**Press Release**

**B.PAC launches the Urban Forestry Handbook for Bengaluru to increase urban green spaces through scientific and effective tree planting**

**Bengaluru, 5th June 2020:** Urban greening is proven to be one of the cheapest and most effective ways to combat a range of urban sustainability issues from climate change (by absorbing carbon) to improving citizens’ health and safety (by making it more inviting to be outside).
Bengaluru's green space has declined to 3% in the last 50 years, whereas the city needs at least 30% green cover to be healthy and sustainable.

As many groups begin tree planting this monsoon, it is important to also do it right i.e. scientifically and effectively - by ensuring that the right species are planted in the right places, and are maintained well so that the trees grow well without damaging surrounding property and thrive for several years.

Please use **B.PAC’s Urban Forestry Handbook for Bengaluru** - which describes the right species and best practices for different contexts - whether you have a narrow street or a large field, we can make sure this planting season serves Bengaluru effectively for decades to come. A total 126 species of trees have been identified and these have been categorized into three use cases from dense urban areas to large open spaces.

The following individuals and organizations were instrumental in shaping this guide book -

* Mr. Manjunath Tambakad, Chief Conservator of Forests - Research, Government of Karnataka
* Mr. Vijay Nishanth, Founder, Vruksha
* Mr. Cholarajappa K., Former Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara
* Palike (BBMP)
* Mr. Gangadhara Swamy S., Deputy Director of Horticulture , Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara
* Palike (BBMP)
* Dr. Harini Nagendra, Professor of Sustainability, Azim Premji University
* Mr. Dhananjayan M., Associate - Geospatial Lab, Indian Institute of Human Settlements
* Mr. Soumyashanto Mandal, Consultant, Indian Institute of Human Settlements
* Mr. Nilanjan Bhor, Senior Associate - Academics and Research, Indian Institute of Human
* Settlements

We are starting an online awareness campaign promoting the use of the handbook through creatives with the pictures of trees, their botanical names and the ideal location/spaces to plant the saplings. This will help the tree planting enthusiasts to make the right choices in a fun and easy way. The hashtags for the campaign are #GreeingBengaluru and #OneCitizenOneTree.

Also, starting today on World Environment Day, we will be running an campaign encouraging the citizens of Bengaluru to plant and maintain at least one tree sapling each as a combined effort to combat global climate change and restoring the diminishing green cover of our city. Bengaluru has a population of 13 million residents. If each citizen planted one tree, we could green approximately 15% of the city from the current 3%. If you cannot plant a tree, maintaining house plants, vertical gardens, terrace gardens, roadside shrubs can make a difference as well! Your support is paramount to make this campaign a lasting success!

Stay tuned for our recommendations on tree saplings which you can plant within Namma Bengaluru and where. Let’s all take the onus to make Bengaluru greener with the #OneCitizenOneTree campaign starting today!

For more information on how to green the city efficiently and collaboratively, have a look at our Urban Forestry Handbook.

English <https://bit.ly/2TYggEC>

Kannada <https://bit.ly/3gCz4Db>

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**About B.PAC**

[**Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC)**](http://bpac.in/) is a non-partisan citizen's group that aims to improve governance in Bengaluru and to enhance the quality of life of every citizen. B.PAC is specifically targeting good governance practices, integrity and transparency in all arms of the government, improving the quality of infrastructure in the city, identification and support of strong candidates for public office at all levels of governance in Bengaluru city.

**About B.GREEN**

B.PAC's B.GREEN program is focused on advancing environmental sustainability, socio-economic upliftment, climate resilience and quality of life in Bengaluru. We convene and collaborate with experts and civic leaders across the city and organize grassroots action through our B.CLIP leaders and community partners. Our programs and projects are aligned with city-level, state-level, national and international sustainable development priorities.