MEGHNA KNOWLEDGE FORUM 2020

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

28 – 30 May 2020, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India

About Meghna Basin

- Shared by Bangladesh and India, it is one of the most bio-diverse and culturally rich basins in Asia.
- It originates in the hills of Manipur (India), where it is referred to as the Barak River. As it flows southwest, the river splits into the Surma River and the Kushiyara River at the Bangladesh-India border. The confluence of the Surma and Kushiyara rivers in Bhairab Bazar, Bangladesh forms the Meghna River, which flows south into the ocean in the Bay of Bengal.
- 50 million people depend on the river for livelihood, including indigenous communities such as the Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia.
- Basin’s ecosystem has been degraded due to increasing population, developmental pressure and impacts of climate change.

A scientific symposium, the Meghna Knowledge Forum (MKF) 2020 aims to provide a learning exchange platform on shared water governance issues in the Meghna Basin linked to Natural Resource Management (NRM) and community inclusion. MKF 2020 is jointly convened by North-East Hill University and IUCN in partnership with Oxfam in Asia as part of the Government of Sweden funded Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) project. This forum will strengthen multi-stakeholder connections to advance collaborative efforts for the integrated management of the Meghna River Basin.

Target Participants

The Meghna Knowledge Forum will bring together more than 100 participants composed of the following:

- Policymakers
- Researchers
- Civil society organisations (CSOs)
- Private sector representatives
- International experts on transboundary water resource management
- Women
- Youth

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MKF 2020 Objectives

To contribute to addressing water governance challenges in the Meghna Basin, MKF 2020 aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Support the identification of key knowledge gaps in the implementation of a transboundary water governance in the Meghna Basin;
- Develop potential partnerships to address knowledge gaps;
- Facilitate dialogues in the development of a basin-level integrated management approaches;
- Facilitate discussions on important transboundary themes such as knowledge-based water governance, community-based research, and translation of research outcomes and its use in shared water governance policy and planning.
- Serve as a venue for sharing of lessons learned in transboundary water governance among organisations, local communities, women and youth sectors;

MKF 2020 will include three major events, as follows:

**a) Thematic Plenary Sessions:** Panel discussions and presentation of technical papers on specific themes linked to water governance issues and challenges in the Meghna Basin.

**b) Side events:** Parallel sessions facilitated by key government agencies, research institutions and civil society organisations, demonstrating technical solutions and community-based strategies to address key water governance issues in the Basin.

**c) Knowledge Fair:** Photo exhibition, poster presentations, knowledge booths and screening of films produced by young researchers and/or by women from India and Bangladesh on the Meghna issues.

How To Get Involved

- **Participate and share your work:** Share lessons learned from your work by participating in the plenary presentations.
- **Photo competition:** Capture and share the challenges faced by local communities in the Meghna Basin. This exhibition especially seeks to engage local women and young water professionals.
- **Sponsor a booth at knowledge fair:** Showcase your work in the Meghna Basin by sponsoring a booth at the Knowledge Fair.
- **Spread the word:** IUCN encourages all to share the information about MKF 2020 among your colleagues and networks.

Announcements about the MKF 2020 activities will be available at the forum’s official webpage. To access this, please scan the QR code below:

For more information about the MKF 2020, please contact:

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To learn more about BRIDGE GBM, TROSA Programme and NEHU, visit the following sites:

**BRIDGE GBM project**

**TROSA Programme**

**North-Eastern Hill University**
https://www.nehu.ac.in/

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