

# COMMONS CONVENING

— 2024 —

Day 3: Thursday, August 29, 2024

Time	Session Code and Title	Session Details	Panelists	Location
9:00 - 10:00	Registration			Ground floor
10:00 - 11:15	<b>Panel 3.1 A Reimagining Wastelands as Commons: Evolving Discourse, Transitions, Implications</b>	This session aims to explore the narratives are perceptions around wastelands and trigger deliberations around their re-imagination as commons. It expects to identify existing gaps and challenges that result in these continued narratives and analyse how these narratives require transformation in the changing contexts, and whether and how they align around local communities. As a way forward, the session would attempt to see if wastelands can provide win-win solutions for economy, conservation, and community needs.	Abi Vanak, Director, Centre for Policy Design, ATREE  Kunal Satyarthi, IFS, Joint Secretary, Department of Land Resources Nivedita Haran, Chairperson, Ente Bhoomi Trust and CMID Rajiv Pandey, Head, Division of Forestry Statistics, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education  SB Dangayach, Founder Trustee, Innovative Thought Forum <b>Moderator:</b> Anu Verma, Asia Regional Coordinator, International Land Coalition	<b>Nalanda</b>
	<b>Panel 3.1 B Evolving Land Use and Governance Frameworks of Pasture Commons</b>	The session will highlight the status and significance of pasture commons, reiterating the need to ensure community-led restoration and governance of these resources, and bringing to fore the land use and governance framework evolving in different parts of India. The session aims to explore the innovative governance mechanisms that would help in meeting the needs of local communities, ensure the conservation of pastures, and balance competing land use interests.	Pradeep Sharma, Pradeep Sharma, CMO, Chhattisgarh P. Vivekandan, Co-chair, Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) South Asia  Shailendra Tiwari, Seva Mandir  Shilpa Nag, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, District Chamrajnagar <b>Moderator:</b> Bhavana Rao, Senior Research Fellow, Foundation for Ecological Security	<b>Samrastha</b>
	<b>Workshop 3.1 C Leveraging Data and Technology for Community-led Governance of Commons (Part II)</b>	The workshops (Parts I and II) explore how technology and data infrastructure can empower communities with access to information for local action on Commons. While many initiatives exist, they remain isolated or small-scale. We aim to identify open-source solutions and infrastructures that allow diverse actors across sectors to contribute and co-create context-appropriate tools. The workshops will focus on empowering communities with knowledge, designing community-centric data tools, and developing a collaborative open ecosystem for locally-led, context-based planning and action.	Open workshop curated by IIT Delhi, Platform Commons, Landstack and Common Ground	<b>VIP Lounge</b>
	<b>Workshop 3.1 D Strengthening Social Accountability for the Commons</b>	Shared ownership and governance of commons offer communities a chance to address environmental degradation, inequality, and identity issues. This workshop will examine the challenges in securing rights over commons, focusing on transparency, accountability, and mechanisms to ensure community participation. By building on the Bhilwara Framework for Accountability, this workshop seeks to empower marginalized groups, enhance public scrutiny, and strengthen the governance of commons through community-led efforts and social accountability tools.	Open workshop curated by Social Accountability Forum for Action and Research and Foundation for Ecological Security	<b>Conference Hall 1</b>
	<b>Workshop 3.1 E Strategic Communications: How Can We Make Commons Everyone's Business? (Part I)</b>	This 150-minute workshop will focus on creating a strategic communication roadmap to foreground the Commons as a public priority. Participants, including civil society leaders, journalists, and communication specialists, will explore how to shift public perspectives and engage diverse audiences in the discourse on the protection and preservation of Commons. Through in-depth discussions, working groups will identify challenges, opportunities, and innovative approaches to better communicate the significance of Commons. The workshop's key takeaway will be the creation of actionable big ideas and strategic plans aimed at enhancing public understanding and policy engagement around the critical role of Commons.	Open workshop curated by Common Ground and Foundation for Ecological Security	<b>VIP Dining Hall</b>
11:15 - 11:45	Coffee Break & Networking			First floor

