



5 JUNE
WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH THE BENGALURU
CLIMATE ACTION CELL



JUNE 5, 2024 | 3PM-5PM



Climate
Action Cell

Supported by  WRI INDIA

EVENT REPORT

Interactive Session with the Bengaluru Climate Action Cell

Date: June 5th, 2024

Time: 3pm – 5:30pm

Venue: IPP Malleswaram Centre, Bengaluru

Introduction:

Bengaluru's first ever Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP) was launched by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in November 2023. BCAP is an evidence-based, target-oriented and collaborative plan of action for addressing climate change with a focus on reducing GHG emissions and building healthy, equitable and resilient communities. Subsequently, a Climate Action Cell has been constituted by BBMP to spearhead and coordinate implementation of BCAP actions with participation from all relevant stakeholder agencies.

The Bengaluru Climate Action Cell, in association with WRI India, hosted the interactive session with and stakeholder departments, civil society organisations, NGOs, RWAs and others on the occasion of environment day. The session was a call to action to all participating organisations, aiming to initiate discussions on enabling collaborations, partnerships and knowledge exchange for localising and implementing actions and recommendations as laid out in the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP).

Participants:

The event saw participation from **40+ organisations** including RWAs, civil society orgs, local NGOs, academics, etc with **80+ participants**.

(Refer Annex 1 for list of participants)

Proceedings of the event:

1. Introduction and welcome:

Followed by a small video on BCAP and its importance for Bengaluru, Mr. Vijaykumar Haridas, Chief Engineer of BBMP (Lakes), extended a warm welcome to all participants. In his address, he encouraged active engagement and idea-sharing to foster effective collaboration between attendees and the CAC.

2. Presentation on BCAP: From Evidence to Action:

Ms. Shrimoyee Bhattacharya, Program Head, Urban Development and Ms. Praseeda Mukundan, Senior Research Associate, Urban Development from WRI India apprised the participants on the need and details of Bengaluru Climate Action Plan (BCAP). They delved deeper into how the evidence base generated for the BCAP was translated into the 266 actions put forward by BCAP. They highlighted that BCAP offers the city the opportunity to intensify and coordinate its efforts to plan and manage its urban growth, in an equitable climate-aware manner, aligned to the global climate agenda. The BCAP serves as a data-driven, multi-stakeholder collaborative roadmap for the

city, addressing the dual challenges of climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (strengthening urban climate resilience).

They gave an overview of different evidence bases which were generated for the BCAP. They spoke about the GHG emissions inventory, the future emission reduction scenarios and advanced geospatial analyses carried out to arrive at the climate hazards identified for Bengaluru. They also took the participants through the BCAP action sectors, types of actions, sectorwise goals and targets. Following are the seven BCAP action sectors which have been identified to achieve the city’s mitigation and adaptation/resilience vision – energy and buildings, transportation, solid waste management, water, wastewater and stormwater, air quality, urban planning, greening and biodiversity, and disaster management.



Source: As identified by BBMP with the knowledge support of WRI India

3. Interactive Session : Way forward for localising BCAP at ward level [PART 1]

Mr. Srinivas K, a Fellow at WRI India, facilitated a quiz among participants centered around key statistics and information about Bengaluru's current state. This interactive exercise aimed to raise awareness, stimulate curiosity, and inspire action.

Followed by this Mr. Srinivas, appraise the participants with the grievance portal, 1533 of BBMP and BBMP’s park management and lake management system and encouraged them to think how they can use this to enable the system.

