

# Climate Action for a Resilient Asia | CARA

The FCDO's flagship programme to build the resilience of economies and vulnerable communities across the Indo-Pacific to climate change.

The Indo-Pacific region is on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Communities and landscapes across the region are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, from extreme weather to rising seas and biodiversity loss. But despite the scale of the problem, there is a lack of capacity to prepare for a climate-changing world.

CARA is the UK government's most ambitious **regional programme** in the Indo-Pacific that prioritises **climate adaptation and resilience**.

## 9 years

The project runs from 2022 to 2031.

## £274 million

UK government support for CARA.

## 14.4 million people

Will adapt better to climate impacts.

## CARA is managed by the Indo-Pacific Regional Department (IPRD), working closely with posts and others.

We engage regularly with colleagues at post to ensure the work docks in with local opportunities and can help deliver against HMG bilateral priorities.

We do this through components being implemented by our partners, through country visits and through the demand-responsive **Flexible Fund** designed to support local initiatives.

We are open to ideas and want to collaborate on CARA's mission to drive sectoral and systems change in the Indo-Pacific, so please reach out directly to programme team (*details on pages 5-7*).

# The CARA programme aims to improve climate resilience in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Pacific

*This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the UK FCDO concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or borders. Nor do the boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UK FCDO.*

CARA addresses all aspects of climate adaptation through **7 interlinked** components and **5** implementation partners.

| Component   | Themes   | Partner  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Climate Finance Network</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate-aligned budgeting and planning</li> <li>• Access to international climate finance</li> <li>• Forecasting economic impacts</li> </ul>                        | United Nations Development Programme                     | <p>Partners collaborate on common themes in the region.</p> <p>CARA also has an extensive contract covering monitoring, evaluation, learning, communications and engagement, managed by a consortium led by Triple Line Consulting.</p> <p>The CARA team will prioritise Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) to ensure that women and marginalised groups are supported and empowered.</p> |
| <b>Resilient Asia Program</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate policy and investment</li> <li>• Transboundary cooperation on air, water</li> <li>• Knowledge generation and convenings</li> </ul>                          | World Bank   |  |
| <b>Community Resilience Partnership Program</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-led adaptation</li> <li>• Strengthening local institutional capacity</li> <li>• Pro-poor and women-focused investments</li> </ul>                         | Asian Development Bank                                   |  |
| <b>Urban Resilience Trust Fund</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate-resilient urban policy and planning</li> <li>• Water, sanitation and waste management</li> <li>• Disaster resilience</li> </ul>                             | Asian Development Bank                                   |  |
| <b>Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP)</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation of biodiversity</li> <li>• Transboundary cooperation on air, water</li> <li>• Nature-based reduction of disaster risk</li> </ul>                       | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development |  |
| <b>Weather &amp; Climate Information Services (WISER), Asia Pacific</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved weather and climate information</li> <li>• Impact-based forecasting</li> <li>• Mainstream climate information services into policy and planning</li> </ul> | UK Met Office  |  |
| <b>Flexible Fund</b>  | <p><i>Managed by the FCDO, the fund is demand responsive and is granted based on needs raised by embassies and high commissions across the Indo-Pacific.</i></p>   |  |  |

# CARA delivers through 7 interlinked components and 5 partners.

## Climate Finance Network (CFN)

(up to £21 million)

### Partner: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Contact: [Emma Wright](#), [Archana Shukla](#) or [Rachna Bhatnagar](#)

CFN provides technical assistance to governments on innovative climate finance approaches and mainstreaming climate change into governance and public financial management.

Read more about [the project here](#).

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## Resilient Asia Program (RAP)

(up to £50 million)

### Partner: World Bank

Contact: [John Warburton](#), [Archana Shukla](#) or [Rachna Bhatnagar](#)

RAP focuses on advancing knowledge generation; supporting regional cooperation; and strengthening capacity to plan, design, and implement policies and investments that build climate resilience and protect biodiversity.

Read more about [the project here](#).

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## Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP)

