
Foreword

November began with a team offsite in Goa, where our shared mission was invigorated with renewed energy, innovative ideas, and many new team members joining us for the first time.

For the rest of the month, we were involved in key conversations on climate resilience and adaptation. Our director participated in COP29 to moderate a session, and the report we co-authored with Global Resilience Partnership was launched at the World Urban Forum. We also addressed topics in climate mitigation and adaptation through blogs, articles, and podcasts. Peek into our journey last month, and let's continue to learn, act, and inspire together!



(The Transitions Research Team in Aldona, Goa)

Upcoming at Transitions:

Can Green Jobs Address the Youth Unemployment Crisis? Join our Talking About Transitions (TAT) dialogue on December 12th at 5:30 am.

Youth unemployment is rising in India. Relatively few young Indians are equipped for the dynamic realities of work in the twenty-first century. Less than 10 per cent of young Indians have received any green skills training. This gap is alarming, given that green jobs are essential to addressing the climate crisis as well as economic challenges. Over half the GDP in developing countries like India is already impacted by climate change, yet our workforce lacks the green skills needed to drive a low-carbon transition. So how do we move forward?

Join us on 12 December at 5:30 p.m. (IST) for a timely dialogue on ‘[Can Green Jobs Address the Youth Unemployment Crisis?](#)’. We’ll explore strategies for equipping youth with the skills needed for green jobs and for ensuring that low- and middle-income communities are not left behind in this transition.

Register: <link>



[PODCAST] In the latest episodes of MAP, learn how to make on-the-ground impact and harness the power of storytelling for climate action



In Episode 9 of MAP, Communications Specialist [Milan George Jacob](#) shares how he turned his passion for visuals into a thriving career. From conceptualising award-winning documentaries to innovative projects, Milan discusses workplace learning, balancing personal interests with financial security, and acquiring new skills on the go. Listen to this episode, **‘Visualising Climate Change with Milan Jacob’**, [here](#).

Episode 10 of MAP features **Chandni Singh**, an environmental social scientist, who speaks about building bridges between academic research and real-world climate action. Drawing from her experience, Chandni offers guidance on building impactful careers rooted in successful translation of research into practice. [Listen to ‘From Climate Research to On-the-Ground Impact’](#) [here](#).

Make sure you never miss another episode of MAP. [Follow us here](#) to get updates in your inbox as soon as new episodes are dropped.

Publications

[Report] Identifying Opportunities to Scale Resilience in Informal Contexts

With much of urbanisation taking place in informal contexts in the Global South, building resilience means placing the most vulnerable at the core of climate action. We urgently need to address financing gaps and develop innovative, scalable solutions that can work to address the vulnerability of informal workers and residents of informal settlements.

Transitions Research, in collaboration with the [Global Resilience Partnership](#), has co-authored the report **‘[From Informality to Impact](#)’**, which was launched at the World Urban Forum in Cairo on November 6th.

This report reviews the current landscape of urban resilience solutions being implemented across the Global South and identifies key opportunities and challenges for scaling resilience innovations in informal employment contexts. It provides actionable recommendations for enabling policy and investment approaches to resilience solutions, both for-profit and not-for-profit entities.

[Blog] What role does energy efficiency in urban households play in India's net-zero drive?

Indian manufacturers are increasingly adopting the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)'s Star Labelling System, resulting in improving energy efficiency in urban Indian households.

In this blogpost, '**Incentivising Energy Efficiency in Urban Indian Households**', Amita Basu analyses policy gaps and behavioural barriers to examine the role of energy efficiency in urban households in India's net-zero drive.

Read [here](#).



Incentivising Energy Efficiency In Urban Indian Households

Aligning India's AI Ambitions with Climate Goals: Angelina Chamuah and Lianne D'Souza's opinion piece on Hindustan Times

How can India harness the benefits of AI while addressing its environmental costs?

At the recently concluded COP29, the inaugural "Digitalisation Day" and the Declaration on Green Digital Action highlighted the dual role of digital technologies in tackling the climate crisis while posing sustainability challenges of their own. For India, these discussions are especially pressing as the nation pushes forward with its AI ambitions and, at the same time, strives to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Angelina Chamuah, Programme Director of Future Foresight, and Lianne D'Souza, Researcher at Transitions Research, explore this critical question in their latest [Hindustan Times article](#). They propose actionable measures to align India's AI advancements with its climate targets, emphasising the importance of responsible digital innovation.

