



2021-22

ANNUAL REPORT

iFOREST

INTERNATIONAL
FORUM
FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABILITY
& TECHNOLOGY

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE PRESIDENT

We are extremely pleased to bring you our annual report for the year 2021-22. As we completed two years of our establishment in October 2021, we sincerely appreciate the support we have received from various quarters to build the institution.

2021-22 has been our journey of institutional growth and deepening our engagement with various stakeholders at the international, national and sub-national levels. The team at iFOREST, which has grown nearly three times in the last two years, have come together to deliver impactful outputs and engaged in an ambitious venture, adding new dimensions to our work.

As an institution, we have built on our commitment to engage at the state, district, and municipality levels, which are the actual implementation grounds of our national ambitions. Such engagement has spanned all our initiatives - from just transition, renewable energy, and forest management to municipal and plastic waste management. In addition, our research in almost all projects is built upon on-ground assessment and the generation of primary data that can guide informed decision-making and practical action.

For example, our report, 'Korba: Planning a Just Transition for India's Biggest Coal and Power District,' is based on extensive primary research, including household surveys and focus group discussions. This allowed us to develop a blueprint of just transition planning framework for India's coal-dependent districts.

Similarly, to evaluate the scope of renewable energy to improve development indicators in rural Jharkhand, we undertook a detailed survey to understand the needs and aspirations in five key mining districts of the state.

In waste management, we focussed on the role of religious institutions in managing waste along the river Ganga. We also engaged with cities and citizens along Ganga to understand how all stakeholders can come together to manage plastic waste.

We also intervened at the national level through our research and communication to identify strategic pathways for India to plan a just energy transition and improve the management of forest and land resources to meet climate change goals.

Our report, 'Five R's: A cross-sectoral landscape of Just Transition in India', is the first publication to analyse a pan-India and cross-sectoral scenario of just transition, providing a comprehensive view of what a just energy transition will look like and entail for various sectors states. At the same time, we evaluated how forest and land management practices and governance of these resources can be improved to meet the climate change goals, undertaking a pan-India consultation of various experts and practitioners working on these issues.

We also developed two flagship centres last year to further our work through multistakeholder engagement. In June 2021, we established the 'India Just

Transition Centre (IJTC)' as a collaborative platform to enhance understanding of just transition in the Indian context. IJTC will undertake policy research, design strategies and identify implementable solutions. It will also build stakeholder capacity and engagement and inform international policies and financing decisions to strengthen India's climate mitigation and adaptation action.

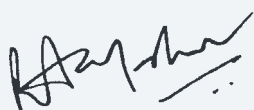
In January 2022, we launched our 'Learning Centre' to impart training and build the capacity of various stakeholders through improved technology and modern data management systems. The centre also allows participants to come together and collaborate on the platform itself.

Besides our national work, the team has also engaged at various international platforms enriching the environmental and climate discourse from a global South perspective.

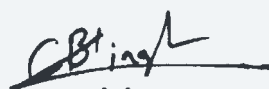
We are extremely pleased that our work has received the support of policymakers at the national and state levels, is appreciated by industry and think tanks and is considered valuable by various civil society organisations and individuals.

As we continue our journey this year and in the years ahead, such responses and support remain most valuable for us. We also thank our partners for their support and trust in us.

We know the journey ahead for all of us to create a better future will require firm resolve. However, we are highly optimistic about achieving this through our collective engagement.

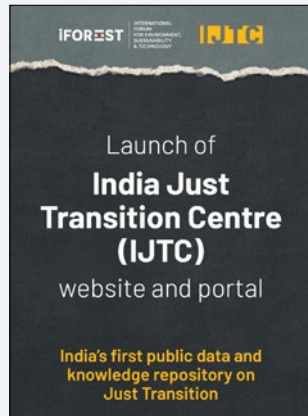


Raghunath Anant Mashelkar
Chairperson

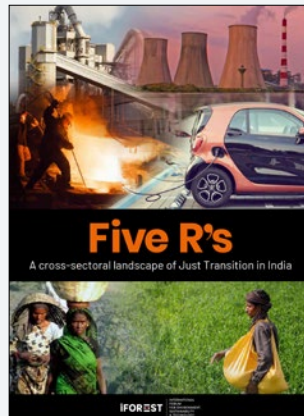


Chandra Bhushan
CEO & President

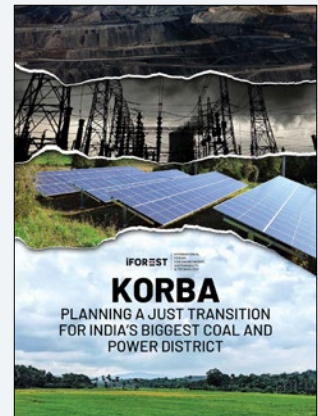
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



1 Launch of India Just Transition Centre (IJTC)



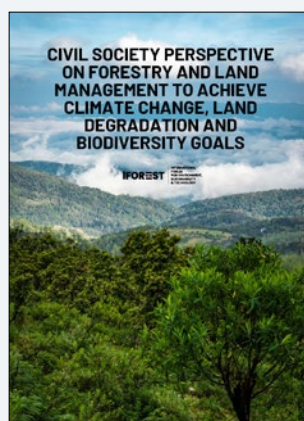
2 Five R's: A cross-sectoral landscape of Just Transition in India



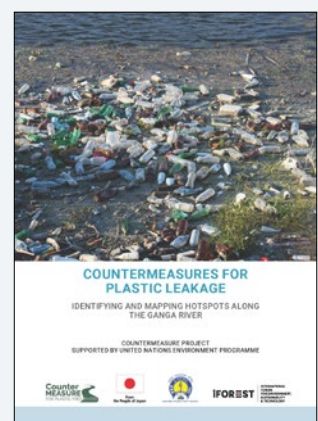
3 Korba: Planning a Just Transition for India's Biggest Coal and Power District



4 Green Cooling



5 WB Forestry report



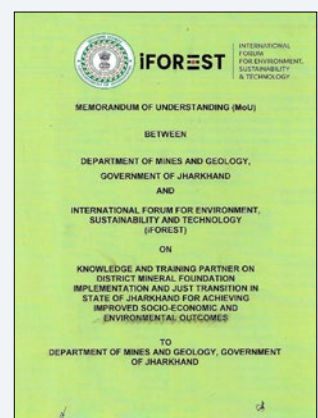
6 Plastic Waste Report



7 Engagement at COP 26



8 Air Pollution Capacity Building



9 MoU on DMF implementation

OUR VISION

In the last 150 years, humankind has made unprecedented social and material progress. We have had unparalleled advances in health care, education, human rights and technological development that have brought great benefits to society. Although the benefits have been inequitable, we are more literate, less poor, less violent, freer, and live longer than ever before in our history. Material benefits have accompanied social advancement. Today, democracy, the rule of law, and personal, economic and political liberties are considered universal values by most.

