

**Building Resilience for Sustaining Development**

# **Building Climate Resilient River Ecosystems**

One day Multi Stakeholder dialogue focusing on Challenges  
and Pathways for Vaigai and Gundar River

**Madurai Symposium 2017**

Thamukkam Ground, Madurai

September 22, 2017

*Organized by*

Water Knowledge Centre  
Tata-Dhan Academy, DHAN Foundation



## Background

*Over 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water use exceeds recharge, leading to the desiccation of rivers, depletion of groundwater and the degradation of ecosystems. - UN*



India is blessed with many perennial and non-perennial rivers. And the rivers are integrated with people not only as water source but in culture, heritage, livelihood, transport and numerous activities. Even though it serves numerous functions, the way we look at the river stops as water source only. This perspective leads to the degradation of various ecosystems existing and other integrated processes. The health and ecology of the rivers are pertinent to a country's economic growth and food security

First, the **ecology of the river** refers to the relationships that living organisms have with each other and with their environment – the ecosystem. For the past decade, we are facing various climate pattern changes and as a monsoon dependent nation, it is very imperative that our valuable rivers and its ecosystems must be protected. It is clearly evident from various studies that there is not much change in the amount of rainfall but in the frequency and duration of the rainfall. Therefore the policy decisions and other development activities must include this parameter to combat the changing climatic pattern.



## Tamil Nadu River Week 2017

With a view to raising debate and awareness about the importance of rejuvenating rivers, India River Week was first organized in 2014 & 2016 in New Delhi. After seeing the tremendous success of this initiative it was decided to hold Tamil Nadu River Week on the same lines with the theme. Water Knowledge Centre (WKC), Tata-Dhan Academy, DHAN Foundation, Madurai conducted the First Tamil Nadu

River Week 2017 at Madurai on July 4-5, 2017 on the following theme namely, 'River as Ecosystem - Scope, Challenges and Pathways to restore river ecosystems'. Madurai District collector . K. VeeraRaghavRao IAS, inaugurated the important conference on July 4, 2017. Experts, Professors Research scholars, students. Three lead papers and twelve separate papers focusing different rivers in Tamil Nadu were presented at this forum. As a follow up to Tamil Nadu River week and to , This one day multi stakeholder dialogue focusing only on Challenges and Pathways for Vaigai and Gundar River is proposed with the broader theme



## “BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT RIVER ECOSYSTEMS”

### Objectives

The main objectives of one day seminar are

- To understand the concept of studying the health of the rivers and viewing river as an ecosystem
- To know about the changing climatic patterns and its impact on river ecosystems
- To open a multi stakeholder platform for discussing present status, scopes and challenges faced by river ecosystems focusing Vaigai and Gundar River
- To come out with policy brief document with Challenges and Way forward for Vaigai and Gundar River

### Target audience

Students, Research Scholars, Professors, Practitioners, Government representatives, NGOs and other institutions working in water sector



## Schedule

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Registration
10:15 – 10:20 a.m.	Welcome Address
10:20 – 10:30 a.m.	Proceedings Book Release - 'Tamil Nadu River Week 2017'
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Presentation on – 'Healthy Rivers & Ecosystem' Presentation on Vaigai River
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Tea Break
11:45 – 01:15 p.m.	Presentation on Gundar River & Green River
01:15 – 02:15 p.m.	Lunch
02:15 – 02:45 p.m.	Panel/Sub-Group Discussion
02:45 – 03:00 p.m.	Tea Break
03:00 – 03:15 p.m.	River Restoration Videos
03:15 – 03:30 p.m.	Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks

## Registration Fee

No Registration Fee. Kindly confirm your participation.

*For further information, please contact*

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