

From Global Visions to Local Actions: Building Resilient of Riverside Communities through Nature-Based Solutions in India

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Riverside communities in India are under risk from climate change, unsustainable urbanization, and ecosystem degradation, resulting in frequent flooding, water stress, and loss of livelihoods. Nature-based solutions (NBS)—such as wetland restoration, afforestation, and natural farming—offer adaptive, cost-effective strategies to enhance community resilience by restoring ecosystem's ability to provide crucial ecosystem services. Drawing on successful models from Ganga river basin contextualizing them for other river systems and their inimitable socio-ecological landscapes, the talk highlights the importance of integrating NBS with traditional infrastructure, participatory governance, and local knowledge systems. It also demonstrates that local stewardship, policy alignment, investment in ecosystem-based strategies, community engagement, adaptive management, and multi-benefit approaches are critical for the effective implementation and scaling of NBS in India and other developing societies.