National Institute of Advanced Studies

The Green Ribbon

*A Monthly Monitor of the **NIAS C3SP initiative** on Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace*

NIAS-STIR Programme

global politics

Discourses | Trajectories | Forecasts

Across the Region

Women, Climate Change and Civil Society

Conversations and Cross-learnings



The Green Ribbon #07, October 2026

NIAS Monthly Monitor on Climate Change, Civil Society & Peace supported by GPPAC South Asia and CLIMPSE

National Institute of Advanced Studies
NIAS

About NIAS

National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) was conceived and founded in 1988 by JRD Tata and Dr Raja Ramanna with an objective to nurture a broad base of scholars, managers and leaders who would respond to the complex challenges that face contemporary India and global society, with insight, sensitivity, confidence and dedication.

About NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society & Peace (C3SP) Initiative

The C3SP Monitor is a research initiative at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) dedicated to building a comprehensive database on civic responses to climate change across South Asia. The monitor focuses on four core objectives: tracking regional media coverage of climate events; documenting localized individual and collective adaptation strategies; developing empirical case studies; and curating an open-access resource base.

Beyond data collection, the NIAS C3SP serves as an active capacity-building platform. Aligning with the founding mission of NIAS to nurture the next generation of researchers, the initiative invests in young scholars - equipping them to conduct rigorous fieldwork, capture community narratives, and analyse the intersection of climate resilience, civil society, and peacebuilding.

The Green Ribbon is designed as a NIAS Monthly Monitor, addressing the above two.

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About GPPAC South Asia & the CLIMPSE

The monitor is supported by GPPAC South Asia's Climate, Peace, and Security (CLIMPSE) research initiative. The CLIMPSE initiative aims to strengthen local peacebuilders' capacity by deepening awareness of the links between climate, peace, and security, and strengthening practical skills, local peacebuilders are better equipped to develop and implement climate-sensitive peacebuilding policies, practices, and infrastructures in their communities. It also aims to amplify local knowledge and strengthening their capacity. The CLIMPSE initiative is co-funded by the European Union.

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is a global network led by civil society organizations (CSOs) dedicated to preventing violent conflict and promoting more peaceful societies. The network comprises 15 regional networks, each with their own priorities and agendas tailored to their specific environment. The GPPAC South Asia network comprises a dynamic group of members from diverse backgrounds, all working towards conflict prevention and peace promotion in the region. It maintains a mixed membership that includes CSOs, policy research institutes, activists, mediators, and academics.

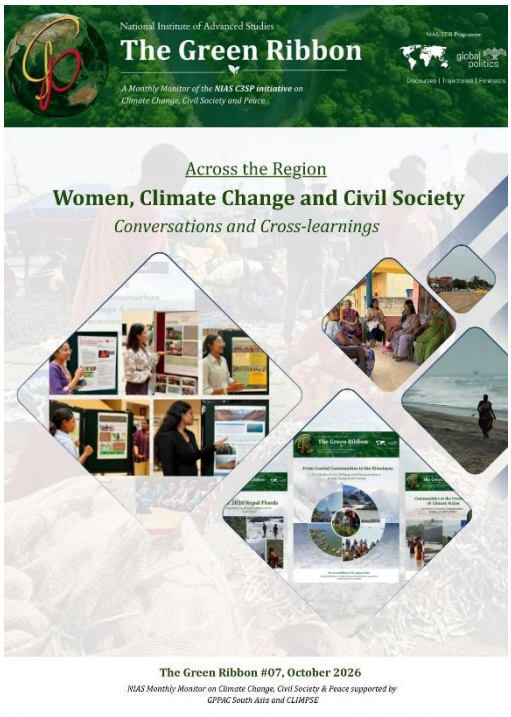
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The Green Ribbon

Monthly Monitor of the NIAS C3SP (Climate Change, Civil Society & Peace) Initiative
#07, October 2026



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D Suba Chandran

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Source: Resolve Support Media / ISAF Regional Command, Ahadul Karim Khan / Dhaka Tribune, Ali Raza / AP, UNDP, Mongabay, TBS News, Orissa Post

About the Cover Image
The cover of *The Green Ribbon #07* brings together moments from our field engagements, capacity-building activities and previous publications. The collage on the left features members of the *Grass Roots* youth network presenting their work at the second *Grass Roots* poster workshop, held on the theme "*Climate Action from the Ground: Stories of Individuals and Organisations across the Indian Neighbourhood*." Below this are the covers of previous issues of *The Green Ribbon*.

The images on the right capture our field engagements with coastal communities. The photograph at the top features our team member, Lekshmi MK, interacting with women from coastal communities in Kanyakumari district. The photograph below it, taken by our team member Preetha Renganarayanan, captures a woman on the shore at Urur Olcott Kuppam, a fishing hamlet in Chennai. The smaller image of boats and the coastal community was also taken at Besant Nagar beach, where the hamlet is located.

Editor's Note

October 2026: Continuing our field engagement with a focus on Women, Climate Change and Civil Society

This is the seventh issue of *The Green Ribbon*. As in the previous issues, the present edition continues our efforts to bring together field experiences, conversations, case studies, stories and documentation on climate change and civil society. This issue focuses on the experiences of women in the context of climate change, particularly in coastal communities, and the role of civil society in strengthening climate resilience.

As part of our focus on field-based research, it carries a study on coastal livelihood resilience in Kanyakumari district. The "***Conversations***" section presents an interview with women from the southern Indian coast. Their experiences highlight how changes in the coastline, loss of sand dunes and declining fish availability affect women's livelihoods and household responsibilities.

Continuing our focus on youth engagement, the "***Capacity Building***" section features twelve stories of individuals and organisations working on climate action across the Indian neighbourhood. These contributions are drawn from the posters presented at the second edition of our '*Grass Roots'* poster workshop, held in August on "Climate Action from the Ground: Stories of Individuals and Organisations across the Indian Neighbourhood." The stories cover a range of initiatives, including women's leadership and livelihood resilience in Bangladesh, floating schools, community-based adaptation in Bhutan, climate awareness and early warning systems in Afghanistan, water conservation in Sri Lanka, youth-led climate action in the Maldives, and the protection of biodiversity and indigenous knowledge in the Himalayan region. These contributions reflect the diverse ways in which individuals and civil society organisations are responding to climate challenges across the region. They also continue our efforts to build the capacity of young scholars, facilitate cross-learning and develop a wider knowledge repository on climate change and civil society.

Besides, the issue also contains our regular "***Documentation***" section, as our team continues to work on the database of major regional developments in climate policy and environmental action.

For the next issue, we plan to build on one of the previous issues (the September issue), which focused on "*The 2026 Nepal Floods: Responses, Challenges, Lessons and the Road Ahead*." The November issue will feature "***Interviews***" with civil society stakeholders, capturing their first-hand experiences and perspectives two months after the floods.

The Green Ribbon continues to deepen its engagement with civil society, strengthen field-based research, engage young scholars and build capacity. We look forward to your continued support as the initiative unfolds further!

D Suba Chandran
Editor, *The Green Ribbon.*

Coping with Climate Change: Gendered Experiences and Responses

An interview with Escaline, Ancy, Keten and Emerite, coastal community women from Puthenthurai, Kanyakumari district, on climate change, coastal livelihoods and the experiences of women in the community

Lekshmi MK



As part of the NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace (C3SP) initiative in collaboration with GPPAC South Asia, Lekshmi MK, Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, interviewed Escaline, Ancy, Keten and Emerite, ***women from the coastal community of Puthenthurai in Kanyakumari*** *district. The conversation explored the experiences of women in a community where fishing is the predominant source of household livelihood and income. The respondents shared their observations and experiences in Tamil, and the responses have been translated into English for the purpose of this report.*

Puthenthurai is a coastal village in Kanyakumari district that was historically characterised by extensive sand dunes along its coastline. According to the women interviewed, these sand dunes were an important part of the village's landscape and provided a natural coastal buffer. They recalled that people could walk through the dunes to neighbouring villages and that children used to play there. The women also associated the presence of these dunes with the village's protection during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, noting that the dunes helped shield the settlement from the impact of the waves.

The women recalled that, over a period of several years, large sections of the sand dunes were removed under a food-for-work programme associated by them with Catholic Relief Services (CRS). According to their account, people from several coastal villages, including Puthenthurai, were provided food items such as rice, wheat,

milk powder and bread in exchange for labour to remove the sand dunes. They noted that poverty and the immediate need for food and income encouraged local communities to participate in the programme, despite the longer-term consequences they now associate with the loss of the dunes. Their responses provide an important perspective on how environmental changes, livelihood dependence and economic vulnerability intersect with gender in coastal communities.

1. What changes have you seen in the sea, coastline and sand dunes in Puthenthurai over the years?

Earlier, there were large white sand dunes along the coast. Children played there, and people used to walk through the dunes to cross from one village to another. Over time, the dunes have reduced because of soil erosion and sand removal, and seawater has started coming further inland. This has also affected community spaces and damaged structures such as the fishermen's shelter. The women also observed a decline in the availability of different fish species.

2. Earlier, what work did women in the village do for income?

Women's livelihoods were largely dependent on men's fishing activities. Unlike women in some other coastal communities, these women were not directly involved in fish vending, fish marketing or other major post-harvest activities. Their traditional income-generating activities included net-making and shell-stringing, which have now declined or stopped, partly due to the introduction of machine-made fishing nets. Some women also engaged in small petty shops and informal businesses selling everyday requirements for fishermen, materials used for repairing fishing nets, and tobacco and other smoking-related products used by fishermen. However, these activities provided only limited income. With the decline of traditional livelihoods and limited opportunities for independent income, women remained highly dependent on men's earnings from fishing.

3. With changes and the decline in fish availability, how has women's work and income within the family been affected?

The availability of fish has declined, and fishing has become more uncertain. Since the community depends heavily on fishing, this affects household income. Women also do not always receive money directly from their husbands, making them more financially dependent on the household income from fishing.

4. When the family's income from fishing is affected, what additional responsibilities or difficulties do women have to take on?

Women continue to manage household responsibilities even when the family's income is affected. With fewer traditional livelihood opportunities available to them, they have limited options to earn independently. Women participated in the 100-day employment programme through activities such as pond cleaning, coastal cleaning and plantation work, including mangrove and other coastal vegetation planting. However, as some women grew older and developed health-related difficulties, they were no longer admitted to or given work under the programme. This further reduced their access to an independent source of wage income.

5. Are there any customs, beliefs or restrictions that prevent women from taking decisions about household income and livelihoods?

Yes, traditional beliefs continue to shape women's roles within fishing households, with women often excluded from fishing-related activities and discouraged from appearing before men before they go to sea, as this is considered a bad omen. Women are largely dependent on men's fishing income and have limited participation in household livelihood and financial decisions. Although they may be expected to take loans or manage household debts to support the family, they do not always have an equal say in how income is used or how livelihood decisions are made. Women also mentioned the difficulties in maintaining savings and financial planning in

households where husbands consume alcohol, as household income may be spent on alcohol, leaving limited resources for children's education, emergencies and other needs. Thus, women from these families often carry significant household and financial responsibilities while having limited control over income and decision-making.

6. What support have women received from the government or other organisations?

Women have received employment opportunities through the 100-day work programme, and there have also been training programmes for alternative livelihoods. However, they felt that training alone was not enough. There was limited support for selling the products, connecting them to markets or generating sustained income. Some programmes appeared to focus more on conducting the training than ensuring that the activity became a viable livelihood.

7. What do coastal women in need most to protect their livelihoods and cope with climate change?

Women need sustainable livelihood opportunities and income support, particularly as traditional activities such as net-making and shell work have declined. Training should be accompanied by market access and opportunities to actually sell their products. They also need better protection of the coastline and stronger support for communities affected by coastal erosion and declining marine resources.

About the author:
Lekshmi MK *is a Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.*

Stories

Strengthening Livelihood Resilience among Coastal Women:

How Stella Maris Institute of Development Studies (SMIDS) is supporting coastal livelihoods amid climate and environmental changes in Kanyakumari district

Lekshmi MK



*As part of the NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace (C3SP) initiative in collaboration with GPPAC South Asia, Lekshmi MK, Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, met and spoke with **Mr Edison**, Project Manager, **SMIDS**, discussing the organisation's work with coastal communities, livelihood development, climate-related livelihood changes, and the experiences of women in Kanyakumari.*

Stella Maris Institute of Development Studies (SMIDS) has been working with coastal communities since 2006, focusing on livelihood development, capacity building and access to credit. Through programmes linked with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the organisation supports coastal communities in developing livelihood opportunities and strengthening their access to loans and financial services. Its livelihood interventions have included skill-development and entrepreneurship programmes, including fish pickle making and shell-art activities.

The organisation's work takes place against a changing livelihood environment for coastal communities. Over the past four years, a decline in fish catch has affected fishing-based livelihoods. The availability of marine resources has also been influenced by factors such as bottom trawling and the use of banned fishing nets. According to the organisation, technological changes have also altered fishing practices, with modern applications increasingly being used to identify fish movements and fishing locations.

These changes have implications beyond the direct fishing economy. The decline in fish catch affects the wider chain of coastal livelihoods, including activities undertaken by women. At the same time, livelihoods promoted through skill-development programmes face market-related challenges. While training and capacity-building have enabled more people to enter

activities such as shell art and fish-based products, the expansion of similar products has increased competition and reduced their uniqueness and demand.



The organisation's engagement with women also highlights the intersection between livelihood insecurity and household-level vulnerabilities. Women facing difficult household circumstances, including situations involving irresponsible or alcoholic husbands, have sought livelihood opportunities and greater economic independence. However, challenges such as limited savings and high household expenditure can affect their ability to manage and sustain their financial resources.

For SMIDS, therefore, livelihood resilience among coastal women is connected not only to providing skills and training but also to ensuring that these livelihoods remain economically viable in a changing coastal environment. The experiences of the communities point to the need to consider climate-related changes in fish availability, changing markets, financial management and women's economic security together when examining resilience among coastal households.

About the author:
Lekshmi MK *is a Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.*

Capacity Building

Climate Action from the Ground:

Stories of Individuals and Organisations across the Indian Neighbourhood

*This section features **twelve stories** of individuals and organisations working on climate action across the Indian neighbourhood, drawn from the posters presented at the second edition of our '**Grass Roots' poster workshop**, held in August on "Climate Action from the Ground: Stories of Individuals and Organisations across the Indian Neighbourhood."*

Grass Roots Chronicle #25:

Women, Resilience and the Climate Challenge in Bangladesh:

How BRAC is empowering communities through climate adaptation, resilient livelihoods, women's leadership and grassroots disaster preparedness

Sangamithra S



Bangladesh is a country where climate change is not a distant possibility but a lived reality. Its low-lying geography and dense population expose communities to floods, cyclones, river erosion, salinity intrusion, sea-level rise and changing rainfall patterns. For families whose lives depend on agriculture, fishing, water and other climate-sensitive livelihoods, an environmental shock can quickly become an economic and social crisis. In this landscape, the work of civil society becomes especially important. BRAC offers an example of how development and climate adaptation can come together through communities.

BRAC was founded in 1972 by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, soon after the independence of Bangladesh. It began as a relief and rehabilitation organisation, responding to the urgent needs of people affected by the Liberation War. However, its work gradually moved beyond immediate relief. BRAC began addressing the deeper causes of poverty through programmes in education, health, agriculture, finance and livelihoods. This evolution shaped an approach based on working closely with communities and understanding the challenges they face.

Climate change has added a new dimension to these challenges. A flood can destroy crops and homes; salinity can reduce the availability of fresh water and affect agricultural land; cyclones can threaten lives and livelihoods. These impacts are not experienced equally. Poor and marginalised households often have fewer resources to recover and may depend heavily on climate-sensitive occupations. Therefore, climate adaptation must also be about protecting livelihoods, reducing inequality and strengthening people's ability to make decisions about their future.

BRAC's climate-resilience work reflects this broader understanding. One important area is climate-smart agriculture. Farmers can be supported in adapting their practices to changing weather conditions, water availability and soil conditions. Such approaches can help protect food production while reducing vulnerability to climate shocks. Water and sanitation are another crucial area. Flooding, salinity and other climate pressures can affect access to safe water and sanitation, making resilient

systems essential for both health and dignity.

Women are also central to community resilience. Women often play important roles in managing household food, water, health and finances, while also facing particular vulnerabilities during climate-related disasters. Supporting women through skills, livelihoods, participation and leadership can strengthen household and community capacity. Women are not simply recipients of climate assistance; they can become active decision-makers and leaders in local adaptation.

Disaster preparedness is another key part of resilience. Communities need information and time to act before cyclones, floods and other hazards occur. Awareness, early-warning systems, evacuation planning and local response networks can reduce risks and help people protect lives and essential assets. Preparedness turns climate information into practical action at the local level.

Climate-resilient livelihoods are equally important. If a household depends entirely on one climate-sensitive source of income, a single disaster can have long-lasting consequences. Diversifying livelihoods, improving skills and creating more sustainable economic opportunities can give families greater capacity to withstand shocks and recover.

What makes the BRAC example significant is the emphasis on people rather than treating them only as beneficiaries. Local communities possess knowledge about their environment, risks and everyday realities. Scientific information, data and technology can strengthen this knowledge by helping identify hazards, understand changing patterns and support early warnings. But information becomes meaningful only when people can use it. Community participation can therefore connect scientific knowledge with practical solutions.

BRAC also demonstrates the wider role of civil society in climate action. Governments have a central responsibility for climate policy, infrastructure and disaster management, but civil society organisations can work directly with communities, build local capacity and help translate broad development goals into action. Partnerships among communities, governments, researchers and organisations are therefore essential. The BRAC story also reminds us that climate adaptation alone cannot solve climate change. Adaptation helps communities cope with impacts, while mitigation is needed to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Both are necessary. Likewise, community action cannot replace public policy or investment; it must complement them.

Ultimately, climate resilience is not only about stronger infrastructure. It is about stronger people, stronger livelihoods and stronger local networks. BRAC's journey from post-war relief and rehabilitation to community-centred development and climate adaptation illustrates this connection. Its experience shows that when local knowledge, scientific understanding, institutional support and community participation come together, adaptation can become more inclusive and sustainable.

Climate change is global, but resilience is built locally. The most effective solutions are not simply delivered to communities; they are developed with them. This is the central lesson of BRAC's work and the reason behind the title of this story: Climate Resilience Begins with Communities.

It also highlights an important principle of climate justice: those who contribute least to warming can face some of its consequences. Supporting vulnerable communities is not only a question of management. It is also a question of dignity, opportunity and fairness, ensuring that people have the resources and voice needed to shape their resilient future.

About the Author

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Grass Roots Chronicle #26:

Learning Afloat:

Climate adaptation through floating Schools in Bangladesh

Deiphi Kurbah



In Bangladesh, water is both a source of life and a recurring barrier to education. Seasonal floods and high waters can submerge roads, isolate villages and make schools inaccessible for weeks or months. For children living in flood-prone wetlands, particularly in Northwestern part of the country which covers the Rangpur and Rajshahi Divisions, continuing education becomes difficult not because they lack the desire to learn, but because the route to school disappears beneath the water.

In response, Architect Mohammed Rezwan founded Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha (Shidulai) in 1998, pioneering solar-powered floating schools that travel by boat to students' doorsteps. These specially built school boats - flat-bottomed for shallow waterways and fitted with multi-layer roofs and windows for rain protection and ventilation, bring a full classroom to remote villages. Each Shidhulai school boat carries benches, textbooks, a library, a computer and solar panels (500Wp-2kWp) powering lights and devices. Approximately 30-35 students (50% girls) attend each session, receiving free tuition and materials before being dropped back home after class.

Shidhulai's solar-powered floating schools navigate village waterways, bringing mobile classrooms to children unable to reach regular schools. The boat's rugged design lets them operate year-round on shallow floodwaters. Solar arrays on the roofs charge batteries that run LED lighting and a computer lab, powering education even off-grid. This innovative design covers about two square kilometers of riverbank area each day.

Shidhulai's scale and reach have grown significantly. Today it operates dozens of boats (around 54 solar -powered boats) serving on the order of 90,000-100,000 people in the Chalnbeel wetland region. About 20 of these vessels are dedicated floating schools, each visiting multiple villages daily to hold several class sessions. Other boats in the fleet function as mobile libraries, with books, printers and clinics (5 boats providing free care) and agriculture extension centers (5 boats for training local farmers). In essence, Shidhulai has turned Bangladesh's waterways into lifelines of education and services.

Floating schools have demonstrated benefits in Bangladesh and elsewhere. By bringing education to students, Shidhulai boats have increased attendance and cut dropouts. Children who otherwise would stay at home or work, attend regular classes. In BRAC's similar Shikka Tari school boats, enrollments rose sharply by 2017, there were 13,600 students (59% girls) in 500 boats and students achieved 99% pass rates on primary exams. Shidhuai's model likewise reduces barriers of cost, distance and safety. Evaluations note that providing free "nearby schooling prevents children from being influenced by bad company" and lets them focus on learning. Over time, these programs improve literacy and empower communities: dropout rates fall, repeat attendance and parental trust improves and local economies gain from job opportunities.

Floating schools offer a sustainable indigenous solution to climate disruption. By matching the environment (schools float when land is flooded), they ensure education remains unsinkable. Experts emphasize that this community-driven

model can be replicated in other flood-prone regions. Indeed, similar floating schools now operate in Vietnam, Nigeria and the Philippines. The Shidhulai approach is often cited as a case study in climate resilience and inclusive education.

Shidhulai's floating schools have kept children learning through Bangladesh's floods, but they have persistent challenges. Remote floating schools require teachers willing to live on boats. High workload (For example, one boat has three class shifts daily) and isolation can drive turnover. Additionally floating schools are expensive to maintain because the organisation has to maintain boats, solar equipment, teaching materials, computers and other infrastructure. Unlike a normal school building, a schoolboat requires regular maintenance and operational costs. Shidhulai has historically depended heavily on donor and external support, which can make long-term expansion difficult. If funding decreases, fewer boats may be able to operate or services may have to be reduced.

The boats are designed to operate during floods, but this does not mean they are unaffected by extreme weather. Storms, strong currents, heavy rainfall and rapidly changing water levels can make navigation difficult or unsafe. This creates an important limitation. A floating school can overcome ordinary flooding, but exceptionally severe weather can still interrupt education. Thus, climate adaptation should not assume that one solution can withstand every climate hazard. Floating schools need disaster preparedness, safe operating procedures and alternative arrangements for extreme conditions.

A mobile classroom can solve the problem of access, but access does not automatically guarantee high-quality education. Students may have different ages and learning levels, while the classroom has limited space and resources compared with a conventional school. Maintaining consistent curricula, assessment and learning outcomes can therefore be challenging. One boat can only accommodate a limited number of students at a time. Even if the model works extremely well in one community, expanding it to thousands of flood-affected communities would require more teachers, more boats, more funding, more maintenance facilities, more educational materials and stronger organizational capacity. A successful local innovation cannot be automatically scaled up. Replication requires government support, financing and adaptation to local conditions.

The lesson from Shidhuai is not that every flood-prone community needs a school on a boat. It is that climate resilience begins by understanding the realities of the people most affected. By adapting education to environment rather than waiting for the environment to change, Shidhulai shows that solutions can be local, flexible and community-driven. Yet, its experience also reminds us that innovation must be supported by sustainable funding, trained teachers, maintenance and strong public infrastructure. Ultimately, resilience is not about building against change, but about ensuring that essential opportunities, especially education, can continue despite it.
When the water rises, the lesson is not to stop learning, it is to learn how to adapt.

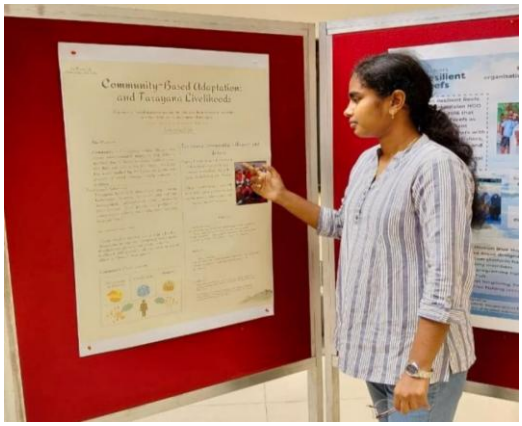
About the author
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Grass Roots Chronicle #27:

Water Conservation, Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods:

How Tarayana Foundation empowers rural communities in Bhutan through community-based climate adaptation

Monica K



Nestled in isolated mountainous regions of Bhutan, there are numerous villages where farmers are used to seasonal cycles of planting and reaping. However, recently the climate has become unpredictable, freshwater sources reduced, and slopes eroded. Such environmental changes pose a serious threat to the livelihood of isolated rural communities.

When water becomes a problem and farmland less fertile, the most apparent solution is to cut down on fuelwood consumption in order to preserve the forest for future use. At the same time, the increasing number of rural households is forced to burn more firewood due to the lack of access to modern energy sources. Therefore, the entire system breaks down, presenting a major challenge to authorities. In order to reverse the damaging trends, it is essential to promote community-based adaptation to environmental changes through active cooperation with local populations and awareness raising as to the importance of preserving forests.

Tarayana Foundation works closely with local communities to help them adapt to the ongoing climate change in Bhutan's remote regions. The main focus of the CBA (Community-based Adaptation) strategy is on rural populations and their immediate needs, which are inseparable from the state of the environment. In other words, the adaptation process addresses both human-made and natural factors affecting the region. Thus, Tarayana ensures that local people, who possess extensive knowledge of their territory, participate in all stages of research, planning, and implementation. The foundation builds alliances with locals, which empowers them to make informed decisions and invest in sustainable solutions. In turn, local populations serve as excellent ambassadors of positive change, effectively spreading awareness about the importance of environmental conservation.

Working in cooperation with locals allows Tarayana Foundation to implement viable solutions to ongoing environmental challenges. For instance, the foundation works on slope stabilization and water conservation projects in vulnerable regions of Bhutan. Locals are well prepared to handle these tasks as they have traditional knowledge and skills of constructing necessary infrastructure, e.g. water storage systems, erosion control structures, and compost pits. Moreover, farmers receive training on growing traditional crops, which makes subsistence farming more profitable and sustainable in the long run. In addition to slope stabilization measures and water conservation activities, local farmers are advised to rotate crops to retain soil fertility. Another key area of collaboration is the introduction to climate-resilient crops, which allows small-scale farmers to ensure food security and profit from adapting agriculture practices.

The most important aspect of the CBA program is the involvement of local populations in all stages of the process in order to establish a lasting sense of ownership. Locals are in charge of constructing water conservation systems with the help of solar-powered water pumps. In addition, communities hold funding accounts to purchase fuel and building materials needed for the maintenance of small-scale irrigation infrastructure. Local populations are guided

through training courses and workshops, where they learn how to make environmentally friendly buildings and maintain traditional agricultural practices. As a result, locals are confident that they can make a difference in rural development and are motivated to invest in long-term, large-scale water and agricultural projects.

