

Sustainable and Climate Resilient Puri – Resources and Actions

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP DATED 20TH APRIL 2016



Objectives

- To assess the finance needs for climate compatible development (CCD) in second-tier cities in developing countries like India
- To analyze the extent to which existing sources can meet those needs
- To look at innovative local, national and international sources including direct access, modalities for cities under the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Workshop audience

They were around 43 participants in the workshop. This broad set of stakeholders includes – representatives from district administration, Civil Society Organizations, academics, fishermen’s association, people’s groups, Puri Municipal administration, and hotels.

Discussion

The 3-hour workshop began with welcoming the participants and introducing them to the goals and purpose of the project. This was followed by a discussion on key challenges confronting Puri.

Following are the concerns and challenges shared by the participants:

- Puri experiences short bouts of heavy rainfall causing drainage issues
- Acute water scarcity coupled with poor water quality

- Garbage Disposal
- Waste water management
- Pollution of water bodies
- Water logging
- Pollution arising from increasing tourism
- Pollution from motorized fishing boats
- Reducing fish catch and the famously hilsa fish known to be found in the Orissa and Bengal sea waters is slowly reducing
- Increasing soil erosion in and around Puri beaches

The second half of the workshop was used in identifying the solutions and resources to address the problems.

The five broad areas that participants felt the need for prioritization are:

- A) Greening Puri
- B) Water Quality
- C) Solid Waste management
- D) Renewable Energy
- E) Governance

Specifically, the following were some of the solutions that were prioritized under the above broad categories.

- A1) Cultivating herbal gardens across the city
- A2) Planting more trees along the beaches
- A3) Using treated waste water for greening
- A4) Conserving and developing mangroves along the coast

- B1) Adopting best practices for storm water drainage and management
- B2) Improving the connections in the drainage systems
- B3) Prevention and control of water logging and, consequently, water-borne diseases.

- C1) Contextual analysis of drainage, sewage and waste collection along with creating awareness among people.
- C2) Installation of decentralized waste treatment plants

- D1) Solar powered and/ or wind powered fishing boats
- D2) Installation of solar rooftops, particularly in households and hotels

- E1) Puri- Konark Development Authority (PKDA) and municipality need to work in better coordination.
- E2) Making funds available for priority plans
- E3) Forming a Puri Citizen Action committee

Having prioritized a few areas, the third session explored sources of financing that could be accessed through domestic and existing sources, international sources including the Green Climate Fund. The presentation that followed listed out some of the fiscal instruments that could potentially be a source of revenue for climate proofing Puri, based on experience and examples from other countries.



The final session deliberated on the next steps and the way forward. Some of these next steps agreed upon were the following:

1. Study the state and district administration's climate change plans such as the Odisha State Action Plan for Climate Change and the Puri District Action Plan, and the land use plans of various departments.
2. These studies would be followed by identification of gaps in the plans for climate proofing Puri, in order to create a Vision Plan for the City of Puri.
3. Identify financial resources for concrete projects from short to medium to long term.
4. Assessing financial instruments, both domestic and international.
5. This would entail a constant continued dialog with all relevant stakeholders.

This would entail preparation of project plan, identification of sources of financing, accessing the financing and a detailed implementation plan.

END