Decode NbS User Manual (Draft)

Please note that tool is under validation and will soon be ready for systemic use. Until then, creators do not hold the responsibility of the final content.

1. Introduction

Decode NbS is a web-based decision-support tool developed by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in collaboration with WWF-India. The 'DeCode NbS' tool, offers a collection of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as an alternative to conventional constructed city infrastructure, to address specific climate challenge. It empowers urban decision-makers with tailored function-based solutions as sustainable city practice to catalyze climate adaptation and mitigation.

2. Accessing the Tool

• Website: Navigate to https://decodenbs.niua.in using a web browser.

• Explore Section: For a guided exploration, visit https://decodenbs.niua.in/explore-decode-nbs/ .

3. Navigating the Dashboard

A. Explore Decode NbS

This interactive section allows users to input specific parameters to receive tailored NbS recommendations.

Steps include

• ***Select State and City (not mandatory)***: Choose your region to inform the tool user(s) approximate geography. This will aid the development of tool. **(This doesn't inform the cluster of solutions you are offered on the dashboard as of now!)**

• ***Identify Yourself***: Select your role (e.g., City Official, Urban Practitioner, Student, City Resident, CSO/NGO Member) for customised solution experiences.

• *****Climate Concern:*** Specify the primary climatic concern to be addressed out of the 6 preset options

 - Biodiversity Loss
 - Land Degradation
 - High Temperature
 - Water Pollution

- Groundwater Depletion
- Flooding

*For resolving other environmental concerns, you may visit the page '**Explore other issues**' under **NbS World**

• ***Preferred Approach***: Choose the strategy or methodology you wish to employ out of 2 preset options:

– Implementing new interventions

– Reviving an existing ecosystem

• **Submit**: After filling in the details, click 'Submit' and receive customized NbS recommendations.

Users can hover over each solution to see their definitions, co-benefits and suggested climate zone for high efficiency.

For a comprehensive detail on the solution, users can click on the tab titled **Click here to Download** under each solution for a printable pdf.
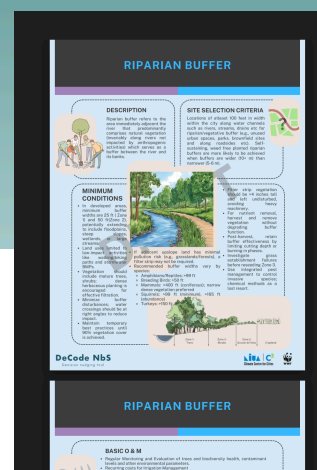
B. NbS World

A comprehensive repository of information and case studies:

• *Case Studies*: Explore real-world implementations of NbS across various cities.

• *Indigenous Practices*: Learn about traditional methods and practices that align with NbS principles.

• *Other Issues*: Dive into additional environmental concerns and their corresponding solutions.

• *Contribute to NbS*: Share your own projects or insights to enrich the platform's database.

C. Resources

Access a wealth of materials to support your NbS initiatives:

• *General Guidelines*: Understand the foundational principles and general disclaimers while implementing the best practices for NbS found on this website

• *National Missions*: Align your projects with national missions suitable for each of the NbS

• *Yellow Pages for NbS*: Find contacts and organizations specializing in NbS.

4. Support and Feedback

• *Help Center*: Visit the Help Center for FAQs and troubleshooting guides.

• *Contact Support*: Reach out to the support team via email at support@decodenbs.niua.in for personalized assistance.

• *Feedback*: Provide feedback to help improve the tool's functionality and user experience.

Disclaimer

Indicative Recommendations - The NbS interventions suggested by the tool are indicative and should not be treated as prescriptive or exhaustive. Users are advised to consult local experts and practitioners before implementation.

Context Sensitivity - The tool does not factor in for hyper-local site conditions (e.g., soil type, slope, microclimate, existing biodiversity, legal constraints etc.). Site assessments and ground-truthing are essential prior to project formulation.

Dynamic Climate Data - While Decode NbS incorporates climate-related concerns, it does not dynamically model real-time climate data. Users should supplement tool outputs with updated environmental datasets from government or scientific agencies.

Implementation Feasibility - The feasibility of any NbS solution is subject to financial, administrative, institutional, and technical constraints that the tool does not evaluate. The user is responsible for conducting such assessments independently.

No Liability on Outcomes - NIUA, WWF India, or their partners bear no responsibility for the outcomes—positive or negative—of projects developed based on the tool's recommendations.

Non-substitution of Professional Advice - The tool is intended as a decision-support system, not a substitute for professional advice from planners, architects, ecologists, engineers, or legal experts.

Data Limitations - The accuracy and comprehensiveness of outputs depend on the quality and availability of the underlying datasets. Some recommendations may be generalized due to limited data for specific geographies.

User-contributed Content - Content in the "Contribute to NbS" section may include third-party submissions. NIUA and WWF India do not verify the authenticity or scientific validity of all user-generated content.

Technology Limitations - The tool is web-based and may be subject to browser compatibility issues, periodic updates, or downtime. Functionality might vary depending on the user's internet connectivity and device settings.

Evolving Knowledge Base - Nature-based Solutions are an emerging and evolving field. The tool reflects current best practices, but new research and innovations may render some recommendations outdated over time.

No Guarantee of Funding or Policy Support - Usage of the Decode NbS tool does not

imply automatic eligibility for government funding, policy alignment, or regulatory approvals.

Limited Localization - While the tool allows for city-specific entries, many solutions and case studies are generalized or based on global precedents and may not reflect regional cultural, socio-economic, or political nuances.