dasra

A SHARED FUTURE

Unlocking the Potential of Diaspora for Climate Action in India

OCTOBER 2026



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About Dasra

Dasra, meaning 'enlightened giving' in Sanskrit, is a pioneering strategic philanthropic organization that aims for a transformed India where a billion thrive with dignity and equity.

In 1999, Dasra began as a venture philanthropy fund to invest in early-stage nonprofit organizations in India. Since then, Dasra has gone through different stages of evolution - from a philanthropy fund to a bridge between NGOs and funders, and now two decades later, it has cemented its identity as a leading nonprofit systems orchestrator working with diverse stakeholders across the social impact ecosystem. Over 26 years, we have engaged 1,208+ funders, mobilized USD 475 million in philanthropic capital, and supported 2,623+ organizations. We strengthen organizations and leaders, build philanthropy infrastructure, and unlock knowledge and long-term capital to co-create solutions that shift systems and advance a more equitable future.

About GivingPi

GivingPi is India's first and exclusive family philanthropy network, committed to growing the circle of philanthropy for a transformed India - where a billion people thrive with dignity and equity.

The invite-only network brings together India's most philanthropic families to engage, learn and accelerate their giving, individually and collectively addressing India's most pressing development challenges. Since its inception in 2022, GivingPi has grown to a community of 400+ families across India and more than 10 countries globally. Together, they cumulatively given over $250 million to India's social sector annually. Over the past 4 years, GivingPi has influenced more than $20 million in philanthropic capital to the sector.

About The Rockefeller Foundation

Investing $30 billion over the last 113 years to promote the well-being of humanity, The Rockefeller Foundation is a pioneering philanthropy built on unlikely partnerships and innovative solutions that deliver measurable results for people in the United States and around the world. We leverage scientific breakthroughs, artificial intelligence, and new technologies to make big bets across energy, food, health, and finance, including with our public charity, RF Catalytic Capital (RFCC). For more information, sign up for our newsletter at www.rockefellerfoundation.org/subscribe and follow us on X @RockefellerFdn, Instagram @rockefellerfdn, and LinkedIn @the-rockefeller-foundation.

Researcher's Note

This report explores how Indian diaspora philanthropists currently engage with climate action in India, what motivates them, and what shapes their journey from initial interest to sustained engagement. Because the field is still emerging, we took a qualitative approach that could capture not only giving practices but also the motivations and constraints behind philanthropic decisions.

Our research draws on insights gathered by Dasra over 18 months. It combines ongoing secondary research, stakeholder consultations, and primary engagements with 45+ diaspora donors from the global GivingPi community, most of them Indian Americans. We complemented these donor perspectives with inputs from diaspora-focused networks, climate practitioners, sector experts,media co and other ecosystem stakeholders, to understand the wider conditions in which diaspora giving takes place. Interview notes and transcripts were reviewed thematically to identify recurring motivations, barriers and patterns across the donor journey. We then triangulated these insights through secondary research, reviewing existing reports, publications, media coverage, and thought leadership by and about diaspora philanthropists and institutions.

This report is exploratory and does not claim to be representative of Indian diaspora philanthropists more broadly. Given the small size of the interview sample and the nascent state of the field, the findings should be read as indicative of emerging patterns. They offer a directional view of how diaspora philanthropy is evolving and where there may be opportunities to deepen engagement with climate action in India.

The report includes both attributed and anonymized quotations from conversations with diaspora philanthropists and diaspora philanthropy representatives. Perspectives are attributed where consent has been obtained, while others remain anonymous to respect participants' confidentiality preferences.

Disclaimer: This report was produced by Dasra with support from The Rockefeller Foundation. The findings, interpretations, and recommendations are those of the Dasra research team and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rockefeller Foundation.

How to Cite this Report

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Foreword //

For those who build their lives away from the country they call home, the idea of home often takes on a different meaning. It is where we live, but also the place that shaped us. For the Indian diaspora, that connection to India endures across generations, through family stories, festivals, food, visits and a deep sense of responsibility for the country's future.

That sense of connection has long found expression in philanthropy. Across generations, members of the Indian diaspora have supported schools, hospitals and institutions in towns and villages across the country, contributing to the communities and places with which they maintain close ties. Today, as India confronts the growing effects of climate change, this connection presents an important opportunity to help address one of the most pressing challenges facing its people.

The Indian diaspora brings with it a wealth of experience, knowledge and networks. Many have built businesses and institutions, navigated different systems and developed relationships across geographies. These resources can play an important role in advancing climate solutions in India, particularly solutions that reach vulnerable communities and strengthen their ability to withstand and adapt to climate risks.

The urgency is clear. Across India, rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, floods and storms are affecting communities, livelihoods and economic security. The impacts are felt most acutely by those with the fewest resources to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate shocks. For these communities, climate action is deeply connected to everyday concerns: health, food security, access to energy, livelihoods and the ability to build a secure future.

India is responding with ambition. In 2025, the country reached half of its installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of its target. As India advances its vision of Viksit Bharat, ensuring that the benefits of this progress reach vulnerable communities, while strengthening their resilience to a changing climate, will be essential. This calls for climate solutions that are locally grounded, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the people most affected.

Philanthropy can help make this possible. By supporting innovation, strengthening local organizations, building partnerships and helping promising solutions reach scale, philanthropic capital can play a catalytic role in advancing climate action where it is needed most. The Indian diaspora, with its connection to the country and its global experience, networks and resources, has an important role to play in this effort.



This report, researched and written by Dasra with support from The Rockefeller Foundation, seeks to better understand this opportunity. Drawing on conversations with diaspora philanthropists and other stakeholders, alongside secondary research, it examines the motivations, considerations and enabling conditions shaping diaspora engagement in climate philanthropy. Importantly, it explores how this engagement can be channeled towards climate solutions that deliver tangible benefits for vulnerable communities across India.

The findings point to growing interest among diaspora philanthropists in supporting climate-related work, often through causes and communities they already care about. Many are contributing to resilience and adaptation without necessarily identifying their giving as climate philanthropy. Younger generations, meanwhile, increasingly see climate change as a defining issue of their time. This presents an opportunity to connect existing philanthropic commitments and emerging interests with the urgent need to support communities on the frontlines of climate change.

Realizing this opportunity will require trusted relationships, credible opportunities to give, effective crossborder giving mechanisms and a deeper understanding of what motivates different generations of diaspora philanthropists. It will also require a clear focus on the outcomes that philanthropic support can help achieve: stronger local capacity, more accessible climate solutions and improved resilience for communities facing the greatest climate risks.

