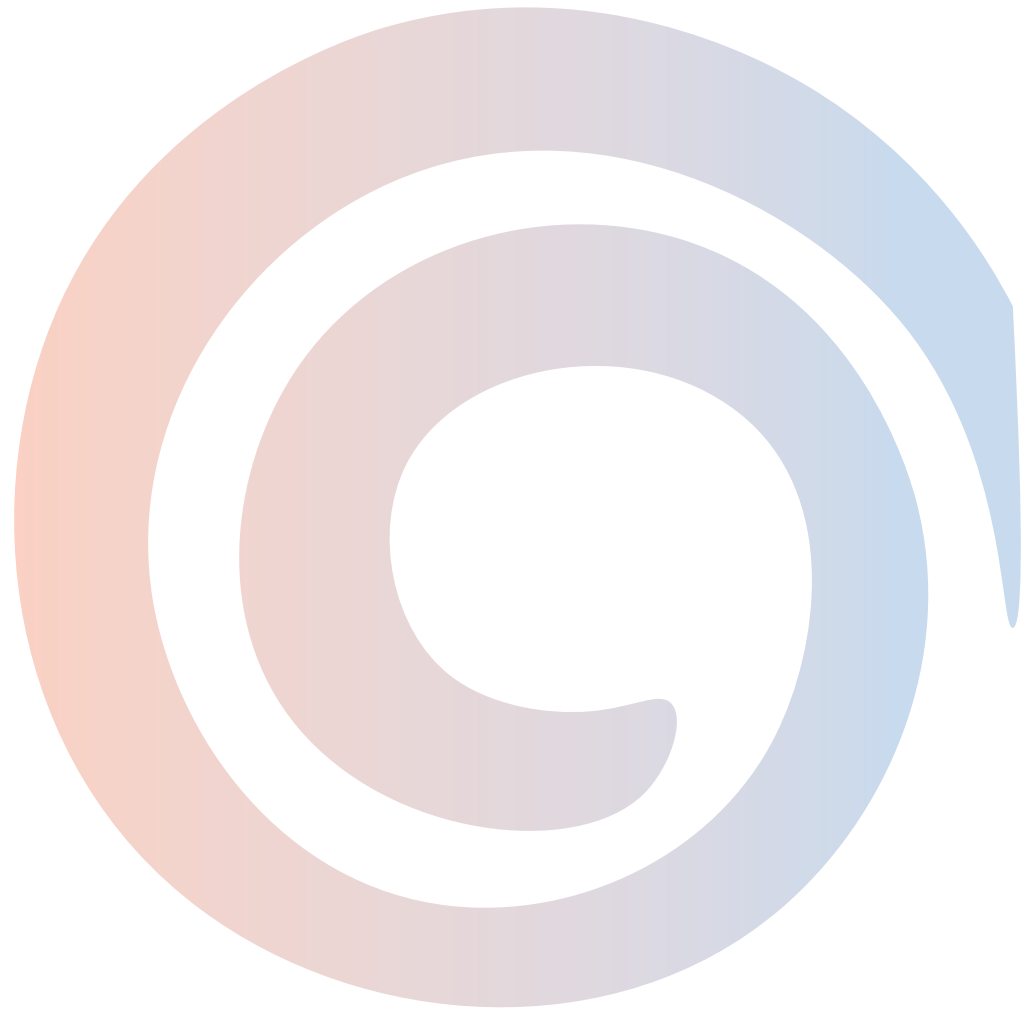




BENGALURU  
SUSTAINABILITY  
FORUM

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024





The **Bengaluru Sustainability Forum** (BSF) is a multi-institutional initiative that fosters interdisciplinary collaborations, encourages dialogue and builds bridges towards a sustainable and just future with a focus on Bangalore. We do this by connecting diverse efforts in the domain of sustainability and breaking down silos.

BSF was founded in January 2018 and has since worked to curate a broad range of engagements that bring together different stakeholders of the city, to discuss, share and act on various aspects of sustainability. These have included multiple retreats, public workshops, panel discussions, round tables, webinars, film festivals, exhibitions and a podcast, among other activities. Supported by a grant from Wipro Foundation, and housed at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, the Forum is steered by committed individuals from premiere institutions, working in their personal and professional capacity towards the shared goal of Bengaluru's sustainability.





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# FOREWORD

Year on year Bengaluru seems to be experiencing unprecedented challenges, on multiple fronts. The water crisis in the city coupled with the record breaking mercury highs this summer have yet again brought home how critical it is to take a multi-dimensional approach coupled with collective action that is rooted in the local.

In keeping with our efforts to foreground adaptation and resilience in the face of the city's climate challenges, we brainstormed on how our work, particularly the Climate Charche series, could facilitate this. Some of the ideas we started work on are shared in this report. We also coupled this with an attempt to build a community of the amazing individuals and organisations we have had the privilege of supporting via our Small Grants Programme over the last 5 years.

Our hope is to leverage the tremendous potential of all the collective experience and knowledge in our network towards a snowball effect in the city, centred around the principles of equity and justice for the human and non-human inhabitants of Bengaluru.

It is heartening to see the idea of collective action gain more traction, as evidenced by the growing number of collaborative initiatives Bengaluru has seen in the past year. It gives us hope that together we can navigate the challenges that lie ahead.

With a firm belief in the power of interdisciplinary and intersectional dialogue and endeavours we invite you to join us on this journey, lending us your voice, expertise and passion.

With gratitude and optimism,  
The BSF Team





# THE YEAR THAT WAS

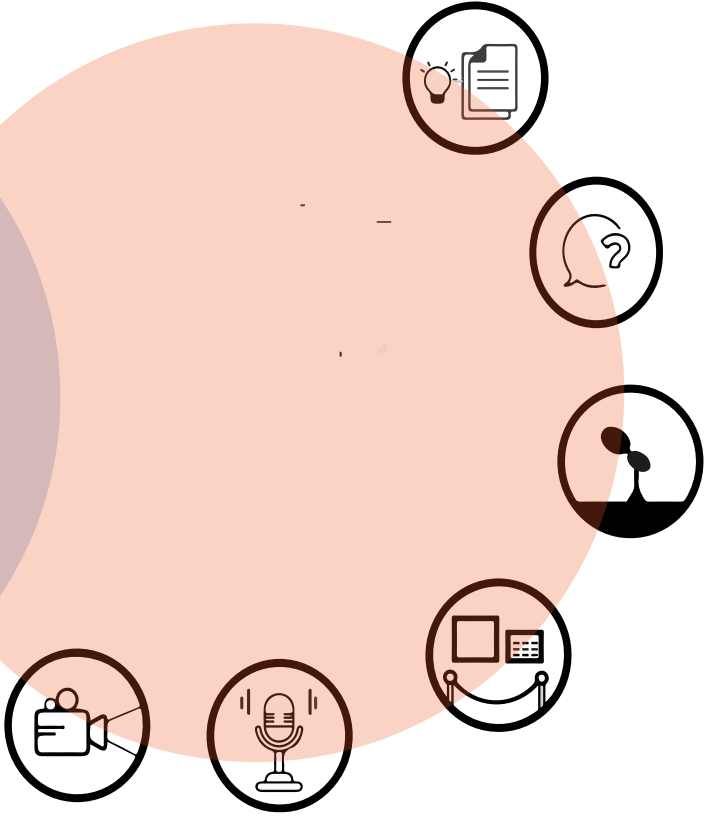


At BSF, we seek out all possible opportunities to connect and interact with a diverse range of stakeholders; in order to better understand their experience and perspective of sustainability in the city. We also function as a bridge between the work - research and otherwise - that is being done in the city and the general public.

The past year included engagements initiated by us as well as events where we were invited to participate. Read on for details about an interesting sustainability quiz, the city's much loved film festival, our participation at NCBS Campus@25, the India Civic Summit, and more!



