



Just Transitions for Land-based Climate Action in India

Date: 8 February 2024

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Venue: Jacaranda II Hall, India Habitat Centre

Format: Panel discussion

Mode: In-Person

CONCEPT NOTE

Land-based climate action strategies have gained significant attention and importance in public and private sector climate strategies and policies. All these measures enhance land-based carbon sinks and can be done on a large-scale and in different climate zones and ecological conditions, although their effectiveness and cost will vary. Supply side interventions comprise conservation, restoration and management of forests and other ecosystems, reduction in emissions from agriculture and increasing sequestration and shift to bioenergy. Demand side interventions span across reduction in food wastes, shift to sustainable and plant-based diets and the promotion of resource efficiency.

In developing countries like India, any goal to upscale land-based climate interventions will need to be operationalised in a wider context of ensuring food security, reducing land - soil degradation, improving land productivity and farmer livelihoods. These interventions also need to balance equity concerns, developmental goals and impacts to affected small and medium land-holding farmers, forest dwellers and other vulnerable communities to be sustainable and scalable. Therefore, there is a need for the development of a just and equitable lens, through which such practices and policies can be analysed to better highlight how the socially uneven distribution of risks and benefits impacts the opportunities and challenges arising from the implementation of land-based climate action.

A low carbon transition through land-based climate action needs further understanding to clearly indicate the transitional risks and benefits for the vulnerable communities. The issues of risks and benefits, principles of equity, inclusivity, suitability of adaptation measures, and trade-offs and synergies arising at different scales are still limitedly understood. Meeting the net-zero 2070 targets will require stronger decarbonization action and transitioning to a net-zero developmental path and will have widespread social and economic impacts for India. It is imperative that such a net-zero developmental path ensures the judicious use of land, builds the resilience of vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change as well as ameliorate regional and gendered disparities in access to skills and finance for new green livelihood opportunities. Such a developmental path would require good governance that ensures coordinated efforts for just transitions. These changes need to be managed well to avoid negative impacts on individuals, communities, governments, and businesses. It is essential that such changes incorporate all the principles of just transitions, especially equity and inclusivity. The guiding principles of just transitions need to be extended to all emission intensive sectors where development needs to be equitable, inclusive, and sustainable.

The overall goal of the study is *“to ensure a socially inclusive and equitable process is being followed when land-based climate actions are being implemented.”* This would involve the following objectives:

- a. To understand the socio-economic context and associated vulnerabilities where land-based measures are identified or being implemented.
- b. Assess transition risks for land-based climate action.
- c. Provide solutions that can assist in reducing these risks to societies and ensure well-being

Within the project, TERI and IORA have undertaken studies on the current context of land-use and land-based climate policies within India, as well as developing the GHG inventory of the country. These studies have aided the development of a “just transitions lens” for the land and land-use sector, which includes key components and ideals that can be incorporated into the design of land-based climate interventions and policies. The components of the just transitions lens reflect upon the need for ensuring that land and people are kept at the centre of the transitions process, that the lens recognizes the impacts and benefits of the transition, and that the local communities are involved in policy and intervention design to better drive an inclusive and representative transitions process. Furthermore, through stakeholder consultations and site visits, the project teams have sought to gather evidence to further fine tune the just transitions lens, to facilitate the design of just pathways in climate action.

Through this event, TERI and IORA seek to bring together experts on just transitions, climate intervention design, and climate policy design to discuss the scope, need and the feasibility of incorporating just transitions for land-based climate action in India. We would also appreciate the opportunity to gain valuable feedback from these experts on the research work carried out under the project till date. We firmly believe that this interaction can provide us with valuable insights on the research and project work, and help in the development of a comprehensive, inclusive, and robust framework for the incorporation of just transitions into the design and delivery of land-based climate action in India.

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world’s most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 23rd edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 7-9 February 2024 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice.