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UPSCAPE

NEWSLETTER

June 2017

Welcome...

...to the first UPSCAPE newsletter. This bi-annual newsletter will keep you informed about project updates and research activities. Here is a summary of our research aim and partner institutes.

UPSCAPE (Upscaling catchment processes for sustainable water resources in Peninsular India) is a 3-year research project addressing the key scientific challenge of representing multiple small-scale water management interventions, such as check-dams, bunds and boreholes to determine how they affect water availability at the basin scale.



India partners: Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (IISc), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

UK partners: Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), British Geological Survey (BGS) and the University of Dundee (UoD).

UPSCAPE news:

- UK project lead Dr. Gwyn Rees (CEH) presented 'Upscaling catchment processes for sustainable water management in Peninsular India' at the World Large Rivers Conference in New Delhi on 20th April 2017.
- Prof. Sekhar Muddu (IISc) and Dr. Veena Srinivasan (ATREE) were featured in an article in The Economic Times (India) on 'The precarious situation of India's water problem'.
- BGS researcher Andrew McKenzie visited Bangalore to discuss urban water use and management with a range of stakeholders.
- In March, UoD Postdoctoral Researcher Dr. Sophie Sherriff and PhD student Bhawana Gupta at the Centre for Environment, Climate and Human Resilience conference on 'Sustainable Futures: what works?' in Dundee, UK.
- World Water Day 2017 was celebrated with a panel discussion at ATREE about the potential of recycling wastewater in urban regions.

Project launch



UPSCAPE was officially launched at IISc, Bangalore on the 26th October 2016. Presentations were made by Prof. Pradeep Mujumdar (IISc) on the 'Challenges of Water Management in the Cauvery Basin' and Dr. Gwyn Rees (CEH) on the Newton-Bhabha Sustaining Water Resources programme and UPSCAPE.

Consortium 'kick-off' meeting

India and UK UPSCAPE researchers met at IISc, Bangalore in October 2016. Our discussions formally brought together team members to share existing knowledge and research and feedback progress within the UPSCAPE project.



UPSCAPE
Upscaling Catchment Processes for Sustainable Water Management in Peninsular India
Project Launch Meeting, IISc Bangalore, 24-28 October 2016



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Stakeholder Engagement in Bangalore

Following the project launch, we spoke to stakeholders about their views on water resources management in the Cauvery. The small workshop groups which included government officials, scientists, NGOs and members of the UPSCAPE team focussed their discussions in different spatial contexts; urban areas, rural areas at the basin scale.

These discussions covered a wide range of water resource issues, potential solutions and science gaps which have already improved UPSCAPE's understanding and will support project outputs that are stakeholder relevant. Many thanks to all those involved.

Upcoming activities:

UK UPSCAPE researchers visit India in June-17 for:

- Consortium meetings
- Fieldtrip through the Cauvery basin
- Stakeholder meetings in Tamil Nadu

...see our Facebook page for more information.

Visit to study catchments

After the October 2016 workshop, some of the UK team spend a few days visiting the confluence of the Arkavathy and Cauvery rivers and with ATREE and IISc staff, to the Berambadi catchment. The visit was an opportunity to see the scale of river systems, dams and interventions in the landscape, see the existing extensive instrumentation, plan future fieldwork and take samples from a number of pumping borewells to gather insights into the connections between deep aquifers and modern rainfall.



Bangalore landscape fieldtrip

The UPSCAPE team visited areas in and around Bangalore on a one-day field trip in October. The aim was to view the landscape changes from urban- to rural-dominated areas and consider the physical and anthropogenic effects on water availability and use.

In the rural areas outside of Bangalore, land use was highly fragmented including a number of crop types such as horticultural crops and eucalyptus plantations. A number of rural hydrological interventions such as drip irrigation, borewells, tanks and dugwells were visited in the Arkavathy catchment to consider their short- and long- term efficiency at supplying water for domestic and agricultural water users.

A visit to a sewage treatment plant and the downstream Jakkur Lake showed the range of pressures and available solutions for Bangalore's constructed urban lakes.