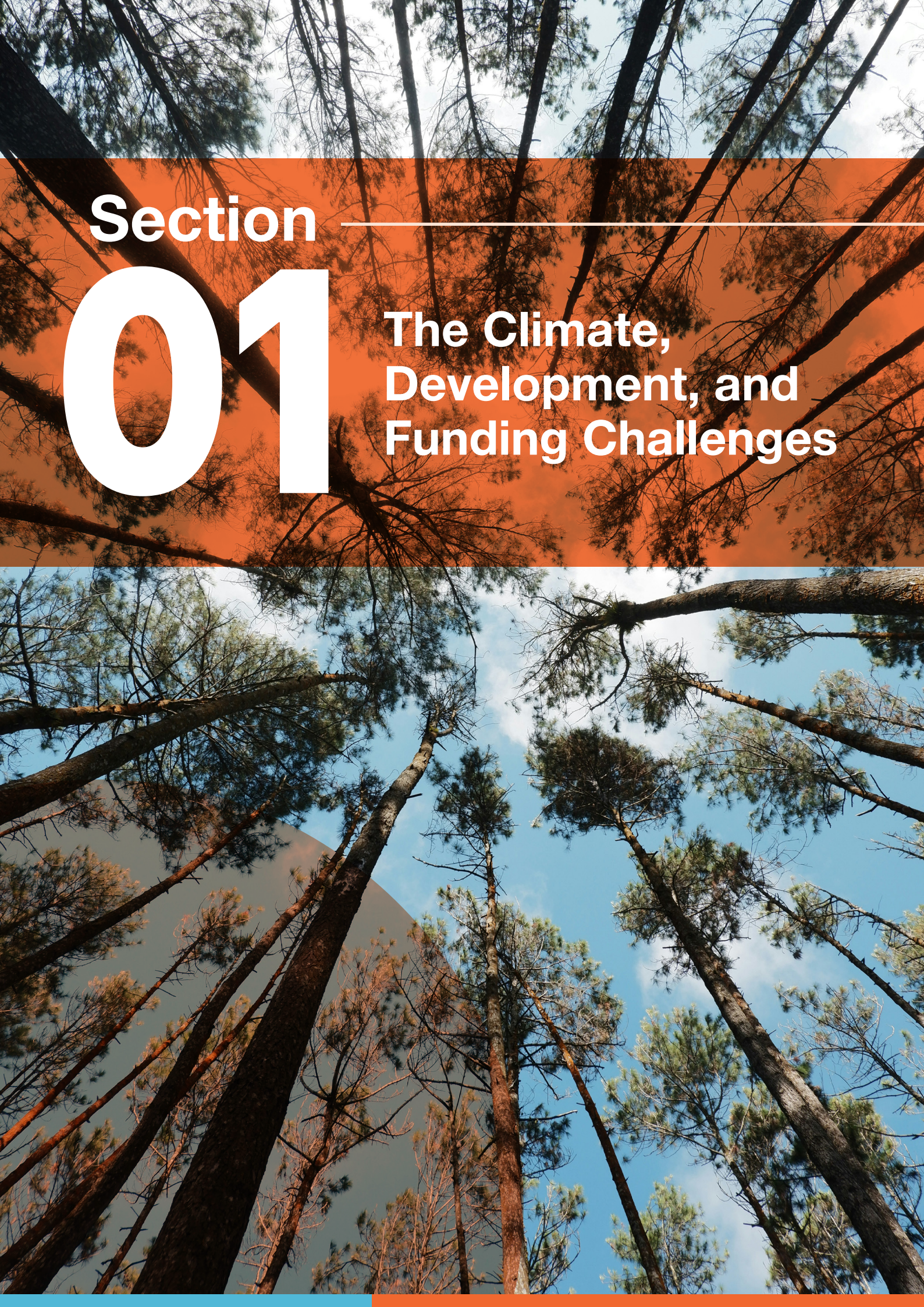
At Dasra and The Rockefeller Foundation, we have seen the value of bringing together unlikely partners, investing in local leadership and creating the conditions for ideas and solutions to flourish. We believe the Indian diaspora can be an important partner in this work, connecting global knowledge, expertise and resources with India's innovations, local organizations and community-led solutions. When directed towards the needs of vulnerable communities, this collaboration can help accelerate meaningful and lasting climate impact.

We hope this report sparks conversations across the Indian diaspora and encourages philanthropists, institutions and partners to consider how they can contribute to this effort. The opportunity is to translate a deep connection to India into meaningful action: bringing resources, knowledge and networks to support climate solutions that protect the health, livelihoods and futures of the communities that need them most.

Deepali Khanna
Senior Vice President,
The Rockefeller Foundation

Neera Nundy
Partner and Co-founder, Dasra





Section 01

The Climate, Development, and Funding Challenges

1.1 Climate Is Redefining India's Development Trajectory

India's climate transition is unfolding alongside one of the world's largest development and infrastructure expansions. The country is the world's third-largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter, but, at the same time, its per capita emissions remain the lowest among major economies.[1] That gap reflects India's stage of development, as it continues to build the energy, industry, and urban infrastructure needed for growth while also reducing emissions and strengthening resilience to severe climate risks. How India builds this infrastructure, and how quickly it strengthens resilience alongside it, will determine whether communities, particularly those with the fewest resources to cope, are better protected from climate shocks or left more exposed to them.

Climate change is also inseparable from India's development challenges, shaping outcomes across health, livelihoods, agriculture, infrastructure and the economy, with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities. The scale of these risks is significant: 300 million people live in 225 high-risk districts, climate-related disasters caused 5.4 million internal displacements in 2024, and heat-related labor losses in 2021 were equivalent to 5.4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).[2] It is estimated that climate-induced crop yield declines could reduce economic output by USD 208 billion by 2050, while up to 45 million people could be displaced by 2050.[3] These impacts threaten to reverse hard-won gains in poverty reduction, livelihoods and health.



Climate change is reshaping life across India. An estimated

300 million

people live in 225 high-risk districts, up to 45 million could be displaced by 2050, and heat-related labor losses amounted to

5.4% of GDP in 2021.

Even as these risks mount, India's climate response is gaining momentum.

Yet, alongside these growing risks, India's climate transition is gathering pace. The country reached 50% non-fossil installed power capacity in 2025, five years ahead of its 2030 target.[4] The transition is already underway, with solutions emerging across emissions reduction, climate-resilient infrastructure and adaptation. Increasing attention to the systems, places, and communities most exposed to climate impacts offers opportunities to build on this progress and strengthen resilience at scale.

In agriculture and land-based systems, this shift is already visible in how climate vulnerability is being assessed and addressed. Under Indian Council of Agricultural Research's (ICAR) National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) program, district-level assessments across 651 predominantly agricultural districts identified 310 as highly or very highly vulnerable to climate risk. Building on these assessments, NICRA helped inform locally relevant climate resilient practices in 448 villages across 151 vulnerable districts, including drought- and heat-tolerant crop varieties, water-efficient cultivation, village seed banks and community nurseries.[5]

India's cities and urban settlements are seeing a parallel shift toward building resilience to climate stresses. Early-warning systems, heat action plans, and local disaster-response capacity are strengthening preparedness, while urban programs are placing greater emphasis on water security, groundwater recharge, waste management, and resilient infrastructure. Under AMRUT 2.0[i], for example, State Water Action Plans are being used to guide investments in water security, including water conservation and groundwater recharge.[6] These efforts signal a broader shift from responding to climate-related disasters toward strengthening how cities prepare for and withstand climate stress.



i The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 is a Government of India program launched in 2021 to make cities more water secure, with a focus on universal water supply, sewerage and septage management, water conservation, rejuvenation of water bodies, and reuse of treated wastewater.



The implications of climate change and the transition for livelihoods and employment are also becoming more pronounced. India had an estimated 1.3 million renewable-energy jobs in 2024.[7] Achieving the country's 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity target and National Green Hydrogen Mission goals could create over 4.4 million full-time-equivalent jobs by 2030, with rooftop solar expected to account for about 43% of these jobs.[8] Alongside this growth in green employment, climate-exposed livelihoods and locally led responses are bringing greater attention to how people and communities adapt to climate impacts, participate in the transition and benefit from the opportunities it creates.

