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E-Newsletter - June 2024



Dear friends,

I want to highlight a significant climate-positive development of the year: the unveiling of Bangladesh’s capital Dhaka’s first-ever Paris-aligned Climate Action Plans (CAP), developed by Dhaka North and South City Corporations. The CAPs will help transition Dhaka towards a sustainable, climate-resilient, net-zero development model, while emphasising good governance, enhanced service delivery, and social equity.

Bangladesh contributes less than 1% to global emissions but is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. But its proactive climate leadership is set to change its image of being a climate victim. I am proud to announce that ICLEI South Asia, jointly with C40 Cities, supported the two corporations in Dhaka in developing their CAPs, which provide a strategic roadmap for improving energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy usage, promoting low-carbon transportation, and managing air quality, water, and waste. The CAPs were released in Dhaka at an event attended by Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bangladesh, Saber Hossain Chowdhury; Hon'ble Mayor North Dhaka City Corporation, Atiqul Islam, and Hon'ble Mayor South Dhaka City Corporation, Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, as well as key stakeholders, government dignitaries, and climate experts.

Much of South Asia is grappling with a deadly heat wave, underscoring the need for such

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comprehensive climate action. This extreme weather event highlights the importance of our collaborative efforts to build resilient cities that can withstand future challenges. In this

edition, we have a blog on ICLEI South Asia’s multifaced strategy, as the South Asia Technical Coordinator of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, to enhance the capacity of local governments and other stakeholders to address climate change and related challenges, and another blog on a community-led initiative for water supply in Ladakh, India. I hope this content, including a report on a study tour on energy efficiency in the Philippines under the Asia LEDS Partnership, inspires you to send us your insights and feedback.

Please keep following us on social media for more updates.

Emani Kumar

Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI and Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Dhaka Unveils Ambitious Climate Action Plans for Sustainable Future

Dhaka North and South City Corporations have unveiled comprehensive Climate Action Plans to achieve climate resilience and sustainable urban development. The plans focus on reducing emissions, enhancing energy efficiency, and promoting sustainable waste management. Key stakeholders, including government dignitaries and climate experts, emphasised the importance of collective action and international collaboration at the launch event.



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ALP-GCAP Site Visit, Training Supports Philippines’ Climate, Energy Goals

The Global Climate Action Partnership (GCAP) and the Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP) are providing technical assistance to the Philippines’ Department of Energy in achieving the country’s energy goals towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as outlined in its Nationally Determined Contribution. To support these efforts, an ALP-GCAP delegation conducted a site visit in May to offer targeted support and training.



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Kakinada CRCAP: City Discusses Findings of Emissions Inventory, Climate Risk Analysis

A consultation meeting was held with the Kakinada Municipal Corporation (KMC) under the C40-supported Mainstreaming

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Climate Action in Three Cities in Andhra Pradesh project, which aims to integrate and mainstream climate

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considerations in Kakinada city's planning, implementation and delivery of municipal services. The findings of the urban systems baseline analysis, GHG inventory, climate risk and vulnerability assessment, and the way forward for preparing a Climate Resilient City Action Plan were discussed.



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Kakinada City to Receive CDKN Support

An ICLEI South Asia team met senior officials of the KMC to brief them about the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN): Accelerating Inclusive Action programme. CDKN aims to extend technical support to the KMC in assessing its disaster resilience, preparing a climate-induced disaster-resilient action plan focusing on gender equality and social inclusion and ecosystem-based adaptation actions, and executing a pilot project.



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Elevating Climate Leadership: Milestones in Supporting GCoM Member Cities in South Asia

The member cities of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) collaborate to work towards a resilient, low-emission development, tackling climate and economic crises through local initiatives and innovative financing models. ICLEI South Asia, as the GCoM South Asia Technical Coordinator, has been implementing a multifaceted strategy, involving capacity building, technical support on the preparation of climate action plans and support on accessing climate finance.



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Dhulikhel, CDKN Asia Hold First Shared Learning Dialogue

An ICLEI South Asia team visited Dhulikhel Municipality in Nepal to apprise the Climate Core Team of the city about the progress under the CDKN programme, and to facilitate the First Shared Learning Dialogue to discuss the city profile, climate risks, and socio-ecological systems. ICLEI South Asia is supporting the municipality in developing a Local Adaptation Plan of Action, and in implementing a pilot project focusing on gender equality, disability and social inclusion, locally-led adaptation and ecosystem-based adaptation.



From Frost To Flow: An Exemplary Community-Led Initiative for Water Supply in Ladakh

A key initiative is looking to reduce the water woes of the people in Gangles ward in Leh city, Ladakh, India. The temperature in the ward, located at an altitude of about 11,000 feet, can touch -30 degrees Celsius, resulting in the freezing of water pipes and other machinery, and frequent breakdowns of mechanical equipment. The local government, an NGO and a civil society organisation collaborated to implement a pilot project for supplying piped water to Gangles, with scope to scale it up in other areas.



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“मसला नज़रिया बदलने का है- बदलाव खुद-ब-खुद हो जाता है”

उदयपुर नगर निगम की अशासकीय अधिकारी शशिबाला सिंह जी अपनी खुशमिजाज़ी और काम को अलग व रचनात्मक तरीके से करने के लिए जानी जाती हैं। वह Urban95 परियोजना टीम से शुरुआत से जुड़ी हुई हैं और सभी कार्यक्रमों में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लेती हैं। हाल ही में, Urban95 शहरी चयन परियोजना के अंतर्गत आयोजित क्षमता निर्माण कार्यशालाओं में भाग लेने के बाद शशिबाला जी से एक साक्षात्कार हुआ, जिसमें उन्होंने अपने अनुभव और काम में हुए सकारात्मक बदलावों के बारे में चर्चा की।



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Hyd's score on City Biodiversity Index improves significantly

Hyderabad scores the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) of 10.7, an increase from 9.7 in 2022. The improvement indicates the city administration's commitment to enhancing biodiversity conservation within the city.

