



ACTION ON CLIMATE TODAY

Afghanistan | India | Nepal | Pakistan | Bangladesh

## Who we are

**ACT (Action on Climate Today) is a five-year initiative that works closely with governments of Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh to develop strategies to build resilience to the impact of climate change.** Funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), ACT works with the aim to help partner governments to integrate climate change into their policies, plan and budgets.

## How we work

ACT works with the governments of partner countries to **mainstream climate change into their development plans and policies.** It also aims to attract further climate change investment from the public and private sector. It specifically helps to:



**Support** the design and delivery of climate resilience at National and Subnational Levels



**Build** the climate change knowledge and capacity of decision makers



**Attract** further climate change investment from the public and private sector



**Share** and disseminate practical knowledge on climate compatible development



## Our work areas

ACT works across countries and states to help build capacity at all levels for addressing climate change issues in **key economic sectors** by proactively integrating climate change concerns into its policy, plans and programmes. Our work spans across sectors such as:



Water



Forestry



Natural Resource  
Management



Agriculture



Coastal  
Management



Urbanization &  
Development



Energy & Heat

## Impacts achieved so far...

ACT has been instrumental in training and building capacity of focused stakeholders in the South Asian countries. The initiative has also been working toward enhancing decision-making tools and policy options within government institutions, as well as sharing knowledge and forging networks and partnerships. Recognising the need for access to climate finance and climate-informed budgeting, **ACT has successfully supported partner governments in the development of climate financing tools, and helped leverage national and international finance.**

**150+**  
workstreams

**27**  
proposals for climate  
finance developed

**1700**  
people trained on climate  
mainstreaming & finance

**\$189 million**  
in climate finance accessed

**13**  
high-level policies shaped

**Over \$400 million**  
in climate investment  
shaped by the programme

# ACT@COP23

At COP23, our experts will share their lessons and best practices from across locations at the following events:

**Tuesday, November 7, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, India Pavilion**

Subject

**Technology preparedness in achieving NDC Target** –Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)

**Innovations for a cleaner energy growth** – Department for International Development (DFID)

Speakers

**Mr Soumik Biswas**, Team Leader – Odisha, ACT-CCIP

**Ms Vidya Soundarajan**, India Programme Manager, ACT

**Friday, November 10, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM,**

UN Campus Bonn & World Conference Center Bonn, Room No. 7.

Subject

**Water Action Day Programme** – Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA)

Speakers

**Dr Cristina Rumbaitis Del Rio**, Regional Programme Manager, ACT

**Saturday, November 11, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM,**

Kameha Grand, Am Bonner Bogen 1

Subject

**The Adaptation Finance Hackathon: Crowdsourcing Innovations for Enhancing Accountability and Transparency** – Development & Climate Days (D&C Days)

Speakers

**Dr Aditya Vansh Bahadur**,Regional Programme Development Manager, ACT

**Ms Vidya Soundarajan**, India Programme Manager, ACT

**Dr Marcela Tarazona**, Knowledge Leader, Climate Change, Oxford Policy Management

**Dr Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio**, Regional Programme Manager, ACT



**Saturday, November 11, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

German Development Institute, Tulpenfeld 6

Subject

**Private Sector Engagement in National Adaptation Plan Processes** – NAP Global Network

Speakers

**Ms Vidya Soundarajan**, India Programme Manager, ACT

**Wednesday, November 15, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, India Pavilion**

Subject

**Climate Change Adaptation and State Actions** – GIZ India

Speakers

**Dr Arvind Anil Boaz**, Head of Forest Force (HOFF), Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) & Nodal Officer Climate Change, Government of Chhattisgarh

