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Report of URGENT Consultation Workshop on Indian Stakeholder Interactive Platform

**December 14th 2022
in New Delhi, India**

Hosted by…

National Institute of Urban Affairs

In Cooperation with Partner Institutions…

1. Attendees

1.1 In-Person Attendees

A total of 23 participants attended the consultation workshop hosted by the National Institute of Urban Affairs of India. A list of participants can be found below as well as signatures of the attendees for the meeting. From European partners, the University of Catania, the Estonian University of Life Sciences and the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg were represented. From the Mongolian partners, the Khovd School of Science and Technology, the Mongolian University of Life Sciences and the National University of Mongolia were present. From the Indian partners, the National Institute of Urban Affairs was the host of the event, with Pondicherry University, SKUAST-K and JNU University being represented in the meeting.

Consultation Workshop on Indian Stakeholder Interactive Platform
Venue: Conference Room, National Institute of Urban Affairs   Date: 14 December 2022
Attendance Sheet

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Institution/ Organisation	Signature
1.	Siddhant Anand Gam	COO	ARMS 4 AI	
2.	Dr Mathimaran Natarajan	Assoc. Prof.	Pondicherry University	
3.	Ochir Altansukh	Prof	National University of Mongolia	
4.	Arjan de Groot	University Researcher	Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg	
5.	Bat-Erdene Ariunsanaa	Senior lecturer, National U. of Mongolia	National University of Mongolia	
6.	Siiri Külm	Junior Researcher	Estonian University of Life Sciences	
7.	Oyunchimeg Namsrai	Assoc. prof. National Un. of Mongolia	National University of Mongolia	
8.	Munkhtuushin Khishigzundui	Lecturer of MULS	Mongolian University of Life Sciences	
9.	Banzragch Dalai	Senior lecturer doctor	Mongolian University of Life Sciences	
10	Kalev Sepp	Prof	Estonian University of Life sc.	
11	Henri Järv	Jun. Researcher	Estonian Uni of life Sciences	
12	Luca Barbarossa	resercher	University of Catania	
13	Riccardo Privitera	Assistant Professor	University of Catania	

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Institution/ Organisation	Signature
14	Batbayar Bayarkhuu	Prof	KHU, Mongolia	
15	Baterdene Ganchimeg	Lecturer	KHU, Mongolia	
16	Dr. Shah Murtaza Mushtaq	Asstt. Prof.	SKUAST-K, Srinagar	
17	Akhlaq Amin Wani	Professor	SKUAST-K Srinagar	
18	Susanta Mahato	Post-Doc	JNU, New Delhi	
19	P K Joshi	Prof.	JNU New Delhi	
20.	Dr. Gurjeet Kaur	Assistant Professor	Pondicherry University	
21	Sarath Babu. M.G	Lead C3	NIUA	
22	Dr. Debjani Ghosh	Team Lead	NIUA	-sd-
23	Hitesh Vaidya	Director	NIUA	-sd-

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1.2 Online Attendees

Representatives from other URGENT partner institutions as well as a number of representatives from institutions that have joined the Stakeholder Interactive Platform joined the meeting through an online conference room. Breakout sessions were conducted online and with the attendance of online and offline participants to include the viewpoints of all participants.

1.3 Group Photo of In-Person Attendees

Below is a photo of all attendees of the SIP Consultation Workshop hosted by NIUA.

PartialColumn

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2. Agenda and Goals

2.1 Agenda

Pictured below is the agenda for the SIP Consultation Workshop in New Delhi on December 14th, 2022. Both online and offline participants were able to follow the entire agenda and were present for all sessions.

Time (Duration)	Session Agenda
9:30 to 10:00	Registration of Delegates
Session 1: Inauguration & Welcome	
10: 00 to 10:10 (10 Minutes)	**Welcome** **Dr. Debjani Ghosh,** National Institute of Urban Affairs
10:10 to 10:20 (10 Minutes)	**Partners Introduction**
10: 20 to 10: 30 (10 Minutes)	**Group Photo at Amphitheatre**
10:30 to 10:40 (10 Minutes)	**Introduction to URGENT Project and Context setting** **Prof Kalev Sepp,** Estonian University of Life Sciences
10:40 to 10:50 (10 Minutes)	**Keynote Address** **Mr. Hitesh Vaidya,** Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs
10:50 to 11:00 (10 Minutes)	**Learnings from Mainstream Climate Actions in Indian Cities** **Mr Sarath Babu M G,** Lead (Data & Technology), Climate Centre for Cities, NIUA
11:00 to 11:10 (10 Minutes)	**Introduction to Stakeholder Interactive Platform** **Mr. Arjan de Groot** Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg
11:10 to 11:15 (5 Minutes)	**Vote of Thanks** **Prof. P K Joshi,** Jawaharlal Nehru University
11:15 to 11:30 (15 Minutes)	**Tea Break**

