

Udip Pran Das

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Education

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

Master's in Public Policy (M.P.P)

Major: Climate Change

Thesis Title: Climate Change Resilience in the Sunderbans Delta - A Transdisciplinary Exploration of Disaster Risk Mitigation

Mumbai, India

2022 - Ongoing

School of Planning and Architecture

Master's in Planning (M.Planning)

Major: Environmental Planning

Thesis Title: Impacts of urbanisation on natural ecosystems - Case study of human animal conflict in Haldwani, Uttarakhand

New Delhi, India

2015 - 2017

School of Planning and Architecture

Bachelors in Planning (B.Planning)

Major: Urban and Regional Planning

Thesis Title: Storm water management - Case study of Guwahati, Assam

Bhopal, India

2011 - 2015

Publications

Upcoming

1. U.P. Das, *Leveraging Living Laboratories for Sustainable Urban Development: An Interdisciplinary Synthesis of Research, Mechanisms, and Prospects*
2. U.P. Das, N.C. Narayanan, A.K. Dikshit, *Integrated Geospatial Framework for Assessing and Mitigating Flash Flood Risks in Guwahati: Advancing Resilient Urban Planning in the Context of Climate Change*
3. U.P. Das, N.C. Narayanan, J. Mukherjee, N. Radhakrishnan, *Navigating Vulnerability and Resilience: Disaster Risk Mitigation in Kumirmari, a River Island of the Sunderbans*
4. U.P. Das, N.C. Narayanan, *Localizing Climate Change Governance – A Living Lab Approach*
5. T. Shakir, U.P. Das, V. Subrahmanian, *A Manifesto for the Just City, City of Contrasts - A Democratic Manifesto for a More Just and Equitable Mumbai, TU Delft, Vol. 3*

Conferences

2023 U.P. Das, *International Public Policy Association - Toronto, Canada*

2023 U.P. Das, N.C. Narayanan, A.K. Dikshit, *International Land Use Symposium - Ahmedabad*

2023 U.P. Das, N.C. Narayanan, J. Mukherjee, N. Radhakrishnan - *International Conference on River Islands Redefining the Anthropocene - Haryana, India*

2023 U.P. Das, N.C. Narayanan, J. Mukherjee, *Indian Society for Ecological Economics International Conference on SDG's and Climate Change: Understanding the Imperatives and Intersections*

Startup

Co-founder: Studio Biophilic | <https://www.studiobiophilic.in/> | 2020 - Present

- We're an innovative biophilic design studio dedicated to seamlessly merging nature with architecture and urban planning, creating spaces that inspire well-being and sustainability
- Our portfolio showcases pioneering biophilic design projects. Each one exemplifies our commitment to transforming spaces into vibrant sanctuaries, harmonizing nature with aesthetics and function

Professional Experience

KPMG

January 2020 - June 2022

Management Consultant

- Championed the structured assessment of District Road Safety Committee sessions, spearheading strategic urban planning endeavours, and formulating state-level policies and methodologies to bolster urban road safety infrastructure in Assam, India.
- Orchestrated the coordination, execution, and monitoring of project phases, implementing risk mitigation strategies, overseeing contract negotiations, and driving the successful implementation of the land asset monetisation plan for Assam State Transport Corporation
- Accomplished a comprehensive study of successful global tourism circuits and skilfully identified parameters for successful tourism circuits in Arunachal Pradesh - India, while leveraging my expertise in ArcGIS
- Led the strategic initiative as a key contributor for the Implementation and Capacity Building of an e-Challan system in collaboration with Assam Police, streamlined processes and functions at various police stations and offices, significantly impacting urban planning initiatives drastically reducing reliance on manual record-keeping practices

All India Institute of Local Self Governance (AIIILSG)

July 2019 - January 2020

Urban Planner / Research Associate

- Organised and executed the preparation of Geographical and Functional Sectoral Plans, consolidating them into a comprehensive Draft Master Plan for Haridwar
- Led the preparation of Master Plan for Haridwar, coordinating with subject matter specialists and government departments
- Developed and executed the integration of a Base Map on a GIS platform, aligning it with the client's objectives for efficient utilisation and planning

Visionary Architects

November 2018 - June 2019

Urban Planner/ GIS Analyst

- Led and orchestrated a comprehensive assessment of the existing socioeconomic development, ensuring accurate data analysis for the preparation of the Master Plan of NOIDA, India
- Reviewed and evaluated development plans and policies of state and national agencies, identifying information gaps and implementing strategies to overcome deficiencies in the Master Plan

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) July 2017 - November 2018

Urban Planner/ GIS Analyst

- Coordinated and oversaw the gap analysis of conservation data for INTACH, evaluating listings done after the year 2000 and ongoing listings across the country, contributing to improved conservation efforts
- Conducted research to prepare the City Vision Plan for Katra, Jammu and Kashmir, including generating contour maps and slope maps in ArcGIS

Winter School

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay X Technical University of Munich

December 2022

Attended the prestigious winter school in Alleppey, Kerala, where I extensively explored the concepts of localizing climate change governance and knowledge co-production by vulnerable communities affected by climate change.