**Friday, November 17, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, India Pavilion**

Subject

**Conserving Water** – NABARD & CEE's Outreach Strategy for Empowering Rural Communities for Climate Action

Speakers

**Mr. Pradeep Kumar Jena**, IAS, Principal Secretary, Water Resources, Government of Odisha



## Meet our team@COP23



**Cristina Rumbaitis Del Rio, PhD**

Regional Programme Manager, ACT

*@cristina\_rdr; Cristina@actiononclimate.today*

Cristina has been spearheading the ACT initiative through strategic development and management, and has been leading on building frameworks to support policymakers and governments in developing climate-sensitive policies and mainstreaming finance in their planning and budgeting processes. Previously, Cristina was a Senior Associate Director at The Rockefeller Foundation where she developed the Foundation's initiatives regarding building resilience for poor and vulnerable people who will be affected by climate change. Prior to that, she was a post-doctoral fellow conducting research on sustainable development at Columbia University's Earth Institute. She also did policy research for the United Nations Environmental Program, the U.S. Department of State, and other institutions. She has a Doctoral degree in Ecology from the University of Colorado.



**Vidya Soundarajan**

India Programme Manager, ACT

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Vidya Soundarajan manages the Indian operations of the ACT initiative, with a focus on six locations, namely Odisha, Assam, Maharashtra, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Kerala. The initiative supports the Government of India to strengthen the enabling environment for state-level action on adaptation through a set of interrelated focus areas and work streams. With over two decades of experience in the sector of Climate Change & Sustainable Development, Vidya has extensively worked with multiple stakeholders including Government and Private Sector, with core focus areas in Policy and Governance, International Development, Government Liaison and Program Management. Her past association was with British High Commission and World Wide Fund for Nature-India where she led various conservation programmes on key thematic issues and large landscapes, and acted as an adviser on policy and action on low carbon investments in India.



**Aditya Vansh Bahadur, PhD**

Regional Programme Development Manager, ACT

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As the Regional Programme Development Manager, Aditya provides direct technical support on adaptation policy formulation to the Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Nepal, and leads on strategic development, operational management as well as a substantial programme of knowledge and learning initiatives. Aditya led several projects for the Adaptation and Resilience team at the Overseas Development Institute and has also worked on projects for AusAID, DfID, IFAD, the Hewlett Foundation, the Shell Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, ActionAid, UNISDR, UNESCAP, UNICEF, Christian Aid and the Institute of Development Studies. He has undertaken research on climate and disaster impacts in urban areas for the Rockefeller Foundation, the Asian Development Bank and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network. He completed his undergraduate studies at St. Stephen's College, Delhi University and has an MA and a PhD in Development Studies (focus on climate change resilience) from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK.





## Soumik Biswas

**State Team Leader**, Odisha, ACT

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As a State Team Leader, Soumik has been working closely with the Government of Odisha to influence and implement various climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, project structuring, project management, stakeholder expectation management and climate financing from national and international sources. An expert in the field of climate change and sustainable development, Soumik has more than 12 years of experience in the field of sustainability, climate change, carbon management and energy management and low-carbon strategy formulation. His previous responsibilities included technical and sectoral expertise in project execution, due diligence of project activities, people management including scheduling, mentoring and team building and conducting training and workshops. He has worked with organisations like World Bank, KfW Bankengruppe, UNIDO, Ethical Tea Partnership, DFID in various roles, and has been involved in more than 200 projects worldwide across varied sectors.



## Marcela Tarazona

**Knowledge Leader**, Climate Change, Oxford Policy Management

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Dr Marcela Tarazona is an environmental economist with more than 12 years combining academic and consultancy work. Her recent work focuses on issues related to climate change, disaster risk management, experimental and behavioral economics, M&E, gender, and migration. At OPM, she leads the work on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. Prior to her appointment at OPM she worked for the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank where she provided climate change and disaster risk management policy advice to countries in Latin America. She holds a PhD and an MA in Environmental Economics from Toulouse School of Economics. She previously worked at the Universities of Georgetown (Washington DC, USA) and Los Andes (Colombia) and is currently a Senior Research Associate at the School of International Development, University of East Anglia (UK).



