CONCEPT NOTE · CLIMATE MOBILITY PAVILION · COP31 ANTALYA

Mountain Communities at the Crossroads: Finance, Justice, Resilience and the Choice to Stay

DATE & TIME	VENUE	ORGANIZED BY
Monday, 16 November 2026 11:30–12:30 (Antalya time)	Climate Mobility Pavilion COP31 Blue Zone, Antalya, Türkiye	TERI · Mountain Sentinels/Instituto de Montaña · AIIN in partnership with the Global Centre for Climate Mobility

01 Context

Across mountain regions, changing snowmelt, water insecurity and degrading ecosystems threaten agriculture, forests and local livelihoods. Declining incomes can turn migration from a choice into a necessity, while some people lack the means to leave. The right to stay is also bound to ancestral lands, cultural identities and the freedom to shape one's future.

Watershed restoration, resilient farming, Indigenous stewardship and local enterprises support mountain livelihoods. Community-led solutions need accessible adaptation finance and, where appropriate, high-integrity carbon and blended finance that protect rights, share benefits fairly and deliver tangible outcomes. Combining mountain science, Indigenous leadership and finance, this session considers both the choice to stay and the right to safe, dignified mobility.

02 Objectives

1. Examine how water, ecosystems and livelihoods shape communities' choice to stay or move.
2. Identify community-led restoration, resilient farming and Indigenous stewardship.
3. Explore fair adaptation, carbon and blended finance with community safeguards.

03 Guiding Questions

Q1 Who gets to stay, who decides, and how can Indigenous leadership protect that choice?

Q2 Which community-led investments in water security, landscape restoration and livelihoods can strengthen mountain resilience and the choice to stay?

Q3 How can adaptation and carbon finance reach communities fairly and support local agency?

04 Suggested Speakers

ROLE	NAME, TITLE & ORGANIZATION	STATUS
Moderator	Jacob Woolford, Mountain Sentinels Associate	Confirmed
Context-setting	Sayanta Ghosh, Senior Associate Fellow, TERI	Confirmed
Panelist	Tata Charity Yenlan, Mountain Sentinels Fellow (Cameroon)	Confirmed
Panelist	Anshuman, Senior Fellow & Director, Water Resources, TERI	Confirmed
Panelist	HRM Fon Ngum IV (Ngum Ernest Merlin Shang), Paramount Fon of Oku; Mountain Sentinels Fellow	Confirmed
Panelist	Phoolman Chaudhary, Asian Indigenous International Network	Confirmed

05 Run of Show

TIME	SEGMENT
11:30–11:37	Welcome and framing: Sayanta Ghosh on livelihood security, climate mobility and the right to choose
11:37–12:05	Four perspectives (7 minutes each): Indigenous governance, women-led resilience, water security and Indigenous rights
12:05–12:24	Moderated panel and audience exchange: community-led solutions, fair finance and implementation
12:24–12:30	Synthesis: practical priorities for the Climate Mobility Adaptation Agenda

06 Co-organizing Partners

TERI (India) — Land–water–livelihood evidence; watershed and natural-resource solutions; adaptation/carbon finance; policy and implementation synthesis.

Mountain Sentinels Collaborative Network / Instituto de Montaña — Mountain science, Indigenous and community leadership, resilience and local knowledge.

Asian Indigenous International Network (Nepal) — Indigenous rights, cultural identity, self-determination and the justice of staying or moving.

Session Focal Point— Mr. Sayanta Ghosh, Senior Associate Fellow, TERI; Email: sayanta.ghosh@teri.res.in; Phone: +91 7872458836