# ಕೈಮೆಟ್ Climate Charche ಚರ್ಚೆ

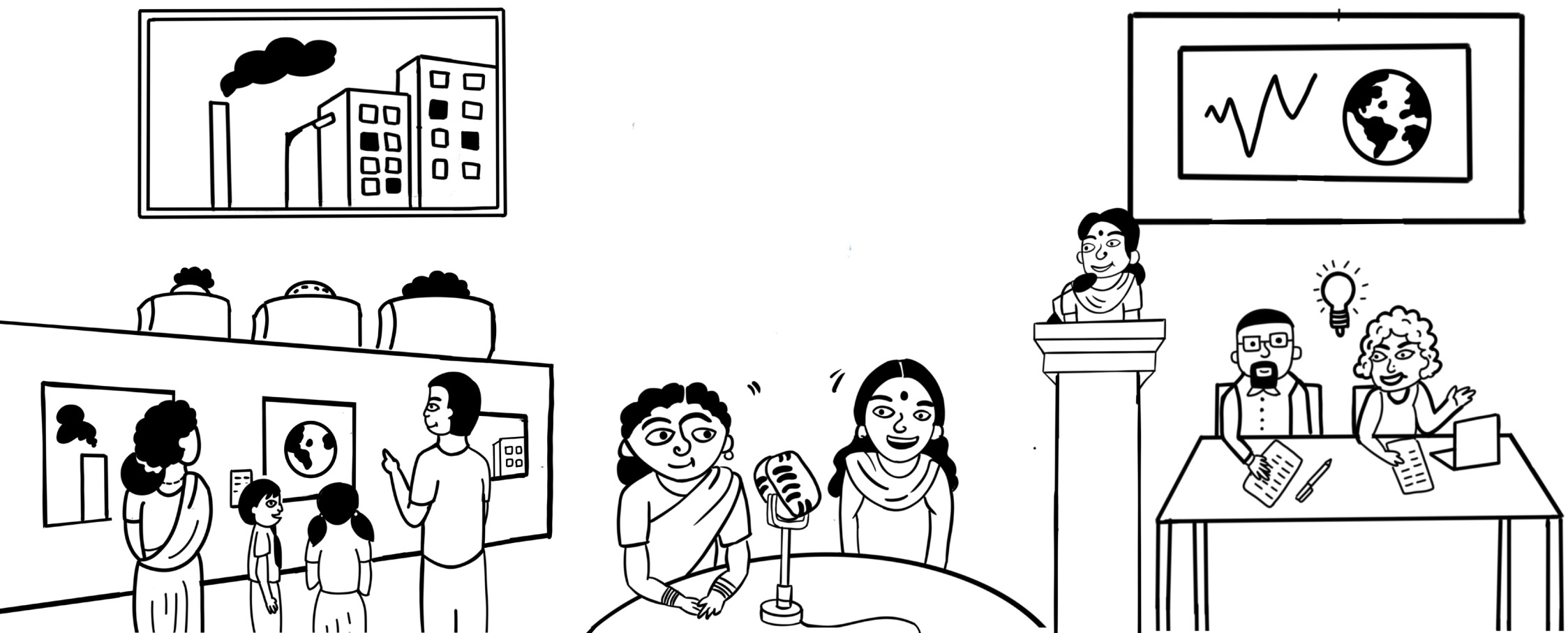


Conversations around climate change and sustainability are abundant in Bengaluru. Owing to active citizen engagement and a significant number of organisations working in the space, there is also a lot of activity in the city. However, many people are still left out of these conversations, and still more whose needs seem to be underrepresented. To address this, Climate Charche, hosted and curated by the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum, is envisaged as a series of engagements on the interlinkages between different aspects of climate change and city systems.

With Climate Charche, we aim to better understand how communities and groups are adapting to local

climate challenges, and draw learnings for a wider audience. We hope to identify what more is needed in city level climate plans and execution requirements for strengthening adaptation and resilience at the community level. We also want to equip more people with tools to make sense of the changing world and contribute to better understanding and solutions.

The Climate Charche series was kicked off with a workshop for early career individuals working in the space of sustainability and a social media campaign around the water crisis in Bengaluru.





# Decoding Urban Climate using Geospatial Techniques

March 2024

ಕೈಮೆಟ್  
Climate  
Charche  
ಚರ್ಚೆ

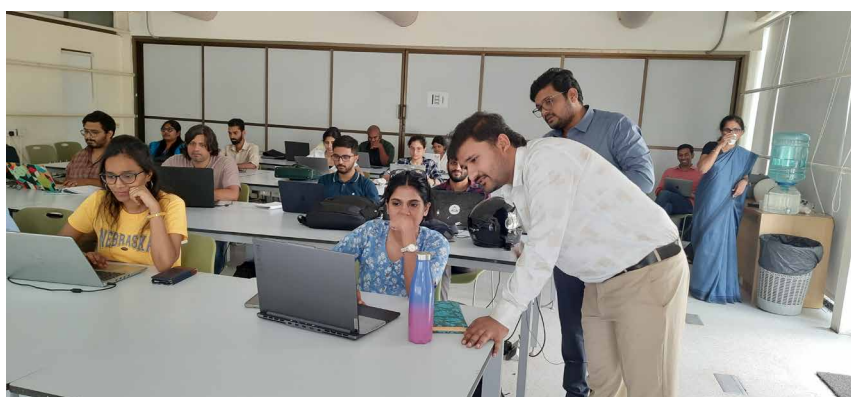


To create climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience strategies at a city level, the need for hyperlocal data is critical. We believe that every organisation and individual working towards sustainability in Bengaluru should be equipped with tools for this.

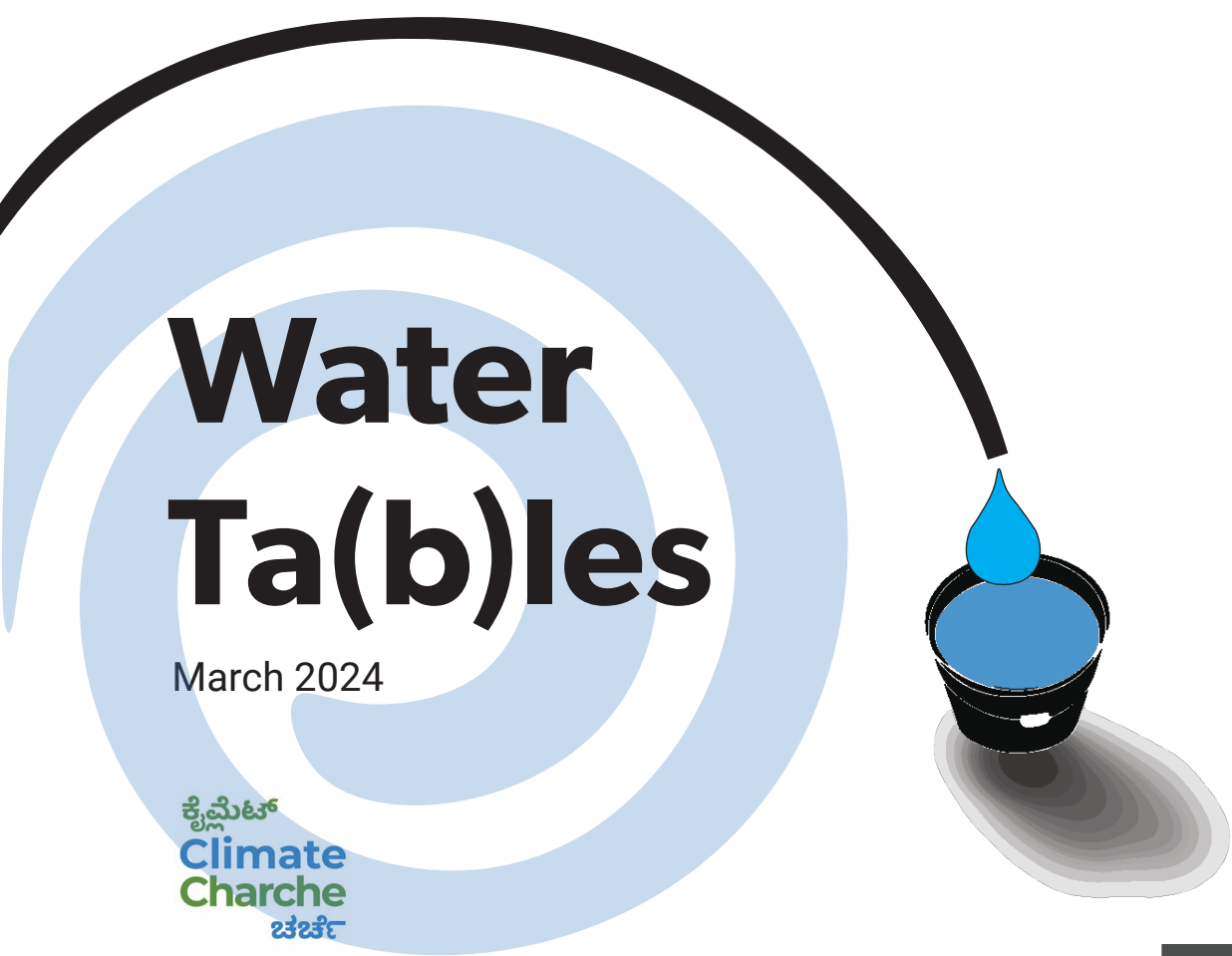
Stemming from this understanding, BSF in collaboration with The Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) curated a workshop on “Decoding urban climate using geospatial techniques’. This day-long workshop took participants through the importance of geospatial data, its use cases and relevance, and a detailed hands-on training session on how to use various Google Earth Engine data sets for urban climate issues.

The workshop was free of charge and open to all. 17 individuals from diverse backgrounds were chosen to be a part of the workshop based on their experience and the possibility for them to use GEE datasets in their work. The large number of registrations we received validated the need felt for such capacity building opportunities.

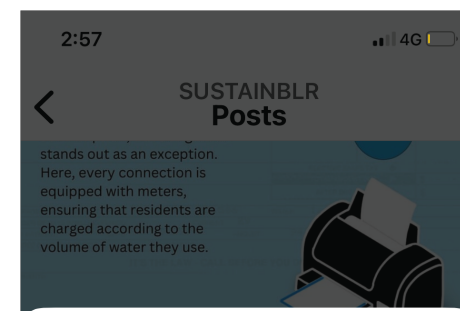
Participants reflected that the workshop was a good learning experience and exposed them to new ways of thinking. All the participants were encouraged to see how the data sets could benefit and inform the projects they are currently working on.







Bengaluru's water problem came to a head this year, with severe water scarcity in many parts of the city. At BSF, we felt this was a crucial time to use our network to amplify the work being done by several organisations and share facts and data from field based research. The social media campaign titled "Water ta(b)les" ran for over a month. Starting with a history of water and water supply in the city, we went on to talk about the causes for shortage, the true cost of water, equity and supply and various interventions to address the same. The response was positive, with many users resharing our posts and writing to us saying that they can now better understand the water crisis in the city.



