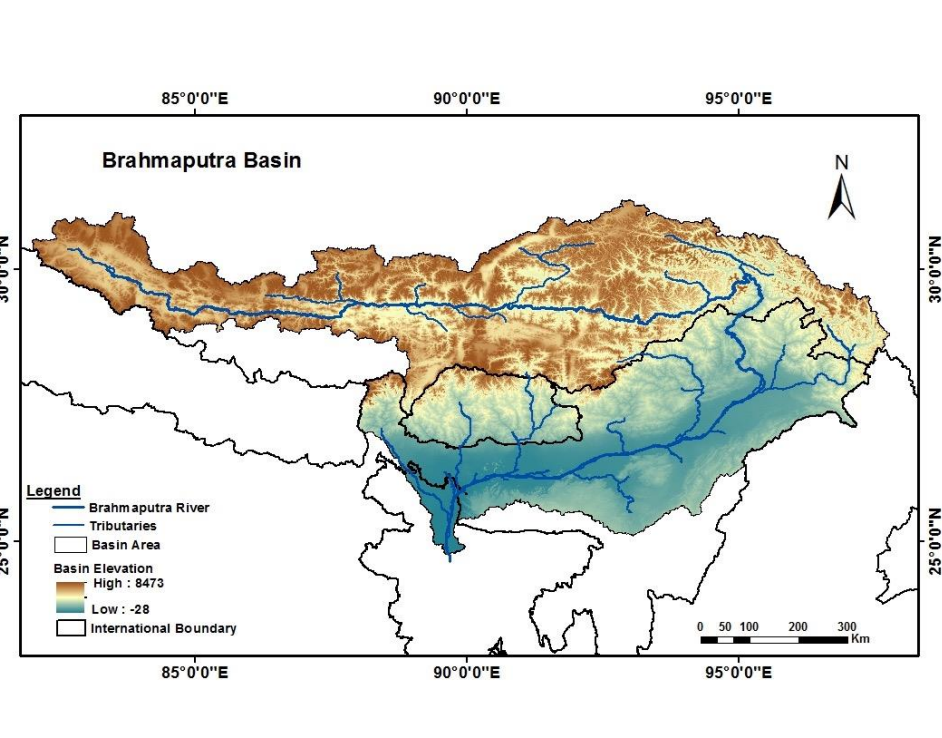


# Science communication for water diplomacy in the Brahmaputra



Anamika Barua, IIT Guwahati

25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Building resilient rivers and deltas: taking stock from research & practices

DUPC 2

## Why this project?

- Misleading or negative narratives around the river basin
- Lack of integration, dissemination of and access to knowledge and information about the basin
- Generation of poorly researched media reports, at times biased, and end up seeking mass sensation.

# Approach



## Knowledge

Scoping research

Online course

Scientific articles



## Capacity

Webinar

Workshop

Roaster



## Narratives

Photo- story exhibition

Podcast

Multi media story/video grant

# Knowledge



- Scoping research :
  - the role of the media in water conflicts and cooperation in the Brahmaputra. How do they work? Where do they find relevant experts? Where do they get their data and figures from? What are the implications of specific framing for water conflicts and cooperation? Does the current political situation influence the media's reporting?
- Online course :
  - enable scientists to communicate their work in a manner that is easily understood and disseminated by the media. (course on communication skills for water diplomacy)
- Scientific articles :
  - Research articles
  - Opinion pieces (gender and water diplomacy; media as a knowledge-broker)

# Capacity



SCIENCE COMMUNICATION FOR  
WATER DIPLOMACY IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA  
PROJECT HIGHLIGHT | WEBINAR SERIES ON HYDRO-DIPLOMACY



## Webinar series on HYDRO-DIPLOMACY



Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) is pleased to invite you to the webinar series on hydro-diplomacy.

The webinar will begin from 18th Sep 2020 and will continue until 12th Nov 2020, with a specific focus on a sub-theme during each session.