But this progress has come at the cost of the earth's ecological and biophysical systems. The scale of human exploitation of natural resources is now threatening the very survival of the world.

While the odds are stacking up against us, we at iFOREST strongly believe that humanity has the ingenuity, and the social, economic and technological means to make life better for all and protect the natural world. We strive to be agents of change by initiating and promoting efforts to reduce the ecological footprint and environmental externalities of humankind. We will develop and support social and economic models that allow inclusive development and innovate scientific and technological solutions to meet the needs of the current and future generations. We endeavour to make environmentalism an integral part of the progressive social movement.

This is our pledge and programme.

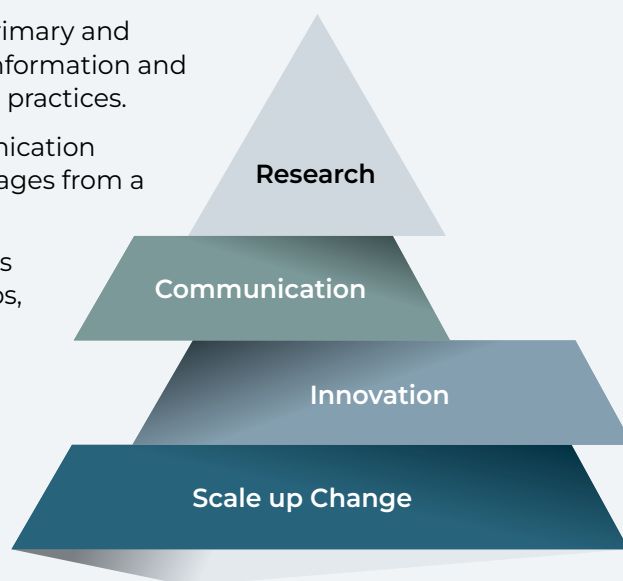
APPROACH

Research: Independent and rigorous (primary and secondary) research, to generate data, information and knowledge, enabling better policies and practices.

Communication: A compelling communication strategy that takes environmental messages from a few to the many.

Innovation: Use of cutting-edge ICT tools to address information and capacity gaps, including in areas of environmental governance.

Scale up change: Building synergy and partnership in all areas — research, communication, advocacy and campaign — to scale up solutions.



INITIATIVES



Energy & Climate Change

Our work on energy and climate change is focused on enabling a just energy transition and equitable climate action as technological innovations, market mechanisms and well designment policy instruments come together to support transformative changes. We are strongly focussed on sub-national action to maximise renewable energy (RE) potential to support India's RE targets to be achieved by 2030, and achievement of the 2070 net zero emission target. We are also working on promoting natural refrigerants and energy efficiency in the Refrigeration

and Air-conditioning (RAC) sector. Our objective is to catalyse an ambitious climate mitigation goal and strategy within India and engage in the international climate change negotiations to push for an equitable and ambitious global mitigation outcome.



Just Transition

Our vision of a low-carbon future is strongly correlated with planning and designing pathways that can help to achieve net-positive environmental, social and economic outcomes. We have set-up India Just Transition Centre (IJTC) as a platform to work comprehensively on multi-dimensional aspects of just transition in India and enhance understanding of the issue in the Indian context, as well as from the perspective of the global South. The centre aims to provide thought leadership on just transition through evidence-based research, support actionable

policies and best practices, and build the capacity of various stakeholders. Through alliances and a South-South collaboration, we will also strive to make the just transition narrative more comprehensive, and geopolitically inclusive at international platforms.



Pollution & Waste Management

Sustainable consumption and production lie at the heart of pollution and waste management. Our programmes focus on managing waste and pollution through better governance, data-driven decision making, use of smart and affordable technology, and improved capacity of stakeholders. We also strongly focus on citizens' awareness and engagement on lifestyle changes, as we believe change should begin at home.



Natural Resource Management

India's natural resources, if managed sustainably, have tremendous potential to strengthen the country's economic base, reduce distress migration, protect ecologically sensitive areas, as well as deal with overarching issues of land degradation, water scarcity and climate change. We encourage a people-centric approach to achieve this by building on the strength of our laws and technology to reach out to the grassroots.



Green Economy

Our green economy initiative focuses on engaging businesses, especially the financial sector, to mainstream environmental protection and climate change concerns in their decision-making processes. We undertake independent research on the environment and social performance of companies and provide data and information to understand the financial risks posed by environmental, social and governance (ESG) threats, including climate change. We also work on a circular economy and promote green growth.

Energy & Climate Change

GREEN COOLING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In the past year, we have continued to build our engagement with the Montreal Protocol community, promoting natural refrigerant and not-in-kind cooling technologies and proposing a financial approach for operationalising funding for energy efficiency for Montreal Protocol. The team has also engaged with the industry and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to examine standards required for the safe and energy efficient use of natural refrigerant and not-in-kind cooling.

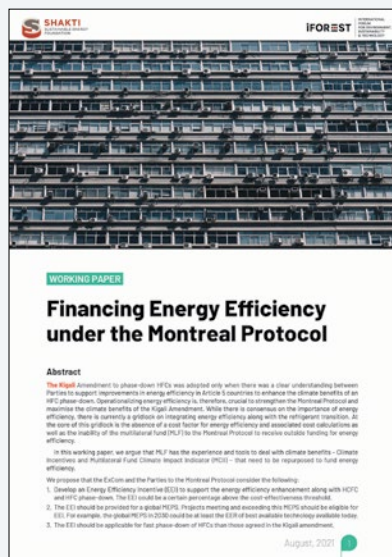
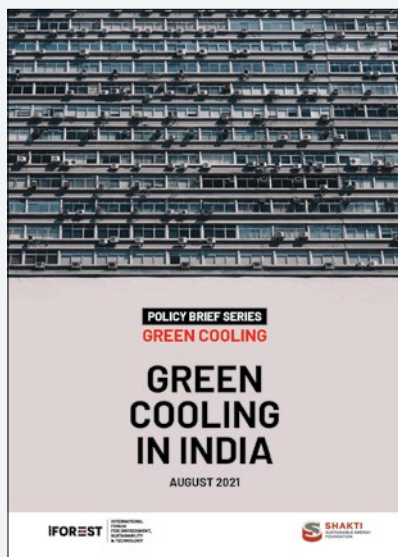
To strengthen policy engagement on the issue, we published four policy briefs on the landscape for natural refrigerant and not-in-kind cooling technologies in India and current gaps in the India Cooling Action Plan. The briefs focussed on the core issues around the subject, ranging from the assessment of the technology landscape around India's Room Air Conditioners (RAC), the road ahead for adopting natural refrigerant-based cooling in India, the status of not-in-kind cooling, and the way ahead for implementing the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP).