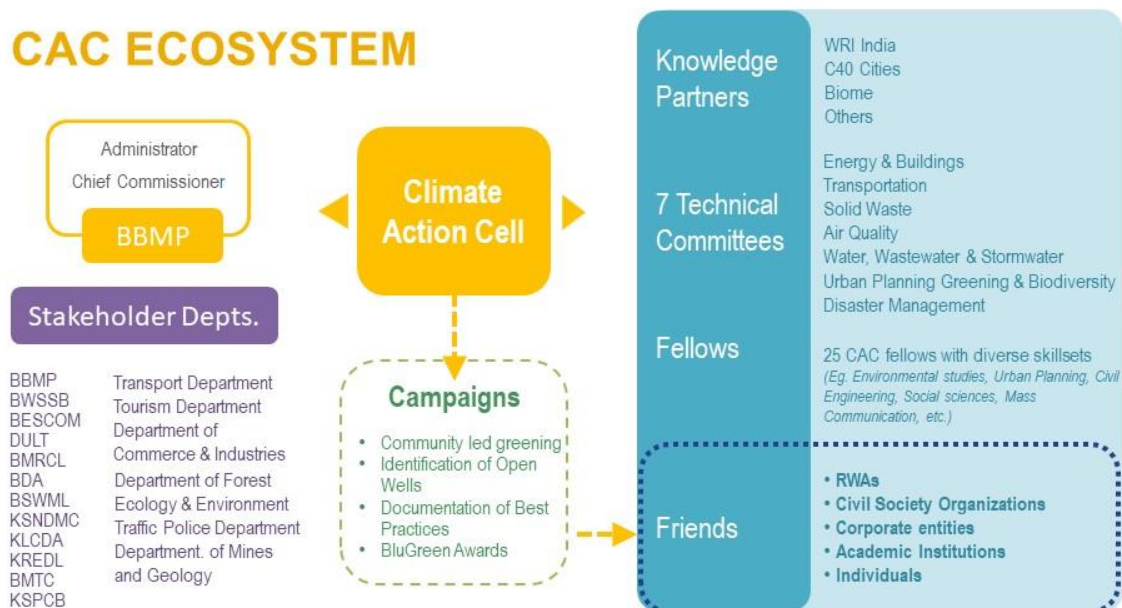
The **views from the participants** focused on exploring the potential of Bengaluru's parks and lakes as critical urban infrastructure. Participants emphasized the importance of integrating ecological principles with community needs in park management.

Key suggestions included:

- **Water management:** Effective management of surface runoff, recharge of groundwater through open wells, and utilization of treated water for park maintenance were highlighted as crucial for water security.
- **Waste management:** Transforming parks into composting and mulching hubs was proposed as a way to foster community engagement in sustainable waste management practices.
- **Restoring lake and park identity:** Preserving the unique character of lakes within the city and avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach to park management were emphasized.
- **Community engagement:** Creating parks as vibrant community spaces that foster a sense of belonging and stewardship was a central theme.

4. A call for action by Preeti Gehlot (IAS), Special Commissioner, Forest, Environment and Climate Change wing-BBMP and Chairperson, Climate Action Cell and introduction of the Climate Action Cell (CAC), its role and constitution

Ms. Gehlot extended an invitation to Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), community-based organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions to join hands and become ‘friends of the Climate Action Cell’. She emphasized the importance of fostering a collaborative network to drive localized climate action initiatives in the city. By joining forces, these stakeholders can collectively build knowledge, increase grassroots momentum, and effectively contribute to the broader goals of the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan (BCAP).



She also underscored the need for government engagement and alignment with climate action plans. She emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts across departments to address climate change and promote sustainable development. She advocated for collaborative decision-making processes that involve stakeholders from diverse sectors, fostering a shared sense of responsibility and commitment towards achieving climate resilience goals. She urged the stakeholders to think about the Climate Change Management projects in terms of short-, mid- and long-term engagements identifying the doers and focusing on the implementation.

5. Special address by Surya Sen (IFS), Executive Director- Bannerghatta Biological Park

Mr. Sen underscored the critical need for substantial budget allocation and better utilisation of existing funds towards climate resilience initiatives. He advocated for strategic investments in rainwater harvesting systems, sustainable transportation infrastructure, and forest conservation programs. Emphasizing the importance of proactive planning, Mr. Sen stressed the integration of climate resilience measures into urban development processes. He proposed that, existing underutilised funds such as NCAP funds can be prioritized for smaller, targeted projects with high impact. As immediate actions, he recommended promoting non-motorized transportation, expanding urban green spaces, restoring natural land use patterns, and safeguarding biodiversity.