Climate solutions are already emerging across India, at different stages of maturity and readiness for wider adoption. Some proven approaches now need support to scale, while others will require continued testing, adaptation, and institution-building to work across different contexts. Doing so across India's diverse geographies, ecological contexts, and community needs will require investment commensurate with the scale of the challenge. [9] India's original Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) has estimated that achieving its 2030 mitigation commitments requires approximately USD 2.5 trillion in investment, or around USD 170 billion annually.[10] Estimates for the country also suggest cumulative adaptation requirements of approximately USD 685 billion through 2030 under a business-as-usual scenario, potentially rising to around USD 854 billion as climate pressures intensify.[11]



The country's climate finance landscape has expanded considerably over the past decade. Public expenditure remains the largest source of climate investment, complemented by multilateral finance and growing private investment, particularly in renewable energy and other commercially viable sectors.[12] Tracked green finance for mitigation in India reached USD 50 billion in 2022, driven largely by clean energy, transport, and efficiency, where private capital participation is strongest. Adaptation finance grew nearly threefold over the same period, reaching USD 15 billion. However, it remained concentrated in agriculture and disaster risk management, and was funded almost entirely through government budgets, with private adaptation investment still weak.[13] Despite this growth, given India's high vulnerability to climate impacts, adaptation investment needs are likely to keep rising.

Closing India's climate financing gap will require capital as well as an intentional commitment to direct resources toward areas that remain underfunded and are important for long-term resilience. For instance, aspects like community-led adaptation that builds on local knowledge and practices, early-stage innovation, implementation research, and capacity building often struggle to attract commercial investment because returns are uncertain, difficult to monetize, or realized over long time horizons. Consequently, an important share of India's climate transition depends on catalytic forms of capital that can assume greater risk, strengthen enabling institutions, and demonstrate models that governments and markets can subsequently scale. Philanthropy, therefore, has a distinctive role to play in India's climate transition.

1.2 The Opportunity for Diaspora Philanthropy in India's Climate Transition

The Indian diaspora represents a significant, yet relatively underexplored, philanthropic constituency for supporting India's climate transition. With more than 35 million people of Indian origin living in over 200 countries, holding an estimated annual income of USD 730 billion, it is one of the world's largest, most geographically dispersed and financially influential diasporas.[14]

A longstanding sense of connection to India as *homeland* has shaped diaspora engagement with the country, which is often expressed through remittances, investments, knowledge exchange, and philanthropy in support of its development. Among Indian Americans alone, annual philanthropic giving is estimated at USD 4–5 billion, with roughly USD 200 million directed to India.[15] Most of this giving has traditionally focused on sectors such as education, healthcare, livelihoods and institution-building, reflecting enduring personal, regional, and cultural ties to the homeland.

Climate action presents an opportunity to build on this legacy. The complexity of India's climate transition creates opportunities for contributions that extend beyond financial support. Decades spent building careers, businesses, and institutions across the world have equipped members of the Indian diaspora with financial resources, professional expertise, and relationships across different institutional environments. Together they provide a useful framework for understanding the constituency's potential contribution to India's climate transition.

This combined strength can be described as the three Cs:

- **Capability:** the professional expertise, technology, research, entrepreneurship, and institutional knowledge accumulated across sectors and geographies that can strengthen rigorous implementation and evidence generation
- **Credibility:** networks spanning India and global businesses, universities, investors, researchers, civil society, and other institutions. Global networks can connect promising approaches with additional partners and resources
- **Capital:** the financial capacity the diaspora can mobilize through philanthropy, investment, and other support to enable experimentation of emerging solutions

Together, these three Cs can connect financial resources with the expertise and institutional relationships needed to advance climate solutions. In practice, these capabilities can enable diaspora philanthropy to contribute in ways that go beyond grantmaking alone, by strengthening institutions, connecting knowledge and networks, and helping promising approaches move forward (as shown in figure 1).

The opportunity is significant given India's climate financing gap. Climate action accounts for an estimated 0.5% of domestic philanthropic funding, meeting roughly a tenth of the country's climate financing needs.[16] Diaspora philanthropy could help augment this. Flexible, patient capital can support locally led adaptation, early-stage innovation, implementation research, and institutional capacity-building, helping promising approaches build the evidence and partnerships needed for wider adoption. **Moreover, climate also offers an opportunity to deepen diaspora engagement through causes and communities donors already care about.** Climate risks significantly affect health, education, livelihoods, agriculture, and other development priorities that have traditionally attracted diaspora giving. These connections offer natural entry points for climate philanthropy, whether as a distinct giving priority or as an extension of existing commitments. The opportunity is therefore twofold: to mobilize additional funding for climate-specific interventions and to integrate climate considerations more intentionally into existing philanthropic portfolios.

> **Climate change and biodiversity form a framework within which you can organize your giving, whether you're interested in health, education, livelihoods or natural systems. You can simultaneously give to your favorite cause and address this crisis.**
>
> **Kamaljit S. Bawa,**
> **Philanthropist, Founder and President Emeritus at ATREE; Distinguished Professor Emeritus at University of Massachusetts, Boston**

Figure 1: Outcomes Diaspora Philanthropy Can Enable



Source: Dasra analysis based on research findings

Despite this potential, diaspora climate philanthropy in India remains relatively underexplored. Existing research has examined diaspora contributions through remittances, investments, and development-oriented philanthropy, but evidence on climate-specific giving remains limited. There is comparatively little systematic understanding of how diaspora donors perceive climate action, what informs their philanthropic choices, or which factors influence their ability to engage over time.

Against this backdrop, our report seeks to contribute to the emerging evidence base on diaspora philanthropy for climate action in India. It examines the motivations and considerations shaping diaspora engagement, the barriers that may constrain participation, and the opportunities for strengthening the pathways through which donors can support climate action.



Section

02

The Givers: Evolving Climate Giving Journeys of Diaspora Philanthropists



The Indian diaspora is often described as a single constituency, yet it comprises diverse communities shaped by migration history, geography, generation, and professional background. These differences shape how givers approach philanthropy, and consequently, how they engage with climate action.

Our engagements with diaspora givers from the global GivingPi community suggest that interest in climate is gradually emerging, as many diversify beyond legacy causes. A 2025 study points in the same direction, as climate change was among the leading philanthropic passion areas for Indian American donors, cited by 23% of respondents.[17]

Drawing on secondary research and our interviews with members of the GivingPi community, this chapter examines how that interest is taking shape. It is organized around three questions: why givers choose climate, what shapes their giving decisions, and how they give. The chapter closes by considering why diaspora climate giving may be broader than existing data suggests.

2.1 Why Diaspora Donors Give to Climate: Entry Points & Motivations

For most diaspora donors we engage with, climate became meaningful when it connected to the communities, places and issues they already care about. Donors most often described building community resilience as the end goal, with communities' livelihoods and wellbeing as the points where climate becomes tangible. Our interviews surfaced three entry points into climate giving, each corresponding to a distinct form of engagement (Table 1).



For most diaspora donors we engaged, climate became meaningful when it connected to the communities, places and issues they already care about. Donors most often described building community resilience as the end goal, with communities' livelihoods and wellbeing as the points where climate becomes tangible.

- **Visible manifestation of climate-induced impacts:** Diaspora givers have historically mobilized around visible crises, both individually and through collaborative giving, as seen in the response to the Kerala floods of 2018.[18] Disasters, extreme weather events and visibly changing landscapes can make climate change feel immediate and personal, particularly when they affect home communities or family networks. This giving is well established but largely episodic. Extending it toward preparedness and long-term resilience is one of the clearest opportunities for sustained engagement.