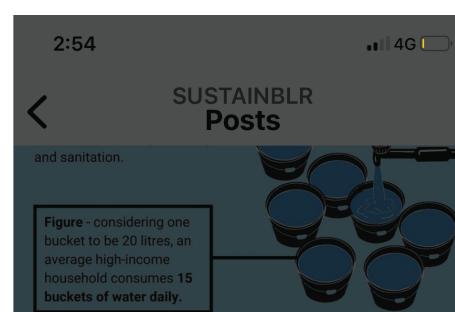
## Comments



tabreedindia 6w · ❤️ by author

Useful data on water usage in Bengaluru! Excited for the upcoming post to delve further.

1 like Reply Hide



## Comments



avaniqavya 7w · ❤️ by author

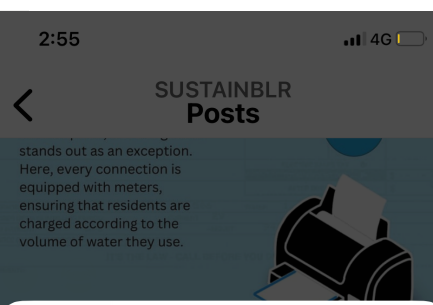
It really helps to check our privilege. Thanks for this



1 like Reply Hide



Add a comment...



## Comments

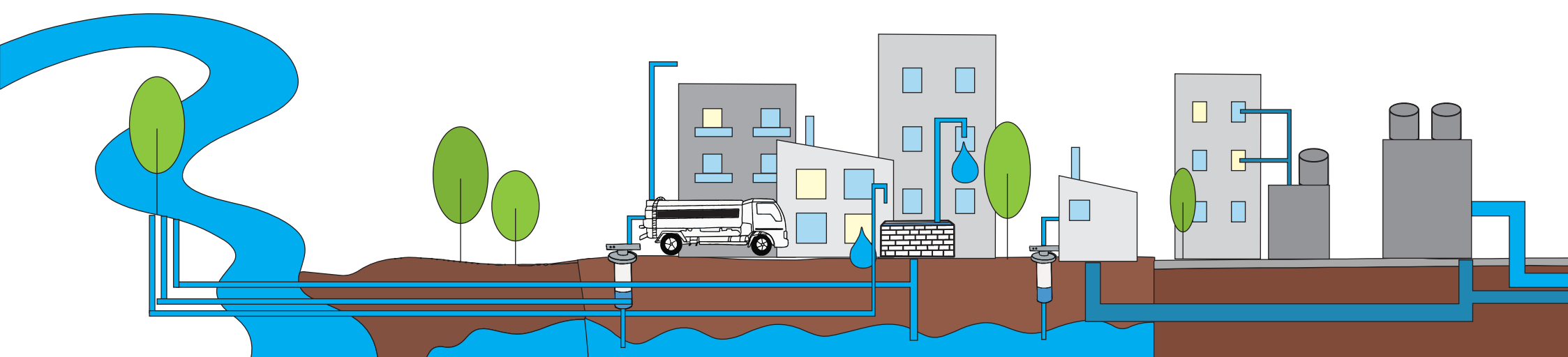


siyonaslittlewise 6w · ❤️ by author

Excited to dive deep into the world of water economics! Looking forward to unraveling the mysteries behind our water bill and understanding how our consumption impacts both our wallets and the environment. Can't wait for the next post!



Add a comment...



# Jacaranda Tales

November 2023



Cinema is a reflection of the society that we live in. It has the unique ability to bring to light not just problems, but also serve as a platform for voices and solutions that matter. With this in mind, BSF collaborated on the Second Edition of Jacaranda Tales with Bangalore Film Society, Kriti Film Club, Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi, Gamana Women's Collective, Environment Support Group, Mount Carmel College and Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti. The focus this time was Climate Resilience. Once again the festival was held both in-person and online. The in-person format was a curation of 20 films screened at two venues. It saw an attendance of more than 1000 people (college students and the general public).





The festival included panel discussions and post-film discussions; with an opening address by Padmavati Rao and a closing note by Dr Ramachandra Guha. The panels consisted of researchers, practitioners, activists, environmentalists, professionals and filmmakers, among others.

Click here for recordings of panel discussions



Image credits - BFS

The online festival was a great success too, with a viewership of more than 2000. It featured 20 films across 3 themes.



Image credits - BFS

“

...in all the movies we saw today, the important thing was there are people who are being resilient, because of the unavailability of resources or their circumstances... It showed us how we are ignoring the ground reality of people who are not privileged enough... They seem to be more passionate and aware of sustainability and saving the environment and we just take it for granted...

”

Audience feedback, Gandhi Bhavan

“

The big learning for me has been how ground action and local action really makes such a difference. And I am also wondering - how does one mobilise communities apart from such inspired individuals. That's what I am left with...

”

Audience feedback, Mount Carmel College

“

Such an important message about building resilience through faith and community.

”

online edition, comment on Dhivarah-Way-of-Life



# Small Grant Projects Poster Exhibition

February - March 2024



Recognising the need to share all the good work of the Small Grants Programme projects with a wider audience, BSF worked on a poster display this year explaining the objective and work of each of the 36 projects. These posters were given a home at the interesting premises of the Bangalore Creative Circus (BCC), Yeshwantpur. Visitors to BCC have since shared feedback that the poster exhibition has not only made them aware of the breadth and depth of work of these projects, but has also helped to create a sense of hope and promise for a more sustainable Bengaluru.

The poster exhibition was also showcased at the India Civic Summit in March 2024.





# World Environment day

June 2023



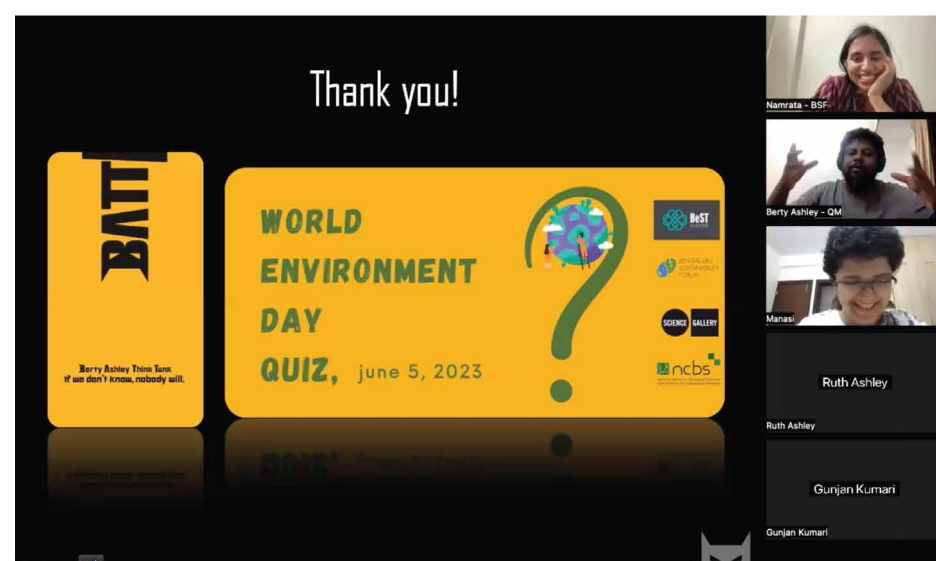
Bengaluru Science & Technology Cluster



We marked World Environment Day this year by organising and participating in a range of events, to reach out to different audiences.

We started the day by interacting with high school students of Vidyashilp Academy along with Ms. Sonal, communications officer at NCBS, and Dr. Anshika Singh, who researched microplastics at NCBS. In keeping with the United Nations designated theme #BeatPlasticPollution, the students were introduced to the impact of anthropogenic pollution, especially microplastics, in marine ecosystems; and they were prompted to think about sustainability using a set of reflective questions. Following this, we interacted with both the students and teachers to share our work and plans for further engagement with schools and colleges on aspects of sustainability and climate change.

Along with BeST, SGB and NCBS, we organised an online quiz for World Environment Day, hosted by quizmaster Berty Ashley - a Molecular Geneticist at the Dystrophy Annihilation Research Trust (DART) and a well known face on the quiz circuit. The quiz saw a great turnout with over 60 participants across age groups, professions and even geographies! It proved to be an innovative and fun way to talk about climate change.





# The Green Scene

SUBSCRIBE EVENTS    



ABOUT US THEMES  OUTREACH  SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME  Search

 March 2024 

All Categories 

Showing events for  
10 March 2024

[View All Events](#)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



 **HDFC Ltd Learning Centre, Lower Ground Floor, MAP Bengaluru**

10 March, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Reporting : A people-first approach



 **Cubbon Park**

10 March, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

All women nature walk - Cubbon park

The BSF website now offers a unique feature - The Green Scene - a calendar that highlights all events related to sustainability, taking place in Bengaluru. This platform allows organisations to easily submit their event details by either filling out a form or directly contacting the BSF. By featuring these events on the website, it serves as a comprehensive hub for anyone interested in attending such events, providing easy access to information about upcoming sustainability-related activities in the city.



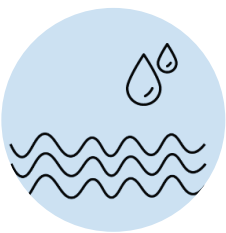
WASTE



CLIMATE  
CHANGE



MOBILITY



WATER



BIODIVERSITY



Bengaluru



# Walking Lightly

June 2023

In another outreach initiative for World Environment Day 2023, BSF introduced two members from its network - Kriti Film Club and Rainmatter Foundation - to each other for collaborating on Walking Lightly - a two day documentary film festival in Delhi, on Environment and Climate Change. The festival curation was centred around everyday environment-first actions and approaches of individuals, companies and communities with the intent to acknowledge and recognise climate action and behaviour while raising awareness about the effort made - be it small or big in terms of impact.



