



ধরিত্রী রক্ষায় আমরা (ধরা)  
DHORITRI ROKHHAY AMRA (DHORA)

## Declaration of Dhoritri Rokhhay Amra (DHORA)

Environmental and climate crises are causing humanitarian catastrophe in many places in the world today. The unsustainable “development approaches”, the rise in the use of fossil fuels, filling up of rivers, canals, wetlands and floodplains, destructions of the hills, forests and biodiversity, have already caused irreversible damages to communities and ecosystems throughout Bangladesh and elsewhere in the planet.

The aggressive activities of the polluters as well as the weaknesses of the governing systems in implementing appropriate responses, do not only exacerbate the crises but are clear evidence of injustices and violation of declared public trust in protecting all the resource commons of the earth and its people.

Over the last few years, Bangladesh has undergone multifaceted changes, creating critical state of “**Climate and Ecological Emergency**” with the loss of peoples’ lives and livelihoods, destruction of deltaic ecosystems, severe air and water pollution, especially massive displacements of communities in low lying coastal areas due to rising sea level, increasingly powerful cyclones, salinity, and floods. Scientists and researchers recently estimated that these devastations have caused over 10 million Bangladeshis now already being displaced, making the country the bastion of the largest internal climate refugees in the near term.

What is also more alarming is the ongoing destruction of the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove railing, covering around 40% of the country’s forest areas losing its biodiversity and many people losing their livelihoods as well as the protective natural shields for Bangladesh from calamities and submersion. All the six (6) ecological divisions in Bangladesh according to the BDP 2100 are severely under environmental destructions. We strongly demand climate and environmental justice!

Among the initial steps to address this situation, a two-day Climate Justice Assembly was convened in Dhaka, on November 17-18, 2023, which was jointly organized by 27 national, regional and global organizations, and participated by more than 700 community leaders and representatives from the coast, Haor, Hills and other vulnerable areas. The Assembly also called for the initiation of a movement to advance and work for Climate Justice in Bangladesh as well as for the most sufferers elsewhere in the world.

### The Way Forward

As we collectively advance the Bangladeshi people’s aspirations and struggles for Climate and Environmental Justice, Dhoritri Rokhhay Amra (DHORA) commits to undertake the following:





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1. Act as a collective and inclusive voluntary platform (regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, caste or creed, or socio-economic status or boundaries of territories or human differences) of individuals, communities, people's organizations, and networks, united in protecting the environment and advocating for peoples' calls and demands for environmental and climate justice and ecological restoration and development.
2. Do advocacy and lobby with the government, regulating authorities including polluters and emitters to protect our beloved birthplace Bangladesh and inclusively the entire planet from such destructive pollution and the most harmful emissions and the inhumane sufferings of its people.
3. Engage with the government and regulating authorities to formulate appropriate policies & laws and very effective and neutral timebound-applications and implementation.
4. Developing the Platform's program of action-oriented activities, involving affected peoples and communities, building awareness, and mobilizing the broader networks and initiatives on various issues, responses and alternative solutions to environmental and ecological degradation and the adverse impacts of climate change.
5. Ensuring full transparency and accountability to people and community participation while giving utmost importance and priority to their interests in the planning, management, allocation and access to public finance and natural resources.
6. Strengthening regional and global linkages and movements for ecological restoration, environmental and climate justice.
7. Developing mechanisms for community-based participatory consultations, monitoring, and research for credible data/information collection, needs assessment and planning, for immediate and appropriate ground responses concerning adaptation, deforestation, desertification, soil degradation, mitigation, loss and damage, and the adverse impacts on fishers, farmers, women, children and differently abled.
8. Resolving Trans-boundary conflicts through mutually dynamic river diplomacy and approaches in line with international river disputes resolution conventions and protocols; and more necessarily covering the vital multilateral common issues for the greatest interest of the lowest riparian deltaic ecological balance which can provide opportunities for whole of the region.
9. Networking and developing mutually benefiting dialogues and partnerships among the concerned government agencies, institutions, and communities in pursuing the development of pro-people, environment-friendly, ecologically balanced and climate resilient policy frameworks and strategies and provide opportunities for skills and appropriate technology development.
10. Popularizing and disseminating relevant knowledge and valued experiences and sharing the best practices on the relevant national and international laws and human rights mandated agreements and protocols.
11. Development and management of green climate finance on prioritizing the people's interests, ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness for the benefit of the marginalized and disadvantaged communities, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, caste or creed, or socio-economic status or boundaries of territories or human differences.