### Inception Webinar:

Fundamentals of Hydro-diplomacy

Tarig Karim, Shyam Saran, 18th September  
Uddala Alam, Mahendra P Lama, 05:00 – 07:00 PM (IST)  
Nandita Baruah

### Bonus lecture:

Water Security and Integrated Modelling Studies

Roger A Falconer, 25th September  
T. G. Sitharam, 05:00 – 06:30 PM (IST)

### Webinar 1:

Power in water diplomacy

Jeroen Warner, 1st October  
Sumit Vij, 05:00 – 06:30 PM (IST)

### Webinar 2:

Communication and media in water diplomacy

Emanuele Fantini, 9th October  
Joydeep Gupta, 05:00 – 06:30 PM (IST)

### Webinar 3:

Gender and hydro-diplomacy

Natasha Carni, 19th October  
Jennifer Sehning, 05:00 – 06:30 PM (IST)

### Webinar 4:

Transboundary Water Conflict and Cooperation

Mark Zeitoun, 21st October  
Selina Ho, 05:00 – 06:30 pm (IST)

### Webinar 5:

International water laws

Christina Leht, 30th October  
Lina Salameh, 08:30 – 08:00 PM (IST)

### Webinar 6:

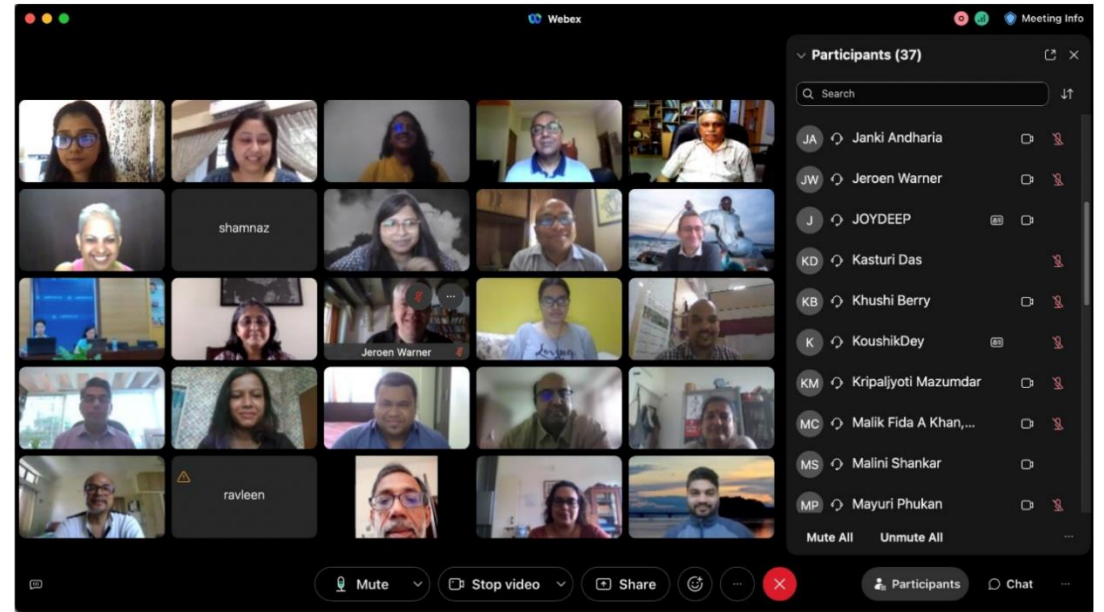
Mediation, dispute resolution & conflict management in hydro-diplomacy

Aaron T Wolf, 6th November  
Zohi Shubber, 08:30 – 08:00 PM (IST)

### Bonus Lecture:

Rising water scarcity and sustainable solutions

Muttucumarasu Shal Kumar, 12th November  
Arup Kumar Sarma, 03:00 pm – 4:30 PM (IST)



## Workshop on DRR : Confluence of science and media

A roster of the scientific community, based on their expertise

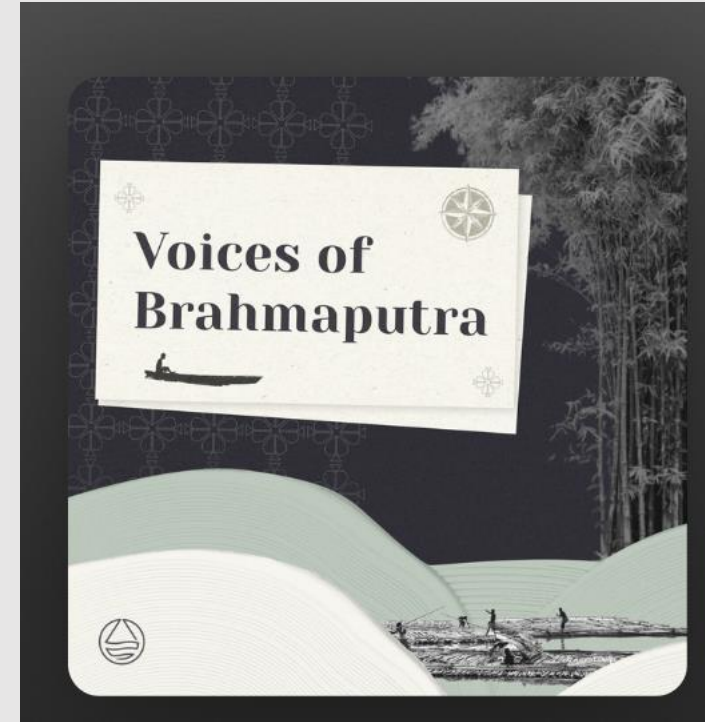
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gy08jzV1yhrWRKdICBVU55O421I8kA5LMBUEma8UvYM/edit#gid=0>