## Heart for Earth stall

July 2023

BSF put up a stall at the 'Heart for Earth' festival organised by the Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technical Museum and Echo Network. Visitors across age groups showed great interest in the various publications and other media related to the Small Grants Programme; particularly those on nature education.



## NCBS campus @25

Feb 2024

The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) recently celebrated 25 years of functioning at its current campus. This milestone was marked by an event on the campus that was open not only to its staff and students but also to 300 school students as well as the general public. This presented an interesting opportunity for BSF to interact with a new audience and showcase the work under our Small Grants Programme, exchange ideas on aspects of sustainability and understand the students' perspective on making Bengaluru more sustainable.





# India Civic summit

March 2024

BSF participated at the first edition of the India Civic Summit organised by Oorvani Foundation on March 23rd. The daylong summit saw a coming together of individuals and groups working in the urban civic space, primarily from Bengaluru, but also from a few other cities. BSF co-designed and facilitated a Masterclass on 'Climate Change, Civic Activism and You', in collaboration with Ajay Raghavan and Jai Warriar of the Initiative for Climate Action.

# One Health Cell

March 2024

The local municipal corporation - Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) - recently constituted One Health Cell on the lines of India's National One Health Mission. The purpose is to integrate all health activities of different ministries under a single Umbrella; for improving health outcomes for all species and promoting a more integrated and collaborative approach to health. BSF was invited to participate at the All Stakeholder meet in March 2024 and subsequently as a member of the Environmental Health Committee of the Cell. We hope to be able to draw from our work and that of our partners to contribute to the effective implementation of the One Health Cell approach across Bengaluru.



Network Partner

**Climate Asia Annual Conference 2024**

ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION: BRIDGING THE GAP FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION

APRIL 19TH & 20TH, 2024

BENGALURU

# Climate Asia Conference

April 2024

BSF was invited to be a Network Partner for the second edition of the Climate Asia conference, in Bengaluru on 19-20 April, 2024. The conference was attended by a diverse group of participants working in the sector, and was a useful platform for BSF to interact with new audiences, as well as for them to become aware of the work we do.




# SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The BSF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is an initiative to enable local, innovative, cross-disciplinary, collaborative projects to start off and grow into a sustainable future.

Initially established in 2018-19 to provide seed funding for projects and ideas conceived at the BSF Retreats, it has evolved into a well-recognised grant programme in Bengaluru. The 36 projects supported so far have contributed significantly to addressing aspects of sustainability in the city. The Programme is a platform for innovative, collaborative approaches that address issues in a holistic manner. What's more, drawing from BSF's primary approach to partnerships, our relationship with these projects goes well beyond the grant cycle, as we continue to engage and suggest interesting collaborations that lend to a more sustainable city.

**The project titles in the upcoming pages are hyperlinked to the respective project pages on the BSF website. For details of all other projects, [click here](#).**





# Grantee Gathering

Feb 2024



We organised the first coming together of all grantees under BSF's Small Grants Programme, at Bangalore Creative Circus. This was planned as a day dedicated to getting to know each other better, drawing inspiration and reaching a consensus on shared objectives. At this first get together, participants from the projects were taken through various exercises, designed by Ajay Raghavan and Jai Warriar, to enable thinking and planning for urban systems and sustainability.

Being from various organisations and backgrounds, the exercises enabled the participants to realise the value in coming together and looking at the same issue from different approaches; once again, foregrounding the importance of collaboration. At the end of the daylong gathering, the BSF team and the participants discussed possible ways for the group to work in the future and charted out a roadmap for the year.





# Lake Health Index

Project status: **Completed**

Contact: Ramprasad V (friendsoflakes@gmail.com)



**India Cares**  
Foundation

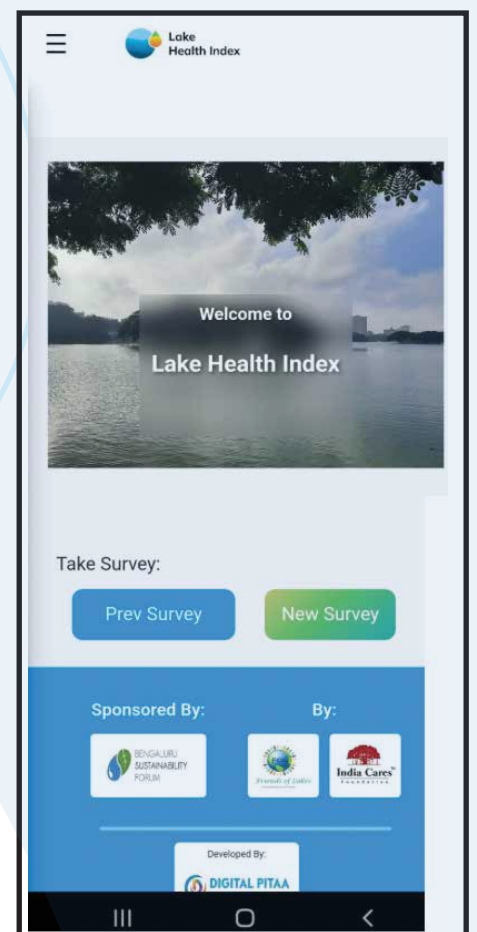


*Friends of Lakes*

The Lake Health Index (LHI) project was initiated to study seasonal variation in lake health parameters in the city, to understand the feasibility of involving citizens to monitor lake health and to develop an app to be used by stakeholders as an educative and monitoring tool.

The project studied 3 lakes (Ulsoor, Doddabommasandra and Shivapura) in the city for various biological, chemical, and physical parameters to understand overall lake health, including water quality, biodiversity, and habitat conditions. It found pollution levels across all parameters to be higher during the post-monsoon season. The team found that the mobile app was effective in increasing knowledge and awareness about lake water quality among stakeholders, provided a convenient and accessible way to disseminate information; and had the potential to contribute to the conservation and protection of lakes, ultimately leading to better water quality and a more sustainable future for our freshwater resources.

The app will feed its data into a website being developed by the team in order to make it publicly accessible and to enable real time monitoring by citizen groups, stakeholders and enthusiasts.



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team



In the news - Citizen Matters, March 28, 2024



# The Vrishabhavati Story project



Project status: Ongoing

Contact: Kadambari Komandur (vrishabhavatistoryproject@gmail.com)

Nirmala Gowda (nirmalagow@gmail.com)

The Vrishabhavati Story Project is a collective storytelling project to document memories of an urban river. Centred around 4 larger themes of livelihood, industrial pollution and toxic water, urban flooding, and biodiversity - the project aims to bring these issues to life through visual storytelling.

In the past year, the team began the field visit phase of the project to interact with different community members. To understand livelihood impacts of the polluted river, the team spoke to workers at the Malleshwaram Dhobi Ghat, which decades ago used water from the Vrishabhavati river. They studied the industrial toxicity through art based sessions discussing the degradation of groundwater and surface water in the area with government school students near Harohalli. For the concerns on urban flooding, the team spoke to vendors, shopkeepers and residents in Byatarayanapura, situated in close proximity to the river. Research on pollution implications on biodiversity led them to Cauvery Wildlife Reserve, and conversations with residents and the team of WASI (Wildlife Association of South India) opened up larger issues than just the pollution.

The team has begun illustrating these stories and are also working towards having the graphic book published by the end of the year. The project has been exhibited at Azim Premji University's Rivers of Life Exhibition in 2022. Members of the team were interviewed by Elsa Mrosiewicz for her project - Floating cities - a digital illustration for the UN Summit in 2025.



Credits - Project team

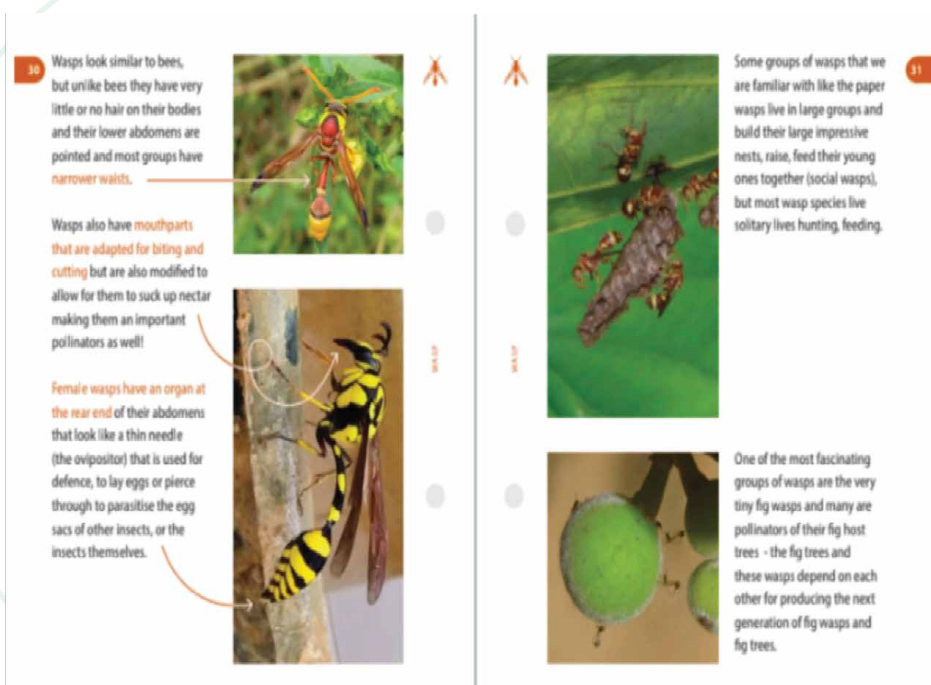
# Flashcards on common insects and spiders



Project status: Ongoing

Contact: Vena Kapoor, NCF (vena@ncf-india.org)

Priya Venkatesh (priya.images@gmail.com)



Credits - Project team

This project is creating easy-to-use flash cards for beginners and nature educators on common spiders & insects found in Bangalore city and its outskirts. The team hopes that this tool will aid the citizens of Bangalore to discover and learn more about the numerous six and eight-legged creatures living alongside us in our crowded cities. This tool can be used as a guide during nature walks by beginners, enthusiasts and experts.

