



INDO-DUTCH RESEARCH CENTER ON
CLIMATE CHANGE LAW RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION

PRESENTS

Frame the Future: Youth on Climate Resilient Kerala

FILMOGRAPHY AND POLICY ANALYSIS COMPETITION 2026



ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Indo- Dutch Research Centre on Climate Change Law Research and Education is a collaborative initiative between the Van Vollenhoven Institute at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands and Government Law College, Ernakulam, India. It aims to promote research and education in climate change law by facilitating knowledge exchange between the two countries. The center focuses on legal frameworks addressing climate change challenges and seeks to contribute to policy development and academic discourse. The Centre's work is driven by a commitment to reimagining the role of legal education in addressing ecological precarity. Through research partnerships, curricular interventions, and academic training, it aims to embed climate-conscious perspectives within legal pedagogy and scholarship. By advancing comparative and context-specific inquiry, particularly through Indo-Dutch academic collaboration, the Centre endeavors to generate frameworks that are both theoretically grounded and responsive to the practical exigencies of environmental governance.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Indo-Dutch Research Centre is hosting the "Filmography and Policy Review Competition 2026," an initiative centered around the theme "Frame the Future: Youth on Climate Resilient Kerala". Inspired by coastal resilience and community narratives, the competition invites student teams of 2 to 5 members to step out of the classroom, listen to real voices, and bring back honest answers. Through a short documentary film and a policy analysis report, your team will explore one urgent topic, finding what is working, what is not, and what needs to change. The competition is open to all students from Kerala with no restriction based on disciplines. All qualifying teams will be invited to a public screening and prize ceremony on 19th December 2026, where winning policy briefs will be formally presented to a government representative. Moving beyond traditional academic exercises, this competition provides a vital platform for students to make their work matter and actively contribute to shaping a resilient future for their communities.



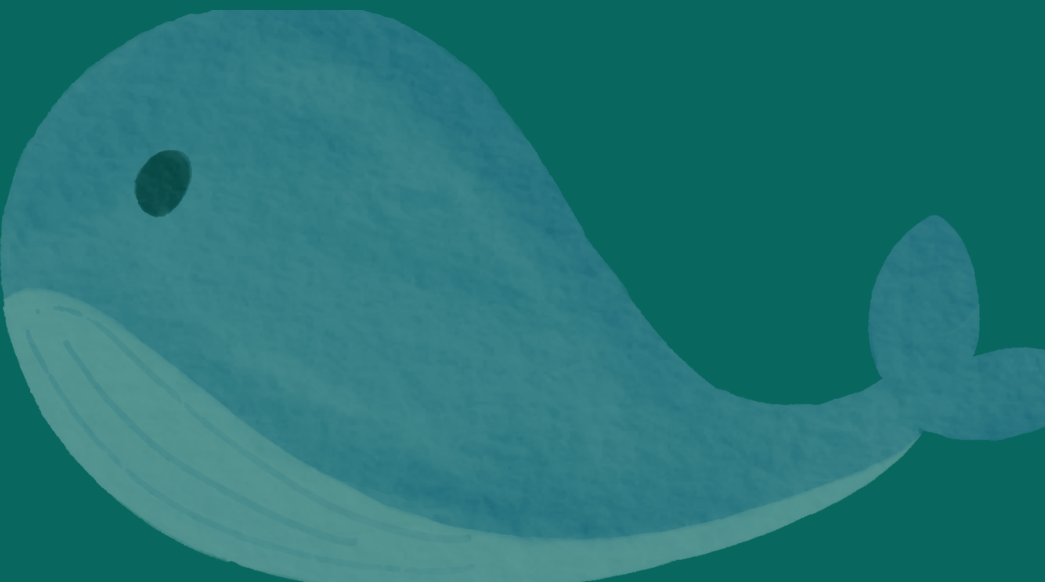
ABOUT GOVERNMENT LAW COLLEGE, ERNAKULAM

Government Law College, Ernakulam, is the first law college in Kerala and one of the oldest law colleges in India, founded in 1874. Over the years, the institution has played a pivotal role in shaping the legal education landscape of Kerala and beyond. Affiliated with Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, the college is renowned for its tradition of academic excellence, producing some of the country's finest legal professionals and luminaries.