Time	Session Code and Title	Session Details	Panelists	Location
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Panel 3.2 A Community Conserved Areas: A Commonging Movement</b>	This session will explore mechanisms to enhance the understanding and narrative around the critical role Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) play in biodiversity conservation, emphasizing the contributions of local communities in safeguarding ecosystems. It will also address the need for formal recognition of CCAs within governance frameworks, focusing on how to integrate it into policy, ensuring sustainable conservation and equitable resource management.	Amba Jamir, Policy and Development Strategist Arnab Bose, Nature's Foster Heirang Lunglang, Chairperson, Nagaland Community Conserved Areas Forum Mayalmit Lepcha, Sikkim Indigenous Lepcha Women's Association <b>Moderator:</b> Pia Sethi, Senior Fellow, Centre for Ecology Development and Research	<b>Nalanda</b>
	<b>Panel 3.2 B Coastal Commons: Pathways for Coordinated Action</b>	This panel will discuss the impact of emerging blue economy agendas on coastal communities. Panellists will examine the complex world of India's coastal commons, their diverse ecosystems, multi-layered governance, equity issues and propose pathways for sustainable, inclusive management of these vital resources.	Aarthi Sridhar, Founder Trustee and Programme Head, Dakshin Foundation Amalendu Jyotishi, Professor, Azim Premji University Jenia Mukherjee, Professor, IIT Kharagpur Sebastiao Rodrigues, National Council member, National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers Supriya Vohra, Independent Journalist and Writer Tara Nair, Director (Research), Work Fair and Free Foundation Venugopal, Member, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers V. Vivekanandan, Director, FishMARC at Vrutti <b>Moderator:</b> Sisir Kanta Pradhan, Common Ground	<b>Samrastha</b>
	<b>Roundtable 3.2 C Emerging Areas for Research and Learning on Commons</b>	This session will focus on consolidating insights, learnings, gaps, and opportunities for research on the Commons, drawing from ongoing initiatives and discussions from the convening. It will concentrate on pathways to translate research into strategic, collaborative action for the Commons.	Roundtable organised by the Collaborating for Resilience and Foundation for Ecological Security	<b>Conference Hall 1</b>
	<b>Panel 3.2 D Aligning Planetary Health with Human Health: The One Health Initiative</b>	This session aims to explore the intersection of Commons-centric approaches and the One Health framework in building sustainable ecosystems. It will examine how efforts can collaborate to address climate change-related challenges like zoonotic diseases, food, water, and nutritional security. Discussions will focus on how to operationalize One Health at the community level, the role of village commons, and actions needed to facilitate synergies between human, animal, and environmental health for resilience.	Pavitra Vasudevan, Program Officer, Dakshin Foundation Shreelata Rao Seshadri, Professor and Director, PHFI Sumitra Gagrai, District Manager, Ekjut Foundation Tanya Seshadri, Faculty, Institute of Public Health <b>Moderator:</b> Gayatri Menon, Independent	<b>Conference Hall 2</b>
	<b>Workshop 3.2 E Strategic Communications: How Can We Make Commons Everyone's Business? (Part II)</b>	This 150-minute workshop will focus on creating a strategic communication roadmap to foreground the Commons as a public priority. Participants, including civil society leaders, journalists, and communication specialists, will explore how to shift public perspectives and engage diverse audiences in the discourse on the protection and preservation of Commons. Participants will be divided into working groups, each focusing on one of these themes. Through in-depth discussions, these groups will identify challenges, opportunities, and innovative approaches to better communicate the significance of Commons. The workshop's key takeaway will be the creation of actionable big ideas and strategic plans aimed at enhancing public understanding and policy engagement around the critical role of Commons.	Open workshop curated by Common Ground and Foundation for Ecological Security	<b>VIP Dining Hall</b>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>			
<b>14:00 – 15:15</b>	<b>Session 3.3 A Panel: Reimagining FRA: The Way Forward</b>	This session will examine the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and its implementation 18 years since its enactment, focusing on policy, legal, and institutional reforms needed to achieve its goals. Topics include mainstreaming FRA into development, building climate resilience, synergizing FRA with local programs like MGNREGA, empowering Gram Sabhas in NTFP governance, and democratizing decision-making in forest resource management. The discussion will explore strategies to streamline FRA implementation and align it with contemporary climate change, forest governance, and development issues.	Dev Nathan, Professor, Institute for Human Development Kanchi Kohli, Researcher and Educator M. D. Madhusudan, Nature Conservation Foundation Rajendra Bharud, IAS, Commissioner, Tribal Research and Training Institute, Government of Maharashtra Sanjay Upadhyay, Sr Advocate, Supreme Court of India Samar Bosu Mullick, Secretary, Institute of Community Forest Governance Sonmoni Borah, IAS, Principal Secretary, ST & SC Development, Chhattisgarh Moderator: Meenakshi Kathel, Chief Advisor, UNDP	<b>Nalanda</b>