The project is in its final stages of completion. The full draft of content, design and layout for the 21 groups consisting of insects and spiders is currently under review and getting finalised. The number of flashcards has increased and therefore the feasibility of using the initially planned roller/spiral binding tool is being worked out. The team has also started on the Kannada translation of the flashcards, led by the team at EcoEdu. The flashcards will be available as a physical kit and will also be uploaded to the BSF website as an open source resource for anyone to download and use. The project team is also in discussion with BSF about how these flashcards can be used to aid other biodiversity projects under the BSF Small Grants Programme.



Credits - Project team

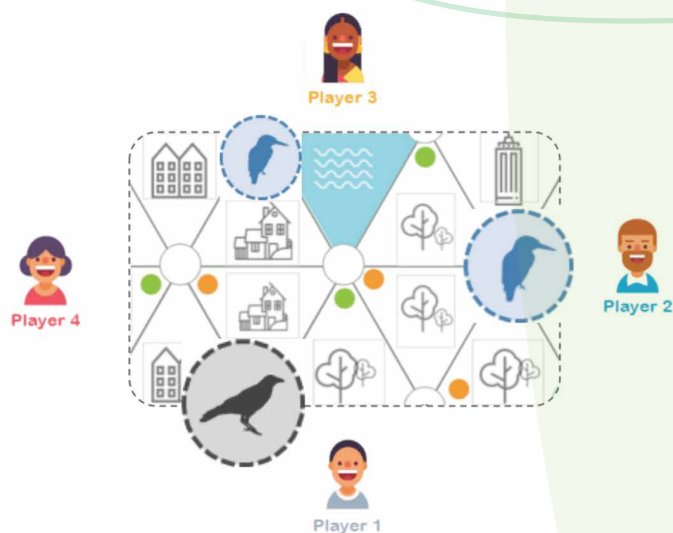


# Designing a board game about navigating everyday life of urban and peri-urban birds of Bangalore

Project status: Ongoing

Contact: Prasad Sandbhor: sandbhorprasad@gmail.com

Priti Bangal: pritibangal@gmail.com



©Project team

The team has been extensively play-testing the game with a diverse range of audiences, through in-person and online sessions. Based on the feedback gathered, a few tweaks have been made to both the Kannada and English versions of the game. A near-final draft of the companion booklet now details the game elements, story, journey and rules; it also offers a perspective on the actions in the game in light of the current affairs in the city. The team is in an advanced stage of conversation with a Bangalore based manufacturer, whom they met at TTOX - a convention on Table Top board games. A presentation at the Play for the Planet conference at the University of York enabled the team to discuss the potential of the game with other researchers, educators and designers working on environmental games.



Project website

In the news - The Hindu, Dec 29, 2023

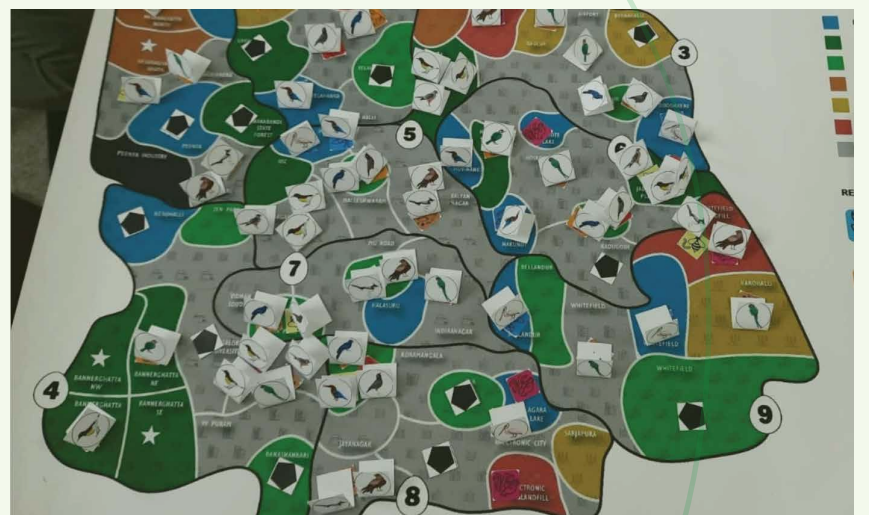
The Hindustan Times, Jan 05, 2024

Mint Lounge, Feb 01, 2024

The New Indian Express, Feb 27, 2024



This project aims to spread awareness about biodiversity in Bengaluru through a board game - Birds in the City. The game focuses on 10 commonly found birds in the city and players work through various events that may positively or negatively impact the environment and in turn, the bird population. It also highlights the range of actions that citizens can take for conservation.



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team





# The Bee Garden project

Project status: Ongoing  
Contact: team\_push@atree.org

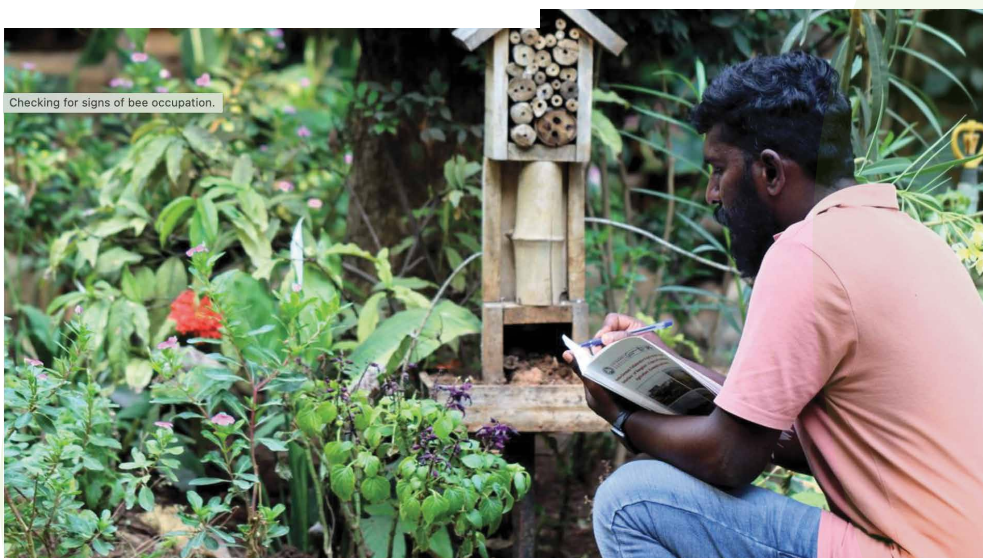
The Bee Garden project aims to highlight the importance of urban pollinators - the non-honey bees. It focuses on providing nesting spaces for solitary bees, crucial pollinators in the city, by setting up bee hotels using upcycled materials. Through this citizen science initiative, individuals can actively engage with and learn about the diverse bee species in their surroundings, ultimately raising awareness about the importance of these pollinators in urban ecosystems



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team

After distributing the bee hotels throughout the city, the group embarked on developing an Android app to record and document the bees, thereby fostering citizen participation and shedding light on the city's biodiversity. The data gathered through the app is being analysed and findings will be shared once they are ready. This innovative platform serves as a digital hub for enthusiasts to report bee sightings, record bee species, and contribute to a growing database of urban pollinators.



