

Understanding Resilience – Kerala's Climate Challenge

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Talk at Vision 31, Session on Environmental Sustainability and
Climate Resilience

Trivandrum, 16 February 2026.

The Global Context

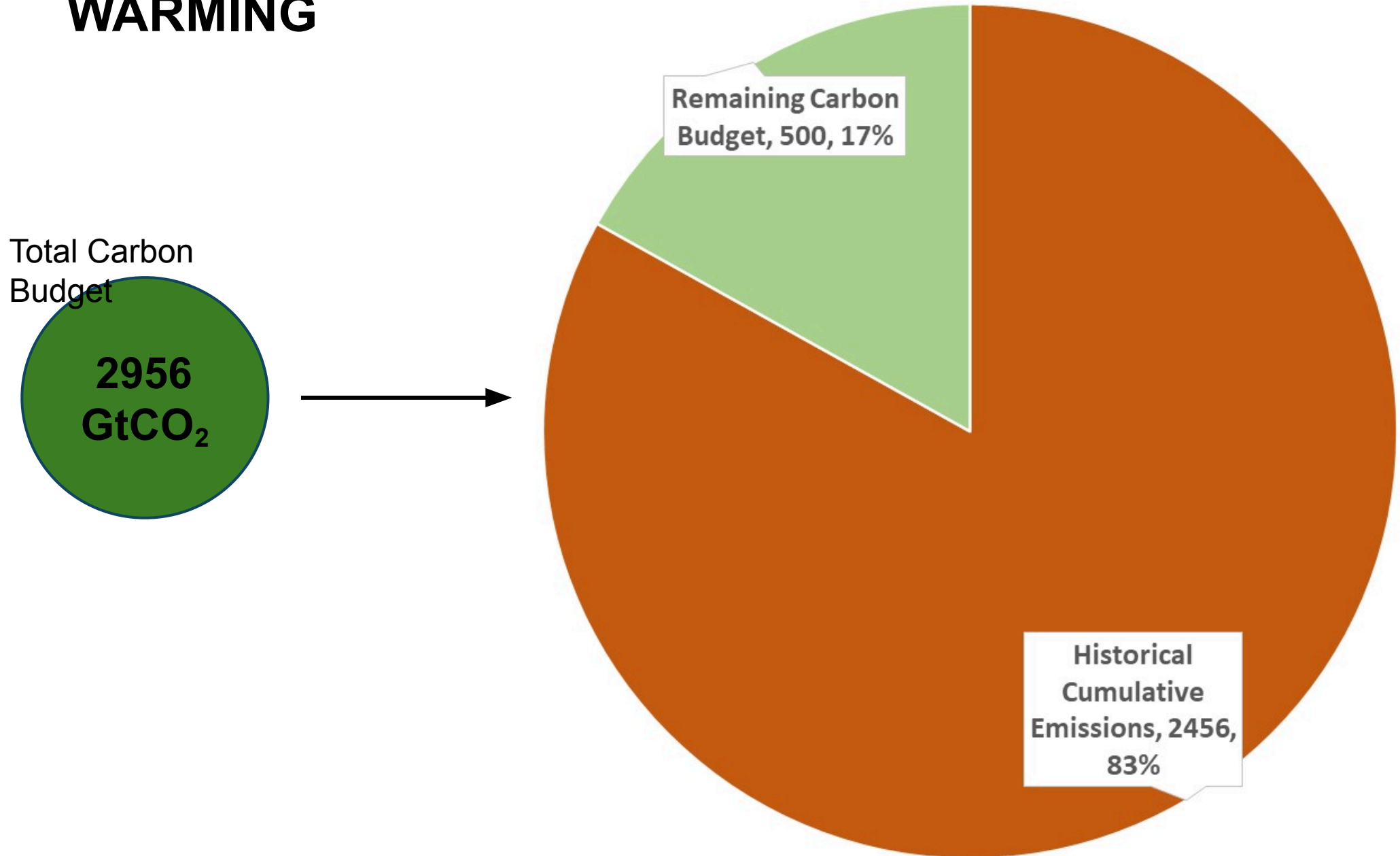
- Global warming – a global collective action problem
- Global warming in an unequal world
- Persistent divide between developed and developing nations

The Income Divide (World Inequality Report 2026)

The Opportunity Divide (World Inequality Report 2026)

The Emissions Divide (IPCC)

THE GLOBAL CARBON BUDGET - 1.5 deg. C WARMING



The National Context

- In absolute terms, India is a major contributor to the world's burden of poverty and development deficits.
- Despite significant variations in development, shared resources and inter-regional dependencies make sustainability and climate resilience a shared burden across the country.
- India's focus on equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities borne out of necessity!!

Challenge of Global Climate Equity and Climate Justice

- Persistent divide between North and South – from the days of “Limits to Growth” to the current time!!
- Northern strategy – Passed off as “science”
 - Restrict growth in demand in developing world
 - Restrict essential growth and development, including basic necessities, that would need emissions
 - Slow down their emissions reduction to reduce economic pressures.
 - Overall ignore climate equity

“Redefining” the Science by the North (IPCC AR6)

- **Redefine “climate resilient development”**

In the WGII report, climate resilient development refers to the process of implementing greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation measures to support sustainable development for all.

- But definition of resilience retained

The capacity of interconnected social, economic and ecological systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure.

- **Redefine “maladaptation” –**

Actions that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, including via increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increased or shifted vulnerability to climate change, more inequitable outcomes, or diminished welfare, now or in the future. Most often, maladaptation is an unintended consequence.

Conflating Mitigation and Adaptation Violates Equity

- Making all equally responsible!!
- Separation of mitigation and adaptation – key to implementation of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in practice.
- Skewed mitigation-dominated climate action agenda at all scales over the last 10 years.
- Consequent decline in funds and action for adaptation!!
- Loss and damage acquiring disproportionate weight in the global discourse.

Kerala – Still Need to Get the Priorities right !!

- Adaptation is the key – importance far more than that of mitigation
- Kerala's Adaptation Mission – Regrettably its mandate perpetuates the confusion created by the global North agenda!!
- Confusion of mitigation measures and adaptation – Consequently no clarity on what adaptation means or entails.
- Essential to separate the two.
- Adaptation agenda – Based on people-centric perspective that ensures that gains of development are not eroded by impact of global warming.
- Independent State-level pathways to sustainability and resilience are aspirational – not viable as policy.

THANK YOU!!