6. Interactive Session : Way forward for localising BCAP at ward level [PART 2]

The second part of the interactive session moderated by Mr. Srinivas K., between Ms. Preeti Gehlot, Mr. Surya Sen and the participants focused on two important questions to the participants and collecting their views and suggestions-

- a) Are people aware of climate change in our city?
- b) How can we create awareness for BCAP? What can we do to implement BCAP activities at the ward level in Bengaluru city?

The following discussion focused on identifying key challenges and solutions for Bengaluru's urban development by the local citizens. Discussions centered around waste management, flood mitigation, recreational spaces, emissions control, spatial planning, water management, public awareness, and policy implementation.

Key recommendations form the participants:

- **Waste Management:** Implementing citywide source segregation and replicating the Hasiru Dala model for decentralized waste management.
- **Flood Mitigation:** Improving stormwater drainage systems, preventing obstructions, and promoting proper road sloping.
- **Recreational Spaces and Active Mobility:** Increasing Park accessibility, expanding pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and integrating parks into urban planning.
- **Emissions Control:** Focusing on vehicle emissions reduction, regular checks, and promoting sustainable transportation.
- **Spatial Planning:** Leveraging spatial data for informed decision-making and optimizing resource allocation.
- **Water Management:** Implementing and enforcing rainwater harvesting mandates, converting public lands into parks, promoting water conservation and circular economy.
- **Public Awareness and Involvement:** Engaging schools, utilizing social media, understanding citizen behaviour, and involving marginalized communities.
- **Infrastructure and Policy:** Enhancing public transport, promoting apartment community involvement, and ensuring strict enforcement of sustainability initiatives.
- **Research and Collaboration:** Archiving climate change research, fostering citizen engagement, and building knowledge partnerships with the citizens.
- **Localising climate actions:** Creating institutional setup at ward level for bottom-up approach in climate actions.

- **Stakeholder departments:** Involving more stakeholder departments (such as KRIDE) as members of CAC

Overall, the event highlighted the need for a multi-faceted approach to addressing Bengaluru's urban challenges and emphasized the importance of collaboration between government, civil society, and citizens.

Meeting Photographs:





Annexure 1 – List of participants

S. No.	Name	Organization
1	Mr. Ajay Raghavan	Action climate
2	I. S. Patil	APSA- Association for Promoting Social Action
3	Neeth Dzousa	APSA- Association for Promoting Social Action
4	Vybhav. G. R	ARTPARK
5	Harish	ARTPARK
6	Sudeep	Asar
7	Brikesh	Asar
8	Samhitta. D	ATREE
9	Mr. Vivek G	Azim Premji University - climate center
10	Mr. Bipin C	Azim Premji University - climate center
11	Ms. Priyanka Krishnan	B.PAC
12	Raghavendra	B.PAC
13	Mr. Satish Mallya	BAF
14	Mr. Arun Kumar	BAF
15	Mr. Krishna Dorai	Biome
16	Mr. Avinash	Biome
17	Anand	BPAC
18	Sanjana	C40
19	Rajkumar	C4C
20	Purushotham	Changemakers of Kanakpura Road
21	Ms. Sandhya Bhat	Citizen Matters
22	Ms. Preeti Sunderajan	Citizens for Sankey
23	Ms. Swarupa	Classic Orchards
24	Ms Laya Charan	Classic Orchards
25	Mr. V K Srivatsa	CMOKR
26	Ms. Sarah Khan	CSTEP
27	Mr. Piyush Bharadwaj	CSTEP
28	Dr Sruthi Subbanna	Divecha Centre for Climate Change, IISc
29	Shreya.K.Babu	DSCA
30	Anshu Darbari	DSCA
31	Harshitha. K. V	DSCA
32	Varun Pokar	DSCA
33	Sankat Shet	DSCA
34	Vaishnavi. S	DSCA
35	Nabila	DSCA
36	Nahlah	DULT
37	Madhuri Subbarao	FOL
38	Mr. Chinniah N	Hasiru Dala
39	Ms. Bianca Fernandes	Hasiru Dala
40	Ms. Chinmayi	Hasiru Dala
41	Nithyanandan. J	Hasiru Dala
42	Mr. Jairaj Mandayam	Hasiru Mission/ civil society organisation trust
43	Ms. Poornima Shetty	I care brigade
44	Ms. Sheetal Patil	IIHS