In the news - The Hindu, May 20, 2024



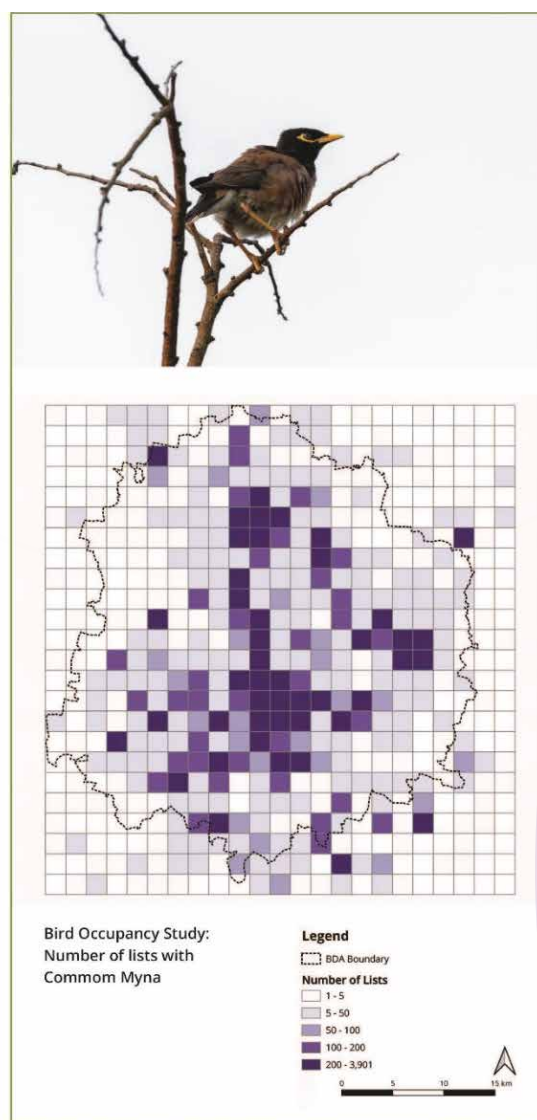
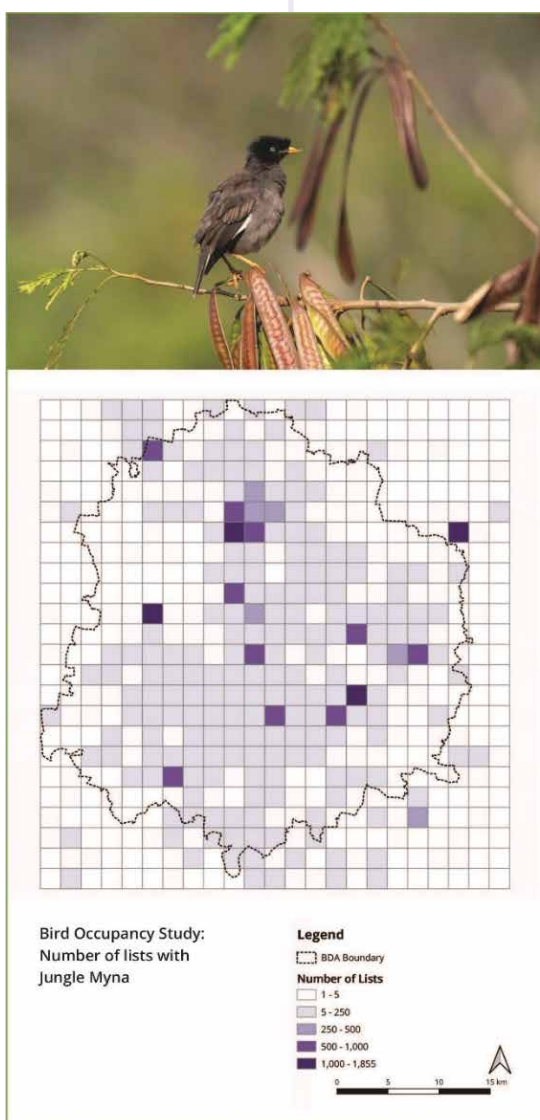
# Applying a Biodiversity lens for a sustainable city

Project status: **Ongoing**

Contact: Ravi Jambhekar, Jagdish Krishnaswamy, IIHS

([rjambhekar@iihs.ac.in](mailto:rjambhekar@iihs.ac.in), [jkrishnaswamy@iihs.ac.in](mailto:jkrishnaswamy@iihs.ac.in)) Saskya van Nouhuys, IISc ([saskya@iisc.ac.in](mailto:saskya@iisc.ac.in))

This project focused on birds and butterflies, with the aim of predicting the vulnerability of these charismatic species to the effects of climate change and urbanisation in Bengaluru. The team found that birds that inhabit the city avoid the heated parts of the city and are mostly found in the greener belts of the city - typically campuses and institutions. These greener belts have the potential of contributing towards Other Effective area-based Conservation measures (OECMs) and their maintenance and protection could be linked to the new green credits policy that is likely to become operational soon and will help in biodiversity conservation.



Credits - Project team



Illustration - Ravi Jambhekar, IIHS

In the past year, the team has mapped the distribution of some species of common birds in Bengaluru and found variations. Moving forward, this species level studies will be used to understand the impacts of urbanisation and climate change. The data collected on behaviour of butterflies and their response to extreme weather events is presently being analysed. As a part of this project, the team also put up an art exhibition that showcased the diversity of butterflies, birds and animals of Bengaluru. The aim was to create awareness about the species and draw public attention to issues of urbanisation and biodiversity loss. The first exhibition was hosted at IIHS and there are plans to now take it to other institutions.



# A Yeshwanthpur Ward-level Heatwave Guide



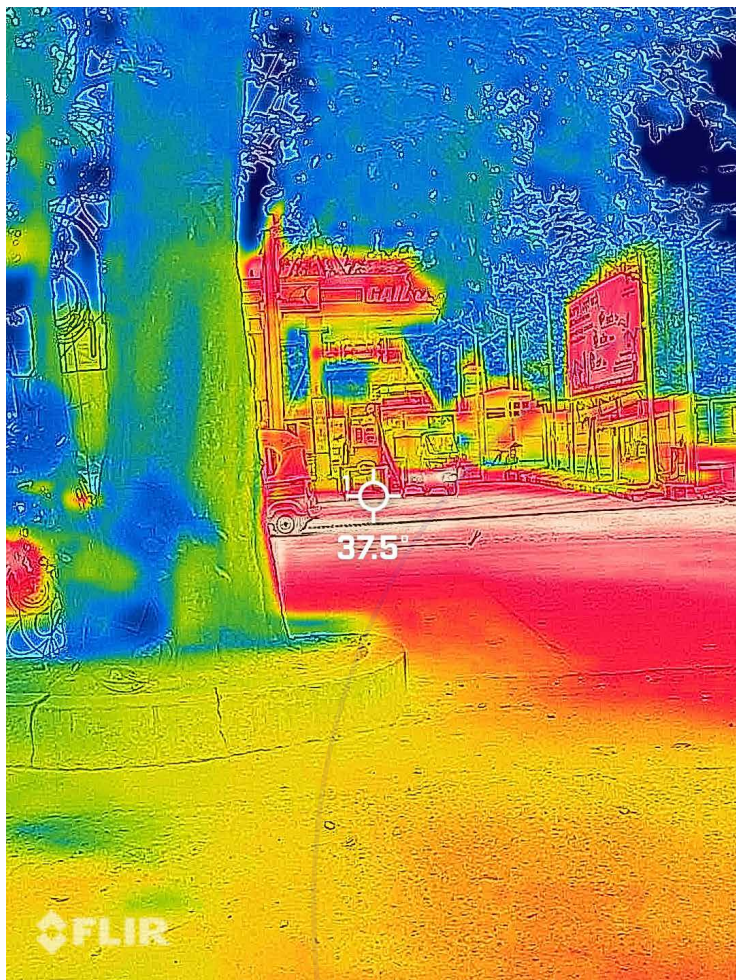
INITIATIVE FOR  
CLIMATE ACTION



Project status: Ongoing

Contact: Dr. Manan Bhan, ATREE (manan.bhan@atree.org)

Ujjvala Krishna (ujjvala.krishna@gmail.com)



Credits - Project team

In the last year, the team has developed a short film to understand the direct and indirect effects of heat on various systems, and an exhibit underway at a community centre within the ward, engaged in qualitative interviews with vulnerable stakeholders, and has also facilitated community engagement through developing and leading Climate Vulnerability Walks and discussions.

The project's objective is to create a decentralised heatwave guide by learning from existing adaptations, and actions, gathered through participatory research within a specified ward of the city - Marappanapalya in North Bengaluru. The project also explores how the increasing instances of heat-stress in the city impact people and various systems like water, health, infrastructure, and livelihoods. The effort is to create local capacity for heat resilience and mitigate the impact of future heatwaves.



Credits - Project team

THE HINDU  
Bengaluru

## Why a sweltering Bengaluru needs more than reactive measures to address heat-stress

Researchers from ATREE are trying to understand how heat interacts with multiple aspects of people's lives, and are collating information that would help people respond to the risks

Shilpa Elizabeth  
BENGALURU

On April 2, Bengaluru experienced the hottest day in April in the past three years, with the mercury levels touching 37.2 degrees Celsius. According to experts and weather forecasters, the city needs to brace itself for more, as there seems to be no respite from the sweltering heat any time soon.

Heat stress has been making significant impacts on individuals and communities of the city, threatening the livelihoods of the already vulnerable sections and upending various systems such as water supply, health, energy and more.

Given a relatively newer problem to Bengaluru, which was once known for its pleasant weather conditions throughout the year, the city's capacity to address heat-related challenges is almost non-existent, and this situation is



Clay water pots kept for sale in Bengaluru, 01



Ujjvala Krishna



Manan Bhan

ture recorded. But weather stations record from areas that are generally cooler. Also, factors like humidity and real-fee temperature are not accounted for." The project aims to eventually bring such findings to the attention of decision-makers and advocate for the need to look at the problem of heat in a systemic manner.

**From climate walk to advocacy**  
The immediate outcome of the ongoing project has been a climate vulnerability walk.

"We were wondering what the best and most scalable way was to communicate our findings to people, something which could be replicated for other hazards or in other wards of the city. So, we came up with this idea of a climate vulnerability walk," says Bhan.

"It lasts for about 1.5 hours and we stop at 7-8 checkpoints in the ward to talk about specific things



In the news -

The Hindu, April 04, 2024



The Creeping Heat in Bengaluru's Neighbourhoods



@Heat.in.Bangalore



# Reclaiming the commons at the fringes in peri-urban Bangalore

Project status: Ongoing

Contact: Dr. Ashwatha K.N, WCG (wgc.bnp@gmail.com)



The project aims to identify shared resources in the peri-urban areas of Bengaluru and empower local community members - children, youth, and stakeholders to preserve these commons, in the face of rapid urbanisation.