The college has built a legacy of nurturing legal minds who have made significant contributions to the Indian judiciary and legal field. Its alumni include esteemed personalities such as the former Chief Justice of India, Justice KG Balakrishnan, and Justice K. M. Joseph, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India. Other notable alumni include N. R. Madhava Menon, an iconic Indian civil servant, lawyer, and legal educator, along with several judges of the High Court of Kerala, past and present, and a range of distinguished former Chief Ministers, Union and State Ministers.

ABOUT VAN VOLLENHOVEN INSTITUTE

The Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance, and Society (VVI) is a research institute based at Leiden University in the Netherlands. It focuses on the interplay between law, governance, and social processes, emphasizing how legal systems function in practice within diverse cultural and political contexts. The institute conducts interdisciplinary research and offers academic programs that explore issues such as access to justice, legal pluralism, and human rights in various regions, particularly in the Global South. By combining legal analysis with social science methods, VVI aims to contribute to both academic debates and policy discussions. In addition to research, the Van Vollenhoven Institute engages in capacity-building and advisory activities, working closely with policymakers, civil society organizations, and international institutions. It provides a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration between scholars, practitioners, and local communities.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

- Teams of 2–5 students.
- Open to any college or university in Kerala.
- More than one team is allowed to register from a college.
- Students from all disciplines, including law, environmental science, social work, journalism, film, economics, public policy, and more, are welcome.
- Students must be currently enrolled ones.
- Cross-disciplinary teams are strongly encouraged.
- Note on professional assistance: Technical editing help is permitted but must be declared in writing at the time of submission. All research, interviews, storytelling, and analysis must be the original work of the student team. Undisclosed professional involvement will result in disqualification.

PRIZES

Total Pool: **Rs 1,00,000 and other prizes**

Prizes are distributed across 8 winning moments:

- Best Documentary Film 1st Place - Rs 20,000
- Best Documentary Film 2nd Place - Rs 12,000
- Best Documentary Film 3rd Place - Rs 8,000
- Best Policy Analysis Report 1st Place - Rs 20,000
- Best Policy Analysis Report 2nd Place - Rs 12,000
- Best Policy Analysis Report 3rd Place - Rs 8,000
- Most Impactful Community Story Jury Special Award - Rs 10,000
- Most Innovative Approach Jury Special Award - Rs 10,000
- Note: Prizes are to be awarded to individual teams and shared equally among respective team members.



CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC

Teams must select one of the following topics and explore it honestly, finding what is working, what is not, and what needs to change.

- Coastal erosion and fisherfolk communities: are current laws protecting them?
- Kuttanad, living below sea level: what does climate resilience look like here?
- Flood preparedness: has Kerala truly changed since 2018?
- Urban wetlands: how are Kerala's cities treating their water bodies?
- Women and climate: how are Kerala's women-led communities responding?
- Farming in a changing climate: what are farmers doing and does policy support them?
- Forest communities and biodiversity: Wayanad and beyond.
- Waste and the city: solid waste management and community responsibility.
- Green building and urban growth: is Kerala's construction boom climate-smart?
- Climate migration: are people already moving, and does anyone have a plan?

COMPETITION DELIVERABLES

Deliverable 1: Documentary Film (15 minutes)

A short documentary exploring your chosen topic through the voices and experiences of real community members.

Your film must include:

- Unscripted, authentic interviews with real stakeholders.
- Field footage from the communities you visit.
- A voiceover narrative that ties the story together.
- Honest, balanced storytelling on both what is working and what is not working.

Suggested stakeholders to interview:

- Fisher folk and coastal community members.
- Farmers and agricultural workers.
- Local government officials and ward members.
- Urban planners and municipal officers.
- Women's Self-Help Group (SHG) leaders.
- Environmental activists and NGO workers.
- Academics and researchers.
- Disaster management officials.
- Youth and student community leaders.
- Traditional knowledge holders and elders.

