



Eyes on the Canal - Reimagining Chennai's Buckingham Canal
Generating Collective Ownership through Participatory Planning

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Project

The Cities Fit for Climate Change (CFCC) project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. The project also cooperates with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI).

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Disclaimer

The 'Eyes on the Canal' initiative for participatory planning to make the Buckingham Canal a liveable place for the residents of Chennai (India) was supported by the global project Cities Fit for Climate Change (CFCC) of GIZ from June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019. Within this initiative, the global project CFCC launched an 'Open Ideas Competition on Reimagining Chennai's Buckingham Canal'.

The 28 shortlisted entries to the competition are presented in this publication as well as a summary of the refined versions of the three winning teams. The 28 shortlisted competition teams take complete responsibility for the content and views expressed in their competition contributions. GIZ will not be held responsible for the content and views expressed in the competition contributions of the shortlisted competition teams.

Competition team responsables

Team: Protect: Delay, Store, Release! / Praveen Raj / Sasaki Associates, Inc. Boston / 292, Usha Rice Mill Complex, Dharapuram Road, Tiruppur 641604

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Team: Leveraging Buckingham Canal to be Chennai's Shock Absorber / Pratik Daulat / The Blank Slate / 13th floor, We Work, Tower B, 247 Embassy Park, Hindustan C, LBS Marg, Chandan Nagar, Vikroli West, Mumbai 400079

Team: Buckingham Theru / Mona.V / Student / 28/18, Pandaram Street, Purasaiwalkkam, Chennai 600007

Team: Reimagining Buckingham Canal / Prajakta Chakravarty / Green Mango Design, Plot no.25, Pitale Nagar, Near Vinayak Hospital, Marketyard, Gultekdi, Pune 411037

Team: Resilient Ecosystem for Buckingham Canal / Prajka Adhikari / Rajeev Tayshete and Associates/ 3, Wada, Indira Gandhi Chowk, near DNS bank, Shradhanand path, Dombivali (east) 421201

Team: People of Chennai and their Canal / Abhimanyu Singhal / House no. 1083, Sector 21, Gurugram 122016

Team: Resiliency – Reimagining Buckingham canal / Chiara Chiodero / Nous Studio, Bangalore / No7 (old No4) Rose Lane, Richmond Town, 560025 Bangalore

Team: The Conglomerate of Bulb Park / Umesh Wakaley / Roots Landscape / 12A-Nirmala Apts.24 Sanewadi, Aundh, Pune 411 007

Team: Weaving of the Blue & the Green / Vina V. Biswas / VSPB Associates / 74C, Pocket A-10, Kalkaji Extension, New Delhi 110019

Team: Of The People, By The People, For The People: Buckingham Canal Chennai / Rahul Shinde / Rahul Shinde and Associates / Plot No. 14, 'Balkrishna', Shirgaonkar Housing Society, Rajarampuri, 8th lane extension, Kolhapur, 416008

Team: Urban Stitch / Sriram Ramakrishnan / S6, Asha Punj, 18, School Road, Ambattur, Chennai 600053

Team: Thalir / Meghana Dutta / Studio Decode / #151, 12th cross, 20th main, 2nd phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore 560041

Team: Gory to Glory! / Abhishek Vaidyanathan Singiri / AVS Architects / 10/14, 8th Street, Gopalapuram, Chennai 600086

Team: H₂Olistic / Sunjana Thirumala Sridhar / Design office of global cities / 303 5th Avenue, #911, New York, New York 10016

Team: Uplifting The Canal / Harini / Studio DCode / 16/21, Cenotaph road, 1st street, Alwarpet, Chennai 600018

Team: Water Responsive Urbanism – Revitalization of Buckingham Canal Chennai / Rohit Salunke / Ashwattha Design Studio / office number S19, 2nd floor, Bhosale Shinde Arcade, JM Road, Deccan Pune 411005

