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UPSCAPE

NEWSLETTER

December 2017

During the last six months since our first project newsletter, UPSCAPE researchers have been busy continuing our scientific research, novel modelling developments and engagement with stakeholders. Find out more about our work in this newsletter...

Stakeholder engagement in Tamil Nadu

Following successful stakeholder engagement events in Bangalore, UPSCAPE researchers travelled to Tamil Nadu to engage with stakeholders. The aim of these interactions was to gain perspectives on water resources in the Tamil Nadu Cauvery and delta regions. In particular, we explored the range of water issues, gaps in scientific knowledge and potential solutions to achieve sustainable water resources management in the Cauvery.



The Irrigation Management Training Institute (IMTI) in Tiruchirappalli hosted the team for two days. During this time meetings with IMTI staff and local stakeholders facilitated valuable discussions and crucial knowledge exchange.



The final stage of engagement took place visiting stakeholders in Chennai. Here, we were able to consider viewpoints of national and state level institutes and organisations about sustainable water management strategies in the Cauvery basin.



UPSCAPE news:

- Prof. John Rowan (University of Dundee) attended the India Impact Water Summit 2017 which ran from the 4th- 7th December in Delhi.
- Dr. Veena Srinivasan (ATREE) presented a lecture on 'Reviving Urban Lakes' as a part of the Groundwater Series at the Columbia Global Centres conference in Mumbai, 4th October.
- UK project lead Dr. Gwyn Rees (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology) presented project progress at the SusHI-Wat meeting in Cambridge on 3rd October 2017.
- Dr. Veena Srinivasan (ATREE) was featured in 'Wellspring', an article in the Indian Express.
- Vani Krishnan, working with ATREE on UPSCAPE passed her PhD viva—congratulations Dr. Vani.

Contact or follow us:

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Rainfall sample collection in experimental catchments

PhD student Venkat from IISc, Bangalore and Manju, Chidu and Somsupra from ATREE have been out in the Berambadi and Hadonahalli watersheds collecting samples from rainfall collectors. These samples along with work completed by British Geological Survey will improve understanding groundwater connectivity.



India and UK partner meetings



In addition to joint India-UK meetings, UPSCAPE partners in each country held a meeting in November. The India partners meeting was held at IISc Bangalore on the 13th November and the UK partners met on the 29th November at the Centre of Ecology & Hydrology in Wallingford. Colleagues shared research progress including results from Bangalore's urban groundwater boreholes, projections of climate futures across the Cauvery basin and the impact of water conservation interventions at the micro-catchment scale. Both meetings ended by discussing plans for the upcoming months of work before our next joint meeting in 2018.

Upcoming activities:

- UK UPSCAPE researchers to visit India in early 2018 for consortium meetings
- Fieldwork in Bangalore
- ICRISAT fieldwork in Dindigul and Chikmagalur

...see our Facebook page for more

Joint India-UK consortium meeting

In June 2017, UK UPSCAPE members travelled to IISc Bangalore for two days of project meetings with all partners. This included a number of valuable presentations such as contributions from our PhD students and topic sessions on modelling approaches and stakeholders in UPSCAPE.



Cauvery field trip, a photo story...

In June, members of UPSCAPE travelled through the Cauvery basin over two days to assess landscape and water use characteristics. *Photos 1-4*: From Bangalore, we travelled through the Mandya district featuring canal command areas, tanks and low-flowing waterfalls. Here, farmers were irrigating sugarcane, banana and other horticultural crops using deep borewells and surface water was being largely transported to Bangalore. *Photo 5*: Later the landscape changed dramatically as we travelled through the forest to ATREE's field station in MM Hills.

Photos 6-7: As we travelled further towards our final stop of day one, the Mettur Dam, we saw that small streams from the forest were feeding water into the main Cauvery stream. However, the Cauvery River and Stanley Reservoir were nearly empty at this time in June. *Photos 8-11*: On day two we travelled into the Cauvery delta. Here the main Cauvery channel and irrigation canals were dry. Shallow groundwater accessed by dugwells was available in some villages and borewell irrigated paddy crops were widespread in the region.

Find the full photo story at @upscapewater on Facebook.



UPSCAPE is a 3-year £2M research project. It is part of the Newton-Bhabha "Sustaining Water Resources Programme", funded jointly by the UK Natural Environment Research Council and the India Ministry of Earth Sciences. The project involves six organisations from India and the UK.