We also intervened at international platforms to deliberate on the aspects of energy efficiency and energy efficient cooling. At the 43rd Open-Ended Working Group to the Parties of the Montreal Protocol, we presented an analysis on operationalising funding for energy efficiency as a part of the Kigali Amendment. In December 2021, we joined the ASEAN – IEA Workshop on Sustainable and



In a rapidly warming world, there is a need to prioritise non-refrigerant-based technologies that not only offer thermal comfort at large but also have minimal impact on the climate."

-Apurupa Gorthi



Energy Efficient Buildings and Cooling in Southeast Asia, and intervened in the panel discussion on Advancing Energy Efficient Cooling in Southeast Asia. The workshop was attended by over 300 audiences from 14 countries including from several ASEAN Member States (AMS), India, Japan, France, and the United Kingdom.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

India has pledged to achieve net zero emissions by 2070 at the UNFCCC's climate summit–COP 26– in November 2021. A key driver for achieving this is augmenting the country's renewable energy (RE) capacity significantly by 2030. The country has set itself a target to install non-fossil fuel electricity capacity of 500 GW by 2030, and meeting 50% of electricity requirements from RE sources. At the same time, the country has also set a target of renewable purchase obligation of 43.33% by 2030.

However, the current momentum of RE growth is focussed in few states, particularly in western and southern parts of India. There is a limited focus in utilising the potential of RE in other states, including the coal-dependent states, which will face an energy transition challenge in the coming decades. Our work on RE is centred around equitable RE development and promoting RE in what are currently the low potential states.

Last year, our work was particularly focussed on improving energy access and development outcomes through augmenting distributed renewable energy (DRE) in under-developed districts and remote areas of key coal states, such as Jharkhand. The team has undertaken extensive onground studies in these districts looking into energy access gaps in healthcare centres, education facilities, child development centres (anganwadis), in the agricultural value chain, etc. Based on the observations and assessment, preparation of strategic documents and deliberation with concerned authorities to build on DRE investments are ongoing.



DRE has a huge role to play in rural Jharkhand. Sub-optimal electrification is leading to basic challenges of lighting, cooling and water availability, rendering delivery of public services difficult and often unviable.”

-Mandvi Singh



Just Transition

In 2021, iFOREST made significant strides in building the just transition discourse in India, and in the context of global climate action. In June, India's first comprehensive platform to work on just transition—India Just Transition Centre (IJTC)—was launched. The Centre endeavours to build the just transition discourse in India, and enhance its understanding from the perspective of the global South. IJTC will build knowledge on just transition and provide thought leadership on the issue through evidence-based research, enable and support regulatory reforms, strengthen planning mechanisms, build stakeholder capacity, and foster peer learning and exchange of best practices for inclusive climate change action.

The team had published some of the most seminal works on just transition in the context of India's fossil fuel economy and regions. Our flagship report- **Five R's: A cross-sectoral landscape of Just Transition in India**, is the first research publication analysing a pan-India and cross-sectoral scenario of just transition. The report provides a comprehensive understanding of what a clean energy transition will look like and what it will entail in the next three to four decades, considering its spatial impact, workforce impact, and the impact on public revenue.

We were honoured to have the presence of eminent Members of the Parliament, Shri Jairam Ramesh and Shri Jayant Sinha, for the release of the report, besides other government dignitaries and experts.

The team also undertook in-depth research study in key coal district(s), evaluating the ground realities of a just transition and identifying mechanisms to plan for it. Expanding on our work in Ramgarh district of Jharkhand in 2020, the

team undertook an in-depth study of Korba district of Chhattisgarh for a detailed understanding of what just transition will mean for India's top coal mining and coal-based power districts in the coming years. The report— **Korba: Planning a just transition for India's biggest coal and power district**—extensively reviews the coal dependence of the district with respect to employment, social infrastructure and revenue, among other factors, and provides a framework for just transition planning, which can also be considered as a model approach for planning a just

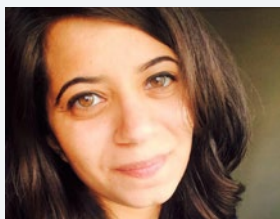


Planning and implementing just transition measures will require collective engagement of various stakeholders. The IJTC will be a platform to support this.”

-Srestha Banerjee



Amitabh Kant
CEO, Niti Aayog



Multi-stakeholder consultation is an integral part of our research on just transition. Mapping their interest and influence is the first step towards inclusive dialogue and effective investments.”

-Deeksha Pande



We were able to capture the nuances of labour involved in coal mining in Korba. A step ahead was to bring out the informality of labour, particularly the road transport sector which has huge dependence on coal mining.”

-Chinmayi Shalya

transition in other major districts, in a phased and strategic manner.

The report was widely acknowledged by the Ministry of Coal, the NITI Aayog, the Government of Chhattisgarh, labour union leaders, the coal and the power sector public sector undertakings (PSUs), who also shared the platform of the report release event. The report has also received international accolades from agencies such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), for offering an extensive understanding of the worker profile of the coal industry, and guidance on means of planning a worker transition in the context of India's coal economy.

Our research in India's fossil fuel regions and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, also prompted us to reflect on some of the fundamental questions that underpins India's just transition context. The working paper- **Defining and Framing Just Transition in India**, published in November 2021, explained the contours and essential elements of just transition for India, making a case for development intervention to deal with the issue. Besides deepening knowledge on just transition in the Indian context, we also highlighted the need for international cooperation to support a just energy transition in India, and in the global South economies. The working paper- **An International Cooperation Framework for Just Transition**, published in November 2021, outlined an architecture of international cooperation, based on a critical assessment of some of the key mechanisms available for enhancing financial and capacity building support for developing countries.

The working papers were released as part of the COP 26 Dialogues, organised by iFOREST, which brought in leading global experts. This included members of the South African President Climate Commission, and experts of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (USA), Wuppertal Institute (Germany), Initiative for Responsible Investment (USA), and the World Bank group.

iFOREST also emerged as a voice of the global South on just transition sharing the Indian perspective at international platforms. This included participation and presentation at events such as, the meeting on **Just Transition: Cases and learning on inclusion and ambition** organised by the Agora Energiewende and the World Economic Forum in July 2021; **the Twelfth Asia Future Forum organised in Korea** in October 2021, which involved eminent speakers and participants from various Asian and European countries, among many other web-based seminars and events.

Pollution and Waste Management

Managing the nuisance of plastic waste remained the core focus of our pollution and waste management initiative in 2021. The team developed a series of technical reports covering various aspects of plastic waste management, from scientific management practices to citizen action.

Focussing on plastic waste management along the Ganga, the technical reports elaborated on four key aspects- microplastic pollution in river Ganga, identifying and mapping hotspots of plastic waste generation, a citizen science approach for macro plastic waste management, and a perception study on plastic use and waste management.