Team: A Biophilic Approach to Rejuvenating The Buckingham Canal / Anupama Mohanram / Green Evolution / 43/2, 7th Cross Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai 600090

Team: Hyperconnected Tissues / Sandip Patil / Earthscapes Consultancy Pvt Ltd / B 808 Titanium Square, Thaljei, Ahmedabad 380054

Team: The Community Canal / Arpita Kothari / Freelance / #303, 3rd Floor, Sri Sri Paradise, 3rd Main Road, HAL 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru 560075

Team: People's Eco Corridor / Ravi Anand Loknath / Urban Circle / 13, S1 Lokesh Homes, Ramaswamy Avenue, Vannandurai, Adyar, Chennai 600020

Team: Occupy The Canal / Kruti Shah / CEPT University / 1302, Tadmor, Skyline Oasis, Vidyavihar (West), Mumbai- 400086

Team: Rethinking Buckingham / Prera Vaishnav / 1,Vijayant Flats, Behind Bansidhar Society, Opposite Eden Garden Society, Bhattha Paldi Ahmedabad 380007



Team: Renaissance / Nivedhitha A. / Bharath University / Address No 204, Tower 12, Unihomes phase 1, Uniworld City, Kandigai, Near IIIT college, Chennai 600127

Team: Physical, Social and Digital Services Intervention - Buckingham Canal / Shilpi Jain / P. O. Box 2178, Gaborone, Botswana

Team: Remember, Revive and Celebrate / Girisha Sethi / SK Das Associated Architects / SpaceMatters, 9812 / C9, Vasant Kunj, Delhi 110070

Team: The Chennai Water Project - Road to the Future / Gandhali Tipnis / Edifice Consultants Pvt. Ltd. / First Floor, Plot 2A, Ujagar Infotech Park, Opposite Deonar Bus Depot, Deonar, Mumbai 400 088.

Team: Social Canalscape: an integral urbanism / Rohini Raghavan / studio r+r / 72, 3rd Main Rd., Lakshmi Nagar Extn., Porur, Chennai 600078

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The Blank Slate*

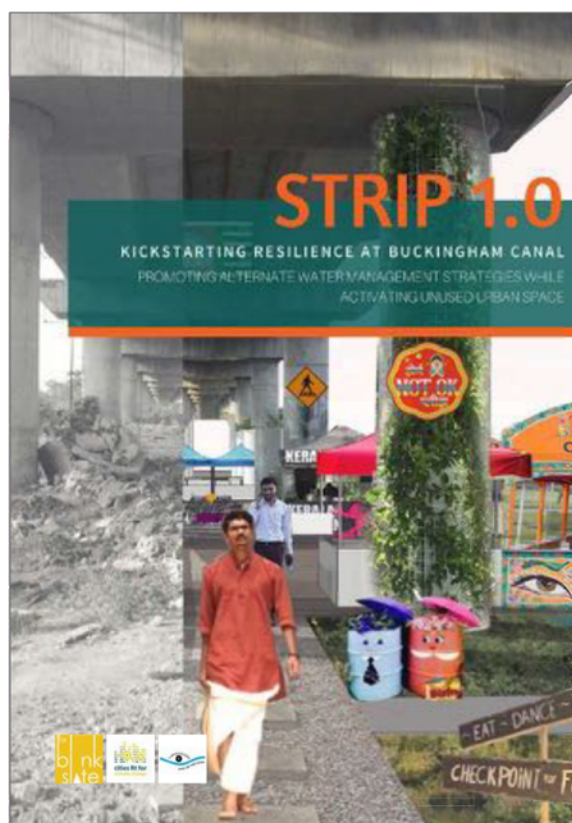
Strip 1.0 details a community-centred road-map for creating an implementable, sustainable and maintainable plan to initiate the reversal of the damage caused to Buckingham Canal due to continued ignorance and neglect. The aim is to re-establish the canal as the resilient backbone of the city of Chennai. The project demonstrates alternative water management techniques through embedded mini-projects aimed at rejuvenating a section of the canal. Furthermore, it creates an activated public space by transforming the selected pilot stretch of Buckingham Canal into a liveable space.