Time (Duration)	Session Agenda
Session 2: Relevance of NBS Solution and National SIP	
11:30 to 11:50 (20 Minutes)	**Relevance of Nature-Based Solutions in the Indian Context** • **Ms Sayli Mankikar,** Head, City Climate Alliance, NIUA • **Ms Jaya Dhindhaw,** Program Director - Integrated Urban Development, Planning and Resilience, WRI
11:50 to 12:40 (50 Minutes)	**Open Discussion on Relevance of National SIP** **Facilitator :** • **Prof. Jayakumar,** Pondicherry University (Online) and • **Prof. P K Joshi,** Jawaharlal Nehru University
12:40 to 1:30 (50 Minutes)	**Lunch Break**
Session 3: Existing Efforts – Breakout Sessions	
1:30 to 2:30 pm (60 Minutes)	**Discussion on Enablers and Barriers of SIP** **Facilitator:** • **Prof. Akhlaq Amin Wani** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Tech of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) and • **Riccardo Privitera** University of Catania
2: 30 pm to 3 pm (30 Minutes)	**Presentation by each group** **Moderator** • **Shr.i Loveleen Garg,** GIFT City
3 pm to 3:30 pm (30 Minutes)	**Wrap Up and Way Forward** Mr. Arjan de Groot/ Dr. Anton Shkaruba, Eston Sciences
3:30 pm to 4:00 pm (30 Minutes)	**Tea**

2.2 Objective and Context

The SIP consultation workshop was planned and conducted by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in India. The context behind the workshop was the fast-increasing urban population in India, where already one third of the population lives in cities. Current projections predict that by the end of the current decade, India's urban population will increase by 590 million people and its GDP contribution is set to increase to 75% from the current 63%.

Cities especially are confronted by more and more urbanisation challenges now and in the future, such as waste management, liveable space for its inhabitants and infrastructural challenges. Moreover, with the advent of climate change, extreme events such as flooding, heat waves and cyclones are projected to occur more frequently and thus also present a challenge for urban management. According to the latest IPCC Special Report, India is projected to experience more cyclones with high-intensity storms and is exposed to a higher risk of extreme rainfall as well as annually occurring heat waves. The increasing pace of urbanization and associated challenges thus aggravate cities' vulnerability to impacts from extreme events and make it more prone to suffer from outbreaks of diseases. There is a pressing need to embed climate actions at the heart of urban discourse, and as cities grow, urban governance and planning systems must be strengthened to ensure cities reach their maximum potential despite climate-related challenges. Applying a climate lens to academia will safeguard the interest of citizens and urban investments, and pave the way for a forward-looking, climate-proof, inclusive and integrated urban transformation in India.

With an intent to enrich Indian research on urban resilience, the Indian National Interactive Stakeholder Platform (SIP) was launched under the umbrella of the URGENT project. Following on preliminary efforts already conducted, this consultation workshop had three primary objecties:

1. To stimulate a **healthy and conducive dialogue on the relevance of the approach of mainstreaming climate actions** to ensure a qualitative and efficient improvement of the education process and academic workflow support among universities and stakeholders across the URGENT partner countries.
2. To discuss **and create sustainable feedback mechanisms** for end-users, ensuring adaptive and practice-relevant teaching contents, knowledge co-production opportunities and stakeholder support to post-project course development and teaching.
3. To create a space for stakeholders to **discuss the opportunities and best practices for meaningful frameworks to support research and strengthen the further development of Green and Blue Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions in India**. The objective was to encourage a healthy conversation regarding the strategic, tactical, and operational roles of partnerships at the national and regional level.

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3. Session 1

3.1 Inauguration and Welcome of Participants

Dr. Debjani Ghosh, associate professor at the Institute of Urban Affairs opened the consultation workshop and welcomed all the participants. She briefly spoke about the aforementioned goals of the workshop, after which all partners present online and offline had the opportunity to introduce themselves and their respective institutions.

