

CSE - NMCG Online Training on Urban Waterbodies Management: Issues, Challenges & Potential of Making Water Sensitive Cities

Dates: September 28 – October 14, 2022 | Platform: Moodle and Zoom

Proceedings

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in partnership with National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India conducted the online training on *Urban Waterbodies Management: Issues, Challenges & Potential of Making Water Sensitive Cities* from September 28 – October 14, 2022. The training was conducted in year two, under the [CSE-NMCG capacity building initiative on 'Making Ganga basin studies water-sensitive'](#).

The training is aimed at capacitating state / municipal functionaries and other sector players on issues, challenges and potential of urban water bodies management and mainstreaming water sensitive urban design and planning (WSUDP) approach for urban waterbodies management. The training was attended by 129 participants, amongst which 93% were govt officials from Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Development Authorities, Water Supply and Sewerage Boards, Town and Country Planning Depts, etc. and 7% were non-govt participants from consultancies, research organisations and academic institutes.

The training was conducted on the Moodle and Zoom Platform. The CSE Moodle platform provided 8 hours' essential training material – PPTs, articles, videos, blogs, etc. which is self-paced. Recommended reading material was also provided, in case participants need further information. In addition to this, 8 hours' virtual sessions were conducted on the Zoom platform, with CSE staff and sector experts delivering sessions.

The training was conducted across two modules, *Module 1: Context, concept and significance* opened on Sept. 28, 2022, which focussed on the issues and challenges in urban waterbodies management, and the India and global south perspective of urban waterbodies. Linkages of these with stormwater management, groundwater recharge and wastewater management were also discussed in this module. *Module 2: Approaches and management framework* opened on Oct. 7, 2022, which introduced the WSUDP framework for urban waterbodies management, and the exiting enabling framework for rejuvenation of waterbodies under AMRUT 2.0, Jal Shakti Abhiyaan, etc. This module also exposed participants to various Best Management Practices (BMPs) in waterbodies management.

The inaugural session was conducted on September 28, 2022, where the training coordinator Ms Shivani and training director Mr Depinder Singh Kapur welcomed the participants, and had brief discussion on the course, its delivery methods, and the various issues and challenges around urban waterbodies in their cities and work.

The first virtual session was held on October 6, 2022, where Dr Mohit Ray, Independent Consultant delivered a session on '*Socio-economic values of urban waterbodies*', where he shared his research and experience in understanding the socio-economic linkages of urban waterbodies with community and citizens. Dr Ray discussed the various methodologies of estimating the economic values of urban waterbodies, and how these are essential for the local community, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups. He shared his work on the urban waterbodies of Kolkata.

The second virtual session was held on October 7, 2022, where Dr Ritesh Kumar, Director, Wetlands International – South Asia, delivered a session on '*Restoration of urban wetlands*'. He shared his

experience on how urban wetlands are critical green infrastructure, which help manage wastewater, provide sponges for floodwater management, and regulate local water supply. In addition to these, they are important biodiversity hot-spots, and essential recreational and socio-economic infrastructure in cities. He deliberated upon reviving urban wetlands as per the local and regional context, and shared his experience of working as a technical member of the Delhi Wetland Authority, with focus on baseline profiling of waterbodies.

The third virtual session was held on October 10, 2022 where Sahana Goswami, Sr Program Manager, WRI India presented WRI's work on the revival plan for Hussainsagar lake, Hyderabad. She showcased the Hussainsagar Living Waters Project, and the various interventions planned and implemented for reviving the lake. She shared the design principles for buffer area management, having a mix of biodiverse wetlands which treat the water, and recreation zones. Ms Goswami also shared insights into how the industrial effluent is managed in the catchment area, and how linkages to other waterbodies in the city need to be conserved and protected.

The fourth virtual session was held as a webinar titled *Contextualising Urban Waterbodies Management in India: Approach, Priorities and Planning Mechanisms* on October 28, 2022 where speakers included Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Advisor - NIUA (ex-DG, NMC), Arun Krishnamurthy, Founder - Environmentalist Foundation of India, Raj Bhagat Palanichamy, Sr Programme Manager - WRI, Dr Prasanna Jogdeo, Co-founder - Lemnion Green Solutions Pvt. Ltd, and Dhruv Pasricha, Dy Programme Manager, CSE. The recording and proceedings from the webinar can be found by clicking [here](#).

The closing and feedback session was held on October 14, 2022, where Ms Shivani and Mr Dhruv Pasricha discussed the learnings from the online course, and shared CSE's vision and approach for urban waterbodies management, and how it is linked with aspects of urban planning. A post-training assessment poll, and feedback poll was conducted. The training was closed with a vote of thanks.