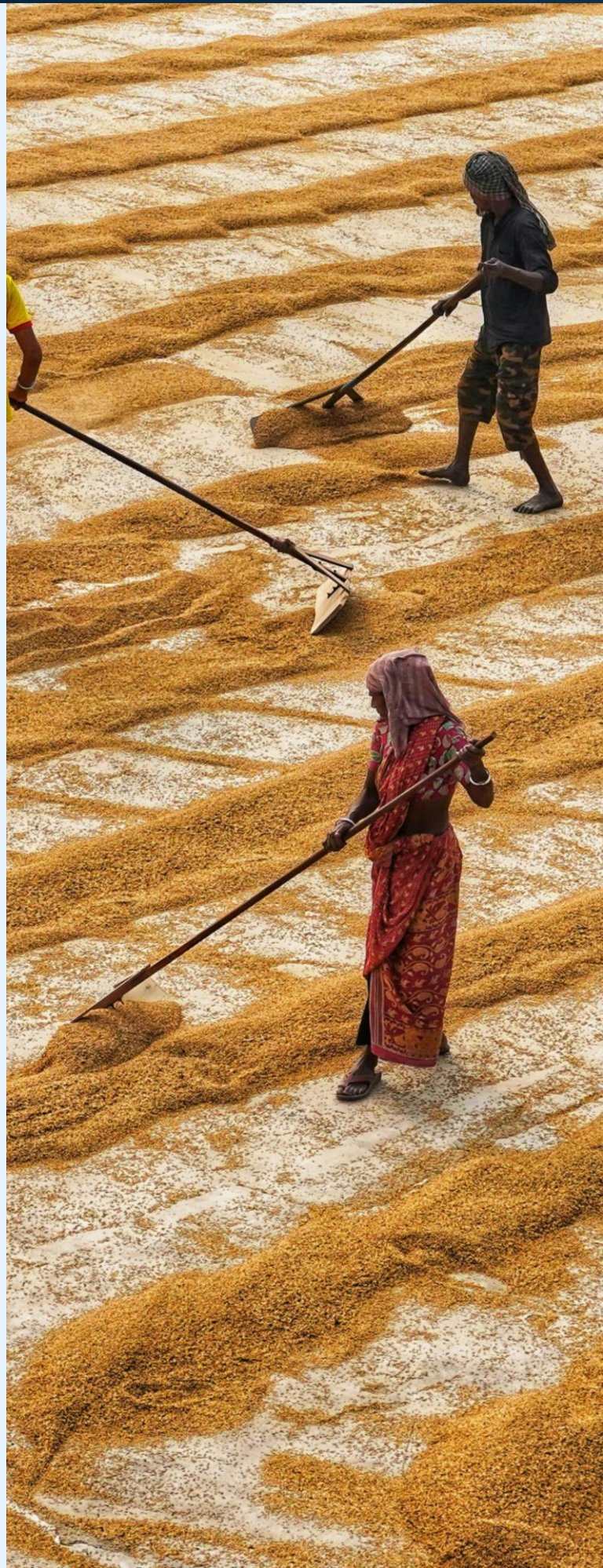
(up to £20 million)

### Partner: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Contact: [Jonathan Reeves](#) or [Rachna Bhatnagar](#)

HI-REAP works to reduce exposure to climate risks and transform the lives and livelihoods of millions of people who live in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region. They prioritise locally-led adaptation in key areas such as nature-based solutions.

Read more about [the project here](#).





## Community Resilience Partnership Program

(up to £45 million)

### Partner: Asian Development Bank

Contact: [John Warburton](#), [Neeti Malhotra](#) or [Rachna Bhatnagar](#)

CRPP helps countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific region scale up investments in climate adaptation, especially investments at the community level, that explicitly target the nexus among climate change, poverty, and gender.

Read more about [the project here](#).

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## Urban Resilience Trust Fund (up to £70 million)

### Partner: Asian Development Bank

Contact: [John Warburton](#), [Jaya Singh Verma](#) or [Harjeet Kaur](#)

URTF builds the capacity of cities and urban agencies, communities, and private sector entities to integrate climate resilience into their policies. The program will help reduce risks from climate change and natural disasters through technical assistance and demonstrative innovative investments in specified thematic areas.

Read more about [the project here](#).

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## Weather and Climate Information and Services (WISER), Asia Pacific

(up to £18 million)

### Partner: The UK Met Office

Contact: [Emma Wright](#), [Archana Shukla](#) or [Harjeet Kaur](#)

WISER delivers transformational change in the quality, accessibility and use of weather and climate information services at all levels to support sustainable development.

Read more about [the project here](#).

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## Flexible Fund (up to £45 million)

### Multiple partners, across regions

Contact: [John Warburton](#), [Emma Wright](#) or [Archana Shukla](#)

The Flexible Fund is demand responsive and is geared to support emerging priorities and address gaps in existing programmes at the national level. The Flexible Fund includes projects in the Pacific nations that foster small, locally-led adaptation.

# Meet the CARA Team

CARA is run by the Indo-Pacific Regional Department (IPRD), headed by Charlotte Coles. The team delivering the programme include:



## **John Warburton | IPRD Head of Climate and Environment**

**Contact:** [john.warburton@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:john.warburton@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

John heads the Climate Pillar within IPRD and is the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for the CARA programme. John has 35 years of programme and personnel management experience in the private and public sectors, including more than 20 years implementing climate and environmental policies, programmes and projects, predominantly in Asia and Africa, across all sectors of international development.



## **Archana Shukla | Senior Programme Manager and Assurance Lead**

**Contact:** [archana.shukla@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:archana.shukla@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Archana is the Programme Responsible Owner (PRO) for CARA and is responsible for driving the delivery of outcomes. Archana's expertise lies in project and programme management including operations, contract management, financials, risk, fraud, and safeguarding. She is also on the Delegated Procurement Officers steering board.



## **Aakanksha Saxena | Finance Manager**

**Contact:** [aakansha.saxena@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:aakansha.saxena@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Aakanksha oversees financial planning, budgeting and reporting to ensure effective allocation and management of resources. She works closely with cross-functional teams to provide financial insights and strategies that align with CARA's objectives, supporting the programme's mission to improve climate adaptation. With her expertise in financial management, she plays a key role in maximising the impact of CARA's resources.



