

Minutes of Meeting for Round table discussion held on the final report titled, “Policy framework and Preparedness for Implementing Measures to Effectively Deal with Climate Change – An Analysis of four states in India- Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu”

**16th December 2016,
Vasudha Foundation Meeting Hall,
New Delhi**

Background

The Fifth Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, deepens our understanding that there is going to be increased challenges to address the climate change impacts. For a country like India, which is the home to close to 33 percent of World’s extreme poor, with very little or poor adaptive capacities, the implications of the impacts of climate change on the country could be extremely challenging.

The Fifth Assessment Report also suggests that, countries across the Globe should endeavour to reduce its dependence on coal and other fossil fuel for electricity generation by 100% by 2100.

India is also at the point where the new Government seems to be on a pathway to explore new policy pathways to ensure inclusive growth and development and in the process also looking at revamping various existing institutions and frameworks, with the intent to strengthen them.

The Government has also in its first few months has made it fairly clear that it is serious about addressing climate change and for the first time, also announced the setting up of a “Adaptation Fund”. Further, many states are in various stages of developing the implementation plan of their respective state climate action plan and are also in various stages of further updating the state climate action plan.

In the backdrop of the above, the research project undertaken by Srinivas Krishnaswamy, in partnership with HBF, aims to unpack the key findings of the 5th Assessment report of the IPCC along with other new reports that have been made available on climate change in the recent years, to assess the preparedness of select states of India in addressing climate change. This research report is part of the second of the series of research reports on this subject, with the first research report, looking at the preparedness of India as a whole in addressing climate change, as prescribed by the IPCC’s 5th Assessment report and other reports.

The project states in this phase of the project are Andhra Pradesh (Combined Andhra Pradesh of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh), Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The project has been designed to ensure that there is consultations of stakeholders involved at the state level from time to time, both in the compilation and collation of data and information and also in the finalization of the draft report.

The final report will be shared with experts, policy makers and civil society organizations.

Objective and Methodology

- a) To assess the climate change vulnerability status of Indian States.
- b) To compare and contrast the distinct profiles of vulnerability to climate change among Indian states along with changes that may have occurred overtime.
- c) To understanding of the implications of the predicted Climate Vulnerability and Mitigation Potential under various IPCC scenarios from the Indian States Perspective.
- d) Gap analysis of the current policies in the states and policy framework in India considering the IPCC and NCE recommendations.

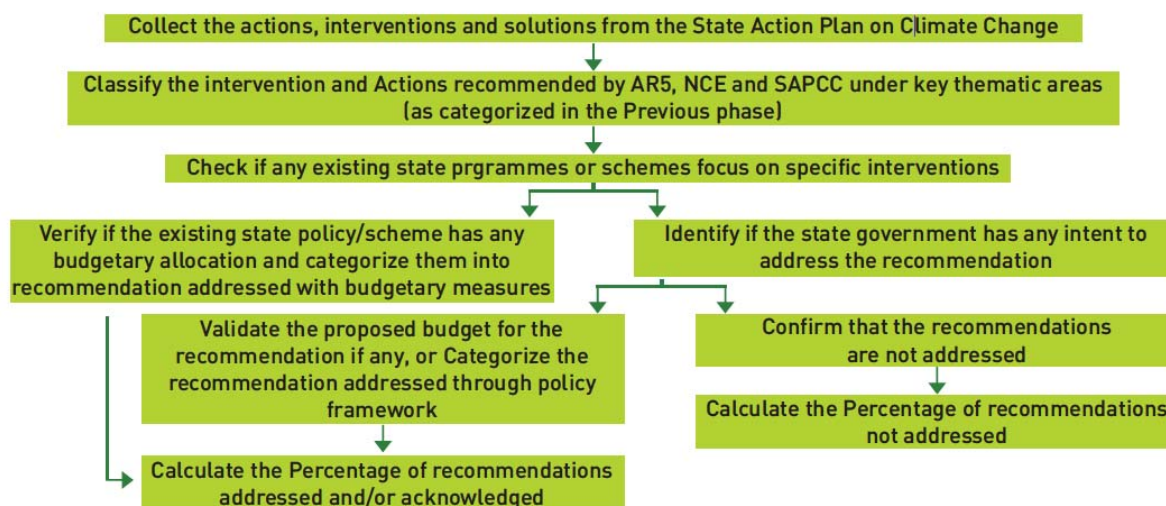
This report is an outcome of Phase II of the project titled “India’s Policy framework and a state of Preparedness for implementing measures to Effectively deal with Climate Change”. The recommendations were sieved from the “Summary for Policy Makers” of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (AR5) published in 2014 and the report on “Better Growth, Better Climate: Charting a new path for low-carbon growth and a safer climate” (NCE).

In this phase, we delve deeper to understand the individual states capacity and potential to address the issues of climate change along with their respective vulnerabilities. For this purpose, we first study the energy and vulnerability profile of the state. We then attempt to understand their State of Preparedness by closely examining the state Action Plan on Climate Change across five states in India and whether the recommendation of AR5 and NCE are being addressed.

The current status of the states and its vulnerability to climate change was mapped using following indicators.

Indicator	Data Source	Time Series
Rainfall fluctuations	IMD	2000-2010
Cyclones	IMD	1891-2008
Droughts	IMD	2002-2014
Ground water Stress	CGWB	2010-2050 (Projections)

Gap Analysis was carried out in the following manner:



Stakeholder Consultations

While consultations with stakeholders were held from time to time at various state level experts during the preparation and research phase of the report, a consultation on the draft report was not held, as the report was ready only in November 2016.

In view of it, in the period of the first weeks of December, meetings were organized in Bangalore , Chennai , Goa and Hyderabad to have stakeholder consultation.

The meetings were of approximately 1.5 hours duration each, which was more in the nature of one on one consultation and discussion. The format was a brief presentation on the research and draft report followed by discussions. The participants were appreciative of the report and research and felt it was comprehensive. Some important suggestions that came up from the discussions with experts, was that the report, should have evaluated the actual budgetary expenditure and also looked into the aspect of sea level rise as a factor that affects States vulnerability to Climate Change.

Final Presentation of the Report and Round Table Discussion

A round table discussion was held on 16th December 2016 at Vasudha Foundation Meeting Hall, to discuss the final outcomes of the study . The people identified and invited for the meeting comprised of climate experts, former bureaucrats and members from lead climate policy NGO's. The short meeting of 3 hours comprised of a brief presentation of the Final report, followed by discussion, comments and suggestions by the experts invited.

After the initial setting of context the , presentation of the final report highlighted the main objective and purpose of the project and gave a brief about the methodology adopted for the research. The presentation showcased the results emerging from the

study, salient key findings and lastly listed out some of the recommendations for a way forward.

The experts appreciated the report and felt that such work will surely help influence policy makers. The overall comment was that the report was fairly comprehensive. Some of the limitations in the report that were highlighted were that the sea level rise could not be factored for the vulnerability profiles of the states due certain data gaps. Share of Central state budgetary allocation could have been incorporated in the report.

Some of the key points that emerged from the round table discussion were:

- Listing Co-benefits of the state and national policy for tackling climate change is important.
- Ways on how corporates can influence policy making and corporate CSR funding can be directed for climate smart projects should be explored
- Inter departmental and inter hierarchical coordination between state and central government should be improved.
- Comparison of rural and urban scenarios under resilience infrastructure
- Mainstreaming climate change into policy making at state level

Photo from the Discussion Session:

