South Asia Bioregionalism Working Group

South Asia Bio-Cultural Region: From Reimagining Borders to Practicing Cooperation

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Namrata Kabra

Program Coordinator, South Asia Bioregionalism Working Group

The Right-Side-Up Map of South Asia, designed by Himal Southasian in 1998.

Reimagining South Asia

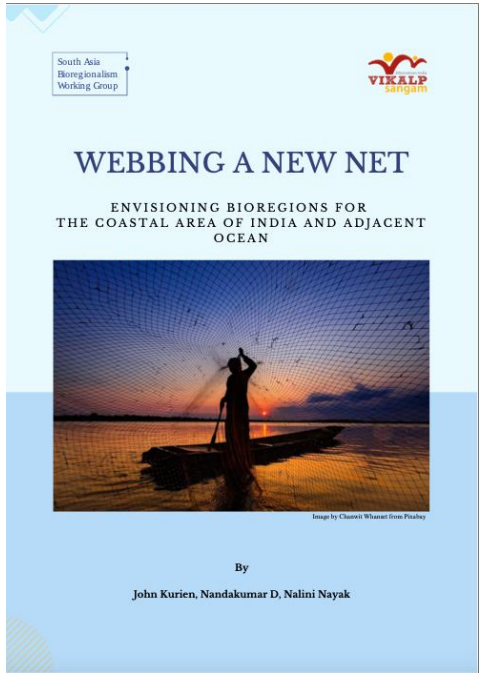
- The group felt a need to re-conceptualise existing political and administrative boundaries and consider transboundary or borderless or reconstituted approaches that respect **Eco-Bio-Cultural** linkages and contiguities.
- This rotation is an attempt by the editors of *Himal* to reconceptualise **regionalism** in a way that the focus is on the people rather than the nation-states.

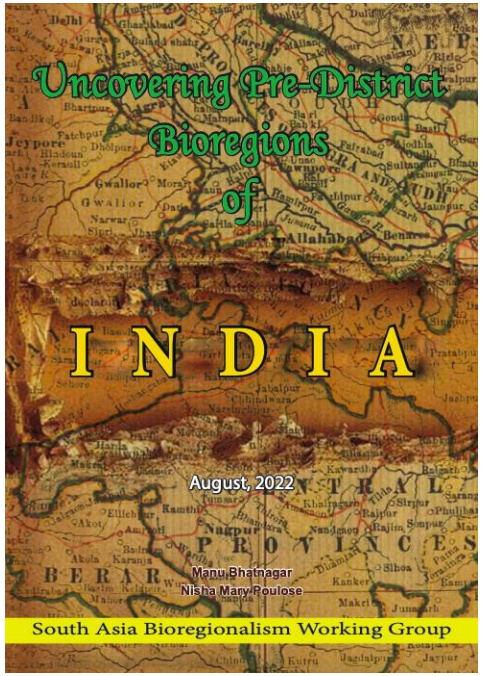
What We Aim/Hope To Do

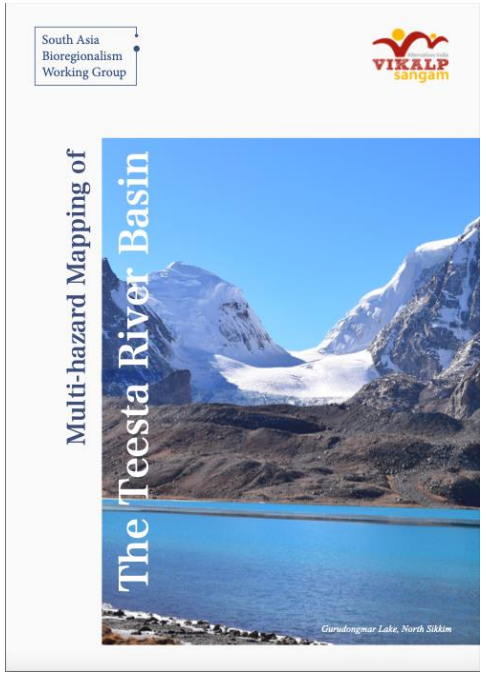
Co-create	Co-develop	Platforms	Efforts	Build
Knowledge and awareness of a **bioregionalist approach** to democratic decision-making in South Asia.	Advocacy to integrate a **bioregionalist perspective** into policy, governance, socio-ecological-political structures, and community thinking.	For **People-to-people** communication/collaborations across current political and administrative boundaries.	To have **Bioregional governance** - systems constituted around river basins that cut across current nation-state boundaries, as an ultimate goal.	Support systems for **communities, movements, and groups** working on the ground.

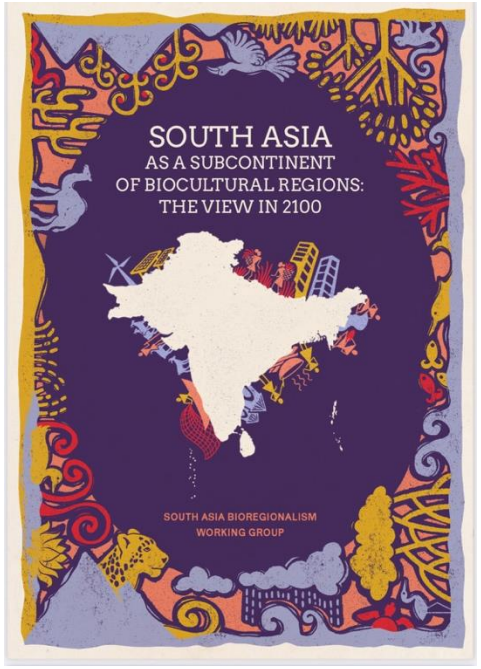
Dialogue, Knowledge, Practice

- Webinars & Talks from Different Bioregions
- Bioregional Mapping
- Teesta Multi-hazard Mapping
- Process Documentation
- Coastal Bioregional Paper
- Bioregionalism Defining
- Bioregional Satsang
- Science and Spirit in Marine Bioregionalism
- South Asia Bioregionalism Vision