# Narratives




**A photo story exhibition**




**A series of podcast : Voices of Brahmaputra**


History of the Brahmaputra Basin:  
**River without Boundaries**  
Voices of Brahmaputra • S1 • E1




**Arupjyoti Saikia**  
Professor  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
IIT Guwahati



**Ainun Nishat**  
Professor Emeritus  
Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research  
BRAC University



Listen on  Anchor  
by Spotify

**Science of the Brahmaputra**  
Voices of Brahmaputra • S1 • E2



**Lei Xie**  
Professor  
Institute of Governance  
Shandong University



**Mohammad Rezaur Rahman**  
Professor  
Institute of Water and Flood Management  
Bangladesh University Of Engineering & Technology



**Arup Kumar Sarma**  
Professor  
Department of Civil Engineering  
IIT Guwahati



**Politics around the Brahmaputra Basin**  
Voices of Brahmaputra • S1 • E3



**Selina Ho**  
Assistant Professor  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
National University of Singapore



**Sumit Vij**  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
Faculty of Sciences  
Vrije University Amsterdam & Public Administration and Policy Group  
Wageningen University



**Syeda Rizwana Hasan**  
Lawyer at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Chief Executive  
Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association



**Culture & Music of the Brahmaputra Basin**  
Voices of Brahmaputra • S1 • E4



**Sanjoy Hazarika**  
Director  
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative  
Founder & Managing Trustee  
Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research



**Shamnaz Ahmed Rumi**  
Consortium Coordinator  
SuBaSh Consortium  
International Rescue Committee



Listen on:  Google Podcast |  Anchor  
by Spotify

**Young Professionals of the Brahmaputra Basin**  
Voices of Brahmaputra • S1 • E6



**Swagata Das**  
PhD Researcher  
International Centre of Urbanism  
KU Leuven



**Arundhati Deka**  
Research Associate  
Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences  
IIT Guwahati



**Salma Begum**  
PhD Researcher  
International Centre of Urbanism  
KU Leuven



**Xiawei Liao**  
Water Specialist  
World Bank  
China



**Multimedia story grantees: Reporting from the ground**  
Voices of Brahmaputra • S1 • E7



**Ashima Sharma**  
Journalist



**Minket Lepcha**  
Journalist



**Tahsina Sadeque**  
Journalist



**Women Professionals of the Brahmaputra Basin**  
Voices of Brahmaputra • S1 • E5



**Mandaini Surie**  
International Development Consultant  
Ex-Senior Program Manager  
Australian Dept. of Foreign Affairs & Trade



**Bushra Nishat**  
Environmental Specialist  
South Asian Region  
Environment Unit  
World Bank





## MULTIMEDIA STORY GRANTEES



**ASHIMA SHARMA**



**MINKET LEPCHA**



**TAHSINA SADEQUE**



**ABU SIDDIQUE**



**MASS MEDIA**



**KINLEY YONTEN**



# What this project tried to achieve?

- The role of media in building narratives and their sources of data
- Fostering dialogue between media and the scientific community.
- Inform water scientists on the need to reach out to the public through media
- Responsible reporting by the media based on scientifically authenticated information.
- Assess economic opportunities, challenges and research priorities in the basin

Media reporting on conflicts and cooperation: what does it mean for the Brahmaputra Basin?  
*(Accepted for publication in IJWRD) : Arundhati, Natasha, Sumit, Anamika and Emanuele*

# The process continues

Navigation in the BRB



*Assess economic opportunities,  
challenges and research priorities in  
the basin.*

- **TransPath: Water Transformation Pathways Planning– 2022 - 2026**



- **Science communication for water diplomacy in the Brahmaputra Basin – 2020 - 2022**



Thank You!

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