

NIUA'S C-CUBE AND WRI INDIA LAUNCH THE INDIA FORUM FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Development, and EIA

The National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube), World Resources Institute India (WRI India) and their partners today launched India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS) at the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland.

Ecosystem-based services and *Nature-Based Solutions* are fast emerging as cost-effective and sustainable ways to address climate change induced challenges such as heat, urban flooding, air and water pollution and storm surges. Along with mitigating the impact of climate change, NbS also helps in providing multiple ecosystem benefits along with addressing various societal challenges including building resilience of the underserved and vulnerable urban communities who are most affected by climate change induced catastrophes.

The India Forum for Nature-based Solutions aims to create a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, government entities and like-minded organisations, to help scale urban nature-based solutions by

At the platform launch event, Shri Hitesh Vaidya, Director, NIUA said, "It is important that we have a low-cost and sustainable approach when we work on climate action and increasing our green cover. It is here that nature-based solutions (NbS) should be prioritized as part of India's resilience and adaptation strategy."

The event saw representatives, from core partner organisations such as GiZ India, India Climate Collaborative, The Nature Conservancy, WWF India and Wetlands International, pledge their efforts towards collaboratively achieving the Forum's objectives.

Speaking about the Forum, WRI India CEO, Dr. O.P. Agarwal noted, "Combining the strengths and resources of the Forum's core partners can tackle key capacity challenges faced by the entire ecosystem. This will enable a more focused approach in mainstreaming and scaling urban NbS, while also helping amplify individual organizational efforts."

'India Forum for Nature-based Solutions' is led by the National Institute of Urban Affairs' Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) and anchored by World Resources Institute India (WRI India) under the Cities4Forests initiative. It is supported by Caterpillar Foundation, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Govt. of United Kingdom and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

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