

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

No. : DMC/Env./ 24 Dated 05.06.2024

Office of the –
Deputy Municipal Commissioner
(Environment & Climate Change)
Municipal Head Office,
Annexe Bldg., 6th floor,
Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai-400 001

To,
Lubaina Rangawala,
Program Head,
WRI India,
1st Floor, Godrej & Boyce Premises,
Gasworks Lane, Lalbaug, Parel
Mumbai 400012, India

To,
Roshni Nuggehalli
Executive Director
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action(YUVA)
Yuva Centre, Plot No. 23, Sector-7,
Kharghar, Navi Mumbai
Maharashtra 410210

Subject: Letter of Intent for the Nature Based Solutions and
Placemaking at Lal Maidan

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Madam,

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) launched its first ever Climate Action Plan(MCAP)in 2022. To help achieve their climate resilience goals, BMC's Climate cell is implementing strategic MCAP projects to address the city's climate risks such as extreme heat, flooding and air pollution.

'Nature Positive Placemaking: Lal Maidan' is one of the MCAP strategic projects. It is envisioned as a two-year project to implement Nature-based Solutions and restore Lal Maidan in Lallubhai compound, which is at risk of waterlogging, extreme heat, air pollution and myriad health impacts. The BMC's Climate Cell will be collaborating with WRI India and YUVA (Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action) in implementing this project.

With this partnership, WRI India and YUVA will support the BMC's **Environment and Climate Change department:**

- Provide support on understanding the DPR created for the project.
- Ensuring that scientific methods for climate adaptation are adopted through the lifecycle of the project through facilitation, reviews and monitoring.
- Creating two-way communication between project implementation agencies and the local community such that it provides direct and indirect benefits to the users.

Detailed roles and responsibilities in relation to the project are attached separately.

The BMC does not have any financial obligation towards WRI India and YUVA for their services through this project.

With signing this letter of intent, the BMC's Environment & Climate Change Department agrees to receive support from WRI India and YUVA in the project, 'Nature Positive Placemaking: Lal Maidan', towards building climate resilience in Lallubhai Compound.

Thanking you,


A/6/24

(Mitesh Pimple)
D.M.C.(Environment & Climate Change
D.M.C. (Environment)

Nature Positive Placemaking: Lal maidan, Lallubhai compound

A. Opportunities for integration of best practices:

- Important to prioritise periodic maintenance and repairs of existing drainage infrastructure to ensure effective drainage. This should be integrated within the maintenance plan.
- Systematic monitoring activities, under the stewardship of local communities should be developed to assess improved health, effective drainage, and inclusive use of the maidan.

1. NBS: Scientific greening, holistic approach

The maidan is to be developed using an integrated approach- including solutions for waste management; water retention, recharge and re-use infrastructure (Rain garden, borewell, bioswale, eco-STP, etc.); and biodiversity enhancement (Bio-fencing, vegetation along bioswales, etc.) in alignment with MCAP targets.

- Experts for behaviour change, community engagement, waste management, engineering of water retention infrastructure and biodiversity management can be consulted periodically for the same.
- Site activation and provision of amenities: must consult with experts for ergonomic and disability friendly play infrastructure; ecological lighting plan and coherent signages.
- Important to prioritise the use of local materials and labour from the community.

2. Community engagement in government projects from inception to execution

Inclusive social use of the maidan to ensure use by diverse residents that include senior citizens, women, youth, and children, along with provisions for disability access.

- Appointment of a BMC nodal officer for community interface.
- Awareness about project using communication material, through an initiation event, as well as through periodic meetings and capacity building activities (With support by the BMC).
- Create a two-way channel for communicating day-to-day challenges and solutions in relation to the project.
- Include employment/participation of community in some implementation, maintenance and monitoring activities.
- Create a maintenance plan with local societies, the society federation and other community groups, to create a sustainable cycle.

3. Cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary approach, Capacity building of departments

To enable an environment where SWM, SWD, Gardens, SO and MMRDA-Social Dev cell work in tandem to implement a holistic solution. Through the process building capacities for climate projects.

- Sharing challenges, learnings faced in implementation of infrastructure for climate resilience.
- Building technical capacities and awareness about climate concepts and NbS.
- Discussion of methods to ensure social inclusion.

4. Monitoring climate targets, evidence of before and after to show impacts, learnings

Monitor change across project stages- to understand influence on climate aspects, community well-being and other socio-economic conditions.

- Developing indicators to measure project social, environmental and economic impact and co-benefits, based on baselines established in the DPR.
- Developing qualitative methods to assess change- improved access, enhanced safety, etc.

B. Roles and responsibilities (WRI India and YUVA)

WRI India in collaboration with the Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) will be knowledge partners and technical advisors for the Lal maidan project. Periodic meetings between the BMC, Lal maidan landscape architect, contractor and key consultants; as well as WRI India during the design development, implementation, maintenance and monitoring stages will be required.

	Design development stage	Implementation stage	Maintenance and monitoring stage	Overall remarks
<p>Technical advice and reviews- WRI India</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic reviews to assess any programmatic changes to the maidan design, or technical modifications to the Nature-based Solutions provided in the Detailed Project Report. 2 capacity building sessions for the DPR team, including government officials, to build awareness about an integrated approach for climate resilient and socially adaptive open spaces. Advise on the on-boarding of experts for biodiversity and water management; material circularity; waste management and behaviour change, along with advice on the appointment of the nodal landscape architect, contractor and consultants. Technical inputs and weekly reviews during the tendering process. Inputs towards further baseline tests to be carried out. 2 technical reviews on any good for construction drawings to be prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic reviews (Every 15 days) of activities and processes that include excavation of concrete; civil work for water infrastructure and site circulation; soil restoration and grading; planting activities; site amenities and furniture; solid waste management. Technical advice on restoration methods. Facilitation of repairs of existing drainage infrastructure to ensure smooth functioning of Nature-based Solutions implemented within the maidan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bi-weekly meetings/ site evaluations to assess the operationalization of the maintenance plan included in the DPR. Formation of a monitoring committee with representatives from YUVA, community groups and BMC officials to keep operations for maintenance in check. Measuring project impact through a list of pre-determined indicators to capture environmental, social and economic impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation and co-ordination of bi-weekly meetings between the BMC, WRI India, YUVA and project consultants to ensure that goals are being met for each activity (Solid waste management, Water management and infrastructure, biodiversity restoration) in an integrated manner across project stages. Course correction- adopting necessary measures to ensure alignment with climate goals established for the project.
<p>Activities to build social impact- YUVA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day-to-day activities to build community stewardship towards the project and share awareness on benefits of climate resilient infrastructure. Research on by-laws to integrate society groups and residents into implementation, maintenance and monitoring activities. Legal consultation for maintenance fund creation as part of the implementation proposal. Facilitation of a site office (Re-use of closed Galas) to conduct community and stakeholder meetings and share project progress. Support for the mobilization of residents for waste management activities to be conducted by the waste management consultant- a month-long awareness and training campaign; facilitation of clean-up drive; collection and disposal of waste, as proposed in the DPR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day-to-day meetings with residents to share site progress of implementation and continue to build awareness around benefits of restoration through Nature-based Solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting 4-5 capacity building trainings with the society/federation and community members/ 'greening champions' for support with maintenance activities. Facilitation of 2-3 trainings for the gardener to be employed. Inputs towards the development of a training manual to share maintenance guidelines with all stakeholders involved in the maintenance phase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support through platforms for the community to voice concerns/ demands, with the aim of integration into the project plan. Guidance for the employment of additional people for waste management, implementation activities and maintenance from the community. Appointment of BMC co-ordinator for bi-weekly meetings and capacity building