The support from the national and international community plays a critical role in the success of the campaign. Tarayana Foundation facilitates partnerships with corporate social responsibility entities and local NGOs in order to achieve long-lasting, community driven impact. In particular, banks, philanthropic organizations, business associations, and civic clubs sponsor the foundation's initiatives. Such collaborations are beneficial for both parties, as donors receive tax benefits for their contributions, whereas the local community receives the much-needed support. Tarayana carefully manages the allocation of funds, making sure that donated money corresponds to the needs of the local population and promoting community ownership of the process. In other words, locals utilize their traditional expertise and manual labor while external sponsors provide the necessary machinery.

The CBA strategy has demonstrated promising results, which are visible in both environmental and social outcomes. For instance, in a number of rural communities, mountain springs were recharged and micro-irrigation structures built, ensuring a constant freshwater supply for rural households. Kitchen gardens allow farmers to grow more vegetables, which in turn provides them with additional income through local markets. Solar energy helps off-set fuelwood consumption, promoting cleaner air and better health outcomes.

Despite the apparent sustainability of the community-based adaptation model, it presents several challenges to local populations, implementing both traditional and modern solutions, which require continuous dialogue with local authorities and communities. In order to monitor the effectiveness of the CBA interventions, Tarayana works closely with local leaders who hold the technical expertise to measure progress, and evaluate the alignment of projects with national adaptation strategies.

In summary, the Livelihoods program works in collaboration with local populations to promote sustainable rural development through sustainable adaptation to climate change. The CBA strategy allows the locals to maintain their traditional lifestyle while protecting forest resources from degradation. Ultimately it ensures that people and the environment benefit from the same source - the rich biodiversity of Bhutan.

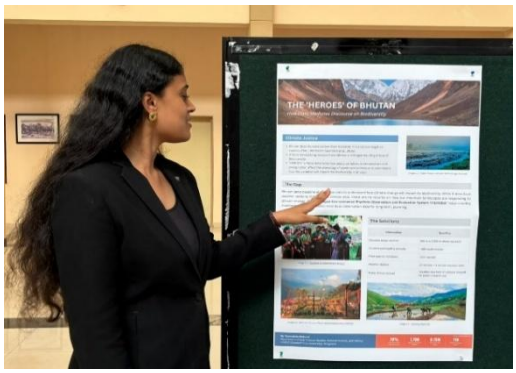
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Grass Roots Chronicle #28:

The Heroes of Bhutan:

How the Himalayan Environmental Rhythms Observation and Evaluation System (HEROS) mediates discourse on biodiversity through data

Samraksha Mukund



This study finds its premise in the concept of climate justice, that as described by the UN, is an ethical principle that seeks to acknowledge and address the disproportionate implications of climate change on vulnerable communities. Despite being one of the world's only three carbon negative countries, Bhutan faces disproportionate, often existential impacts of climate change that include, but are not limited to the intersectionality of environmental, economic and cultural domains, particularly considering the country's reliance on climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, hydropower, and tourism. This stress is further amplified by the contrast in climatic conditions of Northern Indian planes with higher precipitation and Tibet's dry, continental highlands, making the Himalayas a fragile, eco-sensitive zone for species in the landscape (Penjor et.al, 2021; Katel et al., 2024).

In times like now, where collective rights are recognized as the third generation of human rights, it becomes increasingly imperative to identify the impacts of climate change to design adaptation strategies. However, the lack of access to baseline bioclimatic data at an appropriate spatial and temporal scale would impede possibilities of observation, prediction, and consequent action. This is where the HEROES – the 'Himalayan Environmental Rhythms Observation and Evaluation System' intervenes.

Here, climate change is identified by longitudinally monitoring the life cycles of plants given that phenology, otherwise known as the 'nature calendar', is one of its strongest biological indicators (Liang, 2019). Implemented and managed by the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER) since 2015, HEROES operates as a citizen science initiative aimed at not only monitoring climate variability and its impact on the terrestrial ecosystem of Bhutan, but also engaging and training students as the next generation of scientists and researchers in the process by integrating a 20 school network that act as weather and observation stations, with an elevation range of between 200m to 3,030m. In addition, students also manage the automatic weather station that logs data every 10 minutes. (HEROES, n.d).

The scale of their operations dated 21/08/26 on their webpage includes 2.8 observations across 110 plant species and the creation of a yearly climate and phenology data where data from 17 schools is made public whilst training over 400 students annually (HEROES, n.d). In addition to their open-source datasets that can be used by researchers, students, and other interested individuals, they organize workshops, seminars, and lectures as part of their initiatives. This convergent, citizen-centric and scientific approach presents an interesting challenge to traditionally top-down technocratic approaches to climate solutions, integrating the ideas of strategic urbanism as described by Chu et al., (2017).

During challenging situations such as these, it becomes integral for people to acknowledge and channelize their agency both as individuals, and as a collective in claiming their rights. Initiatives like these not only promote national interest in scaling capabilities but also engage citizens in ways that make them aware of their responsibilities, paving way for further

consequential interventions.

Such initiatives must inspire further action-oriented approaches, specially in countries like India, where biodiversity becomes significant to discourse on the rights of tribal and other aboriginal communities that are grossly underrepresented in governance and developmental platforms. Organizations like the Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development conduct action research linking traditional tribal wisdom on forest blooms, fruiting, and seasonal changes with the Biological Diversity Act to track ecological shifts (IBRAD, n,d).

In this regard, there has been mushrooming of citizen science initiatives in India as well. SeasonWatch, for example, was a project that began in Kerala (2010) and has now branched out with school and individual level program partnerships. These are two that stood out to me – (a) The State Council for Scientific Technology and Environment, Meghalaya, aims to popularize science in the state among the youth. SCSTE introduces several activity-based science learning activities, including SeasonWatch, in the school eco-clubs, through a wide network of interns and volunteers and (b) the Andaman and Nicobar Environment Team that observes 5 species of culturally important plants every week and shares their experiences with children (SeasonWatch, n.d).

While there surely has been progress, the question of what is observed and what is ignored is key in asymmetric societies like India. The observable is what creates a concept of what is actionable, making data central to the very acknowledgement of a problem. The stories of initiatives like HEROES, IBRAD, and SeasonWatch all ask the same questions – whose knowledge is knowledge, and whose problems are problems?

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Grass Roots Chronicle #29:

From Climate Vulnerability to Self-Reliance:

How ARCIO is strengthening climate awareness, early warning systems and community-led adaptation to build resilience in Afghanistan

Kumari Gargi



Afghanistan Resilience and Climate Initiative ARCIO is a civil society organisation based in Kabul, Afghanistan. It was not founded by one entity; rather, it emerged from local people connected to their community. It focuses on climate change adaptation & mitigation, water conservation and management, renewable energy, agriculture, and others. It aims to mitigate the effects of climate change and make Afghan rural communities resilient to its impacts. Through campaigns and programmes in schools and colleges, it advocates climate change awareness, adaptation, and mitigation in vulnerable local communities. ACRIO works with institutions and local communities to provide early warnings for climate triggers. This helps communities to take preventive measures.

ARCIO helps people understand how climate change affects the day-to-day lives of communities in Afghanistan. It not only focuses on climate change but also on the well-being and growth of Afghan communities. How climate change has severely affected vulnerable groups like women and children, and it tries to empower them through different initiatives. These initiatives highlight the interconnections between climate change, food security, agriculture, water security, and the well-being of Afghan communities. It uses a bottom-up approach to climate resilience. It focuses on vulnerable communities that don't have access to scientific knowledge and institutional resources for climate change at the grassroots level. Its main objective is to manage climate-related challenges more effectively by empowering communities and building them to be resilient and sustainable.

One of the projects by ARCIO was "promoting renewable energy sources and building community awareness on eco-friendly challenges in southwestern regions". It was 1 year project aimed to achieving: adopt renewable energy sources in targeted communities, increasing adoption by 30 per cent; implement sustainable agricultural practices and community-based waste management systems, 500 community leaders as climate guardians; plant 5 million trees in the region; and install solar-powered infrastructure in remote areas and others. Furthermore, a community-centric approach and an evidence-based approach are major pillars of the organisation's work. Through various steps, it connects local communities, schools, colleges, volunteers, and many more. To raise awareness of climate change and its impacts, it combines an evidence-based approach and traditional knowledge among local communities on environmental issues. Through various initiatives, campaigns, and programmes, it has made a significant contribution to addressing climate change and improving the lives of Afghan local communities. It has helped people move from "resilience to self-reliance" in the long term rather than the short term, and make them independent for upcoming climate challenges.

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Grass Roots Chronicle #30:

Restoring the Dry Zone:

How Janathakshan *is building climate resilience in Sri Lanka's dry zone through community-led water management*

Adwaith Sankar



Sri Lanka has a "Dry Zone." This area receives less rainfall and experiences pronounced dry periods. The Dry Zone covers 70 per cent of the land area in the country. Historically, the Dry Zone has used tanks and anicuts for water resource management. Tanks are reservoirs and anicuts divert water for irrigation. These units of infrastructure allow for the storage and diversion of water for use during dry periods. Janathakshan is an NPO "working to advance sustainable development, climate resilience, and social equity in Sri Lanka." The organisation was founded in 2011. It works across disaster-risk reduction and climate action, economic and social resilience, and policy, partnerships and knowledge.

Janathakshan was one of the implementing partners for the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP). The project was designed to strengthen the resilience of Dry Zone smallholder farmers through integrated water management, including the restoration of traditional cascade systems. The project was implemented by the Government of Sri Lanka with technical support from UNDP and financing from the Green Climate Fund. The wider programme operated in seven Dry Zone districts.

Janathakshan's CRIWMP work was done in the districts of Anuradhapura and Trincomalee. In CRIWMP, Janathakshan coordinated community engagement in these two districts.

Regarding water-management infrastructure, Janathakshan reports that its CRIWMP implementation areas recorded the rehabilitation of 149 tanks and 17 anicuts. Furthermore, it reports 315 rainwater-harvesting units and 438 micro-water-supply units. The organisation also reports downstream improvements across 157 irrigation systems. It also describes hydrological assessments, watershed rehabilitation and ecosystem restoration. Although it reports these contributions to infrastructure, Janathakshan also describes a broader approach to water management. For instance, it was involved in technical demonstrations, field mobilisations, and collaboration with public officials among other such initiatives.

Janathakshan also involves local communities in water-system restoration and protection. Green Empowerment reports that local farmers' organisations have led the restoration of cascade systems at other Janathakshan project sites. For example, in Upper Maradankadawala, Janathakshan conducted a demarcation programme around a rehabilitated tank under a separate water, sustainable farming and livelihoods project. The programme involved establishing the boundary of the Kattakaduwa Conservation Zone around the tank. Members of the local Farmers' Organization voluntarily participated in the process. A regional officer provided guidance. No formal boundary for the conservation zone had previously been identified. Janathakshan states that the zone is intended to protect water quality. Janathakshan also notes that it is aimed at reducing land degradation and conserving biodiversity. Janathakshan described the process as creating "community ownership" and strengthening local commitment to protecting the tank ecosystem over the long term.

Janathakshan's work in water management involves connecting different approaches. Its work synthesises infrastructure expertise with community participation. This is important because it links larger programmes to the communities they were meant to benefit. Beyond water management, Janathakshan also works on disaster preparedness, sustainable agriculture, livelihoods and waste management.

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Grass Roots Chronicle #31:

Climate Guardians:

Maldives' Youth-Led Climate Action for a Resilient Future

Delna Rajesh



Maldives is a country which is largely affected by climate change due to its topography. In response, UNICEF's Climate Guardians formed to address the climate threats which is faced by the country. It empowers the youth to adopt various initiatives to build a sustainable and resilient environment. Their actions show that that the young population are capable of helping their country respond to the climate crisis.

Climate Guardians are a group of young Maldivians aged between 15 – 24 who are in the forefront in response to the climate threats. UNICEF Maldives are supporting them to make their communities more resilient and sustainable in a changing climate. They are trained in leadership, communication, advocacy and climate-related issues. This support helps them to raise their voice against the issues facing by their country, advocate for a systematic action, engage in policy formulation to address the issue and present potential solutions at local and international levels. This platform ensure that their voice is heard as well as to participate in decision making. Their actions mainly focus on addressing the climate issues on a longer run. They are largely mobilizing young population to be the leaders and change makers of the country.

Climate action really matters in Maldives as it is a low-lying region with just 1 per cent land and 99 per cent sea. The region is very vulnerable to climate related issues especially sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding, heat waves etc. These changes are a huge threat to their houses, schools and other infrastructure. Children and young people are mostly affected when the extreme weather conditions disrupt their schooling, mental conditions and travel. The chances of the impact of waterborne diseases can be fatal among children. Maldives also faces severe freshwater shortage as flooding and saltwater intrusion can contaminate their ground water sources. Climate change is also worsening the challenges that have already been existing in the country. It is impacting their industries like tourism and fisheries, poverty and malnourishment. Therefore, climate action is very essential to safeguard the environment, children's health, education, livelihoods and future. Climate Guardians can bring a lot of changes by channelizing the capability of young people to be climate advocates and pool ideas to create solutions for the crises faced by their communities.

Climate Guardians are vibrant and diverse youth joined together to speak for the issues that are facing their country. UNICEF Maldives are encouraging the youngsters to advocate and help to enact climate policy and initiatives. It also plays an important role to spread climate awareness and resilient measures among the youth. Their initiatives include beach clean-ups, recycling drives, tree planting, coral restoration, protection of marine and coastal ecosystems. Coral restoration is particularly important because coral reefs protect islands from waves and support marine biodiversity. Climate Guardians also participate in workshops, design-thinking boot camps and awareness programs. These activities help them to identify problems and to develop practical solutions. It enables young people to connect with policymakers and influence the decision making to address their concerns. The climate guardians also communicate

through podcasts, panel discussions, policy consultations and national and international forums such as COP (Conference of the Parties). They advocate for climate-resilient schools, health facilities, communities and public services through these platforms.

Their participation helps to ensure that climate policies address the needs of children and young people. Maldives became one of the first countries in the South Asia region to finalize its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.O. This is a huge achievement for Maldivian youth for the inclusion of inputs and perspectives of children and young people in national climate action plans. Young people are not just limiting themselves as victims or spectators but they stand up and raise their concerns over the issues. They don't wait for somebody else to take up the initiatives but they themselves took the initiative and calling for urgent action to address the climate crisis that will affect the future of the country.

The Climate Guardians initiative has several important lessons. Youth participation in the climate policy and decision making is crucial. As they represent the entire youth population of the Maldives they can contribute based on their experiences and reality. Community based learning and advocacy are essential to understand about environmental challenges and work with the communities to develop practical solutions. This helps to connect climate knowledge with real action. Youth initiatives become impactful when young people cooperate with UNICEF, government departments, local councils and civil society organizations. It also gives them access to access to various resources, skills and important decision-making spaces.

The Maldives is on the frontlines of the climate crisis, but its young people are not standing silently. Climate guardians might be a model for those countries which is affected by various climate threats. Their actions show that they are not only victims but also capable for making decisions to build a resilient and sustainable future of Maldives.

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Grass Roots Chronicle #32:

Nepal's H.E.L.P. Initiative:

Protecting the High Himalayas through Indigenous Knowledge and Nature-Based Solutions

Aparna A Nair



What is H.E.L.P?

Himalayan Environment and Life Protection is a Nepal-based non-profit organisation that aims to protect the Himalayan environment. It helps communities adapt to climate change and improve human and animal welfare. It was founded by Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche in March 2023 as a special unit of the continued and expanded environmental and community development work of Tergar Charity Nepal.The organisation's work focuses on Samagaun and Samdo villages in the Nubri Valley, Nepal, near Mount Manaslu. These are remote villages, and they traditionally depend on farming, livestock rearing, forests, and seasonal trade.

HELP is not only an environmental organisation. It adopts an approach that connects ecological protection with food security, women's empowerment, education, sustainable livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation. The major principle behind this integrated approach is that the environment will be better protected when environmental action improves everyday lives.

What is their mission?

The primary vision of H.E.L.P is to empower Himalayan communities to develop local, sustainable, innovative, and replicable solutions to climate change. The expected outcomes include economic prosperity, social harmony, community well-being, and preservation of cultural identity.

They believe that climate change is not only an environmental problem but also a social and economic problem. They integrate indigenous knowledge about ecosystems, agriculture, and seasonal change into conservation projects. The broader vision is that human welfare and environmental protection must be pursued together. They prioritise human-nature interdependence over individual profit. It is actualised through reforestation, agroecology, organic farming, climate-smart agriculture, biodiversity-based businesses, renewable energy, etc.

How do they protect the High Himalayas?

Combining indigenous knowledge and modern technology

Indigenous communities have long understood local weather patterns, grazing systems, medicinal plants, forests, soil conditions, and the behaviour of livestock. H.E.L.P. does not seek to replace this knowledge with outside models. Instead, it uses it as the foundation for new solutions. Drone-assisted reforestation, solar greenhouses, agricultural methods, and renewable energy equipment improve the effectiveness of local conservation. This is an example of technology employed for practical strengthening of local resilience.

Reforestation and agroforestry

Deforestation is a problem in Nubri Valley, which is located in the Manasly Conservation Area. Climate change and demand for firewood have increased deforestation. They aim to restore 20 hectares of forest around the villages. H.E.L.P supports these village nurseries and the collection and cultivation of local tree species. This community-led forest restoration has restored around 20 hectares of forest and cultivates more than 50,000 seedlings. Agroforestry is another technique through which reforestation is promoted. Crops and livestock are integrated with trees to stabilise soil, reduce erosion and support biodiversity.

Climate-smart food production

High Himalayas are characterised by fragile ecosystems due to climate vulnerability. The ecosystem is threatened by rising temperatures, changing snowfall and rainfall patterns, crop diseases, etc. A response to these challenges is bioclimatic greenhouses. These passive solar structures trap and retain heat, allowing villagers to grow vegetables in extremely cold and high-altitude conditions. Currently, there are sixty-two such installations where the villagers grow tomatoes, zucchini, beans, cucumber, chillies, spinach, etc. This also creates opportunities for small-scale income generation.

Biodiversity-based livelihoods

Conservation is more durable when communities receive economic benefits from protecting ecosystems. H.E.L.P promotes it by developing sustainable value chains based on local biodiversity. One example is the organisation's Rosa macrophylla rose-hip value chain. The profits from the rosehip cultivation are returned to the community and benefit hundreds of households. Other products include medicinal herbs, essential oils, wild garlic, yak cheese, and yak-wool handicrafts.

Apart from these activities, the organisation supports women's literacy, entrepreneurship, youth-led green businesses, eco-tourism, and animal welfare. These activities underline that environmental protection depends on healthy, educated, and economically secure communities.

What can we learn from them?

Firstly, conservation must be community-led. H.E.L.P understands local needs, consults villages, proposes solutions and adapts projects according to feedback. Communities are more likely to maintain forests and biodiversity when doing so also supports food security and income.

Second, coexistence of Indigenous knowledge and modern science. The challenges of the High Himalayas cannot be addressed through a single universal model. Traditional ecological knowledge identifies suitable species, farming practices, and local risks. Modern technology takes it a step further through forest monitoring, greenhouse production, and reforestation.

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Grass Roots Chronicle #33:

The Pearl Protectors of Sri Lanka:

How 'The Pearl Protectors' is tackling marine pollution, protecting sea turtles and mobilising volunteers for coastal and marine conservation

Sreya KH



The ocean is one of Sri Lanka's most valuable natural assets, with a coastline over 1,600 kilometres long that supports rich biodiversity across coral reefs, seagrass beds, fisheries, tourism, coastal communities and livelihoods. However, marine pollution, plastic waste, and unsustainable human activities pose serious threats to the environment. In response, The Pearl Protectors has emerged as a volunteer-based marine conservation organisation dedicated to conserving and protecting Sri Lanka's coastal belt and marine life in all its forms.

The Pearl Protectors was established in 2018 by Muditha Katuwawala, an economist turned conservationist, whose passion for the ocean and emotional connection to his home country led him to found this organisation. This volunteer-based organisation brings together like-minded individuals committed to safeguarding the sea areas and the marine habitat of Sri Lanka. Their mission is to nurture a sustainably protected marine environment in Sri Lanka where human impact does not harm its marine biodiversity. The initiative behind this organisation is to share knowledge about the importance of the ocean, create awareness, and encourage people to stop using single-use plastic, because that is one of the major issues Sri Lanka is facing. It provides opportunities for people to participate directly in marine conservation activities, including beach clean-ups, underwater clean-ups, turtle protection and awareness campaigns. By involving citizens, particularly young people, The Pearl Protectors helps transform marine conservation from an abstract environmental issue into a community responsibility. The organisation has now reported approximately 1,900 registered volunteers.

Initially, it began as an idea to clean up ocean pollution, which quickly evolved to address the most urgent marine conservation needs in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, on May 25, 2021, the M/V X-Press Pearl maritime disaster took place. The Coastline of Sri Lanka was affected by toxic fumes, oil and chemical spills, and, worst of all, nurdles—tiny plastic pellets used in plastic manufacturing that began to pile up. After recognising the urgent need to remove these microplastics, they launched the Nurdle Free Lanka campaign to address it and began collecting as many nurdles as possible through volunteering. They built awareness and mobilised volunteers to remove the nurdles by making use of different types of sieves to collect as many nurdles as possible - built trommels, hand-held sieves, and hanging sieves. They continue to do this today, and this is by far the largest voluntary campaign in Sri Lanka, having contributed significantly to raising awareness about the impact of nurdle spills. This initiative has mobilised 2,700 volunteers through 34 coordinated clean-up activities and removed over 1.5 metric tons of nurdles and microplastics from beaches.

Another major initiative is Cleaner Seabeds for Sri Lanka, an underwater expedition programme designed to remove marine debris from seabeds and coral reef areas. Divers participate in clean-up expeditions removing plastics, discarded fishing nets, clothing, metal and other forms of marine litter. Collected marine litter and stranded fishing gear were weighed, audited,

segregated and handed over to both recycling waste collectors and incineration waste collectors.

Plastic pollution is one of the central concerns of The Pearl Protectors. Through its Pearl Protector Approved programme, the organisation introduced an accreditation system for restaurants and food vendors that reduce or eliminate single-use plastics. Its creative campaigns included constructing a large Christmas tree from discarded PET bottles collected from beaches. In 2021, more than 1,300 bottles were used to construct a 12-foot installation at Wellawatta Beach, turning marine waste into a powerful public-awareness message.

Sri Lanka is home to 5 of 7 sea turtle species that come ashore to nest. Major challenges include turtles being poached for meat and shell, eggs stolen for consumption and tourist sales and plastic light pollution. During the 90-day patrol, volunteer teams will patrol beaches at night and in the early morning hours to identify nesting sites, protect them from poachers, and support ex-situ conservation in secure locations. The organisation also undertakes marine litter surveys. Its Transboundary Marine Litter Survey uses citizen science to document marine debris found along the shorelines and investigate the movement of waste across marine boundaries.

Rather than focusing only on direct environmental clean-ups, the organisation takes an integrated approach that combines education, research, advocacy, community participation and practical conservation activities. The organisation conducts seminars, panel discussions, school programmes and public awareness activities to help communities understand marine environmental problems. Perhaps the organisation's most important contribution is its ability to connect individual action with broader environmental change. By combining volunteer activities, citizen science and policy advocacy, The Pearl Protectors has become an important civil-society organisation, demonstrating that marine conservation requires both immediate intervention and long-term behavioural and institutional change.

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Grass Roots Chronicle #34:

Women Driving Climate Resilience in Bangladesh:

How communities in Khulna and Satkhira are strengthening climate adaptation

Urja Kudalkar



The Gender-responsive Coastal Adaptation (GCA) Project was approved in mid-2018 and formally began in early 2019, running through mid-2026 a seven-year effort. It is implemented by Bangladesh's Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) with technical support from UNDP, with primary grant funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), backed by co-financing from the Government of Bangladesh. Working across five upazilas in Khulna and Satkhira two of the country's most climate-exposed coastal districts the project moved on three parallel tracks: building climate-resilient livelihoods, securing safe drinking water through rainwater harvesting and saline treatment, and strengthening disaster response preparedness by training women and adolescent girls as the community's first responders.

The GCF's total grant allocation stood at USD 33 million, supported by a further USD 8 million in co-financing from the Government of Bangladesh, bringing the total project cost to roughly USD 41 million. Disbursement started smaller in 2019-2020, then picked up pace as infrastructure and rainwater harvesting installations expanded through the mid-cycle years, before settling into steadier annual spending through to the final phase in 2026.

Working alongside the long-running Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), the project formed and trained 101 women and adolescent volunteer groups across the five upazilas, equipping them with early-warning kits, rescue tools and first-aid equipment. These volunteers learned to read warning signals, spread alerts through their neighbourhoods, help with evacuations, and provide first aid before formal emergency services arrive. In Koyra, the first cohort of women to receive this training marked what UNDP described as women being "empowered to act before the storm" turning a passive wait for help into an active, community-led response.

By the time the project closed in mid-2026, the numbers told a striking story. Around 130,000 coastal women and their families had been directly strengthened against climate shocks. Zoomed out further, the project's Learning Sharing and Closing Workshop in Dhaka confirmed it had reached 719,229 people across Khulna and Satkhira, directly and indirectly. More than 24,000 households adopted climate-resilient livelihoods such as salinity-tolerant crops, crab farming and hydroponics, while over 144,000 people gained year-round access to safe drinking water through more than 15,700 new water systems. Government capacity grew too, with 720 officials trained in climate-risk-informed planning.

The true measure of the project's success would be how far these interventions continue to benefit communities long after it closes, adding that UNDP remains committed to helping the Government of Bangladesh scale up the model. Md Abdul Hye Al Mahmud, the project's National Project Director, stressed that women's empowerment needs durable income opportunities behind it, not training alone, if it is to hold.

Perhaps the most meaningful shift doesn't show up in a spreadsheet at all: the shrinking gap between an early warning and real action on the ground, and the stronger community networks that now exist because women who once waited for

help are now often the ones giving it. As coastal Bangladesh braces for intensifying cyclones and creeping salinity, the model emerging from Khulna and Satkhira offers a hopeful, tested answer to a hard question: when the next storm warning comes, who will already be ready? Increasingly, here, the answer is women.

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Grass Roots Chronicle #35:

Maldives Resilient Reefs:

How a marine conservation organisation is securing a blue future for the Maldives

Namrata L Ghanghatkar



Maldives Resilient Reefs (MRR) is a Maldivian marine conservation organisation working to protect and restore the coral reef ecosystems that support the country's communities, fisheries and tourism industry. Established in 2020 and affiliated with the Blue Marine Foundation, MRR works with local communities, fisherfolk, government agencies and the tourism sector to strengthen marine conservation. Its work focuses on four areas; marine protection, sustainable fisheries, responsible tourism and local capacity building. For an island nation where people and livelihoods are closely connected to the ocean, MRR views healthy reefs as essential to the future of the Maldives.

