

Pathways for adaptation and transformation: A bottom up view

Darley Kjosavik¹, Lars Otto Naess², Mihir Bhatt³, Vishal Pathak³, Shilpi Srivastava², Upasona Ghosh⁴, Hans Adam¹

¹ Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)

² Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK

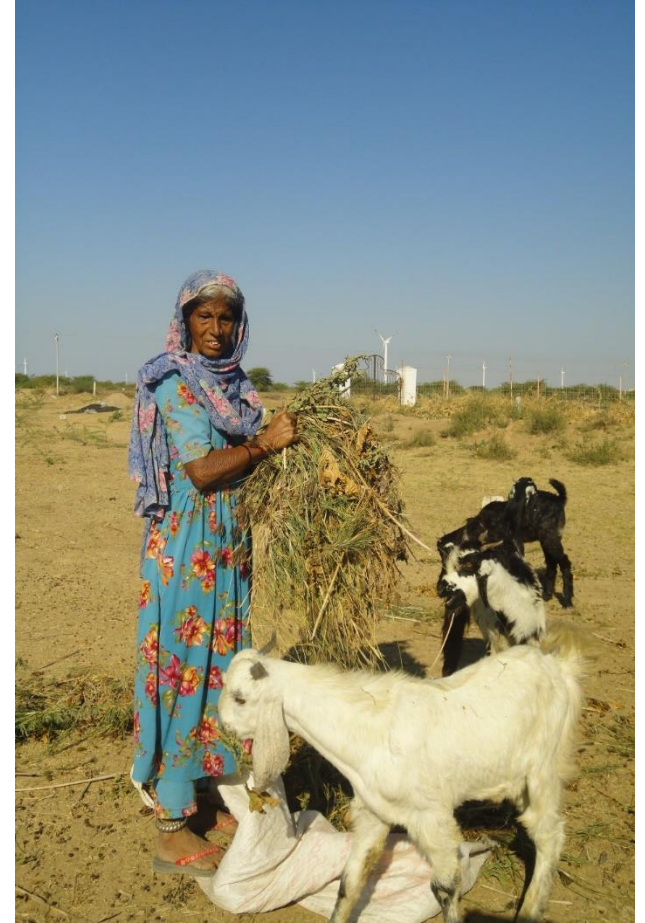
³ All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad, India

⁴ IIHMR, Kolkata, India

Contact: darley.kjosavik@nmbu.no

Project aims

1. Understand what climate change means from the perspective of people who are living with changes (the “below”)
2. How to use this understanding to develop co-produced transformative strategies from the ground up

