



# **TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND RIGHTS OF NATURE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

## **Inaugural Conference of the School of Sustainability and Law, National Law University, Meghalaya**

**5-6 April 2024, APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, National Law University, Meghalaya,  
Mayurbhanj Complex, Nongthymmai, Shillong 793014**

In association with the World Commission on Environmental Law – International Union for the Conservation of Nature (WCEL/IUCN) Task Force on Rights of Nature

***FRIDAY 5 APRIL 2024***

**LUNCH AND REGISTRATION [12:00PM-12:45PM]**

**WELCOME ADDRESS [12:45-1:00PM]**

Prof. Indrajit Dube, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Meghalaya

**INAUGURAL SESSION [1:00PM-2:00PM]**

**Introduction: Linking Rights of Nature and Tribal Ecological Governance**

Prof. Philippe Cullet, Professor in residence, National Law University, Meghalaya

**Tribal Ecological Knowledge and the Law**

Dr Usha Ramanathan, law researcher

**PANEL I. DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE AND TRIBAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE [2:00-3:30PM]**

Chair: Ms Juliana Almeida, International Environment Law Specialist, UNEP

**Decentralised Governance and Forest Rights Act**

Ms Shomona Khanna, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Delhi High Court

**Incorporating Tribal Ecological Knowledge: Contribution of Tribal Management of the Environment Towards Climate Resilience**

Mr Amba Jamir, Policy and Development Strategist

**Commons, Institutions and Natural Resource Management in the North East Region**

Dr Abhinandan Sakia, Assistant Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati

**Governance of Commons and its Implications on Pastoralism and Agroecology: Case Studies from Tribal Areas of Central and Western India**

Mr Dilip Kumar, Independent Researcher

3:30-4:00pm Tea/coffee

**PANEL II. EXPERIENCES IN DIFFERENT STATES – SELECTED EXAMPLES [4:00PM-6:00PM]**

Chair: Dr Usha Ramanathan, law researcher

**Tribal Environmental Governance in Manipur: Case of the Rongmei Tribe**

Dr Joseph Riamei, Assistant Professor, Centre for Community Organisation and Development Practice (CODP), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

**Reviving Zo tribal traditional practices towards strengthening community-based climate resilience**

Mr Golan Naulak, Regional Policy and Development Professional

**Women and Nature: Resource management and Livelihood interventions of khasi rural women**

Prof Rekha Shangpliang, Faculty, Department of Sociology, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU)

**HARMONY CIRCLE FACILITATED BY MD PALLAVI [6:00PM-7:00PM]**

Ms MD Pallavi, singer, actor, composer



**SATURDAY 6 APRIL 2024**

**PANEL III. TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN MEGHALAYA**

**[9:30AM-1:00PM]**

Chair: Ms Angela Rangad, Member, Thma U Rangli Juki (TUR)

**PART I**

**The Umkrah: A River Cries Foul**

Prof Desmond Kharmawphlang, Professor and Head, Department of Cultural and Creative Studies, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU)

**Community Based Rules for Landscape Management: A Case Study of the Khasi, Meghalaya**

Dr Bhogtoram Mawroh, Senior Associate, North East Society for Agroecology Support (NESFAS), Shillong

**Hydro-Social Dynamics and Governance: Challenges to Sustainability in Shillong's Urban Water Systems**

Dr Bankerlang Kharmylliem, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Shillong Commerce College

**11:00-11:30am Tea/coffee**

**PART II**

**Bending the Norms: Changing Nature to secure livelihoods in Garo Hills, India**

Dr Amit Kurien, Assistant Professor (Environmental Science), RV University

**Environmental history and water resource use in the Khasi Hills**

Ms Amebari Kharkongor, Assistant Professor, Shillong College

**Protecting Meghalaya's Ecological Heritage: Traditional Knowledge and Decentralized Governance, A Case Study of Rangthylliang Village**

Ms Badapbiang Dkhar, Research Fellow, National Law University, Meghalaya

**1:00pm-2:00pm Lunch**



**PANEL IV. TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: CASE STUDIES IN  
NORTH-EASTERN STATES AND LADAKH [2:00PM-4:00PM]**

Chair: Dr HH Morhmen, Social Scientist, NESFAS

**Boro Tribal Governance for Traditional Conflict Resolution and Environmental  
Justice in Dhauliguri village, Kokrajhar, Assam**

Dr Jyotishman Taye, Assistant Professor, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Gauhati  
University

**Impact of land policies on the ecological futures in Arunachal Pradesh**

Ms Bhaswati Borgohain, ICSSR Doctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Tezpur University

**Women's Ecological Knowledge Systems – Experiences from the Field**

Ms Vilazonuo Gloria, Project Lead, North East Network

**Traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous governance system in making  
communities more resilient to climate change – The case of Ladakh**

Dr Tsewang Namgail, Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust

**4:00-4:30pm Tea/coffee**

**SESSION V. LINKING TRIBAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND RIGHTS OF  
NATURE AND NEXT STEPS [4:30PM-5:00PM]**

Chair: Philippe Cullet