Following the round of introductions, Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, director of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, provided the keynote address. In his speech, Mr. Vaidya spoke of the opportunity of the present research and URGENT project partners to influence the agenda of the upcoming G20 meeting in 2023 in New Delhi in which NIUA assumes a technical position in its implementation. He further elaborated that the URGENT project and participants of the consultation workshop as well as other members of the Stakeholder Interactive Platform to organise a side event at the G20 meeting. Upscaling and positioning the URGENT project in a more global manner should be discussed within this consultation workshop. Mr. Vaidya also introduced the Climate Assessment Framework in which 126 cities within India were evaluated to assess if they are prepared for upcoming social and ecological challenges that cities will have to overcome in the next decades. Moreover, mobility and the need to address mobility in cities, with specific regard to climate-resilient cities, was also mentioned in Mr. Vaidya's opening speech and its importance impressed upon the participants. The intent of creating a domino effect in which initial efforts could snowball through various stakeholders to create a common vision and a shared approach to ensure a sustainable and resilient pathway forward for cities. The importance of alliances, partnerships and shared efforts and to continue the good work so far done under the URGENT project was highlighted, and Mr. Vaidya closed his opening speech with impressing the necessity to translate scientific speech and results into more practical, workable and understandable approaches for cities and planning institutions. Science, policy makers and planners all need to share the same vision and adopt a common approach to tackle the challenges ahead.

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3.2 Learning from Mainstream Climate Actions in Indian Cities

Mr. Sarath Babu, Lead for Data and Technology and Climate Centre for Cities at NIUA provided the next thematic input to the workshop. He presented on the learnings from NIUA's efforts to mainstream climate actions in cities and spoke about NIUA's work on urban action and promoting sustainability. NIUA manages the climate centre for cities, a national effort to manage and inform about climate actions in the country. The centre aims at creating synergises among stakeholders through partnerships to strengthen capacities to monitor and regulate processes and create targets to address climate problems. Mr. Babu also spoke about additional and related efforts such as the Urban River Management Plan, the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework and the River-Sensitive Master Planning, a legal binding official document for improving river ecosystems.

The Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) is divided into five thematic areas and 28 indicators. ClimateSMART Cities Assessment Framework was launched for the 100 Smart cities in order to incentivize a holistic, climate responsive development. This is a first-of-its-kind Assessment Framework for cities, aimed at creating a green mind-set in cities while they plan and undertake various developmental projects. The Framework includes various air and climate relevant parameters that shall guide the cities and help them to assess their own preparedness to tackle the menace of climate change and degrading air quality. The Ministry announced the individual city readiness report of the first cycle of ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework during the 3rd Smart City CEO Conference held at Visakhapatnam on Jan 24-25, 2020. The cities can view their scores, performance report and recommendation for further improvement on the SmartNet portal. The concluded phase of assessment did not intend to rank the cities but rather to help them understand their status regarding climate mitigation and adaptation.

Additionally, NIUA manages and is involved in a number of collaborative spaces for climate action such as the River City Alliance (a space for discussion and exchange of information with regard to sustainable management of rivers in urban areas), the India Forum for Nature-based Solutions and the City Climate Alliance.

3.3 Learning from Mainstream Climate Actions in Indian Cities

Before the coffee break, Mr. Arjan de Groot of the Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg introduced the Stakeholder Interactive Platform to all participants and spoke about the current state of the SIP as well as future developments. The SIP was launched in August 2022 and contains subpages for both the Indian and the Mongolian context. Additionally, the existing URGENT Facebook group was mentioned as well and participants were encouraged to sign up to both platforms. Mr. de Groot introduced the overall aims and objectives for the SIP, which are:

-   Promote urban resilience and urban sustainability by strengthening the development of green and blue infrastructure
-   Strengthen interaction between academia and on-ground actors and develop a sustainable feedback mechanism between URGENT partners and SIP stakeholders
-   Ensure that URGENT deliverables are sustained past the project lifetime and that the SIP acts as an anchor for project outputs
-   Listen to feedback from practitioners and cooperate on projects through regular consultation events and periodic updates and functionality changes on the SIP

Addressed as well were the Indian SIP stakeholders, which at the moment of the workshop, comprised the following eight actors:

-   Universal Eco Foundation
-   Indian Geoinformatics Centre
-   The Regional Research Station, ICAR Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI)
-   National Agriculture Development Cooperative Ltd.
-   The Innovative Institute for Natural Resource Environment and Community (TIINEC)
-   ARMS 4 AI Private Limited
-   Kesarjan Builiding Centre
-   Vastu Shilpa Sangath LLP

Mr. de Groot also spoke about potential upcoming features on the SIP, which can be seen below. These features could then be discussed among the participants of the workshop and the wishes and opinions of the people present would be considered in their potential development. The features included

-   Consultation and Data Exchange
    -   Incorporate expertise and risk assessment of stakeholders into project decisions
    -   Collect and share data between URGENT partners and stakeholders
-   Events and Meetings
    -   Participation in meetings for updating / improving the SIP
    -   Sharing of events and collaboration and support for events

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- Digital Platform and Community
    o Forum or similar means of interactive exchange
    o Mix-and-Match for e.g. internships, project proposals, shared event collaborations
- Thematic Discussion Groups
    o Specific groups for specific focal areas (e.g. Green-Blue Infrastructure, Nature-based Solutions, GIS, …).