- **Impact of climate change across existing portfolio/giving priorities:** As climate impacts sharpen across the sectors donors already support, and evidence on these links grows, some donors are beginning to view their existing portfolios through a climate lens. This giving is often not described as climate philanthropy, even where it strengthens resilience. Our conversations surfaced several examples. Donors who have traditionally supported health and wellbeing are increasingly connecting their work to extreme heat, particularly its effects on informal workers. Others see climate-resilient agriculture as a natural extension of their livelihoods giving, as it links climate action directly to the incomes and resilience of farming communities. They mentioned supporting or exploring climate-smart technologies, regenerative agriculture, and other approaches that help smallholder farmers adapt to changing conditions. Donors also pointed to water security, including groundwater recharge, as a priority that cuts across livelihoods, health and food security. Together, these examples show how donors are beginning to apply a climate lens across the causes they already care about.

- **Direct interest in climate and the environment:** For a smaller group of donors, environment, nature and biodiversity are the primary draw, and climate or environmental impact is the objective itself. Their giving tends to be more intentional and long-term, often taking the form of sustained support to specific landscapes.

Together, these entry points form a continuum, from episodic crisis response to intentional, strategic climate philanthropy.

> **Climate is very complex and different people kind of look at it differently, so the challenge is how to make it simple. What we eventually ended up doing is saying, we don't want to start a new climate vertical. We want to integrate climate change with health, education, and livelihoods. I don't think it helps to frame this issue as education versus climate or health versus climate. We must figure out ways in which education and climate can reinforce what we are trying to do.**
>
> **Nishant Pandey,**
>
> **Chief Executive Officer at American India Foundation**



Table 1: A Continuum of Diaspora Engagement with Climate Resilience

Entry Points of engagement	Primary Motivation	Current character (our assessment)	Contribution to climate resilience
Crisis-response climate response	Personal and emotional: responding to a visible climate-induced disaster affecting home communities or family networks	Well established but episodic	Enables immediate recovery following climate shocks
Climate-adjacent development philanthropy	Issue-driven: donors give based on an established sector interest, agriculture, livelihoods, energy access, health without framing it as climate-related	Significant but rarely classified as climate	Builds adaptive capacity and strengthens resilience through development outcomes
Strategic climate philanthropy	Intentional cause-driven: donors intentionally pursuing systemic climate / environmental impact	Emerging	Addresses systemic climate risks and enables long-term transformational change

Source: Dasra analysis, based on research findings



2.2 What Shapes Giving Decisions in Climate: Profession, Place, and Generation

While the entry points into climate are broadly shared, the form climate giving takes varies considerably across donors. Our engagements point to three factors that shape these decisions: donors' professional backgrounds, the places where they live and give, and the generation they belong to.

- **Profession - Professional discipline and personal conviction together inform how givers approach climate:** Givers from technology, venture capital, finance and strategy backgrounds often approached philanthropy with the instincts that shaped their careers: self-reliance, efficiency, ambition and a strong focus on results. Climate action resonates with this mindset because it involves uncertainty, innovation, risk, systems change and questions of scale. Similarly, professional exposure to sustainability frameworks reinforces this orientation. Many donors work in companies and investment firms where Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and sustainability reporting have made climate risk a routine part of business decisions. This familiarity with climate metrics, transition risk and net-zero commitments can make climate a more legible area for philanthropy. Professional experience also shaped how givers position philanthropy relative to other forms of capital. Where commercially viable solutions can attract investment (such as renewable energy and decarbonization pathways), they saw philanthropy's strongest role in public goods, early-stage experimentation, market gaps,in and ecosystem infrastructure, all of which are central to climate action. This strategic discipline, however, does not entirely replace personal motivation. Passion for wildlife, nature or landscapes often provided the initial doorway into climate, while professional experience shaped how that interest became a structured portfolio.

> **When it comes to my personal philanthropy, I ask myself: where is my mind intellectually engaged, and what speaks to my heart? Those two things together shape how I think about my giving.**
>
> **Amrita Bhandari,**
>
> **Philanthropist & Chief Financial Officer at Rocky Mountain Institute**

> **The analytical part of my brain believes the climate crisis and decarbonization are critical. But the emotional part of me relates more to ecosystems, ecology and conservation, which is perhaps, a more human connection to climate."**
>
> **Radhika Shah,**
>
> **Cofounder and Co-President at Stanford Alumni Alliance on Innovation For Global Impact**

- **Place - Where donors live and where they give both shape climate engagement:** The philanthropic ecosystems in which donors live influence how they approach climate. In North America, for instance, established philanthropic infrastructure, including foundations, donor-advised funds and donor networks, provides greater exposure to structured and strategic approaches to giving.[19] Our conversations with Indian American givers suggest that more mature philanthropic environments foster a stronger orientation toward long-term, systemic change. Climate action fits this orientation well, since progress depends on strengthening ecosystems, institutions, and resilience over time.

  Where donors direct their funding within India follows two distinct logics. The first is *vulnerability.* Some givers, particularly those with a more strategic orientation, are making evidence-informed choices by identifying climate-vulnerable geographies and directing funding there. Our engagements surfaced sustained engagement with landscapes such as the Eastern Himalayas and the Western Ghats, as well as climate and conservation work in Ladakh. The second logic is regional affinity. A continued *emotional connection* to one's region of origin gives givers both the motivation and the contextual familiarity to recognize local climate risks and needs, making those geographies a natural focus for long-term engagement. For instance, donors we spoke with described supporting ecosystem restoration, water security, agriculture and community resilience in regions they have lived in, such as Kutch and Punjab.

- **Generation - Climate resonates most strongly with the newer generation of givers:** For first-generation donors, who are often the ones who migrated from India, giving to India is often rooted in lived experience and emotional proximity, while subsequent generations more often encounter India through family, heritage, and periodic engagement.[20] First-generation donors' portfolios tend to remain anchored in education and health, reflecting the India they knew directly. However, some are now broadening into climate, most often through climate-adjacent routes across the sectors they already fund. For the younger generation, climate appears to resonate more strongly. Our conversations suggest that younger givers increasingly see climate as a defining issue of their generation, made more immediate by visible impacts, growing evidence and a strong global narrative around climate risk. Younger givers' interest often emerges through issues that bear directly on health and wellbeing, for instance: air pollution and extreme heat. These issues feel relatable and offer the prospect of progress within a shorter timeframe. However, this interest is at an early stage and has yet to translate into established giving.

  We also found that younger donors tend to be passionate about causes but less tied to particular locations, so an interest in climate may not automatically extend to climate action in India. This matters because an estimated USD 2 trillion in wealth is expected to pass to the next generation of Indian Americans over the coming two decades.[21] As wealth and philanthropic decision-making shift, younger donors are likely to play a larger role in determining whether climate becomes a mainstream priority in diaspora giving. The opportunity is to connect them intentionally to India's climate landscape while their giving priorities are still taking shape, creating pathways for younger generations to contribute to and lead climate action over time.

> **The younger generation seems to be the one most keen and interested in climate action. They're more aware, but they're also the ones who'll be left with the problem. They're going to live with it over the next twenty-five to fifty years, and they can already see it happening.**
>
> **MR Rangaswami,**
>
> **Founder at Indiaspora**

> **The big lever in the long term for climate action is making sure that we have a resilient next generation that is equipped to make these things happen.**
>
> **Ashit Patel,**
>
> **Tech Investor, Founding Partner at Shikshagraha Tech Advisory Council**

2.3 How Givers Give: Risk Appetite and Supporting Infrastructure are Key Factors

For a large section of diaspora donors we spoke with, climate is still a relatively new cause, and diaspora climate giving remains a nascent field. Our interviews suggest that risk appetites may therefore be low, particularly among donors new to climate action. These donors often begin with small amounts while they build familiarity with the organizations, approaches, and evidence in the field. Many also give as individuals, without a dedicated philanthropic office or advisors. This leaves them to identify and vet organizations themselves, which takes significant time. At the same time, individual contributions can feel too small to make a difference on an issue of this scale.

