

**Proposal  
by  
Urban Biodiversity Consortium  
Submitted to  
WWF Pune**

Project Title: *Pune Alive: Conservation of Biodiversity in Pune Urban Area*

Project Budget:

Project Location: Pune Municipal Corporation

(i) Region/State: Maharashtra

Nearest City: Pune

Duration: 1 year +

Person responsible for the Project: Shri Raghunandan Velankar, RANWA

Ms Sanskriti Menon, Centre for Environment Education

Ms Tasneem, Kalpavriksh

Shri Prakash Gole, Ecological Society

**Goal** of the project: Conservation of Biodiversity in Pune Urban Area

**Purpose/Objectives** of the project:

1. Develop and test tools for documentation of urban biodiversity.
2. Explore legal spaces for conservation of urban biodiversity in present laws and regulations.
3. Develop tools for urban biodiversity communication and test them.
4. Develop communication strategy for site specific and general communication of urban biodiversity and implement it.
5. Develop and test tools for monitoring of urban biodiversity in different ecosystems.
6. Demonstrate conservation actions with different stakeholders.

**Project Outputs**

Tangible Outputs:

Objective 1 and 5–

- Manual, formats for documentation and monitoring of trees, birds, butterflies, changes in ecosystems etc.
- Two sites specific and two ward level biodiversity documents
- City Biodiversity Map
- Module to make housing colonies biodiverse

Objective 2 –

- Dossier useful for citizens explaining available legal spaces and it's use for biodiversity conservation urban areas.

Objective 3 and 4 –

- Four Slide shows, a booklet on tree walk, a booklet of projects for degree college students
- Specific activity plan and follow ups with professional groups related to city biodiversity
- Ten Biodiversity education corners in schools

Objective 6 -

- Three present gardens turns into biodiversity rich gardens and conservation centre for indigenous plants
- Twenty home based Medicinal Plant gardens



## CEESP/WCPA Theme on Communities, Equity and Protected Areas



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Website: [http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/Wkg\\_grp/TILCEPA/TILCEPA.htm](http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/Wkg_grp/TILCEPA/TILCEPA.htm)

- Two housing colonies becomes biodiversity rich with medicinal plant garden, butterfly garden, endangered species plantation

#### Non-tangible Output:

As city is experiencing exponential growth, conservation of open spaces and life in it is become essential. As this life, known as Biodiversity is linked with human well being organized efforts involving different stakeholders will support ongoing actions. The above process will lead to following long-term intervention in conservation of biodiversity in city.

1. Establishing institutional mechanism using present legal spaces like biodiversity management committee.
2. Initiate community monitoring process in selected sites.
3. Initiate conservation of biodiversity at selected sites with community participation

**Major Activities** (required to achieve the Project Outputs, the activities can be defined for each of the Outputs)

The project has four major components A. Documentation of biodiversity and related aspects B. monitoring of biodiversity C. communication and D. Conservation actions

#### A. Documentation of biodiversity and related aspects

- Developing method and formats for taxa, use, culture, threat, conservation action related documentation
- Organizing college groups interested in documentation
- Training of college students
- Documentation of biodiversity using method, formats etc
- Undertake exercise of biodiversity mapping on city maps
- Develop biodiversity map useful for tourist, students etc
- Compilation of existing legal spaces, advantages, drawback, site specific legal opportunities
- Discussion with different stakeholders on use of legal spaces
- Analysis , Process Documentation and reporting

#### B. Monitoring of biodiversity at selected sites

- Identification of taxa, actions to monitor
- Develop methods and format of monitoring
- Discuss with different groups like colleges, tekdi groups, laughing clubs for monitoring possibilities
- Test methods for usefulness
- Analysis, Process Documentation and reporting
- Develop long term strategy for monitoring

#### C. Communicating biodiversity

- Identification of issues to communicate and target groups which need to communicated
- Develop appropriate communication tools like slide shows, articles, web pages, games
- Develop action plan for communication with help of stakeholder, some of the actions are slide shows, talks, area sabha meetings, meeting with professional groups like architects, nature walks, incorporation of some biodiversity rich areas in to city tourist package, biodiversity corners in schools etc
- Implement the plan

- Process Documentation
- Develop long term strategy for biodiversity communication in the city



#### D. Conservation action

- Identify groups, individuals interested in conservation actions, some identified actions - medicinal plant garden, butterfly garden, indigenous tree plantation, biodiverse PMC gardens etc
- Develop action plan for implementation of proposed actions with stakeholders
- Implement the plan like develop medicinal plant gardens, butterfly gardens, fruit trees plantation etc
- Develop conservation action plan for site specific conservation with help of stakeholders
- Develop strategy for implementation of conservation action plan

**Justifications** for the project - (Why do you want to do this project?). Please state benefits of doing this project. Clarify what benefits and innovation the project will ensure.