Increasing Chennai’s resilience and rejuvenating the Buckingham Canal are long term and capital-intensive projects. The project focuses on what is possible now through limited means to start a larger momentum required to transform the canal into an asset that not only prevents flooding events but also becomes an integral part of the public life of the city. The project aims at reimagining the public realm, restoring ecology, prioritising environmental sustainability and fostering community participation.

The short-term action plan detailed in the project aims at activating a chosen site on the banks of Buckingham Canal to create interest in the site within the community. This is done through the use of temporary interventions and pop-up urbanism that can be implemented immediately with

limited funding. Through seasonal events and multi-purpose spaces that can be programmed into a dynamic public space throughout the year, the plan intends to attract more people to the site. Through a menu of programming which has been developed while working with the residents of the area, the Strip 1.0, becomes a new public space in an existing urban wasteland. Embedded within this public space are a set of green infrastructure scalable projects that intend to restore the ecology of Buckingham Canal. A network of integrated wetlands consisting of constructed wetlands, vertical wetlands and floating treatment islands work together to treat the sewage currently being dumped into the canal in this pilot stretch. Green infrastructure projects such as a rain garden and bioswale are integrated into this public space, demonstrating and promoting alternative water management techniques to the users.

Strip 1.0 offers the possibility to create a 10 km long public space in the city by channelling the underutilised space under the mass rapid transit system (MRTS) along the banks of Buckingham Canal when scaled. The project envisions the creation of a new invigorating public space that is focused on the canal’s wellbeing, connecting and bringing various communities of the city together in order to harness interest and foster resilience within the city.



Available at: <https://eyesonthecanal.in/winning-shortlisted-entries/>



* This excerpt has been provided by the winning teams. The winning teams take complete responsibility for the content and views expressed in this text.

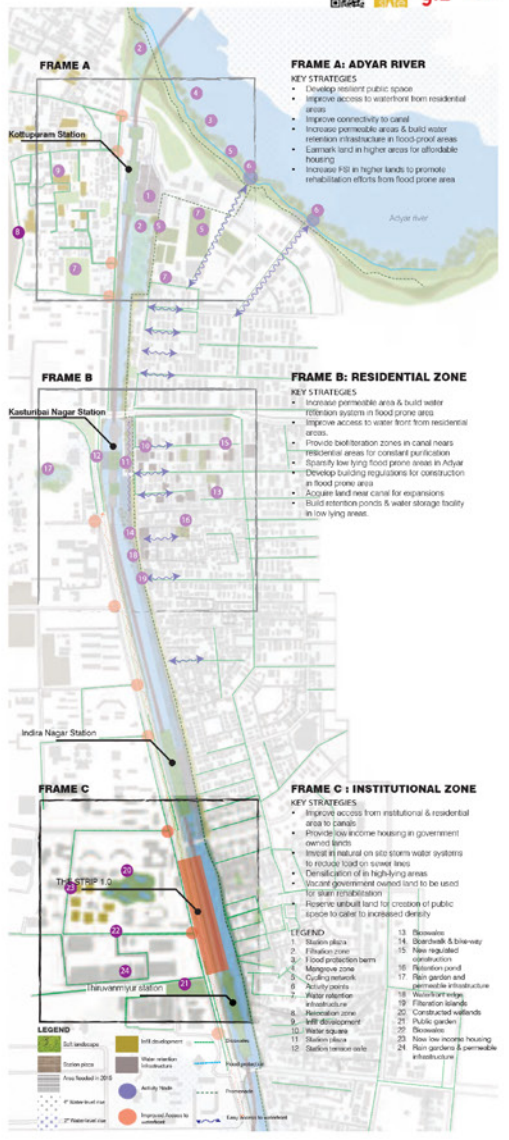
STRIP 1.0

KICKSTARTING RESILIENCE AT BUCKINGHAM CANAL
PROMOTING ALTERNATE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES WHILE ACTIVATING UNUSED URBAN SPACE