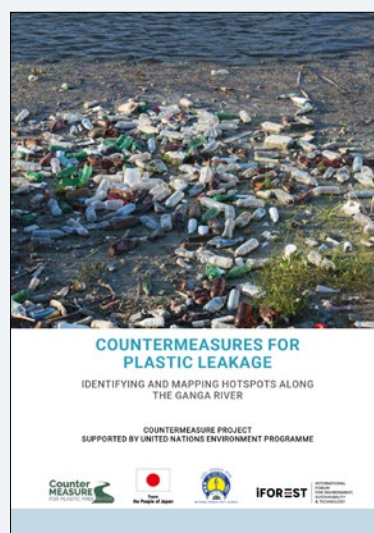
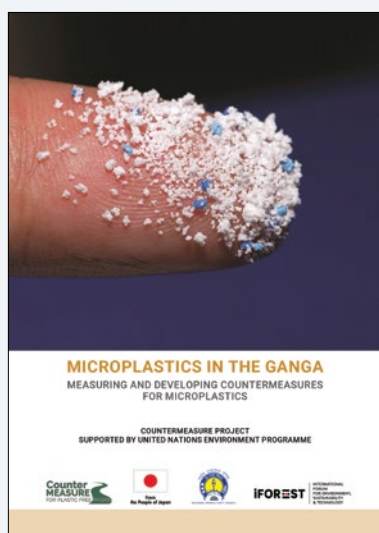
iFOREST also partnered with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to augment existing knowledge and examine regulatory needs for plastic waste management.

The team also undertook novel research to understand the role that religious actors and faith-based organisations can play in improving waste management practices in cities and urban agglomerations along the river Ganga, as they remain an influential constituency to guide citizen action.



Religious leaders and Faith Based Organisations, should be engaged to propagate the values of environmental protection through engagement of masses and behaviour change.”

-Rahul Singh



Natural Resource Management

Healthy forests and land are not only crucial to the natural ecosystem, but also for climate change adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development action. Rapid degradation of India's forests and land threaten these services and the well-being of communities dependent upon them.

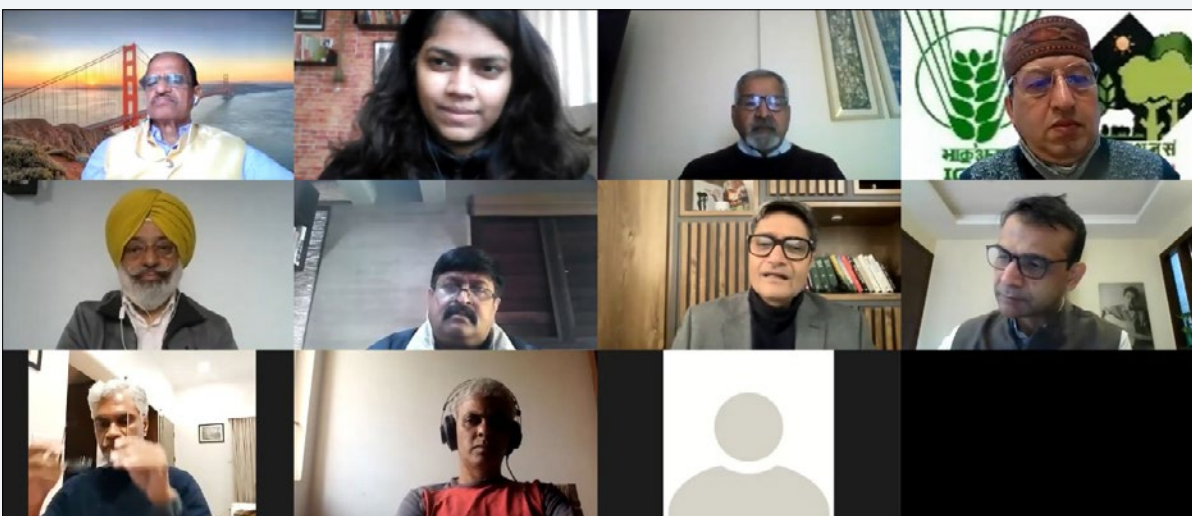
In 2021, our work on building the forestry programme through stakeholder engagement. The team undertook an extensive stakeholder perception study to understand the key governance and management issues that must be addressed and strengthened to ensure restoration and preservation of forestland, improving community benefits through people-centric management practices, and the role that civil society organisations (CSOs) can play in improving forest, land and biodiversity governance. A total of 86 experts from 75 CSOs participated in the dialogues.

The report based on the dialogues, provides important perspectives on issues of governance, finance, technology, innovations and addressing capacity gaps, for developing a holistic approach for management of forest resources and land, that can also help India achieve its climate change, land degradation and biodiversity goals.



The civil society dialogues reinforced the need for synergistic and community-based action in the context of climate change mitigation and ecological health.”

-Prerna Shah



iFOREST at COP

The India Just Transition Centre (IJTC) organised a two-part **COP26 Dialogues on Just Transition**. The dialogues brought together experts to discuss the taxonomy, policy and financial imperatives for a just transition in India, and the mechanism to enhance global collaboration to support the agenda.

COP26 DIALOGUES ON JUST TRANSITION
Hosted by
IJTC
India Just Transition Centre
An Initiative of iFOREST

DEFINING JUST TRANSITION FOR INDIA: IMPERATIVES FOR POLICY AND PLANNING
2 November, 2021 8:00 pm- 7:30 pm IST

SPEAKERS

- Nikos Tsafos, Chair for Energy and Dialogue, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
- Shalendra Rajkumar, Secretary of South African Presidential Climate Commission, Government of South Africa
- Lucas Hermelme, Senior Director, Energy, Transport and Climate Policy, Wuppertal Institute
- Srigatha Banerjee, Deputy Joint Transition International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (IJTQIS)
- Chandra Bhushan, Chief Executive Officer, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST)

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COP26 DIALOGUES ON JUST TRANSITION
Hosted by
IJTC
India Just Transition Centre
An Initiative of iFOREST

AN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITION
November 9, 2021 | 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM IST

SPEAKERS

- Robert Pollock, Senior Advisor, EU Coal Regions in Transition Initiative
- Mac Makwenda, Minister Secretary of the Presidential Climate Commission, South Africa
- Harshit Agrawal, Senior Energy Specialist, Energy and Extractives Global Director, World Bank
- David Wood, Director, India's Green Resilient Investment
- Mandvi Singh, Programme Manager, Energy and Climate Change, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST)
- Chandra Bhushan, Chief Executive Officer, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST)

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Good COP, Bad COP

Glasgow wasn't a washout. But on coal, India gained little & let China get away

Chandra Bhushan



Climate change conferences follow a pattern: They never end on time; they make incremental progress, and there is always a last-minute drama that captures the headlines, drowning the overall assessment of the meeting. COP26 in Glasgow followed the pattern to a tee, though with a little more drama than some of the previous meetings.

Over the next few days, we will read headlines (mainly from Western media) screaming murder on how India weakened the outcome of COP26 by forcing a last-minute amendment that diluted the language on ending coal power. We will also read headlines from India defending this amendment. But in these headlines, consequential decisions made by this COP would be lost. First, though, let's look at the coal controversy.

