



Resilient Coasts, Thriving Communities: A Sea of Solutions

Date: 18 – 19 August 2025

Venue: Grand Hyatt, Kochi, Kerala, India

PROGRAM

Agenda Day 1 Monday, 18 August 2025	
9:00–10:15 am	Registration and Welcome Tea
10:15–10:30 am	Welcome and Forum Overview Master of Ceremony: Ms. Vimmi Choudhry
10:30–11:15 am	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Remarks from Government of Kerala Shri Jeevan Babu K, IAS, Special Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Kerala Welcome Remarks from Asian Development Bank Ms. Mio Oka, India Country Director, ADB Video Message from Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala Inaugural Address Shri P. Rajeeve, Minister for Industries, Law and Coir, Government of Kerala Address from Central Water Commission Shri. Atul Jain, Chairman, Central Water Commission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India
11:15–11:45 am	First Session – Keynote Speaker: The Lifechanging Benefits of Aquatic Foods in the First 1,000 Days of Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, Director for Nutrition, Health and Food Security Impact Area Platform, CGIAR, awarded the 2021 World Food Prize
11:45–1:00 pm	Second Session – Coastal Resilience and Protection Solutions Moderator: Jeevan Babu, Special Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Kerala <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scene Setting Ms. Mary Simla and Ms. Haseena Abdul Kalam Nature-Based Solutions (Deltas and Coasts) Dr. Petra Dankers, Management Team at EcoShape and Leading Professional NbS at Haskoning Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management, Maharashtra Dr. Mahesh Chandurkar, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Government of Maharashtra Beyond Seawalls – An Integrated Approach to Coastal Zone Management Blair Spindel, Senior Coastal and Marine Specialist, ADB
1:00–2:15 pm	Group Photo then Lunch
2:15–3:00 pm	Interactive Session – Creative Tension Questions Facilitated by Ms. Grace Gayoso Pasion, Senior Knowledge Management Officer, ADB
3:00 – 3:45 pm	Third Session - Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Moderator: Alexia Michels, Senior Water Resources Specialist, ADB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature-Positive Innovations to Address the Health and Livelihood Challenges of Fishing Communities Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation

Resilient Coasts, Thriving Communities: A Sea of Solutions

18–19 AUGUST 2025 | KOCHI, KERALA, INDIA



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Contribution of Migratory Shorebirds to Sustainable Livelihoods and Thriving Communities Vinayagan Dharmarajah, Regional Director (Asia) and Head of Governance, BirdLife International
3:45–4:15 pm	Tea Break
4:15–5:15 pm	Fourth Session – Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Moderator: Dr. Arun Padiyar P., Country Representative, WorldFish India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boosting Livelihoods and Local Economies through Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Dr. Sunil Mohammed, Former Principal Scientist and Head of Division, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi and Chair, Sustainable Seafood Network of India (SSNI) Boosting children's nutrition and women's livelihoods through aquatic foods Dr. Nikita Gopal, Head, EIS Division & Principal Scientist, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology Climate Change and Fisheries Dr. Sevrine Sailley, Senior Ecosystem Modeler, Plymouth Marine Lab
5:15–5:30 pm	Day 1 Closing Session
6:30–7:30 pm	Cultural Performance by Agatha Dance Company – Kochi
7:30–8:30 pm	Dinner at Vembanad 3 Foyer, LBICC, Banquet Level

Agenda Day 2 Tuesday, 19 August 2025	
9:00–9:30 am	Welcome to Forum Day 2 Master of Ceremony: Ms. Vimmi Choudhry Visual Recap of Day 1 Facilitated by Mr. Keisuke Taketani, ADB
9:30–11:00 am	Fifth Session - Resilient Energy Infrastructure, Green Ports Moderator: Jaimes Kolantharaj, Principal Energy Specialist, ADB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Energy and Communities Mr. Narendra Nath Veluri, IFS, CEO, ANERT, Kerala Climate Resilient Energy Infrastructure for Coastline Dr. Manisha Mukherjee, Executive Director, Nangia Andersen India, Pvt. Ltd. Enhancing Livelihood of Communities Through Renewable Energy Ms. Martha Wakoli, Senior Manager, CLASP, Kenya Green Ports Mr. Ankush Saxena, Associate Partner, KPMG India Mr. Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose, Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (Panelist)
11:00–11:30 am	Tea Break
11:30–12:30 pm	Sixth Session – Marine Pollution Control and Circular Economy Moderator: Dr. Petra Dankers, Management Team at EcoShape and Leading Professional NbS at Haskoning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridging the Informal and Formal Sectors to Reduce Plastic Pollution Siddharth Hande, Founder and CEO, Kabadiwalla Connect Reducing Nitrogen Pollution from Source to Sea



	<p>Professor Mark Sutton, Environmental Physicist and Director of the GCRF South Asian Nitrogen Hub, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Experience on Integrating Natural Capital for Coastal Resilience and Circular Economy Zhe Yuan, Natural Resources Economist, ADB
12:30–1:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:30–2:15 pm	<p>Seventh Session – Interactive Session: Newspaper Activity Facilitated by Mr. Keisuke Taketani, ADB</p>
2:15–3:00 pm	<p>Eight Session – Tools and Models for Coastal Resilience Planning</p> <p>Moderator: Suneel Pamidi, IFS, Former Director, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Kerala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Areas Dr. Tune Usha, Scientist, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India Coastal Management Information System (CMIS) for Planners and Designers Mr. D.P. Mathuria, Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission, India
3:00–3:30 pm	Tea Break
3:30–4:30 pm	<p>Ninth Session – Innovative Financing for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems</p> <p>Moderator: Meera Nair, Independent Board Director, DBS Bank of India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Capital, Ecosystem Valuation and Innovative Financing Mechanisms Lan Le, Environmental Economist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, ADB (virtual) Strengthening Blue Finance in India Venkat Sreedhara, Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank and Anuja Shukla, Environment Specialist, World Bank Innovative Private Sector Investment in Coastal Economies Ganesh Pillai, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB Government Perspective on Innovative Financing Mr. Saurabh Vijay, Principal Secretary (Expenditure), Finance Department, Government of Maharashtra as
4:30–5:00 pm	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual highlights of Day 2 Keisuke Taketani, ADB Closing Remarks Shri Jeevan Babu K, IAS, Special Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Kerala Closing Remarks Sanath Ranawana, Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, ADB <p>Thank you and Goodbye</p>