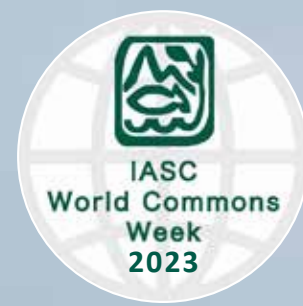


# CELEBRATING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

Community Conference  
on Commons 2023



We are  
back with  
our second  
edition!



## What

The Community Conference on Commons aims to evolve as a platform for community members around the world - actively protecting and conserving the Commons at the forefront - to engage with each other's experiences and share their stories in their own voices.

The first edition of the conference, held virtually during the World Commons Week 2022, saw 60 community members from across India sharing their stories across eight different themes.

## Who

The conference is organised as part of the Promise of Commons initiative that brings together various actors working on Commons in India.

## When

**December 4-6**  
(World Commons Week)

Commons, or shared natural resources, such as forests, rivers, pastures, groundwater, oceans, and the cultural knowledge associated with them, play a vital role in sustaining our lives. The collective human endeavor of accessing, using, managing, and preserving these shared resources has helped civilisations thrive, and continues to enrich our lives today. However, these Commons and the act of Commoning are facing a rapid decline due to various factors, with climate change exacerbating the situation. This poses serious concerns for the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities across the world.

The relationship between communities and their practices of preserving and managing the Commons is not just of cultural significance, but also holds immense socio-economic importance. Communities across the world have collectively developed rules for the protection and governance of a range of Commons, effectively stewarding them for generations. The diverse voices of indigenous groups, forest-dwellers, farmers, and pastoralists echo the wisdom, expertise, and deep understanding of interlinkages between resource systems and our lives. In this era of ecological crises, they are also the first responders to these challenges. Their insights have much to teach us on how we should shape our relationship with nature, while we aid their efforts to create a sustainable future in the face of climate change. It is critical now to harness their collective potential to transform the looming 'tragedy' threatening these Commons into the 'promise' they hold for our collective futures.



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## Conference Format

Community leaders from anywhere in the world will virtually connect with us and share their experiences on managing and protecting Commons through case study presentations. The presenters are welcome to share in the language of their choice. We request the NGOs/Academicians/Government representatives facilitating the presentations to assist in on-spot translation in English and Hindi. **We also encourage you to host local, physical screenings of the conference in your respective regions.**

## Thematic Areas for Case Studies Presentations

**Land and Water Commons:** Initiatives that try to protect, conserve and manage land and water resources like pasturelands, grasslands, lakes, rivers, ponds, ground and surface water.

**Commons in a Landscape:** Case studies that draw the interlinkages between the management of land and water Commons and other natural resources while generating livelihoods at the village, federation, block or panchayat level.

**Commons and Biodiversity:** Initiatives taken around the protection and conservation of a region's diverse flora and fauna, and its other various species and habitats that sustain biodiversity.

**Commons and Livelihoods:** Initiatives that draw a direct or indirect connection between Commons and livelihoods generation.

**Commons and Food:** Case studies highlight Commons' contribution, like providing fruits, vegetables, tubers, seeds, medicinal herbs, fish, meat and other minor forest products that ensure proper food security of one's region.

**Coastal and Marine Commons:** Initiatives undertaken for protecting diverse and rich coastal Commons that support coastal communities and help the marine life.

**Urban Commons:** Initiatives undertaken for protecting and managing urban Commons such as public places, lakes etc.

**Commons and Climate Adaptation:** Initiatives that address sustainable management of common resources that contribute towards mitigating the impacts of global warming, like reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting overall environmental sustainability.

**Commons and Gender:** Coming together of initiatives that enhance accessibility of resources to both men and women for governing their Commons equitably, including those that look beyond the binary concept of gender.

**Commons and Culture:** Case studies reflecting on the culture of a community through its various traditional systems, like worshiping of forests and agricultural crops for better harvest, using indigenous knowledge to protect resources, various usages of medicinal plants, etc.

**Struggles of Commoning:** Experiences highlighting shared struggles and challenges of communities while commoning and managing resources, like inequitable accessibility, lack of proper governance conditions, and other threats that put their identity, income source and well-being at jeopardy.

**Other topics related to Commons are also welcome for submission!**

[Click here  
to register](#)

Civil Society Organisations/  
NGOs/Academicians/  
Government representatives  
may help community members  
in registering for the conference.

**Last date for submission:  
8th November 2023 5:00 PM IST**

**(Selection will be done by a panel, and shortlisted entries will receive a confirmation email by 15 November 2023.)**

The abstracts will be compiled and published as a Compendium and shared through various print and online mediums for wider reach.

**In case of queries, please contact:**  
Raksha (+91 9910447122), Ankush (+ 91 9021400673)  
or write to us at [community.conference@fes.org.in](mailto:community.conference@fes.org.in)

**For more information, log on to:**  
<https://commonsandcommunities.wordpress.com/>