Through its work, MRR has supported the identification and protection of important marine habitats, particularly in the Laamu Atoll. Biodiversity surveys and community engagement contributed to six areas being designated as nationally protected areas in 2021. The organisation also works to promote sustainable fishing through its "Fish for Tomorrow programme," which brings together resorts and local fishers to encourage responsible seafood sourcing and sustainable fishing practices. Through Laamaseelu Farudhun, MRR trains local communities and young people to monitor coral reefs, seagrass meadows and mangroves, building local knowledge around marine ecosystems. It has also worked with tourism operators to protect seagrass meadows through its "Protect Maldives Seagrass" campaign.

The impact of this work extends beyond individual reefs. The designation of six protected areas in Laamu has strengthened formal marine protection, while the seagrass campaign has brought more than 30 resorts into conservation efforts, with commitments to protect over 830,000 square metres of seagrass. Its fisheries work has also helped bring greater attention to the ecological importance of reef species and sustainable fishing practices. By involving the people who depend on the ocean in its protection, Maldives Resilient Reefs is helping build local capacity for conservation while safeguarding biodiversity, fisheries and coastal ecosystems. Its work demonstrates how protecting marine ecosystems can also strengthen the country's resilience to climate change and protect the livelihoods that depend on its blue economy.

About the Author:

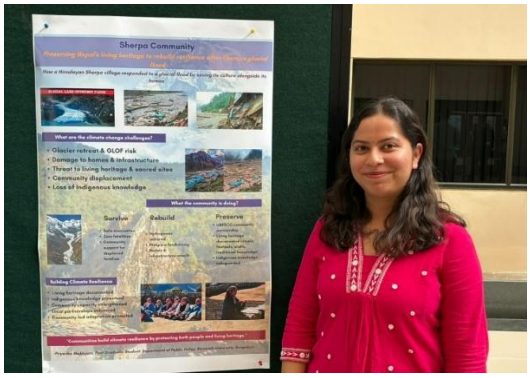
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Grass Roots Chronicle #36:

Nepal's Thame After the 2024 Glacial Flood:

How Nepal's Sherpa community is preserving Indigenous knowledge and living heritage to strengthen climate resilience and disaster preparedness

Priyanka Makhijani



On 16 August 2024, a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) tore through Thame, a 3,800-metre Sherpa village in Nepal's Everest region. The disaster was triggered by a cascading failure of two glacial lakes above the settlement, set off by rising temperatures and heavy rainfall, and the floodwaters reached the village within roughly half an hour of the initial breach. Homes, a school, and a health post were destroyed. One hundred and thirty-five people were displaced, though remarkably no lives were lost, largely because most residents were away at the weekly Namche market when the flood struck. Nepal's own hydrology department later linked the event directly to warming, noting that average temperatures in the area had risen sharply in the days before the flood. What happened afterward in Thame is a useful case study in how civil society, acting largely on its own initiative, can respond to climate disaster not only by rebuilding what was lost, but by protecting the knowledge that makes future survival possible.

Recovery began quickly on the physical front. Because the flood struck during daylight, most residents reached higher ground in time, and within weeks the forty-six displaced schoolchildren had resumed classes nearby. The Khumbu Electricity Company, a locally run utility, restored the village's hydropower supply in just eighteen days, and Nepal's rural municipality allocated funds for rebuilding homes, roads, and bridges. This kind of response, fast, self-organised, and largely independent of outside contractors, is a familiar pattern in civil society's response to climate disasters. What is less familiar, and more instructive, is what Thame did next.

The flood swept away the village's sacred Mani stones, carved scripture stones central to Sherpa ritual life, and for ten months afterward the community performed no rituals at all. Rather than treating this loss as separate from disaster recovery, the community treated it as part of the same problem: the knowledge embedded in its culture, about the land, the seasons, and how to live safely in this environment, was as vulnerable to the flood as any building. If that knowledge was not captured, the next generation would inherit a landscape without the accumulated understanding that had helped previous generations manage it.

In response, Thame partnered with UNESCO to document and formalise that knowledge before more of it was lost. Working within the framework of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme, more than thirty local stakeholders, including Indigenous youth, women's groups, and monastery leaders, took part in identifying and validating an inventory of eight living-heritage elements: traditional food knowledge, craftsmanship, cosmology and nature knowledge, and festival and ritual practices. Several of these, particularly the cosmology and nature knowledge and traditional farming practices, are not merely symbolic; they encode generations of observation about seasonal risk, land use, and environmental change specific to this valley.

Capturing them was not an act of nostalgia but an act of knowledge management. This is what makes the initiative a genuine civil society climate response rather than a cultural side project. The resulting inventory is being considered for Nepal's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and, more significantly, its findings are expected to feed directly into the revision of the Sagarmatha National Park Management Plan. In practice, this means locally held ecological knowledge, gathered and validated by the community itself, is set to shape official disaster planning for the wider region, rather than remaining folklore disconnected from policy. The entire process followed the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, meaning the community, not UNESCO, decided which knowledge was recorded and how it was represented, ensuring that the information feeding into climate planning stayed accountable to the people who hold it.

Thame's experience suggests a specific model for civil society's role in climate adaptation: communities do not only need help rebuilding physical infrastructure after a disaster; they need support capturing and formalising the knowledge that disasters put at risk of disappearing, so it can inform how future risk is managed. This reframes intangible cultural heritage from a matter of sentiment into a matter of practical resilience: the people who have farmed, foraged, and navigated a particular valley for centuries hold information about that landscape that no outside agency can independently generate, and losing it quietly, alongside the physical damage of a disaster, would be a second, less visible loss. The risk in the Himalaya has not passed. Several glacial lakes above Thame remain classified as high or moderate risk, and similar floods have since struck other Nepali villages, including Tilgau in 2025. Engineering measures such as riverbank stabilisation and early-warning stations will help, but Thame's case argues that local knowledge, properly documented and given real standing in official planning, is itself a form of climate infrastructure, and one that only the community holding it can supply.

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Documentation

Climate Change, Civil Society & Peace in South Asia

Padmashree Anandhan

AFGHANISTAN

Climate change threatens Afghanistan's glacier-dependent water systems

On 27 September, TOLOnews reported that Afghanistan's nearly 4,000 glaciers are facing significant pressure from climate change. ICIMOD's remote-sensing and GIS assessment identifies 3,940 glaciers covering about 2,677 square kilometres, including 3,620 clean-ice glaciers. The article notes that glacier area declined by almost 14 per cent between 1990 and 2015, with further losses expected as temperatures rise. The implications extend well beyond the high mountains because glaciers regulate water availability for downstream communities and ecosystems. Accelerated melting can initially increase runoff but eventually reduce long-term water storage, while unstable ice and rock can contribute to flood hazards. The report also points to deforestation and degradation of green belts as additional pressures affecting mountain environments. Afghanistan's position within High Mountain Asia makes its cryosphere connected to broader regional systems extending through Pakistan, India and Nepal. Strengthening glacier observation, hydrological monitoring and transboundary scientific cooperation is therefore relevant to both water security and disaster-risk reduction across the wider Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

"Climate Change Threatens Glaciers in Afghanistan: Experts," TOLOnews, 27 September 2026. https://www.tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-169105

Afghanistan's climate vulnerability adds pressure to already fragile communities

On 09 September, The Kabul Tribune highlighted the growing climate and environmental pressures facing Afghanistan, where drought, water scarcity and extreme weather are increasingly affecting livelihoods and communities. Climate risks in the country are intensified by limited infrastructure, economic constraints and weak institutional capacity, making recovery from one shock difficult before the next arrives. Agriculture and pastoral livelihoods are particularly exposed to changing rainfall and prolonged dry periods, while water insecurity can deepen competition over already scarce resources. Afghanistan's situation also illustrates a wider climate-justice imbalance: the country has contributed very little to global greenhouse-gas emissions but faces substantial exposure to climate impacts. Addressing these risks will require adaptation measures that extend beyond humanitarian relief, including climate-resilient agriculture, improved water management, disaster preparedness and stronger environmental governance. Given Afghanistan's position within shared Central and South Asian river systems, regional cooperation on water, climate information and early warning could also become increasingly important to reducing transboundary risks.

"Afghanistan highlights climate and environmental challenges," The Kabul Tribune, 09 September 2026. https://www.thekabultribune.com/en/0009583

BANGLADESH

River restoration agenda calls for stronger institutions and long-term investment

On 27 September, The Climate Watch reported that the Kollolini: A River Dialogue 2026 brought policymakers, experts and development partners together to identify priorities for restoring Bangladesh's rivers. Participants called for stronger enforcement of river protections, sustained investment, regular monitoring and clearer institutional responsibilities. The

recommendations also proposed a continuing platform to track government commitments and implementation. River restoration has particular climate significance in Bangladesh because healthy river systems can influence flood management, drainage, sediment movement, water availability and ecosystems. Climate change is increasing uncertainty around rainfall and hydrological extremes, making degraded or poorly managed waterways more difficult to manage. The dialogue's emphasis on institutional coordination is therefore important: restoration requires action across water management, land use, pollution control, infrastructure and local governance. Long-term financing is equally important because river restoration is not a one-time intervention. Sustained monitoring can help identify whether projects are improving ecological and hydrological conditions rather than merely completing physical works.

"Kollolini dialogue calls for stronger action to restore Bangladesh's rivers," The Climate Watch, 27 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/kollolini-dialogue-calls-for-stronger-action-to-restore-bangladeshs-rivers

Vegetable cultivation on highway dividers exposes land and safety pressures

On 28 September, The Business Standard reported that residents have been cultivating vegetables on the divider of nearly 70 kilometres of the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway between Sitakunda and Mirsharai. The practice reflects local land scarcity and livelihood needs, but the highway is also among Bangladesh's high-risk road corridors. The article notes that vegetation originally planted along the divider has been removed for crops, while people must enter the median to water and harvest them. Beyond road safety, this has an environmental dimension: median vegetation can filter dust, provide shade and reduce erosion, while bare soil can be washed onto roads during monsoon rainfall. The situation demonstrates how land scarcity and livelihood pressures can interact with infrastructure management and environmental functions. Climate-resilient infrastructure requires these multiple functions to be considered together. Maintaining roadside vegetation and preventing unsafe informal land use therefore needs to be accompanied by attention to the underlying economic pressures that encourage communities to use marginal public spaces for food production.

"When the divider becomes farmland on Bangladesh's busiest highway," The Business Standard, 28 September 2026. https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/when-divider-becomes-farmland-bangladeshs-busiest-highway-1554511

Bangladesh's International Climate Camp receives project-management recognition

On 28 September, The Observer reported that the International Climate Camp, a regional initiative operated from Bangladesh, received the Project of the Year award in the Social Impact–Small Project category at the Bangladesh Project Management Symposium & Awards 2026. The initiative is jointly organised by C3ER at BRAC University, Waterkeepers Bangladesh, APMDD, Land Our Future Nepal, CAPS and Mission Green Bangladesh. The camp has brought together more than 200 youth delegates across South Asia through activities focused on climate justice, research, sustainability and policy engagement. Its recognition is relevant to the growing role of youth-led and cross-border platforms in climate governance. Such initiatives can connect scientific knowledge with community-level action and build networks across countries facing shared climate pressures. The organisers describe locally led, evidence-based and socially inclusive adaptation as a central principle. Regional youth platforms can also contribute to knowledge exchange on issues such as Himalayan hazards, water security, biodiversity and energy transition. Their longer-term contribution, however, depends on whether project-based engagement can develop into sustained policy, research and institutional partnerships.

"International Climate Camp wins

prestigious PMI award 2026," The Observer, 28 September 2026.
https://observerbd.com/news/595932

Bangladesh's coastal children demand climate protection

On 26 September, Asia News Network reported that children from Bangladesh's coastal belt presented 13 demands for stronger protection from climate-induced disasters at the sixth Coastal Children's Climate Conference in Khulna. Around 200 children called for safe drinking water, climate-resilient embankments, child-friendly shelters, uninterrupted education, healthcare and climate education. They also demanded social protection for displaced families, climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries, compensation for affected families and stronger protection of rivers, canals and the Sundarbans. The demands broaden the understanding of adaptation from physical infrastructure to social resilience. For children in coastal areas, disasters can interrupt schooling, affect health and undermine household livelihoods, creating long-term consequences beyond the immediate event. Child participation also provides a mechanism for incorporating lived experience into adaptation planning. The demands highlight how climate resilience intersects with education, health, water security, livelihoods and ecosystem protection. Integrating these concerns into local planning can help ensure that adaptation measures respond to the needs of communities that experience climate impacts directly.
"Bangladesh's coastal children place 13 demands for climate protection," Asia News Network, 26 September 2026.
https://asianews.network/bangladeshs-coastal-children-place-13-demands-for-climate-protection/

Bangladesh's climate-finance debate increasingly focuses on domestic control

On 28 September, The Business Standard examined why Bangladesh, despite its prominent international climate-justice position, continues to face difficulties translating climate finance into effective domestic environmental outcomes. The article uses the country's environmental performance and public-health pressures to question whether institutions are sufficiently equipped to manage climate-related resources and risks. It notes that Bangladesh's 2026 Environmental Performance Index ranking is 175th among 177 countries, while also cautioning that headline comparisons between different index editions need care because methodologies and indicators change. The broader issue is institutional capacity: climate finance requires transparent allocation, monitoring, enforcement and coordination between national and local institutions. Bangladesh's adaptation needs are extensive, spanning coastal protection, health, water, agriculture and urban resilience. The discussion therefore raises an important policy question about how international climate finance can be connected to measurable domestic outcomes. Stronger accountability mechanisms and evidence-based implementation can help ensure that climate resources address the vulnerabilities for which Bangladesh advocates internationally.
"A champion of climate justice, why can't Bangladesh govern its own climate finance?," The Business Standard, 28 September 2026.
https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/champion-climate-justice-why-cant-bangladesh-govern-its-own-climate-finance

Bangladesh's climate-finance governance faces an institutional challenge

On 27 September, The Business Standard examined the gap between Bangladesh's international climate-justice advocacy and its domestic management of climate finance. The article points to Bangladesh's low ranking in the 2026 Environmental Performance Index and argues that institutional weaknesses, enforcement gaps and governance problems can undermine the effectiveness of climate-related spending. (TBS) It also discusses dengue, linking rising temperatures, irregular rainfall and humidity with conditions that can facilitate mosquito transmission, while noting that climate change is only one factor alongside stagnant water, inadequate

drainage and weaknesses in surveillance. The article makes an important distinction between climate vulnerability and climate governance: receiving international finance does not automatically ensure that resources translate into resilience. For Bangladesh, this raises questions about transparency, institutional coordination, monitoring and local implementation. The country's growing role in international climate diplomacy therefore needs to be matched by domestic systems capable of tracking climate finance and demonstrating measurable outcomes. Stronger governance can help connect adaptation resources with the communities facing heat, flooding, salinity and displacement.
"A champion of climate justice, why can't Bangladesh govern its own climate finance?," The Business Standard, 27 September 2026.
https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/champion-climate-justice-why-cant-bangladesh-govern-its-own-climate-finance

Climate-resilient housing receives USD100 million ADB support

On 27 September, the Asian Development Bank approved a USD 100 million concessional loan for affordable and climate-resilient housing in Bangladesh. The Inclusive Affordable Housing Finance Project will channel financing through the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation and eligible microfinance institutions, providing long-term collateral-free loans for households to build, repair or upgrade homes. The project aims to reach at least 40,000 households by 2031, including 32,000 women borrowers and 24,000 households in areas vulnerable to natural hazards. Around USD 40 million comes from ADB climate-adaptation resources, alongside USD 600,000 in technical assistance. The project incorporates measures to improve resilience to floods, cyclones and extreme heat while strengthening financial and land literacy. The approach links climate adaptation with housing finance and social protection rather than treating resilient construction as a purely infrastructure issue. For Bangladesh, where informal-income households can struggle to access conventional mortgage finance, affordable adaptation-oriented housing can also reduce vulnerability before disasters occur rather than relying primarily on post-disaster reconstruction.
"ADB approves $100mn loan for affordable, climate-resilient housing in Bangladesh," bdnews24.com, 27 September 2026.
https://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/us2ppdp6hs

Workers' rights placed at the centre of Bangladesh's COP31 position

On 27 September, The Financial Express reported that labour and civil-society organisations called for Bangladesh's COP31 position paper to incorporate workers' rights, social protection, occupational safety, decent work, skills development and climate resilience. The recommendations emerged from a workshop organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation and the National Alliance for Just Transition Bangladesh, with support from Oxfam and the Bangladesh Labour Foundation. Participants highlighted heat stress, lost working hours, unsafe workplaces and livelihood risks already affecting workers. The consultation is significant because the climate transition has both mitigation and labour-market dimensions. Bangladesh's export-oriented industries, agriculture and informal economy employ large numbers of workers whose exposure to heat and extreme weather can affect health, productivity and income. The recommendations call for climate commitments to move beyond targets towards implementation, including social protection and skills development. Bringing workers into the COP31 position can therefore connect just-transition discussions with occupational adaptation and livelihood security, particularly as rising temperatures increasingly affect outdoor and factory-based work.
"COP31 position paper must reflect workers' rights and climate resilience: Experts," The Financial Express, 27 September 2026.
https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/cop31-position-paper-must-reflect-workers-rights-and-climate-resilience-experts

Bangladesh moves to strengthen protection of wild elephants

On 27 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh is preparing stronger measures to reduce human-elephant conflict and protect shrinking elephant habitats. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo said conservation needs to address not only elephant numbers but also habitats, movement corridors, ecological balance and the safety and livelihoods of communities living alongside elephants. Bangladesh had an estimated 268 elephants in 2016, while 146 elephant deaths were recorded between 2016 and 2025, according to figures cited by the minister. Habitat loss, deforestation, food shortages, roads and railways, climate change and electric traps were identified as factors contributing to conflict. The issue illustrates how climate pressures interact with land-use change and infrastructure development. Fragmented habitats can increase encounters between wildlife and communities while simultaneously reducing ecological resilience. Protecting corridors and restoring habitats can therefore serve both biodiversity conservation and community safety. Effective measures will require coordination between forest management, infrastructure planning and local communities rather than treating elephant conflict solely as a wildlife-protection issue.

"Bangladesh vows stronger measures to curb rising human-elephant conflict," The Climate Watch, 27 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-vows-stronger-measures-to-curb-rising-human-elephant-conflict

Bangladesh tightens controls on toxic agricultural chemicals

On 27 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh's pesticide regulator has ordered a six-month phase-out of paraquat and glyphosate, stopping imports, new registrations and licence renewals while requiring existing stocks to be reduced to zero. The decision was taken at the 91st meeting of the Pesticide Technical Advisory Committee. The committee's minutes indicate that Bangladesh has around 395 tonnes of paraquat-group pesticides in stock. The measure has environmental and public-health implications because pesticide use affects soil, water quality, biodiversity and agricultural workers. Reducing reliance on hazardous chemicals can also support broader efforts to improve agricultural sustainability, although implementation will depend on the availability of safer and affordable alternatives for farmers. The decision is particularly relevant to climate resilience because healthy soils, freshwater systems and biodiversity contribute to the capacity of agricultural landscapes to withstand climate stresses. The phase-out therefore connects chemical regulation with environmental management, though effective enforcement and farmer support will determine how the policy translates into practice.

"Bangladesh orders six-month phase-out of toxic paraquat, glyphosate," The Climate Watch, 27 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-orders-six-month-phase-out-of-toxic-paraquat-glyphosate

Sundarbans protection strengthened amid concerns over poison fishing

On 27 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh's Environment Ministry warned of action against officials who fail to prevent poison fishing in rivers and canals of the Sundarbans. The government also discussed more sustainable tourism practices, while tourism operators called for a review of seasonal restrictions. Poison fishing can damage aquatic ecosystems beyond the species directly targeted because chemicals can affect fish, other aquatic organisms and food chains. The Sundarbans is particularly important as a mangrove ecosystem that supports fisheries, biodiversity and coastal protection. Its ecological condition is also closely connected with the resilience of communities living around the forest. Stronger enforcement therefore has implications for both conservation and livelihoods. The discussion also highlights the need to balance tourism with ecological carrying capacity. Sustainable management of the Sundarbans increasingly requires coordinated regulation of fishing, tourism,

pollution and habitat protection rather than treating these as separate issues. Maintaining ecosystem functions can simultaneously support biodiversity, fisheries and natural protection against coastal hazards.
"Bangladesh warns of tough action over poisoned fishing in Sundarbans," The Climate Watch, 27 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-warns-of-tough-action-over-poisoned-fishing-in-sundarbans

Bangladesh links Rohingya crisis with climate justice at UNGA
On 25 September, Anadolu Agency reported that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman called for stronger international action to resolve the protracted Rohingya crisis while also urging greater climate justice during his maiden address to the UN General Assembly. Rahman said Bangladesh has hosted more than 1.2 million forcibly displaced Rohingya for more than nine years, creating pressures on the country's resources, environment, security and host communities. He also linked Bangladesh's climate vulnerability with the wider question of international responsibility and cooperation. The intersection is significant because the Rohingya crisis is concentrated in Cox's Bazar, a coastal region exposed to cyclones, flooding, landslides and other climate-related hazards. Environmental pressure on host communities and refugee settlements can therefore compound existing humanitarian vulnerabilities. Bangladesh's position increasingly treats climate justice, displacement and humanitarian responsibility as interconnected policy concerns. This approach also places climate vulnerability within Dhaka's wider diplomatic agenda at a time when climate finance and loss-and-damage mechanisms remain central to developing-country negotiations.
"Bangladesh's prime minister calls for international action on Rohingya crisis, greater climate justice," Anadolu Agency, 25 September 2026
https://aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/bangladesh-s-prime-minister-calls-for-international-action-on-rohingya-crisis-greater-climate-justice/4068701

Bangladesh and UN discuss Rohingya crisis and climate change
On 25 September, The Daily Star reported that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and UN Secretary-General António Guterres discussed the Rohingya crisis and the adverse impacts of climate change during a meeting at UN headquarters in New York. The two leaders also discussed Bangladesh-UN cooperation and broader regional and global issues. Rahman highlighted the importance of continued UN support for Bangladesh's national priorities, while both sides expressed their intention to strengthen cooperation on shared challenges. The pairing of the Rohingya crisis and climate change is significant because Bangladesh is simultaneously managing humanitarian pressures and high exposure to climate-related hazards. The refugee-hosting areas in southeastern Bangladesh face cyclones, flooding, landslides and environmental degradation, making humanitarian resilience increasingly dependent on climate adaptation. The meeting also illustrates how climate change has become embedded in Bangladesh's broader multilateral diplomacy rather than being addressed solely through environmental negotiations. Linking climate resilience with humanitarian and development cooperation can help frame the needs of vulnerable communities within wider international financing and institutional frameworks.
"PM, UN chief discuss Rohingya crisis, climate change," The Daily Star, 25 September 2026
https://www.thedailystar.net/news/news/pm-un-chief-discuss-rohingya-crisis-climate-change-4282571

Bangladesh seeks a new Ganges water-sharing agreement
On 24 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh wants to negotiate a new Ganges water-sharing treaty with India rather than simply renew the 1996 agreement, which expires on 12 December 2026. Water Resources Minister Md Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee said Dhaka is preparing proposals that would

include guarantees for Bangladesh's dry-season water share and address excessive flows during the monsoon. Bangladesh's Joint Rivers Commission confirms that the existing treaty, signed in 1996 for 30 years, governs dry-season sharing at Farakka and is due to expire this year. The issue has growing climate significance because changing rainfall patterns, water availability and extreme flows can intensify both dry-season scarcity and monsoon flooding. For a downstream country, predictable river flows are closely connected to agriculture, ecosystems, navigation and livelihoods. A future agreement will therefore have implications beyond allocation formulas, potentially requiring stronger consideration of climate variability, basin-wide water management and mechanisms for responding to increasingly uncertain hydrological conditions.
"Bangladesh seeks new Ganges treaty as 1996 pact nears expiry: Minister," The Climate Watch, 24 September 2026 https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-seeks-new-ganges-treaty-as-1996-pact-nears-expiry-minister/

Coastal children call for stronger climate protection

On 24 September, Asia News Network reported that children from Bangladesh's coastal belt presented 13 demands for stronger protection against climate-induced disasters at the sixth Coastal Children's Climate Conference in Khulna. Around 200 children participated, calling for safe drinking water, climate-resilient embankments, child-friendly cyclone shelters, uninterrupted education, healthcare, climate education and disaster preparedness. They also sought livelihood opportunities, social protection for displaced families, climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries, compensation for affected families, and stronger protection of rivers, canals and the Sundarbans. The demands are significant because they frame climate resilience through children's everyday needs rather than solely through infrastructure. Coastal adaptation in Bangladesh increasingly requires integrated approaches that address water security, education, health, livelihoods and displacement together. The emphasis on child participation also brings affected communities into local adaptation discussions and highlights how climate policy can incorporate lived experience alongside technical assessments.
"Bangladesh's coastal children place 13 demands for climate protection," Asia News Network, 24 September 2026 https://asianews.network/bangladeshs-coastal-children-place-13-demands-for-climate-protection/

Bangladesh calls for climate justice and accessible adaptation finance

On 24 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh urged stronger international action on climate justice, adaptation finance and loss and damage ahead of COP31. Speaking at the Climate Vulnerable Forum Leaders Meeting in New York, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Affairs Dr Saimum Parvez called for faster progress in making climate finance more accessible to vulnerable countries. Bangladesh's position reflects a recurring challenge for climate-vulnerable developing countries: commitments to adaptation have expanded, but access to international finance remains constrained by complex procedures and limited resources. For Bangladesh, the issue is particularly important because adaptation needs span coastal protection, water security, climate-resilient infrastructure and livelihoods. Ahead of COP31, Dhaka is therefore linking climate justice with reforms to the international financial system and greater availability of adaptation resources. The emphasis also places Bangladesh within the broader negotiating position of vulnerable countries seeking predictable support rather than primarily project-based or debt-heavy financing.
"Bangladesh urges climate justice, adaptation finance ahead of COP31," The Climate Watch, 24 September 2026 https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-urges-climate-justice-adaptation-finance-ahead-of-cop31/

Bangladesh creates parliamentary caucus on climate displacement

On 24 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh's Parliament has established a 10-member cross-party Parliamentary Caucus on Climate Change and Displacement. The caucus, announced by the Parliament Secretariat on 22 September, is chaired by BNP lawmaker Gias Uddin Quader Chowdhury and includes lawmakers from different political parties and an independent member. Its mandate includes strengthening parliamentary knowledge, supporting implementation of Bangladesh's national strategy on climate-induced displacement, building lawmakers' technical and diplomatic capacity, and engaging experts and communities affected by climate-related migration. The institutional development is significant because displacement is increasingly treated as a governance issue rather than solely as a humanitarian consequence of disasters. Bangladesh faces overlapping risks from sea-level rise, coastal and riverbank erosion, cyclones and flooding, which can undermine housing, livelihoods and access to essential services. A parliamentary platform could help connect national climate policy with constituency-level experiences and international negotiations on mobility, adaptation and loss and damage.

