
LETTER OF INTENT

Regarding the Joint Cooperation on the URGENT Stakeholder Interactive Platform

Between

THE URGENT PROJECT

And

Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences

1. Parties

- (1) The Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia (URGENT) Project: Curricula, Capacity, ICT and Stakeholder Collaboration to Support Green and Blue Infrastructure and Nature-based Solution, hereafter referred to as "URGENT Project".
- (2) The Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences

2. PURPOSE and BACKGROUND

The URGENT Project wishes to enter into an agreement with its partners regarding the establishment and maintenance of a "Stakeholder Interactive Platform", hereafter referred to as "SIP" with the intent to collaborate on exchanging expertise, information and tools regarding the challenges of implementing and addressing Green and Blue Infrastructure Developments as well as Nature-based Solutions. **The purpose of this LETTER OF INTENT is to outline a shared vision and agree on collaborative efforts under the umbrella of the URGENT project, designed to promote exchange and awareness at both parties. The parties do not intend to be legally bound to each other, and this LETTER OF INTENT does not impose legal obligations on either party.**

The Sixth IPCC report (2022) again identifies Urbanization as one of the key GHG emission drivers, while also recognizing a broad variety of mitigation options yet underexplored, in particular in the Global South. Development of green & blue infrastructure (GBI) as well as promotion of ecosystem services and biodiversity in urban areas through Nature-based Solutions (NBS) is seen as a way to develop climate-proof cities (IPCC, 2022) as well as to increase livability through the provision of affordable recreation, sanitation & storm water drainage (SDG 11, UN GA/RES/70/1).

Combating urban sprawl is particularly challenging in Asia, considering that larger cities promise economic opportunities whereas smaller settlements and rural living is oftentimes confronted with environmental degradation. However, most of new city dwellers are facing socio-economic segregation entailing limited

access to sanitation and water supply, urban recreation, as well as higher exposure to weather extremes. NBS, although universally recognized as an opportunity for the development of resilient & livable cities, are still in limited use as an urban planning & management tool. To overcome this, especially as regards cross-sectoral integration, policy relevance and timely uptake of the freshest practices and solutions, Asian countries urgently need to boost their national expertise. This can be achieved through integration of academic communities with praxis stakeholder groups, fast & efficient internationalization of research & education, but also through a closer cooperation within a region, where knowledge exchange is still suboptimal, even between neighboring countries (IPBES, 2018).

The URGENT Project aims at promoting green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions for resilient, climate-friendly, and livable cities in India and Mongolia through ICT-enhanced tertiary education linked to labor markets & wider stakeholder circles. Of particular relevance to this **LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)** is the second objective of the URGENT project:

- To develop a shared URGENT Collaborative Learning Platform and Online Training Services of the new generation for qualitative improvement of the education process and academic workflow through the support among universities and stakeholders across the Partner Countries and the European Union.

As such, engagement and close cooperation between the URGENT partners and important stakeholder and initiatives in both India and Mongolia are paramount for fulfilling the objective outlined above. Hence, it was recently decided to launch a SIP which is hosted on the project's website (see www.urgent-project.net). The aim of the SIP is to host relevant materials for URGENT initiatives as well as allowing the integration of external stakeholders to join the platform and share their expertise and knowledge with URGENT partners. Hence, the SIP will be an open access database, allowing both URGENT partners and external stakeholders to access important documents, findings and materials to better address the challenges outlined in the URGENT objectives and described in this LETTER OF INTENT.

In addition, the SIP will also allow external stakeholders as well as URGENT project partners to advertise potential internship or other cooperative possibilities on the SIP. This will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to fill desired internship (or other) positions with promising students from URGENT university partners and will contribute to the sustainability and longevity of the project's aims.

Finally, it is the intention of the URGENT project to host periodic follow-up meetings as necessary to discuss the features, activities and outreach of the SIP to ensure its regular upkeep and maintenance.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Objectives

The objective of this agreement is to agree on the intended goals of the SIP as well as the efforts of the party signing this LETTER OF INTENT in contributing and participating in the SIP. This LETTER OF INTENT will be effective upon signature by each party. Upon the mutual consent of the parties, collaboration may be carried out in, but not necessarily limited to, the following activities:

3.2 The Signing Party agrees to share existing knowledge products that align with the goals of the URGENT project on the SIP. These knowledge products include, but are not limited to:

- Guidelines, Reports, Publications
- Questionnaires
- Online Modules and Online Workshops
- Seminars and Webinars
- Notes and Summaries from Workshops, Courses, Trainings or similar activities
- eBooks, eJournals, Videos
- Relevant Software Tools for Green and Blue Infrastructure Developments

3.3 The Signing Party agrees to attend at SIP meetings as necessary and provide updates on their activities.

3.4 The Signing Party agrees to promote the SIP within their networks, so as to generate interest and ensure a greater impact of the SIP.



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3.5 The URGENT Project will be responsible to

- ~ Provide necessary guidance to the signing party for navigating the SIP and participating in the sharing of materials and tools,
- ~ Manage the development of new features and upload knowledge products provided by the signing party
- ~ Manage the organization of meetings as necessary to ensure the development and upkeep of the SIP
- ~ Prepare periodic reports on the outreach and efforts of the SIP

4. PUBLICITY and ADVERTISING

The parties agree that each may publish or advertise the existence and nature of their cooperation and shared activities origination from efforts taken based on this LETTER OF INTENT. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as confidential.

5. AMENDMENTS

The terms of this agreement can be amended, with the approval of both Parties, by means of exchange of letters or email through the authorized officials at each institution. Either Party may initiate the exchange of letters or email. Any amendment to this agreement must, to be effective, be in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of each party.

6. TERMINATION

This agreement may be terminated by either Party by giving written notice of the intent to terminate the agreement. Such termination shall not affect the execution and conclusion of specific activities in effect under the terms of this agreement nor publication and dissemination of results of research in progress.

7. ACCEPTANCE

If parties agree to the terms and conditions set out in this agreement, acceptance must be notified by signing, dating and returning copies of this letter to each party.

This MOU is to be signed by the Project Coordinator of the URGENT project, the National Coordinator of the URGENT Project and a representative of the party entering the agreement. By signing this LETTER OF INTENT, the party entering this agreement confirms its intent to actively participate on the SIP as well as its agreement to agree and adhere to the objectives outlined in this document. The agreement enters into effect on the date in which it is duly signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below:

On Behalf of The Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences

On Behalf of the URGENT Project

DASHTSEREN Avirmed
FULL NAME – DIRECTOR

ALTANSUKH Ochir
FULL NAME – NATIONAL COORDINATOR


2022.09.16
DATE and SIGNATURE


2022-09-15
DATE and SIGNATURE