- **Pooled funds and collaborative mechanisms** can address each of these constraints. They take on much of the work of identifying and vetting organizations, so donors can give alongside trusted peers, access vetted opportunities and share risk without carrying the full burden of due diligence alone. They also combine smaller contributions into amounts that can fund meaningful work. Matching and pooling with institutional funders, including through blended structures, can multiply each contribution further. These approaches also resonate with younger donors, who have shown interest in pooled and collaborative giving.[22] More experienced donors showed greater willingness to take risks, with some providing seed funding to early-stage climate and conservation models, a role for which philanthropy is particularly well suited. Collaborative giving has worked for the diaspora before. The Diaspora Investment Alliance (DIA), developed by the Aspen Institute sought to channel diaspora capital toward grants and strategic investments in countries of origin, including India. Its India-focused initiative targeted sectors including clean energy and climate change.[23] PowerSouth, a Germany-India climate initiative supported by Germany's Partnerships with the Diaspora program, links diaspora and transnational capital with grassroots, women-led climate and environmental work in India.[24] India Giving Day uses a curated platform and matching mechanisms to mobilize diaspora donors across sectors, including climate and environmental causes.[25] These models offer a foundation for climate giving. Collective vehicles can also extend crisis-driven giving across the wider climate action value chain, from preparedness and risk reduction to response, recovery and long-term resilience.

- **Trusted intermediaries** are often valued by diaspora donors to help them navigate an unfamiliar field, a preference reflected in the growth of diaspora platforms such as GivingPi, Indiaspora and the India Philanthropy Alliance. The opportunity is to build on these precedents with pooled and collaborative vehicles designed for climate. Such vehicles can lower the barrier to entry for newer donors, combine smaller contributions into meaningful sums, and show progress along the way while backing the long-term change climate action requires.

Taken together, these trends suggest that climate is emerging as the next frontier of diaspora giving. Donors are coming to climate through visible events, existing sector commitments and a direct interest in environmental sustainability. Their professions, connections to place and generational outlook are shaping deliberate approaches, and innovative vehicles can open accessible routes for newer donors. This momentum may already be larger than existing data suggests. Studies often estimate diaspora's share of philanthropic giving to climate at less than 2%,[26] but much climate-relevant giving sits in adjacent areas such as agriculture, health and livelihoods and is rarely tagged as climate.[27] The opportunity is then, twofold: to mobilize new climate-specific capital, and to make the climate contribution already embedded in existing portfolios more visible and intentional. Realizing it will require addressing the barriers that keep interest from translating into sustained giving, which the next chapter examines.

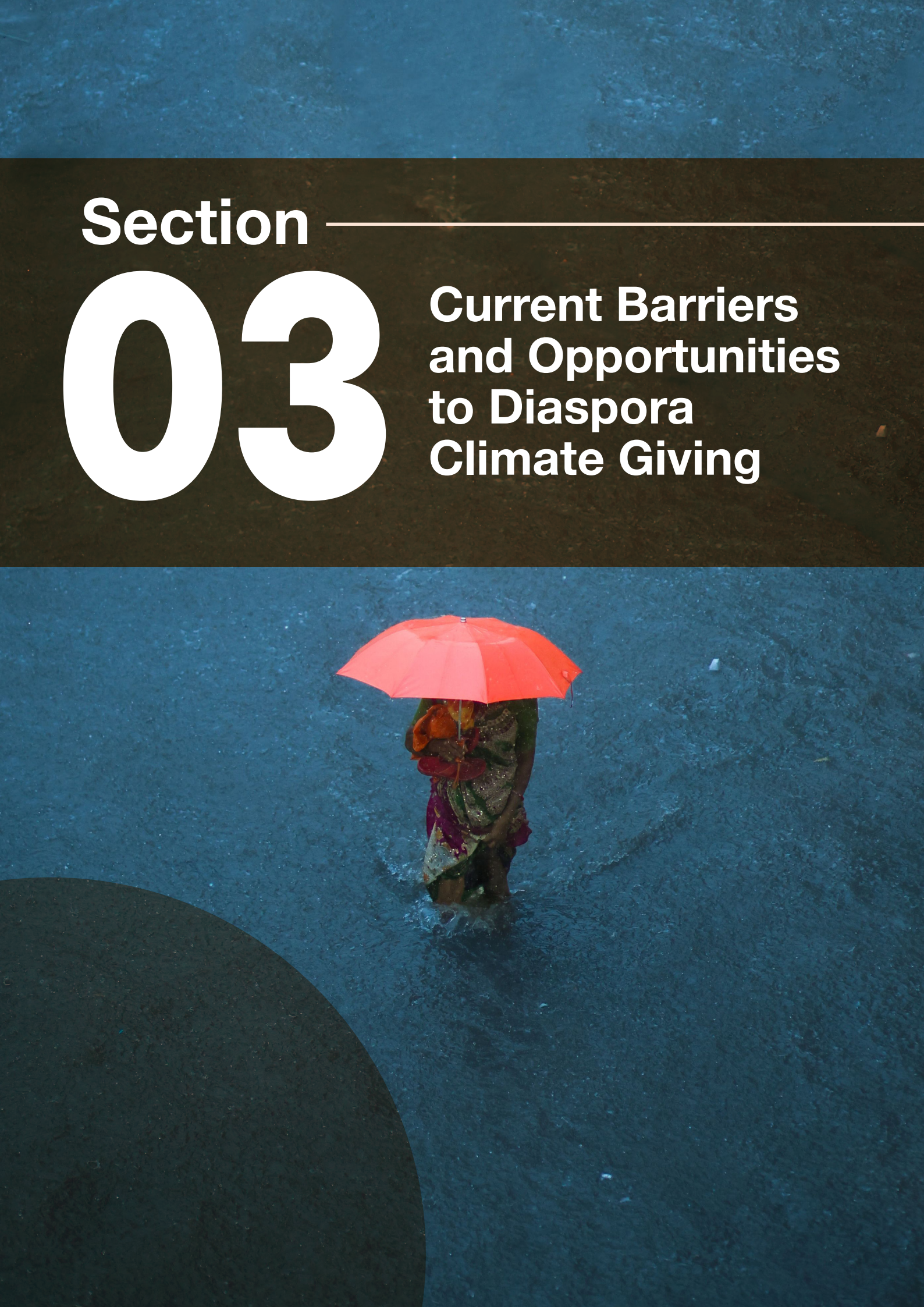




Section

03

Current Barriers and Opportunities to Diaspora Climate Giving



Section 2 showed that the opportunity for diaspora climate philanthropy is emerging, across a constituency that is far from uniform. Yet the movement from interest to giving at scale may be slow and gradual. Drawing on our engagements with diaspora philanthropists, this section identifies the recurring barriers they face when considering climate giving.

3.1 The Barriers: Converting Climate Interest into Action

Momentum around climate giving is growing, but initial interest and exploration do not always translate into continued engagement. Among the donors we engaged with, some had already begun supporting environmental and conservation initiatives, while others were exploring climate philanthropy or engaging with organizations working in the field. However, initial interest did not always lead to continued engagement. The opportunity, therefore, is to strengthen the pathways that convert growing interest into sustained philanthropic action.