"Bangladesh Parliament forms cross-party caucus on climate displacement," The Climate Watch, 24 September 2026 https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-parliament-forms-cross-party-caucus-on-climate-displacement/

Tarique Rahman calls for stronger global climate action and finance

On 23 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman presented five priorities for international climate action during a high-level Climate Action and Just Transition meeting at UNGA81. They included deeper emissions reductions, predictable adaptation finance, equitable access to green technology, greater support for renewable energy and sustained financing for loss and damage. Rahman also outlined domestic measures including planting 250 million trees over five years, dredging around 20,000 kilometres of rivers and canals, strengthening water management and expanding renewable energy. The position connects Bangladesh's domestic adaptation agenda with its international climate diplomacy. The emphasis on predictable finance is particularly relevant because adaptation projects often require long-term investment, while vulnerable countries face difficulties accessing existing funds. Bangladesh's approach also links climate resilience with energy transition, ecosystem restoration and water management rather than treating adaptation as a stand-alone sector. The message places implementation and international financial support at the centre of Dhaka's climate diplomacy ahead of COP31.

"Tarique Rahman urges stronger global climate action, finance at UNGA81," The Climate Watch, 24 September 2026 https://theclimatewatch.com/tarique-rahman-urges-stronger-global-climate-action-finance-at-unga81/

Strong El Niño could add more than 600 heat deaths in Bangladesh

On 23 September, The Business Standard reported that more than 600 additional heat-related deaths could occur in Bangladesh between September 2026 and February 2027 as a very strong El Niño raises temperatures. The Climate Impact Lab estimates that Khulna alone could experience about 310 additional heat-related deaths, with Barishal and Chattogram also among the areas facing substantial additional mortality. The assessment comes as the World Meteorological Organization projects an exceptionally high likelihood that El Niño will persist through February 2027. However, the impacts will vary by location and season, meaning El Niño does not translate uniformly into heat risk across Bangladesh. The projections highlight the importance of heat-health early-warning systems, targeted public-health interventions and protection for exposed workers and vulnerable populations. They also demonstrate how climate variability can compound existing exposure to multiple

hazards. For Bangladesh, adaptation planning increasingly needs to account for heat alongside its more established concerns over flooding, cyclones, drought and salinity.
"Bangladesh could see hundreds of additional heat deaths as super El Niño drives temperatures higher," The Business Standard, 23 September 2026
https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/environment/strong-el-nino-could-cause-over-600-additional-heat-deaths-bangladesh-1551331

Bangladesh presses for predictable climate finance ahead of COP31
On 24 September, The Daily Star reported that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman called for urgent international action to address climate change and ensure a just transition. Speaking at a high-level UN meeting, he outlined five priorities: maintaining the 1.5°C goal, providing predictable and accessible adaptation finance, expanding access to climate-smart technology, supporting renewable energy and fully implementing and replenishing the Loss and Damage Fund. Rahman said Bangladesh contributes less than 0.5 per cent of global greenhouse-gas emissions while remaining highly vulnerable to climate impacts. He also cited Bangladesh's domestic adaptation spending and plans for large-scale tree planting, river and canal dredging, renewable energy expansion and green industries. The speech illustrates how Bangladesh is combining domestic adaptation measures with calls for international support. It also places climate finance within a broader just-transition framework encompassing technology transfer, renewable energy and loss and damage. The emphasis on predictability reflects the need for longer-term financing to implement national adaptation priorities.
"PM calls for urgent global action on climate crisis, seeks predictable finance," The Daily Star, 24 September 2026
https://www.thedailystar.net/news/environment/climate-crisis/news/pm-calls-urgent-global-action-climate-crisis-seeks-predictable-finance-4281661

The hidden dimensions of climate migration in Bangladesh
On 18 September, The Daily Star examined the less visible dimensions of climate migration in Bangladesh through communities around Gabura, affected by Cyclone Aila in 2009. Nearly two decades later, many families remain in areas where land, livelihoods and environmental conditions have deteriorated, challenging the assumption that climate-affected populations inevitably migrate permanently. The article draws attention to why people stay despite recurring environmental pressures and how households reorganise livelihoods around changing conditions. The experience highlights that climate mobility is not simply a question of displacement but also of immobility, adaptation and constrained choices. For Bangladesh, this has implications for climate policy because adaptation strategies need to address people who remain in high-risk locations alongside those who migrate. Understanding household decisions, livelihood dependence and access to services can therefore complement broader estimates of climate-induced migration and improve locally grounded adaptation planning.
"The untold side of Bangladesh's climate migration," The Daily Star, 15 September 2026
https://www.thedailystar.net/slow-reads/unheard-voices/news/the-untold-side-bangladeshs-climate-migration-4272636

Cooling Bangladesh's garment factories could pay back within four years
On 21 September, ETBrandEquity, citing Reuters, reported that investments in cooling systems for Bangladeshi garment factories could be recovered within four years. The study found that heat stress was already reducing factory revenues, with the average impact estimated at 4.1 per cent of annual revenue. The finding connects climate adaptation directly with industrial productivity and worker welfare. Bangladesh's garment sector is particularly exposed because production depends heavily on indoor labour under increasingly

hot conditions. Cooling investments therefore have implications beyond occupational comfort, potentially protecting productivity, reducing climate-related production losses and improving resilience in an export-oriented industry. The report also argues that international brands should share some of the costs faced by suppliers making such investments. This raises a broader question for climate adaptation in global value chains: whether adaptation costs should remain concentrated among producers in vulnerable economies or be distributed across the companies and consumers benefiting from those supply chains.

"Costs to cool Bangladesh garment factories can be recovered within four years, study shows," ETBrandEquity, 21 September 2026
https://brandequity.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/business-of-brands/costs-to-cool-bangladesh-garment-factories-can-be-recovered-within-four-years-study-shows/134381227

Bangladesh to raise climate vulnerability and Rohingya concerns at UNGA

On 20 September, The Economic Times, citing PTI, reported that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is expected to highlight climate change and the Rohingya crisis during his maiden UN General Assembly address. His climate agenda is expected to include climate finance, adaptation, technology transfer, loss and damage and climate justice, alongside concerns surrounding climate-vulnerable countries. Bangladesh's international climate diplomacy therefore intersects with its broader development and humanitarian pressures. The country hosts more than one million Rohingya refugees, placing additional pressure on infrastructure and resources in areas that are themselves highly exposed to climate risks. Rahman is also scheduled to participate in high-level climate meetings addressing sea-level rise and climate action. The planned engagement illustrates how Bangladesh is linking domestic vulnerability with international negotiations on finance, adaptation and responsibility. It also places climate issues within a wider diplomatic agenda involving displacement, development cooperation and regional humanitarian pressures.

"Bangladesh PM Rahman to highlight Rohingya, climate issues in maiden UNGA address," The Economic Times, 20 September 2026
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/bangladesh-pm-rahman-to-highlight-rohingya-climate-issues-in-maiden-unga-address/articleshow/134367691.cms?from=mdr

Climate finance becomes a focus of Bangladeshi journalism

On 21 September, The Climate Watch highlighted Bangladeshi journalist Mosabber's engagement with climate finance through the NYU Stern School of Business Climate Economics Journalism Fellowship. The programme brings journalists to New York for training involving economists, researchers, policymakers and climate reporters. Supporting climate journalism in this way has significance for countries such as Bangladesh, where climate finance is increasingly central to debates on adaptation, loss and damage and development. Mosabber has spent years reporting on climate change, environmental degradation, governance and economic issues in Bangladesh and has also worked as a freelance Reuters journalist. Climate finance is technically complex, involving public finance, international institutions, debt, grants and private investment. Strengthening journalists' capacity to analyse these mechanisms can improve public understanding of how climate commitments translate into actual resources. It also helps connect international climate negotiations with the financial realities faced by vulnerable communities and developing economies.

"Bangladeshi journalist Mosabber takes a deeper look at climate finance at NYU Stern," The Climate Watch, 21 September 2026
https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladeshi-journalist-mosabber-takes-a-deeper-look-at-climate-finance-at-nyu-stern/

Saline water, prolonged stress push coastal women toward hypertension
On 18 September, The Climate Watch reported that 75.4 per cent of coastal Bangladeshi women experience moderate to severe psychological stress and 24.9 per cent have hypertension, according to an icddr,b study of 4,693 women published in Springer Nature. Researchers surveyed women aged 18-49 across nine sub-districts in seven coastal districts. Some 42.8 per cent drank water containing over 2,000 milligrams of sodium per litre, while 76.3 per cent reported experiencing at least one major climate-related disaster over the past decade. Hypertension rose with stress levels, from 13.9 per cent among unstressed women to 29.1 per cent among severely stressed. Every 100-milligram sodium increase raised hypertension likelihood by 10 per cent. Women facing both high sodium exposure and severe stress were 2.45 times more likely to have hypertension.
("Coastal Bangladesh women face severe stress and hypertension risks," The Climate Watch, 18 September 2026)
https://theclimatewatch.com/coastal-bangladesh-women-face-severe-stress-and-hypertension-risks/

Speakers urge integrated cooling policy linking ozone protection, energy efficiency, climate adaptation
On 17 September, The Climate Watch reported that speakers at a World Ozone Day 2026 discussion in Rajshahi said Bangladesh needs an integrated, long-term sustainable cooling system protecting the ozone layer while reducing energy use and climate impacts. Organised by the Barind Youth Forum, BARCIK, and Green Coalition, the event heard that cooling is no longer a luxury amid rising heatwaves and drought, but important infrastructure for public health, food security, and climate adaptation. Barind Youth Forum President Md Atikur Rahman said cooling policy for the drought-prone Barind region "cannot be limited to reducing the temperature inside homes," urging ponds, trees, shade, and green areas be treated as natural cooling infrastructure. Participants issued 10 recommendations, including a "Climate-smart Barind cooling" pilot programme and mandatory energy-efficiency criteria for new air-conditioning equipment.
("Bangladesh urged to align cooling policy with ozone protection goals," The Climate Watch, 17 September 2026)
https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-urged-to-align-cooling-policy-with-ozone-protection-goals/

A Super El Niño could compound Bangladesh's climate crisis
On 16 September, The Business Standard examined how a potentially very strong 2026–27 El Niño could amplify Bangladesh's existing climate vulnerabilities. The event has more than a 90 per cent chance of becoming very strong, according to the US Climate Prediction Center, while the World Meteorological Organization expects it to persist into early 2027. Rather than producing one specific hazard, a strong El Niño could create a chain of interconnected pressures involving heat, drought, irregular rainfall, food prices, disease, fisheries and energy demand. The risks are particularly significant because Bangladesh already faces salinity, river erosion, water stress and climate-related displacement. A weaker monsoon could reduce freshwater flows into the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna system, while higher temperatures could increase electricity demand and labour productivity losses. The article argues that Bangladesh needs compound-risk planning rather than separate responses by individual ministries. Agriculture, water, health, fisheries, energy and disaster management will need to coordinate, supported by anticipatory finance that can be released before multiple shocks materialise.
"How a Super El Niño could compound Bangladesh's climate crisis," The Business Standard, 16 September 2026.

Bangladesh places climate justice at the centre of climate diplomacy
On 15 September, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha reported that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will highlight climate change during his first address to the UN General Assembly, with climate justice expected to feature prominently in

Bangladesh's international engagement. The government has also established a dedicated climate-change wing within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen coordination of climate diplomacy. Bangladesh plans to use both the UN General Assembly and COP31 to highlight the vulnerabilities of women and children and promote greater international attention to climate justice. The government also intends to showcase jute products as an environmentally friendly alternative to plastics, alongside domestic measures such as tree planting and canal restoration. The creation of a specialised climate-diplomacy structure is significant because Bangladesh's climate priorities extend beyond adaptation projects to questions of international finance, loss and damage, technology and recognition of differentiated vulnerability. A dedicated institutional mechanism could help connect these priorities across multilateral negotiations and make climate diplomacy more coordinated ahead of COP31.
"PM to highlight climate change at UNGA: Shama," Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, 15 September 2026.

Climate-resilient construction planning gains recognition
On 15 September, The Bangladesh Today reported that researcher Nipa Akter received the Climate-Resilient Land Development Excellence Award 2026 for research examining erosion and sediment control in construction. The study used a multi-criteria decision-analysis framework based on responses from 175 construction professionals and identified stormwater management, regulatory compliance and site stability as the most influential factors. Stormwater management received the highest weighting at 27 per cent, followed by regulatory compliance at 24 per cent and site stability at 21 per cent. The study also found a strong correlation between stormwater management and site stability. Although the research was based on construction professionals in the United States, the article highlights its potential relevance for Bangladesh's rapidly expanding urban and infrastructure sectors, where drainage, soil erosion and sediment runoff can worsen flood risks. The broader significance is that climate resilience needs to be integrated into construction decisions before infrastructure is built. Applying systematic risk-assessment tools to drainage, site stability and environmental compliance could help reduce the vulnerability of new urban development to increasingly intense rainfall and flooding.
"Nipa Akter Receives Climate-Resilient Land Development Award 2026," The Bangladesh Today, 15 September 2026.

Bangladesh and Japan prepare to deepen environmental cooperation
On 11 September, Japan's Ministry of the Environment announced that Japan and Bangladesh will jointly host the Bangladesh-Japan Environmental Cooperation Forum in Dhaka on 27 October. The forum will focus on key environmental challenges, climate-change initiatives and the implementation of Japan's Joint Crediting Mechanism in Bangladesh. Discussions will also examine Bangladesh's carbon-market policies, decarbonisation technologies and opportunities for Japanese and Bangladeshi companies to develop JCM projects. The initiative provides a platform for connecting bilateral environmental cooperation with practical investment and technology partnerships. For Bangladesh, the JCM could support low-carbon development while creating opportunities to mobilise private-sector participation in emissions-reduction projects. The forum is also significant because it combines broader environmental cooperation with specific mechanisms for project development, rather than limiting the relationship to diplomatic commitments. Around 200 participants are expected, including companies, project developers and related organisations. The meeting could therefore help translate bilateral climate cooperation into concrete projects involving clean technologies, carbon markets and industrial decarbonisation.
"Bangladesh-Japan Environmental Cooperation Forum," Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, 11 September 2026.

Climate migration is also about why people stay

On 15 September, The Daily Star examined the less-discussed side of Bangladesh's climate-migration story: the millions of people who remain in places increasingly affected by flooding, erosion, salinity and cyclones. Drawing on nearly two decades of fieldwork in Gabura, Satkhira, the authors show that staying is not necessarily a consequence of poverty or an inability to migrate. Families remain because of what the study calls "tetheredness" — their connections to land, livelihoods, family, community networks and aspirations for the future. After Cyclone Aila in 2009, many affected families continued living in Gabura despite repeated environmental deterioration. This complicates conventional narratives that portray climate change as inevitably producing displacement. At the same time, repeated shocks can exhaust household resources and create "adaptation fatigue". The findings suggest that climate policy should not assume either migration or permanent settlement as the default solution. Adaptation should instead preserve people's ability to make meaningful choices about whether to stay or move.

"The untold side of Bangladesh's climate migration," The Daily Star, 15 September 2026.
https://www.thedailystar.net/slow-reads/unheard-voices/news/the-untold-side-bangladeshs-climate-migration-4272636

Bangladesh outlines USD 1.85 billion roadmap for a just transition

On 11 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh has outlined a USD 1.85 billion investment roadmap to make its transition towards a low-carbon economy more inclusive ahead of COP31. The framework identifies 69 activities across energy, transport, construction, agriculture, waste and industrial processes, each with proposed responsibilities, budgets, timelines and measurable indicators. Importantly, the investment envelope is not equivalent to direct government spending: USD 250.6 million is identified for training, grants and institutional strengthening, while USD 1.5975 billion is expected to be mobilised through commercial and development finance. The roadmap links decarbonisation with worker protection, skills development, social protection and green employment, reflecting the principle that climate transition should not create new economic vulnerabilities. It was developed through consultations involving government, employers, workers, civil society, youth and academia. With COP31 approaching, the framework gives Bangladesh a more concrete basis for presenting its financing needs internationally. Its real test, however, will be implementation and whether workers actually benefit from the transition.

"Bangladesh outlines $1.85b Just Transition roadmap ahead of COP31," The Climate Watch, 11 September 2026.
https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-outlines-1-85b-just-transition-roadmap-ahead-of-cop31/

Climate action must protect jobs and livelihoods

On 10 September, the Daily Sun reported that experts in Bangladesh are calling for climate action to protect decent work, livelihoods and inclusive economic growth as the country pursues its green transition. Discussions under the government's Just Transition framework emphasised the need for reliable, disaggregated data to identify vulnerable groups and better target social protection. Experts also called for sector- and occupation-level mapping to understand where employment will be created or displaced during the transition. Bangladesh's NDC 3.0 Just Transition chapter identifies 69 activities across six sectors, supported by a proposed USD 1.85 billion investment envelope. The approach is significant because decarbonisation can create new employment opportunities while simultaneously disrupting carbon-intensive industries and existing livelihoods. Linking climate policy with labour policy, reskilling, social protection and enterprise support can therefore reduce the social costs of structural change. For Bangladesh, integrating workers into climate decision-making could also make

the transition more politically durable by ensuring that climate ambition is connected to tangible economic opportunities.
"Climate action must ensure decent work, inclusive growth: Experts," Daily Sun, 10 September 2026.
https://www.daily-sun.com/business/897056/climate-action-must-ensure-decent-work-inclusive-growth-experts

Bangladesh seeks stronger regional action against wildlife crime
On 11 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh called for stronger regional cooperation against transnational wildlife crime at the first General Assembly of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network in Kathmandu. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo argued that wildlife trafficking networks exploit national borders, transport systems, online platforms and financial channels, making isolated national enforcement insufficient. He called for intelligence-sharing, coordinated operations, digital investigations, financial tracking, wildlife forensics and stronger cooperation in the rescue and repatriation of seized animals. The emphasis on intelligence rather than simply confiscating wildlife marks an important shift towards targeting the organised networks and financiers behind trafficking. The issue is also relevant to climate and ecosystem resilience because illegal wildlife trade can weaken already stressed ecosystems and undermine biodiversity conservation. Bangladesh's support for the SAWEN Strategic Plan 2026–2030 provides an opportunity to turn regional commitments into practical mechanisms. Stronger cooperation among South Asian enforcement agencies could improve both biodiversity protection and the resilience of ecosystems facing increasing climate pressures.
"Bangladesh calls for stronger regional action against wildlife crime," The Climate Watch, 11 September 2026.
https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-calls-for-stronger-regional-action-against-wildlife-crime/

Climate diplomacy may be moving beyond the traditional language of vulnerable countries
On 10 September, Asia News Network examined the emerging legal and political debate over who should bear the costs of climate-related losses in Nepal and Bangladesh. The article argues that climate diplomacy may be moving beyond the traditional language of vulnerable countries seeking assistance towards questions of responsibility and compensation. Nepal's demand following the August 26 disaster has brought this issue into sharper focus, particularly after its foreign minister called for a shift from "aid" towards "justice and compensation". The 2025 International Court of Justice advisory opinion provides a potentially important legal foundation by recognising that breaches of climate obligations can, depending on circumstances, lead to reparation. However, establishing liability for a particular disaster would still require evidence linking wrongful conduct to specific damage. For Bangladesh, the development is significant because it raises the possibility of preparing not only to access climate finance and loss-and-damage mechanisms, but also to develop stronger scientific and legal capacity to document climate-related claims.
"Who will pay for Nepal – and Bangladesh's – climate losses?" Asia News Network, 10 September 2026.
https://asianews.network/who-will-pay-for-nepal-and-bangladeshs-climate-losses/

Climate finance should follow vulnerability, not political visibility
On 09 September, The Climate Watch reported calls for Bangladesh's National Committee on Climate Finance to prioritise vulnerability, transparency and community participation in allocating climate finance. M Zakir Hossain Khan of Change Initiative argued that the committee's credibility should ultimately be measured by whether resources reach communities facing the greatest climate risks. He called for formal participation by vulnerable communities, women, young people, local governments, Indigenous and traditional communities, civil society and independent climate-

finance experts. The committee should also publicly disclose project criteria, funding sources, financing terms, disbursements and outcomes, alongside independent assessments and grievance mechanisms. The emphasis is particularly important because Bangladesh requires large-scale adaptation finance while remaining highly exposed to floods, cyclones, erosion, sea-level rise and heat. The article also stresses that adaptation and loss-and-damage finance should primarily come as grants rather than deepen developing countries' debt burdens. Stronger accountability could help ensure climate finance is distributed according to exposure and need rather than political visibility.

"Climate finance should follow vulnerability, not political visibility," The Climate Watch, 09 September 2026.
https://theclimatewatch.com/climate-finance-should-follow-vulnerability-not-political-visibility/

Bangladeshi students selected for Russia climate olympiad

On 08 September, The Climate Watch reported that five Bangladeshi students have been selected to represent the country at the 2026 International Olympiad on Climate Change and Environmental Issues in Russia. More than 4,000 students reportedly participated in the selection process, with finalists receiving training in climate science, biodiversity, environmental chemistry, Earth-system science and disaster management. The initiative is significant as climate education increasingly needs to move beyond general awareness towards scientific and analytical capacity. Bangladesh's high exposure to climate risks makes investment in this expertise particularly relevant, as future adaptation will require scientists and policymakers able to connect climate processes with local development, disaster preparedness and environmental management. International competitions can also create opportunities for young researchers to build networks and gain exposure to different approaches to climate problem-solving. While such programmes cannot substitute for institutional investment in climate science, they can contribute to developing a generation capable of engaging with increasingly complex climate challenges. Sustained national support for climate education could therefore become part of Bangladesh's longer-term resilience strategy.

"Five Bangladeshi students chosen for Russia climate olympiad 2026," The Climate Watch, 08 September 2026.
https://theclimatewatch.com/five-bangladeshi-students-chosen-for-russia-climate-olympiad-2026/

Bangladeshi students selected for International Climate Olympiad in Russia

On 08 September, The Climate Watch reported that five Bangladeshi students have been selected to represent the country at the International Olympiad on Climate Change and Environmental Issues 2026 in Russia. The selection followed a nationwide process involving more than 4,000 students, with participants progressing through regional and national rounds before an intensive training camp covering climate science, biodiversity, environmental chemistry, Earth-system science and disaster management. The initiative is significant not simply as an educational competition but as an investment in developing scientific capacity around climate and environmental challenges. Bangladesh is among the countries most exposed to climate risks, making stronger domestic expertise in climate science, disaster management and environmental problem-solving particularly relevant. The programme also illustrates how climate education can move beyond awareness towards analytical and technical skills among young people. Building such capacity could contribute to a future generation of researchers, policymakers and innovators able to connect climate science with Bangladesh's adaptation and resilience priorities.

"Five Bangladeshi students chosen for Russia climate olympiad 2026," The Climate Watch, 08 September 2026
https://theclimatewatch.com/five-bangladeshi-students-chosen-for-russia-climate-olympiad-2026/

Bangladesh calls for stronger regional climate action

On 07 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladeshi parliamentarian Sayeed Al Noman called for stronger regional cooperation during the South Asian Parliamentary Dialogue on Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development in Bhutan. He argued that floods, landslides, droughts and pressures on food and energy security increasingly cross national boundaries and therefore cannot be addressed through isolated national policies. The appeal is particularly relevant following Nepal's recent glacial-related disaster, which demonstrated how hazards originating in one part of the Himalayan system can create consequences far downstream. Noman proposed a coordinated mechanism for climate governance supported by disaster preparedness, sustainable development, cross-border cooperation and greater public awareness. The emphasis on prevention rather than post-disaster response reflects a growing recognition that South Asia's climate governance remains fragmented despite shared ecological systems. For Bangladesh, which is highly dependent on upstream Himalayan river systems, stronger regional monitoring and information exchange could be especially important for anticipating floods and managing transboundary climate risks.

"Bangladesh MP calls for regional climate action at Bhutan dialogue," The Climate Watch, 07 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-mp-calls-for-regional-climate-action-at-bhutan-dialogue/

Bangladesh creates national committee to coordinate climate finance

On 03 September, The Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh has established a 25-member National Committee on Climate Finance, chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, to bring climate finance, carbon credits and carbon trading under a coordinated national framework. The committee's creation signals an effort to address the fragmentation that can limit countries' ability to mobilise and strategically deploy climate-related resources. Its mandate includes guiding carbon-credit policies, trading activities and international cooperation, potentially linking domestic climate priorities with emerging international carbon markets. For Bangladesh, which faces significant adaptation and loss-and-damage needs despite its relatively low contribution to global emissions, stronger institutional coordination could improve access to external finance while ensuring that climate resources are aligned with national priorities. The move is particularly relevant as developing countries increasingly seek to diversify beyond conventional development assistance and access new sources of climate finance. Its effectiveness, however, will depend on transparent governance, credible carbon accounting and clear mechanisms for directing finance towards vulnerable communities.