In his closing words, Mr. de Groot spoke about the necessity to use this consultation workshop as a means to create a shared vision with regard to future developments for the SIP. URGENT pays special attention to creating a product with the SIP that is of interest and value to all the participants joining the SIP.

3.4 Vote of Thanks

Professor P K Joshi provided words of thanks for the attendance of all the partners, especially the international partners and also thanked NIUA for their willingness to host the meeting and thanked Prof. Kalev Sepp for introducing the URGENT project and providing the context setting for the entire workshop. After the word of thanks, a group photograph was taken in front of the NIUA building, before the agenda continued with Session 2.

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4. Session 2

4.1 Relevance of Nature-based Solutions in the Indian Context

Session 2 was opened with a presentation by Ms. Sayli Mankikar, Head of the City Climate Alliance, and Ms. Jaya Dhindhaw, Program Director at Integrated Urban Development, Planning and Resilience, WRI. They introduced NIUA's 360-degree approach towards nature-based solution, i.e. how NIUA and their alliance of partners work on achieving carbon neutral cities by 2030. In their presentation, they highlighted the large share that cities contribute to national carbon emissions and impressed the need to ensure sustainable transitions towards achieving carbon neutrality. Ms. Sayli introduced the 360° view that NIUA adopts, consisting of five steps:

- Research
- Peer to Peer Learning
- Tools
- Capacity Building
- Technology and Knowledge Sharing

Additionally, part of NIUA's network of alliance includes various research projects that Ms. Sayli introduced and presented, namely

- Urban River Management Plan
- River City Alliance
- Blue-Green Masterplan Delhi
- Sanitation Capacity Building Platform
- Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework
- Online Certification Programmes
- Urban Water Body Diagnostic Tool

Some of these approaches were already mentioned earlier and will thus not be explained in greater detail again. Ms. Sayli closed her presentation by mentioning NIUA's nature-based solutions approach and how to best integrate this approach into the efforts of the URGENT SIP. This potential was briefly discussed and how to create community and practices that cooperate and feed into the larger objectives of the various projects.

Ms. Jaya Dhindhaw, working for the World Resources Institute (WRI), continued and spoke on the relevance of nature-based solutions in India. The WRI examines how different ecological systems can create transformative change both for an environmental and a developmental standpoint. In India, the WRI cooperates and works with more than 40 cities on these topics.

With regard to nature-based solutions, Ms. Dhindhaw highlighted that current urbanisation developments are often messy and fragmented, lacking a sustainable vision and thus causing a number of societal and environmental challenges. Additionally, it was mentioned that India is the 7th most vulnerable country to rapid climate change. She highlighted the large potential

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of nature-based solutions to lead the country to a sustainable urban pathway, considering that 75% of India's infrastructure for 2050 is yet to be build. As such, planning these infrastructures with the integration of nature-based solutions provides a great opportunity towards sustainable urban development.

In her presentation, Ms. Dhindhaw presented the concept of nature-based solutions, their aim to generate both societal and environmental benefits while safeguarding people's livelihoods and providing chances for sustainable urban growth. She also spoke about various specific methods in the realm of nature-based solutions, such as the creation of wetlands, green roofs or rain gardens to combat adverse effects of climate change. The cost-effectiveness and multi-functionality of nature-based solutions was also highlighted. Moreover, the challenges of implementing nature-based solutions, such as lack of ownership and maintenance or high gestation period for return on investments were also addressed and discussed during the presentation.

Furthermore, Ms. Dhindhaw spoke on current political efforts with regard to implementing nature-based solutions. A few examples are noted below, such as the efforts of the Ministry of Environment to develop 200 urban forest areas across India, the Indian commitment to ecological fiscal transfers whereby regions are incentivised to increase the forest cover, or the adopted green-blue masterplans in cities and the climate and clean air action plans and policies. Her presentation was closed with an overview of how a transition to resilient city-regions in India could look like, and which projects are currently ongoing.