In the conference's closing minutes, a dramatic process to change one paragraph of the final text unfolded, which was started by China, ended by India and decided by many countries. The paragraph relates to the phasing out of coal power. In the final version of the text, "phase-out" of coal power was mentioned. China was the first to "mildly" object



Now, this differentiation would be significant if there was a deadline to do so. But nowhere in the text is a timeline mentioned. In fact, Germany's poster child of coal phase-out, is planning to end coal power by 2038 – two decades in the future. So, this fight over phase-out and phase-down is immaterial without a deadline, at least for this decade. And, the way

This fight over phase-out and phase-down is immaterial without a deadline, at least for this decade. And the way renewable plus storage technology is developing

the Paris Agreement. This is good for India's poor, who will be most hit by higher temperatures.

● Second, all the major economies have now announced a net-zero target. If all the net-zero commitments are met, we are on course to limit warming to 1.6°C-1.9°C. This means that we must now devise processes and mechanisms to hold countries accountable for their net-zero pledges.

● Third, the rulebook of the Paris Agreement has been wrapped-up. After six years of haggling, a deal was finally struck on the market mechanism rules. These rules are stricter than the previous one and will allow countries like India to gain by selling carbon credits and bringing new technologies.

● Fourth, while developed countries have wriggled out of making any future commitment on climate finance, there are enough provisions in the final decision to hold them accountable for delivering \$100 billion in the near term and developing a road map for enhanced long-term climate finance.

● Fifth, both adaptation and loss and damage have received much more attention than before. As a result, developed countries have agreed to double the adaptation finance and were forced to start a dialogue process for financing loss and damage.

iFOREST experts also shared their viewpoints on expectation from and outcomes of the COP, including in national and international media.

COP26: Realistic Expectations

Glasgow will not solve the climate crisis but it can fast-track global climate collaboration

Chandra Bhushan



A great hype has been created around the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) at Glasgow. John Kerry, the US climate czar, has called this meeting the world's "last best chance" to avoid climate hara-kiri. Similar sentiment has been expressed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. More than 100 world leaders will attend this climate gala, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden.

This is not the first time such hype has been created around climate summits. I can list at least three (two of which I attended) – Kyoto in 1997, Copenhagen in 2009 and Paris in 2015 – where the noise was deafening, but the outcome was muted. Unfortunately, Glasgow COP is heading in the same direction.

Over the last few months, a long list of demands has been put forth by various governments. The UK is pushing for a treaty to "consign coal power to history", the US wants a net-zero deal, the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) has demanded a 1.5°C declaration. Least Developing Countries (LDCs) want climate polluters to pay them billions of dollars for loss and damage, and Like-Minded



to become high-sounding declarations that are ritually announced at all COPs.

But the Glasgow meeting can achieve some important outcomes, the most important being the rule book for the Paris Agreement. Over the last six years, countries have struggled to finish the rule book and operationalise the Agreement in its entirety, mainly due to disagreements over the design of the carbon market. Theoretically, the carbon market can enhance mitigation, reduce cost and transfer real resources to developing countries for decarbonisation. At Glasgow, negotiators must set robust rules to eliminate past loopholes and ensure the carbon market works for the planet.

Glasgow is also an opportunity to kick-start the process of confidence-building to bring back the global collaboration on track. Both developed and developing countries must cross the aisles, understand each other's concerns, and announce

How India Can Meet Its Glasgow Promise

From reforming discoms to recruiting skilled energy managers, the list of reforms is formidable

Srestha Banerjee



On the first day of the Glasgow climate conference – COP26 – the biggest announcement came from India. Ending speculations on whether India "will" or "can" make a net-zero pledge, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the country will reach net-zero emissions by 2070. He also announced four major nearer-term targets exhibiting India's will and ambition on climate action.

The targets, all of which are to be met by 2030, include an installed renewable energy capacity of 500 GW (up from 450 GW target); meeting 50% of the electricity requirement through renewable sources; reducing total projected cumulative carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes between 2020 and 2030; and reducing the carbon intensity of GDP by 45% from 2005 levels (up from the 33-35% target).

So how ambitious are these new targets?

India's renewable energy targets mean that coal power will peak before 2030, when about 70% of India's electricity installations will be



TARGET 2030: It's a renewables rush

What domestic reforms do they demand?

In nutshell, these announcements have put India in a leadership role on climate mitigation action. The question now is, what are some of the major steps that must be taken domestically to steer the course of action in the coming years? There are 'break' factors for realising India's

1. 500 GW of power-generation capacity needed, India must create an enabling for attracting global investments.

2. distribution companies (discoms) is to create that environment.

3. for meeting 50% of electricity supply

4. ables, India's grid infrastructure will

5. nged and battery storage capacity

6. ussively increased. Investing in smart

skilling of new workforce to meet the future requirements.

Finally, all of these changes in the energy and industrial systems must be paralleled by a plan of just transition, to ensure that we do not carry forward the legacy of unequal development challenges of the coal era, into the new era of renewable energy and a greener economy.

In fact, while energy transition has been a hot topic on the policy and business front, just transition has not got the due attention. However, as coal power will peak before 2030, it is time for India to start policy deliberations, develop plans for, and consider investing in it. And this is why it is crucial.

Could renewables mean unequal development?

India's energy geography will change because of massive investments in renewables. Today's coal-producing states will not be renewable superpowers. The renewable energy will be generated in western and southern states.

Therefore, as the share of non-fossil fuel energy grows, the coal regions can spiral into a poverty trap, which many of the districts here are already saddled with. There can also be huge social instability triggered by job losses and uncertainty of income opportunities. An estimated 20 million plus workers will be impacted countrywide by the transition. In fact, the disproportionately high number of informal workers in our key economic sectors such as coal mining, transportation, steel, cement etc adds to the challenge. But all this can be avoided through a well-planned and well-managed just transition over the next decades.

Planning a 'just' energy transition will be a smart move by the government to further a development agenda that benefits all. We have the next 30 years to

India can still eliminate coal power despite watered-down COP26 pledge, says environmentalist



Srestha Banerjee says there isn't much difference on the ground between 'phase out' and 'phase down'

CBC Radio - Posted: Nov 15, 2021 5:47 PM ET | Last Updated: November 17, 2021



Mining is in progress at an open-cast mine near Dhanbad, an eastern India Sept. 24, 2021. Efforts to fight climate change are being held back in part by source of climate-changing gases, provides cheap electricity and supports (Associated Press)

comments



6:47

India can still eliminate coal power despite watered-down COP26 pledge, says environmentalist

Our planet is changing. So is our journalism. This story is part of a CBC News initiative entitled **Our Changing Planet** to show and explain the effects of climate change and what is being done about it.

Experts also participated at COP 26 side events



Capacity Building

One of the key components of our work is to enable stakeholders to partake in their respective roles through better understanding and sensitivity towards the issues and people they are engaging with. As part of this, we have been building capacities of a range of stakeholders to improve and build informed engagement within their respective domain and scope of work.

