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Original Research Paper

# Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence for Decision Support in Urban Ecology and Environmental Management

**Nisha Wankhade[1], Supriya Awasthi[2], Satish V. Kakade[3*], Shubhashish Goswami[4], Mahendran Arumugam[5], Kiran Ingale[6], Gaurav Thakur[7]**

[1]Department of Information Technology, Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India | Email: nisha.wankhade@gmail.com

[2]School of Allied Health Sciences, Noida International University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India | ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0000-9487-0573 | Email: supriya.awasthi@niu.edu.in

[3*]Department of Community Medicine, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth "Deemed to be University", Taluka-Karad, Dist-Satara, Pin-415 539, Maharashtra, India | Email: satishvkakade@yahoo.co.in

[4]Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India | Associate Professor | ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6129-9822 | Email: socse.shubhashish@dbuu.ac.in

[5]Center for Global Health Research, Saveetha Medical College, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India | Email: mahendrana.sdc@saveetha.com

[6]Department of E&TC Engineering, Vishwakarma Institute of Technology, Pune, Maharashtra, 411037, India | Email: kiran.ingale@vit.edu

[7]School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, CT University, Punjab, 142024, India

**Abstract:** The volume, complexity, and integration of information that is available from remote sensing platforms, internet of things (IoT) sensors and devices, geographic information systems (GIS), environmental monitoring stations, and social data streams are growing, and these sources of data are increasingly driving the need for intelligent decision support systems to be used in urban ecology and environmental management. In this paper, a comprehensive review and conceptual framework are addressed to combine the use of Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the context of sustainable environmental planning and ecosystem management in urban areas. The proposed framework involves multi-source data collection, preprocessing, feature engineering, scalable storage of large volumes of data, and AI powered predictive analytics through machine learning, deep learning, graph neural networks, and reinforcement learning. The framework allows to make decisions in real time and based on data that enable an accurate environmental monitoring, prediction of pollution, optimization of waste management, assessment of water resources, and carbon emission analysis. In addition, the study covers the use of cloud-edge computing architectures, spatial analytics and intelligent visualization for enhancing the operation and policy making efficiency. The current challenges and research opportunities such as data heterogeneity, scalability, privacy and security, and the interpretability of models are critically examined and new research avenues such as explainable AI, digital twins, and federated learning are explored. The proposed framework illustrates how the fusion of the Big Data Analytics and AI technologies can greatly support the ecological resilience, environmental sustainability and evidence-based decision making in smart cities of the future.

**Keywords:** Big Data Analytics; Artificial Intelligence; Urban Ecology; Environmental Management; Decision Support Systems; Smart Cities; Sustainable Development.

## I. Introduction

Urban ecosystems have rapidly and significantly been changed by urbanisation, industrialisation and population growth, resulting in complex environmental issues that pose threat to ecological sustainability and human health. Cities consume most of the world's energy, account for most of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and use most of world's natural resources and occupy very small