## Harshita Bisht

**Assistant Consultant**, Climate Change,  
Oxford Policy Management

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Harshita Bisht is an environment science professional with four years of experience in sustainable development and climate change adaptation. Engaged both at grassroots and policy level, she has been actively engaged in facilitating practice to policy connect for sustainable development and climate change resilience in South Asia. She has been involved in research, communication and advocacy for mainstreaming climate change concerns in policy and planning processes of India (both at national and sub-national level). She also has experience in following UNFCCC climate change negotiations to represent regional concerns at international level and understand India's international positions particularly on climate change adaptation. In the past, she worked as Deputy Manager-Climate Change Research at Development Alternatives, New Delhi. She has a Masters in Environmental Science and Technology from Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD), Banaras Hindu University and Bachelors in Microbiology (H) from Delhi University.



# Speakers@COP23



## Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, IAS

**Principal Secretary**, Department of Water Resources,  
Government of Odisha

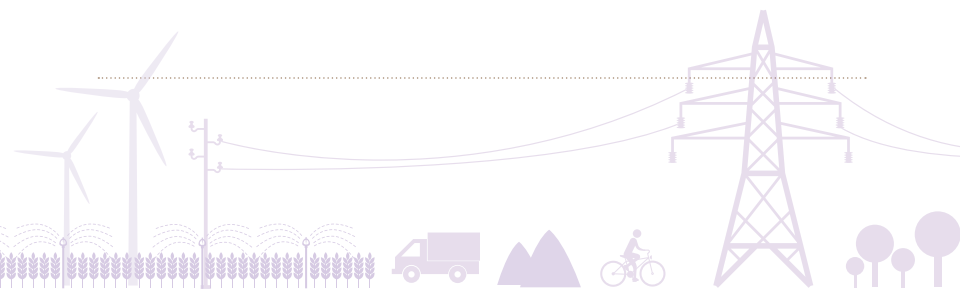
Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena is currently serving as Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources, Government of Odisha. Mr. Jena is Master of Science in Geology and Gold Medalist from Utkal University, Odisha. He belongs to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of 1989 batch and has worked in various capacities with the Government for the last 26 years. He has held several important posts in the Government of Odisha and have headed Departments of Transport, Electronics & Information Technology, I & PR, Science and Technology, Panchayati Raj and Energy as Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government. He has also worked with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as an Assistant Country Director in India for three years. He has extensive experience in Natural Resource Management, participatory watershed management, livelihood re-construction. He has published articles on "Resettlement and Rehabilitation" and on drought management and livelihood issues in Kalahandi district in Odisha.



## Dr Arvind Anil Boaz, IFS

**Head of Forest Force and Principal Chief Conservator  
of Forests**, Chhattisgarh State,  
**Forest Department & Nodal Officer**, Climate Change,  
Government of Chhattisgarh

Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz is presently posted as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Govt of Chhattisgarh. He is the Nodal Officer and Member Secretary of Climate Change for the state of Chhattisgarh and has drafted the Chhattisgarh State Action Plan on Climate Change. An IFS officer of the 1979 Batch, he served as Director General, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), an inter-Government Multilateral organisation for Eight South Asian States at the Ministerial Level for four years. He has also served as DG, United Nations South Asian Seas Programme for four years, where he had the privilege to be the First Indian Forest Service officer, ever in the history of the Indian Forest Service, to be appointed as the Head of an International UN Multi-lateral Inter-government Organisation. He has worked with UN ESCAP and Govt of Korea on the Sustainable 3-R Waste Management Approach and Green Growth, and with UNEP on Male Declaration for South Asia Trans-boundary Air Pollution that established eight trans-boundary Air Pollution Monitoring Centres in eight countries of South Asia with help of Stockholm Environment Institute. He also had the unique distinction of being the First Director General of SACEP to be recruited on Merit basis.





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