

TERMS OF REFERENCE

We request your support in preparing a concise policy brief (approx. 4 pages) for our ongoing action research project **titled *Sound of Silence: Strengthening Tribal Women's Voices and Leadership for Climate Risk Reduction among Tribal Communities in the Sundarbans, India***. The brief will be presented and circulated at a knowledge dissemination and advocacy conclave tentatively scheduled for March 2026.

This project is designed to amplify and integrate the voices, experiences and priorities of tribal communities in the Indian Sundarbans into climate change and sustainable development discourse and practice in India. It focuses particularly on strengthening tribal women's leadership in climate risk reduction and community resilience.

The key objectives of the project include:

- Assessing the specific vulnerabilities, needs and adaptive capacities of tribal communities in the Sundarbans.
- Piloting community-led, locally embedded climate risk reduction initiatives.
- Building the leadership and technical capacities of tribal women to lead adaptation and resilience actions.
- Promoting mangrove conservation, climate-resilient livelihoods and community self-reliance.
- Generating field-based evidence to inform policy and practice.

The project has been implemented over the past three years across eight villages in four blocks of the Indian Sundarbans: Kakdwip, Kultali, Hingalganj and Sandeshkhali I, and has engaged 800 tribal households.

For the policy brief, we request you to:

- Visit the four project blocks (Sandeshkhali I, Hingalganj, Kakdwip and Kultali) and interact with field teams and community participants where feasible.
- Review key programme and research documents.
- Synthesize major findings, field insights, developed models and lessons learned.
- Develop clear, evidence-based policy messages and actionable recommendations for government, practitioners and allied stakeholders.

The intended output is a reader-friendly policy brief or policy note suitable for circulation among community members, policymakers, researchers, civil society organisations and development practitioners at the conclave.

We would be grateful for an indicative timeline and the total cost requirement for this assignment. We will be happy to share all background materials and facilitate field visits and consultations.

Please submit a detailed offer along with the organisation profile / individual CVs / specimen copy (if any policy brief has been made) within 15th February 2026 to quotation@drcsc.org

For more details please get in touch with Sulekha Laha - 9432013137