



**Symposium on
Exploring Pathways to
Sustainability**

February 10 – 11, 2014



CONCEPT NOTE: UNCERTAINTY FROM BELOW
(SESSION 2: FEB 10, 2.00P.M- 4.00P.M)

Theme: Uncertainty from below

Ecological uncertainty has usually been theorized from 'above' by experts, natural scientists, and modellers who measure and make prognoses about water availability and variability, glacier movements as well as changes in temperature and their impacts on the soils, water and food systems and what this means for local level impacts of climate change. But the theories and models concerning uncertainty from "above" may have little to do with the way how everyday men and women (poor or rich, urban or rural especially in the global South) live with, understand and cope with uncertainty in their daily lives.

This panel draws on ongoing STEPS centre research in the Sunderbans, Kutch and urban India to ask:

- How are diverse actors interpreting climate change at the local level?
- How are these shaped by knowledge, politics and power?
- How do patterns of uncertainty interact with other major drivers of social, economic and political change?

It is hoped that the session will address whether it is possible to bridge the gap between the perceptions of those who theorise about climate change and uncertainty from 'above', those who experience it from 'below', as well as those in the 'middle' who act as intermediaries between the two.