

COMMONS CONVENING

— 2024 —

Day 1: Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Time	Session Code and Title	Session Details	Panelists	Location
9:00 - 10:00	Registration			Ground floor
10:00 - 10:30	Opening Ceremony			Bhim
10:30 - 11:45	Plenary 1.1 Changemakers for Commons: Celebrating and Learning from their Journeys	<p>This session showcases community leaders who blend local wisdom with modern practices to protect and conserve shared environments. Learn how they use local knowledge, foster collective action, and balance conservation with community needs. Discover insights for living in balance with nature and building resilient communities.</p>	<p>Anup Ranjan Pandey, Chhattisgarh Chami Murmu, Jharkhand Devaji Tofa, Maharashtra Jishudan Dishari, Odisha Sarjubai Meena, Rajasthan Usha Rajagopalan, Karnataka Y Nuklu Phom, Nagaland</p> <p>Moderator: Sudarshan Iyengar, Chairperson, Foundation for Ecological Security; Scholar of Gandhian Studies and Former Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith</p>	Bhim
11:45 - 12:15	Coffee Break & Networking			First floor
12:15 - 13:30	Plenary 1.2 Leaving No One Behind: Catalysing Commons for SDG Acceleration	<p>Contextualising the management and restoration of Commons within the SDGs framework highlights the interconnected nature of sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasise inclusivity and the principle of 'Leave No One Behind'. The SDGs framework is integral to guiding evidence-based decision-making on development at both national and subnational levels. The session will emphasise the need for coordinated strategies to tackle climate change, social justice, and poverty alleviation through effective governance of the Commons. It will also explore the possibilities of including indicators that highlight key data on commons and impact on the SDGs in the current National Indicator Framework.</p>	<p>Dinesh Marothia, President, Indian Society of Agricultural Economics Muniraju S.B., Deputy Advisor, NITI Aayog Rajesh S, IFS, Inspector General of Forest, MoEFCC Ranjan Kumar Ghosh, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad Zeenat Niazi, Chief Advisor, Circular Economy and Climate Resilience Programs, Development Alternatives</p> <p>Moderator: Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP</p>	Bhim
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch			First floor
14:30 - 15:45	Panel 1.1 A Community Forestry: The Missing Link in SDG Pathways?	<p>India's community forest management, supported by the Forest Rights Act 2006, acknowledges customary rights and village governance. However, governance methods and integration with SDGs need further exploration. This session aims to address how to link community forestry with SDGs, focusing on core concerns, responsibilities among different actors, and necessary processes. It will also explore the need for formalising these processes through directives from relevant ministries and potential amendments to existing laws.</p>	<p>Abhinandan Saikia, Professor, TISS Guwahati Arvind K. Jha, IFS, Former PCCF & DG (Social Forestry), Maharashtra A B Ota, IAS (Retd), Director and Special Secretary, SCSTRTI & Odisha State Tribal Museum, Odisha Tushar Dash, Independent Researcher, Odisha</p> <p>Moderator: Geetanjoy Sahu, Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai</p>	Conference Hall 1
	Panel 1.1 B Commoning Governance of Surface & Groundwater: How Can This Address the SDGs?	<p>The session aims to foster deliberation on different aspects of water governance, including the critical role of community stewardship, knowledge systems of local communities, the embeddedness of water in the ecosystem, and the desired shifts in policies and programmes to enable commoning. The discussions will highlight various initiatives towards commoning in practice, research, and policy and explore pathways for strengthening governance of water as commons towards addressing the various SDGs.</p>	<p>Bishwadeep Ghose, Managing Trustee, Water for People K. J. Joy, Senior Fellow, Society for Participating Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM) Pratul Saxena, Project Director, Atal Bhujal Yojana Shraman Jha, Chief Executive Officer, Hindustan Unilever Foundation</p> <p>Moderator: Anuj Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Arghyam</p>	Samrastha