45	Ms. Aysha Jennath	IIHS
46	Vinita Govindarajan	IIHS
47	Image Eco Tap - representative	Image Eco Tap
48	Aishwarya Sudhir	Independent
49	Suruchika	Independent
50	Sowmya Bharath	Independent
51	Rutu	Integrated Design
52	Janani	Integrated Design
53	Siji	Jansahas Foundation
54	Mr. Siji Chako	Jansahas Foundation
55	Mr. Bharath Natraj	Jansahas Foundation
56	Mr. Murugesh	Jeevan welfare association
57	Malathi	Mahila Housing Trust
58	Jessy	Mahila Housing Trust
59	Josphine	REAP Benefit
60	Mr. Vaidya R	Open city
61	Krishna Raj. S	Outdoor Dynamix
62	Mr. Tushar Chandra	P2P- Vrukshamitra
63	Ms. Naveena Sridhar	RWA malleshawarm, MSI
64	Ms. Sandhya pawar	RWA malleshawarm, MSI
65	S. M. Subhan	Sat Trees
66	Mr. Madhusudan	Say Trees
67	Bhagath.S.P	Say Trees
68	John Samule	Slum Dwellers Association
69	Ms. Bhargavi Nagendra	Socratus Foundation for Collective Wisdom
70	Hansika Singh	Socratus Foundation for Collective Wisdom
71	Sandya Narayanan	SWMRT
72	Jagadeesh	Urukgha Mitra
73	Tushar	Vrikshamitra Foundation
74	Ms. Veena Srinivasan	Well Labs
75	Mr. Elan Govind	Whitefield Rising
76	Miki Jamal	Whitefield Rising
77	Pragya Malhani	WWF - India
78	Upasana Patgiri	WWF - India
79	Mr. Chandrasekhar	BBMP
80	Latif Miyan	BBMP - Lakes
81	Sharath	BBMP - Lakes
82	Sridhar Kotre	Dasarahalli - Lakes
83	Chandrakantuaraja	Bommanahalli zone
84	Nithya. J	Lakes - East
85	Akshath. MM	BBMP - Lakes
86	Deepashree. H. S	BBMP - Lakes (B.C)
88	Bupradha	BBMP - Lakes
89	Swapna	BBMP - Lakes

Annexure 2 – Individual comments from the attendees

The following notes present a comprehensive overview of actionable insights and recommendations gathered from various stakeholders to address key urban challenges in Bangalore and its alignment towards BCAP and CAC. The primary focus areas include waste management, flood mitigation, recreational spaces/urban green spaces, emissions control, spatial data integration, rainwater harvesting, public awareness, and resilience in climate action.

1.0 Discussions on public parks

Mr.Avinash Krishnamurthy

Director and Project Manager, Biome environmental solutions

Avinash highlighted the importance of managing surface runoff effectively to prevent wastage of water resources. He emphasized the need to recharge wells as a sustainable method of replenishing groundwater levels, suggesting the utilization of open wells in parks for this purpose. He also mentioned the potential benefits of reviving shallow aquifers, which could play a crucial role in ensuring water security for the community. Additionally, he spoke about re-establishing the memories associated with parks and integrating soft elements into their design and management. By emphasizing the sentimental and recreational value of parks, Avinash aimed to evoke a sense of community attachment and stewardship towards these green spaces. Integrating soft elements such as greenery, seating areas, and interactive features could enhance the aesthetic and experiential quality of parks, making them more inviting and conducive to community engagement. Avinash's emphasis on re-establishing memories and incorporating soft elements reflects a comprehensive approach to park management, aiming to create vibrant and inclusive public spaces that enrich the urban fabric and promote environmental sustainability.

