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Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
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SaciWATERS
SOUTH ASIA CONSORTIUM FOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY WATER RESOURCES STUDIES



IPPN Conference 2024

**Organizer: Ashank Desai Centre for
Policy Studies, IIT Bombay**

Policy Processes in the Global South

Sub-theme: Climate Change, Environmental Policy, and
Sustainability

Panel 7

**Policy Perspectives: Coastal
Resilience, and Livelihoods in
South Asia**

Panel Convenor:

South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies
(SaciWATERS)

**December 6-8, 2024,
Mumbai**

Sub-theme: Climate Change, Environmental Policy, and Sustainability

Panel 7. Policy Perspectives: Coastal Resilience, and Livelihoods in South Asia

Concept Note

The coastal region of South Asia is highly vulnerable to the effects of global climate change, evident in the increased frequency and intensity of tropical storms and rising sea levels, in fact people living in the coastal and the Himalayas are the first victims of the climate change. The repercussions of climate change pose a significant threat to the lives and livelihoods of millions of people residing in exposed coastal settlements in the region. The four major coastal cities of South Asia: Karachi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Dhaka are home to almost 85 million people. These cities are witnessing rapid urbanization leading to increase in impervious surfaces such as buildings and paved areas which reduces infiltration capacity, thereby exacerbating urban flooding. A report by United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) says floods are becoming more dangerous and costlier to manage because of the sheer size of the population exposed within urban settlements. As the climate crisis deepens, the risk of cascading disasters of one set of problems leading to others grows. Numerous studies have shown climate induced disasters such as cyclones, storm surges, tidal floods, droughts and salinization along with poor socioeconomic conditions in the region, severely impact coastal communities' livelihoods, eventually challenging the income potentiality, education and food security of these vulnerable sections of the society. The annual report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2021 on the impacts of climate change warned that rising temperatures will result in increased and intense monsoon precipitation across South Asia, eventually resulting in more frequent urban flooding. The same report further warns that by the end of this century sea levels could be as much as 1.1 meters higher than they are today and severe flooding making a regular occurrence in low-lying cities. As rising sea levels claim more land from coastal communities, local communities' risks being forced to migrate into denser population. This not only intensifies the urban heat island effect, but also disrupts livelihoods that often rely on access to coastal resources areas. These hotter conditions further limit the ability to work, leading to negative health impacts for individuals and lowered productivity for the region. It's estimated that flooding alone could cost the major coastal cities of South Asia up to \$215 billion every year by 2030 and by 2050 about 40 million people might be forced to move due the changing climate. This is a big economic problem for a region that's already dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising prices while still investing in sustainable development and growth.

Preparing coastal cities for climate change is critical, not just for infrastructure and economic well-being, but also for the livelihoods of millions of people. These cities are blessed with dynamic human resources and capital, so they can lead the way in finding new ways to deal with the problems caused by climate change. But at the moment focus has remained on planning and spending in South Asian coastal cities is short-term and not well-funded. If we don't learn from past mistakes and start planning better, we could be creating even bigger problems for people and economies in the long run. The Stern Review and IPCC 4th Assessment Report both have found that the climate change will have adverse impacts on local communities' health, safety and livelihoods, with the "poorest people

in the poorest countries expected to suffer first and foremost". In this background this panel will delve into the complexities of coastal policy in South Asia, with a specific focus on safeguarding and strengthening the livelihoods of coastal communities in the face of climate change. With a focus on theoretical frameworks and empirical research, the panel aims to shed light on the complexities of policy processes, sectoral issues and thematic concerns related to coastal governance in South Asia. Through interdisciplinary perspectives and methodological diversity, the panel seeks to contribute to a complex understanding of coastal policy formulation, implementation and impact assessment in the region.

Objectives of the Panel:

- Explore the unique challenges and opportunities in coastal governance in South Asia, with a focus on enhancing climate resilience.
- Examine theoretical frameworks and empirical research related to coastal policy processes, including livelihood diversification strategies.
- Address sectoral issues and thematic concerns impacting coastal areas in the region, with an emphasis on promoting climate-resilient livelihoods.
- Foster interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to develop innovative solutions for coastal policy challenges.

