

# Meghna Knowledge Forum (MKF) 2021

Strengthening the science-policy interface for the integrated management of the basin

22-24 June 2021, Bangladesh and India



## ABOUT MKF 2021

A scientific virtual symposium, the Meghna Knowledge Forum (MKF) 2021 aims to provide a learning exchange platform on water governance issues in the Meghna Basin linked to Natural Resource Management (NRM) with emphasis on community and youth inclusion. [Click here](#) for latest information on the MKF 2021.

## PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1 (TUESDAY), 22 JUNE 2021	
*Note: The programme is in Indian Standard Time	
Time (BST)	Activities
10:30-11:30	<b>MKF Inaugural (MKF Main Room)</b>  Welcome address by (2 x 10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Dindo Campilan</b>, Regional Director, IUCN Asia</li><li>• <b>Ms. Åsa Heijne</b>, Counsellor, Programme Manager – Environment and Climate Change, Embassy of Sweden, Thailand</li></ul> Guest of Honour (4 x 10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Rajdeep Roy</b>, Member of Parliament, India (Barak Valley)</li><li>• <b>Mr. H.E. Mr. Muhammad Imran</b>, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India (TBC)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Vikram K Doraiswami</b>, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh (TBC)</li><li>• <b>Speaker from Bangladesh (TBD)</b></li></ul> Introduction to MKF Objectives and Agenda for three days (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Vishwa Ranjan Sinha</b>, Programme Officer Water and Wetlands, South Asia, IUCN Asia Regional Office (Bangkok)</li></ul> Speakers feedback and comment on the forum agenda (15 minutes)  Session Facilitator: <b>Ms. Archana Chatterjee</b> , Programme Manager, IUCN India Programme
11:30-12:00	<b>Launch of Meghna Photo Gallery (MKF Main Room)</b>
12:00-13:30	<b>Lunch (MKF Networking Café)</b>
13:30-15:00	<b>Thematic plenary I: Geophysical and ecological diversity of the Meghna basin (MKF Main Room)</b> <i>Presentations and plenary discussion (distinguished civil society members and academics from Bangladesh/India)</i>  The session will explore natural diversity and values of the Meghna river basin. How are these values changing over-time? What are the factors contributing to these changes and what are the gaps in our understanding? What kind of partnerships are required to fill these knowledge gaps?  Overview presentation (1 x 10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Devesh Walia</b>, Head, Geology Department and CEO Incubation Centre, North-Eastern Hill University, India (Shillong)</li></ul>

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	<p>Guest Speakers (4X 10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Malik Fida A Khan</b>, Executive Director, Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services, Bangladesh (Dhaka)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ashish Tripathi</b>, O/o Executive Engineer, Meghna Investigation Division, Central Water Commission, India (Shillong)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Rangku Sangma</b>, CFO, Garo Hills Administrative District Council, India (Tura)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman</b>, Professor, Dept. of Geology &amp; Physics, Lock Haven University, United States (Lock Haven)</li> </ul> <p>Plenary discussions and Q/A (40 minutes)</p> <p>Session Facilitator: <b>Mr. Vishwa Ranjan Sinha</b>, Programme Officer Water and Wetlands, South Asia, IUCN Asia Regional Office (Bangkok)</p>
15:00-15:15	<b>Coffee break (Networking Café)</b>
15:15-16:45 <b>Parallel side event 1 (Day 1)</b>	<p><b>The river game - building youth awareness on river issues (MKF Side Event Room 1)</b> <i>Co-organised by Mekateam Bangladesh, Oxfam and Youth4Nature Asia</i></p> <p>Through interactive games, participants will explore the linkages between river biodiversity, culture and various threats to river-based livelihoods (fisheries, agriculture, navigation and tourism). Through these games, the session will highlight the specific roles that the youth can play in promoting cooperative management of the Meghna river basin.</p> <p>Session facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Amir Hamza Xihad</b>, Founder and Chief Trainer, Mekateam, Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Vinamra Mathur</b>, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Youth4Nature Asia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Mayuri Phukan</b>, Co-founder Northeast Development Agency, India (Guwahati) and TROSA Youth Basin Ambassador</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Yasha Manan</b>, Masters Student, Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and TROSA Youth Basin Ambassador</li> </ul> <p><i>Interactive session with plenary discussion and Q/A (90 minutes)</i></p>
15:15-16:45 <b>Parallel side event 2 (Day 1)</b>	<p><b>How to operationalise transboundary cooperation in the Meghna river basin? (MKF Side Event Room 2)</b> <i>Co-organised by Asian Confluence, Brotee Samaj Kalyan, Waterkeepers Bangladesh</i></p> <p>The session will discuss the present status of cooperation in the Meghna river basin. Where we have done well and what needs to improve? The session will also present specific opportunities for operationalising benefit sharing opportunities at the sub-basin level and between Bangladesh and India in the Meghna river basin. What role can regional CSO Networks play in facilitating this cooperation?</p> <p>Joint presentation – Cooperation in Meghna basin (1x15 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta</b>, Executive Director, Asian Confluence, India East Asia Center, India (Shillong); and</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Sharif Jamil</b>, General Secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) and Council Member, Waterkeeper Bangladesh</li> </ul> <p><b>Guest speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. A.K. Mitra</b>, Former Secretary, Water Resources, Government of Assam, India</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mashfiqus Salehin</b>, Professor, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh (Dhaka)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Nerola Tynsong</b>, Community Leader and Activist, Khasi Community, Bangladesh</li> </ul> <p>Plenary discussions and Q/A (45 minutes)</p> <p>Session Facilitator: <b>Ms Sharmeen Murshid</b>, Executive Director, Brotee and Member of the National River Commission (NRCC), Bangladesh</p>
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## DAY 2 (WEDNESDAY), 23 JUNE 2021