Urban ecosystems are among the most dynamic ecosystems. Cities do support very rich biodiversity. Urban areas, even mega-cities like Pune, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are home to a variety of plants and animals – wild, semi-wild, domesticated and introduced. Most of the city based amateur and professional naturalists who often explore wilderness in remote parts have often ignored biodiversity in their own backyards. This project proposes comprehensive effort for urban biodiversity management involving as many stakeholders as possible.

Pune with diverse ecosystems present inside and outside city is an excellent example of rich ness of biodiversity in Urban Areas. With more than 300 tree species, 100 butterflies, 350 birds and 70 mammal species, the richness is equivalent to some of the sanctuaries in the country. Along with it, Pune has history of biodiversity conservation actions like Smruti Van, Lakaki lake, Mula Muth Sanctuary, Parvati – Pachgao, Bhamburda Van vihar. Various stakeholders are involved individually or sometime together in these actions. But is last few years with liberalization in increasing globalization, Pune is experiencing growth of city as high as half a kilometer per year. Increased population and consequent land use changes are resulted into ecosystem degradation. The area under settlement has increased 2.4 times during these 30 yrs. The area under Agriculture and Grassland-Scrub has decreased by 31% and 39% respectively.

The pollution levels in the city has increased manifold impacting various forms of biodiversity. About forty percent fish species in waters of Pune shows declining status where as 80 % habitat for amphibians had degraded. Species like Gyps Vultures, House Sparrows, grass land raptors are decreasing where as mynas, crow etc are increasing. All these impacts are increasing day by day. So it is important to support ongoing efforts of biodiversity conservation and involve different stakeholders. It is also necessary to involve government systems and citizens to initiate monitoring of biodiversity changes in the area. The proposed project aims to provide a platform to citizens to take action, develop strategies for site specific conservation actions and implement them.

**Project Strategy** to achieve the project purpose and the outputs:

The proposed project is collaborative effort of four Pune based organizations – Centre for Environment Education (CEE), RANWA (Research and Action in Natural Wealth administration), Ecological Society and Kalpavriksh. The organizations are working in Pune for last 10 or more years with experience of working at local, national and international level. They have formed Urban Biodiversity Consortium to strengthen their efforts. In the project 4 major components are proposed – Documentation, Monitoring, Communication and

Conservation action. All the activities are coordinated by the consortium but for logistics and interest of the organization, each organization is responsible for one component. i.e RANWA is responsible for coordinating documentation and conservation action. Ecological Society will be responsible for monitoring of biodiversity in city. Communication and related activities will be coordinated by CEE where as Kapavriksh will explore legal spaces for conservation. Please find at the end of proposal detailed role, activities and budget by each organization.

Community involvement is another important strategy of implementation. College students, Tekdi visitor s groups, laughing clubs, tree lovers and common citizens will be involved in planning and implementation of different activities.

Local government department and other government department will also be involved at appropriate time.

**Project Beneficiaries: (who benefits)**

- School Students and teachers
- College Students
- Tree lovers group and like minded groups
- Government Departments
- Non government organizations
- Common Citizens
- Policy Makers

Estimated total project cost:

Suggested format for Budget Break down (Please add heads/subheads/columns as required)

Sr. No	Components	Amount
1	<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>245000</b>
	Establishment of Mp, BF gardens	25000
	Establishment of conservation centre for indigenous trees	25000
	Biodiversity map	10000
	Organizing Nature walks	10000
	Documentation of BD by students	30000
	Biodiversity Corners in schools	50000
	Publications Map, Brochures, booklets, web pages, articles	95000
2	<b>Consultants/ Resource persons</b>	<b>10000</b>
3	<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>5000</b>
4	<b>Documentation &amp; Reporting</b>	<b>40000</b>
5	<b>Travel Costs</b>	<b>55000</b>
6	<b>Any other (please specify)</b>	-----
7	<b>Salary</b>	<b>420000</b>
8	<b>Communications</b>	<b>45000</b>
9	<b>Administration</b>	<b>65000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>885000*</b>

\*This will increase after Ecological Society Submit its project.