Research Internships

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and University of Lausanne

May 2023 - July 2023

Name of the Project: Social Resilience in the Sundarbans Delta: Eliciting Needs-based Grassroots Action through Cross-Group Engagement (ENGAGE)

Activities Performed: 1. Conducted immersive fieldwork involving direct community interaction and cross-group engagement strategies by fostering co-designing and co-production of knowledge along with collaboration among various stakeholders, including community leaders, NGOs, and government agencies.
2. Implementation of data-driven interventions and solutions to enhance community resilience, addressing issues such as climate change, natural disasters, and socio-economic inequalities.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India

May 2016 - July 2016

Activities Performed: Contributed to a comprehensive research initiative examining the repercussions of urbanisation and industrialisation on land use within the Haldwani district of Uttarakhand, India. My role involved the meticulous analysis of baseline data, encompassing demographic analysis, economic profiling, rigorous land use assessment, discernment of growth catalysts, and the execution of spatial analyses.

Lea Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd.

May 2014 - July 2014

Name of the Project: 1. Assam State Road Project (ASRP)
2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY)

Activities Performed: 1. Played an integral role in formulating innovative relocation designs for community assets affected by the Assam State Road Project. This endeavour, funded by the **World Bank**, sought to mitigate the impact of infrastructure development on local communities
2. Contributed to the strategic development of community enhancement plans tailored to safeguard culturally significant structures impacted by the proposed Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) road project, funded by the **Asian Development Bank**

Directorate of Town and Country Planning Government of Assam

May 2013 - July 2013

Activities Performed: Conducted a meticulous analysis of water flow patterns originating from adjacent hillsides in Guwahati by systematically mapping the water flow chainages through GIS and on-ground surveys. This analysis led to informed decision-making processes related to resilient urban stormwater drainage system in the city.

Academic Studio Projects

- Bachelor of Planning: 1. Metropolitan District Plan for Chandigarh, India
2. Integrated Transport Development Plan for Sehore: Madhya Pradesh, India
- Master of Planning : 1. Environmental Management Plan for Aurangabad, Maharashtra
2. Air Quality Improvement Plan for Delhi
3. Outline Development Plan for Rajpura, Punjab
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Workshop Conducted

Policy Dialogue on: *Emerging Issues in Rural Drinking Water Governance in India* **March 2nd - 3rd 2023**

- Conceptualised and executed a high-impact policy dialogue workshop as a part of Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay, in collaboration with Centre for Water Policy and Governance and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai
- The Policy Dialogue addressed critical questions surrounding India's National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) and its far-reaching implications for rural drinking water sector governance
- Fostered interdisciplinary discourse to dissect the multifaceted challenges encompassing technical, social, institutional, and financial aspects in achieving NJJM's goal of universal access to functional household water connections by 2024

Policy Dialogue on: *Proposed Amendments in Environmental Legislations* **Oct 8 2023**

- Part of the organising team of the Policy Dialogue event under the auspices of the Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies at IIT Bombay
 - The Policy Dialogue initiative facilitated multifaceted analysis, fostering a deeper understanding of the amendments' implications, rationalisation of penalties, and streamlining of compliance burdens within the context of contemporary environmental governance paradigms in India
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Relevant Coursework

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Urban Development• Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management• Climate Change and Human Settlements• Settlement Geography• Planning Legislation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Impact Assessment• GIS Lab for Planning• Formulation Financing and Management of Environmental Projects• Environmental Economics and Environmental Auditing |
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Volunteering Experience

Abhyuday - The Social Body of IIT Bombay
Community Volunteer

Mumbai, India

August 2022 - Present

- Collaborated with local stakeholders in empowering underprivileged children through educational initiatives, providing career counselling, and fostering their personal and professional development.

Rotaract Club of School of Planning and Architecture
English Language Teacher

Bhopal, India

January 2012 - January 2014

- Volunteered as an English language teacher for underprivileged children in Harshwardhan Nagar, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, facilitating language learning and communication skills development