4.2 Open Discussion on Relevance of National SIP

Prof. Jayakumar and Prof. P K Joshi provided an overview of the relevance of national SIP to the project's objectives as well as mapping the aspiration of participants towards the SIP and potential developments. In this interactive session during the afternoon of the workshop, participants discussed among each other in a brainstorming session and reflected on questions provided by Prof. Jayakumar and Prof. Joshi. The main question for facilitating discussion during session 2 and the accompanying discussion is outlined below:

<u>Aspiration Mapping</u>

How do you reflect on the relevance of the Stakeholder Interactive Platform? How can the SIP help in achieving the goals of the project?

➔ Various stakeholders participated in sharing their experiences and provided their reflections towards the importance of the SIP. Some actors mentioned the usefulness of the platform for sharing experiences and tools for the platform. The need to be connected and share a common vision was also highlighted by many participants. With regard to how the SIP can help in achieving the project's goals, it was mentioned that the practitioners in the field of sustainable development, the engineers, decision makers and on-the ground actors should not be forgotten and their opinions should also be regarded.

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➔ The potential to specifically address young students and children and shape an enhanced understanding towards ecological and urban challenges was also mentioned. Contributing to a change in awareness in the next generation would be vital for the country's development in the next decades.

➔ All actors agreed that knowledge sharing possibilities would be one of the major aspects of the platforms and was welcomed by all participants.

➔ Interactive aspects built into the platform was also mentioned by actors. It would be welcomed if participants in the SIP could exchange information and discuss with each other directly on the platform.

➔ The necessity for local solutions and local development was highlighted.

➔ It was suggested that land owners and the agricultural sectors as well as the private sector are essential for realising the project's goals.

➔ It was also mentioned that one partner in the SIP is currently working on a platform for data collection through which partners could then upload and retrieve data.

➔ It could be considered to open the platform to the general public and to make it more accessible once certain results and achievements are generated.

➔ The SIP could help in guiding managers and decision makers on project implementation.

➔ It was also discussed that more interaction and partners could be added to the partners and to facilitate this, the snowball approach was mentioned through which existing partners would contact and involve

➔ Special focus should also be devoted to the aspect of how to translate scientific results in a meaningful way that allows practitioners to apply these scientific concepts on the ground.

➔ A few participants also mentioned that the SIP could serve as a database or repository for NbS. A catalogue of best practices for different environmental challenges was mentioned.

➔ Lastly, on-the-ground practitioners should be involved in partnerships and alliances and thus should be represented in the SIP as well.

➔ In a concluding round of discussion, the attendees of the meeting explored an opportunity of upscaling the SIP, by:

1. Identifying weak links in the chain from "research on NbS" to "implementation on the ground".
2. Involve practitioners and make academic research more accessible, more understandable and more practicable.
3. Bring the outputs of our alliances and our research to the decision makers in a manner that allows them to apply the research.
4. SIP can focus on transferring scientific results to decision makers and practitioners.

