladesh and India are among the most vulnerable regions in South Asia with very significant cyclonic exposure and high mortality risk now affected by climate change.

Vulnerable people, with their science and resources, are trying to adapt with the impacts of climate change that has become the central concern. With the emergence of scientific consensus on climate change, the governments in the coast have intensified their efforts to tackle the impacts. Climate change policy and actions are already formulated in these countries to strengthen their effort in sustainable development, poverty alleviation and disaster management

To contribute to this effort, Concern Worldwide has initiated a project "Multi Country Initiative on Increasing Resilience and Reducing Risk of Coastal Communities to Climate Change and Natural Hazards in the Bay of Bengal" titled 'Paribartan' covering the South West coast of Bangladesh and the coast of Odisha in India. Similarly, UNDP is also implementing the program "Climate Change adaptation and reducing vulnerabilities of communities to climate change and disaster risk through integrated water management", titled 'Prayas' along the Odisha coast to address the issues of Climate Change impact. Both the programs are being implemented by Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) in India. As an outcome of the collaboration between both programs, a sub-regional workshop is being organized to facilitate a dialogue between different stakeholders and practitioners to share their experiences and knowledge on community resilience and adaptation from the region. A preparatory meeting of the organizing team with representatives of key agencies involved has and will continue to facilitate the overall process and participation of key stakeholders from the region have been invited to collaborate and join the event as co-organizers to broad base the scope of the engagement.

Participants

The workshop is open to individuals and agencies interested in climate change and community resilience building approach: including policymakers, nongovernmental organizations, research and policy institutes, academics, practitioners and community representatives with a particular focus on grassroots experiences. The conference strongly encourages participants from the coastal region of Bay of Bengal and the institutions actively engaged in this region. Representatives from **India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Myanmar** will be invited to share the cross-regional experiences on community resilience. Attendance is limited to 100 participants on first come first serve basis.

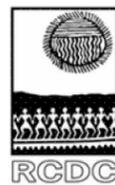
VENUE:

HOTEL SWOSTI PREMIUM
P-1, JAYDEV VIHAR
NEAR INFOCITY
BHUBANESWAR

CONTACT DETAILS

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Co-Organisers





The Conference

The Sub-regional conference on "Community Resilience to Climate Change in Bay of Bengal" is proposed as an event to develop a forum on Community Resilience in the Bay of Bengal region. The conference is proposed as the 1st initiative to bring the communities and their agencies living in the coastal areas of Bay of Bengal to share their issues and probabilities to overcome the Climate Crisis across the bay.

Goal:

The goal of the regional workshop is to share the latest developments and discourse on building community resilience across the region by addressing the core issues of disaster and climate change.

Objective:

The broad objective of the process is to foster an informal forum for sharing experiences and bridge the knowledge gap on the climate change phenomenon and its impact on the coastal communities in the Bay of Bengal region by cutting across the geo-political boundaries.

Expected Outcomes:

- Bring together stakeholders and practitioners to share and discuss knowledge of community resilience and adaptation planning from different parts of Bay of Bengal.
- Capture learning from communities as well as scientists and academicians to develop a people's science model appropriate for the developing world
- Enhance the capacity of the most vulnerable groups and people to develop their resilience capacity in developing countries and integrate these lessons into development plans.
- Disseminate lessons learnt at the workshop as a summary charter for follow up.



Workshop plan and processes:

The broad framework of the workshop would cover the specific themes and issues through two plenary and eight technical sessions to create an opportunity for the communities as well as the key stakeholders to share their views, experiences and plans. The overall process would attempt to elaborate/ unpack the indicators of resilience by facilitating the sessions on community based CC impact assessments, adaptation planning, Community knowledge and practices along with the integration of disaster risk reduction and development planning. The workshop could engage with the priority sectors and measures at different levels by inviting the key stakeholders; Universities, NGOs/ INGOs, Media, Government agencies from across the region and dissemination of knowledge among stakeholders and communities.

The event will be jointly co-hosted by Geography Department of Utkal University and Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) with the support and facilitation of Concern Worldwide and UNDP in Odisha. However, in order to ensure a long-term sustainability of the process, an informal partnership will be forged with the Universities and local NGOs to bring in the key actors to lead the process. The workshop will also create opportunities to bring in other key stakeholder in the form of sponsorship to host some of the parallel sessions and share the responsibility or lead the sessions based on their areas of expertise or interest.

Submission of Abstract

A broad framework of definition on Community Resilience on Climate Change; Its measure of a sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond, to withstand and recover from adverse situation" has been adopted to outline the scope of the papers and presentations on the themes;

THEMES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:

- **Climate Change and Food Security/Agriculture/Livelihood**
- **Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction**
- **Climate Change and Gender/Inequality**
- **Climate Change Impact Monitoring/ Assessment**
- **Climate Change and Youth/ Children**
- **Climate Change and Technologies**
- **Climate Change and Green Economy**
- **Climate Change and Governance/ Policy Advocacy**

Important Dates:

- **Expression of Interest:**
30th June 2012
- **Abstract submission:**
1st July 2012
- **Peer review and confirmation:**
5th July 2012
- **Conference:**
12th to 14th July 2012

Abstract format:

- **Title (15 words):**
- **Name & Contact Address of the author (s):**
- **Theme(s):**
- **Contents: 250 words for technical paper abstracts and 10 slides for presentations**

Interested participants should send abstract/s on any of the the listed themes to the following address

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