## Detailed role, activities and budget of each organization

### KALPAVRIKSH

Concept note: on URBAN BIODIVERSITY

#### Pune biodiversity status

Pune city is blessed with diverse life forms. What is visible is the tree cover on the roads, open spaces, residential complexes, surrounding hills, institutions, commercial complexes, temples and agricultural fields. However there is more biodiversity such as wild growth, planted greenery including trees, bushes, climbers, grasses and reeds, forests and parks, avenue trees that reside in residential/main/sub-main/small roads/etc, aquatic and bird life in waterways, marshes and wetlands. Pune is a city of hill surrounded by hills such as Vetal Tekdi, Salunke Vihar Tekdi, Taljai Hills etc. There are also hills in the fringe areas of the city. These are considered the green lungs of the city and ecologists and environmentalists are up in arms when there is any proposal of opening the hills for development activity.

Threats to biodiversity: One of the main threats to biodiversity comes from urbanization. The population of our city continues to grow rapidly with Pune city being projected as IT capital. There is tremendous need for office space, residential buildings, new roads and other infrastructure needs. All this comes at a tremendous cost, which is the loss of green cover and biodiversity.

#### *The current status of Pune city is mainly due to*

- ☞ Unplanned development leading to chaos and undue pressure on natural resources
- ☞ Faulty implementation of development plans
- ☞ Lack of integration of environment into the working of the Government
- ☞ Corruption at all levels and in the process of planning and implementation
- ☞ Complex structure and hierarchy of departments
- ☞ Great pressure from vested interests

## Effective biodiversity conservation requires

- Adequate legal framework
- Proper implementation
- Awareness and support for conservation from public
- Participation of the people in conservation

## KV Experience:

Kalpavriksh has been active both in Delhi and Pune. Some of our activities are as follows:

**Delhi:** Apart from awareness of this in various schools with slide and film shows In Delhi, rallies were organized and some schools participated in uprooting concrete from the base of trees. A "Free the Trees" Campaign was lodged with the coming together of several NGOs of Delhi. Kalpavriksh was spearheading the campaign. After much effort, a set of guidelines was framed by the Union Urban Development Ministry with regard to urban green areas that were sent to all state governments for implementation. In spite of this, violations continue to happen and the campaign needs to be strengthened.

The Delhi Metro Rail Project and the Commonwealth Games 2010 have meant an increase in construction activity and consequent loss of green cover. Kalpavriksh was involved in the appraisal of compensatory afforestation for metro rail phase -I.

We were also involved in bringing changes in the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act. Kalpavriksh has petitioned the Supreme Court through the Central Empowered Committee (CEC). Another issue that Kalpavriksh has been involved with is the loss of biodiversity resulting from conversion of forests and natural landscapes into manicured gardens. Kalpavriksh had been for long tracking birds in Delhi. A bird book was brought as a consequence.

The conversion of forests into gardens by planting exotics has severely affected ground nesting and bush birds. This is happening in areas in and around Delhi that are coming under the high-rise construction zone both for residential and plush commercial complexes. Taking up this issue with the Government needs immediate action. Kalpavriksh, Delhi has been doing the following via free the trees campaign...

**Pune:** Kalpavriksh has been actively espousing the cause of trees and biodiversity in general through education in schools and in the media. In addition,

- ☞ Maharashtra Tree Act: For the last two years, KV has been working with Garden department over implementation of Maharashtra Tree Act. At the present, KV along with members of Pune Tree Watch (PTW) is keenly helping the Garden department with the implementation of the Maharashtra Tree Act. AT the same time an effort is being made to make the citizens conscious of the need to take action and our main effort has been to empower the citizen to follow up with complains on tree cutting.
- ☞ Exploring use of new provisions of Wild Life (Amendment) Protection Act 2002: Kalapvriksh, along with other groups is exploring using the new category of "conservation reserve" of the Wild life (Amendment) Protection Act for protection of a certain area along the bank of Mula Mutha river.
- ☞ Exploring the use of Biodiversity Act 2002. KV is exploring whether conservation at local level (Biodiversity Management Committee) as provided in the Biodiversity act would be helpful in stopping the destruction of biodiversity.

Currently Kalpavriksh is campaigning against a road that would pass through the forest of the Law College hill complex, which is considered as one of the green lungs of Pune has. Kalpavriksh has written a letter of concern to the CEC with regards to a proposed. Although the forest along the road alignment is not under direct jurisdiction of the Forest Department, it is evidently a "forest" as per the dictionary meaning of forest as clarified by the Honourable Supreme Court in its order dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 1996, in T.N. Godavarman Vs Union of India (W.P. (C) No. 202 of 1995). The CEC has responded by asking for a state level enquiry for the same.

### **Lessons from our experience:**

We have not been able to stop destruction of trees and associated life forms using Maharashtra Tree Act, despite the improvement in its implementation and sustained pressure from environmental groups. The implementation of Biodiversity Act will probably take time and even when it is implemented, it will not be able to counter the threats from the current development process. While the Maharashtra Tree Act and Biodiversity Act provide spaces for conservation but are not adequate as they do not address the challenges posed by the current development model.