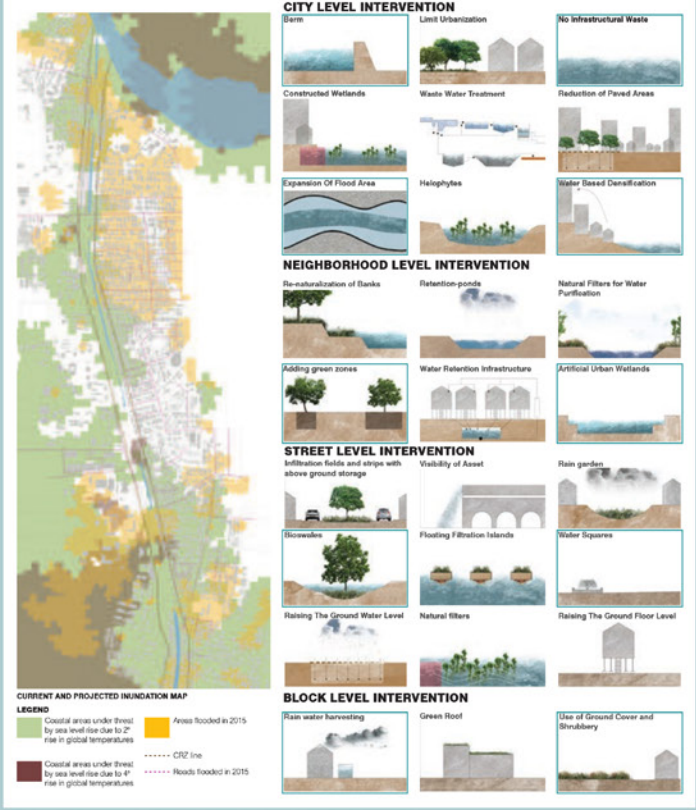
Strip 1.0 details a community-centric roadmap of creating an implementable, sustainable and maintainable plan to stabilize the western end of the damage caused to Buckingham Canal as its continued neglect and to re-establish the canal as the resilient backbone of Chennai. The project demonstrates alternative water management techniques through embedded mini-projects aimed at rejuvenating the canal and creating an activated public space in the process transforming the edge into a viable space. The project re-imagines Buckingham Canal as a means of making the city of Chennai climate proof. The holistic aim of the project is to showcase alternate water management micro solutions that can be applied to various urban settings to reduce the sewage and pollutants to the Buckingham Canal. Through the use of macro, local and community strategies, the toolkit of water sensitive interventions can be applied as a comprehensive urban landscape strategy. Proposed strategies like natural forms and planted mangroves along Adyar river to neighborhood level constructed wetlands, bio-filtration islands and flood proof public spaces strive to create a refined balance maximizing the closing of local water cycles. Strip 1.0 is the first step working at the amalgamation of public realm and ecological sustainability and makes the foundation stone for a larger, well connected and invigorating public space with an ecological goal at the core. The project envisions the creation of a new invigorating public space that is focused on the canal's well being, connecting and bringing various communities of the city together in order to harness interest and foster resiliency within the city.