Last year we also developed a dedicated '**Learning Centre**' to offer training programmes on various aspects of environmental management, resource conservation, and enhancing social safeguards. The training programmes are offered by iFOREST team along with engagement of experts .



Skill upgradation of environment regulators is crucial, as even a small improvement in their efficiency or knowledge can lead to logarithmic progressive impact on environmental outcomes.”

-Arpo Mukherjee

Induction training program for Grade A officials of CPCB

To address the need for better functioning of the officials of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), iFOREST conducted a training needs assessment (TNA) for the Grade A officials. The TNA was carried out using secondary research and data collection, as well as a primary survey (through individual questionnaire as well as focus group discussion). The evaluation included 96 scientists who responded to individual questionnaires, and 52 others who participated in focus group discussions.

The team developed a training need assessment report based on the observations, as well as modules on specific topics. These also formed the basis on conducting training programmes by iFOREST experts, that were tailored to stakeholder requirements.





Induction Training Programme for Officials of CPCB

Venue:
The Leela Ambience Convention
Shahdara, Delhi

18 - 22 APRIL, 2022



Training of officials working on NCAP

Last year, iFOREST in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, IIT Chennai, IIT Roorkee, and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), conducted training programmes of various officials, to support the Central government's National Clean Air Program (NCAP).

Our focus was to provide our stakeholders with an induction to the NCAP and to train them on city action plans and third-party assessments, two areas which are critical for ensuring better pollution mitigation strategies, planning and monitoring. We organised 12 virtual training programmes where 300 participants from various urban local bodies, pollution control boards, and consultants participated.

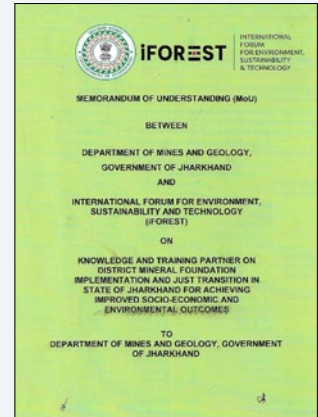
Workshop for journalists on plastic pollution in India

iFOREST organised a five-day workshop for journalists, social media influencers and early career environmentalists on 'Plastic Pollution in India'. The sessions covered a variety of topics under plastic pollution including microplastics, citizen science, extended producer responsibility, and marine plastic pollution. Speakers for this workshop were from notable institutions such as the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), National Productivity Council (NPC), Saahas Zero Waste, to name a few.

Engagement and Outreach

Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Jharkhand

Collaboration with stakeholders is an important component of our work and approach towards change. As part of the endeavour, we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Jharkhand to provide knowledge and technical support on District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and just transition. Jharkhand is among the top coal producing states in the country, also accruing a very significant proportion of DMF funds in its key mining districts.



As per the MoU, our role will be to support the state government and the districts as a 'knowledge and training partner' on DMF implementation and just transition for achieving improved socio-economic and environmental outcomes..

Memorandum of Understanding with Dhanbad district (Jharkhand)

We also signed a separate MoU with the DMF Trust Dhanbad, to provide knowledge and technical support to the district on DMF implementation, and planning a just transition.

Dhanbad is among the oldest coal mining regions of India, and the biggest coal producing district of Jharkhand. The district has a large concentration of low-producing and unprofitable underground mines which are temporarily closed. Also, there are many mines which are nearing their end-of-life, and will require transition planning in the coming years. The MoU would seek to assist the district in using the DMF funds effectively to build social capital to aid a just transition.



Engagement with Members of Parliament

Views shared with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change on Just Transition

In November last year, the President of iFOREST was invited by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), Lok Sabha Secretariat, to address the members of the upper and lower house on water management and energy conservation issues.

In December, iFOREST was invited by the Parliamentary Standing Committee to share views on 'Coal Transition' based on the research and publications of iFOREST, before all Committee members.



iFOREST in Media

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NEWS / INDIA NEWS / A Centre For 'Just energy transition' Launched, 20 Million Workers L...

THIS STORY IS FROM JUNE 29, 2021

A centre for 'just energy transition' launched, 20 million workers in 120 districts may need support

VISHWA MOHAN / TNN / Jun 29, 2021, 21:57 IST 34 PTS

ARTICLES

- A centre for 'just energy transition' launched, 20 million workers L...
- Explore this new collection from BOSS: Sophisticated...
- Civil society group claims 15,000 cases of post-poll violence in...
- Punjab Congress infighting: Rahul Gandhi denies 'scheduled'...

Map 1: The transition geography of this decade

NEW DELHI: As India is gradually moving towards renewable sources of energy, experts on Tuesday released a roadmap for 'just transition' that the focus on renewable energy doesn't impact livelihood of the fossil fuel-based industries in as many as 120 districts across the country.

The roadmap, jointly released by Congress leader and former environment

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Coal, Korba and Climate, a case study for India's energy transition

It is a quintessential example of an economy that will need to immediately think of what to do when India starts to 'phase down' coal as promised at the annual global climate change conference (COP26) last year.

IANS - February 21, 2022, 07:11 IST

New Delhi: Korba district in Chhattisgarh has 13 operational mines. Four more mines are in the pipeline. Of the operational ones, as many as 10 are loss-making, and just three are profitable -- Gevra, Kusmunda and Dipka -- producing 95 per cent of the coal.


It is a quintessential example of an economy that will need to phase down' coal as promised at the annual global climate change conference (COP26) last year.

...out towards emissions and action to restrict emissions by 1.5 degree Celsius compared to

LEADERS GRAPPLED OVER HOW TO TACKLE RISING TEMPERATURES & ON DATE TO REACH NET ZERO EMISSIONS

PLANET SOS: COP26

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WEATHER NEWS

Biggest Coal and Power District: Chhattisgarh's Korba Highlights Major Energy Transition Challenges for India

By WNS • 21 February, 2022 • [FNC India](#)



Coal yard.
(Source: Kumar/TOI, SCCL)

Korba district in Chhattisgarh has 13 operational mines. Four more mines are in the pipeline. Of the operational ones, as many as 10 are loss-making, and just three are profitable—Gevra, Kusrumunda and Dipka—producing 95% of the coal.

It is a quintessential example of an economy that will need to immediately think of what to do when India starts to 'phase down' coal as promised at the annual global climate change conference (COP26) last year.

Coal, part of the fossil fuel basket, is the largest contributor towards emissions and hence planned to be phased down, as part of climate action to restrict emissions so that the global temperature rise is restricted to 1.5-degree Celsius.


The latest study has found that Korba's coal-centric economy has stymied the growth of other economic sectors, including agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, and services even as the poor socio-economic status and high dependence on the coal economy make it highly vulnerable to the unplanned closure of mines and industries, leading to severe socio-economic consequences.