Formatting guidelines:

- Length: Maximum 15 minutes
- File format: MP4, minimum 1080p resolution
- Language: Malayalam, English, or both. English subtitles are required for all non- English content.
- Must include opening title card and closing credits.

Note: Professional editing assistance is permitted but must be declared. Content, authenticity and storytelling will be judged above production polish, but neat, clear presentation will be rewarded.

Deliverable 2: Policy Analysis Report (3,000–5,000 words)

A rigorous legal and policy examination of your chosen topic.

Report Structure:

- Cover Page: Must contain team name, institution, topic title, date of submission.
- Executive Summary: Summary of key findings and recommendations, not exceeding a maximum of one page.
- Introduction & Topic Overview: Define the context, significance, and scope of the chosen topic.
- Current Laws & Policies: Analysis of what legislation, regulations, and schemes currently exist.
- Community Reality: What your fieldwork and interviews revealed on the ground.
- Gap Analysis: Where policy falls short of community need and climate reality.
- Recommendations: Specific, actionable proposals for change.
- The Dutch Connection: What Kerala can learn from the Netherlands, or offer in return?
- Bibliography & References
- Annexures: Interview transcripts, signed consent forms and additional data.

Formatting Guidelines:

- File format: PDF only
- Font: Times New Roman or Georgia, 12pt
- Line spacing: 1.5
- Margins: 2.5cm on all sides
- Citation style: Harvard or OSCOLA
- Language: English (Malayalam interview quotes included in original with English translation)
- Word count excludes bibliography and annexures.
- Consent Forms: A signed consent form from every person interviewed must be included in the annexures. A template consent form will be provided to all registered teams.

JUDGING CRITERIA

a) Documentary Film-

- Authenticity and quality of community engagement.
- Clarity and strength of storytelling.
- Balance, honest treatment of what works and what does not.
- Relevance to chosen topic and the broader theme.
- Presentation quality.

b) Policy Analysis Report-

- Depth and accuracy of legal and policy research.
- Quality of gap analysis.
- Strength and practicality of recommendations.
- Integration of fieldwork findings with policy analysis.
- The Dutch Connection.
- Clarity of writing and presentation



TIMELINE

- Registration deadline - **15 JULY 2026**
- Fieldwork, filming, interviews, and report writing - August and September 2026
- Submission deadline - **15 OCTOBER 2026**
- Jury evaluation - November 2026
- The Grand Finale - 19 December 2026

The finale will include screening of all qualifying documentaries, presentations by selected student teams., Responses from policymakers, legal experts, and Dutch partners. Formal handover of winning policy briefs to a government representative. and the prize distribution ceremony.

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION LINK : <https://forms.gle/QtAZ8Mcew3AC7NKF8>

Extended Registration deadline: 30th July 2026

Registration fee: Rs. 1000

Account Details:

Account Name : INDO-DUTCH RESEARCH CENTRE

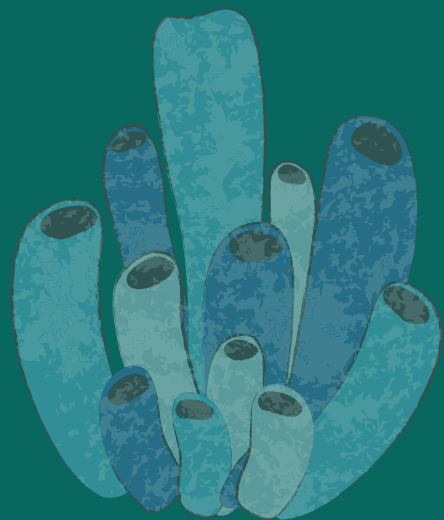
Account No. : 13750200046139

IFSC. : FDRL0001375

Account Type : Current

Upon registration, teams will receive:

- Full competition guidelines.
- Consent form template for interviews.
- Contact details for competition queries.



CONTACT

Any clarification may be directed to indodutch.centre@gmail.com

Visit our website: <https://idrc.jusfocus.com/>

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