

## GLOBAL RIVER ALLIANCE

(An initiative by the Centre for River Affairs, SAIARD)

### Concept

The Global River Alliance is an ambitious initiative proposed by the Centre for River Affairs, which operates under the South Asian Institute for Advanced Research & Development (SAIARD). This voluntary platform has been formed with a vision to promote the idea i.e. **Rivers for All and We have to Think River Differently** as well as to engage the power of some river intellectuals throughout the world in one unified platform.

River is not just an international figure but also a trans-boundary related matter. Its impact is not only confined particularly on those areas over which it flows but may reflect on other parts also. So we have to think it in a holistic manner. GRA is that kind of platform which sends a message of development, prosperity, harmony and progress to the entire world on the basis of the development of our rivers health. Therefore, This visionary alliance aims to unite countries and stakeholders worldwide to address the growing challenges faced by rivers, promoting their sustainable management, protection, and restoration. Rivers play a crucial role in supporting ecosystems, livelihoods, and the overall well-being of communities, making it imperative to collaborate and safeguard these lifelines for current and future generations.

### Global River Alliance: Need of the hour

Rivers are essential to human civilization, biodiversity, and the planet's ecological balance. They provide water for agriculture, industries, and drinking purposes, act as natural transportation routes, and foster biodiversity hotspots. However, rampant urbanization, industrialization, deforestation, pollution, and climate change have threatened the health and integrity of rivers globally. Many rivers face challenges like reduced water flow, habitat destruction, contamination, and vulnerability to extreme weather events, endangering millions of lives and ecosystems and these all issues ultimately turns around to the human being and create some adverse effects as we have experienced some time either in our country or in other parts of the world.

The Global River Alliance addresses the pressing needs of rivers worldwide, recognizing their significance as essential ecosystems and lifelines for communities and serves as a pivotal platform to promote sustainable river management and safeguard the well-being of our planet. It will address the critical needs of rivers, advocating for their protection, conservation, and sustainable use. By fostering international collaboration and engaging diverse stakeholders, the alliance strives to secure a resilient and thriving future for our precious rivers and the communities that depend on them.



### River – Human Interferences



### Objectives

The Global River Alliance is founded upon the following objectives:

1. Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing: Encourage countries and river basin organizations to collaborate, share data, best practices, and research findings to tackle common challenges and promote sustainable river management.
2. Restoration and Conservation: Support and implement river restoration and conservation projects that aim to revive degraded river ecosystems, improve water quality, and protect critical habitats.
3. Climate Change Adaptation: Develop strategies and initiatives to help rivers adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as increased flooding, droughts, and rising sea levels.
4. Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with local communities, indigenous groups, NGOs, governments, academia, and the private sector to ensure inclusive decision-making and participatory management of rivers.
5. Policy Advocacy: Advocate for robust river protection policies, regulations, and governance frameworks at regional, national, and international levels to secure long-term river health.

6. **Capacity Building:** Strengthen the capabilities of river management authorities and local stakeholders through training, capacity building programs, and workshops.

## **Activities**

The Global River Alliance will undertake a range of activities to achieve its objectives:

1. **River Basin Assessments:** Conduct comprehensive assessments of major river basins worldwide to identify critical issues and prioritize conservation efforts.
2. **Restoration Projects:** Collaborate with local communities and organizations to execute river restoration projects, such as dam removals, wetland restoration, and riverbank stabilization.
3. **Research and Innovation:** Support and fund research on river-related issues, including water quality monitoring, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable water resource management.
4. **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate people about the importance of rivers and foster a sense of responsibility towards their protection.
5. **International Conferences and Workshops:** Organize conferences, workshops, and seminars to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences among river stakeholders.

## **Conclusion**

The Global River Alliance, an initiative by the Centre for River Affairs of SAIARD, is a significant step towards safeguarding our planet's rivers. By fostering international cooperation, innovative approaches, and stakeholder engagement, the alliance aims to protect and sustain these vital ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. Together, let us join hands and take decisive action to ensure the well-being of our rivers, which are the lifeblood of our planet.

**Prof. Biswajit Roy Chowdhury (BRC)**

Founder Chairman,  
SAIARD-Centre for River Affairs &  
President, Global River Alliance  
[chairman.saiard@gmail.com](mailto:chairman.saiard@gmail.com)