"Bangladesh forms national climate finance committee led by PM Tarique Rahman," The Climate Watch, 03 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-forms-national-climate-finance-committee-led-by-pm-tarique-rahman/

Bangladesh remains among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries

On 02 September, Climate Watch reported that Bangladesh continues to face severe climate vulnerability despite contributing relatively little to global greenhouse-gas emissions. The country is exposed simultaneously to cyclones, river and coastal flooding, erosion, sea-level rise and increasingly intense heat, creating overlapping risks for communities, infrastructure and livelihoods. The warning reinforces Bangladesh's long-standing argument that climate vulnerability must be addressed alongside questions of international responsibility and equitable access to adaptation finance. While Bangladesh has developed substantial experience in disaster preparedness, cyclone shelters and community-based early-warning systems, accelerating climate impacts are increasing the scale and complexity of adaptation requirements. The country's experience also illustrates why

resilience cannot be separated from development planning, particularly in densely populated and economically vulnerable areas. Strengthening climate-resilient infrastructure, improving local adaptation capacity and securing predictable international finance will remain central to reducing future losses. Bangladesh's position continues to be important in global climate negotiations because it represents the wider concerns of highly exposed developing countries.
"Bangladesh among world's most climate vulnerable, minister warns," Climate Watch, 02 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/bangladesh-among-worlds-most-climate-vulnerable-minister-warns/

BHUTAN

Bhutan adopts Gross Ecosystem Product as a national economic measure

On 26 September, Bhutan announced the national adoption of Gross Ecosystem Product, becoming the first country to use GEP at the national level. The 2024 GEP was calculated at approximately USD 6.2 billion, about twice Bhutan's GDP, according to the Natural Capital Alliance and The Climate Watch. (Natural Capital Alliance) GEP assigns monetary values to ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water regulation, pollination, flood protection, forestry, fisheries and recreation. Unlike GDP, which focuses on market activity, GEP seeks to make the economic contribution of nature more visible in national accounting. For Bhutan, where forests, rivers and mountain ecosystems underpin livelihoods and environmental security, the measure could provide another basis for assessing development choices and investment. GEP is intended to complement rather than replace GDP and Gross National Happiness. Its policy value will depend on the quality of ecosystem data, valuation methods and how the indicator is incorporated into planning. Nevertheless, national ecosystem accounting represents an effort to place ecological functions within economic decision-making rather than treating them as external to development.
"Bhutan becomes first country to adopt gross ecosystem product nationally," The Climate Watch, 26 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/bhutan-becomes-first-country-to-adopt-gross-ecosystem-product-nationally

Bhutan develops a national architecture for climate loss and damage

On 27 September, the Santiago Network announced a call for technical assistance to help Bhutan develop and operationalise a national loss-and-damage architecture. The initiative responds to a request from the Government of Bhutan and builds on the country's 2025 National Loss and Damage Assessment. (Santiago Network) The proposed support has three main components: developing a governance system for evidence-based decision-making, creating a centralised repository covering both economic and non-economic losses, and building capacity at national and subnational levels. Although the proposal deadline was 24 August 2026, the initiative remains relevant to Bhutan's evolving climate-governance architecture. A national system for documenting loss and damage can improve understanding of impacts that are difficult to capture through conventional economic assessments, including cultural, ecological and social losses. It can also provide a stronger evidence base for future adaptation and international climate-finance discussions. For a mountainous country facing glacier-related risks, floods and changing ecosystems, institutionalising loss-and-damage assessment can help connect disaster experience with longer-term climate planning.
"Development and operationalization of Bhutan's loss and damage architecture," Santiago Network, 27 September 2026. https://www2.fundsforngos.org/community-development-2/call-for-proposals-development-and-operationalization-of-bhutans-loss-and-damage-architecture

Bhutan turns to solar as hydropower faces winter and climate pressures

On 17 September, Malay Mail reported that Bhutan is expanding solar power as it faces

seasonal hydropower shortages, rising electricity demand and longer-term climate pressures on glacier-fed rivers. Hydropower currently dominates the country's electricity system, but generation capacity can fall by around 80 per cent during winter, while winter demand has risen substantially. Bhutan consequently imports electricity from India during periods of shortage. The country is now targeting 25,000 MW of renewable capacity by 2040, with solar expected to provide 20 per cent. Projects such as the 4.45 MW Dechencholing solar farm and the larger Sephu solar project signal an emerging diversification strategy. However, mountainous terrain, limited land availability and high installation costs constrain rapid solar expansion. Climate change adds another dimension: glacier retreat could affect the long-term reliability of water-dependent power generation. Bhutan's experience illustrates why climate-resilient energy planning increasingly requires diversification even in countries with substantial renewable resources.

"In hydropowered Bhutan, solar starts to rise amid winter shortfalls and climate pressures," Malay Mail, 17 September 2026 https://www.malaymail.com/news/life/2026/09/17/in-hydropowered-bhutan-solar-starts-to-rise-amid-winter-shortfalls-and-climate-pressures/235424

Round-the-clock monitoring intensifies as Bhutan's glacier risks grow

On 09 September, France 24 reported on Bhutan's round-the-clock efforts to monitor its rapidly changing glaciers and glacial lakes. The country has more than 600 glaciers and 600 glacial lakes, with 17 considered potentially dangerous. A warning centre in Wangdue Phodrang operates sensors that track water levels in glacial lakes and downstream rivers, with automated and manually activated sirens designed to provide communities with evacuation warnings. The system was developed following the deadly 1994 glacial lake outburst flood that killed 21 people along the Punatsangchhu river. Climate change has increased the risks: Bhutan's largest glaciers are reportedly retreating by 30–35 metres annually, while the Thorthormi glacier has transformed into a glacial lake. The recent Nepal disaster has heightened vigilance among monitoring teams. Yet the story also exposes a challenge in adaptation: warning technology is only effective if communities understand and respond to alerts. Around 70% of Bhutan's settlements are located along rivers, making public preparedness as important as technical monitoring.

"The round-the-clock monitors protecting Bhutan from glacier risk," France 24, 09 September 2026. https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20260909-the-round-the-clock-monitors-protecting-bhutan-from-glacier-risk

South Asia needs stronger cross-border climate cooperation

On 05 September, Kuensel reported calls for stronger cross-border climate cooperation among South Asian countries, reflecting the increasingly transboundary nature of climate risks. Himalayan glaciers, rivers and weather systems connect countries whose disaster risks cannot be managed entirely within national boundaries. Nepal's recent glacial-related disaster has provided a particularly stark example of how hazards originating in high-altitude areas can rapidly affect downstream communities and infrastructure. Stronger regional cooperation could improve the exchange of hydrological and climate data, strengthen early-warning systems and enable coordinated disaster preparedness. Bhutan is especially relevant to these discussions because of its exposure to glacial lake outburst floods and its position within major transboundary river systems. The challenge, however, is converting broad political commitments into functioning mechanisms for real-time data sharing, joint monitoring and emergency communication. Regional institutions will also need adequate technical and financial capacity to sustain such systems. Greater cooperation could help South Asian countries respond collectively to climate risks that increasingly move across borders faster than national institutions can respond.

"South Asia needs stronger cross-border

climate cooperation: Experts," Kuensel, 05 September 2026. https://kuenselonline.com/news/south-asia-needs-stronger-cross-border-climate-cooperation-experts

South Asian lawmakers push for regional climate institutions

On 08 September, Asia News Network reported that parliamentarians from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh called for concrete mechanisms to strengthen regional cooperation on climate and energy following a two-day dialogue in Thimphu. Proposals included a possible South Asia Climate Cooperation Council, a regional electricity grid and a cross-border disaster-preparedness and data-sharing mechanism. The proposed climate council is intended to sustain political attention while connecting existing initiatives under SAARC, BIMSTEC, BBIN and SACEP without duplicating them. The emphasis on institutional mechanisms is significant because South Asia already has multiple regional frameworks, but implementation and information sharing remain limited. A shared early-warning system covering Himalayan glaciers and flood-prone basins could be particularly valuable following Nepal's recent disaster. Likewise, integrating complementary energy resources could strengthen regional energy security while supporting the transition to cleaner power. The proposals indicate a shift from general calls for regional cooperation towards specific infrastructure, data and governance mechanisms capable of delivering coordinated climate action.
"South Asian lawmakers call for stronger regional climate cooperation," Asia News Network, 08 September 2026. https://asianews.network/south-asian-lawmakers-call-for-stronger-regional-climate-cooperation/

Nepal floods expose gaps in Bhutan's early-warning systems

On 31 August, Asia News Network reported that the devastating floods in Nepal have highlighted vulnerabilities in Bhutan's early-warning systems, particularly because mountain floods can occur without significant rainfall in the affected downstream area. Bhutan has previous experience with glacial lake outburst floods, including the Thorthormi event, and faces continuing risks from its rapidly changing high-altitude environment. The country has around 620 glacial lakes, with 17 considered potentially dangerous by the National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology. However, warning infrastructure remains vulnerable to damaged sensors, ageing equipment and connectivity problems. The Nepal disaster demonstrates why early-warning systems in mountainous regions need to monitor hazards across entire river basins rather than relying primarily on local weather conditions. Bhutan's plans to strengthen nationwide early-warning capacity, including a proposed USD 22 million Green Climate Fund initiative with UNEP, therefore have wider significance. Regional data sharing and cross-border warnings could further improve preparedness across the Himalayan River systems.
"Nepal flood exposes gaps in Bhutan's early warning systems," Asia News Network, 31 August 2026. https://asianews.network/nepal-flood-exposes-gaps-in-bhutans-early-warning-systems/

Bhutan promotes climate-conscious food systems

On 31 August, The Guardian reported that Bhutan hosted its first "conscious food summit" in Paro, bringing together participants from more than 60 countries to examine the relationship between food systems, climate change, biodiversity and global instability. The summit placed emphasis on regenerative agricultural practices, Indigenous knowledge and more sustainable approaches to food production and consumption. Bhutan's approach is notable because it connects environmental sustainability with broader questions of cultural values and wellbeing rather than treating food security solely as a matter of agricultural output. Climate change is increasingly affecting food systems through changing rainfall, temperature extremes, land degradation and biodiversity loss, while geopolitical disruptions can further

expose countries dependent on vulnerable supply chains. The Bhutanese initiative therefore reflects a broader shift towards integrated food-system resilience. Strengthening local production, protecting ecosystems and incorporating traditional knowledge could help reduce climate vulnerability while supporting biodiversity and rural livelihoods, offering lessons relevant to other climate-sensitive countries across South Asia.
"Bhutan hosts first 'conscious food summit' amid threats to global supplies," The Guardian, 31 August 2026. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/aug/31/bhutan-first-conscious-food-summit-climate

INDIA

India concludes water week with emphasis on climate-resilient governance

On 29 September, the Press Information Bureau reported that the ninth India International Water Week concluded in New Delhi after four days of discussions on climate-resilient water management. The event brought together governments, international organisations, development partners, researchers, industry and young professionals around water security. The recommendations included participatory water governance, wastewater reuse, data-driven management, community-led groundwater recharge, digital technologies, multi-hazard early-warning systems and river-basin approaches to climate adaptation. The emphasis on river-basin-scale planning is particularly relevant because hydrological systems cross administrative and national boundaries. The conference also highlighted the shift from building rural drinking-water infrastructure towards ensuring reliable, sustainable service delivery, including source protection, maintenance and local institutional capacity. Digital public infrastructure and AI-enabled flood forecasting were discussed alongside community participation, indicating that technological tools are being integrated into broader governance systems. The outcomes reinforce the growing recognition that climate resilience is closely tied to water resilience and that infrastructure, data, institutions and communities need to function together.
"9th India International Water Week 2026 concludes with focus on climate-resilient water management and sustainable water services," Press Information Bureau, 29 September 2026. https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2315096&reg=48&lang=2

Tamil Nadu emerges as a major drought hotspot

On 28 September, The New Indian Express reported that Tamil Nadu and the wider South Peninsular India region have emerged as pronounced drought hotspots in a 52-year climate study. Researchers from NCMRWF, the India Meteorological Department and Atria University analysed daily rainfall and temperature data from 1971–2022 using a revised India Climate Extremes Index covering drought, heat, heavy rainfall and dry spells. The study identifies South Peninsular India as having recorded the strongest long-term increase in drought-affected area among the four major climatic regions assessed. For Tamil Nadu, the finding is especially relevant because the state depends significantly on the northeast monsoon and already faces competing demands on surface and groundwater. Drought risk also has implications for agriculture, drinking water, hydropower and ecosystems. The longer-term trend underscores the importance of drought preparedness beyond emergency relief, including water-demand management, groundwater recharge, crop planning and improved seasonal forecasting. Climate adaptation in the region will increasingly require planning for both water scarcity and short-duration extreme rainfall rather than treating drought and flood as separate risks.
"Tamil Nadu emerges as major drought hotspot in India: Climate study," The New Indian Express, 28 September 2026. https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2026/Sep/26/tamil-nadu-emerges-as-major-drought-hotspot-in-india-climate-study

India and Pacific Island countries review climate and disaster-resilience cooperation

On 29 September, BusinessWorld reported on discussions between India and Pacific Island countries concerning cooperation in climate action, energy and disaster resilience. The engagement reflects the growing relevance of Small Island Developing States to India's wider climate and development diplomacy. India and Pacific Island countries share concerns around sea-level rise, extreme weather, water security and disaster preparedness, while cooperation has included renewable energy, capacity building and disaster-resilient infrastructure. India's engagement with Pacific countries also includes the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation and initiatives involving the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The climate dimension is particularly important because Pacific Island states face disproportionate exposure to sea-level rise and extreme events despite their relatively small contribution to global emissions. For India, cooperation provides a platform for exchanging technologies and approaches on renewable energy, early warnings and resilient infrastructure. For Pacific partners, access to affordable technologies and capacity-building support can complement domestic adaptation efforts. Continued cooperation will depend on aligning projects with country-specific priorities and strengthening implementation mechanisms.

"India, Pacific Island countries review cooperation on climate, energy and disaster resilience," BusinessWorld, 29 September 2026.
https://www.businessworld.in/article/india-pacific-island-countries-review-cooperation-on-climate-energy-and-disaster-resilience-625506

Climate journalism in India and Indonesia focuses on business transition

On 29 September, the Earth Journalism Network highlighted recent reporting from India and Indonesia examining the relationship between business and climate change. The project brings climate and business journalism together to examine how companies, investors and economic systems are responding to climate risks and the transition towards lower-carbon development. Such reporting is increasingly important because climate policy is moving beyond environmental ministries into finance, industry, infrastructure and corporate decision-making. In India and Indonesia, two large emerging economies with rapidly growing energy demand, businesses face questions around renewable energy, climate risk, supply chains, investment and regulatory change. Journalism that connects corporate decisions with climate outcomes can make these transitions more transparent and help audiences understand the economic dimensions of climate action. The project also demonstrates the importance of strengthening specialised climate reporting capacity, particularly in developing economies where climate risks intersect with growth and development priorities. Better reporting can connect technical climate policy with business decisions, investment trends and the experiences of affected communities.

"Business and Climate Reporting Highlights from India and Indonesia," Earth Journalism Network, 29 September 2026.
https://earthjournalism.net/what-we-do/project-updates/business-and-climate-reporting-highlights-from-india-and-indonesia

India calls for predictable climate finance at UN meetings

On 24 September, Daily Excelsior reported that India used several high-level UN meetings to call for greater and more predictable climate finance for developing countries. Secretary (Economic Relations) at the Ministry of External Affairs Sudhakar Dalela highlighted India's early-warning systems and efforts to integrate adaptation into national and state-level planning. At a separate climate-finance dialogue, he called for affordable finance and improved technology access, while arguing that climate finance should be new and additional rather than replacing existing development finance. India also pointed to progress towards its Nationally Determined Contribution, with non-fossil sources

accounting for more than 54 per cent of installed electricity capacity. The interventions reflect the financing dimension of India's climate diplomacy: developing countries require resources not only for mitigation but also for adaptation and resilience. The emphasis on country-led adaptation is particularly relevant as climate risks increasingly affect infrastructure, agriculture, water systems and communities. The discussions at UNGA also come ahead of COP31, where questions surrounding the scale, accessibility and terms of international climate finance are expected to remain central.
"India presses for zero-tolerance on terrorism, predictable climate finance at UN meetings," Daily Excelsior, 25 September 2026
https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/india-presses-for-zero-tolerance-on-terrorism-predictable-climate-finance-at-un-meetings/

Changing climate strengthens the case for water monitoring and early warnings
On 22 September, Hindustan Times reported that Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil called for stronger scientific monitoring, early-warning systems and preparedness as climate change alters water cycles. He noted that some regions are experiencing excessive rainfall while others receive too little, with rainfall increasingly failing to arrive when it is most needed. Speaking at the ninth India International Water Week, Patil also described water as a shared resource requiring integrated management because rivers and groundwater cross administrative boundaries. The minister pointed to real-time data, satellite information, improved forecasting and artificial intelligence as tools for decisions concerning floods, groundwater, reservoirs and irrigation. The emphasis is particularly relevant to Himalayan and monsoon systems, where rapid changes in rainfall and runoff can generate cascading risks. The broader challenge is converting increasingly sophisticated monitoring into timely local action, ensuring that warnings reach communities and institutions capable of responding before water-related hazards become disasters.
"Changing climate demands stronger water monitoring, early warnings: CR Patil," Hindustan Times, 22 September 2026
https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/changing-climate-demands-stronger-water-monitoring-early-warnings-crpatil-101790077739551.html

India's climate policy debate enters environmental justice institutions
On 19 September, The Hindu reported that Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Green Tribunal's international conference on environment and climate dynamics in New Delhi. The conference brought together environmental experts, judges, legal professionals and officials, with participants from 17 countries. Modi framed climate change partly through the question of inequality in per-capita emissions, stating that India's per-capita emissions remain below the global average and contrasting them with emissions in developed countries. The conference also focused on environmental justice, policy implementation and institutional cooperation. The involvement of judicial institutions is significant because climate governance increasingly intersects with questions concerning environmental regulation, development projects and legal accountability. In India, climate-related disputes are likely to involve multiple levels of government and competing development and environmental priorities. Strengthening the capacity of legal and regulatory institutions to engage with climate science could therefore become an important component of climate governance.
"PM Modi inaugurates NGT's climate conference, highlights climate inequality," The Hindu, 19 September 2026
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-inaugurates-ngts-climate-conference-highlights-climate-inequality/article71483805.ece

Climate-smart agriculture expands across Indian value chains
On 21 September, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development highlighted ITC Limited's efforts to scale climate-smart agriculture across Indian

value chains. The programme combines regenerative agricultural practices, digital advisory services, farmer collectives and market linkages, with initiatives reported to reach more than 1.2 million farmers across 19 states. The case illustrates the increasing role of private-sector value chains in agricultural climate adaptation. Climate-smart agriculture is not limited to reducing environmental impacts; it also seeks to maintain farm productivity and resilience under changing climatic conditions. Digital advisory systems can help farmers access information, while collectives and market connections can strengthen the economic side of adaptation. However, scaling such approaches requires attention to farmer access, affordability, local agro-ecological conditions and the distribution of benefits across value chains. The experience also highlights how corporate climate strategies are increasingly moving beyond emissions reduction towards adaptation and resilience within agricultural supply systems.
"ITC Limited: Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture Across Indian Value Chains," WBCSD, 21 September 2026 [https://www.wbcsd.org/resources/itc-limited-scaling-climate-smart-agriculture-across-indian-value-chains/]

Women's livelihoods reveal gendered dimensions of climate resilience
On 22 September, the Observer Research Foundation examined women's livelihoods and resilience through lessons from Ethiopia and India. The broader evidence on climate adaptation in both contexts shows that women's resilience is closely linked to access to land, income, agricultural services, climate information and institutional participation. Research from Ethiopia, for example, finds that women-headed households can face greater climate vulnerability because of unequal access to productive assets and livelihood diversification, while adaptation support can strengthen both resilience and empowerment. The India dimension is relevant because women remain heavily involved in agriculture while often having weaker formal ownership and access to institutional resources. The comparative perspective therefore shifts attention from treating women simply as vulnerable groups towards examining the structural conditions shaping adaptive capacity. For climate policy, this means that livelihood diversification, access to finance and extension services, participation in decision-making and resource rights can be as important as physical adaptation infrastructure.
"Women's livelihoods and resilience: Lessons from Ethiopia and India," Observer Research Foundation, 22 September 2026 https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/women-s-livelihoods-and-resilience-lessons-from-ethiopia-and-india

India prepares for wider international dialogue on climate-resilient water management
On 21 September, The New Indian Express reported that the ninth India International Water Week would bring together policymakers, water experts, researchers, practitioners, industry representatives and civil society from 22–26 September. The event focuses on climate-resilient water management, with discussions covering equitable water governance, resource efficiency, technology, community participation and water security. The Netherlands and Germany are participating as partner countries, while 14 Indian states and six central ministries and departments are also involved. The multi-level format reflects the increasingly cross-sectoral nature of water governance under climate change. Water risks connect drinking water, sanitation, agriculture, ecosystems, cities and disaster management, making fragmented institutional approaches increasingly difficult to sustain. The conference therefore provides a platform for linking international expertise with Indian state-level implementation. Its emphasis on partnerships and knowledge exchange also reflects the need for water-security strategies that combine infrastructure, science, governance and community-level adaptation.
"Global experts on water security to gather in India for climate resilience talks," The New Indian Express, 21 September 2026 https://www.newindianexpress.com/india

/2026/Sep/21/global-experts-on-water-security-to-gather-in-india-for-climate-resilience-talks

Himalayan glaciers melting 65 per cent faster than a decade ago, warns a new report

On 18 September, Down To Earth reported that Himalayan glaciers are losing mass 65 per cent faster than a decade ago, pushing the region toward a tipping point, according to the "Prosperous and Resilient Himalayas" report by Systemiq with the Integrated Mountain Initiative. Black carbon from South Asian industries, especially brick kilns, contributes about one-third of Himalayan glacier melt. The report assessed 189 high-risk glacial lakes in India, classifying 56 as very high risk, while noting only 0.1 per cent of the region's 40,000 glaciers are regularly monitored. Up to 80 per cent of present glacier volume could be lost by century's end. The Himalayan ecosystem supports over 20 per cent of India's GDP, though mountain states retain only about 5 per cent of that value.
("Himalayas nearing 'tipping point' as glacier melting accelerates, report warns," Down To Earth, 18 September 2026)
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/himalayas-nearing-tipping-point-as-glacier-melting-accelerates-report-warns

1.5 billion people endured an extra month of dangerous heat between June-August 2026 with 117 million in India alone

On 17 September, Down To Earth reported that over 1.5 billion people experienced at least a month of risky heat between June and August 2026, made significantly more likely by human-induced climate change, according to research group Climate Central. India accounted for 117 million people exposed to at least 30 such days, the highest in Asia, followed by China with 94 million and Indonesia with 83 million. Across Asia, around 2.8 billion people, or 58 per cent of the continent's population, faced at least 30 risky heat days. Europe was the most unusually hot region, with 89 per cent of its population affected. Fifty-four countries recorded their hottest June-August period on record. Climate Central's Kristina Dahl called the findings "a warning sign we cannot afford to ignore."
("Climate change added a month of risky heat for 1.5 billion people; 117 million affected in India," Down To Earth, 17 September 2026)
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/climate-change-added-a-month-of-risky-heat-for-15-billion-people-117-million-affected-in-india

The Indus Waters Treaty needs a framework for a changing climate

On 09 September, The Quint examined whether the Indus Waters Treaty can adequately govern a river system undergoing rapid climatic and environmental change. Rising temperatures, glacier and snow changes, shifting runoff patterns, intense rainfall and sediment flows are creating conditions that were not anticipated when the treaty was negotiated in 1960. Rather than suggesting that the agreement is obsolete, the article argues for strengthening its scientific and institutional foundations. Advances in satellite monitoring, hydrological modelling and automated observation could enable India and Pakistan to exchange more timely information on glaciers, snow, river flows and extreme events. Such cooperation could be particularly important as climate change increases uncertainty around both water availability and flood risks. The treaty already contains mechanisms for hydrological data exchange, potentially providing a basis for expanding climate-related monitoring without reopening its fundamental water-sharing arrangements. A modernised information and risk-management framework could therefore help separate environmental and engineering challenges from broader political disputes.
“A Warming Himalaya is Changing Indus Basin. The ’60 Treaty Wasn’t Built for This,” The Quint, 09 September 2026.
https://www.thequint.com/climate-change/indus-waters-treaty-india-pakistan-modern-problems-new-framework

The Indus Waters Treaty needs to account for a changing Himalayan system

On 09 September, The Quint examined whether the Indus Waters Treaty, negotiated in 1960, can adequately manage a river basin whose climatic and physical characteristics are changing. Rising mountain temperatures, changing snow cover, glacier mass loss and shifting runoff patterns are interacting with intense rainfall, landslides, rock and ice failures and increasing sediment risks. The article argues that this does not make the treaty irrelevant; instead, it creates a need to strengthen the scientific and institutional systems surrounding it. The treaty already provides mechanisms for hydrological data exchange and dispute resolution, which could form the basis for expanded climate-risk cooperation. Satellites, automated monitoring stations and improved hydrological models now provide capabilities unavailable when the treaty was negotiated. More timely sharing of glacier, snow, rainfall, river-flow and sediment information could help both countries manage infrastructure risks and extreme events. A contemporary approach could therefore retain the treaty's water-allocation principles while adding stronger mechanisms for climate monitoring and risk sharing, reducing the likelihood that technical environmental problems become geopolitical confrontations.

"A Warming Himalaya is Changing Indus Basin. The '60 Treaty Wasn't Built for This," The Quint, 09 September 2026. https://www.thequint.com/climate-change/indus-waters-treaty-india-pakistan-modern-problems-new-framework

A warming Himalaya is changing the Indus Basin

On 09 September, The Quint examined whether the Indus Waters Treaty, negotiated in 1960, can adequately manage a river system whose physical and climatic conditions are changing. Rising mountain temperatures, declining glacier mass, changing snow cover, shifting runoff timing, intense rainfall, landslides and sediment pulses are creating risks that the original treaty framework could not have anticipated. The article argues that this does not make the treaty obsolete; rather, it creates a need to strengthen the scientific and institutional systems surrounding it. Satellite monitoring, automated observations, hydrological forecasting and sediment monitoring could provide both India and Pakistan with better information about rapidly changing conditions. The treaty already contains provisions for hydrological data exchange, offering a possible foundation for expanded climate-risk information sharing. A contemporary framework could therefore retain its core water-allocation principles while adding coordinated monitoring of glaciers, snow, floods and infrastructure risks. Such an approach could separate genuine engineering and environmental problems from wider political disputes and reduce the risk that every climate-driven hydrological change becomes another geopolitical confrontation.

"A Warming Himalaya is Changing Indus Basin. The '60 Treaty Wasn't Built for This," The Quint, 09 September 2026. https://www.thequint.com/climate-change/indus-waters-treaty-india-pakistan-modern-problems-new-framework

India and Germany identify climate resilience and clean energy as areas for deeper cooperation

On 03 September, The Economic Times reported that India and Germany are seeking to deepen cooperation on climate adaptation, clean energy, circular economy and sustainable resource use following the fourth Indo-German Environment Forum in New Delhi. German Environment Minister Carsten Schneider highlighted efficient resource use, solar and wind energy, ecosystem protection and climate adaptation as areas where the two countries can work together to strengthen economic resilience. The partnership is significant because India's transition requires not only rapid renewable-energy deployment but also changes in resource efficiency, industrial production and climate-resilient infrastructure. Germany's experience with climate impacts including heatwaves, drought and water scarcity also provides scope for reciprocal learning

rather than a one-directional technology relationship. Cooperation through the forum and Germany's International Climate Initiative could support projects spanning forests, sustainable agriculture and clean energy. The partnership also offers India an avenue to combine climate diplomacy with technology, finance and industrial cooperation as it pursues its broader energy-transition objectives.

"India, Germany can work together on climate resilience, clean energy, circular economy: German minister," The Economic Times, 03 September 2026. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-germany-can-work-together-on-climate-resilience-clean-energy-circular-economy-german-minister/articleshow/133723531.cms?from=mdr

Small-scale fishers face increasingly unpredictable climate risks

On 03 September, Deccan Chronicle reported that India's small-scale fishing communities are facing increasingly unpredictable climate risks, including rising temperatures, stronger storms, shifting monsoon patterns and changes in fish availability. A diagnostic report prepared as part of the proposed National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries identified climate vulnerability as a major issue requiring proactive policy intervention. Fishing communities reported more rough-sea days, frequent cyclones, changing fish species and declining sardine catches, resulting in lost fishing days and livelihoods. The report also highlights how climate exposure interacts with existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities, including poor market access, inadequate storage, safety concerns and limited participation of fishers and women in decision-making. Its recommendations including stronger boats, improved weather forecasting, disaster-resilient infrastructure, timely compensation and alternative livelihood opportunities—suggest that fisheries adaptation needs to move beyond emergency response. Integrating these measures into India's forthcoming national action plan could strengthen livelihood resilience while making climate adaptation more responsive to the communities experiencing impacts directly.