### **Challenge and Current need:**

1. There is an urgent need to understand spaces that are available within

existing and evolving legal framework - Development plan (currently being drafted), Environment Protect Act (1986), EIA notification, JNUURM (currently being implemented), other notifications, relevant development control rules, BMTP Act etc.

2. Ground level implementation of the above needs to be understood so that we can pinpoint the possibilities for controlling the destruction of biodiversity.

3. To enable people's participation there is a need to further simplify in common language the above legal spaces.

Plan of Action:

**The aim is to put together a dossier which explores the above mentioned points relevant to the protection, preservation and proliferation of the environment. This dossier could also be simplified to make it accessible to all citizens.**

Some of the data needed is easily available but some of them will have to be sourced.

Constraint: One of the drawbacks is the non-availability of an accurate land use map, in the correct scale. Without this tool any planning and implementation is going to be futile. Other groups in Pune are mobilizing resources to get this plan made.

**Future strategy:** Future strategy will be chalked out in consultation with other groups working on environmental and social issues, based on analysis emerging out of the dossier. Kalpavriksh has been associated with groups like RANWA, CEE, WWF, Ecological society for a long time and it is hoped that joint efforts would produce results on ground.

**Budget:** Total budget to come up with a draft dossier would be Rs one lakh, which would be developed in a time period of one year.

Break up:

Staff - RS. 55000

Communication, Travel etc -10000/-

Documentation, Reporting, - Rs 10000/-

Publication - Rs. 20000-

Administration - Rs. 5000/-

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## Urban Biodiversity Consortium: Proposed activities<sup>1</sup> by RANWA

Activity	In consultation with	In collaboration with	Outcome
Biodiversity documentation in select areas <sup>2</sup>	Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Dr. Prakash Gole	Biodiversity Course students, Under graduate and post graduate students of Botany and Zoology of A.G. College, Modern College - Ganesh Khind Road <sup>3</sup>	Identification of BD management issue
E Newsletter on the urban biodiversity	Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Dr. Prakash Gole, Sanjeev Nalavade, Ashish Kothari, Sanskriti Menon	KV, Ecological Society	Spreading the word nationally and internationally
Enriching biodiversity in the municipal gardens <sup>4</sup>	Yashwant Khaire, Vivek Gour Broome <sup>5</sup>	Garden Department of the PMC for implementation, Medicinal Plants Conservation Centre for procuring the seedling and saplings of the indigenous varieties	Awareness generation - visitors of the garden and to some extent municipal staff
20 home based medicinal plants gardens	Vivek Gour Broome <sup>6</sup>	Medicinal Plants Conservation Centre, Home makers	Awareness generation
10 biodiversity corners in the municipal schools	Sanskriti, Kapil	Education Department of the PMC	Awareness Generation
Biodiversity map of the city	Sanjeev Nalavade, Dr. Gole, Ankur		For tourists and city planners
Developing biodiversity rich areas in housing colonies	Bhushan Sathe, Raghu	Select housing colonies <sup>7</sup>	Awareness Generation
Distributing indigenous tree saplings as <i>Prasad</i> (religious offering) with help of prominent temple trusts in the city	Dr. Ajay Dixit, Ankur	MPCC	BD enrichment + Awareness Generation
Weekend nature walks	Dr. Ajay Dixit		Awareness Generation

<sup>1</sup> These activities have been proposed in the SGP proposal as well. Rationale of taking up these activities is they can be scaled up in case SGP gets through

<sup>2</sup> To start with: Pachgaon Parvati, Law College Hill and Pashan Lake. Dr. Gole has mentioned earlier two as partially protected and the latter as unprotected in the note that he had passed on.

<sup>3</sup> Prof. Gadgil has initiated dialogue with Zoology Department of Abasaheb Garware College and Zoology and Botany Depts. Modern College - Ganesh Khind Road. He has asked me to formulate the activities for the students. Will have meeting with these colleges on 11/12 Dec. With biodiversity course students, we can always discuss it with Dr. Watve and Ankur

<sup>4</sup> This could be in the form of a biodiversity corner in the garden. Various indigenous trees can be planted in this corner.