## **Asgar Qadri | Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor**

**Contact:** [asgar.qadri@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:asgar.qadri@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Asgar is the Programme Responsible Owner (PRO) for CARA's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) component, responsible for ensuring the right systems and approaches are in place to monitor and measure effectiveness of impact pathways across all seven components. He also has overall responsibility for ensuring implementing partners maintain quality MEL systems and standards, and he manages Triple Line, CARA's external MEL supplier.



## **Bhaskar Padigala | India Climate and Environment Advisor**

**Contact:** [bhaskar.padigala@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:bhaskar.padigala@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Bhaskar provides technical and policy support for CARA interventions in India. He is a climate and urban expert with diversified experience of working with national, state and local governments, multilateral agencies, global non-profits and think tanks in India, as well as other South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka.



**Emma Wright | Regional Climate and Environment Advisor**

**Contact:** [emma.wright@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:emma.wright@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Under CARA, Emma is the lead adviser on the climate finance and regional hydro-meteorological and early warning systems programmes. She also leads on work in the Pacific countries and in India with the bilateral climate team. Emma is interested in regenerative agriculture and agroecology projects.



**Harjeet Kaur | Programme Manager**

**Contact:** [harjeet.kaur@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:harjeet.kaur@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Harjeet supports the management of the Urban Resilience Trust Fund, WISER Asia Pacific, Flexible Fund projects, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities. She is responsible for handling day-to-day operational tasks related to these projects, which amount to a third of CARA's total budget.



**Jaya Singh Verma | Senior Policy & Programme Manager**

**Contact:** [jaya-singh.verma@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:jaya-singh.verma@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Jaya focuses on the Urban Resilience Trust Fund component of the CARA programme. She also leads safeguarding for the Indo-Pacific Regional Department and is responsible for this aspect for the overall CARA programme as well, along with Aakanksha. Jaya has expertise across a wide range of multi-sectoral policy and programming. She has led teams in FCDO India and completed postings in other parts of the Asia region, and Sierra Leone.



**Jessie Kirk | Senior Social Development Advisor**

**Contact:** [jessie.kirk@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:jessie.kirk@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in London)

Jessie heads the Strategy, Coordination and Advisory Pillar within IPRD. For CARA, she provides technical support particularly to the Asian Development Bank-led Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP), given its focus on the nexus between gender, climate and poverty. She is working to establish a CARA-wide Gender and Inclusion Strategy.



**Jonathan Reeves | Senior Climate and Energy Advisor**

**Contact:** [jonathan.reeves@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.reeves@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in Kathmandu)

Under CARA, Jonathan leads on the Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP), implemented by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). He also leads on agriculture across CARA. Since Jonathan provides a climate, environment and energy advisory function for the UK in Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, he seeks synergies between CARA activities and other UK initiatives in these countries. He is also FCDO's Indo-Pacific regional energy lead, with a focus on supporting development of regional clean electricity markets.



**Kaavya Kumar | Communications and Engagement Manager**

Contact: [kaavya.kumar@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:kaavya.kumar@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Kaavya joined the IPRD in September 2024 to document and amplify stories under the CARA programme through close collaboration with all implementation partners, and FCDO departments in the Indo-Pacific region. She comes with a background in journalism and editorial management at environmental research organisations in Bengaluru and New Delhi.



**Maria Assuntha | Programme Officer and Administrative Assistant**

Contact: [maria.assuntha@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:maria.assuntha@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Maria provides integral programme management support for the Pacific Partnership Fund under the CARA programme, handling a number of activities for projects with a £100-200K outlay in the Pacific region. She is also responsible for organising CARA away days and steering logistics for key events such as the annual implementation partners' meeting.



**Neeti Malhotra | Senior Programme and Policy Manager**

Contact: [neeti.malhotra@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:neeti.malhotra@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Neeti leads on the Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) component of the CARA programme. Given CRPP's focus on gender and vulnerable communities, Neeti is also closely involved in developing a gender strategy for the overall CARA programme with Jessie Kirk and the Triple Line Consulting, who leads an extensive MEL contract for CARA.



**Rachna Bhatnagar | Programme Manager**

Contact: [rachna.bhatnagar@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:rachna.bhatnagar@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Rachna is a Programme Manager for four components of CARA – RAP with the World Bank, HI-REAP with ICIMOD, CRPP with ADB and CFN with UNDP. She regularly liaises with partners to document financial updates and ensure that funds are released on time for programme delivery. She has rich experience of FCDO systems (mainly, financial and aid management) and is also responsible for PrOF compliance of all four components.



**Sabi Gurung | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Advisor**

Contact: [sabi.gurung@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:sabi.gurung@fcdo.gov.uk) (based in New Delhi)

Sabi works with all CARA implementing partners and the MEL consortium to ensure all CARA programmes have robust results frameworks and MEL plans, and that all relevant data are generated to review programme progress. She also provides technical support to the CARA implementing partners to generate results and evidence; synthesis and management of CARA programmes' activities related data. She has a public health research background.