"India's Small-Scale Fishers Face Growing Climate Risks, Warns Report," Deccan Chronicle, 03 September 2026. https://www.deccanchronicle.com/southern-states/tamil-nadu/indias-small-scale-fishers-face-growing-climate-risks-warns-report-1984483

9–12 glacial lakes in Himachal Pradesh flagged as critical

On 02 September, the Times of India reported that a study by IIT Mandi has identified 9–12 glacial lakes in Himachal Pradesh as potentially critical, highlighting growing concerns over glacial lake outburst floods in the Indian Himalayas. The assessment examined more than 2,000 glacial lakes, while four—Ghepan, Vasuki, Kashang and another lake near Baspa—have been identified by the National Disaster Management Authority for immediate attention. Ghepan, Yoche and Kali Kund were also highlighted because of continuing changes and annual expansion. Several lakes have reportedly expanded by 30–60 per cent over the past decade. The findings underline how rapid cryospheric change is creating hazards that extend beyond individual valleys and communities. Strengthening satellite-based monitoring, ground observations, early-warning systems and downstream evacuation planning will therefore be critical. Given the transboundary nature of Himalayan watersheds, India's monitoring and preparedness efforts also have wider implications for regional disaster-risk reduction.

"Amid Nepal Floods, 9-12 Glacial Lakes Flagged 'Critical' In Himachal | IIT Mandi | Climate Change," Times of India, 02 September 2026. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/news/amid-nepal-floods-9-12-glacial-lakes-flagged-critical-in-himachal-iit-mandi-climate-change/videoshow/133698252.cms

MALDIVES

Maldives maps vulnerable ecosystems to strengthen climate resilience

On 17 September, Muslim Network TV reported that the World Meteorological Organization is leading a project to map fragile ecosystems across the Maldives and convert climate and ecological data into tools for government decision-making. The initiative is being developed as a demonstrator under the iClimateAction programme and brings together the Global Climate Observing System, Group on Earth Observations, James Cook University, Allen Institute for AI, United Nations University and Maldivian authorities. For a low-lying island state facing sea-level rise, coastal erosion and habitat degradation, island-specific information can strengthen adaptation planning by identifying where ecological and climate risks overlap. The initiative also illustrates the growing importance of integrating climate observation with ecosystem management rather than treating them as separate policy areas. Better spatial data can support decisions on coastal protection, ecosystem conservation and infrastructure planning. Its effectiveness, however, will depend on whether scientific information is incorporated into local planning systems and translated into practical measures for communities facing increasingly immediate climate risks.

"WMO launches Maldives ecosystem project to strengthen climate resilience," Muslim Network TV, 17 September 2026 https://www.muslimnetwork.tv/wmo-launches-maldives-ecosystem-project-to-strengthen-climate-resilience/

Maldives seeks climate finance alongside deeper ties with Malaysia

On 15 September, Anadolu Agency reported that Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu called for predictable, accessible and adequate climate-adaptation finance for small island developing states during talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. The remarks came as the two countries agreed to deepen economic and defence cooperation, with Malaysia also agreeing in principle to support a USD 100 million financial facility requested by the Maldives Monetary Authority. Muizzu highlighted renewable energy, digital infrastructure and other areas for Malaysian investment, while placing climate finance within the Maldives' broader economic and development agenda. For the Maldives, climate finance is closely connected to adaptation needs arising from sea-level rise, coastal erosion and the vulnerability of low-lying islands. The call for predictable finance reflects a longstanding concern among small island states that adaptation resources remain difficult to access and insufficient relative to their exposure. Linking bilateral economic cooperation with climate resilience could provide additional avenues for financing renewable energy and resilient infrastructure, although the $100 million facility itself is a broader financial arrangement rather than dedicated climate finance.

"Maldives, Malaysia deepen defense, economic ties; Kuala Lumpur backs $100M facility," Anadolu Agency, 15 September 2026.

NEPAL

Nepal's hydropower expansion faces growing climate and geological risks

On 28 September, The New Indian Express reported that Nepal's hydropower ambitions face a climate and geological reality check following the August flood disaster. More than 90 per cent of Nepal's electricity comes from hydropower, but the disaster damaged around 410 MW of generation capacity about 10 per cent of the country's installed capacity after a glacial mountain collapse near the China-Nepal border. The event has raised questions about the resilience of an electricity system concentrated around river-based generation in a rapidly changing mountain environment. The article notes calls for diversifying the power mix through solar while improving monitoring of Himalayan hazards. The issue extends beyond Nepal because Himalayan glaciers provide water resources to hundreds of millions of people across mountain and downstream river valleys. Climate-resilient hydropower

therefore requires more than engineering stronger individual projects; it also requires basin-scale risk assessment, glacier and slope monitoring, early warnings and contingency planning. Diversification can provide an additional buffer when hydropower facilities are temporarily damaged by extreme events, while regional monitoring can improve understanding of hazards affecting multiple countries.
"Nepal's hydropower ambitions face climate reality check," The New Indian Express, 28 September 2026.
https://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2026/Sep/27/nepals-hydropower-ambitions-face-climate-reality-check

Nepal's recovery debate centres on communities and post-disaster governance

On 28 September, The Hindu's Climate Economy programme examined how Nepal should approach recovery one month after the devastating August floods. The discussion with Nimesh Dhungana of the London School of Economics focused on post-disaster governance, accountability and the role of affected communities in reconstruction. Recovery after a compound mountain disaster involves more than restoring damaged infrastructure. Thousands of people remain displaced, while families have lost homes, livelihoods and relatives. The disaster also damaged hydropower, roads and bridges, creating longer-term economic consequences. A community-centred recovery approach can help identify which assets and services should be restored first and whether reconstruction should reproduce existing exposure. Accountability is particularly relevant when large volumes of domestic and international resources enter reconstruction programmes. Nepal's experience also raises the question of whether rebuilding should incorporate changing hazard conditions, including glacier instability, landslides and extreme rainfall. Integrating climate and disaster-risk assessments into reconstruction can help reduce the possibility that recovery investments recreate vulnerabilities.
"A month after Nepal's deadly flash floods, what should recovery look like?," The Hindu, 28 September 2026.
https://www.thehindu.com/videos/shows/a-month-after-nepals-deadly-flash-floods-what-should-recovery-look-like-climate-economy/article71511814.ece

Nepal proposes a Himalayan climate resilience mechanism with India and China

On 24 September, The Hindu reported that Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah proposed establishing a Himalayan Climate Resilience Mechanism involving Nepal, India and China during his maiden UN General Assembly address. The proposal follows Nepal's devastating August flood disaster and is intended to strengthen regional cooperation around the shared risks emerging across the Himalayas. Reporting on the proposal indicates that Shah emphasised the interconnected nature of glaciers, floods, mountain ecosystems and downstream populations. The Hindu report places the initiative within Nepal's wider call for stronger regional climate cooperation. The proposal is significant because Himalayan climate risks are inherently transboundary: glaciers, rivers, atmospheric systems and mountain hazards do not correspond to national boundaries. A regional mechanism could potentially provide a framework for sharing hydrological and cryospheric data, strengthening early-warning systems and coordinating disaster-risk reduction. The initiative also represents an effort to complement global climate-finance mechanisms with regional cooperation, particularly after a disaster in which limited access to timely information highlighted gaps in cross-border monitoring.
"Nepal PM proposes establishing Himalayan Climate Resilience Mechanism with India, China," The Hindu, 25 September 2026
https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/nepal-pm-proposes-establishing-himalayan-climate-resilience-mechanism-with-india-china/article71507140.ece

Nepal pushes India-China climate cooperation after catastrophic floods

On 25 September, South China Morning Post reported that Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah proposed a climate alliance

with India and China to protect the Himalayan ecosystem following the August floods. Shah called for a “Himalaya climate resilience mechanism” led by the three countries, with the objective of improving cooperation and addressing fragmented information systems. The proposal follows the 26 August disaster near the Nepal-China border, triggered by a massive rock-and-ice collapse and causing extensive destruction to settlements, border infrastructure and hydropower facilities. An international assessment has linked the disaster to a combination of climate and seismic factors, including exceptional summer heat and thawing permafrost. The proposed mechanism could focus on information-sharing, early warnings and joint understanding of hazards affecting interconnected mountain systems. Its regional significance lies in recognising that climate-related risks in the Hindu Kush Himalaya cannot be addressed entirely through national adaptation measures. Shared observation systems and coordinated preparedness could complement domestic disaster-management capacities while improving the flow of information across borders.
"Flood-ravaged Nepal pushes for climate deal with India, China," South China Morning Post, 25 September 2026
https://www.scmp.co5Rm/news/asia/south-asia/article/3368779/flood-ravaged-nepal-pushes-climate-deal-india-china

Opinion warns Nepal's aggressive climate justice rhetoric could backfire on reconstruction aid

On 18 September, The Annapurna Express published a piece by Sameer Sharma arguing that Nepal's aggressive climate justice stance after the 26 August Bhotekoshi flood risks undermining efforts to secure international aid for post-disaster recovery. Prime Minister Balendra Shah is travelling to New York to address the 81st UN General Assembly, where he is expected to highlight the disaster. However, the author noted this year's UNGA will likely be dominated by artificial intelligence, the Iran-US conflict, and the Russia-Ukraine war. Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal's assertion that the US, China, and India bear direct legal and moral liability as top emitters triggered immediate diplomatic friction, with Chinese officials raising formal objections. The author argued this naming-and-shaming tactic departs sharply from Nepal's traditional nuanced diplomacy, risking alienation of key partners preparing reconstruction pledges.
("Nepal's provocative climate justice rhetoric," The Annapurna Express, 18 September 2026)
https://theannapurnaexpress.com/story/67203/

Scientists conclude climate warming triggered catastrophic Langtang mountain collapse

On 17 September, Nepali Times reported that World Weather Attribution (WWA) scientists concluded climate breakdown was among the causes of the catastrophic rock and ice collapse on Langtang Lirung, three weeks after the disaster. Decades of atmospheric warming raised temperatures above the 0 degrees Celsius freezing threshold at over 5,000 metres, pushing the glacier up the slope by 100 metres per decade and thawing permafrost holding the bedrock together. Combined with post-2015 earthquake instability, this destabilised the slope. July and August temperatures around Langtang were the warmest ever recorded. As of Thursday, 1,400 bodies had been recovered with over 5,000 missing across China and Nepal. The report said Nepal has exceeded its adaptation capacity, and is expected to bolster its case for climate justice and Loss and Damage Fund support.
("Climate warming set off Nepal disaster: Report," Nepali Times, 17 September 2026)
https://nepalitimes.com/climate-warming-set-off-nepal-disaster-report

Nepal’s floods expose a widening climate-finance gap

On 15 September, The New Arab examined the devastation caused by Nepal’s August floods and the persistent shortage of climate finance available for adaptation and recovery. More than 1,395 people had died and another 5,130 remained missing by 15 September, according to Nepali authorities. The disaster damaged thousands of homes

and public facilities and reduced hydropower generation by around 431 MW. Nepal has received only about $400 million in climate finance to date, while the government estimates that roughly USD 46 billion will be needed by 2030 to implement its National Adaptation Plan. The article also notes that 61 per cent of Nepal's climate finance has come as loans, raising concerns about increasing debt burdens in a highly climate-vulnerable country. Meanwhile, the UN Loss and Damage Fund has only limited resources compared with the scale of requests submitted by vulnerable countries. Nepal's experience highlights a structural problem: climate finance must reach vulnerable communities before and after disasters, while grants, technology and institutional capacity are needed alongside emergency relief.
"Nepal's deadly floods leave communities devastated as climate finance falls billions short," The New Arab, 15 September 2026

Nepal's flood claim tests whether the Loss and Damage Fund can respond quickly
On 14 September, Mongabay examined Nepal's request for rapid support from the UN's Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage following the August 26 disaster. Nepal contributes roughly 0.027% of global greenhouse-gas emissions, yet the flood caused an estimated USD 2.6 billion in direct damage, with reconstruction potentially costing USD 4–5 billion or more. The case presents two interconnected challenges. First, scientists have not yet established conclusively how much climate change contributed to this particular ice-rock avalanche and flood, even though Himalayan warming is accelerating glacier and slope instability. Second, the Loss and Damage Fund itself lacks the operational capacity to respond rapidly. More than 119 countries had submitted 176 funding requests worth about USD 2.8 billion, while decisions on the first allocation round were deferred until December. Nepal's case therefore tests whether a fund created specifically for climate-vulnerable countries can respond to catastrophic events with sufficient speed, flexibility and scale.
"Nepal's flood claim tests whether a nascent climate fund can deliver," Mongabay India, 14 September 2026.
https://india.mongabay.com/2026/09/nepals-flood-claim-tests-whether-a-young-climate-fund-can-deliver/

Himalayan disasters expose the costs of development choices
On 14 September, Down To Earth argued that Nepal's catastrophic floods cannot be understood solely as a natural disaster, pointing instead to the interaction between climate change, fragile Himalayan geology and development decisions. The article questions the assumption that infrastructure and engineering can fully control increasingly unstable mountain environments. The August 26 disaster involved an ice-rock avalanche, but its consequences were amplified by settlements, infrastructure and development located within vulnerable mountain and river corridors. This raises broader questions about how roads, hydropower projects, river engineering and other infrastructure are planned in the Himalayas. Climate change adds another layer of uncertainty by altering glaciers, precipitation and slope stability, making historical hazard patterns less reliable guides to future risk. The article therefore calls for a fundamental shift in development thinking: rather than attempting to engineer Himalayan systems into submission, planning must recognise ecological limits and cascading risks. Risk-sensitive land-use planning and restrictions on high-risk infrastructure will be increasingly important.
"Himalayan blunders and beyond," Down To Earth, 14 September 2026.
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/natural-disasters/himalayan-blunders-and-beyond

Nepal-China cooperation increasingly centres on climate security
On 12 September, India Today reported that Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal called for climate security, disaster resilience and ecological cooperation to become central elements of Nepal-China relations. Speaking after the devastating Bhotekoshi floods, Khanal argued that the Nepal-China border should be understood

not simply as a political boundary but as part of a shared ecological system. He proposed real-time satellite-data exchange, joint weather forecasting and cross-border early-warning systems for hazards including glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and extreme weather. The proposal is significant because the August disaster demonstrated how quickly hazards can cross political boundaries through shared river systems. Khanal also linked climate resilience with infrastructure development, arguing that roads, bridges and border facilities need to withstand increasingly frequent floods and landslides. Such cooperation could provide practical benefits while also creating a climate-security dimension within bilateral relations. For Nepal, strengthening climate cooperation with China could complement its wider push for regional early-warning and Himalayan risk-management mechanisms.

"Nepal-China relations: Khanal urges climate security, disaster resilience and connectivity," India Today, 12 September 2026.
https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/nepal-china-relations-khanal-urges-climate-security-disaster-resilience-connectivity-ptag-2993162-2026-09-12

Climate change had already increased Nepal's vulnerability before the floods

On 14 September, The World examined how climate change and pre-existing vulnerabilities shaped the devastation caused by Nepal's recent floods. The disaster occurred in a country already exposed to floods and landslides, with climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather while glacier and snow changes introduce additional hazards in mountain environments. The consequences were also shaped by development patterns, infrastructure exposure and limited disaster-preparedness capacity. This distinction matters because vulnerability is not produced by climate change alone: the same climatic hazard can cause dramatically different losses depending on where people live, how infrastructure is designed and whether early-warning systems reach communities in time. Nepal's experience therefore illustrates the importance of treating adaptation as a development issue rather than simply an emergency-management task. Investments in resilient infrastructure, risk-sensitive planning, early warning and local preparedness can reduce the consequences of future events even where the precise physical hazards remain difficult to predict.

"Climate change made flood-ravaged Nepal vulnerable even before current disaster," The World, 14 September 2026.
https://theworld.org/stories/2026/09/14/climate-change-made-flood-ravaged-nepal-vulnerable-even-before-current-disaster

Nepal's USD 20 million request exposes weaknesses in the Loss and Damage Fund

On 15 September, The Indian Express reported that Nepal has requested USD 20 million from the UN's Loss and Damage Fund following the August floods, but the fund had disbursed no money to any country as of August 2026. The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage was established in 2022 after decades of demands from climate-vulnerable countries, yet it remains constrained by voluntary contributions, limited resources and lengthy approval procedures. By March, pledges stood at about USD 822 million, with USD 630.99 million contributed, while countries had already submitted funding requests totalling USD 2.8 billion. Nepal's request is particularly challenging because it seeks rapid emergency support rather than conventional project-based finance. The fund's existing procedures involve multiple stages of review and approval, raising questions about whether a mechanism designed for loss and damage can respond quickly enough during a disaster. Nepal's case could therefore become an important test of whether international climate-finance architecture can deliver timely support when vulnerable countries need it most.

"With $0 disbursed, how Nepal disaster reveals problems in the UN's Loss and Damage Fund," The Indian Express, 15 September 2026.
https://indianexpress.com/article/explaine

d/explained-culture/zero-dollars-disbursed-nepal-floods-un-fund-10877942/

China and Nepal share a growing Himalayan climate-risk burden

On 14 September, China Daily argued that the August disaster along the Nepal-China border demonstrates the shared ecological risks facing the Himalayan region. The collapse of ice, rock and mud into the Lhende River created a flood that devastated communities in Nepal before reaching Gyirong Port on the Chinese side. The article highlights China's emergency response, including rescue teams, relief supplies and the sharing of satellite and hydrological information with Nepal. It places the disaster within the wider Hindu Kush Himalayan system, described as the "Asian Water Tower," on which nearly two billion people depend. The region has reportedly warmed at roughly 0.42 degree celcius per decade since 1980, while thousands of glacial lakes create growing monitoring challenges. The article argues that the disaster strengthens the case for climate finance and technology access for vulnerable developing countries. It also suggests that Nepal-China cooperation could evolve from emergency response towards sustained climate monitoring, adaptation and resilience-building across their shared mountain environment.

"Shared Himalayan pain, shared call for climate justice," China Daily, 14 September 2026.
https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202609/14/WS6aa74db8e4b06d4aa055dd84.html

Nepal seeks climate justice and compensation after deadly floods

On 09 September, Al Jazeera examined Nepal's demand for climate justice and $20 million in compensation following the August 26 glacial collapse and floods that killed more than 1,300 people and left more than 5,000 missing. Nepal contributes less than 0.1% of global greenhouse-gas emissions, yet its Himalayan geography leaves it highly exposed to climate-related hazards. The government has asked the UN's Loss and Damage Fund for support, although the fund itself faces a $2.8 billion funding gap as it prepares its first climate-recovery projects. The article also explores the difficult distinction between the moral case for climate justice and the legal question of compensation. The International Court of Justice's 2025 advisory opinion recognised that states breaching international climate obligations can, under certain circumstances, be required to provide reparations, although the opinion is not legally binding. Nepal's campaign could therefore become an important test of how scientific attribution, international law and loss-and-damage finance interact for climate-vulnerable countries.

"Why Nepal is demanding climate justice and compensation after deadly floods," Al Jazeera, 09 September 2026.
https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/9/9/why-nepal-is-demanding-climate-justice-and-compensation-after-deadly-floods

Nepal's reconstruction must become part of the global climate response

On 10 September, The Indian Express argued that Nepal's post-flood reconstruction should be integrated into the wider global response to climate change rather than treated simply as a domestic disaster-recovery exercise. The August 26 ice-and-rock avalanche-precipitated flood killed more than 1,350 people, left over 5,000 missing and caused nearly $6.5 billion in losses to commercial and public property. Fourteen hydropower projects were damaged, reducing around 431 MW of generation, while 80 bridges were damaged. Nepal's glaciers form part of the Hindu Kush Himalayan system shared with India, Pakistan, China, Afghanistan and Bhutan, making regional cooperation central to future risk reduction. The article also notes that Nepal must address domestic drivers of vulnerability, including deforestation and sand and stone extraction, even as it seeks international compensation. Reconstruction therefore presents an opportunity to build infrastructure around future climate and cryospheric risks rather than simply replacing damaged assets. Regional cooperation and climate finance will be essential to that effort.

"Nepal's post-flood reconstruction must become part of the global fight against

climate change," The Indian Express, 10 September 2026.
https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/nepal-flood-reconstruction-global-fight-against-climate-change-10871936/

Nepal puts climate justice at the centre of its appeal for flood aid

On 09 September, Reuters reported that Nepal is seeking around USD five billion in international assistance for recovery from the devastating August floods while framing its appeal around climate justice. The disaster killed more than 1,300 people and destroyed homes, roads and hydropower infrastructure, leaving thousands missing. Nepal argues that the country's minimal contribution to global greenhouse-gas emissions contrasts sharply with its exposure to climate-related disasters, strengthening its case for international support. Prime Minister Balendra Shah is expected to carry the argument to the UN later this month as Nepal seeks greater assistance for reconstruction and future resilience. The approach is significant because Kathmandu is attempting to connect immediate post-disaster financing with the broader international loss-and-damage debate. Reuters also notes concerns that international funding can be delayed or diverted, highlighting the need for finance to reach affected communities quickly. Nepal's challenge will be to turn the political force of climate justice into predictable resources for resilient reconstruction rather than one-off humanitarian assistance.
"Nepal puts climate justice at centre of global pitch for flood aid," Reuters, 09 September 2026.
https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/nepal-puts-climate-justice-centre-global-pitch-flood-aid-2026-09-09/

Nepal's reconstruction must become part of the global climate response

On 10 September, The Indian Express argued that Nepal's reconstruction after the August 26 ice-and-rock avalanche-precipitated flood must be integrated into the broader global fight against climate change. The disaster killed more than 1,350 people, damaged 14 hydropower projects and destroyed 80 bridges, with commercial and public-property losses estimated at nearly USD 6.5 billion. The article emphasizes that Nepal's glaciers form part of the wider Hindu Kush Himalayan system shared with India, Pakistan, China, Afghanistan and Bhutan. Future risk therefore cannot be addressed through Nepal's domestic reconstruction alone. The argument also introduces an important tension: while Nepal is seeking compensation from major emitters, it must simultaneously address domestic drivers of vulnerability, including deforestation and sand and stone extraction. Climate-resilient infrastructure, stronger institutions and regional cooperation will therefore need to accompany international climate finance. Reconstruction could become an opportunity to redesign infrastructure around changing Himalayan risks rather than simply restoring assets to their pre-disaster condition.
"Nepal's post-flood reconstruction must become part of the global fight against climate change," The Indian Express, 10 September 2026.
https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/nepal-flood-reconstruction-global-fight-against-climate-change-10871936/

China deploys climate models to support Nepal flood relief

On 09 September, Global Times reported that China's National Climate Centre is using its MAZU intelligent meteorological early-warning system and FengShun climate model to support post-disaster relief efforts following the August 26 glacier-related disaster on the Nepal-China border. A Nepal-customised version of MAZU is providing rolling climate-monitoring and forecasting products, including temperature, precipitation, soil-drought and broader climate indices. The FengShun model is being used to provide 60-day daily forecasts across atmospheric, oceanic, terrestrial and cryospheric variables, while the Third Pole Regional Climate Center is supplying 15–30-day extended-range climate trend forecasts. The deployment illustrates how advanced forecasting

systems could support disaster response in the Himalayas, where hazards can evolve rapidly across borders. It also highlights the value of regional climate-information infrastructure in a region where countries share mountain systems and river basins. The longer-term significance will depend on whether such technical cooperation can evolve from emergency assistance into sustained cross-border data sharing and joint early-warning capacity.
"China's climate models MAZU, FengShun assist Nepal relief," Global Times, 09 September 2026.
https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202609/1370215.shtml

Nepal's climate compensation claim could have implications for South Asia
On 04 September, The Daily Star examined the significance of Nepal's demand for climate compensation from China, India and the United States following the devastating August floods. Nepal argues that major emitters should bear responsibility for climate-related harm suffered by countries that have contributed little to global warming. The legal position remains complex: while the climate regime recognises loss and damage, it does not automatically establish liability or compensation for individual disasters. The 2025 International Court of Justice advisory opinion nevertheless clarified that breaches of applicable international obligations can, under certain circumstances, lead to reparation. Nepal would still need to establish the relevant obligations, demonstrate a breach and establish a sufficiently strong causal connection between emissions and the specific harm. That scientific attribution remains difficult for a disaster involving interacting ice, rock and geological processes. Nevertheless, Nepal's claim could become an important test of how climate justice, international law and scientific attribution interact—and could matter for other vulnerable South Asian countries seeking stronger recognition of loss and damage.
"Nepal's claim for climate compensation and why it matters for us," The Daily Star, 04 September 2026.
https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/nepals-claim-climate-compensation-and-why-it-matters-us-4264261

Nepal's climate compensation claim could test international law
On 04 September, The Daily Star examined the legal significance of Nepal's demand for climate compensation from China, India and the United States following its devastating August floods. The article distinguishes between the moral and political case for climate justice and the considerably more difficult question of establishing legal responsibility. Nepal contributes only around 0.1% of global greenhouse-gas emissions but faces severe exposure to glacier melt, floods and landslides. While the Paris Agreement recognises loss and damage, it does not itself establish liability or an automatic right to compensation. The 2025 International Court of Justice advisory opinion nevertheless clarified that breaches of applicable international obligations can, under certain conditions, lead to reparation. Nepal would therefore need to establish a relevant obligation, demonstrate a breach and show a sufficiently strong causal connection between that breach and the harm suffered. The case could become an important precedent for Bangladesh and other vulnerable states seeking to translate climate-justice arguments into legally meaningful claims.
"Nepal's claim for climate compensation and why it matters for us," The Daily Star, 04 September 2026.
https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/nepals-claim-climate-compensation-and-why-it-matters-us-4264261

What Nepal's flash floods reveal about the climate crisis
On 03 September, The Guardian examined the emerging scientific evidence connecting Nepal's devastating flash floods with a rapidly warming Himalayan environment. The disaster was triggered by a catastrophic ice-rock avalanche and landslide rather than a conventional glacial lake outburst flood, demonstrating how climate risks in the mountains can arise through multiple interacting processes. The Himalayas are

warming at roughly twice the global average, increasing concerns around permafrost degradation, glacier instability and changing precipitation patterns. Nepal's more than 2,000 glacial lakes, including dozens considered potentially dangerous, further underline the scale of the challenge. The disaster also exposes the limitations of treating climate adaptation primarily through conventional weather forecasting: hazards can originate at high elevations and propagate rapidly downstream. Strengthening observation networks, early-warning systems and cross-border information sharing will therefore be essential. The event reinforces the need to understand Himalayan climate risk as a cascading system involving cryosphere change, infrastructure and downstream communities.
"What we know about the link between Nepal's flash floods and our climate crisis," The Guardian, 03 September 2026. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/sep/03/what-we-know-about-the-link-between-nepals-flash-floods-and-our-climate-crisis

Climate crisis is stretching Nepal's military beyond its limits
On 04 September, The Diplomat examined how increasingly severe climate-related disasters are placing new demands on Nepal's security forces. More than 20,000 personnel from the Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force were deployed following the August 26 floods, potentially making it one of the country's largest disaster-response deployments since the 2015 earthquake. Yet the disaster also exposed the limits of relying on security institutions as emergency responders. At least 85 security personnel were reportedly still unaccounted for a week after the event, while damaged posts and difficult terrain complicated operations. The absence of adequate early-warning and cross-border disaster communication further constrained the response. Nepal has sought international assistance for specialised tunnel rescue, forensic work and equipment, highlighting gaps in domestic capacity. The experience suggests that climate adaptation must include the institutions tasked with responding to disasters themselves. Training, specialised equipment, risk planning and international cooperation will increasingly become components of national security in a warming Himalaya.
"The Climate Crisis Is Stretching the Nepali Military Beyond Its Limits," The Diplomat, 04 September 2026. https://thediplomat.com/2026/09/the-climate-crisis-is-stretching-the-nepali-military-beyond-its-limits/

Nepal demands climate compensation from major emitters after deadly floods
On 02 September, Bloomberg reported that Nepal is demanding climate compensation from China, the United States and India following floods that killed more than 1,000 people and left thousands missing. Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal argued that countries making very large contributions to global climate change should bear responsibility for the costs experienced by smaller, more vulnerable states. The demand marks a significant shift in framing Nepal's international climate diplomacy from humanitarian assistance towards justice, compensation and loss and damage. It also comes as Nepal prepares to raise the issue on international platforms ahead of major UN climate discussions. The political argument, however, intersects with a difficult scientific and legal question: establishing how much of a specific mountain disaster can be attributed to climate change. The 26 August event involved interacting processes including ice, rock and possible permafrost instability, meaning attribution remains complex. Nepal's case therefore highlights the growing tension between the moral urgency of climate justice and the evidentiary requirements surrounding liability for individual disasters.
"Nepal Seeks Climate Compensation From China, US and India," Bloomberg, 02 September 2026. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-09-02/nepal-seeks-climate-compensation-from-china-us-and-india

Nepal's compensation demand raises difficult questions of climate liability

On 03 September, Hindustan Times examined the legal and institutional challenges surrounding Nepal's demand for climate compensation following the August 26 floods. Nepal has asked the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage for emergency support, while separately advancing a political argument that major emitters should bear responsibility for the disaster. The distinction is important because the loss-and-damage fund provides grant finance rather than legally defined compensation, and the existing climate regime does not assign individual countries a bill according to their emissions. At the same time, the International Court of Justice's 2025 advisory opinion established that states breaching climate obligations may face duties of reparation where a sufficiently direct and certain causal link can be demonstrated. Nepal participated actively in that process. The immediate challenge is therefore attribution: scientists have not yet established conclusively how warming contributed to the specific mountain collapse. Nepal's case could nevertheless become an important test of how climate justice, scientific attribution and international law interact after extreme events.