<sup>5</sup> Vivek has not yet been contacted in this context

<sup>6</sup> Vivek has not yet been contacted in this context

<sup>7</sup> Bhushan had developed butterfly garden in Nav Sahyadri area in the past. Raghu for implementation in Shikshak Nagar Area

### Tentative Budget:

Budget Head	Estimated Amount
Salary	Rs. 180000 (Rs 15000 X 12 months X 1 person)
Plantation Material	Rs. 40000/-
Biodiversity corner and nature walk	Rs. 60000/-
Expenses for student projects (Biodiversity documentation in select areas, biodiversity corners)	Rs. 30000/-
Preparation of BD map of the city (CD and Print)	Rs. 50000/-
Administrative (Monitoring, communication, local transport etc)	Rs. 60000/-
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 380,000/-</b>

### COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR URBAN BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM by CEE

#### Goal

To develop and implement an awareness and communication strategy to encourage action by community groups and the municipal administration towards conservation of biodiversity in Pune

#### Approach

The main thrusts of the Urban Biodiversity Consortium are to:

1. Put in place biodiversity monitoring systems, including community monitoring
2. Put in place systems for collection, storage and use of biodiversity data
3. Explore options for institutional mechanisms for biodiversity conservation
4. Encourage biodiversity conservation through community efforts in general, and
5. Undertake conservation of select sites in particular through a formal institutional system (community managed/ administration or FD managed/ joint system)

The purpose of the communication strategy is to facilitate the above actions/ components

#### Communication Strategy

1. Strengthen Citizens' Network (contact NGOs and volunteers associated with them from across the city, develop new or use existing databases if appropriate) – offer a slide show, talk, walk package to all with some attractive branding
2. Invite groups like Pugmarks, Wild Ventures, Tekdi, EM Centre's Walk in the Park group, as well as Botany, Zoology, BD depts. to form a BD professionals network in Pune, and share UBC programme plans, activities etc, and explore possible collaborations
3. Encourage citizen's and community groups to be involved in monitoring, by developing specific material and using it to engage the citizens network. Specifically,
  - a. 'Alive' Spaces in Urban Places: highlight the joy of monitoring through walks, taking and sharing trip notes, photos, e-groups/ communities on Pune Alive and allied website (strengthen existing groups for this, to systematize monitoring and reporting)
  - b. Demonstrate tools for monitoring and reporting and explain why it is important to monitor systematically: down-loadable formats and PBR database – especially work with college students for this, as II year Env Studies module and project
  - c. Newspaper articles on specific sites and highlighting area adoption efforts
  - d. Annual biodiversity mela and convention to celebrate Pune's biodiversity and share experiences

- e. Make a special effort for citizens to understand the range of human uses of biodiversity (including for grazing, firewood, fruit/flower harvests) and monitor the uses as well, including through discussions with users
4. Encourage biodiversity conservation through community efforts in general by developing and disseminating a 'what you can do' series, highlighting actions at home, public and private gardens, campuses, and neighbourhoods, as well as at MIDC/ Software Park etc. (such as paying attention to which species to plant, recreating/ restoring habitat, home gardens). Dissemination through book reviews in newspapers, bookstores, Indradhanushya, neighbourhood meetings, walks, mela, exhibition, flower show (work with Innerwheel(?)) etc
5. BD for BD-based Professionals: Convene a meeting for landscape architects, nursery owners/ managers and develop a special strategy for BD conservation in conjunction with them
6. Facilitate discussions as appropriate / required of the Urban Biodiversity Consortium with local govt .and groups engaged in discussions for Area Sabha, Environmental Status Report, and Development Plan, to present the rationale of biodiversity conservation to these groups, with a view to exploring the legal spaces and other opportunities for biodiversity conservation in Pune.
7. *Conservation of specific sites - to be developed once sites are identified*

The back office tasks are envisaged as:

- Develop tools - slide show, talk, print articles, web pages (for site managed by Ranwa) - specific to the effort being now undertaken - we will consider existing material and make new ones only if needed
- Develop documentation and data storage processes for outreach activities (so we know who we are talking to and can put together a city wide volunteer database)
- Design manuals in print and web page form, for monitoring and documentation based on the tools created by EcoSoc and Ranwa
- Develop a plan and timeframe for outreach in conjunction with all partners
- Conduct outreach activities as per the agreed plan
- In conjunction and with the advise of all partners, provide follow-up support to individuals and groups who demonstrate an interest in community management of BD
- Convene special meetings of professional groups and undertake follow-ups as appropriate (DP Coalition and other NGOs, PMC, architects/ nursery managers, Flower Show organizers)

**Budget (for one year)**

50% time of one coordinator @ Rs 10000 pm	120000
Part time persons and staff time for development of materials	60000
Printing (ball park figure for bw printing)	30000
CD (100 copies, recover money?)	5000
Local travel	30000
Communication (phone, email)	20000
Institutional charges @ approx 15%	30000
<b>Total</b>	<b>295000</b>

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