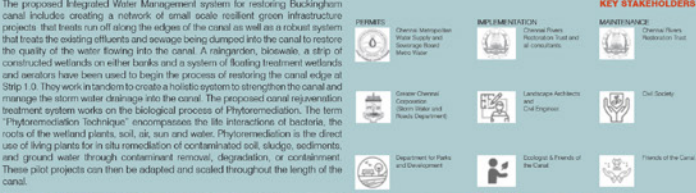
A NEGLECTED CANAL

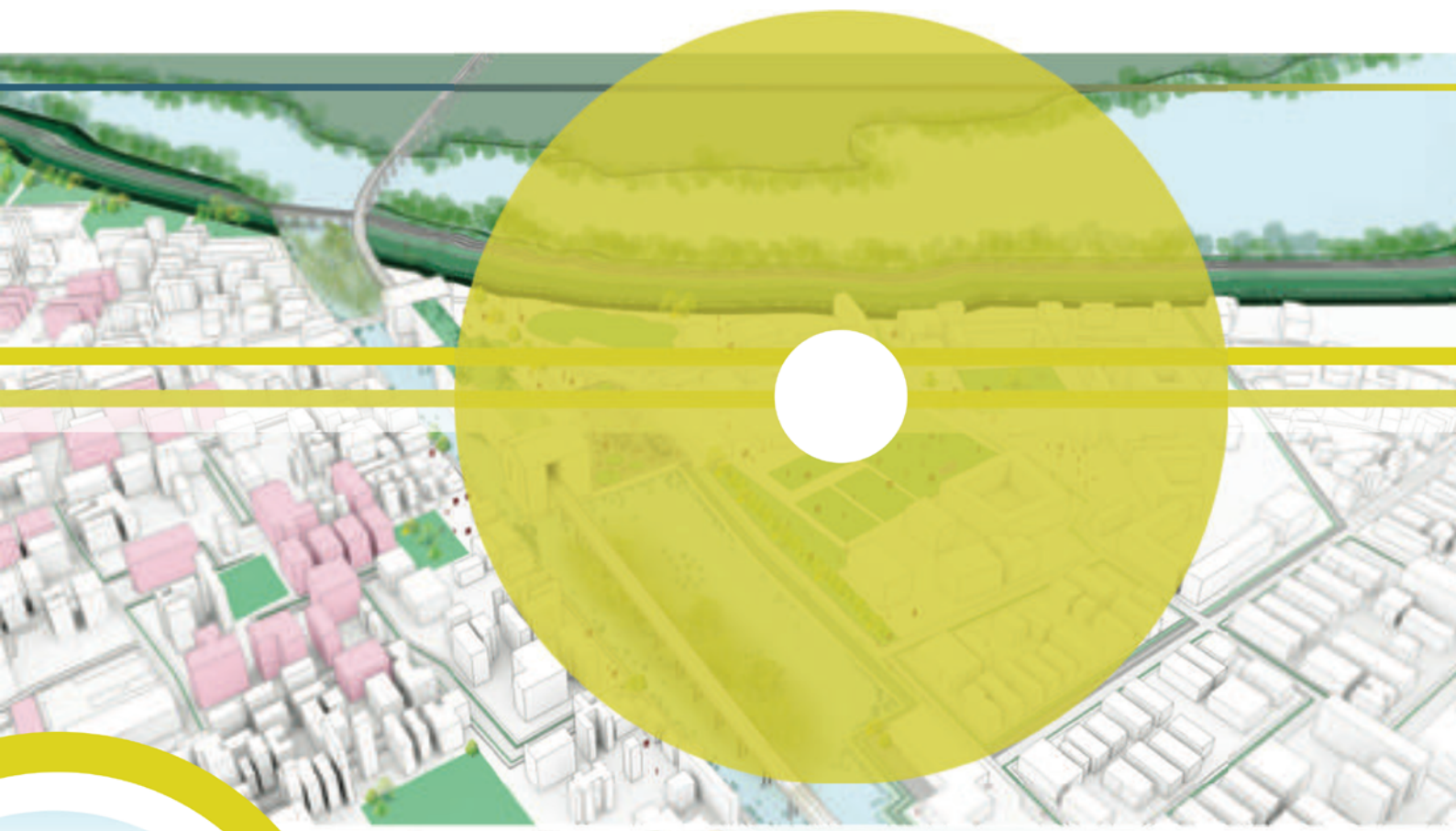


TOOLKIT OF WATER SENSITIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



PROPOSED INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM





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