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5. Session 3

5.1 Discussion on Enablers and Barriers of SIP

During the last session for the day, the participants of the workshop continued to discuss possible developments and necessary features of the SIP. As such, during Session 3, participants were split into smaller groups and discussed in breakout rooms the different enablers for a successful implementation of the SIP as well as the potential barriers that would need to be addressed and overcome to ensure the SIP reaches its intended goals. The session was chaired by Prof. Akhlaq Amin Wani from the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Tech of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) and Riccardo Privitera of the University of Catania. In this session, each group focused on identifying the primary enablers and probable engagement options for formation of an effective SIP. In that way, the consultation workshop allowed to map the expectations of each partner of the SIP with regard to its future development and the opportunities and challenges. Each of the four breakout groups discussed and reflected on the following question:
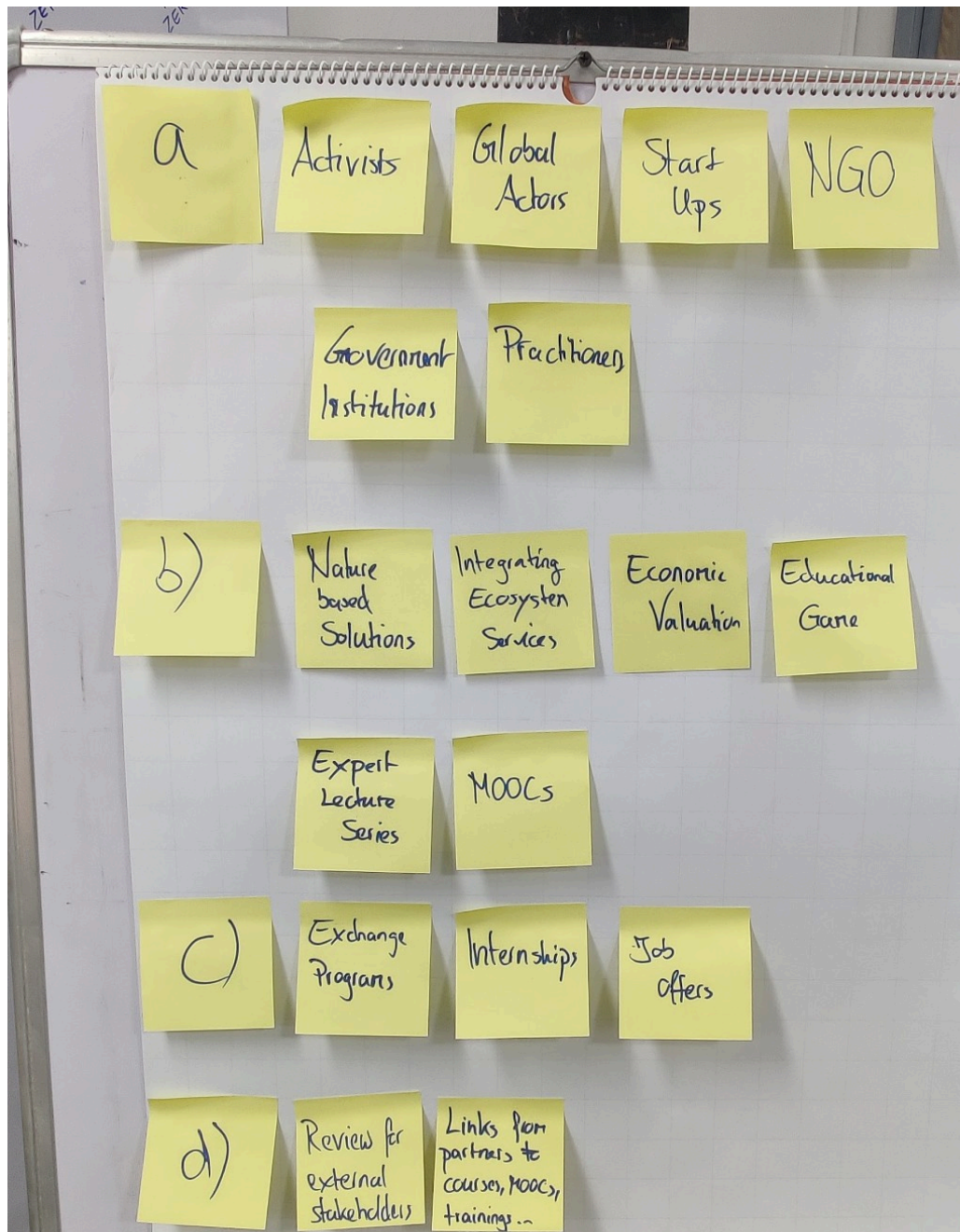
Expectation Mapping