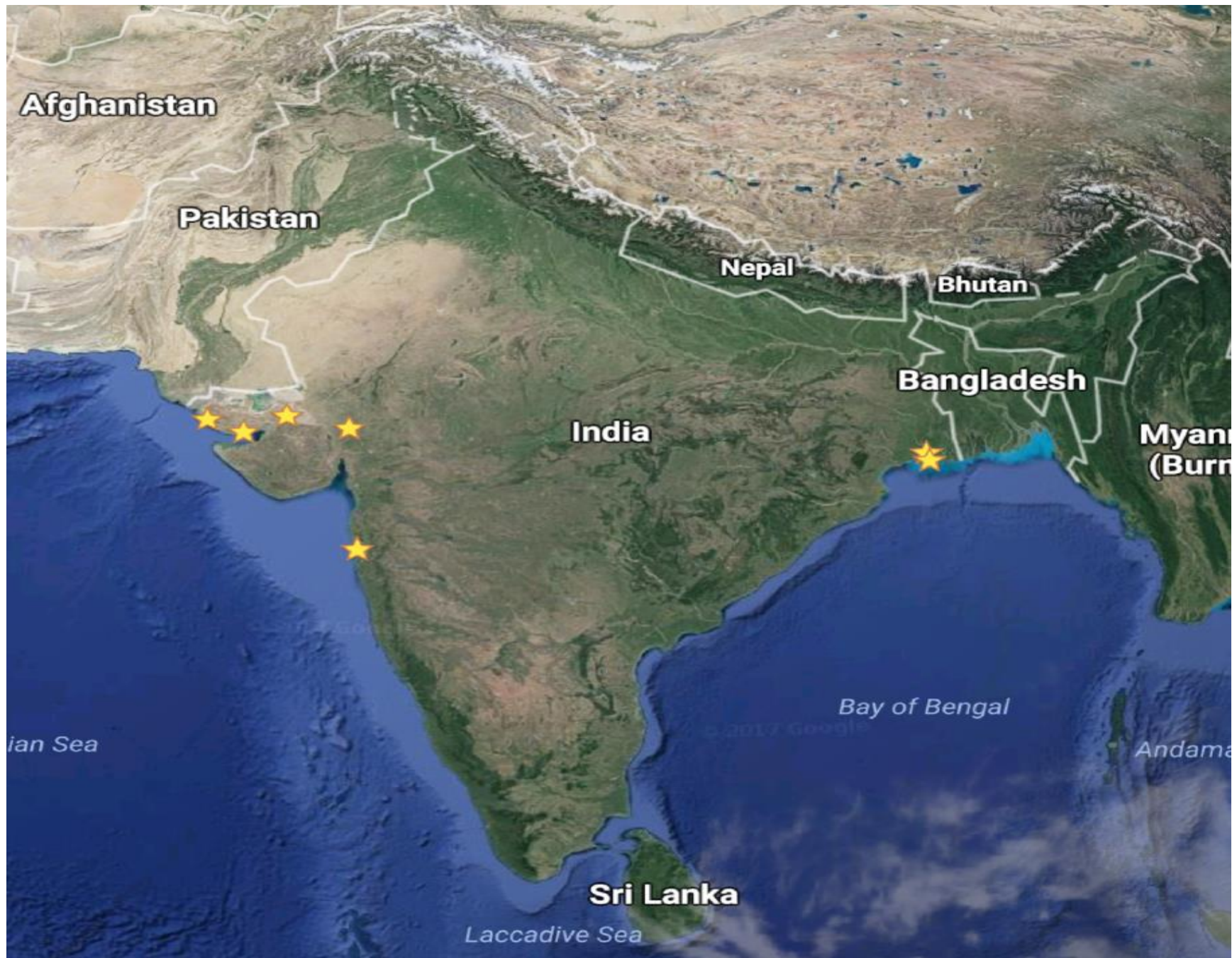


Transformation and adaptation

- Business as usual is not enough. Radical, non-linear shift. Breaking with development status quo.
- Goes beyond sectoral measures.
- Change in values, approach, and behaviours (culture).
- Shift in consumption and production and ownership patterns that are less carbon intensive
- Pelling sees it as an opportunity 'to reconfigure the meaning and trajectory of development' (Pelling, 2011:167).
- But, also new technology, institutional arrangement, migration, livelihood, and impact of economy on ecology.
- Ex. Domestic roof top solar power.
- Ex. Community windmills against corporate windmills.

But what does transformation look like in practice?

- Particular gap in understanding how transformation looks like in practice
 - Who wins and who loses?
 - What are the potentials for supporting “positive” transformations?
 - Impact of economy on ecology



Afghanistan

Pakistan

Nepal

Bhutan

Bangladesh

India

**Myanmar
(Burma)**

Sri Lanka

Bay of Bengal

Arabian Sea

Laccadive Sea

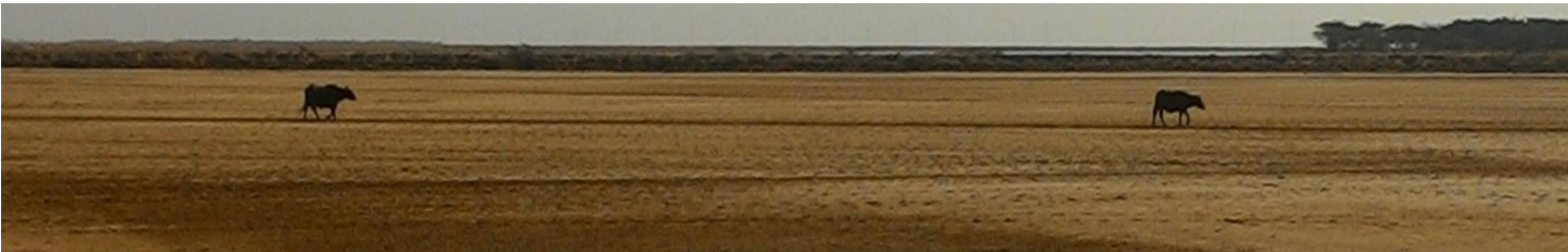
Andaman

Findings across sites

- Large and accelerating uncertainties
- Ongoing transformations
- Tensions between rapid social, economic and environmental changes, leading in increasing vulnerabilities
- Current adaptation interventions without focus on transformation (i.e. targeting immediate effects of climate risks without addressing underlying, root causes) and hidden opportunities:
 - at best ‘sticking plasters’ making little difference in the long term
 - at worst risks entrenching and exacerbating the structures that make people vulnerable in the first place

Findings (II)

- Uncertainty can be increased following transformations
 - creating increased uncertainties, or new uncertainties, for ‘new’ groups of people) – uncertainty from ‘above’ may be articulated (changing flood risk from city expansions) but uncertainties from ‘below’ often remains ‘invisible’
- Uncertainty also greatly affects the potential for deliberate transformations (deliberate transformations can create even more uncertainty?)



A way out - deliberate transformation from the ground up?

- Initiatives and emerging alliances (Mumbai, Sundarbans, Kachchh) between local people, intermediary organisations and policy level actors
- Bridging the gap – how? (experiences from roundtables)



Thank you