

TEN YEARS AFTER: EVALUATING STATE ACTION PLANS IN INDIA

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Projections on climate change in South Asia present a dire picture of how temperature and precipitation changes will impact lives and livelihoods, as well as the ecology and economy of the region. However, there is a growing recognition that there are large variations in how climate change will impact Indian states, and many states may fare worse than the regional average. State climate plans were conceived as a means to decentralise national efforts on climate change and have been a useful exercise in kick starting action, predominantly on adaptation, at the sub-national level. Their operationalization, however, remains inadequately monitored and documented. State climate planning today encompasses a diverse array of donor-led interventions, business-as-usual state efforts, and centrally managed schemes and funding mechanisms. These efforts, while they add up to a tangible body of action, are largely isolated, and remain at the side-lines of state governance mechanisms, as well as their planning and budgeting processes. They are also insufficiently aligned at the local and national level to form an effective multilevel governance system on climate change.
