

Guest lectures in Manipal School of Architecture and Planning (MSAP), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, Karnataka

WWF-India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MAHE on December 01, 2023 targeted on knowledge sharing on biodiversity conservation to be imbibed for students pursuing architecture in bachelor's and Master's degrees at MSAP, MAHE. This was a part of activity under Asia's Linear Infrastructure safeGuarding Nature ([ALIGN](#)) project supported by USAID. This agreement was driven by the agenda of enhancing collaboration between academia and industry where the future architects and planners who would be informed about the sensitivity and need of biodiversity friendly infrastructure planning and development practices.

As per the agreement, WWF-India and MAHE had a couple of interactions, physical and online meetings in designing and shaping courses for the delivery through the guest lectures.



Picture 1: Online meeting between WWF-India and MSAP, MAHE in ideas sharing for collaboration



Picture 2: Meeting with the Director and faculties at MSAP, MAHE

Based on rigorous discussions and the course curriculums that are being taught to the students, WWF-India picked up three major topics to deliver the guest lectures, which were;

- 1) Biodiversity-friendly infrastructure development and Nature-based solutions to minimize disasters
- 2) Introduction to international environmental law principles relevant in urban context
- 3) Overview of Environmental laws in India
- 4) Sustainable development and climate change

WWF-India's officials Pramod Neupane, Lead-ALIGN project, Dr. Ridhima Solanki – Coordinator, Public Sector Partnership and Tejas Singh Kapoor, Senior Officer – Center for Environmental Law conducted 2-days lecture series at MSAP, MAHE on 13-14 January 2025 as per the plan.

Outcome of the guest lectures:

A total number of 165 students and faculties involved in B. Architecture and M. Architecture courses attended the two-days lectures. The guest lectures were appreciated by both the faculties and students where the interaction with the students revealed that they have learned something substantial beyond their usual course curriculum and have enabled them to think beyond their usual horizon of architectural planning. The biodiversity and environmental concerns and the role of architects in shaping sustainable actions having most-minimal impacts on nature were discussed and appreciated.

Induction on Environmental laws – both national and international, incorporated into architecture and planning studies can lead to minimizing the conflicts of conservation and development was internalized by the participants.

Prof. Dr. Kalyan Kumar Mukherjee – Director, MSAP thanked WWF-India for the guest lectures and appreciated the efforts of the resource persons from WWF-India.

Additional Prof. Dr. Sahana Ganesh – Assistant Director - Academics, MSAP who was involved in designing the guest lectures since drafting the MoU was happy that academia and industry collaboration will help students in enhancing opportunities for dealing with real-life issues and challenges when considering infrastructure planning and development in conservation landscapes.

Dr. Shanta Pragyan Dash, Program Coordinator – Built Environment Studies, MSAP thanked WWF-India for arranging the guest lectures and coming up with follow up activities which could go even beyond the MoU period.

Way forward:

WWF-India and MSAP discussed on ideas like dedicated collaboration for planning and designing studio exercises in conservation landscapes, conducting exposure visits of students to conservation landscapes, opportunities for engagement with WWF-India's outreach programs among others going forward even beyond the MoU period.



Picture 3: Group photo with students and faculties at the seminar hall, MSAP, MAHE



Picture 4: Pramod Neupane conducting the lecture on Biodiversity friendly infrastructure development



Picture 5: Tejas Singh Kapoor conducting his lecture on International Environmental laws



Picture 6: Dr. Ridhima Solanki delivering her lecture on Sustainable Development and Climate Change



Picture 7: Tejas Singh Kapoor delivering his lecture on Environmental laws