

# PRESERVE

*Interact with the green around you*

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## RATIONALE

In the post-pandemic scenario along with the rapid urbanisation we face in the cities, it is of utmost importance for us to preserve the native biodiversity. The average temperature rise and the increased GHG emissions need to be kept in check in our cities. To achieve this, greening the cities with native cover at the local level is a foundational step for sustainability and resilience.

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to create and sustain flourishing green spaces through a digital platform by streamlining data for evidence-based decision making to create sustainable smart cities. The intention is to plan green cover growth, public spaces and recreational amenities by sharing the responsibilities for maintaining these parks and green spaces.

## INTERVENTION

The team follows the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle to understand the cities' requirements while developing a platform since every city has its own urban issues. The process involves gathering existing data from the smart cities on their green cover and biodiversity. Further, this data would be enhanced with the support of the digital platform. The platform focuses on achieving three main components, i.e. tree geotagging, green space mapping and stakeholder interaction. Tree geotagging ensures mapping of all the trees in a city with the help of citizens. The output from the mapping would help in taking visually aided evidence-based planning decisions to improve green corridors, improve native tree diversity, to choose routes/pathways based on greenery and mapping ecosystem services. Green space mapping helps the citizens in identifying the green areas and parks around them, allowing them to view the amenities present in these places. This also helps the citizens raise requests for maintaining or organising any events in the parks. The fundamental component of the platform is the stakeholder space which is a forum for the citizens, NGOs, corporates, businesses and the ULBs to come together for creating a sustainable environment. The forum would have community hubs, interactive events like yoga, sports or webinar hosted by any stakeholder and so on.

## TO CONCLUDE

This digital platform would facilitate the holistic way of achieving the three components of the project with the citizens and ULBs working together. Basic city environmental KPIs like planting native tree species, the participation of communities in plantation/maintenance activities and better environmental planning would be achieved through this intervention. This will help to envision the cities' biodiversity and ecological growth in a sustainable and participative manner.

