

Resolution on  
World Social Forum 2024

\*We the members of diverse people's organisations and collectives from Nepal and India gathered at the World Social Forum 2024 for dialogue on Climate Justice, Rivers, and Society from 16th to 18th February pass the following declaration.\*

We humbly pay tribute to our rivers who are living entities traversing diverse terrains supporting life, livelihoods, economies, cultures and civilizations.

We acknowledge that these entities and our societies dependent on them today face severe crises and threats from the global colonial capitalist neoliberal extractive processes. We understand that the climate crises is a manifestation of these processes.

We stand against the commodification, privatisation, appropriation and exploitation of riverine ecosystems and the resultant dispossession of riparian communities due to construction of dams and barrages, embankments, hydroelectric power projects, commercial sand mining, riverfront development, sewage and effluent dumping and mindless infrastructure projects.

We believe that these state led and corporate backed policies have caused alienation and conflicts between people and their ecosystems as well as upstream and downstream riparian communities fueling an environment of blame and mistrust across administrative boundaries of states and nations.

We recognise the complete failure of dominant river/water management regimes and pedagogies which are top down, colonial and technocentric, prioritising economic engineering marginalizing indigenous wisdom, and crucial disciplines like hydrology, geomorphology, and riverine ecosystem as well as political science, anthropology and policy studies.

In light of the above we resolve to work towards\*

Protecting the wellbeing of our rivers as free flowing living entities, an invaluable part of the natural world and society.

Building a shared understanding of the diverse values of rivers beyond political/administrative boundaries - beyond the divisions of class, caste, gender and ethnicity.

Educating ourselves on our riverine histories and contemporary challenges and threats through a multi disciplinary lens putting the most marginalized riparian communities and their knowledge at the centre of shared river dialogues.

Resisting the commodification, appropriation, exploitation and pollution of our rivers that threaten rivers and riverine values

Asserting our riparian user rights with principles of sustainability, equity, justice at the centre with interests of vulnerable smallholders, artisans, fisherfolks, women and other marginalized groups first.

Mahendra Yadav

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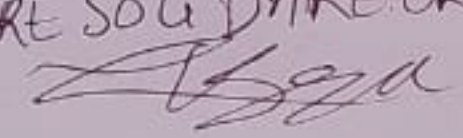
...iving and renewing of threatened rivers, riverine ecosystems and dependent riparian wellhoods


Rejecting reductionist engineering-based water knowledge and climate solutions.  
Advocating for community centred water and river governance based on holistic approaches of climate justice

Engaging and demanding accountability from the state to provide just compensation and rehabilitation for displaced and dispossessed riparian communities.

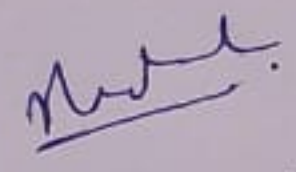
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