Keeping in mind that India's biggest coal and power districts will face energy transition challenges much earlier than anticipated—it is predicted that Korba will reach its peak in 2025—the economic restructuring and development intervention will be essential, the latest study by International Forum for Environment Sustainability and Technology (IFOREST) has pointed out.

'Korba: Planning a Just Transition for India's Biggest Coal and Power District' was launched earlier this week.




'Our study of Korba in Chhattisgarh essentially shows just transition in India is about re-development of the coal regions. Major policy and legal reforms in land, labour, and finance will be required to enable a smooth just transition. We need to develop a strategic roadmap for this and secure necessary finances to support it, both domestically and through international cooperation,' Chandra Bhushan of IFOREST said.

Very clear why Bhushan says so. As mentioned in the report, with declining coal production, for the mining companies (ie, South-Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) shutting down all eight unprofitable mines in Korba district in the next few years is a win-win situation as the resources saved can be diverted to start a just transition in Korba.



the pioneer

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

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Spend DMF funds for alternative livelihoods in mining areas: Forum

Saturday, 03 July 2021 | PWS | BHUBANESWAR



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5

To avoid catastrophic effects of climate change, India needs to reduce consumption of fossil fuels such as coal.

A transition from coal is already underway as many coal mines are temporarily or permanently closed, told various speakers at the virtual event of the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) while launching its India Just Transition Centre (iUTC).

A sharp decline in coal demand to 50% in the next two decades will impact the livelihood and employment of about two crore workers. Transition will require the diversification of local economy and livelihoods in coal regions of Odisha, particularly in coal districts such as Sundargarh, Angul and Jharsuguda, they opined.

The District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is one of the key resources for economic diversification in coal districts. Odisha is the topmost State with more than Rs12,000 crore accrual in DMF. About 24% of this comes from coal mining which is predominantly spread in Angul, Sundargarh and Jharsuguda districts, they stated. The inaugural session of the event was attended by MPs Jairam Ramesh, Jayant Sinha and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal Vinod Kumar Tewari.

Participating in the discussion on "Economic, Social & Policy Dynamics of Just Transition" at the launch of iUTC Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan emphasised on the role of DMF in livelihood diversification in non-mining avenues such as agriculture.

CEO of iFOREST Chandra Bhushan said, "The iUTC is envisioned as a platform to bring stakeholders together to work on various aspects of just transition in India. The iUTC will support policies and planning, provide technical support, promote best practices and build capacity of various stakeholders". The countryside DMF accrual is about Rs 42,600 crore of which Odisha accounts of 26% share. Coal districts account for about 24% of the total State DMF collection, with most contributions coming from Sundargarh, Angul and Jharsuguda. The total DMF collection so far in

Amount in more than Rs 1,000 crores and in Sundargarh is in Rs 2,000 crores. It was estimated "Odisha mineral resources


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iFOREST
Initiative for Forest Regeneration and Sustainable Livelihoods

What needs to be done for climate change's 'Just Transition' in India?

For net-zero emissions pathways, coal and oil consumption will go down sharply. Workers dependent on fossil-fuel industries should not bear the brunt of the transition to a low-carbon economy. For a Just Transition, iFOREST suggests five R's.


Gaon Connection
| Updated: June 29th, 2021

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À l'actualité

L'Inde neutre en carbone en 2070: «Ce sont des objectifs ambitieux et réalistes»

Publié le : 03/11/2021 - 10:53



L'expert indien Chandra Bhushan, directeur général du centre de recherche environnemental (Forest International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology), basé à New Delhi. © Chandra Bhushan

Texte par : Sébastien Farcis

4 mn

En marge de la COP26 de Glasgow, le Premier ministre Narendra Modi a annoncé lundi 1er novembre que l'Inde s'engageait à atteindre la neutralité carbone d'ici à 2070 et renforçait pour cela ses promesses de réduction d'émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Que penser de ces engagements ? Notre correspondant Sébastien Farcis a posé la question à Chandra Bhushan, directeur général du centre de recherche environnemental (Forest International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology), basé à New Delhi.

L'Inde, troisième plus grand émetteur du monde de gaz à effet de serre, assure ainsi qu'elle aura une capacité de production d'électricité par source renouvelable de 500 gigawatts (GW) d'ici à 2030, contre un engagement de 450 GW en 2015. Le pays réduira également son intensité carbone (émissions par point de PIB) de 45% par rapport à 2005, contre 33-35% annoncé en 2015. L'Inde

PHOTO

Consultations and Webinar

To disseminate and share our research and findings with a larger audience, bring together experts and varied views on the research and other pressing issues for an open discussion and to facilitate mutual knowledge sharing, is an important part of our research and engagement ethos. Our consultations and webinars have brought together eminent experts from diverse sectors, industries and nationalities. Here is a highlight of major events organised in 2021.





IFOREST
INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

REGULATION ON EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLASTICS

December 15, 2021 | 10:30 am to 1:35 pm IST

INAUGURAL SESSION

 Anil Bagai Head-UNEP India	 Amit Love Joint Director MoEF&CC	 Chandra Bhusan President & CEO IFOREST
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PANEL 1 - INDUSTRY'S PERSPECTIVE	PANEL 2 - CIVIL SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVE	PANEL 3 - STATE'S PERSPECTIVE
Discussants Moderator 	Discussants Moderator 	Discussants Moderator

SHAKTI
Sustainable Energy

IFOREST
INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

GREEN COOLING IN INDIA

JULY 23, 2021 | 2 PM TO 5:30 PM

INAUGURAL SESSION

 Jigmet Takpa Joint Secretary MoEF&CC (TBO)	 Anshu Bharadwaj Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation	 Chandra Bhusan IFOREST
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PANEL DISCUSSION 1 Revitalising the Implementation of the India Cooling Action Plan	PANEL DISCUSSION 2 Strategies for mainstreaming Natural Refrigerants and Not-in-Kind Technologies in cooling	PANEL DISCUSSION 3 Integrating energy efficiency with the refrigerant transition in India

IFOREST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

JOIN US FOR THE REPORT RELEASE AND WEBINAR

KORBA Planning a Just Transition for India's Biggest Coal and Power District

February 16, 2022 | 2 pm - 5.30 pm

CHIEF GUEST

T.S. Singhdeo
Minister of Panchayati and Rural Development, Minister of Health Government of Chhattisgarh

SPECIAL GUESTS

Anil Kumar Jain
Anilabh Kant
Chandra Bhushan

SPEAKER

Chandra Bhushan

IFOREST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

WEBINAR

Forest Fires, Climate Change and Tendu Patta

Evidence to improve policy outcomes

JUNE 2, 2022 | 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

P.S. Roy
Former Director, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS)

Pyush Dey
Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank

Anish Anand
President, Wildlife Conservation Trust

Dirig Gide
Executive Director, Vidartha Nature Conservation Society

Sanjay Upadhyay
Advocate, Supreme Court

Chandra Bhushan
President and CEO, IFOREST

Pranay Lal
Senior Technical Advisor, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

IFOREST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

IJTC India Just Transition Centre

Wuppertal Institut

WEBINAR

Understanding Informal Coal Workers & Economy

Approaches for a Just Transition

April 19, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm (IST)

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Santosh Mehrotra
Professor and Chairperson, Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, JNU

Kuntala Lahiri Dutt
Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University

Ashim Roy
Founder General Secretary, New Trade Union Initiative

Nidhi Jambwal
Deputy Managing Editor, Gaon Connection

Ramesh Sharma
National Convenor, Ekta Parishad

Timon Wehnert
Head, Future Energy and Industry Systems, Wuppertal Institute

Srestha Banerjee
Director, India Just Transition Centre, IFOREST

Chandra Bhushan
President & Chief Executive Officer, IFOREST

IFOREST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

HOW CAN ODISHA'S TOP COAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT PLAN A JUST TRANSITION TO ENHANCE THE STATE'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION?

