

Senior Research Associate, Environmental Governance | India

Want to build solutions addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity and land degradation? Eager to learn how multi-stakeholder dialogue can transform governance to get at the roots of environmental resource conflict, poverty and vulnerability? Committed to research that provides practical support to partners empowering citizen engagement?

About CoRe

[Collaborating for Resilience \(CoRe\)](#) is an international, non-profit, entrepreneurial change initiative working to address resource competition, and strengthen governance and livelihood resilience in interconnected resource domains and landscapes, including agricultural lands, forests, fisheries, inland waterways and coastal zones. Its mission is to strengthen the practice of multi-stakeholder dialogue to promote and scale governance innovations for equitable and sustainable natural resource management.

CoRe is a strategic partner in design and implementation of the Promise of Commons initiative in India spearheaded by the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES). Under the Promise of Commons, FES and its partners are engaged in a bold agenda working at multiple levels (local, state, and national) to advance landscape restoration, livelihood resilience and inclusive, democratic governance in India. The goal is to reach 38 million rural people over the next 5 years, to reach a tipping point of change in favor of the 350 million rural people in the country who depend upon the Commons for their livelihoods and wellbeing.

In addition, CoRe and FES are working jointly to develop and convene an international practice and knowledge exchange initiative in landscape governance, livelihood resilience and conservation, working to build a sustained international network of practitioners and social entrepreneurs pursuing systems change.

The Opportunity

The Senior Research Associate will anchor the partnership between CoRe and FES by serving as a principal substantive expert, co-creator and advisor to CoRe's support to the Promise of Commons and as a senior member of the CoRe international research team, which includes efforts to scope and promote development of related initiatives on landscape governance, livelihood resilience and conservation. We are seeking candidates drawn to applied research, capacity strengthening and partnerships on cutting-edge topics in environmental governance.



Collaborating for Resilience
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www.coresilience.org

The successful candidate will work as an integral member of the CoRe team under the guidance of the Lead, Commons Collaborative, in collaboration with FES colleagues and partners, and with a dynamic group of experts spread across diverse geographies. This is a nationally recruited position, hosted by FES, to ensure day-to-day support and integration across the different objective areas. The position is full-time and based at the FES coordination office in Anand, Gujarat, to ensure day-to-day support and integration across the different objective areas. However, for exceptional candidates, other locations in India will be considered, particularly where there is opportunity for alignment with related partnership activities.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities include:

- Lead a program of participatory learning and action to support scaling of multi-actor platforms (MAPs) and systems change analysis (SCA) focused on pathways for influence at higher scales
- Lead development and periodic revision of monitoring & evaluation protocols and support their implementation to track progress in the development of MAPs and application of SCA approaches, and outcomes these helps enable
- Synthesize findings across multiple sites, drawing upon case studies, primary documentation and interviews, to assess and refine strategies for systems change
- Lead development of grounded guidance to support the effective application of MAPs and SCA in different socio-political contexts, and work with and partners in application of these principles
- Lead integration of this guidance into Karyashala (Rural Colleges) training programs and related field-level capacity building efforts within the Promise of Commons partner network; and into training and certification program to build capacity among FES staff and partners
- Design and facilitate reflection and learning events related to multi-stakeholder dialogue processes and policy influence, as well as broader progress of the Promise of Commons initiative
- Write and coach other team members to produce reflective and compelling communication products, including blog posts, curriculum modules and training materials, research reports, learning briefs, and scholarly publications that draw upon and support the learning processes from local to international levels
- Work with different leads and teams of FES on organizational development and strategic decision-making regarding the Promise of Commons initiative at multiple levels, and proactively consult with partners to support strategic decision-making, evolution of coalition and impact pathways
- Contribute to scoping and development of the international network, including consultations with potential partner civil society organizations,

and cultivation of opportunities for mutual capacity support and knowledge exchange

Qualifications

Education and experience:

- Post graduate degree in a relevant social science discipline (sociology, anthropology, geography, development studies, institutional economics, organizational development, management studies, gender studies, etc.). Ph.D. preferred.
- 10-15 years of experience in the design and implementation of programs to achieve systems change, preferably in the rural development context
- Work experience with a variety of international organizations, preferably including research and development organizations

Functional skills:

- Strong, independent analytical perspective and skills, combined with mature interpersonal communications skills to provide trusted guidance to staff and partners at multiple levels
- Familiarity with institutional and policy context of Promise of Commons, including organizations at field and national levels
- Ability to design and implement creative, participatory learning processes, preferably with an extensive repertoire of facilitation skills
- Clear track record of high-quality writing, combining analytical precision with compelling narrative
- Fluency in one or more national / regional languages important to FES operations, in addition to English

Behavioral competencies:

- Creative, resilient outlook, adaptability, and humor
- Ability to successfully navigate complex institutional dynamics, frequently involving tension over competing priorities and perspectives
- Readiness to travel to remote field areas in different parts of the country as required

How to Apply

Please send a resume and cover letter noting your specific areas of interest, qualifications, relevant experience and motivation for this role to Joanna Paula Titic at j.titic@coresilience.org with "Senior Research Associate - India" in the subject line. Please include a recent, unedited sample of your writing. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Apply early for full consideration.