The Role of Sales Agents in Driving the EV Revolution: Ashali Bhandari for India Development Review

As India races to meet its net-zero goals, the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) is pivotal to decarbonising the mobility sector, which accounts for one-fifth of household carbon footprints. Despite government targets – 30 per cent of private car sales and 80 per cent of two-wheeler sales to be electric by 2030 – the path to widespread EV adoption is fraught with challenges.

In this article, Ashali Bhandari examines how biases, lack of training, and limited knowledge prevent sales personnel from effectively promoting EVs. If these challenges are addressed, sales agents could become crucial drivers of change, encouraging customers to transition to cleaner mobility options.

Read the full article [here](#) to understand how empowering sales agents could accelerate India's shift to a low-carbon future.

Tackling the Climate Crisis with Nature-based Solutions: Ashali Bhandari's inputs cited on an explainer on Nature-based Solutions(NbS)

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) offer an innovative approach to combat climate change by



leveraging natural systems, such as forests, wetlands, and urban green spaces, to restore ecosystems, reduce emissions, and support local communities.

From mangrove restoration to urban green infrastructure, NbS provides practical ways to address climate challenges. In India, efforts like sustainable farming and urban forestry are already making an impact. However, effectively scaling NbS requires overcoming challenges like financing gaps, land-use conflicts, and ensuring community participation.

Curious about how NbS can drive meaningful climate action? Read IDR's latest piece [here](#).

Events

At #COP29, Vikrom Mathur, Director of Transitions Research, moderated a panel on 'Climate Resilience and Adaptation Innovation in Informal Urban Contexts in the Global South'

Hosted by the [Observer Research Foundation](#), this panel brought together leading experts, including Thomas Tanner (Director, SOAS Center for Development and Environmental Policy), Akanksha Sharma (Head of ClimateTech and Digital Utilities, GSMA), Aditya V. Bahadur (Director, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre), and Nguyen Hong Long (Director, Centre for Creativity and Sustainability Study and Consultancy), to explore locally-led initiatives, grassroots innovations, and inclusive governance as transformative tools for building climate resilience.

This COP29 session underscored the importance of collaboration across sectors and geographies, integrating local knowledge, technology, and policy innovation to foster resilience in vulnerable urban areas, paving the way for equitable and effective climate solutions in the Global South.



What we've been reading/watching/listening to

'I recently watched *The Wild Robot*, a film based on Peter Brown's book, and found it a compelling narrative that reimagines the role of technology, AI, and nature. Unlike traditional dystopian tales where technology disrupts, the protagonist, a robot named Roz, embodies a vision of AI that adapts, empathises, and coexists harmoniously with the natural world. This fresh take on AI feels hopeful and timely. By exploring AI from the perspective of care, *The Wild Robot* offers a thought-provoking take on sustainability and the potential for harmonious innovation.' –[Shraddha More, Learning Designer](#)

'I just finished reading *Eating in Theory* by Annemarie Mol and I am struck by its fresh perspective on eating as a lens to reconsider our entanglements with the world. Published in 2021, this book is a contribution to empirical philosophy by the Dutch ethnographer and philosopher, presenting stories that transcends eating itself to rethink our understanding of being, knowing, doing, and relating. Drawing on ecological and philosophical discussions, Mol critiques the separation of human intellect from bodily practices, and urges us to see eating as an act that connects and transforms us.' –[Prarthana Arandhara, Research Associate](#)

Before you go! If you are a resident of Panaji, Goa, help shape the city's vision for a net zero future!

In October, under our initiative, PULL (People's Urban Living Lab), and with support from the Goa Energy Development Agency (GEDA), we produced a draft report that reflects the shared values and visions of the residents of Panaji for their net zero future, as the city races to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The report is informed by our visioning activities in Panaji, where we aimed to put people and not carbon at the centre of the city's low carbon policy planning. Learn more about how Panaji's residents see their future ([here](#)), and share your thoughts and feedback on the city's goals and priorities by filling out [this survey](#).



Call to action

Follow us on [social media](#). Subscribe to our [newsletter](#). Visit our [website](#). Get in touch [for collaborations](#). [Write to us](#) to join the conversation around the transition to an equitable and livable future.