\*Note: The programme is in Indian Standard Time

Time (BST)	Activities
10:00-10:15	<p><b>Review of Day 1 (MKF Main Room)</b> Graphic presentation, Tofu Creatives</p>
10:15-11:45	<p><b>Thematic plenary II: Cultural and socio-economics of the Meghna basin (MKF Main Room)</b> <i>Case study presentations and preliminary discussions</i></p> <p>Building on the outcomes of Thematic Plenary I, this session will present traditional natural resource management strategies applied by local communities in the Meghna river basin. With subject matter experts, the participants will discuss and identify the main threats to the traditional strategies and the implications for long-term water security and socio-economic development in the basin. The plenary discussion will initiate dialogue on the effectiveness of current policy and institutional responses to address these challenges. Participants will dive deeper into the issue of effectiveness with the subject matter experts during Thematic Plenary III, on Day 3.</p> <p>Guest Speakers: (4 x 10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Joyashree Roy</b>, Professor, Jadavpur University, India and Bangabandhu Chair, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Flora Babli Talang</b>, General Secretary, Kubraj Antapunji Unnayan Sangatha (Khasi Community) (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Moirangthem Loiya Ngamba</b>, Founder, Wildlife and Habitat Protection Society, Punshilok, Imphal, Manipur</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Sheikh Rokon</b>, Secretary General, Riverine People, Dhaka</li> </ul> <p>Plenary discussions and Q/A (50 minutes)</p> <p>Session Facilitator: <b>Dr Saudamini Das</b>, NABARD Chair Professor at Institute of Economic Growth, India (Delhi)</p>

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11:45-14:00	<b>Lunch (Networking Café)</b>
14:00-15:30 <b>Parallel side event 3 (Day 2)</b>	<b>Data and information on the climate change impacts in the Meghna river basin (MKF Side Event Room 3)</b> <i>Co-organised by Aarnyak (India) and Nadi Adhikar Manch</i>  The session will discuss current knowledge of the impacts of climate change and ecosystem based-adaptation strategies in the Meghna river basin, including gaps in our understating and the transboundary linages of these impacts. What role nature-based solutions (NbS) can play in building community resilience to climate change.  Overview presentation (10 mins) <b>Mr. Shamsheer Ali</b> , Member Secretary, Nadi Adhikar Manch  Guest Speakers (3X10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Arun Jyoti Nath</b>, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science Assam University, India (Silchar)</li><li>• <b>Dr. Syed Ali Azher</b>, Community Development and Mobilisation Expert, Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries Project, Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh</li><li>• <b>Mr M. Mokhlesur Rahman</b>, Executive Director, Center for Natural Resource Studies (TBC)</li></ul> Facilitated discussion and Q/A (40 minutes)  Session Facilitators: <b>Dr. Partha J Das</b> , Head, Water, Climate & Hazard Division, Aaranyak, India (Guwahati)
14:00-15:30 <b>Parallel side event 4 (Day 2)</b>	<b>Engaging the private sector for inclusive cross border navigation and trade in the Meghna river basin (MKF Side Event Room 4)</b> <i>Co-organisers: Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI), Centre for Aquatic Research &amp; Environment (CARE), CUTS International and Tripura Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI)</i>  The session will bring together traders, business communities, and government authorities from Bangladesh and India to explore specific issues concerning cross border trade via waterways. The session will focus on two transboundary navigation routes: a) Karimganj-Ashuganj (protocol route 3 and 4); and b) Sonamura - Daudkandi (protocol route 9 and 10), in promoting transboundary trade and poverty reduction in the Meghna river basin.  Guest speakers: (5 x 10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr Amita Prasad</b>, Chairperson, Inland Authority of India</li><li>• <b>Mr. M L Debnath</b>, President, Tripura Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li><li>• <b>Mr. Sujit Chakraborty</b>, President, Centre for Aquatic Research &amp; Environment and Bureau Chief, Indo-Asian News Services</li><li>• <b>Dr. Selima Ahmad MP</b>, President, Bangladesh Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mr. Syed Monowar Hussain</b>, Former Director, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated discussion and Q/A (40 minutes)</p> <p>Session facilitator: <b>Mr. Bipul Chatterjee</b>, Executive Director, CUTS International, India</p>
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## DAY 3 (Thursday), 24 JUNE 2021

