



Statement to mark the International Day of Action for Rivers 2025

We are a collection of riverine communities, farmers, pastoralists and communities based in the Siraiki waseb. We have gathered here today, men, women, the elderly and children, to mark the International Day of Action for Rivers and collectively deliberate and reflect on the ongoing crisis which afflicts the rivers with which we are intimately tied. Our Indus is dying and we are dying along with it. This is the collective judgement we have reached at the closing of our sath (tribunal).

1. We condemn all existing extractive and ecologically harmful hydraulic infrastructure projects. We have experienced firsthand the devastation of such projects that have repeatedly been wrought upon us - displacing, separating, destroying, emptying.
2. We demand again - as we have for the past two decades - accountability of the International Financial Institutions and the State who are implicated in these projects. From the Chashma & Kacchi Canals, to Taunsa Barrage and Thal Canal - the ADB, the World Bank, the Pakistani state stand indicted.
3. We demand an end to any further interventions such as dams and canals on the rivers that imperil already precarious river-water-ecologies and the many lives and forms of life that they sustain. We reject attempts to greenwash these interventions and testify instead to the many ecological harms of such interventions.
4. We demand that we be recognized as stewards of the river-water ecologies based upon our historic relationship to the river/s and our deep knowledge of its many lives.
5. We demand that discourses around climate change address how such projects compound the impacts of changed climates, making communities like ours more vulnerable to disasters, such as flooding - 2022 stands as brutal testimony implicating hydraulic infrastructure in the creation of floods.
6. We reject any initiatives that speak to ecological restoration of the River Indus, using 'expert-driven' and abstracted languages of 'green infrastructure' while silencing us, and our knowledges, and our historical ways of being and becoming



7. We persist in speaking in our languages and forms, neither of which can be separated from our long and hardfought political struggles and everyday material existence. We reject any attempts to speak in our names or appropriate our political and cultural languages and practices in the name of environmental activism.