

Programme Note

Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

Date: 08.08.2025 Time: 15:00 to 17:00 Hrs.

Climate change is intensifying the frequency and severity of natural hazards, affecting lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. In Gujarat, rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and recurring floods and droughts are already impacting agriculture, water availability, and vulnerable communities. Traditional engineered solutions often prove inadequate in addressing the scale and complexity of such risks. In this context, ecosystem-based approaches offer cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change.

This training program on "*Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction*" aims to enhance the understanding and capacity of professionals working in disaster management, environment, forestry, rural development, and planning sectors. It will focus on how healthy ecosystems—such as mangroves in coastal areas of Kachchh and Devbhumi Dwarka, wetlands around Nalsarovar, forested landscapes in Dang, and watershed systems in Saurashtra—can buffer communities against climate-related hazards like floods, droughts, cyclones, and heatwaves.

The training will cover:

- Case studies from Gujarat such as mangrove afforestation for coastal resilience, community-managed grasslands in Banni, and watershed projects under MGNREGA.
- Data from IMD and GSDMA highlighting Gujarat's increasing exposure to extreme weather events: over significant heatwave days recorded in 2023, frequent urban flooding in Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat, and hyper hydro-met activities in Kachchh.
- Role of community participation and local knowledge in sustaining ecosystem-based solutions.

Participants will explore how ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) can be integrated into district-level planning, climate action plans, and rural development schemes. The program supports Gujarat's alignment with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, the State Action Plan on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework, and SDGs 13 and 15.

This training will include expert talks, planning exercises, and field-based discussions relevant to Gujarat's ecological zones.