Understanding where these pathways break down means viewing climate giving as a journey, since the challenges go beyond awareness or motivation alone. While individual journeys differ, interviewees described engagement with a cause as moving through four broad stages, much like a funnel, with a recurring challenge at each:

- Climate has to register as worth giving to,
- an organization or intervention has to be identified,
- giving has to be routed effectively and easily, and
- a workable way to give sustainably over time has to exist.



Interest alone does not translate into climate giving; donors need confidence in what can work, clarity on why and where to give, confidence in how their contributions can make a difference, and accessible pathways to sustain their engagement.

These barriers to climate giving are easier to understand when viewed alongside the donor's giving journey, which broadly spans four stages. At the exploration stage, donors assess whether a cause is worth their attention. At the navigation stage, they map the landscape around it, including the actors, the interventions, and how these compare. At the action stage, having decided to give, they choose a route and work through what giving requires. At the sustaining stage, they move beyond a single grant into deeper, ongoing engagement with a cause. The sections that follow examine the challenges diaspora donors face at each of these stages in giving to climate.

Stage 1: Exploration | When Climate Becomes a Philanthropic Possibility

At the exploration stage, donors are still deciding whether climate deserves their attention. Our engagements suggest that the breadth and complexity of the issue make that decision difficult.

The scope and scale of climate action can be vast and intimidating: Three issues stood out. First, climate cuts across sectors, so donors new to the field often struggle to know where to begin, which sub-sectors it covers, which interventions count as climate giving, and how climate impact differs from the development benefits of allied sectors. The absence of a shared taxonomy compounds this. Donors used terms such as climate, environment, nature, biodiversity, sustainability and "livable planet" interchangeably to describe overlapping interests. Specific issues such as heat, wildlife, or biodiversity were easier to relate to than broader or more technical categories. Second, climate outcomes can be harder to see. Donors contrasted climate with education and healthcare, where a contribution links clearly to a human beneficiary. Climate impacts, particularly environmental ones, are less visible and often take longer to emerge. Third, given the scale of the challenge, many donors were unsure what philanthropy could realistically achieve or shift the needle on.

Introducing climate through accessible, issue-specific opportunities can help donors engage without first having to navigate the full complexity of the sector, particularly where outcomes connect clearly to people and communities. Amplifying evidence of what philanthropic contributions in climate have already achieved can also show donors the potential impacts of their contributions.

> **Climate is a global topic; nature is a hyperlocal topic. The challenge with climate is that people ask, 'What can my philanthropic capital really do? Can I move the needle?' It requires a fair amount of understanding and education. When we connect climate and nature to more immediate, meaningful topics—like livelihoods, youth or health—people can connect to it more deeply.**
>
> **Nandkishore Kalambi,**
>
> **Founder at NatureCentered AI, Chair at ATREE USA**

> **There are success stories out there of changes that have happened because of interventions, and I think we're not playing them up as much as we should. We're talking of the future, which is great, but the present also is delivering value, and it seems like it's a doomsday situation all the time. It's not changing the world, but it's changing where it's making a difference, and those stories, if there are 50 of them, 100 of them, we can multiply them.**
>
> **Govind Iyer,**
>
> **Chairperson at SVP India; Board Trustee at The Rockefeller Foundation; Strategic Advisor at GAME; Board Director at Infosys**

> **It's hard for me to be as analytical as I've been in other areas of my career because I'm lacking a lot of the data and insights. When the conversation moves from waste management to planting trees to conserving parks, I genuinely don't know which is more beneficial. What's missing is something that helps you understand those trade-offs.**
>
> **Diaspora Philanthropist**

Stage 2: Navigation | Finding Where and Whom to Support

Once donors are interested in climate, the next challenge for them is navigating an India-specific ecosystem that can be difficult for diaspora to assess while living in another corner of the world. Across the interviews, two closely related decisions emerged: where within the Indian climate landscape to engage, and whom to trust to act on that priority.

Lack of a coherent India-centered narrative on climate opportunities and organizations: India's climate ecosystem offers diverse opportunities for philanthropic engagement, but fragmented information on priorities, funding gaps and credible organizations makes it difficult for diaspora donors to determine where and whom to support. Even where donors understand climate broadly, they may still lack a clear view of which issues matter most in the Indian context, how those priorities fit together, and where philanthropy can play a distinct role. This makes it harder to translate general climate interest into informed, India-specific giving decisions. Therefore, the central challenge is the absence of a coherent, India-specific narrative that translates the country's diverse climate priorities into identifiable philanthropic opportunities. Donors pointed to uncertainty about which areas remain underfunded, where patient or risk-tolerant capital could enable experimentation or institutional strengthening, and which interventions may already attract government or commercial finance. Without this perspective, donors can struggle to move from identifying an issue of interest to making an informed decision about where their resources could be most catalytic.

Visibility into credible organizations is another part of this gap. Much of India's climate work is led by local and hyperlocal organizations that may not be easily visible to donors abroad, particularly if they are absent from global forums or established philanthropic networks. The resulting information asymmetry leads donors to fall back on peer recommendations, familiar institutions, and personal networks as proxies for quality. These signals can reduce uncertainty, but they can also narrow the set of organizations that donors encounter.

Our conversations also surfaced relatively few visible diaspora champions in climate philanthropy. In more established causes, donors can often look to peers to understand who is giving, why they are giving and which organizations they trust. Climate currently offers fewer such reference points, making it harder for donors to build confidence in both the cause and the organizations working within it.

> **"I've been lucky in that I can build on the work of mentors and other philanthropies who have been doing excellent work in India. They are trusted interlocutors for me, and I can go to them and say: who are the best organizations working in this state, or on this topic?"**
>
> **Shereen D'Souza,**
> **Program Lead, Climate Solutions, Skyline Foundation**



Diaspora climate philanthropy in India is at an important inflection point: interest and willingness to engage are growing, but the pathways for translating that interest into informed giving decisions remain underdeveloped. The challenges at the exploration and navigation stages are primarily those of clarity, visibility and confidence, rather than an absence of philanthropic intent.



Stage 3: Action | Translating Intent into a Workable Form of Engagement

At the action stage, donors have already decided where and whom they want to support. The remaining question is whether that intent can be translated into a workable commitment. For diaspora donors, this can involve an additional execution layer because the donor and recipient may operate across different financial and regulatory systems.

Cross-border pathways into India's climate ecosystem can be unclear: Even willing donors can struggle to act when giving pathways are unclear, and three issues stood out. First, routes are limited on both sides. Donors may be unfamiliar with the available routes and regulatory requirements. Meanwhile, many smaller and community-rooted organizations, which make up a substantial part of India's climate landscape, lack established international fundraising channels or the systems required to receive foreign contributions. Organizations with familiar cross-border pathways therefore become easier to support, even when others are equally credible on the ground. Second, the process itself can deter donors. Identifying the right route, engaging with organizations, completing due diligence and managing documentation can turn a decision already made into one that is easy to defer, particularly for time-constrained donors without dedicated philanthropy teams. Third, there are few simple ways to give small amounts. Given how new the field is, many climate donors want to start with modest or exploratory gifts, but few vehicles allow them to route such contributions meaningfully. Without a proportionate way to begin, donors also question what a small contribution can realistically achieve.

At this stage, donors are willing to give. What holds them back is the limited infrastructure through which they can act on that willingness.

