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## **URGENT: Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia**

Report on:

### **Visit of Project Partners**

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

School of Environmental Sciences (SES),  
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi India



**Partner number: P11**

**Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi  
India**





# Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia

curricula, capacity, ICT and stakeholder collaboration to support green & blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions

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## Day 1 (5<sup>th</sup> May, 2024)

### *Documenting local NBs/Land use/rural-urban setting & discussions with PC*



The guests from the Estonian University of Life Sciences visited Neela Hauz to witness and document local natural bodies (NBs), land use, and the rural-urban setting. The visit aimed to explore the ecological and social dynamics of the area, focusing on sustainable land use practices and the interventions for Nature Based Solutions (NBSs). The team interacted with the officials and along with the doctoral research students conducted a detailed study on the emergence of this local water body and its functioning. This visit is part of a broader initiative to enhance international collaboration in environmental research and to share knowledge on local initiatives and practices in urban ecosystems.

### *Interaction with PhD & MSc students - research and training opportunities, options for co-supervision, PhD portfolios and eScience*



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Researchers from the Estonian University of Life Sciences engaged in an interactive session with PhD and MSc students, focusing on research and training opportunities. During this interaction, they discussed potential avenues for co-supervision, which would allow students to benefit from international expertise and diverse research perspectives.

The researchers were introduced to options for incorporating PhD portfolios, emphasizing the importance of showcasing a comprehensive range of academic and professional achievements under URGENT project. Additionally, they highlighted the role of eScience in modern research, encouraging students to utilize advanced digital tools and methodologies to enhance their research capabilities. This session aimed to foster collaborative research initiatives and to provide students with a global outlook on scientific inquiry and academic growth.

### ***Public Lecture - a lecture on Applications of Remote Sensing in Agriculture and Environmental Monitoring in Estonia (Prof. Kalev Sepp)***

Prof. Kalev Sepp from the Estonian University of Life Sciences delivered a compelling public lecture on "*Applications of Remote Sensing in Agriculture and Environmental Monitoring in Estonia.*" In his lecture, Prof. Sepp detailed the innovative use of remote sensing technologies to enhance agricultural practices and monitor environmental changes. He highlighted how satellite imagery and drone technology are utilized to collect vital data on crop health, soil moisture levels, and land use patterns. Prof. Sepp also discussed the role of remote sensing in tracking climate change impacts, managing natural resources, and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. The lecture provided valuable insights into the practical applications of advanced remote sensing techniques, showcasing Estonia's progress in integrating technology with environmental stewardship and agricultural efficiency.

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Day 2 (5<sup>th</sup> December, 2023)

*Interaction with potential stakeholder (WWF Nature, India Office)*



Faculty members from the Estonian University of Life Sciences visited the Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre (IGCMC) at the WWF Nature India Office. The meeting was hosted by Dr G Arendran, Director-IGCMC & IT · WWF-India and his colleagues. This visit aimed to foster collaboration and exchange knowledge on conservation strategies and biodiversity monitoring.

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The faculty members explored the center’s initiatives in wildlife conservation, habitat protection, and climate change mitigation. They discussed the integration of advanced technologies, such as GIS and remote sensing, in conservation efforts. The visit provided an opportunity to learn about IGCMC’s projects, data collection methodologies, and community engagement activities. This interaction highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing global environmental challenges and reinforced the commitment to preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices.

### *Interaction with PC National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)*



The researchers from the Estonian University of Life Sciences visited the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in New Delhi, on the partners of the URGENT Project. The agenda was to interact on the stakeholder participation, progress and the future sustainability of the project.

During their visit, the faculty members engaged with Director of NIUA and team member of the project experts to discuss various urban planning initiatives and innovative strategies aimed at creating sustainable cities. They delved into topics such as smart city technologies, urban resilience, and sustainable infrastructure development. The discussions also covered research projects, policy frameworks, and the role of technology in addressing urban challenges. This visit provided a platform to strengthen the exchanging knowledge and best practices, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary approaches and international cooperation in fostering sustainable urban environments.

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## *Public Lecture - a lecture on Developing course on Drone applications in environmental sciences. Studying urban heat island in Estonia (Mr. Kaupo Kokamägi)*



Mr. Kaupo Kokamägi delivered an insightful public lecture on "*Developing a Course on Drone Applications in Environmental Sciences: Studying Urban Heat Islands in Estonia.*" In his lecture, Mr. Kokamägi outlined the curriculum development process for a new course focused on the innovative use of drones in environmental research. He emphasized the practical applications of drone technology in monitoring and analyzing environmental phenomena, particularly in urban settings.

One of the key and most interesting topics discussed was the study of urban heat islands (UHIs) in Estonia. Mr. Kokamägi explained how drones equipped with thermal sensors are used to collect data on temperature variations within urban areas. This data helps in understanding the spatial distribution of heat, identifying hotspots, and developing strategies to mitigate UHI effects. The lecture highlighted the benefits of incorporating drone technology into environmental sciences education, preparing students to tackle contemporary environmental challenges with advanced technological tools.

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### *Presentation about Doctoral School of Estonian University of Life Sciences (Ms Lagle Lõhmus)*



Ms. Lagle Lõhmus from the Estonian University of Life Sciences delivered an informative lecture on the "*Doctoral School of the Estonian University of Life Sciences.*"

In her lecture, Ms. Lõhmus provided an overview of the doctoral programs offered at the university, emphasizing their commitment to excellence in research and education. She highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the doctoral school, which integrates various fields such as agriculture, forestry, veterinary medicine, and environmental sciences.

Ms. Lõhmus discussed the comprehensive support system available to PhD students, including access to state-of-the-art research facilities, funding opportunities, and international collaboration. She also detailed the structure of the doctoral programs, which includes coursework, research, and professional development activities aimed at preparing students for successful careers in academia, industry, and beyond.

The lecture reflected upon the importance of fostering a vibrant research community and promoting innovative research that addresses global challenges. She encouraged prospective students to consider the diverse and dynamic opportunities offered by the Doctoral School of the Estonian University of Life Sciences.

Both the lectures were enjoyed and generated discussions. The lecture series ended with felicitation of the guests with gifts, appreciations and wishes.

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## *Interaction with faculty members/staff - progress and status of project*



The visitors discussed various aspects of the URGENT project with faculty members, staff and students. Couple of the close network individual meetings also held to ensure long-term collaboration and sustainability of the project. Overall the visit was successful touching upon various aspects of the project.

## **Social Evening**



Finally, before the bon voyage a social gathering was organised to host a dinner for the visitors. Often such meetings and interactions bring more value to the cooperation and collaboration. Indeed the social evening results in that.

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