

SUDSC WEBINAR SERIES

4

Role of Nature-based Solutions in Building Urban Resilience

Time

15:00 to 16:30 Hrs IST

Date

30th October, 2023

Mode

Online

Background

While urbanisation propels economic advancement, it simultaneously unveils an array of challenges for cities, ranging from the impact of land use changes, climate change, increase in population, demand for resources among others. The problem is further compounded by the pressures from man-made infrastructure, escalating vulnerabilities, in the face of distinctive challenges such as catastrophic floods, scorching heat waves, cyclones, air pollution and so forth.

The need for building resilient cities through climate mitigation has evolved as a cardinal necessity for protecting the well-being of its citizens and ensuring low climate footprint. A resilient city not only withstands adversities and stresses but also adapts and recovers from them, balancing the impacts on both natural and built environments. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that encapsulate the innate advantages of nature to solve urban challenges, stand out as a sustainable and promising strategy for reinforcing urban resilience, while offering a wide-range of co-benefits. Encompassing green

infrastructure, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable water management practices, eco-friendly transportation, and climate-attuned urban planning offers an opportunity to build resilient cities. Implementing NbS requires collaboration amongst government entities, urban planning professionals, environmental organisations, and local communities.

About Connective Cities

Connective Cities is a knowledge exchange platform, formed through a joint venture among the Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and the Service Agency Communities in One World (a division of Engagement Global), and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Link to join the Webinar

<https://community.connective-cities.net/en/node/1411>

About the Webinar

NIUA has entered into a strategic partnership with GIZ for the Sustainable Urban Development -Smart Cities II (SUDSC II) project, which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Under this project, NIUA and GIZ have jointly initiated the "SUDSC Webinar Series" to support setting up of Communities of Practice.

leveraging the NbS to enhance urban resilience in Indian cities. The webinar will focus on addressing the urban challenges that span across pertaining to the climate change impacts using NbS and understanding its issues pertaining to the implementation and mainstreaming of NbS; measures to assess feasibility and sustainability of the solutions; initiatives to build capacities on NbS. By examining practical implementation strategies, policy frameworks, and real-life case studies, the participants will gain insights on how NbS can be integrated into urban development for creating more sustainable, resilient, and thriving cities.

The fourth webinar in the Series, titled as "Role of Nature-based Solutions in building Urban Resilience" will delve into the vital aspects of

Session	Speakers	
Introduction (5 mins)	Moderators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining Nature based Solutions.
Plenary 1 (20 mins)	Ms Alpana Jain Program Lead - Cities The Nature Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of NbS in building resilience of cities to address the impacts of climate change - with focus on feasibility, sustainability and scalability.
Plenary 2 (20 mins)	Ms Archana Chatterjee Project Manager IUCN-India Country Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming NbS in urban ecosystem - Initiatives, challenges & concerns.
Case Study (20 mins)	Mr Sourav Kumar Biswas, Director- Resilient Infrastructure, Sponge Collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study on adoption of NbS - Objective, process and initiatives, policy interventions and impacts.
Discussion (25 mins)	Moderated Discussion and Q & A Session	

Case Study: Abstract

Lessons from planning and designing Nature-based Solutions in urban India: From Basins to Sponge Parks- By Mr. Sourav Kumar Biswas

Urban regions in South Asia are experiencing significant growth and rapid expansion of built-up area while facing elevated climate risks in the form of floods, water scarcity, and extreme heat. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) offer a holistic and cost-effective way to mitigate these risks while offering co-benefits that increase biodiversity, provide livelihoods, and improve quality of life. However, the effectiveness of NbS relies upon the protection, restoration, enhancement, and

construction of ecosystems and blue-green infrastructure at multiple scales. Scaling up NbS also requires an evolution of financing, planning, procurement, implementation, and maintenance capacities. By showcasing integrated planning and design projects at the metropolitan, basin, ecosystem, neighbourhood, and site scales, the presentation will provide insights into how the principles of NbS can be localised and scaled up in the South Asian context.

Profile of Panellists



Dr Alpana Jain

Program Lead - Cities
The Nature Conservancy

Ms Alpana Jain is an environment, energy, and climate change expert with several years of experience in the development sector. She oversees The Nature Conservancy India's sustainable cities portfolio and manages two projects – Restoring Wetlands in Chennai and Developing an Urban Greenprint for Chennai. She is responsible for strategically driving the cities program to build climate resilience within city planning using Nature-based Solutions. In the past, she has worked with several technical partners and government institutions in India and the U.S. to develop, implement and enforce policies related to climate change.



Ms Archana Chatterjee

Programme Manager
IUCN India Country Office

Ms Archana Chatterjee is Programme manager at IUCN India Country Office. Archana has more than twenty five years of experience with international and UN organizations. Before joining IUCN, she was working with the UNESCO- New Delhi Office as National Project Coordinator, World Heritage Biodiversity Programme,. She has also worked as Head, Regional Programme on Himalayan High Altitude Wetlands and Rivers, WWF-India. Her Primary areas of expertise include wetland management, environmental flows and transboundary water management, climate change adaptation in Himalayan region, mangrove restoration and sustainable agriculture.



Mr Sourav Kumar Biswas

Director of Resilient Infrastructure,
Sponge Collaborative, Lyon France

Mr Sourav Kumar Biswas is the Director of Resilient Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions at Sponge Collaborative. At Sponge Collaborative, his work is focused on mainstreaming Nature-based solutions in regional planning, urban development, disaster risk reduction, infrastructure design, and tourism in the context of rapidly urbanising South Asian regions. He has more than 13 years of experience in international development, regional planning, and landscape architecture working in firms like Sasaki, AECOM, GeoAdaptive, and SLA for clients including GiZ, World Bank, GFDRR, IDB, FAO, and Ocean Conservancy. His work on climate adaptation, strategic development framework, and landscape planning spans multiple regions and cities across 20 countries including South-east Asia, and Pacific Islands. He has a Masters in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University and a Bachelor in Architecture from University of Texas at Austin.

Moderators:



Ms Moumita Shaw

Technical Advisor,
SUDSC-II, GIZ



Mr Paritosh Goel

Urban Expert,
Urban Strategy Unit, NIUA