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**Preface**

INECC is a network of organizations and concerned individuals working with marginalized

communities in India. The network came together in 1996 in order to understand the implications of Climate Change in the work of its constituents and the perspective of the rural and marginalized communities. INECC has learnt that while Climate Change is a global phenomenon, it is the marginalised majority in the world who will suffer the most impacts of climate change. Further, INECC is convinced that any real solution to the crisis, particularly for the marginalised communities, must be anchored to the core principle of sustainable societies.

Hence, INECC posits that the discourse on Climate Change cannot and must not be delinked from the life and livelihood of local communities, especially those at the economic and environmental margins who will become increasingly vulnerable to climate change. INECC believes that Climate Change is a part of a larger environmental crisis and that it relates to the ecologically destructive development processes that are being pursued globally. Therefore ecologically destructive development process must give way to a new paradigm of development. (INECC Position paper Draft 2, March 2009)

Recognising that Climate Change most adversely affects marginalized communities, and that Climate Change is indeed upon us, INECC felt that it was necessary to have a better understanding of the vulnerability of these communities to climate change as well as develop and prepare adequate resilience to the impacts of climate change. The problems and the solutions will be different for different eco-regions and therefore INECC has, over the last few years, taken up vulnerability studies in each of the eco-regions, through its partners.

The aims of the assessments has been to study

* the people's perception on the nature of changes in their neighbourhoods and climate.
* the impact of these changes in their living conditions, livelihood and health.
* the factors responsible for their situation.

The studies also aims to map the nature of vulnerability by age and gender in the neighbourhood and to corroborate where possible, people's perception with secondary sources – studies, reports etc. in order to enable NGOs to inform their approach as well as contribute to policy and programmes of government and other bodies.

With this background in mind, CED and INECC embarked on a pilot study to test the relevance of the known parameters of urban vulnerability to situation on the ground, and relate it to people’s perception of the issues involved, and then develop preliminary initiatives for intervention on vulnerability and resilience, which is in line with what people consider as important and urgent.

Thus, the study listens to the normal day-to-day concerns and responses of marginalized population, particularly women and how they cope with the various issues they face. This pilot study preludes a much wider study that would hopefully include greater participation from the various stakeholders working on urban issues within communities.