Ms.Sandhya Narayanan

SWM – Policy and Practioner, Solid Waste management round table (SWMRT)

Sandhya Narayan proposed transforming parks into active hubs for composting and mulching activities, aiming to foster community engagement in sustainable waste management practices. She emphasized the importance of local participation in these initiatives, envisioning parks as catalysts for environmental stewardship and community empowerment. Sandhya also emphasized the significance of tree parks as a forward-looking approach to green urban development.

Ms.Madhuri Subbarao

Co-founder- Friends of Lakes (FOL)

Madhuri stressed the need to preserve the identity of lakes within the city and not club parks and lakes into the same ecosystem and policy outlook. She suggested using treated water in parks as an alternative to borewell water, promoting water conservation and reducing dependence on groundwater sources. Additionally, she advocated for the adoption of nature-based solutions to address environmental challenges, emphasizing the importance of integrating ecological principles into urban planning and development.

Ms.Zibi Jamal

Whitefield Rising

Zibi shared insights on a successful initiative where treated water is being used in an inner circle park at Whitefield. This initiative demonstrates the potential of utilizing recycled water in public spaces, contributing to water conservation efforts, and promoting sustainable use of resources. By highlighting such examples, Zibi highlighted the practicality and feasibility of implementing similar initiatives in other areas, encouraging stakeholders to explore innovative solutions for environmental sustainability.

2.0 What research findings should we take seriously? Are people aware of climate change in our city?

Srinivas (Fellow at WRI India) drew attention to construction dust as a significant contributor to air pollution in urban areas. He emphasized the need for measures to mitigate the impact of construction activities on air quality, advocating for stricter regulations and enforcement mechanisms. By raising awareness about the environmental consequences of construction dust, he underscored the importance of adopting sustainable construction practices to minimize adverse effects on public health and the environment.

Ms.Sandhya Narayanan

SWM – Policy and Practioner, Solid Waste management round table (SWMRT)

Socio-Economic Disparities in Waste Segregation: There are significant disparities in waste segregation practices across socio-economic lines. Affluent areas like HSR Layout have better waste management infrastructure, with 70-80% of waste treated, compared to a 25-40% treatment rate in most wards and even lower rates in slum communities. These discrepancies highlight the urgent need for equitable waste management education and infrastructure development across all communities. Addressing these inequalities is crucial for mitigating environmental impacts and promoting social equity.

Ms.Shrimoyee Bhattacharya

Program Head- Urban Development (WRI India)

Methane Emissions from Waste Mishandling: Methane emissions resulting from improper waste handling pose significant environmental and health risks. Although these emissions constitute only 11% of total emissions, their impact is profound due to methane's potency as a greenhouse gas. Addressing methane emissions should be a collective responsibility, necessitating collective action to minimize environmental impacts. By raising awareness about the consequences of methane emissions, Shrimoyee emphasizes the urgency of adopting sustainable waste management strategies to mitigate climate change effectively.

3.0 How can we create awareness for BCAP? What can we do to implement BCAP activities at the ward level in Bengaluru city?

Waste Management and Circular Economy

Ms. Bianca - Hasiru Dala

Source Segregation and Circular Economy: To promote effective waste management, it is crucial to implement source segregation across all wards. Hasiru Dala's model of decentralized waste management, currently operational in Jayanagar with 1742 tonnes managed from 7 centers, serves as a successful blueprint. Expanding this model city-wide can enhance the circular economy, ensuring waste is managed sustainably at the source.