> **There is a lot of willingness to say, 'We understand climate is extremely critical and we should act big and fast.' The struggle is knowing how to do that effectively. The biggest vulnerability is wanting to give responsibly, but not understanding the issue well enough, and knowing it is too complex to become an expert in good time.**
>
> **Anushka Shah,**
>
> **Founder & CEO at Civic Studios**

Stage 4: Sustaining and Deepening | From Initial Commitment to Deeper Engagement

The final stage concerns whether an initial commitment grows into sustained, deeper engagement or remains episodic. At this point, the question shifts from whether diaspora donors can contribute to climate action in India to whether that contribution can become a lasting philanthropic relationship.

Long impact horizons and distance make sustained climate engagement hard to maintain: Sustaining climate giving calls for continued evidence of progress, trusted local relationships and meaningful opportunities to engage, all of which must hold up over long impact horizons and across geographic distance. Our conversations surfaced three challenges.

First, donors need credible signals of progress. Interviewees, particularly those from technology and investment backgrounds, recognized the long-term, systemic nature of climate action while still valuing visible progress and regular feedback. This tension is sharpest for adaptation, resilience and systems-change approaches, where outcomes may take years to emerge. Without meaningful intermediate measures, donors find it hard to judge whether their capital is contributing to change, which raises the risk of disengagement.

Second, continued engagement depends on support that is often missing. Convenings, interactions with organizations and direct exposure helped build donors' interest. However, there was little consistent support to turn that initial engagement into a sustained relationship. Without trusted local support, the work of coordinating relationships, decisions, and follow-through falls back on donors, which is harder to sustain when managing philanthropy from outside India. Donors also expressed an interest in contributing beyond funding, through strategic advice, organizational relationships, or a closer understanding of implementation. The challenge here is twofold: creating such opportunities and matching them to donors' capabilities and interests.

> **"One of the challenges with funding climate action is that the impact narrative is often difficult for funders to grasp. Mitigation can feel more tangible as you can point to emissions reduced, methane avoided, or carbon credits generated. Adaptation is harder because the outcomes are longer-term and the pathways to impact are less linear. At the same time, when almost every development issue is framed as being affected by climate change, funders can struggle to understand what exactly counts as climate action, which organizations are doing it, and where their capital can meaningfully enter."**
>
> **Donald Lobo,**
> **Founder of Project Tech4Dev**



The sustaining barrier, therefore, lies in the gap between enabling an initial contribution and building the evidence, relationships, and connections that keep donors engaged over time.

Third, continuity across generations is not assured. Climate resonates strongly with younger diaspora donors, but that interest may attach to the cause more than to India. Without the lived experience and emotional proximity that shaped first-generation giving, sustained support for Indian organizations may require a more deliberate connection to the country, its climate priorities, and the people and institutions leading the work.

The sustaining barrier, therefore, lies in the gap between enabling an initial contribution and building the evidence, relationships, and connections that keep donors engaged over time.

Understanding the nuances of these barriers and challenges can help in determining the required role for actors across India's climate and philanthropy ecosystem to support diaspora donors at different points in the giving continuum, helping move climate philanthropy from intent toward sustained engagement and impact.

3.2 The Way Forward: Building the Connective Infrastructure for Diaspora Climate Giving

The sections above suggest that several conditions for greater diaspora climate giving are already in place: growing wealth, strong motivation, and credible organizations doing the work. What is missing is the connective infrastructure that can turn this growing interest into sustained engagement.

The barriers identified across the donor journey help make this clearer. Our engagement with the GivingPi community suggests that the challenges at the earlier stages of exploration and navigation are often easier to address, particularly where interest and willingness to give to climate action already exist. **The more significant drop-offs emerge at the stages of action and sustaining,** where donors need clearer giving pathways, trusted support, continued visibility into progress and stronger ways to remain connected over time. Hence, the gap lies in the enabling infrastructure required at two transition points: moving donors from navigation to action, and continuing support for a sustained engagement with climate action.

This points to four levers for strengthening the infrastructure around diaspora climate giving.

Lever 1 - Frame Climate as a Tangible and Human-Centered Cause: At the exploration stage, donor interest in climate is already growing, and the opportunity is to make that interest more informed and actionable. This means making climate more tangible and legible as a philanthropic priority. Climate can be presented through multiple entry points, as a set of specific opportunities where philanthropy can play a meaningful role, moving beyond relief to resilience.

Call to Action

Build knowledge and narratives around a small number of evidence-backed climate priorities, particularly where impacts in India are already severe (such as heat, food security, and biodiversity loss, etc.). Connect each priority to human stories of risk and to its effects on livelihoods, health, wellbeing and resilience. Surface evidence of what philanthropy has already achieved, showing both near-term progress and longer-term change, so that climate feels specific, relevant and actionable to donors.

Lever 2 - Build a View of India's Climate Ecosystem: At the navigation stage, donors are already drawing on research, networks and personal connections. A clearer, more current view of India's climate priorities, geographies and organizations can make the landscape easier to navigate from a distance. It can help donors see where their capital can add distinct value and whom they can engage with confidently.

Call to Action

Provide diaspora donors with regularly updated intelligence on India's climate priorities, vulnerabilities and funding gaps. Use this intelligence as the backbone of a clear decision framework that helps donors identify three to five priority areas within the wider field of climate action. Support it with a regularly refreshed pipeline of credible Indian organizations, setting out what they do and which promising models suit donors interested in piloting and experimentation. Build learning circles that connect diaspora philanthropists with sector experts, grassroots organizations and other climate champions. Together, these can make India's climate landscape easier to navigate from a distance and keep guidance current as priorities, evidence and opportunities evolve.

Lever 3 - Guide the Giving: As donors move toward action, practical challenges can stop climate intent from becoming a contribution, even when donors know where they want to engage. Guiding the giving means creating clearer, more accessible routes into India's climate ecosystem, with guidance tailored to each donor's stage, risk appetite and capacity to engage.

Call to Action

Provide one-on-one guidance on navigating cross-border routes to climate organizations, including those working at the grassroots, alongside rigorous due diligence designed for climate. Due diligence should account for the fact that track records, impact metrics and intervention models are less standardized than in more mature cause areas, and that adaptation outcomes in particular can take years to emerge. Pair this support with climate giving vehicles matched to each donor's appetite for risk. Offer smaller learning grants to established climate organizations with clear short-term metrics as an entry point for donors new to the field. Create co-funding opportunities alongside experienced Indian climate funders for donors seeking to build confidence through trusted partners. Structure larger blended vehicles for donors comfortable with longer time horizons and higher risk.

Lever 4 - Steward the Legacy: Stewarding the legacy addresses the stage where the infrastructure gap is perhaps most visible: sustaining and deepening climate philanthropy beyond individual grants. This requires stronger mechanisms to keep donors connected to the work and support deeper engagement over time. It also requires intentional pathways for the next generation to build a relationship with India's climate landscape.

Call to Action

Cultivate a distributed network of region-specific diaspora climate champions by spotlighting existing leaders and strengthening their ability to convene peers and share their experience. Create pathways for next-generation diaspora donors to connect with India's climate story through immersion visits and exchanges with young domestic philanthropists. Sustain a community of learning and exchange among donors, experts and organizations. Track conversion, repeat giving and sustained engagement to understand what deepens donor commitment, and use these insights to refine knowledge, platforms and engagement pathways over time.

Together, these levers form the connective infrastructure needed to turn growing diaspora interest in climate into lasting support for climate action in India.