Certificate Course on Bioregionalism in India

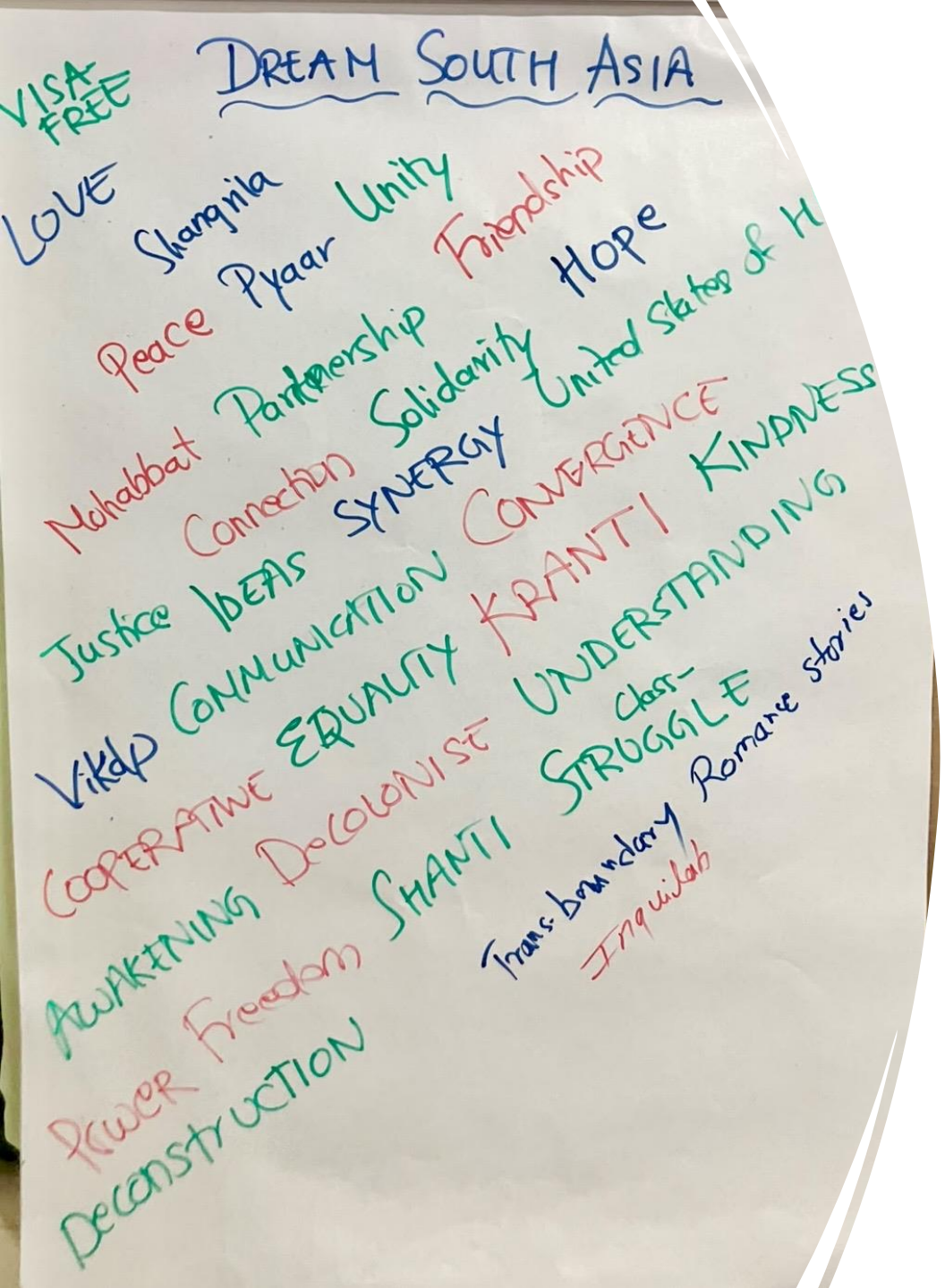
Sites of Cooperation: Prototypes of a different regionalism

Disasters & Early Warning: Community networks and local actors sharing flood and early-warning information across river systems through people, social media and local communication channels across the border.

Shared livelihoods: Fisherfolk networks have kept communication alive around detentions, missing fishers and access to shared fishing grounds, even where interstate relations remain difficult.

Mobility: Kartarpur Corridor: A reminder that political borders can be selectively opened where there is sufficient social and political demand.

People-to-people diplomacy: Teesta and other transboundary rivers: Repeated dialogue among communities, researchers and civil society can continue even when formal interstate negotiations remain stuck.



Dream South Asia

A borderless/bioregional South Asia exists in the ways communities share flood warnings with each other, fishers organise, local authorities cooperate, livelihoods cross borders, music transcends and people keep relationships alive when formal politics stalls.

THANK YOU

South Asia Bioregionalism Working Group

Email

sabioregionalism@gmail.com

Webpages

https://vikalpsangam.org/south-asia-bioregionalism-working-group/

https://in.boell.org/index.php/en/bioregionalism

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