"Nepal wants polluters to pay for floods: How strong is its case and climate justice today," Hindustan Times, 03 September 2026
https://www.hindustantimes.com/ht-explainers/nepal-floods-polluters-pay-climate-justice-loss-damage-compensation-101788412352446.html

Nepal flood death toll rises as government highlights climate-change risks

On 02 September, Deccan Herald reported that the death toll from Nepal's devastating flash floods had risen sharply, while Prime Minister Balendra Shah called for the disaster's connection with climate change to be raised internationally. The continuing search for people trapped in hydropower tunnels and other infrastructure illustrates how the disaster has extended beyond immediate flood impacts into major questions of infrastructure resilience and disaster preparedness. Shah's intervention also places the tragedy within Nepal's broader climate diplomacy, particularly its argument that countries with greater historical and current emissions should share responsibility for escalating climate risks. At the same time, the scientific framing requires caution. The flood followed a complex high-altitude collapse involving rock and ice, and researchers are still examining the precise chain of processes behind the event. The disaster therefore demonstrates why Himalayan climate risk cannot be understood through rainfall alone. Warming glaciers, unstable slopes, permafrost changes, infrastructure expansion and downstream exposure can interact to produce cascading hazards requiring stronger monitoring and regional early-warning systems.

"Nepal flood death toll rises to 1243, PM Balendra Shah flags climate change link," Deccan Herald, 02 September 2026.
https://www.deccanherald.com/world/asia/nepal-flood-death-toll-rises-to-1243-pm-balendra-shah-flags-climate-change-link-4133137

Nepal's climate-migration risks extend beyond immediate disaster displacement

On 01 September, Down To Earth examined whether Nepal could become a major climate-migration hotspot as climate pressures increasingly affect its mountains, livelihoods and downstream settlements. The article compares Nepal with Bangladesh while stressing that their vulnerabilities originate in different geographical systems: Bangladesh faces deltaic flooding, sea-level rise, cyclones and salinity, while Nepal's risks begin in glaciers, slopes and headwaters and can propagate downstream through rivers, infrastructure and agriculture. The distinction is important because climate mobility in Nepal may involve both sudden displacement after disasters and longer-term movement as mountain environments become more difficult to inhabit. The article argues that South Asia needs a regional framework for climate-induced mobility rather than treating migration solely as a

domestic development issue. Such an approach could connect disaster preparedness, adaptation, labour mobility, urban planning and social protection. For Nepal, where migration and remittances already play a major economic role, anticipating climate-driven mobility could become an important component of long-term adaptation planning.
"Is Nepal the new Bangladesh of climate migration?" Down To Earth, 01 September 2026.
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/amp/story/natural-disasters/is-nepal-the-new-bangladesh-of-climate-migration

A glacier collapsed in Nepal but this is not the time to talk about climate change
On 02 September, The Guardian highlighted the political and social reluctance to discuss climate change even as Nepal faces a devastating glacier-related disaster. Through satire, the article challenges the recurring argument that disasters should not be "politicised" by linking them to climate change while rescue and relief efforts are still underway. The framing is significant because climate attribution is not simply a question of assigning blame; it is essential for understanding why hazards are intensifying and how future risks can be reduced. Nepal's limited contribution to global greenhouse-gas emissions also raises questions of climate justice, particularly when highly vulnerable mountain communities experience consequences generated largely beyond their borders. The debate therefore extends beyond immediate disaster response towards adaptation, loss and damage, resilient infrastructure and international responsibility. Avoiding discussion of climate drivers during a crisis could ultimately weaken the policy lessons needed to prevent similar disasters.
"A glacier collapsed in Nepal but this is not the time to talk about climate change," The Guardian, 02 September 2026.
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/picture/2026/sep/02/nepal-floods-glacier-collapsed-but-now-is-not-the-time-to-talk-about-climate-change-apparently

Climate change is intensifying Himalayan disaster risks
On 02 September, the Associated Press examined how rising temperatures across the Himalayas are contributing to increasingly frequent and severe hazards, including floods, landslides, avalanches and glacial lake outburst floods. Nepal's recent disaster, which followed the collapse of bedrock and glacial ice, illustrates the complexity of mountain hazards, where multiple processes can interact rapidly and produce cascading impacts. The country contributes less than 0.1% of global greenhouse-gas emissions while facing disproportionately high risks, reinforcing concerns around climate vulnerability and justice. Experts emphasise that adaptation must extend beyond emergency response to land-use regulation, early-warning systems, infrastructure assessments and greater use of Indigenous and community knowledge. The experience also demonstrates that climate adaptation in the Himalayas cannot be treated as a purely national issue. Shared mountain systems require stronger regional monitoring, information exchange and coordinated disaster preparedness among Himalayan countries, particularly as warming alters glaciers, water systems and the stability of high-altitude terrain.
"As climate change warms the Himalayas, disasters like the Nepal floods are becoming more frequent," AP, 02 September 2026.
https://apnews.com/article/climate-change-nepal-floods-himalayas-disasters-8e299c879d1e0c9a3026b8d96d8da5d4

Nepal could become a major climate-migration hotspot
On 01 September, Down To Earth examined whether Nepal could emerge as a major climate-migration hotspot as Himalayan warming increasingly affects livelihoods, infrastructure and settlements. The article draws a comparison with Bangladesh, where climate-related displacement is already closely associated with flooding, erosion and sea-level rise, arguing that Nepal faces a different but increasingly serious mountain-migration challenge. Nepal already has substantial migration networks and depends heavily on remittances, which accounted for around 26% of GDP in 2024. Climate-driven mobility could therefore reshape both rural

economies and urban settlement patterns. The World Bank's Groundswell analysis has projected that South Asia could see up to 40 million internal climate migrants by 2050 under a pessimistic scenario. The issue calls for climate mobility to be integrated into adaptation planning rather than treated solely as an emergency. A regional framework through SAARC, BIMSTEC or another South Asian mechanism could support coordinated planning for displacement and migration.
"Is Nepal the new Bangladesh of climate migration?" Down To Earth, 01 September 2026.
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/natural-disasters/is-nepal-the-new-bangladesh-of-climate-migration

Nepal seeks climate compensation after deadly floods
On 02 September, Economic Times reported that Nepal is seeking compensation from major emitters including India, China and the US following deadly floods that caused more than 1,000 deaths and left thousands missing. Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal argued that countries responsible for a large share of historical and current emissions should bear greater responsibility for climate-related losses suffered by vulnerable states. The demand reflects a broader shift in international climate politics from appeals for humanitarian assistance towards claims centred on loss and damage and climate justice. For Nepal, the issue is particularly significant because its exposure to glacier-related hazards, floods and landslides is increasing despite its relatively small contribution to global emissions. The debate also raises difficult questions about how responsibility and compensation should be calculated for disasters involving multiple drivers, including climate change and geological processes. Nepal's position could strengthen calls from other vulnerable developing countries for more predictable international finance for adaptation, resilience and unavoidable climate-related losses.
"Nepal seeks compensation from India, China, US for climate-related losses after deadly floods," The New Indian Express, 02 September 2026.
https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/nepal-seeks-climate-compensation-from-india-china-and-us-after-deadly-floods-leave-4000-missing/133704497

Nepal disaster highlights cascading risks from climate change and seismic activity
On 30 August, Down To Earth reported that a UN glacier expert is examining possible links between seismic activity, an ice-rock avalanche and the devastating flash flood in Nepal's Rasuwa district. The precise relationship remains under investigation: seismic activity may have triggered the avalanche, the avalanche may have generated seismic signals, or both processes may have operated together. The article also highlighted a possible climate connection, with rising temperatures contributing to glacier instability and increasing the frequency of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). A UN-led study of nearly 500 GLOFs across the Hindu Kush Himalayas found that their frequency has increased roughly fivefold since 1950, with ice avalanches and intense rainfall identified as major triggers. Experts warned that cascading hazards could extend downstream across borders. The findings underline the need for stronger glacier monitoring, early-warning systems and regional disaster preparedness.
"UN expert explores seismic linkage to Nepal disaster, warns of cascading effects and holds climate change responsible," Down To Earth, 30 August 2026
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/natural-disasters/un-expert-explores-seismic-linkage-to-nepal-disaster-warns-of-cascading-effects-and-holds-climate-change-responsible

Nepal's floods expose the limits of existing climate-risk planning
On 01 September, Moneycontrol examined Nepal's estimated USD 124 billion climate-risk exposure following the devastating Himalayan floods. The analysis questioned whether the country's climate-tagged expenditure is actually reducing vulnerability or primarily financing repairs after disasters occur. Although climate-

related allocations reached around 35 per cent of the national budget by 2023–24, experts noted that the size of climate-labelled spending does not necessarily demonstrate effective risk reduction. The floods damaged roads, bridges, hydropower infrastructure and monitoring stations, highlighting the vulnerability of assets built around historical assumptions about climate risk. Analysts argued for linking climate budgets to measurable outcomes such as safer infrastructure, alternative access routes, backup power and effective warning systems. The report suggests Nepal needs to move from counting climate expenditure to measuring avoided risk, particularly as hydropower expansion increasingly intersects with unstable mountain environments.
"Nepal's $124 billion climate-risk problem: Can it afford to rebuild the same way?" Moneycontrol, 01 September 2026. https://www.moneycontrol.com/world/nepal-s-124-billion-climate-risk-problem-can-it-afford-to-rebuild-the-same-way-article-14019882.html/amp

Nepal floods underline increasing climate and geological risks
On 01 September, The Tribune reported that disaster expert Basanta Raj Adhikari linked Nepal's devastating floods to a combination of climate change, tectonic processes and human activity in the Himalayan region. The disaster followed an ice-rock avalanche on the northern slope of Langtang Himal, producing an extremely rapid flood that gave communities little time to respond. Experts are still investigating the precise trigger, with possible explanations including temperature-driven glacier instability and geomechanical failure. Adhikari noted that Himalayan temperatures are rising faster than the global average and warned that similar high-impact events are becoming increasingly frequent. The analysis emphasised that climate change is interacting with complex geological processes rather than acting as a standalone trigger. This complicates disaster forecasting and reinforces the need for stronger mountain monitoring, scientific research, community-based warning systems and climate-resilient reconstruction.
"Disaster expert links Nepal floods to climate change, says 'these events increasing every year'," The Tribune, 01 September 2026. https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/basanta-raj-adhikari/disaster-expert-links-nepal-floods-to-climate-change-says-these-events-increasing-every-year

PAKISTAN

Pakistan's disaster financing needs to place women at the centre of recovery
On 30 September, The Friday Times argued that disaster financing in Pakistan should treat women as active participants in reconstruction rather than simply as vulnerable recipients. The article focuses on lessons from flood recovery in Sindh and argues that climate-resilient rebuilding should incorporate women into the design, financing and implementation of recovery programmes. It links housing reconstruction with skills, local material production and longer-term community capacity. Pakistan's recently approved National Housing Policy identifies climate resilience as a pillar, creating an opportunity to connect housing policy with gender-responsive adaptation. The argument is relevant beyond housing because women often play significant roles in household water management, food security, care work and local livelihoods while having unequal access to land, finance and formal decision-making. Gender-responsive disaster financing can therefore address both immediate recovery and longer-term adaptive capacity. Incorporating women's participation into project design can also help identify household-level risks that may be missed by infrastructure-focused assessments. Recovery becomes more durable when local skills, livelihoods and community agency are considered alongside physical reconstruction.
"From Climate Victims to Community Builders: Why Pakistan's Disaster Financing Must Put Women at the Centre of Recovery," The Friday Times, 30 September 2026.

https://www.thefridaytimes.com/30-Sep-2026/pakistan-s-disaster-financing-must-put-women-center-recovery

Pakistan links climate commitments with project-level delivery

On 29 September, Radio Pakistan reported that Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb called for climate commitments to translate into tangible results for communities. Speaking at a high-level Climate Implementation Bridge event in New York, he identified three requirements for effective implementation: a sound policy framework, access to finance and the capacity to deliver projects at country level. Pakistan is seeking to mobilise climate finance through domestic resources, international financial institutions, capital markets and dedicated climate funds. The emphasis on project delivery reflects a persistent gap between national climate plans and implementation. Climate finance does not automatically produce resilience if countries lack project pipelines, institutional capacity or systems to translate funds into infrastructure and community-level programmes. For Pakistan, this is particularly relevant following repeated floods and other extreme events that have generated large reconstruction and adaptation needs. Strengthening project preparation can help connect international finance with identifiable interventions in water, agriculture, disaster risk reduction and resilient infrastructure. The approach also places domestic institutional capacity alongside international finance as a key component of climate implementation.

"Climate commitments must translate into tangible results for communities: Aurangzeb," Radio Pakistan, 29 September 2026.
https://www.radio.gov.pk/29-09-2026/climate-commitments-must-translate-into-tangible-results-for-communities-aurangzeb

Pakistan's solar expansion offers lessons for emerging economies

On 30 September, EIN Presswire reported on discussions at New York Climate Week examining Pakistan's rapid expansion of solar power and the lessons it may offer Indonesia. The discussion highlighted Pakistan's rooftop and distributed-solar growth, driven by private investment and strong consumer demand, while also noting challenges involving grid integration, regulation and system stability. For Pakistan, the solar boom demonstrates how household and commercial consumers can accelerate renewable deployment when electricity economics and private investment align. At the same time, rapid distributed generation can create new challenges for utilities, including grid management, tariff structures and demand forecasting. The Indonesian discussion therefore treated Pakistan as a practical case rather than simply a model to replicate. Emerging economies face different regulatory and grid conditions, meaning policy transfer requires adaptation. The wider lesson is that renewable-energy growth depends not only on technology costs but also on market rules, grid infrastructure, financing and consumer incentives. Regional knowledge exchange can help countries identify both opportunities and implementation risks in accelerating solar deployment.

"Highlighting Regional Insights: What Indonesia Can Learn from ASEAN and Pakistan's Solar Boom at New York Climate Week," EIN Presswire, 30 September 2026.
https://www.einpresswire.com/article/945248860/highlighting-regional-insights-what-indonesia-can-learn-from-asean-and-pakistan-s-solar-boom-at-new-york-climate-week

AI-enabled weather forecasting brings new possibilities and data challenges to Pakistan

On 29 September, Eco-Business examined Pakistan's use of China's MAZU artificial-intelligence weather system to strengthen forecasting and early warnings. Pakistan Meteorological Department has used a Pakistan-tailored version since October 2025 alongside other weather models, satellite information and forecasting tools. MAZU can process complex atmospheric calculations quickly, potentially giving forecasters more time to issue warnings. However, experts interviewed by Eco-

Business stressed that AI systems remain dependent on the quality and density of underlying observations. Pakistan's sparse ground stations and limited radar coverage can constrain highly localised forecasts, particularly for intense rainfall and flash floods in mountainous areas. This makes AI a component of an early-warning system rather than a substitute for observation infrastructure, trained personnel and effective communication. The experience also highlights a growing dimension of South-South climate cooperation, with China supporting the transfer and localisation of meteorological technology. For Pakistan, the key policy challenge is therefore to integrate AI forecasting with stronger data networks and institutional response capacity.

"Can a Chinese AI weather system help Pakistan manage the impacts of a changing climate?," Eco-Business, 29 September 2026.
https://www.eco-business.com/news/can-a-chinese-ai-weather-system-help-pakistan-manage-the-impacts-of-a-changing-climate/

Pakistan selected for COP31 climate-finance implementation initiative

On 25 September, Associated Press of Pakistan reported that Pakistan was selected as one of the first five pilot countries for the COP31 Climate Implementation Bridge, or BRIDGE, initiative. Ethiopia, Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan and Uzbekistan will participate in the initial phase, which is being delivered in partnership with the UN Development Programme. The initiative seeks to translate national climate commitments into finance-ready and bankable projects, strengthen investment capacity and identify bottlenecks that prevent developing countries from accessing existing climate-support systems. For Pakistan, the programme is relevant to its large adaptation and resilience requirements amid exposure to floods, droughts, heatwaves and water stress. It also builds on the country's broader effort to connect climate planning with financing mechanisms. The emphasis on project pipelines reflects a persistent implementation challenge: national climate plans may identify priorities without automatically generating investable projects capable of attracting international finance. BRIDGE could therefore provide an institutional link between Pakistan's NDC and adaptation priorities and potential public and private financing sources. The initiative is part of the implementation-focused COP31 Action Agenda ahead of the November summit.

"Pakistan among first five countries selected for COP31 climate finance implementation initiative," Associated Press of Pakistan, 25 September 2026
https://www.app.com.pk/global/pakistan-among-first-five-countries-selected-for-cop31-climate-finance-implementation-initiative/

Pakistan appoints first chairman of Climate Change Authority

On 24 September, The Climate Watch reported that Pakistan has appointed Hamza Farrukh as the first chairman of the Pakistan Climate Change Authority for a two-year term. The appointment follows approval by the prime minister and a formal notification from the Establishment Division. The authority is intended to strengthen Pakistan's institutional response to climate change and coordinate measures relating to climate policy, adaptation and mitigation. Farrukh brings experience spanning finance, climate technology and social entrepreneurship, including work on solar-powered water solutions. The appointment comes as Pakistan faces interconnected risks from extreme weather, water stress, glacier-related hazards and climate-induced disasters. Establishing operational leadership for the authority is therefore relevant to the country's broader effort to strengthen climate governance. An effective institutional framework can help connect climate policy with investment planning, adaptation implementation and coordination across government. The authority's role will also be important in translating Pakistan's international climate commitments into domestic programmes and financing priorities.

"Pakistan names first chairman of climate change authority for two-year term," The Climate Watch, 24 September 2026.

https://theclimatewatch.com/pakistan-names-first-chairman-of-climate-change-authority-for-two-year-term/

Pakistan calls for faster climate finance at UNGA

On 22 September, The Express Tribune reported that Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate-related disasters and called for faster access to international climate finance during engagements on the sidelines of UNGA81. He stressed the need to convert Pakistan's climate commitments into practical, investable projects while strengthening disaster-response systems, early warnings and costed climate-investment plans. Aurangzeb also called for international climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund and Loss and Damage Fund, to simplify procedures and accelerate financing. Pakistan's approach reflects a growing emphasis on the implementation gap between national climate plans and the resources required to execute them. The government is seeking financing through institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank alongside international capital markets, while acknowledging the need for domestic resources and fiscal buffers. Linking climate commitments to bankable projects could potentially improve access to finance, but the scale and terms of external funding remain important considerations for a fiscally constrained, climate-vulnerable economy.

"Aurangzeb highlights Pakistan's climate vulnerability, calls for faster climate financing at UNGA," The Express Tribune, 22 September 2026 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2630747/aurangzeb-highlights-pakistans-climate-vulnerability-calls-for-faster-climate-financing-at-unga

Climate change likely intensified Nepal's cascading flood disaster

On 21 September, Down To Earth reported findings from World Weather Attribution scientists indicating that fossil-fuel-driven warming likely contributed to the occurrence and intensity of Nepal's 26 August cascading flood disaster. The event began with the collapse of rock and ice from the Langtang Lirung glacier, triggering a rapid flow of water, ice and debris into the Lhende River. Researchers described climate change as a destabilising factor acting alongside geology, the 2015 earthquake, glacier retreat and thawing permafrost. This distinction is important because the disaster cannot be attributed to climate change alone: geological and cryospheric processes interacted to produce the cascade. The findings nevertheless strengthen concern over changing high-altitude conditions across the Himalayas. For disaster-risk management, the implication is that monitoring cannot focus solely on rainfall or glacial lakes. Slopes, glaciers, permafrost, rock-ice instability and downstream river systems need to be assessed as interconnected components of emerging compound hazards.

"Climate change likely intensified Nepal's cascading flood disaster: WWA," Down To Earth, 21 September 2026 https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/climate-change-likely-intensified-nepals-cascading-flood-disaster-wwa

Nepal's disaster highlights transboundary Himalayan risks for India

On 5 September, India Today examined the implications of Nepal's avalanche-driven flood for the Indian Himalayas. Scientists cautioned that India cannot scientifically predict an identical disaster because geological conditions, glaciers, river valleys and triggers differ across locations. At the same time, satellite observations indicate changing glaciers and expanding or newly formed lakes across parts of the Indian Himalayas. The article highlights the possibility of cascading processes in which glacier or rock collapse, lake formation, landslides and extreme rainfall interact. Researchers therefore emphasise monitoring rather than prediction of a specific future disaster. A two-tier approach involving broad satellite surveillance followed by targeted ground monitoring is discussed as one pathway for identifying high-risk locations. The issue is particularly significant because infrastructure and settlements are expanding in narrow

Himalayan valleys. Nepal's disaster consequently provides a regional warning about the need for cross-border scientific observation and stronger early-warning systems across connected mountain and river basins.
"Could a Nepal-like flood tragedy hit India next? Himalayas sending warning signs," India Today, 5 September 2026 https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/himalayan-disasters-nepal-flood-india-climate-change-icimod-3000127-2026-09-22

Nepal's climate-compensation debate tests the limits of loss-and-damage finance
On 2026, The Print examined Nepal's call for greater international recognition of the climate dimensions of its recent disaster and the wider debate over compensation. Nepal has estimated reconstruction requirements at around USD four-five billion, while the UN Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage remains substantially underfunded. The issue became politically sensitive after statements appeared to suggest that India, China and the United States should compensate Nepal, although Nepal's Foreign Minister subsequently clarified that the government had not formally sought money from those individual countries and instead wanted the international community to recognise the climate dimension of the disaster. India has reiterated its position that developed countries with historical responsibility should lead climate action. The episode illustrates a persistent tension within climate finance: vulnerable countries increasingly seek resources linked to loss and damage, while existing international mechanisms have limited funding relative to disaster-scale reconstruction needs. Nepal's experience therefore raises questions about how loss-and-damage finance can become predictable and accessible.
"Beyond charity: Why Nepal's call for climate compensation from India, China and the US matters," ThePrint, September 2026 https://theprint.in/yourturn/beyond-charity-why-nepals-call-for-climate-compensation-from-india-china-and-the-us-matters/3048795/

Nepal's flood disaster highlights the India–Himalaya climate connection
On 22 September, The Indian Express examined Nepal's climate call and its implications for India. The article argues that India and Nepal share closely connected ecological systems and suggests that the recent disaster raises questions about how neighbouring countries can contribute to climate-related reconstruction and resilience. The wider debate has emerged alongside Nepal's effort to frame the August disaster within discussions on climate justice and loss and damage. The issue is particularly relevant because Himalayan hazards do not conform to national boundaries: rivers, glaciers, atmospheric systems and mountain ecosystems connect Nepal with India and Tibet. This creates scope for cooperation in scientific monitoring, early-warning systems, disaster response and resilient infrastructure, irrespective of disagreements over responsibility or compensation. The debate also illustrates the limitations of relying exclusively on global climate funds for large-scale reconstruction. A stronger regional adaptation architecture could complement international finance while addressing the shared ecological and infrastructural risks emerging across the Himalayan region.
"Nepal's climate call is a test for India," The Indian Express, 22 September 2026. https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/nepals-climate-india-flash-flood-10887503/

Scientific analysis traces Nepal's flood to a massive rock-and-ice collapse
On 17 September, The Indian Express reported that an international scientific assessment estimated that about 110 million cubic metres of rock and ice collapsed from Langtang Lirung, removing an estimated 2.2 square kilometres of the mountain's northern face. The material then entered the valley and contributed to the cascading flood disaster. The findings add physical detail to the growing scientific understanding of the 26 August event. Rather than treating the disaster simply as a

flood, the assessment shows how high-altitude cryospheric and geological processes can combine to generate rapid downstream impacts. The scale of the collapse also demonstrates the difficulty of monitoring hazards in remote Himalayan terrain. Satellite observations can identify landscape changes over large areas, but understanding specific triggers requires geological, glaciological and hydrological information to be integrated. For Himalayan disaster management, the case strengthens the rationale for multidisciplinary monitoring that connects high-altitude hazard detection with downstream early-warning and evacuation systems.
"2.2 sq km of mountain face tore away, crashed into valley: How rock and ice triggered Nepal floods," The Indian Express, 17 September 2026
https://indianexpress.com/article/world/nepal-flash-floods-langtang-rock-ice-avalanche-10881299/lite/

