

Concept Note

on

Virtual Sessions for Users' Need Assessment for District Ganga Council members and Volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) on Decision Support System - Dashboard for Hindon River

Background

To address the complex problem of River Basin Management where multiple stakeholders have a key role to play, it is very important to bring all the spatial and non-spatial data required by various stakeholders on a common platform. This exercise shall not just reduce the redundant effort of data creation by different agencies but at the same time would also standardise and authenticate the datasets used and therefore conclusion derived using them. Beyond this, it shall also assist in rational and prompt decision making by the responsible authorities.

It was intended to be presented as a one stop solution for a variety of users interested to gain information on a river basin which include decision makers from the government, non-government organizations working for the betterment of environment/society, research organizations/ independent researchers interested in the area, students etc.

In an attempt to address the same, India Water Partnership in collaboration with TREE Craze Foundation, identified Hindon River Basin as a pilot area for the project in the year 2020 and developed a GIS-cum-statistical platform as a one stop solution for all the available datasets. It was attempted to collect and collate all the spatial and non-spatial freely available datasets with very limited resources and present them to different levels of users so that the purpose of the same could be justified and by having an elementary look and feel of the platform, the brains of all the stakeholders could be triggered to list their demands/expectations from such a platform, as per their requirements.

The dashboard thereby came out to be a statistical-cum-GIS dashboard for the Hindon River Basin, where users with different type of requirements can visualise, overlay and download a variety of datasets from a common platform. The dashboard was presented before NMCG and some other Hindon river basin Stakeholders and after receiving feedback from them it was decided to modify and present the same for the users to own this dashboard in the second phase in 2021.

About the proposed sessions

Under phase II of the project following five categories of potential users/owners of the dashboard have been identified:

- The administrators or the decision makers
- The researchers & academicians
- The industries in the area
- The domain experts working in the area
- The volunteers/NGO/Civil Societies

Five individual need assessment sessions are proposed to conduct with the listed users/owners to understand their requirements and gather their feedback on the functionality and user-friendliness of the existing dashboard.

Objectives

In this phase, it is intended to develop the dashboard to an intelligent dashboard which could overlay, analyse and answer at least the basic user queries based on the interaction between various data layers.

Also, for such a dashboard to be relevant the datasets it uses should be up-to-date and correct. To ensure the regular updating of datasets the ownership and accountability of such a dashboard should be precisely defined.

To identify the expectations of different users from the dashboard and the kind of questions they would like to address using it, it is now required to present the dashboard to various users and understand their requirements.

Questions to be addressed

Listed below are the set of questions that needs to be addressed during the sessions..

For all the sessions:

- Do you already have a similar or somewhat similar dashboard? If yes, then please give details.
- What can be the use of this dashboard as far as your mandate is concerned?
- Do you find the interface user friendly? (Y/N). If no, what changes can you suggest in the interface to make it more user-friendly?
- Whether the data available in the dashboard is sufficient to answer the queries or to find solutions to the challenges commonly encountered ? What spatial queries would you like to run on this dashboard to make it more useful?
- Suggestions, (if any)...

Explicit for the administrators/decision-makers:

- Who (which department) would own up the dashboard?
- Which data layer shall be updated by which department?
- What should be the frequency of data updation?
- How should the process of data updation be defined so as to ensure only authenticated data on the dashboard?

Explicit for the researchers/academicians:

- What additional features/data do you expect could make the dashboard more useful?
- How can this dashboard be useful for research community to allow more interesting thesis, research papers/articles come out on the basis of this data?

Explicit for the industries:

- How useful do you feel the dashboard could be for the preparation of DPRs?
- How do you feel this data could be made more useful for the industries?
- What additional features/data do you expect could make the dashboard more useful?

Explicit for the domain experts:

- Who beyond the users listed could potentially use the dashboard?
- What could be the source to get more updated/authentic datasets?
- What datasets according to you should be added in order to make the functionality more useful?
- What could make the interface more users friendly?
- Would you like to contribute towards the enhancement of the dashboard features? If yes how?

The responses to all these questions shall be collated and would finally pave the further course of action in terms of enhancement of the dashboard.

Programme Team:

Convenors: -

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, India Water Partnership (IWP)

Ms. Bhawna Badola, CEO, Tree Craze Foundation (TCF)

Co-Convenor: -

Ms. Pallavi Singhvi, Director (Programs), TREE Craze Foundation (TCF)

Moderators: -

Ms Sudha Kumari, Project Associate, India Water Partnership (IWP)

Mr. Rahul Naithani, Communication Officer, India Water Partnership (IWP)

About the Organizers

India Water Partnership (IWP)

IWP is a non-profit organization with the goal of promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in India. The IWP serves as an independent voice on water management issues and has been pursuing activities that influence policy and enhance stakeholders' participation through critical and unbiased analysis of issues, stimulating public awareness, and promoting dialogue and exchange of information between the individuals, agencies and government departments within the country. With more than 115 network partners working in various disciplines of water and allied sectors across India, the IWP works to promote its mission of supporting action for sustainable water resource management at national, regional, river basin/ sub-basin and local levels. The IWP is also accredited to Global Water Partnership (GWP) as a Country Water Partnership headquartered at Stockholm, Sweden.

Tree Craze Foundation (TCF)

TREE Craze Foundation (TREE stands for Tree, Rivers, Ecology, and Environment), (referred to as TCF hereon) a section-8 not-for profit company is a registered not for profit organization since 2014. TCF is primarily focuses on rivers, the essential and the most neglected part of environment. The TCF intends to energize the communities by providing the necessary knowledge base and inculcating an ownership attitude in place of mere awareness for the environmental assets. It has a model for continuous engagement of community in different age groups taking them at different levels viz. awareness to ownership to advocacy, and creating an institution at watershed level that can advise government on local needs and requirements.

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