Research Questions:

- What are the key challenges and opportunities in coastal governance in South Asia, specifically regarding improving climate resilience?
- How do theoretical frameworks and empirical research inform coastal policy processes in South Asia, particularly in relation to strategies for livelihood diversification?
- What sectoral issues and thematic concerns have the most significant impact on coastal areas in South Asia, and how can policies be developed to promote climate-resilient livelihoods?
- How can interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders contribute to the development of innovative solutions for addressing coastal policy challenges in South Asia?

Paper proposals under consideration are encouraged to look into various aspects of coastal governance and policy processes in South Asia, with a specific focus on how they can enhance climate resilience and foster sustainable livelihoods in coastal regions. These submissions are anticipated to offer valuable insights into addressing the complex challenges and opportunities linked to enhancing climate resilience and fostering sustainable livelihoods in coastal region. Within this scope, paper proposals may explore a range of topics, organized into four thematic areas.

Coastal Policies, Governance and Climate Resilience for Livelihoods:

- Institutional frameworks for coastal governance
- Adaptive management strategies for climate resilience that protect and enhance coastal livelihoods.
- Integration of traditional knowledge and modern science in coastal planning.

- Policy coherence and integration across sectors in coastal management, ensuring equitable access to resources and economic opportunities for coastal communities.

Climate-Induced Migration and Livelihoods in Coastal Areas:

- Policy responses to climate-induced migration in coastal areas, with a focus on supporting the livelihoods of displaced communities.
- The climate change-migration intersection, analyzing how climate change impacts disrupt traditional livelihoods and force migration.
- Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices on Livelihood Reconstruction after climate-induced displacement.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Policy with a specific focus on livelihood outcomes for coastal communities.

Theoretical Frameworks and Empirical Research in Coastal Policy:

- Comparative analysis of coastal policy frameworks in South Asia
- Evaluation of policy effectiveness in addressing coastal vulnerability
- Case studies on successful implementation of coastal policy interventions
- Impact assessment of climate adaptation strategies on coastal communities

Community Engagement and Participation:

- Empowerment of local communities in coastal planning and management
- Indigenous knowledge systems and community-based adaptation strategies
- Social equity and inclusion in coastal governance processes
- Building resilience through community-led initiatives and partnerships

This panel proposal addresses a notable gap in policy discourse within the region. Despite its crucial significance, coastal policy is often overlooked in discussions concerning the Global South and specifically South Asia. This proposal aims to rectify this oversight by delving into the complex dynamics of policy formulation, implementation and impact assessment within coastal region. By highlighting the paramount importance of coastal governance, the proposal seeks to offer invaluable insights to broader conversations surrounding policy processes in the Global South. Through interdisciplinary approaches and a focused examination of South Asian contexts, it endeavors to shed light on the multifaceted challenges and opportunities pertaining to coastal resilience and livelihoods.

Call for Abstracts

SaciWATERS is pleased to announce the Call for Papers for the “**Policy Perspectives: Coastal Resilience & Livelihoods in South Asia**” panel, to be held as part of the 5th India Public Policy Network Conference. This panel aims to address a notable gap in policy discussions by focusing on coastal governance in South Asia, a critical yet often overlooked aspect of policy discourse in the region. Coastal policy plays a vital role in shaping resilience and livelihood opportunities, particularly in the face of increasing climate challenges. Therefore, this panel invites submissions that delve into the complex dynamics of policy formulation, implementation and impact assessment within coastal region.

We encourage contributions that highlight the significance of coastal governance and offer insights into broader conversations on policy processes in the Global South. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcomed, as are analyses of South Asian contexts to illuminate the various challenges and opportunities surrounding coastal resilience and livelihoods.

Submissions should follow to the conference guidelines and be no more than 300 words. Accepted papers will be presented during the panel session at the conference, providing an opportunity to contribute to the advancement of policy research in the region. We invite researchers, policymakers and practitioners to submit their papers and join us in exploring this critical aspect of policy discourse in South Asia.

Submit your abstract:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScEJgi7DnTEETKy_bfgVyhdeS9JYC9PrFc4bl5g38ZaUQJO_UQ/viewform

Conference Timeline

Call for panels opens	29 February 2024
Deadline for submission of panel proposals	20 April 2024
Announcement of selected panels & Call for papers	07 May 2024
Submission of abstracts	10 July 2024
Announcement of selected abstracts	25 July 2024
Conference registration opens	15 August 2024
Announcement of the preliminary schedule	31 August 2024
Submission of extended abstracts	30 September 2024
Conference	06–08 December 2024

Contact us

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