

# Clean Air Project in India (CAP India)

Supported by  
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## Background

Rapidly growing economy and migration of the population towards urban areas in India are the major drivers for degradation of ambient air quality in cities. This exposes regions of high population density to severely high air pollutant levels. The Government of India has been undertaking several initiatives for effective control of air pollution. These include introduction of new policies, acts and regulations, setting and revising national ambient air quality standards, introduction of National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAQMP), emission norms for highly polluting industries, advanced vehicular emissions and fuel quality norms, and formulation of basic action plans by central and state governments to control air pollution in Indian cities in the past decade. While steps are being taken in the right direction, intensive efforts are still required to curb this growing problem. Firstly, there is a need to develop the clean air action plans based on scientific assessments such as source apportionment studies taking into account the regional scale contributions. Secondly, there is a need to update the protocol for carrying out source apportionment studies, data collection templates and calibration protocols based on the latest research. Thirdly, a framework to track the implementation of clean air action plans is required as implementation is important to achieve the desired improvements in air quality. Fourthly, there are also constraints related to the technical capacity of local stakeholders, which is essential for formulation and implementation of air quality management plans. Fifthly, there is need of generating awareness about deteriorating air quality in general public.

## Clean Air Project in India (CAP India)

For control of pollution at national scale, the Government of India has launched the National Clean Air Program (NCAP), with a goal to meet the prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in the country and with an interim national level target of 20-30% reduction of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentration by 2024. For this, the NCAP also stresses upon sharing of best practices and increased cooperation with international agencies. In view of supporting the India's effort for improving air quality, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) initiated the long-term 'Clean air project in India (CAP India)'. The proposed project aim is to "support India's efforts to improve people's health and well-being through better air quality, while contributing to environment and climate change mitigation".

In order to achieve the aim, the project will focus on the following outcomes:

1. Improved data measurement and analysis on clean air.
2. Enhanced capacities of city and state authorities to implement clean air policies and action plans.

3. Awareness for clean air action is raised.

The project has two components: research and implementation. A network led by PSI (Switzerland) will lead the activities on the research fronts, while a consortium led by TERI (New Delhi) will be responsible for overall project management and implementation. The research and implementation teams will be supporting and complementing each other during the course of the project through their planned activities. Implementation team will provide the local knowledge in the form of existing air quality measurements, source inventories, and meteorological datasets and will also carry out source apportionment and future projection of air quality using a dispersion model. On the other hand, research team will carry out state of the art research through actual monitoring and receptor modelling analysis to ascertain contribution of different sources towards prevailing particulate levels in the cities.

We plan to launch the project in WSDS 2020 and inform the stakeholders about the project, discuss the methodologies to be adopted in the project and take their inputs in a thematic event.

## **Thematic Event**

A thematic event will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan (2.30 PM-4.00 PM) during the World Sustainable Development Summit organized by TERI, 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 with the following objectives:

Objective 1: To understand the issue of air pollution in India cities. Which are the factors contributing to the problem of air pollution and initiatives taken to manage air quality in Indian cities?

Objective 2: What learning can be taken from the past experience of Indian cities in tackling the problem of air quality?

Objective 3: To inform the stakeholders about the Clean Air Project in India, discuss the methodologies to be adopted in the project.

The session will focus on air quality management in Indian cities and collaboration of Government of India with multilateral and bilateral agencies to implement the NCAP. Stakeholders will be informed about the SDC initiative to support the NCAP through their CAP India project. Details will be provided on research and implementation part of the project and need of the project will be discussed in the states of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

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