Flood Mitigation

Ms. Priyanka - B.PAC

Flooding and Stormwater Management: Flooding in Bengaluru is exacerbated by inadequate sloping of crossroads and insufficient stormwater drainage systems. Implementing adequate curb inlets and ensuring functional stormwater drains are essential. Additionally, prohibiting the construction of entrance ramps that obstruct natural water flow can significantly reduce urban flooding risks.

Recreational Spaces and Active Mobility

Park Accessibility and Timings: Enhancing the accessibility and operational hours of parks can promote active lifestyles. Parks should be integrated into urban planning as key recreational spaces that support active mobility.

Widening Roads for Active Mobility: Expanding roadways to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians will encourage active mobility, reduce vehicular congestion, and lower emissions.

Emissions Control

Mr. Piyush Bharadwaj - *CSTEP*

Vehicular and Commercial Emissions: With 51% of emissions (of air pollutants) stemming from vehicular sources and 84% from commercial activities that only constitute 3% of the total, there is a clear need to focus on vehicle health and emissions measurement. Implementing regular emissions checks and maintenance programs can significantly reduce the city's carbon footprint.

Spatial Data and Urban Planning

Ms. Janani - *Integrated Design*

Prioritizing Activities Using Spatial Data: Utilizing spatial data to prioritize urban planning activities can lead to more informed decision-making processes. This data-driven approach can optimize resource allocation and improve urban infrastructure development.

Rainwater Harvesting and Water Management

Mr. Avinash - *Biome*

Ward-Level Implementation: Identifying specific wards to implement and learn from rainwater harvesting (RWH) initiatives can foster institutional imagination and practical solutions at the local level.

Ms. Zibi - *Whitefield Rising*

RWH Mandate and Functionality: The BBMP should enforce a mandate for RWH systems to be functional, similar to how Aadhaar enrollment is mandated. Ensuring that these systems are operational can address water scarcity issues.

Converting Public Lands to Parks: In areas like Mahadevapura, where parks are scarce, converting public lands from the BBMP's inventory into recreational spaces can enhance urban green cover.

Public Awareness and Community Involvement

Ms. Laya - *High School Student*

High School Engagement and social media: Hosting meetings in high schools and leveraging social media can raise awareness among young people, fostering a culture of sustainability from an early age.

Behavioral Insights and Feasibility

Madhuri – *Friends Of Lakes*

Understanding Behavioral Dynamics: To ensure the feasibility of policy implementations, it is essential to understand the behavior and mindset of citizens. Tailoring initiatives to align with public behavior will enhance compliance and effectiveness.

Inclusive Knowledge Partnerships

Hansika - *Socrates*

Involving Marginalized Communities: Engaging marginalized communities as knowledge partners ensures that diverse perspectives are included in urban development processes, fostering inclusive growth.

Infrastructure and Policy Enforcement

Mr. Rajkumar Duggar – *Citizens for Citizens*

Supporting Sustainable Transportation: Enhancing public transport systems like KRIDE can reduce vehicular emissions and promote sustainable commuting options.

Mr. Arun Kumar - *Bangalore Apartments Federation*

Apartment Community Contributions: Apartment communities can support local parks and forests by providing excess treated water and collaborating with BWSSB on water management projects.

Ms. Sandhya - *SWMRT*

Mandatory Enforcement: BBMP should coordinate with other departments to ensure mandatory enforcement of sustainability initiatives. Recognizing and acknowledging ward-level efforts can motivate compliance and innovation.

Research and Future Collaboration

Mr. Bipin - *Azim Premji University*

Archiving Climate Change Research: Collaborating with researchers to archive intricate details of science and climate change can prepare an intelligent future, aiding in long-term planning and policy formulation.

Mr. Poornima - *Citizen Engagement*

Last Mile Connectivity: Engaging citizens as the last mile connectors ensures that community feedback and participation are integral to urban development projects.