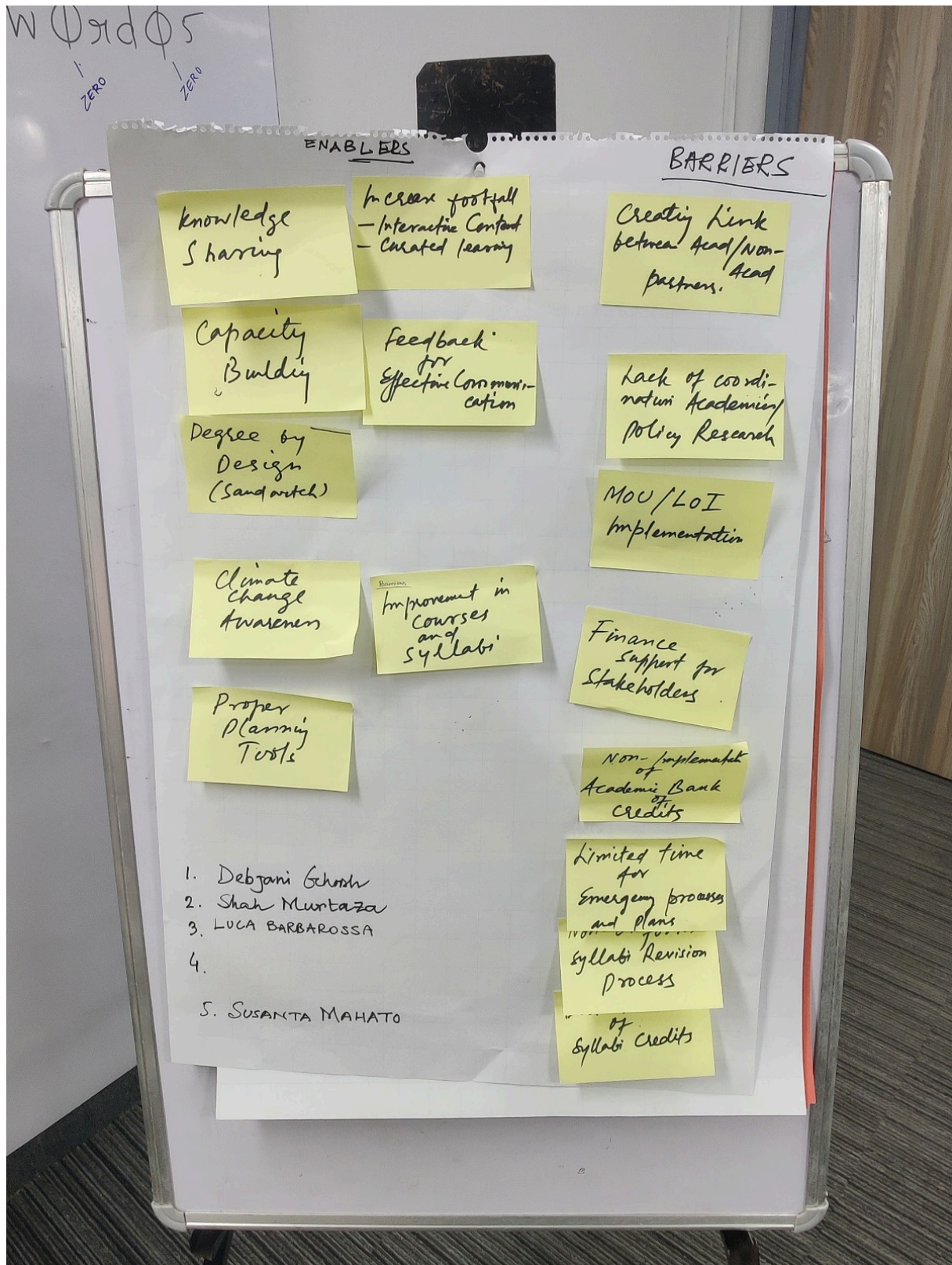*What are the enhanced services expected from an upscaling of the SIP in relation to…*

a) *…connecting to the SIP network*
b) *…tailormade trainings*
c) *…internships and research opportunities*
d) *…revision of existing university syllabi*
e) *…other suggestions or opportunities*

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5.2 Results of Breakout Room Discussions

Below are shown the combined results of the four breakout groups. Considering that each group discussed the same question, it seemed prudent to combine the results and discuss them together, rather than focusing on each group individually and hence repeating information in the report.

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WORDOS

ZERO   ZERO

ENABLERS   BARRIERS

knowledge
Sharing

Increax footfall
— Interactive Content
— Curated learning

Creating Link
between Acad/Non-
Acad
partners.

Capacity
Building

Feedback
for
Effective Communi-
cation

Lack of coordi-
nation Academic/
Policy Research

Degree by
Design
(Sandwich)

MOU/LOI
Implementation

Climate
Change
Awareness

Improvement in
Courses
and
Syllabi

Finance
Support for
Stakeholders.

Proper
Planning
Tools

Non-Implementation
of
Academic Bank
of
Credits

1. Debjani Ghosh
2. Shah Murtaza
3. LUCA BARBAROSSA
4.

5. SUSANTA MAHATO

Limited time
for
Emergency process
and Plans
Syllabi Revision
Process

of
Syllabi Credits

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5.3 Reflection on Results

Following the discussions within the breakout groups, all participants reconvened in a plenary session in which each of the groups presented their results. The results are shown above and were combined to create a picture that allowed for a holistic overview of all the group discussions. The results are discussed below in different sections, reflecting the initial question for the expectation mapping.

- ***What are the enhanced services expected from an upscaling of the SIP in relation to connecting to the SIP network? Which actors could be part of the SIP and/or which actors would be required to successfully implement the SIP?***
  A number of various actors were named by the individual groups that would be instrumental in creating a successful SIP:
  ➔ Environmental activists
  ➔ Global environmental actors and large scale global institutions
  ➔ NGOs
  ➔ Government institutions
  ➔ On-the-ground practitioners.