Figure 2: Building the Connective Infrastructure for Diaspora Climate Giving

Building the Connective Infrastructure for Diaspora Climate Giving

Barriers and levers of opportunity across the donor journey

1 Exploration	2 Navigation	3 Action	4 Sustaining
Donors assess whether a cause is worth their attention, and whether it resonates enough to explore further.	Once interested, donors map the landscape around the cause: who the actors are, what interventions exist, and how to compare them.	Donors have decided to give, and the focus shifts to how to give: choosing a route and knowing what to adhere to along the way.	Donors move beyond a single grant into deeper, ongoing engagement, potentially becoming champions for the cause over time.
KEY BARRIER Making climate visible as a viable philanthropic priority: it can feel broad, abstract and difficult to act on.	KEY BARRIER A fragmented view of India's climate priorities, funding gaps and credible organizations makes it difficult for donors to decide where their capital can add the most value and whom to support.	KEY BARRIER Practical and regulatory frictions can stall giving after the decision is made, particularly where cross-border routes, due diligence and suitable giving vehicles are unclear.	KEY BARRIER Longer pathways to impact, limited evidence of interim progress, weak continuity of engagement, and a more distant Next-Gen relationship with India can weaken sustained giving.
LEVER OF OPPORTUNITY **Frame the Cause** Make climate tangible as a philanthropic priority by building a clearer, more human narrative around high-priority issues such as heat, water stress and biodiversity loss.	LEVER OF OPPORTUNITY **Build an India Ecosystem View** Give donors a clear, current picture of India's climate landscape through India-specific intelligence, a donor decision framework, a pipeline of credible organizations, and learning circles with sector experts, grassroots organizations and climate champions.	LEVER OF OPPORTUNITY **Guide the Giving** Help donors move from interest to informed giving through clearer, more accessible pathways, climate-specific due diligence and differentiated vehicles matched to donor stage and risk appetite.	LEVER OF OPPORTUNITY **Steward the Legacy** Sustain and deepen climate philanthropy beyond individual grants by strengthening region-specific diaspora climate champions, next-generation pathways to connect with India, and learning systems that sustain engagement over time.

Momentum is already visible at the stages of Exploration and Navigation, where donor interest and willingness are already taking shape. The larger infrastructure gaps emerge at Action and Sustaining, where stronger pathways and support systems are needed to convert interest into giving and sustain engagement over time.

Source: Dasra analysis based on research findings

3.3 Primary Stakeholders Who Can Address the Gap

Intermediaries, diaspora networks and institutional funders have already begun to address parts of the donor journey, particularly at the stages of exploration and navigation. The larger infrastructure gap remains at action and sustaining. From an ecosystem perspective, this is where enabling actors at present have the greatest role to play, which is not only in generating interest, but in building the systems that convert intent into action and initial giving into sustained commitment.

Building this connective infrastructure will require different stakeholders to play distinct but complementary roles across the giving journey.



Intermediaries

can help build and run the connective infrastructure; institutional funders can help make it durable, credible and accessible across the field.

- **Intermediary networks and platforms can strengthen pathways from intent to action.** This includes diaspora networks as well as domestic Indian intermediaries, who can help translate a complex climate ecosystem into clearer donor pathways, curate and regularly update information on organizations and funding needs, connect donors to credible peers and champions, aggregate capital where useful, and build the knowledge, relationships, and platforms that sustain engagement over time. Because they sit closely with both donors and the organizations working on the ground, intermediaries can help strengthen each of the four levers directly.

- **Institutional funders can provide the financial and knowledge support needed to sustain this infrastructure.** Much of these investments benefit the whole field but are too large for any individual donor to fund alone. Institutional funders can treat this as a long-term investment and provide sustained backing for four areas: peer-learning cohorts and exchanges to build a learning ecosystem; evidence and opportunity maps that keep the ecosystem current; shared approaches to due diligence, referrals, and donor advisory that reduce duplication across the field; and co-funding or pooled mechanisms that let diaspora donors give alongside experienced funders with more confidence. They can lend their credibility to amplify emerging organizations and climate champions, and offer other donors the evidence and guidance built from their own experience funding climate work.



In parallel, diaspora givers can take practical steps today to begin, deepen and sustain their engagement with climate action in India. Our research points to eight such practices, mapped to the four stages of the donor journey and the decisions donors face at each stage.

Figure 3: Practical Pathways of Action for Diaspora Climate Givers



Source: Dasra analysis based on research findings

There is no single route into climate philanthropy. Diaspora givers can begin from where their interests and experience already sit, then build deeper understanding, stronger relationships, and more sustained forms of engagement over time. As the wider ecosystem matures, these choices can help donors participate more meaningfully in India's climate journey.

> **If people were to ask me where Indian philanthropy should focus, my answer would be toward building the country's foundational climate infrastructure, whether that includes data systems, knowledge infrastructure, or another core public good.**
>
> **Rajan Mehta,**
> **Founder at Climate Action Labs**

3.4 Conclusion: Building a Stronger Bridge for Diaspora Climate Giving

Climate change is reshaping India's development story, putting decades of progress in health, livelihoods and opportunity at risk. The Indian diaspora has long been part of this story, with a deep sense of belonging and an emotional connection to India sustaining its contributions to the places and communities its members come from. As climate risks threaten these same foundations of development, diaspora philanthropy is well placed to extend this legacy, from supporting progress to helping secure it for the future.

Our engagements suggest that interest in doing so already exists. Diaspora donors are contributing to conservation, climate-resilient agriculture and disaster response, often without identifying their giving as climate philanthropy. The opportunity lies in connecting these existing interests to India's wider climate priorities. These include land and living systems (spanning agriculture, food systems, biodiversity and conservation), resilient places (covering disaster preparedness and urban challenges such as water, waste, pollution and the built environment), and communities and livelihoods (green jobs, climate-exposed livelihoods and community-owned climate action). These areas offer a compelling case for diaspora giving: tangible outcomes, measurable progress, communities facing significant climate vulnerability, and critical funding gaps where philanthropic capital can make a distinctive contribution.

The diaspora's most distinctive contribution lies in its ability to help promising solutions emerge and mature. Flexible, risk-tolerant philanthropic capital and global knowledge exchange can support experimentation, test new approaches, and build the evidence needed to establish what works. Governments, markets, and larger funders can then take successful models forward to scale. By helping bridge the gap between innovation and implementation, diaspora philanthropy can become an active partner in India's journey toward Viksit Bharat.



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between innovation and implementation, diaspora philanthropy can become an active partner in India's journey toward Viksit Bharat.

Unlocking this potential, however, requires connective infrastructure that bridges the distance between the desire to contribute and the confidence to act. Intermediaries and diaspora networks can make India's vast and wide climate landscape easier to navigate, connect donors with credible opportunities and simplify the giving journey. Institutional funders can help build and sustain this infrastructure, making it more durable and trusted. ***Together, they can help donors move from interest to informed intent, from intent to purposeful giving, and from giving to long-term stewardship.*** Over time, this can bring more donors into climate philanthropy and encourage them to bring their peers and the next generation along. For younger diaspora givers in particular, climate action is a way to build a relationship with India around a shared future, connecting their sense of belonging to a challenge that will shape their lives for decades to come.

This relationship can also run both ways. The diaspora can help bring the world to India, connecting global capital, expertise and networks to climate action at home, while helping take India to the world as Indian knowledge, models and solutions travel further. For generations, the Indian diaspora has helped shape the country's progress. Climate action offers an opportunity to carry that legacy forward: to protect the development gains already made, to help build a more resilient and equitable future for India, and to share solutions with a world confronting many of the same challenges.



The next chapter

of diaspora climate philanthropy must move from interest to informed intent, purposeful giving, and long-term stewardship, supported by an ecosystem that connects donors to credible opportunities, enables cross-border giving, and sustains engagement.

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