Time	Session Code and Title	Session Details	Panelists	Location
14:00 - 15:15	<b>Workshop 3.3 B The Confluence of Law, Justice, and Commoning</b>	This session will introduce and deepen the understanding of commoning and its connection to legal and justice systems. It will create a space for participants to explore new ideas, identify key points of intervention, and strengthen ties between those working on environmental justice and commons-based governance. Drawing from insights shared in earlier sessions, the focus will be on how commons governance can support broader environmental justice efforts and foster collaboration.	Open workshop curated by Agami and Foundation for Ecological Security	<b>VIP Lounge</b>
	<b>Roundtable 3.3 C Rainfed Livestock Network</b>	This session will focus on highlighting the critical role of rainfed livestock systems in supporting rural livelihoods and sustainable agriculture. It will explore challenges and opportunities in this sector, drawing on current research and practices, and identify strategies for improving resilience and productivity. Participants will have the chance to share experiences, discuss innovations, and collaborate on approaches to strengthen the rainfed livestock ecosystem, with a focus on sustainable and equitable solutions.	Anil Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NIAP Balaram Sahu, Pathe Pathashala Bhavana Rao, Senior Research Fellow, Foundation for Ecological Security Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Co-founder, Camel Charisma Khem Chand, Principle Scientist, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi Natasha Maru, Global Lead for Rangelands and Pastoralists, International Land Coalition Purnendu Kavoori, Director, Centre for Social Ecology P. Vivekandan, Co-chair, Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) South Asia Rashmi Singh (Co-chair), Assistant Professor, IIT-Hyderabad Ramesh Bhatti, Program director, Sahjeevan	<b>Conference Hall 1</b>
	<b>Panel 3.3 D Exploring Transitions Across Urban and Peri-urban Areas</b>	Rural-urban transitions in India are creating complex peri-urban areas characterised by rapid development, shifting socio-economic dynamics, and environmental challenges. These liminal zones present unique opportunities and issues, from biodiversity loss to new economic paradigms. This panel explores the potential for creating sustainable, inclusive settlements that harmonise with nature while engaging communities in shaping their future amidst climate change.	Divya Ravindranath, Indian Institute for Human Settlements Paras Tyagi, Centre for Youth Culture Law and Environment Rishika Reddy, Indo-German Centre for Sustainability  Sachin Tiwari, Frank Water <b>Moderator:</b> Anubhav Pradhan, Professor, IIT Bhilai	<b>Conference Hall 2</b>
	<b>Session 3.3 E Common Ground Initiative: Partners Meet</b>		Meeting anchored by Common Ground for a curated group	<b>Samrastha</b>
15:15 - 15:45	<b>Coffee Break &amp; Networking</b>			
15:45 - 17:00	<b>Closing Session: Key Takeaways, Learnings, and New Collaborations</b>			<b>Bhim</b>