JOIN US FOR OUR REPORT RELEASE

ANGUL: PLANNING A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AND A NEW GREEN ECONOMY

August 24, 2022 | 10:00 am - 4.00 pm
Hotel Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

GUEST OF HONOUR

Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena
Development Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha

CHIEF GUEST

Shri Rajenikant Singh
Deputy Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly

IFOREST INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ODISHA

A POLICY DIALOGUE

August 23, 2022 | 10:00 am - 5.00 pm
Hotel Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

GOVERNING COUNCIL



Raghunath Anant Mashelkar

National Research Professor Former Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Former President, Global Research Alliance



Pradeep Dutt

Leadership & Executive Coach



Anjali

Senior Lawyer
Dua Associates



Chandra Bhushan

President & CEO
International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology



Anil Kumar Roy

Associate Professor
Faculty of Planning
CEPT University

CORE TEAM



Chandra Bhushan

Over the past two-and-a-half decades, Chandra Bhushan has been engaging on a wide range of environmental issues through research and writing, and has remained at the forefront of several public policy campaigns. An engineer and environmental planner by training, Bhushan integrates scientific and technical expertise with understanding of socio-economic realities to solve multidimensional environmental and developmental challenges. He is the founder President and CEO of iFOREST.



Srestha Banerjee

A public policy expert, Srestha's interest lies in improving environment and resource governance, and securing community rights through an interface of strong research and advocacy. She is the Director, Just Transition at iFOREST. Her current areas of work include climate change and just transition, mining and benefit sharing, environmental justice and participatory governance.



Mandvi Singh

Mandvi is an energy policy researcher, currently heading the Energy and Climate Change programme at iForest. She has over 12 years of research and advocacy experience in this field, having previously worked with organizations engaged in bilateral technical cooperation, energy policy research and infrastructure research.



Preet Kumar

Preet Kumar is the Programme Manager in Just Transition initiative of iFOREST. A Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) with Honours in Mining Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, he has experience in consultative engineering, value addition, business development, and stakeholder management. Currently, his work focuses aspects of mine closure, reclamation, land repurposing and industrial diversification.



Satya Bhushan Rath

Satya Bhushan Rath is a senior consultant for renewable energy, with a focus on Odisha. He is a multi sector professional with 34 years of experience in renewable energy, water management, environment and green skilling.



Rahul Kumar

Rahul is a Mechanical Engineer and has over 10 years of experience in industrial pollution monitoring and reporting (air and water), waste management and resource efficiency, industry benchmarking and environmental impact assessment. He has also been trained at the Swedish Environment Protection Agency (Stockholm) on pollution monitoring and compliance assurance.



Chinmayi Shalya

Chinmayi is working on cross-cutting research and advocacy related to just transition and District Mineral Foundation (DMF). Starting off as a journalist, and then moving on to research and advocacy on environmental issues, she brings in a decade of experience of communicating environmental issues to varied stakeholder groups for effective public engagement and policy action.



Prerna Sah

Prerna is a Senior Research Associate working on cross-cutting research and advocacy in the Natural Waste Management programme. Prior to joining iFOREST, she was working as a consultant for the district administration of Ramgarh in the state of Jharkhand. She has extensive experience liaising with government departments, senior government officials and various civil society organizations.



Apurupa Gorthi

Apurupa is working across the 'Pollution & Waste Management' and 'Energy & Climate Change' initiatives at iFOREST. She has worked on policy and programme design for the implementation of Montreal Protocol (Kigali Amendment) in India, and also on the evolution of food and water security in academic literature.



Vagisha Nandan

Vagisha is engaged as the state program co-ordinator of Just Transition and District Mineral Foundation in Jharkhand. She has worked on issues of energy access, power sector reforms, clean energy integration and just transition in her previous roles. Prior to joining iFOREST, she has been associated with Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP) at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, Ashden India Collective and TERI.



Riddhima Gowel

Riddhima is a Research Associate working on cross-cutting issues of just transition. As a legal and policy researcher, she explores diverse areas on environment and development law and policy through her work, including, frameworks of environmental governance, environmental pollution, energy transition, sustainable livelihood, environmental justice, and issues of gender and marginalized communities.



Ritwik Ray Chaudhuri

Ritwik is a Research Associate with the Energy and Climate Change Programme of iFOREST. His experience, expertise and interests lie in the fields of energy market and analytics, long-term and short-term energy demand forecasting and power purchase planning, energy policy and regulations, electricity tariff, renewable energy, and power system operation.



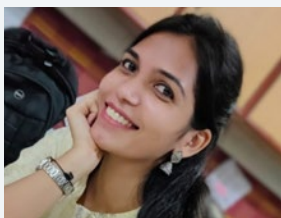
Deeksha Pande

Deeksha is a Research Associate working on Just Transition, a core initiative of the Energy & Climate Change programme at iFOREST. As a young researcher, she has worked on development-centric projects involving impact evaluation techniques and rigorous data-driven research. Her interests lie in global poverty, rural development and agriculture policy. Deeksha is a graduate in Economics from Christ University, Bangalore, and holds a master's in Development Economics from the University of Sussex.



Raj Kumar Singh

Raj Kumar is a graphic designer who takes care design requirements. He has been instrumental in conceptualizing and executing the design of our publications and communication materials in the last year.



Renu Suryavanshi

Renu is an Assistant Manager – Finance & Administration in the iFOREST. Prior to joining iFOREST, she was working with Pratham Education Foundation as a Finance Associate. She has worked with Pratham Education Foundation for more than five years. Renu is a Commerce graduate from Gargi College, Delhi University and also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Library and Information Science (BLIS) from IGNOU.



Mehtab Hussain

As Assistant Manager – Admin & Database, Mehtab is a multi-tasker supporting the various programme teams at iFOREST. He has over 10 years of experience with national and international non-government organization in different fields like database, DMS, HR, sales, marketing and admin. Prior to joining iFOREST, he was working with organizations like WaterAid International, Sesame Street (non-profit) and Centre for Science & Environment.



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