*\*Note: The programme is in Indian Standard Time*

Time (BST)	Activities
10:00-10:15	<b>Review of Day 2 (MKF Main Room)</b> Graphic presentation, Tofu Creatives
10:15-11:45	<b>Thematic plenary III: Inclusive governance and integrated management of basin (MKF Main Room)</b> <i>Panel discussion chaired by distinguished civil society representatives/policy makers from Bangladesh/India.</i> <p>Building on the outcomes of thematic plenary II, this session will discuss policy and institutional changes linked to inclusive management of the Meghna river basin. Based on the challenges identified, participants will prioritise 3-4 top strategies, including specific multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote inclusive and integrated management of the basin. The dialogue will be structured around the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDG), with particular focus on Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</p> <p>Overview presentation (1 x 10 minutes)  <b>Mr. Shawahiq Sidiqqi</b>, Founding Partner, Indian Environment Law Organization, India</p> <p>Guest Speakers: (4x10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ms. Donna Mcskimming</b>, Regional Programme Manager, Asia, Oxfam International</li> <li><b>Mr. Sampath Kumar</b>, CEO, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) &amp; Project Director (CLLMP), India (Shillong)</li> <li><b>Ms. Rizwana Hasan</b>, Chief Executive, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Bangladesh (Dhaka)</li> <li><b>Mr. Joydeep Gupta</b>, South Asia Director, The Third Pole</li> </ul> <p>Plenary discussions and Q/A (40 minutes)</p> <p>Session facilitator: <b>Dr. A.K. Enamul Haque</b>, Professor of Economics and Director, Asian Centre for Development, Bangladesh (Dhaka)</p>
11:45-12:15	<b>Results of photo story competition (MKF Main Room)</b> <i>(winners will present photo stories)</i>
12:15-14:00	<b>Lunch break (Networking Café)</b>

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14:00-15:15	<p><b>Synthesis of key messages and next steps (MKF Main Room)</b> <i>Plenary discussions</i> Joint recap and identification of key messages from MKF 2021 (knowledge gaps identified, partnerships to fill these knowledge gaps, specific strategies to promote social involvement in water governance and integrated management of the river basin)</p> <p>Graphic Presentation of key messages from Thematic Session III (1x5 minutes) <b>Graphic presentation, Tofu Creatives</b></p> <p>Facilitated plenary discussions with the participant's (70 minutes)</p> <p>Session facilitator: <b>Mr. Raphael Glemet</b>, Senior Programme Officer, Water and wetlands, IUCN Asia Regional Office, Thailand (Bangkok)</p>
15:15-15:30	<p><b>Coffee break (Networking Café)</b></p>
15:30-17:00	<p><b>Valedictory session (MKF Main Room)</b> <i>Key messages and plenary discussion</i> The session will present the outcomes of MKF and key messages emerging from the forum. Special invitees from the government of Bangladesh and India, donor agencies and financial institutions will participate as panellist and provide their inputs to refine the key messages and develop action points for wider dissemination.</p> <p>Presentation of key messages from MKF 2021 (1x10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Raphael Glemet</b>, Senior Programme Officer, Water and wetlands, IUCN Asia Regional Office, Thailand (Bangkok)</li></ul> <p>Guest feedback to refine key messages (6X10 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. M. A. Mannan</b>, Minister of Planning, Bangladesh (Sylhet) (TBC)</li><li>• <b>Dr. Prem Singh</b>, Adviser, North Eastern States, Niti Aayog, India(TBC)</li><li>• <b>Mr. Kabir Bin Anwar</b>, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh (TBC)</li><li>• Representative, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India (TBC)</li><li>• Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (TBC)</li><li>• Representative, The Asia Foundation (TBC)</li></ul> <p>Plenary discussions and Q/A (20 minutes)</p> <p>Session Facilitator: <b>Mr. Jyotiraj Patra</b>, Regional Manager, Transboundary Rivers of South Asia, Oxfam Cambodia (Phnom Penh)</p>
17:00-17:15	<p><b>Participants feedback on the forum (MKF Main Room)</b></p>

\*Click the MKF 2021 registration link below and participate in the meeting via Zoom platform (Registratin closes 18 June): <https://qiqochat.com/e/meghna-knowledge-forum-2021>

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