- ***What are the enhanced services expected from an upscaling of the SIP in relation to tailormade trainings? Which trainings can and should be developed and hosted on the SIP?***
  The following training topics were named during the group discussions and later reflected on in the plenary session:
  ➔ Nature-based solutions
  ➔ Economic valuation of ecosystems and their services
  ➔ Guidelines on integrating ecosystem services into policies and planning measures
  ➔ Development of an educational game for younger generations
  ➔ A series of expert lectures on environmental challenges and solutions
  ➔ MOOCs

- ***What are the enhanced services expected from an upscaling of the SIP in relation to internship and research opportunities? How can such programs be supported by the SIP?***
  The following opportunities for exploring a more collaborative exchange program between the various partners of the SIP were mentioned during the breakout groups and presented in the plenary. Participants expressed their wish that such features could be developed and included on the SIP:
  ➔ (Student) Exchange Programs
  ➔ Internships
  ➔ Job Offers

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- *What are the enhanced services expected from an upscaling of the SIP in relation to the revision of existing university syllabi? How could the review of the courses be made accessible on the SIP?*

  The discussion in plenary provided two examples for how the reviews of existing university courses in India could further be upscaled in the SIP:

  ➔ External Stakeholders could apply for reviews from EU (and other URGENT partners) to evaluate their training programs or research projects
  ➔ Partners of the SIP could upload links and materials to their own respective online courses, MOOCs, lecture series or trainings and other partners of the SIP could utilise these tools or apply for them.

- *What are the various enablers for promoting a successful implementation of the SIP? Which channels and formats could be utilised and explored in greater detail to support the SIP's efforts?*

  ➔ Knowledge sharing whereby each SIP partner uploads and shares their ongoing research results and disseminates their activities on the platform
  ➔ Utilising the large network of expertise and knowledge on nature-based solutions and green-blue infrastructure
  ➔ Capacity Building through trainings such as the examples mentioned above
  ➔ Raising of Awareness for Climate Change through various cooperative measures
  ➔ Degree by Design
  ➔ Increase traffic on the platform through an increase in interactive content and learning materials hosted on the platform
  ➔ Hosting of educational and step-by-step planning tools, such as guidelines or best practices
  ➔ Feedback mechanisms for partners of the platform to share their suggestions and opinions
  ➔ Hosting of reviewed courses and improvement made to syllabi as well as evaluation of newly adopted university courses.
  ➔ Sending of questionnaires to all partners of the SIP to gauge opinions and suggestions
  ➔ Sharing of proposals for (research) projects in order to facilitate financing mechanisms
  ➔ Potential investors could be attracted to the SIP due to the ability to connect with various experts, academic partners and practitioners on the topic of environmental sustainability and urban development

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- *What are the various barriers that would need to be addressed and overcome for a successful implementation of the SIP?*
  - ➔ Creating a link between academia and non-academia partners
  - ➔ Lack of coordination with regard to academic and policy research
  - ➔ Implementation of a shared vision through MoU/LoI and enforcement of this vision
  - ➔ Financial support for Stakeholders would need to be ensured
  - ➔ Limited time for engagement activities and implementation of designed plans and efforts
  - ➔ Alignment of university credits for reviewed university courses.
  - ➔ Creating government incentives that would generate funding. These mechanisms would require specific permissions in Mongolia and also India
  - ➔ Obtaining relevant data from the government for implementing some of the features is a difficult and long process in Mongolia
  - ➔ Ensuring that the SIP offers materials and tools that keep engagement high
  - ➔ Data sensitivity is not clear. How can sensitive data be responsibly managed and made available.

The participants of the workshop spent the remainder of the afternoon discussing the results of the breakout rooms and agreed on the above-presented points for enablers and barriers. It was highlighted that specifically the barriers would need to be focused on considering that failing to overcome these barriers would lead to a less impactful SIP.

5.4 Wrap Up and Way Forward

Mr. Arjan de Groot of the Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg briefly summarised the main takeaway messages of the workshop (*which are outlined in the results above*) and gave some final remarks on the knowledge gained during this workshop. It was noted that all participants, both online and offline, showed great interested in the SIP and all agreed that it held a vast potential for disseminating the project results and ensuring that the deliverables of the project would be made available not only to the project partners, but also to the partners of the SIP and, to some extent, the general public. Mr. de Groot concluded that the URGENT SIP could constitute a bridge between academia, practitioners and policy makers and could be further developed as a capacity building tool as this was a feature supported by all attendees. As such, the SIP could act as a repository of trainings, lectures, MOOCs and other means of knowledge dissemination. Trainings could either be hosted on the SIP or training reports with materials could be made available.

Lastly, everyone present expressed their gratitude to NIUA for hosting the event and shared their keen interest in further collaborating on the SIP in the future and agreed to participate in future SIP events.