Opinion argues climate change is not gender-neutral, with women bearing heavier burden in Pakistan
On 16 September, The Friday Times published an opinion piece by development professional Nasir Ali Panhwar, arguing that climate disasters in Pakistan disproportionately burden women, whose experiences remain largely absent from climate policy discussions. The author wrote that women's vulnerability stems not from biology but from existing inequalities, including limited access to education, financial resources, land ownership, and decision-making spaces. During the 2022 floods, women carried additional responsibilities for water collection, caregiving, and household survival. Panhwar noted water scarcity forces women and girls to travel longer distances, while energy insecurity increases exposure to harmful cooking fuels and indoor air pollution. He argued women should be recognised as leaders and innovators, not just vulnerable communities, and that renewable energy offers opportunities to reduce workloads while creating economic opportunities, provided supportive policies and training access exist.
("Climate Change Is Not Gender-Neutral: Why Women In Pakistan Bear A Heavier Burden," The Friday Times, 16 September 2026)
https://www.thefridaytimes.com/16-Sep-2026/climate-change-gender-neutral-women-pakistan-bear-heavier-burden

Smarter fertiliser use could reduce Pakistan's agricultural emissions
On 14 September, Global Agriculture reported new research by ICARDA, the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, the Global Change Impact Studies Center and the USDA examining agricultural nitrous oxide emissions in Pakistan. The study estimates a revised national baseline of 62.26 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent, with synthetic fertiliser responsible for an estimated 14.72 Mt CO_2e. Wheat is the largest hotspot, accounting for around half of fertiliser-related agricultural N_2O emissions. The research argues that mitigation does not necessarily mean simply applying less fertiliser, but improving nitrogen-use efficiency through the "4Rs" — using the right source, at the right rate, at the right time and in the right place. A modelled 20% improvement in nitrogen-use efficiency across wheat-growing districts could reduce N_2O emissions by around 1.1 Mt CO_2e annually. The findings offer Pakistan a mitigation pathway that connects climate action with food production: reducing nutrient losses can lower emissions while improving input efficiency and agricultural productivity. Better crop-level data could further sharpen future interventions.
"Fertilize Right, Emit Less: A Climate-Smart Pathway for Pakistan," Global Agriculture, 14 September 2026.
https://global-agriculture.com/crop-nutrition/fertilize-right-emit-less-a-climate-smart-pathway-for-pakistan/

Pakistan's urban centres face severe climate-resilience gaps
On 09 September, Devdiscourse reported that five major Pakistani cities: Hyderabad, Multan, Lahore, Faisalabad and Karachi were ranked among the world's least climate-resilient urban centres in an analysis of 72 cities. The assessment by geospatial analytics firm AlphaGeo

combined physical exposure to climate hazards with adaptive capacity, with heat exposure emerging as a major regional concern. Hyderabad ranked second, Multan third, Lahore fifth, Faisalabad seventh and Karachi eighth. The findings highlight that climate vulnerability is determined not only by the intensity of hazards but also by a city's capacity to prepare, adapt and recover. For Pakistan, the concentration of vulnerable cities makes urban climate resilience a major development and investment issue. Heat-resilient infrastructure, drainage, water management, urban planning and early-warning systems will increasingly be necessary as climate risks intensify. The findings also have implications for businesses and investors because climate exposure can affect infrastructure durability, property values and continuity of economic activity. Building resilience therefore needs to move from disaster response towards long-term urban planning and investment.
"Pakistan's Urban Hubs Under Climate Siege: A Dire Assessment," Devdiscourse, 09 September 2026.
https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/international/3975002-pakistans-urban-hubs-under-climate-siege-a-dire-assessment

Pakistan's major cities among the world's least climate-resilient
On 09 September, The Tribune reported that five major Pakistani cities—Hyderabad, Multan, Lahore, Faisalabad and Karachi—ranked among the ten least climate-resilient cities in an analysis of 72 major urban centres. The assessment, conducted by geospatial analytics company AlphaGeo, combined physical exposure to climate hazards with cities' adaptive capacity. Hyderabad ranked second, Multan third, Lahore fifth, Faisalabad seventh and Karachi eighth. Heat exposure was identified as a major factor driving risk across the region, while Dhaka was found to have the highest physical exposure among the cities assessed. The findings highlight a crucial distinction between experiencing climate hazards and possessing the capacity to adapt to them. For Pakistan, the concentration of vulnerable cities means climate resilience needs to become an urban investment priority rather than remaining primarily a disaster-response concern. Heat-resilient infrastructure, water management, urban planning, drainage and early-warning systems will be essential. The findings also have implications for private investment, as climate exposure increasingly affects infrastructure durability, property values and business continuity.
"Pakistan's major cities exposed as least climate-resilient, raises menace," The Tribune, 09 September 2026.
https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/pakistans-major-cities-exposed-as-least-climate-resilient-raises-menace

Pakistan needs to improve access to climate finance
On 07 September, Dawn examined Pakistan's difficulty in accessing the large pools of international climate finance increasingly available for adaptation and resilience. The challenge is not simply a shortage of global funding but Pakistan's limited capacity to prepare bankable projects, meet complex eligibility requirements and coordinate institutions effectively. This matters because the country faces growing adaptation needs from floods, heatwaves, water stress and glacier-related hazards while possessing limited fiscal space to finance resilience domestically. Improving access therefore requires stronger national project pipelines, technical capacity and coordination between federal and provincial institutions. Climate finance also needs to be linked to measurable reductions in vulnerability rather than treated simply as development expenditure with a climate label. Better access to concessional finance, grants and international funds could help Pakistan shift from repeatedly financing disaster recovery towards investing before disasters occur. Strengthening domestic institutions capable of preparing and managing such projects will consequently be as important as international commitments to increase climate finance.
"Explainer: Climate finance is great but how do you get it?" Dawn, 07 September 2026.
https://www.dawn.com/news/2028278

Clean air needs to become a financed climate priority

On 07 September, Dawn argued that Pakistan needs to move beyond policy commitments towards measurable and financed action on air pollution. The country's pollution crisis is increasingly understood as a year-round environmental and public-health problem rather than simply a seasonal smog issue. Weak monitoring, limited source-apportionment data, fragmented institutional responsibilities and inadequate financing continue to constrain implementation. The article's emphasis on financing is significant because reducing pollution requires investment in cleaner transport, industry, household energy, waste management and monitoring systems. There is also a climate dimension: several air pollutants have implications for both public health and atmospheric warming, making clean-air measures relevant to broader climate policy. Linking financial incentives and investment decisions to measurable reductions in emissions and exposure could help transform clean-air policy into a more effective transition strategy. For Pakistan, integrating air-quality management with climate, energy and urban policy could also generate co-benefits by reducing health burdens while improving resilience in rapidly growing cities.

"Clean air is an economic choice Pakistan can no longer postpone," Dawn, 07 September 2026.
https://www.dawn.com/news/2027984

Mobilink Bank links climate action with gender inclusion

On 06 September, Digital Pakistan reported that Mobilink Bank received Top 3 recognition under the Climate2Equal Peer Learning Programme and Progressive Champion status across diversity, equity and inclusion categories at the 2026 Employer of Choice Gender Diversity Awards. The recognition highlights the growing overlap between climate action and gender inclusion within the private sector. Climate change affects women and men differently because access to finance, employment, assets and decision-making is often unequal, while women remain underrepresented in many institutions shaping investment and resilience policies. Financial institutions can therefore influence climate resilience not only through their own environmental practices but through who receives capital and on what terms. Mobilink Bank's recognition provides an example of corporate climate and inclusion agendas being considered together rather than as separate issues. The broader policy significance will depend on whether such commitments translate into climate-sensitive lending, financial products for vulnerable groups and stronger access to capital for women-led businesses. This could make financial-sector institutions important actors in Pakistan's wider adaptation and inclusive-transition agenda.

"Mobilink Bank Wins Top Climate and Gender Diversity Awards," Digital Pakistan, 06 September 2026.
https://digitalpakistan.pk/mobilink-bank-wins-top-climate-and-gender-diversity-awards/

Japan provides USD 16.4 million for flood protection in Sindh

On 08 September, Dawn reported that Japan has agreed to provide Pakistan a grant of 2.58 billion yen, approximately USD 16.4 million, to strengthen flood-protection infrastructure in Sindh. The project will reinforce the Old Abad Bund in Larkana along the right bank of the Indus, with the stated aim of protecting vulnerable communities and livelihoods from future riverine flooding. The agreement illustrates the growing role of adaptation finance in strengthening physical infrastructure against climate-related hazards. For Pakistan, where recurrent floods have generated substantial human and economic losses, upgrading embankments can reduce exposure but cannot by itself address the broader drivers of escalating flood risk. Infrastructure needs to be integrated with basin-scale planning, forecasting, land-use management and early-warning systems. The project is also significant as an example of bilateral climate-resilience finance being directed towards specific, locally vulnerable infrastructure rather than solely towards broad national programmes. Its

effectiveness will ultimately depend on whether engineering interventions are accompanied by maintenance, risk assessment and community-level preparedness.
"Japan to provide $16.4m for flood protection in Sindh," Dawn, 08 September 2026
https://www.dawn.com/news/2028278](https://www.dawn.com/news/2028278

Pakistan's air-pollution crisis requires climate and finance policy to converge
On 07 September, Dawn argued that Pakistan needs to move from climate and clean-air policy commitments towards measurable and financed implementation. The article notes that air pollution is no longer simply a seasonal smog problem but a year-round public-health and economic risk. Existing national and provincial clean-air policies have established targets, but implementation is constrained by gaps in monitoring, source-apportionment data, institutional accountability and financing. The proposed approach links measurement, governance and finance: credible pollution data should inform enforceable standards, while banks and investors should incorporate pollution and transition risks into lending decisions. This is also a climate issue because pollutants such as black carbon, methane and ozone precursors have implications beyond local air quality. The article's emphasis on finance is particularly important: cleaner transport, industrial retrofits, household energy transitions and improved waste management require investment, not only regulation. Connecting financial incentives with verified emissions and exposure reductions could therefore help turn Pakistan's clean-air policies into an investable transition programme.
"Clean air is an economic choice Pakistan can no longer postpone," Dawn, 07 September 2026
https://www.dawn.com/news/2027984

The Himalayas are warning South Asia of a climate whiplash
On 02 September, The Friday Times argued that Nepal's devastating floods should be understood as a warning for the wider South Asian region, particularly Pakistan. The article links the two countries through a shared exposure to rapidly changing Himalayan systems, even though their immediate hazards differ. Nepal experienced a catastrophic ice-rock avalanche and flood, while Pakistan has faced cloudbursts, glacial lake outburst floods and river flooding. The result is a regional climate paradox in which drought and destructive flooding can occur within the same season or even within weeks. The article points to declining glacier mass, expanding glacial lakes and increasingly uncertain water flows as risks that could affect agriculture, hydropower, drinking water and settlements across borders. It therefore calls for climate information to move across borders faster than floodwater through shared glacier monitoring, satellite and river data, common warning protocols and rapid communication between disaster agencies. Regional cooperation, rather than isolated national preparedness, is presented as central to South Asia's climate resilience.
"Himalayas Are Warning South Asia: From Nepal's Floods to Pakistan's Climate Whiplash," The Friday Times, 02 September 2026.
https://www.thefridaytimes.com/02-Sep-2026/himalayas-warning-south-asia-nepal-s-floods-pakistan-s-climate-whiplash

Caritas Pakistan links ecological action with community resilience
On 03 September, Herald Malaysia reported that Caritas Pakistan Karachi organised a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation programme involving churches, schools and parish communities across Karachi. The initiative combined environmental awareness with practical activities including tree planting, reducing single-use plastics, preventing water waste and protecting local greenery. While faith-based environmental initiatives do not substitute for institutional climate policy, they can help translate ecological concerns into community-level behaviour and participation. The programme's emphasis on land, water resources, marine life and urban ecosystems is particularly relevant to Karachi, where heat, water stress, flooding and ecosystem degradation interact with rapid urbanisation. The initiative also

reflects a broader shift in climate communication from awareness towards local action. Community organisations, schools and faith institutions can provide networks for environmental education and resilience-building, particularly where formal public institutions have limited reach. Sustained collaboration between civil society, local authorities and community groups could help turn such initiatives from annual observances into longer-term urban climate action.
"Caritas Pakistan Leads Creation Care Prayer Day and Climate Action in Karachi," Herald Malaysia, 03 September 2026. https://www.heraldmalaysia.com/news/caritas-pakistan-leads-creation-care-prayer-day-and-climate-action-in-karachi/91498/2

India-Pakistan water dispute acquires a sharper climate dimension
On 31 August, The Climate Watch, citing Al Jazeera and Reuters, reported that India rejected a Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling that the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty remains binding. The development adds another layer to an already contentious water relationship, with the Indus system supplying around 80% of Pakistan's agricultural land. The dispute is increasingly significant from a climate perspective as glacier retreat, changing precipitation and rising water demand place additional pressure on the basin. The tribunal ordered restrictions on construction at India's Ratle hydropower project, while New Delhi rejected the tribunal's jurisdiction and said its decisions would not affect India's actions. Pakistan welcomed the interim measures. The episode illustrates how climate-driven water stress can interact with existing geopolitical tensions, making basin-level data sharing, adaptive water governance and diplomatic mechanisms increasingly important for South Asian water security.
"India rejects Hague ruling to restore Indus water pact with Pakistan," The Climate Watch, 01 September 2026. https://theclimatewatch.com/india-rejects-hague-ruling-to-restore-indus-water-pact-with-pakistan/

Pakistan's private sector calls for stronger climate resilience
On 01 September, Business Recorder reported that the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) urged Pakistan to accelerate investment in climate resilience following the devastating floods in Nepal. The organisation stressed that the disaster should serve as a warning for Pakistan, where communities, infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods remain highly exposed to climate-related hazards. OICCI highlighted Pakistan's increasing temperatures, glacial melt and changing rainfall patterns and called for greater investment in predictive early-warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure and disaster-response capacity. The chamber also argued that Pakistan must move beyond simply warning populations when disasters are imminent towards systems capable of identifying risks and enabling preventive action. The discussion links climate resilience directly to economic stability, noting that Pakistan loses significant economic output to climate-related impacts. The emphasis on predictive preparedness reflects a broader shift from emergency response towards anticipatory climate risk management.
"OICCI pushes Pakistan to strengthen climate resilience," Business Recorder, 01 September 2026. https://www.brecorder.com/news/40437329/oicci-pushes-pakistan-to-strengthen-climate-resilience

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's climate relocations highlight the importance of community choice
On 01 October, Forced Migration Review examined two Sri Lankan relocation experiences to assess what makes climate- and disaster-induced resettlement more sustainable. The study compares post-2004 tsunami relocation with the earlier Lunawa Environmental Improvement and Community Development Project, which addressed flood exposure in Colombo. (Forced Migration Review) The authors find that the experiences differed substantially in the degree of community participation. Many post-tsunami relocatees were moved

10–15 kilometres from previous homes, disrupting access to livelihoods, education, urban services and the sea; more than half had subsequently migrated back to the buffer zone or elsewhere. By contrast, the Lunawa project provided multiple resettlement options, involved communities in planning and used owner-built housing and community contractors. The comparison offers an important lesson for climate-induced relocation: physical safety alone does not determine whether relocation works. Location, livelihood access, social networks, participation and local ownership shape outcomes. As Sri Lanka faces increasing coastal and flood risks, relocation policies may need to incorporate community decision-making and livelihood continuity alongside hazard reduction.
"Self-determination in climate-induced relocation: two cases from Sri Lanka," Forced Migration Review, 01 October 2026. https://www.fmreview.org/climate-choices-plus/fernando-fernando/

Sri Lanka urged to prepare for worst-case weather scenarios
On 30 September, opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa called for Sri Lanka to prepare for severe weather outcomes even when forecasts remain uncertain. He highlighted the need to monitor El Niño, La Niña, ENSO and the Indian Ocean Dipole and assess their possible effects on water supplies, reservoirs, irrigation, power generation, agriculture and food security. He also called for preparedness for droughts, floods and landslides, with attention to coastal communities, fisheries, wildlife and biodiversity. The approach reflects a core principle of climate-risk management: uncertainty does not eliminate the need for preparedness. Sri Lanka's exposure to multiple climate drivers means that seasonal planning can benefit from scenario-based assessments rather than relying on a single expected outcome. Integrating climate forecasts with reservoir management, agricultural planning and disaster preparedness can allow institutions to act before hazards intensify. The emphasis on coordination among government, civil society and other stakeholders also reflects the cross-sectoral nature of climate risks, which extend from water and agriculture to energy, ecosystems and coastal livelihoods.
"Sri Lanka must prepare for worst-case weather scenarios: Sajith," Newswire, 30 September 2026. https://www.newswire.lk/2026/09/27/sri-lanka-must-prepare-for-worst-case-weather-scenarios-sajith/

Sri Lanka places 20 more forests under legal protection
On 30 September, Sri Lanka granted protected status to 20 forests covering a combined 9,538.68 hectares. The newly gazetted areas include the 1,419-hectare Algin Forest in Nuwara Eliya and forest blocks across Kegalle, Ampara, Badulla, Vavuniya and Anuradhapura. (News 1st) The announcement adds to approximately 65,000 hectares of forest land declared reserves over the preceding two years, according to the report. The climate significance of forest protection extends beyond carbon storage. Highland forests support watersheds, regulate runoff, reduce soil erosion and sustain ecosystems and communities downstream. Forest landscapes also provide habitat for elephants and other wildlife, making conservation relevant to human-wildlife conflict. The newly protected areas therefore have multiple ecosystem functions that can contribute to water security and climate resilience. Legal designation, however, is only one component of effective conservation. Long-term monitoring, enforcement, community participation and sustainable livelihood options will determine whether protected status translates into durable ecological protection.
"The Silent Guardians of Water, Wildlife and Climate | The Day 20 Sri Lankan Forests Found Protection," News 1st, 30 September 2026. https://english.newsfirst.lk/2026/09/30/the-silent-guardians-of-water-wildlife-and-climate-the-day-20-sri-lankan-forests-found-protection

Chinese AI weather system being adapted for Pakistan's climate risks

On 21 September, Dialogue Earth reported on Pakistan's use of China's MAZU artificial-intelligence weather system, designed to support multi-hazard forecasting and early-warning systems. Pakistan Meteorological Department personnel have worked with the China Meteorological Administration to tailor the system for Pakistani conditions, and a version adapted for Pakistan has reportedly been in use since October 2025 alongside other forecasting tools, satellite data and weather models. The system is intended to provide faster forecasts and more timely information rather than prevent extreme events themselves. Its value therefore depends on the quality of underlying data and, critically, the ability of institutions and communities to act on warnings. For Pakistan, where floods, heatwaves and other climate-related hazards create recurring risks, improved forecasting could strengthen anticipatory action. The case also illustrates an emerging dimension of climate cooperation between South Asian countries and China: the transfer and localisation of AI-enabled environmental technologies alongside conventional meteorological cooperation.

"Can a Chinese AI system help Pakistan manage the impacts of a changing climate?," Dialogue Earth, 21 September 2026
https://dialogue.earth/en/climate/can-a-chinese-ai-system-help-pakistan-manage-the-impacts-of-a-changing-climate/

Pakistan backs COP31 Action Agenda and stresses implementation

On 22 September, Pakistan Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb expressed the country's support for the COP31 Action Agenda and called for effective implementation of climate plans during its launch in New York. He identified clean energy and electrification, renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings, climate-resilient cities, climate education, food security and climate-resilient agriculture among shared priorities. Aurangzeb also highlighted Pakistan's efforts to strengthen disaster-response frameworks, early-warning systems and costed climate-investment plans, while arguing that external assistance needs to be complemented by domestic resources and fiscal buffers. The emphasis on implementation is significant for a country facing repeated climate-related disasters alongside fiscal constraints. Costed investment plans can help translate broad adaptation objectives into identifiable financing requirements, while early-warning systems provide a relatively direct pathway from climate information to risk reduction. Pakistan's position also reflects the wider challenge for vulnerable developing countries of combining international climate finance with domestic fiscal capacity.

"Pakistan supports COP31 Action Agenda: Aurangzeb," Radio Pakistan, 22 September 2026
https://www.radio.gov.pk/22-09-2026/pakistan-supports-cop31-action-agenda-aurangzeb

GCF regional dialogue calls for faster climate action

On 15 September, the Green Climate Fund reported that its Regional Dialogue with East and South Asia opened in Colombo with calls for faster implementation of climate action and improved access to finance. Around 150 representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are participating in four days of discussions on climate-finance implementation and investment. Sri Lanka's Environment Minister Dammika Patabendi stressed the need to move from commitments and plans towards projects and measurable impacts, while highlighting the importance of adaptation finance, technology and capacity building. The dialogue comes as the GCF enters its third replenishment cycle. In Asia and the Pacific, the Fund reports that it has invested USD 5.8 billion, attracting a further USD 20 billion in co-financing across 127 projects and supporting adaptation for 84 million people. The meeting is significant for South Asia because the participating countries share many interconnected climate risks, including floods, droughts, heat and Himalayan hazards. Developing stronger project pipelines and regional partnerships could improve access to

climate finance across the region.
"GCF Regional Dialogue opens in Sri Lanka with a call for faster climate action," Green Climate Fund, 15 September 2026.

Water emerges as a central focus of global climate science

On 13 September, the Sunday Times reported that around 60 climate and water experts, including scientists involved in IPCC assessments, met in Colombo to examine the increasingly important relationship between climate change and the global water cycle. The IPCC-IWMI expert meeting focused on scientific gaps that could inform the organisation's Seventh Assessment Report. Discussions examined how climate change is altering rainfall, floods, droughts, water availability and the distribution of water resources, with consequences that extend across agriculture, energy, health, ecosystems and economies. The meeting is significant because water is increasingly recognised as the pathway through which many climate impacts become visible to societies. Changes in the water cycle can create cascading and transboundary effects, making water management inseparable from climate adaptation. Sri Lanka's experience with both flooding and drought provides a useful regional context for these discussions. Strengthening the scientific evidence linking climate change and water could improve future adaptation planning and help governments integrate water risks across sectors rather than treating water as a separate policy domain.
"Water at the heart of climate change as global experts meet in Colombo," Sunday Times Sri Lanka, 13 September 2026.

El Niño-linked dry weather affects more than 115,000

On 03 September, News.Az reported that El Niño-linked dry conditions are affecting more than 115,000 people in Sri Lanka, highlighting the potential for climate variability to produce significant impacts even outside the country's major flood and cyclone disasters. El Niño can alter rainfall patterns across South Asia, creating periods of rainfall deficits, heat and water stress in already climate-sensitive regions. For Sri Lanka, where agriculture and rural livelihoods remain closely dependent on seasonal rainfall, such shifts can translate into crop losses, water shortages and income insecurity. The story also illustrates why climate preparedness needs to account for compound and rapidly changing risks rather than focusing exclusively on individual disasters. The country's experience with Cyclone Ditwah and previous floods and landslides demonstrates that adaptation must accommodate both excess and insufficient rainfall. Strengthening seasonal forecasting, drought preparedness, water management and climate-resilient agriculture could help reduce the economic and social effects of El Niño-related variability, particularly for communities with limited capacity to absorb repeated climate shocks.
"El Nino linked dry weather affects over 115,000 in Sri Lanka," News.Az, 03 September 2026.
https://news.az/news/el-nino-linked-dry-weather-affects-over-115-000-in-sri-lanka

Sri Lanka seeks stronger climate governance at the local level

On 01 September, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung reported the conclusion of a joint initiative with the Institute of Democracy and Governance aimed at strengthening climate governance within Sri Lanka's local authorities. A survey of 122 elected representatives and administrative officials from 26 local government authorities in Kalutara, Jaffna and Kandy found broad awareness of climate risks and support for stronger local climate action. However, the study also identified constraints including insufficient legal authority, limited financial and human resources, inadequate climate-risk information and gaps in technical capacity. A pilot workshop in Beruwala demonstrated how local councils could establish permanent Climate Action Committees and integrate climate considerations into routine decision-making rather than treating them as temporary projects. The findings are important because local authorities are often the first institutions responding to floods, droughts, landslides and coastal erosion. Translating national climate

commitments into effective adaptation therefore requires decentralised authority, resources and political cooperation. Strengthening local governance could make Sri Lanka's climate response more durable and locally responsive.
"Strengthening Climate Governance at the Local Level in Sri Lanka," Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, 01 September 2026. https://www.kas.de/en/web/politikdialog-asien/veranstaltungsberichte/detail/-/content/strengthening-climate-governance-at-the-local-level-in-sri-lanka-

REGIONAL

South Asia's climate resilience increasingly depends on implementation capacity

On 30 September, Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb emphasised at the Climate Implementation Bridge event that climate commitments need to produce tangible results at community level. Pakistan identified policy frameworks, finance and national project-delivery capacity as three necessary conditions for implementation. The issue extends across South Asia, where governments increasingly have national adaptation plans and climate commitments but continue to face difficulties turning them into funded and implemented projects. Bangladesh is simultaneously working on climate-finance governance and resilient housing, Nepal is rebuilding after a major mountain disaster, Bhutan is developing a loss-and-damage architecture, and Sri Lanka is strengthening ecosystem and disaster preparedness. These experiences point towards a regional implementation challenge involving finance, institutional capacity, data and local participation. Climate resilience therefore depends not only on the volume of international commitments but also on whether countries can prepare projects, absorb finance, coordinate agencies and monitor outcomes. Strengthening these capacities could make international climate finance more effective while allowing national governments to connect global climate commitments with locally defined adaptation priorities.

"Climate commitments must translate into tangible results for communities: Aurangzeb," Radio Pakistan, 30 September 2026. https://www.radio.gov.pk/30-09-2026/climate-commitments-must-translate-into-tangible-results-for-communities-aurangzeb

Himalayan floods show how climate risks are becoming cascading hazards

On 31 August, The Guardian examined the devastating floods affecting Nepal and the wider Himalayan region, highlighting how glacier instability, ice and rock avalanches, glacial lakes and permafrost degradation can combine to produce cascading hazards. Scientists noted that retreating glaciers and expanding glacial lakes are increasing the potential for sudden downstream disasters, while monitoring the enormous Himalayan region remains difficult. Experts stressed that early-warning systems need to be community-based and connected directly to people at risk rather than relying solely on central scientific or administrative structures. The analysis also emphasised that prevention in the high mountains is extremely difficult and expensive, making reduction of downstream exposure particularly important. For India and other Himalayan countries, the emerging challenge is therefore not simply stronger floods but increasingly complex interactions between cryospheric change, infrastructure and settlement patterns.
"'The mountains are changing': What the floods tell us about the future of India's Himalayas," The Guardian, 31 August 2026. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/aug/31/this-is-india-what-the-nepal-tibet-floods-tell-us-about-the-future-of-indias-himalayas