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team

The project started out by mapping the commons and establishing the areas of these resources in the panchayats. Bird, frog and butterfly surveys were conducted in the mapped areas to assess biodiversity. To elicit community involvement, various engagements including presentations and painting competitions in local colleges, tree plantation drives, and lake clean-up activities have been facilitated. A separate website has also been created by the team for this project. In addition, articles on the project are being published in Kaanana - a wildlife e-magazine in Kannada.



In the news - Kaanana, July 01, 2023



Project website



Commons to kitchen



Credits - Project team



# Grounds for Change



Project status: **Ongoing**

Contact: Arshiya Urveeja Bose (arshiyabose@gmail.com)

Babitha George, Quicksand (babitha@quicksand.co.in)



Credits - Project team

The overarching vision of this project entails integrating certification labels and blockchain traceability with compelling, qualitative narratives about producers and ecosystems. The project also aims at building a communication platform that will enable coffee drinkers to engage with the complexities and behind-the-scenes process. Through this approach, it is anticipated that producers will gain increased value.

Through the project, the team has gained a deeper understanding of the importance of sustainable coffee and the need for greater transparency in the coffee supply chain. The research has yielded rich ethnographic data on the histories of smallholder coffee producers in the region and traditional ecological knowledge. The project is in the final stages of publishing the website/platform. In subsequent phases, it aims to expand the platform, adding more stories, exploring newer immersive techniques, and highlighting a broader range of subjects related to the origins of coffee, including details on the native flora and fauna present in the ecosystems where coffee is grown.



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team



# Sustainable Urban Development in the Era of Climate Change



Project status: **Ongoing**

Contact: Monalisa Sen, ICLEI ([monalisa.sen@iclei.org](mailto:monalisa.sen@iclei.org))

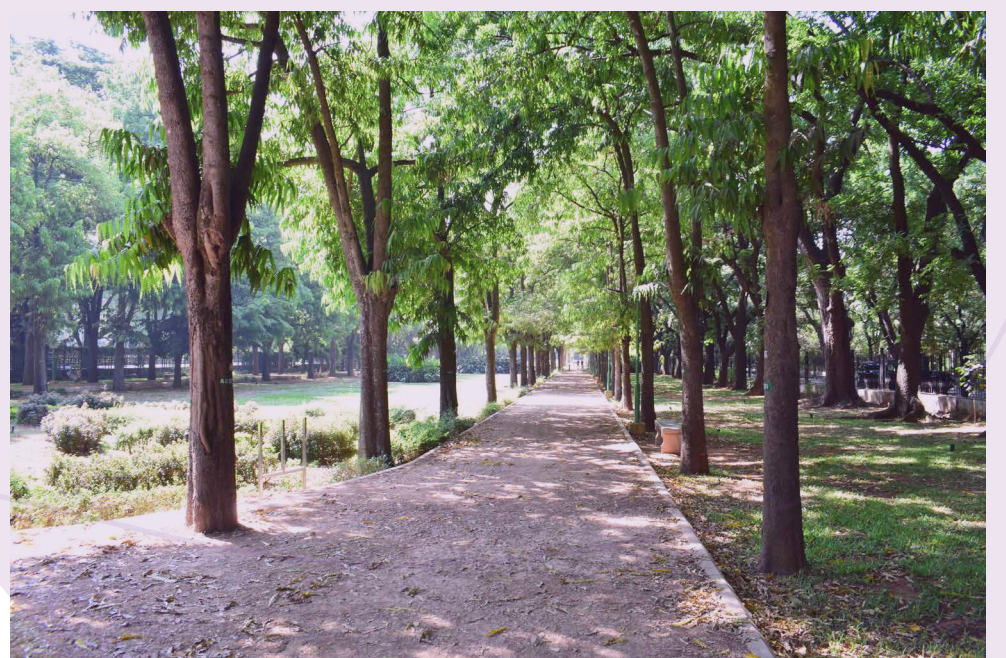
Abdul Kareem, TDU ([abdul.kareem@tdu.edu.in](mailto:abdul.kareem@tdu.edu.in))

The project aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation into climate-informed, urban planning. It is working to develop the City Biodiversity Index (CBI - also known as the Singapore Index from COP 2008) for Bengaluru city, specifically the BBMP; and will also undertake capacity building of stakeholders to address climate change through nature-based solutions.

Over the past year, the project has prepared a map of the natural assets of Bengaluru, developed the tree cover and permeability maps and developed detailed taxa-wise checklists of the biodiversity in the city. The governance of biodiversity within the city has also been mapped. Each of the 23 indicators of the CBI have been studied in detail and are being evaluated on the score range of 1-4, as per the CBI manual. Recommendations to improve the score for each indicator are also being worked on. The project is almost complete and a final comprehensive report is being prepared. The next steps will include dissemination of the report on various platforms.

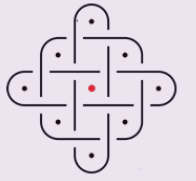


credits - ICLEI



credits - ICLEI



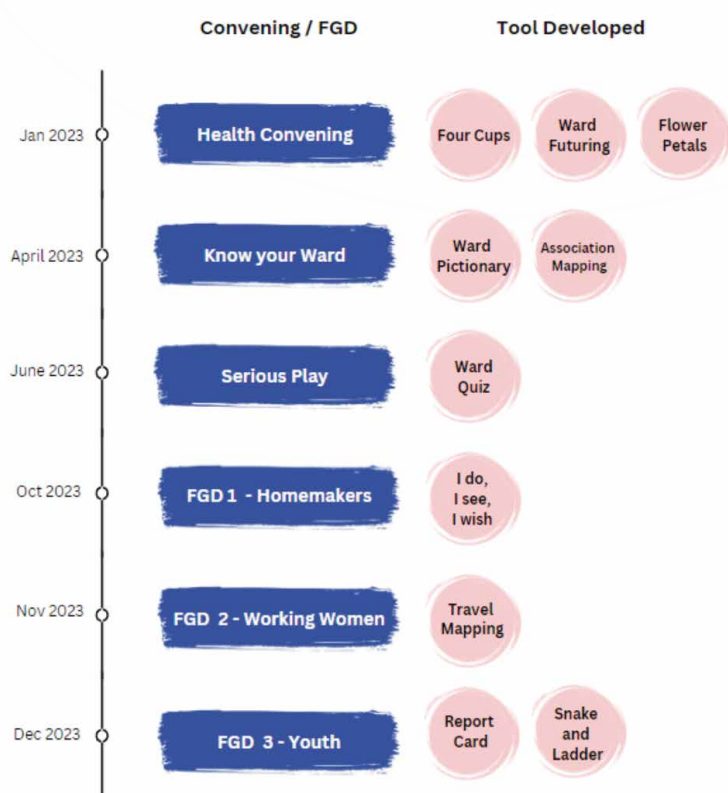


# Flourishing Bengaluru in the era of climate change

Project status: **Completed**

Contact: Bhargavi Nagendra, Socratus Foundation for Collective Wisdom  
(bhargavi.nagendra@socratus.org)

The project believes that "In the era of polycrisis, where multiple crises converge, cities need to be reimagined to address the challenges posed by climate change; to include Citizenship, Climate and Collaboration. Consequently, the project's 'Namma Ward Namma Dhvani' initiative explores the hypothesis that flourishing wards constitute a flourishing city.



Above: A timeline showcasing the different engagements with the ward and the tools developed over time.

Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team

Over the last year, the team has developed multiple tools across their engagement at the ward level to listen to different stakeholders, steer discussions towards ideas and design for action. These tools have been tested in the Shantinagar and Marappanpalya wards of Bengaluru. In time, the tools and playbook will be shared with partners for use in other wards, both within and outside the city. Drawing on learnings that emerged from discussions with community members, further work of the project will include Citizen Juries as a platform for the citizens of the ward to deliberate and come up with a vision for their ward to flourish; Climate Recipes to build on the narratives of people and their adaptations; and advocacy for better action, with other partners.



# Civic Crowdsourcing using technology



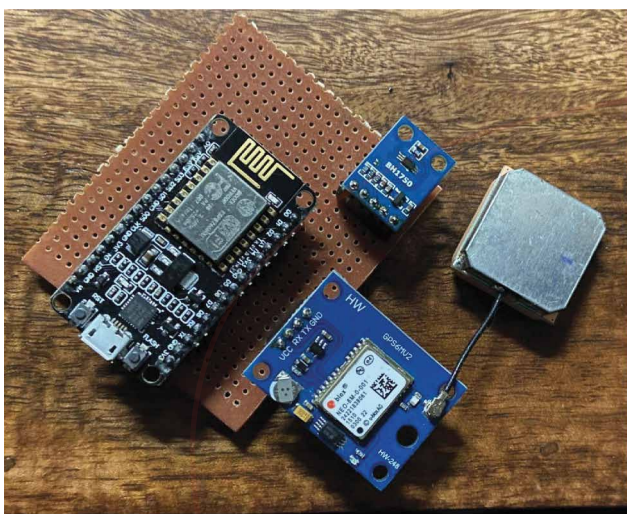
Project status: **Completed**

Contact: Pooja Pawar (poojapawar@reapbenefit.org)

Sarah misra (sarah@reapbenefit.org)

This project by Reap Benefit was started with the objective of changing how decision making for public good is done. It used crowdsourcing to collate and understand the various issues around us; to ensure more substantial and real-time inputs and resolution. For this, the team developed a Whatsapp chatbot to report potholes, broken footpaths, broken streetlights, broken urinals and garbage spots. The chatbot collects three key parameters; location, description and media, offering a comprehensive idea about the specific issue.