The year 2023 saw a significant increase in the number of species recorded in the city, particularly in the urban areas. The CBI score is a composite of various factors, including the number of species, the area of green spaces, and the quality of the urban environment.

The score is calculated based on the following factors:

- Number of species:** The number of species recorded in the city, including plants, animals, and insects.
- Area of green spaces:** The total area of green spaces, including parks, gardens, and forests.
- Quality of the urban environment:** The quality of the urban environment, including air quality, water quality, and noise levels.

The score is a reflection of the city's commitment to biodiversity conservation and its efforts to create a more sustainable and livable urban environment.

A 'CBI' INVESTIGATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL KIND

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a tool used to measure the biodiversity of a city. It is based on the number of species recorded in the city and the area of green spaces. The CBI score is a composite of various factors, including the number of species, the area of green spaces, and the quality of the urban environment.

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The score is a reflection of the city's commitment to biodiversity conservation and its efforts to create a more sustainable and livable urban environment.



Investigate plant species: There are 10 invasive plant species with 10 categorized as high risk. Among these high-risk species, a fast-growing tree species, the Blackbush, is particularly concerning. It is a native species and its rapid growth is causing significant damage to the city's biodiversity.

About the Index: The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a tool used to measure the biodiversity of a city. It is based on the number of species recorded in the city and the area of green spaces. The CBI score is a composite of various factors, including the number of species, the area of green spaces, and the quality of the urban environment.



'Srinagar's biodiversity index': A natural paradise in India's northernmost capital

Srinagar, India's northernmost capital city, stands out as a biodiversity haven nestled in the embrace of the Himalayas. Known for its picturesque landscapes, Srinagar is also a sanctuary of diverse flora and fauna thriving in its vibrant gardens, serene lakes, lush forests, and bustling waterways.

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI), released last year by I.C. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, offers a comprehensive assessment of Srinagar's biodiversity. Developed by ICLEI South Asia with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council, the CBI underscores Srinagar's commitment to conserving its natural heritage.

"The CBI for Srinagar directly supports India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) goals such as conserving bio-



diversity, protecting critical ecosystems, and promoting equitable benefit-sharing with local communities. Additionally, it aligns with Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 15, which focuses on preserving terrestrial ecosystems and halting biodiversity loss. This integration strengthens Srinagar's capacity to implement targeted conservation strategies ensuring the city's natural heritage is protected and resilient against environmental and urban pressures," said Emami Khatami, Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia.

Srinagar's CBI reveals an impressive array of species. The city boasts 172 bird species, including the Northern Shorebird, Eurasian Wigeon, Himalayan Bulbul, Great Cormorant, and Black Kite. The plant diversity includes 157 species, with native species like West Himalayan Fir, Sweet Flag, and Indian Horse Chestnut, alongside introduced species such as Oriental Plane and White Poplar. Srinagar's butterfly population features 36 species, including the Plain Marbled Skipper, Large Cabbage

White, Painted Lady, and Indian Frigatefly. The city's aquatic life is highlighted by 14 major fish species, including Chirruh snowtrout, Sattar snowtrout, and Aara gurnee. Srinagar also hosts 13 mammal species, including the Jungle Cat, Eurasian Otter, and Asian Black Bear. Additionally, the CBI documents 120 parks managed by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, covering 13.9 hectares, along with several other parks managed by various agencies covering 201.6 hectares.

"This CBI is a comprehensive evaluation that on one hand documents a vast array of species while on the other acts as a vital instrument in our continuous quest to preserve these precious ecosystems. This index illustrates how urban areas can coexist sustainably with their natural environments. By grasping the unique challenges and opportunities in Srinagar, we are supporting the city administration to implement focused conservation strategies that maintain the ecological harmony of the region, ensuring its resilience amidst developmental growth and urban growth," said Dr. Moulija Sen, Senior Programme Coordinator (Biodiversity), ICLEI South Asia.

The Illustrated Natural Asset Map, developed under the INTERACT-Bio project, captures Srinagar's diverse ecosystems, including streams, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and forests. Supported by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, this map emphasizes the importance of biodiversity protection within urban settings. The map showcases Srinagar's vital ecosystems and biodiversity, highlighting protected areas such as Dachigam National Park and the Zabarwan Hills, against the stunning backdrop of the Himalayas.

The CBI provides a structured approach to understanding and conserving urban biodiversity, ensuring sustainability and enhancing the quality of life in Srinagar. It serves as a crucial tool for monitoring and enhancing the city's ecological health and biodiversity management.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar: Energy Preliminary Management (EPM) and Its Achievements

Join the Asia LEDS Partnership Peer Learning Session on Energy Preliminary Management (EPM) and its achievements. Learn how Chinese Taipei balances energy demand and supply. This session is an opportunity to explore similar approaches implemented by other stakeholders and learn from their experiences to further enhance energy management strategies.



Date: 27 June, 2024
Time: 11:30-12:30 IST | 14:00-15:00 Taipei Time.

REGISTER [here](#).

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- ICLEI announces 8th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities at Biodiversity COP16
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About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

ICLEI firmly believes that sustainable cities are the foundation of a just and sustainable world. We create systemic change in urban areas through practical, integrated solutions and spark city-to-city and city-to-region connections. ICLEI brings a strong urban component to national and global sustainability policy and translates global policy into action. Through our collective efforts, ICLEI is building a sustainable urban world to shift the trajectory of global development.

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