

# EMPOWER | Empowering citizen and community adaptation to systemic risks from climate change



## What is EMPOWER?

EMPOWER is a research project funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and led by the University of Reading, in collaboration with the University of Surrey, the Indian Institute of Management in Nagpur and the Water Research Institute in Ghana. It is part of a collection of projects that contribute to the "Adaptation and Resilience" activity linked to the recent UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow.

Climate change is increasingly having impacts on individual livelihoods and prosperity, yet plans for adaptation strategies have mostly been limited to government and the private sector. Our international team will undertake three case studies (in the UK, India, and Ghana) to explore the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on a local level from the citizen perspective.

**In a series of online workshops, we will bring together groups of citizens and empower them to create bespoke plans for individual adaptation.** As a participant, our team of experts will guide you through an interactive mapping exercise to identify climate change threats and interventions tailored to local context. By the end of the project, you will have a better understanding of how climate change might specifically affect you, your household and local community. You will have identified opportunities for adaptation actions, including developing a 'personal adaptation plan' of simple actions to take to reduce the impacts of climate change. Your involvement will also allow the project team to reflect and report on the value of such protocols, with valuable lessons for governments aiming to facilitate and expand such approaches in the future.

**Through EMPOWER we hope to improve the safety of communities and develop new protocols for urgently needed bottom-up climate change adaptation approaches.**

## What is happening?

You can find out more about the EMPOWER project from our website: [www.empower-project.org](http://www.empower-project.org)

We are looking for participants based in the **Reading, Wallingford and Oxford area** to join our UK-based case study.

Participants will be provided with a briefing pack containing local climate change data prior to the first workshop, which will take place online from **10:00 - 12:30 on Thursday 6th January 2022**.

Participants will then be invited to a second online workshop to further refine their adaptation plans from **10:00 - 12:30 on Wednesday 2nd February 2022**.

Participants must be aged over 18 and be interested in understanding the various ways that climate change will impact them, their households and communities. Participants need to be available for both workshops and have access to their own PC to join the meetings (no specialist software needed).

## How can I get involved?

To apply to join the participant group, please complete our **online application form** available at: <https://forms.gle/Te9tg4MEdg2nwShJ9>

**Applications must be received by midnight on Wed 15th December 2021** and for those selected to participate, briefing packs will be circulated on 20th Dec.