What started with a WhatsApp based chatbot has now grown to include a platform- SamaajData with hyper-local data across heat maps and geo-boundaries. The system is also being used for reporting other data points and is in use in more than 20 Indian cities as of now. The system is also being used for reporting other data points and is in use in more than 20 Indian cities as of now. This project has now given a way to a new initiative - Samaajdata Collective - with 5 organisations coming together and contributing 560000 data points committed to harnessing actionable insights from intersectional local data, enhancing community engagement, and driving systemic change to foster resilient communities.



## Our Data Categories

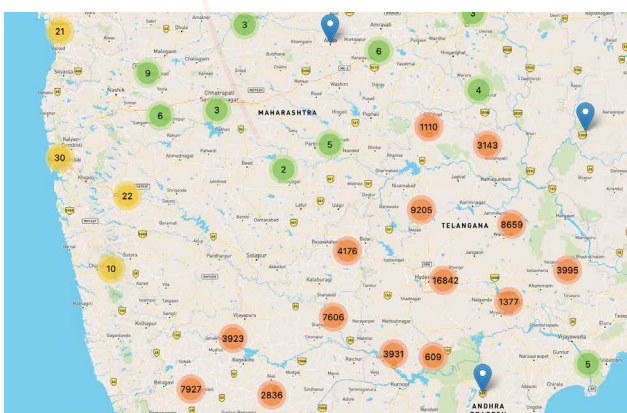
Explore our comprehensive data repository. 📊

**Total of close to 500,000+ data points mapped** 📍

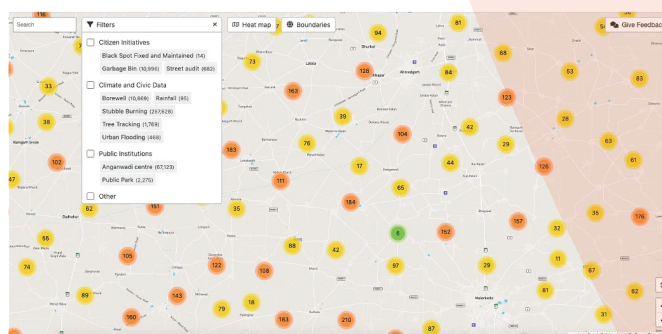
CITIZEN INITIATIVES

CLIMATE AND CIVIC DATA

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS



Credits - Project team



Credits - Project team

## Climate and Civic Data

1. Borewell: 10,869 events 💧
2. Rainfall: 95 events 🌧️
3. Stubble Burning: 257,628 events 🔥
4. Tree Tracking: 1,769 events 🌳
5. Urban Flooding: 468 events 🌊



Project website



# PEOPLE OF BSF

People are at the centre of what really makes BSF. And we have had the good fortune of having some wonderful people as part of our community. We would like to thank Seema Mundoli for her guidance as a part of the Steering Committee and Namrata Nagendra for anchoring BSF activities with dedication and drive. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

We are also happy that this year we had the opportunity to bring in a few new hands on deck to allow us to work towards realising our ambitious dream for a just and sustainable Bengaluru. Megha and Vinita joined the team and are bringing in new enthusiasm, determination, and a shared commitment to BSF's imaginations. This annual report serves as a testament to the same.

## Steering Committee



Jahnavi Phalkey is a filmmaker and historian of science and technology by training. Jahnavi is also the Founding Director of Science Gallery Bengaluru. Jahnavi has authored Atomic State: Big Science in Twentieth Century India and is director of the documentary film Cyclotron.

Jagdish Krishnaswamy has a B.Tech in Civil Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Powai, Mumbai and a Master's degree in Statistics and Decision Sciences and a PhD in Environmental science, both from Duke University, North Carolina, USA. He is a field ecohydrologist and a landscape ecologist. He was the Coordinating Lead Author of the Special IPCC Report on Climate Change and Land. He is the Dean, School of Environment and Sustainability at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru.



L.S. Shashidhara specializes in Genetics, Molecular Biology and Evolutionary biology. He is currently the Director of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), TIFR, Bangalore. Prof Shashidhara is one of the founding academic members of IISER Pune and Ashoka University, contributing to their growth. In addition, he has contributed to the Pune Knowledge Cluster, a consortium to promote multi-disciplinary collaborative work to address problems of health, water, environment and sustainable mobility. He has also been very involved in the promotion of science and science education.

Mahesh Sankaran is an ecologist whose research interests lie in understanding the impacts of global climatic changes on the structure, functioning and stability of ecosystems. He was the coordinating lead author on the IPBES Land Degradation & Restoration Assessment and a review-editor for the IPCC special report on land.







P.S. Narayan is the Head of Sustainability at Wipro Ltd, and the Managing Trustee & Head of Wipro Foundation, the CSR arm of Wipro Ltd. A graduate in Electrical Engineering with a post - graduation in management, Narayan has more than twenty five years of cross-functional experience. He has led Wipro's Sustainability initiatives since its inception in 2008. Narayan is Visiting Faculty at Azim Premji University and Xavier University, Bhubaneswar where he teaches post-graduate classes in ecology and sustainable development.

Prof. Satyajit Mayor is an Indian cell biologist. Prof. Mayor has an M.Sc. in Chemistry from IIT Bombay, and obtained his Ph.D. in Life Sciences from Rockefeller University, New York. He has worked in the Department of Pathology at Columbia University before returning to India in 1995 to join the NCBS in Bangalore.



S. Vishwanath is a Civil Engineer and an Urban Planner. He is a Trustee with the Biome Environmental Trust. He has 32 years of experience in the water, waste-water and sanitation sector helping design rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, wastewater recycling and ecosan systems. He is an Adjunct Professor and teaches a course on Water at the Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, India. He writes a weekly column called Waterwise for the last 11 years and more in a national newspaper-The Hindu.

Tejal Kanitkar is an Associate Professor in the School of Natural Sciences and Engineering at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. She has worked in the area of Energy and Climate Change for the last 15 years. She has a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from Mumbai University, A Master's in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Ph.D. from the Department of Energy Science and Engineering, IIT-Bombay. Her work covers the broad areas of energy and emissions modelling, climate policy, and energy policy.



Uma Ramakrishnan is an associate professor at NCBS interested in molecular ecology and conservation genetics. Her work involves using genetic and genomic data to make inferences about populations of endangered species, and suggest measures to avoid extinction. She also investigates the ecological and evolutionary contexts of emerging infectious disease. She is passionate about science communication and science capacity building.



# WIPRO Anchors



Nakul Heble is an urban water professional currently helping communities, organisations and individuals secure funding to conserve and protect resources as well as adapt to a rapidly changing climate. In his previous role, he has worked as a researcher on climate and urban water policy and environmental regulation.

Lingaraj Dinni has been anchoring various sustainability programs for Wipro over the last 13 years. He was closely involved in the design and implementation of sustainability disclosures, climate risk assessments, campus biodiversity and programs with human resources and procurement . A program that he was involved with since the beginning - Wipro Earthian, a national sustainability education program - has reached out to hundreds of schools and colleges over the past decade. At present, he is an advisor to Wipro Foundation. He is now involved with a neighborhood focussed sustainability and livability accelerator called LVBL.



# BSF Team



Coordinator

Manasi Pingle is a filmmaker by training. After graduating from the Xaviers Institute of Communications, she worked in the television and film industry in Mumbai. She has directed and produced 2 documentaries on work done by peoples’ movements. As a part of BSF she looks forward to working towards just, equitable and sustainable urban development.

Vinita is a development professional by training. After graduating from TISS in 1997, she has worked with children and adults on aspects of education, child labour, livelihoods, waste and behaviour change. At BSF her focus is to engage with and explore how the interdisciplinary and collaborative approach can create a more equitable and sustainable Bengaluru.



Coordinator



Social Media and Communications

Mukund Krishna Kumar is a communications professional with a background in development studies.His interests include people-facing research, governanceand urban sustainability. At BSF, he hopes to bridge the gap between sustainability solutions and the individuals they impact, creating a more inclusive and equitable future.

Megha Kashyap is a designer and illustrator by training who's interest lies in communicating topics on the current climate issues. At BSF, she strives to use creative approaches to make topics on sustainability in the city accessible and engaging to a wide audience.



Social Media and Communications



# In closing

As we start a brand new year, we hope to carry forward our learnings and experiences from the previous one; seek out newer and more diverse collaborators and work stronger towards our collective vision of a just and sustainable Bengaluru. As we do this, we are cognisant that sustainability and related aspects are complex issues and need a variety of actors who bring in their own unique experiences and perspectives. We also recognise that the challenges on hand need new ways of thinking that create long-term solutions, rather than quick-fixes. To this end, we will continue to explore ways to collaborate and facilitate collaborations that bring together entities who may not traditionally do so.

Our proposed engagements under Climate Charche for the coming year will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach and include Focus group discussions with the city's vulnerable communities, Climate Education workshop series for students of architecture, a Film festival, a Podcast, Round Tables, capacity building workshops and more open sessions for the general public; as well as social media campaigns.

Through the Grantee Gatherings, we will continue to cultivate a vibrant community where shared knowledge, mutual support and collaborative initiatives flourish. We also hope to extend the reach of the Small Grant Projects Poster exhibition - make it available both in English and Kannada, and explore the possibility of a travelling exhibition within the city.

Do reach out if you would like to be a part of this journey.

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