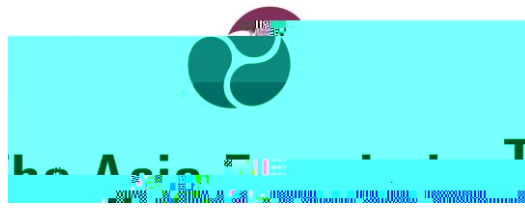
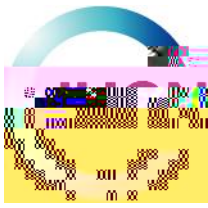
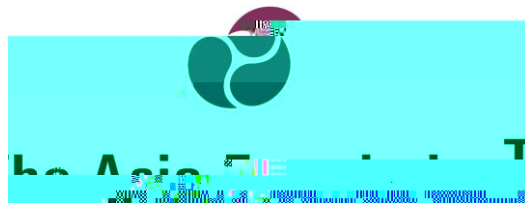
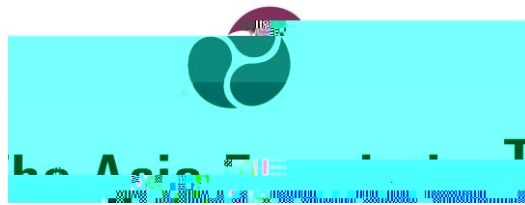


The global significance of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) river basin is profound and far-





are also committed to a number of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention, and the Convention on Migratory Species, all of which involve a certain level of transboundary cooperation. They have also designated several protected



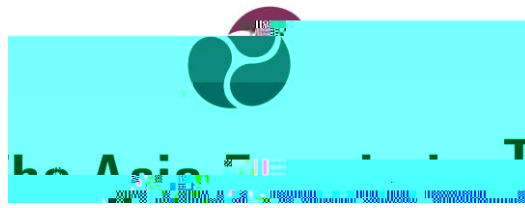
The participants of the GBM CSO network commit to collaborate and engage with all relevant organizations to deliver on five themes – transboundary cooperation; policy and legislation; research and knowledge; capacity-building; and communication, outreach, and advocacy — using the following cross-cutting actions:

Transboundary Cooperation

1. **Initiate the development of a CSO cooperation mechanism** at the transboundary and national levels on the conservation and sustainable use of the rivers and wetlands of the GBM river basin through action research, capacity-building, and communication;
2. **Support cross-border exchange for people of the river to engage in direct dialogue** facilitated by the CSO network;
3. Work towards the **institutionalization of a GBM CSO network** by establishing **working groups at both regional and national levels through interaction with government counterparts**;
4. **Develop and promote a CSO Regional Strategy for the GBM river basin linked to a harmonized set of country-level CSO action plans** contributing to the conservation and utilization of critical ecosystems in the GBM, including Himalayan glaciers, the Sundarbans, Ramsar sites, World Heritage sites and rivers and wetlands, while creatively engaging with stakeholders in national and local development policy and planning frameworks;

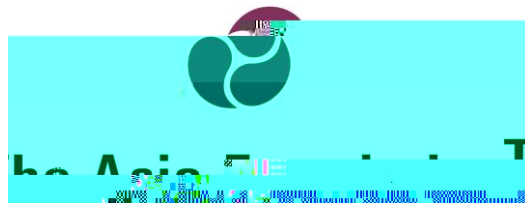
Policy and Legislation

5. **Apply ecosystem-based approaches** to scientifically assess current ecological conditions and their linkages with water and land-



Research and Knowledge

10. **Begin compiling existing research and sharing public data** among CSOs working on



Communication, Outreach and Advocacy

18. With the participation of river communities, **develop and implement a regional GBM CSO communication and awareness strategy** that is linked to national-level strategies and focuses on gender, social inclusion, and poverty;
19. **Support the promotion and coordination of regional cultural festivals** in which all five countries participate in order to promote people-to-people interaction and to build bridges of empathy and understanding;
20. **Advocate and lobby for legal reforms and benefit-sharing approaches** based on national and international standards, regional research, and dialogue;
21. **Promote innovative use of multi-channel communication, traditional and popular culture, and social media** to help raise awareness of the value of cooperation in the GBM river basin.

GBM CSOs that contributed to the development of the BRIDGE CSO Vision:

Abhiyan Nepal; ActionAid Bangladesh; ActionAid India; ActionAid Nepal; Asian Confluence, India; Association for Protection of Environment and Culture (APEC), Nepal; Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA); Bhutan Water Partnership; Brotee, Bangladesh; Center for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK), China; Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), Bangladesh; Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), India; CUTS International, India; Development Alternatives, India; Indian Environmental Law Organisation (IELO); Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET), Nepal; Koshi Victim Society, Nepal; Nav Jagriti, India; Niti Foundation, Nepal; Office of International Affairs, China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, China; Oxfam Bangladesh; Oxfam India; Riverine People, Bangladesh; Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), Bhutan; SaciWATERS, India; SEE Foundation, China; Shan Shui Conservation Center, China; TARAYANA, Bhutan; Union for Culture, Human and Environment Protection (UCHEP), Nepal; Waterkeepers Bangladesh; WWF Bhutan; Yunnan University, China.