Clean Air Project in India (CAP India)

CONTEXT

Air pollution is a global concern contributing to a wide range of health risks. According to the World Health Organisation data, around 7 million people die worldwide every year from exposure to the polluted air. More than 80 percent of people living in urban areas are exposed to concentrations higher than the level recommended by the WHO.

India is one of the countries that is severely affected by air pollution. As per the Global burden of disease report 2019, almost 100% of Indians were exposed to unhealthy concentration of PM2.5 in 2019. Around 78% of the Indian cities where air quality is being monitored violate the prescribed ambient air quality standards. Air pollution is among the top five health risks in India causing around 1.67 millions deaths in 2019 accounting for 17.8 % of the total deaths in the country. Sensing the urgency, the Government of India launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) with the aim to reduce pollution levels in 132 non-attainment cities by 20 - 30% by 2024.

In view of this, the Global Programme Climate Change and Environment of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is supporting the Clean Air Project in India (CAP-India) to strengthen GoI's efforts in controlling the air pollution. CAP-India is assisting four partner cities – Lucknow, Kanpur, Pune and Nashik – in strengthening their clean air action plans based on international techniques of the advanced source apportionment.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project 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.

The primary objectives of the project area:

- Improved data measurement and analysis on clean air.
- Enhanced capacities of city and state authorities to implement clean air policies and action plans.
- Awareness for clean air action is raised.

Clean Air, Land and Water

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Area: Mitigation

Duration: 2019 - 2023

Budget: CHF 5'000'000

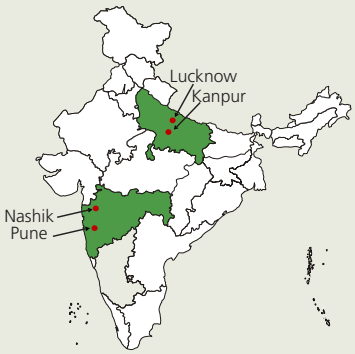
Implementation Partners:

- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, India (Lead)
- Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune, India
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg, Austria
- The Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) Lausanne, Switzerland

Research Partners:

- Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), Switzerland (Lead)
- Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK)
- National Environmental Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI)

Geographic Focus:



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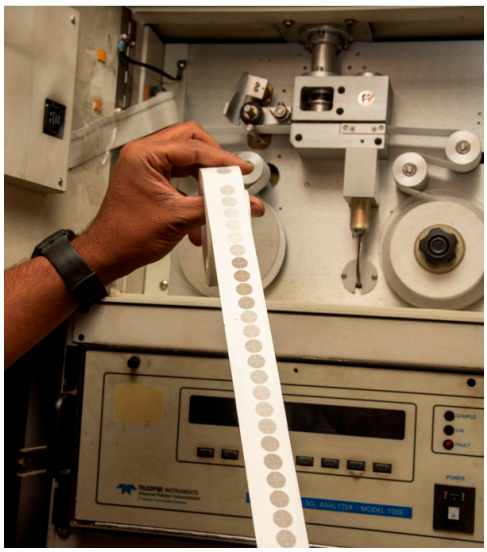
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Emission inventory for four cities have been prepared.
- A comprehensive study to assess and optimize the existing air quality monitoring network in Pune has been conducted and has been submitted to MPCB.
- Priority sectors have been identified in the clean air action plan based on the initial study conducted in Pune and Nashik in consultation with relevant stakeholders using multi-criteria analysis.
- More than 250 government officials and local stakeholders were trained on air quality monitoring and management, traditional and advanced source apportionment studies and preparation of emission inventories.
- More than 3 million people representing the media professionals, general public and students, etc. has been aware about the air pollution through multiple awareness programs.

PLANNED RESULTS

- Scientifically proven source contributions of PM and other pollutants for four focus cities (Lucknow, Kanpur, Pune and Nashik) conducted.
- Clean air action plan of focus cities strengthened and accepted by pollution control board.
- Air quality monitoring, calibration methods and monitoring networks improved.
- Monitoring, review, and verification (MRV) systems developed for implementation of clean air action plans.
- Pilot demonstration based on approved city action plan conducted in selected sectors with high mitigation and replicative potential.
- Strengthened Technical capacities of the government officials in focus cities and other stakeholder strengthened on air quality measurement and management.
- Awareness campaign regularly organised by engaging with civil society, academic institutions and private sector actors.



IN NUMBERS

63 of the world's 100 most polluted cities are located in India.

132 cities in India exceed the prescribed national standards of air quality.

1.67 million deaths are attributable to air pollution in India.

About 30% reduction in wheat yields due to air pollution in India.

Lead photo, photos 1 and 3 Taha Ahmad © SDC, photo 2 Ranita Roy © SDC

ABOUT SDC IN INDIA

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a partner of India for more than 60 years. Since 2011, SDC's engagement focuses specifically on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and other environmental challenges. The office in India is part of SDC's strategic engagement on Climate, Disaster Risk Reduction and Environment. As part of its regional and global initiatives, SDC also has ongoing activities related to food systems, water and health in India.

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