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14:30 - 15:45	<p>Panel 1.1 C</p> <p>Area-Based Planning through Public Systems: A Way to Address SDGs at the Landscape-Scale</p>	<p>This session explores the potential of area-based planning in rural India as a powerful tool to address Sustainable Development Goals at the landscape scale. By tailoring strategies to the unique needs of distinct regions, area-based planning can drive localised progress, promote equitable resource distribution, and address climate change vulnerabilities. The session will highlight the significance of this approach, identify roadblocks, and discuss opportunities for integrating SDGs into public systems. Panelists will explore institutional frameworks and financing options to promote agroecology-based green local economies and foster collaborative action.</p>	<p>Ashwin Kulkarni, Director and Founder Trustee, Pragati Abhiyan</p> <p>Nitin Khade, IAS, Joint Secretary, Department of Land Resources</p> <p>Prashant Armorikar, Director, Watershed Development, National Rainfed Area Authority</p> <p>Rabindra Kumar Singh, IFS (Retd.), Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Chhattisgarh</p> <p>Venkatesh Tagat, Former Chief General Manager, NABARD</p> <p>Moderator: Sudarshan Iyengar, Chairperson, Foundation for Ecological Security; Scholar of Gandhian Studies and Former Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith</p>	Nalanda
	<p>Panel 1.1 D</p> <p>Connecting Climate Action and Commons: Policy Pathways, Opportunities, and Challenges</p>	<p>This session will focus on climate change from a policy perspective, with an emphasis on climate actions, Nationally Determined Contributions, and the management of commons. By integrating interdisciplinary perspectives on the commons, the discussion aims to enrich the climate discourse, especially as action agendas and financing strategies gain prominence both globally and locally. The session will bring together key stakeholders to explore these intersections within the Indian context. The goal is to highlight how these issues can be prioritised in policy-making, practice, academic research, and corporate governance agendas.</p>	<p>Abhishek Jain, Director, Powering Livelihoods, Council on Energy, Environment and Water</p> <p>Haripriya Gundimeda, Professor, IIT Bombay</p> <p>Kumar Sambhav, Founder and Director, Land Conflict Watch</p> <p>Ruchika Singh, Executive Program Director, Food, Land and Water, World Resources Institute India</p> <p>Shailesh Nagar, Partner, Intellectap</p> <p>Chair: Nitin Desai, Former Member of the Planning Commission; Former Under Secretary General, Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations</p>	Bhim
	<p>Panel 1.1 E</p> <p>Leveraging Data and Technology for Community-led Governance of Commons</p>	<p>This is the first session in a series of three on leveraging technology for community-led governance of the Commons. It aims to set out the <i>ambition</i> of what data/tech designed with communities for inclusive social-ecological governance can look like. The panel will explore how information systems can accurately reflect local contexts and spur widespread civic action. It will further explore why principles of openness and shared ownership are essential for information systems.</p>	<p>Ashwin Viswanath, Nature Conservation Foundation</p> <p>Sarah Mishra, Senior Director, Reap Benefit Foundation</p> <p>Shivangi Somvanshi, Center Head, Center for Applied Geomatics, CEPT Research & Development Foundation</p> <p>S.K. Jha, Professor, IIT Bombay</p> <p>Moderator: Aaditeshwar Seth, Professor, IIT Delhi</p>	VIP Lounge
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee Break & Networking			
16:15 - 17:30	<p>Plenary 1.3</p> <p>Women's Leadership for Commons</p>	<p>This session focuses on women as equal citizens in envisioning and stewarding the future of Commons. We aim to delve into systemic barriers and historic gender inequity perpetuating denial of women the access to land rights, participation in resource and political governance, but most importantly, recognition of them as essential stewards of Commons ecosystems, beyond the users of these resources. The outcome of this session is to inform the Commons discourse on the need to embrace women's leadership for Commons through identifying systemic policy opportunities and building partnerships for continuous engagement and action to advance women's decision making around Commons.</p>	<p>Chetna Gala Sinha, Founder, Mann Deshi Foundation & Mann Deshi Mahila Bank</p> <p>Pradeep Mohan Chavan, Community Conservation Expert, Kalpavriksh</p> <p>Shivani Gupta, Co-CEO, Womanity Foundation</p> <p>Soma Kishore Parthasarathy, Independent Researcher and Policy Analyst</p> <p>Moderator: Kanchi Kohli, Research and Educator</p>	Bhim
17:30 - 17:45	Launch of Publication "Our Commons"			Bhim