

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR BUILDING URBAN RESILIENCE WITH GENDER LENS IN GUWAHATI, ASSAM

09 July 2024, 09:15 - 17:30 | Ratnamouli Palace, Guwahati

Concept Note

ABOUT SUDSC II

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing the project 'Sustainable Urban Development - Smart Cities II' (SUDSC II) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project supports the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, and the partner states of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana in developing resilient approaches and

solutions for sustainable urban development, by considering the principles of disaster risk management, leave no one behind (LNOB) and gender-responsive approaches. The project supports the cities of Guwahati, Mangaluru, Kochi, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, and Manikonda in implementing approaches for gender-responsive, inclusive, risk-informed, resilient, integrated and sustainable urban development.

ABOUT COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

As part of the SUDSC II project, one of the key components is to establish and support the setting up of Communities of Practice (CoP) in the partner cities to facilitate knowledge sharing from the local, state, national and global experiences, and to catalyse innovative practices and ideas by facilitating cross-sectoral deliberations, cooperative learning, and actions among stakeholders to promote sustainable development of cities. One of the important aspects of CoP is to ensure sustainable and inclusive urban development in making cities gender-responsive, which is directly connected with the Sustainable Development Goals (goals 5, 11, and 13) that prioritises including gender perspective

in planning inclusive cities, equitable, safe and efficient. The Government of India and states across the country have taken measures to integrate gender in their policy, programs (for instance, by adopting 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)' framework) in urban development.

In this background, SUDSC II project is organising a daylong workshop of CoP on climate-resilient cities and infrastructure with the topic of 'Nature-Based Solutions for building Urban Resilience with Gender Lens' in Guwahati city with the aim of bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders, including decision-makers, practitioners, urban planners, academics, private sector, and subject experts on floods, disaster risk

reduction and management, among others. The workshop intends to deliberate on various aspects of nature-based solutions (NbS) with gender-responsive approaches for inclusive and sustainable

urban development. Relevant national and international case studies and good practices will be shared and deliberated upon during the event.

CONTEXT

Guwahati, the capital city of the state of Assam and the gateway to the North-East India, is urbanising rapidly in recent times. However, rapid and unplanned growth of the city has led to unscientific changes in land use, posing risks of disasters, including urban floods, storms, heat waves, landslides, among others. For instance, inhabitants in the low-lying areas of the city with poor drainage system are highly vulnerable to risks from floods, water logging causing economic loss, impact health, livelihood, and loss of life.

Adoption of NbS offers a holistic approach to address the complex challenges posed by

inter-connectedness of ecological systems and human centric development, including aspects of gender. NbS is designed to restore balance, foster resilience, and promote sustainable co-existence between society and the environment. The link between NbS, urban resilience, and SDGs is integral to achieve sustainable and inclusive development of cities.

The workshop aims to discuss the concept of NbS in urban planning as a strategy for building urban resilience, and to catalyse the setting up of a city/state level CoP on NbS with a focus on gender-responsiveness.



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Agenda

TIME	DETAILS
09:15 - 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 - 10:30	<p>Inaugural Session</p> <p>Welcome address (virtual) Dr Teresa Kerber Project Director, Sustainable Urban Development - Smart Cities II (SUDSC II), GIZ</p> <p>Keynote address Mr Kailash Karthik Managing Director, Assam Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd. (AUIDFCL), Government of Assam</p> <p>Special address Mr Siddhant Kujur Assistant Director (Housing Division), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India</p> <p>Setting of context and workshop objectives Mr Neelabh Singh INTEGRATION Consulting Group, Germany</p> <p>Vote of thanks Ms Shweta Dua Technical Advisor, SUDSC II, GIZ</p>
10:30 - 11:30	<p>Thematic Session to set the context - Initiatives taken by states/cities for climate-resilient urban development</p> <p>Session moderator Mr Neelabh Singh INTEGRATION Consulting Group, Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mantu Bora General Manager, AUIDFCL & Ms Seema Rabha Engineer, Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) - <i>Guwahati city profile in terms of drainage system and GMDA's initiatives on NbS</i> • Mr Rupak Mazumder Deputy CEO, Flood and River Erosion Management Agency of Assam (FREMAA) - <i>Sharing experiences: Interventions under Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Assam</i> • Mr Kabeer Arora Lead, Climate Action and Open Contracting India Initiative, Civic Data Lab - <i>Developing dashboard on disaster risk management for Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA)</i> <p>Questions and Answers</p>
11:30 - 11:45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11:45 - 13:00	<p>Technical Session 1: Blue-Green Infrastructure for Urban Resilience</p> <p><i>Session moderator</i> Dr Arup Kumar Sarma Department of Water Resources, IIT Guwahati, Assam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Manushi Ashok Jain SPONGE Collaborative, Chennai – <i>Sponge framework prepared for Chennai in collaboration with GIZ</i> • Dr Sakthivel Beemaraja Disaster Management Expert, Guwahati Urban Lab, GIZ-GOPA Infra – <i>Sharing experiences from various cities including Guwahati</i> • Mr Arindam Goswami RA-II (Outreach), Assam Climate Change Management Society, Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Assam • Dr Sagarika Patowary Assistant Professor, North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), Tezpur, Assam <p><i>Questions and Answers</i></p>
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 - 15:15	<p>Technical Session 2: Policy and Governance for Nature-based Solutions</p> <p><i>Session Moderator</i> Dr Debolina Kundu Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Amita Gupta Senior Consultant – Centre for Urbanization, Buildings and Environment (CUBE), IIT Madras, Chennai • Ms Neha Kurian Programme Coordinator, Legal Resource Centre for Local Governance, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur <p><i>Questions and Answers</i></p>
15:15 - 15:45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
15:45 - 16:45	<p>Group Work</p> <p><i>Session moderator</i> Mr Neelabh Singh INTEGRATION Consulting Group, Germany</p> <p><i>Introduction to group work</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road map for city level CoP • Challenges / Recommendations / Timelines • Inclusive urban development through gender responsive approaches – Local solutions and applicability in Guwahati
16:45 - 17:15	<p>Presentations and Group Reflection</p> <p><i>Group work and presentation of the findings</i></p>
17:15 - 17:30	<p>Closing Session</p> <p><i>Closing remarks – Government of Assam</i> Mr Subhasish Bora Assistant Director, Town and Country Planning Organization, Assam, and Project Coordinator – Assam Urban Knowledge Hub</p> <p><i>Closing remarks – Government of India</i> Mr Alok Kumar Jha Assistant Section Officer (Housing), MoHUA, Government of India</p> <p><i>Closing remarks</i> Mr Kiran Rajashekariah Senior Advisor, SUDSC II, GIZ</p> <p><i>Vote of thanks</i> Mr Sarat Barkakati Urban and Regional Development Advisor, SUDSC II, GIZ</p>