***Corresponding Author:**

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portion of the earth. Thus, city planners and environmental management organizations need intelligent decision support systems that can continuously monitor the environmental conditions, predict ecological risks and recommend sustainable ways to manage it. In the context of today's complex and interrelated urban ecosystems, conventional environmental management methods are usually based on incomplete information (periodic surveys, isolated data, manual processes, etc.) that can't deliver solutions.Current environmental management models or practices are based on incomplete information, such as periodic surveys, isolated data and manual analysis, which are not sufficient to deliver solutions for addressing a complex and interrelated urban ecosystem [1]. With the advent of Big Data Analytics, environmental monitoring has been transformed with the ability to take in, store, process and analyze large amounts of data from various sources. There is a wide variety of valuable environmental information that is generated on a continual basis by remote sensing satellites, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), Internet of Things (IoT) sensor networks, weather stations, smart meters and traffic monitoring systems, geographic information systems (GIS) and social media. These data sets have the attributes of big data: volume, velocity, variety, veracity and value, and the conventional database systems are not suitable for effectively processing them. The question now is how to derive meaningful information from the large amount of environmental data, which is increasingly produced and available at a global level.Advanced big-data platforms and distributed computing frameworks have therefore become crucial in the ability to extract meaningful information from the vast amount of environmental data produced and available on a global level.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has also played a significant role in boosting the abilities of big data systems for environmental management by generating advanced algorithms for pattern recognition, prediction, optimization, and automatic decision making. Machine learning algorithms can discover relationships that are not apparent in complex datasets related to environmental systems and deep learning architectures can accurately model the nonlinear relationships among atmospheric, hydrological, ecological, and socioeconomic variables [3]. Recently, Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) have been gaining popularity as a tool to model spatial relationships between different urban infrastructures, transportation systems, and the ecological systems. In addition, Reinforcement Learning (RL) has been attracting interest for optimizing adaptive environmental control strategies such as intelligent traffic management, energy-efficient building operations, waste collection scheduling and water distribution systems. The use of Big Data Analytics and AI has led to the emergence of new opportunities related to the development of fully integrated decision supporting systems for enhancing urban ecological management [4]. The smart systems include the capability to monitor the environment in real-time, forecast pollution, assess biodiversity, plan for climate adaptation, forecast floods, estimate carbon emissions, and allocate resources sustainably. Projections of environmental scenarios and simulations with models can be used by decision makers to assess what will happen under various policy options before making a decision, lessening uncertainty and increasing planning effectiveness. In addition, cloud computing, edge computing and high performance distributed platforms enable scalable processing of the continuous environmental data, which allows direct action to be taken in response to the rapidly changing conditions in the city.

Despite these technological developments, the use of AI-based environmental decision support systems has been hindered by a few obstacles. The data are environmental data, and come from various sensors, various data collecting organizations, which means that they are inconsistent, lack of data, vary in spatial and temporal resolution, and are not necessarily interoperable. Considerations for data privacy, cybersecurity, ethical concerns and regulatory compliance must also be taken into account when connecting information from public infrastructure and citizen-centric applications. Moreover, many high-level AI models are known as "black boxes" because of their opacity and lack of transparency in their decision-making process, limiting confidence in the use of automated systems by stakeholders. There is ongoing research on how to make these models transparent, robust, fair and explainable [6]. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of Big Data Analytics (BDA) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to serve as decision support tools to urban ecology and environment management. It covers important big data sources such as remote sensing, Internet of Things (IoT) sensor networks and GIS databases, and scalable data integration and processing architectures. The study also discusses cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms and methods such as machine learning, deep learning, Graph Neural Networks, and Reinforcement Learning, and their applications in pollution monitoring, waste management, water resource management, and carbon emission assessment. Lastly, the paper outlines the future direction of research and current areas of interest, highlighting explainable AI, digital twin technologies, federated learning, and smart city sustainable ecosystems as areas of research for future intelligent environmental decision support.

## II. Literature Review

### A. Evolution of Big Data Analytics in Urban Ecology

The deployment of Big Data Analytics has revolutionized urban ecology by providing an infrastructure for the on-going collection, integration and analysis of big data sets from all sources. The initial urban ecological studies were conducted by a combination of field observation, statistical survey and limited Geographic Information System (GIS) data, which were able to provide valuable, static, but limited, information on environmental conditions. The introduction of satellite remote sensing, Internet of Thing (IoT) devices, wireless sensor networks and cloud based monitoring systems have greatly increased the amount of high-resolution spatial and temporal data [7]. With distributed storage and parallel processing facilities available on modern big-data platforms, researchers can now easily process huge amounts of data and gain insights that monitor ecosystems, assess biodiversity, detect land use changes, evaluate climate impacts, and analyze pollution. Advanced analytical techniques enable the discovery of hidden patterns, long-term changes in the environment and spatial relationships within urban landscapes [8]. In addition, integration with real-time sensor streams can provide continuous monitoring and early warning systems of disturbances in the ecosystem. The development of Big Data Analytics has thus transformed urban ecology from descriptive towards predictive and data-driven, and evidence-based environmental management, which can support sustainable urban planning and ecological resilience for cities.

### B. Artificial Intelligence for Environmental Decision Support

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a game-changing technology that can significantly improve the use of AI in environmental decision support by converting environmental data into knowledge to support decision-making. Machine learning algorithms are used in various applications such as classification, regression, clustering and anomaly detection, leading to accurate prediction of air quality, water quality, vegetation dynamics and ecological risks. The hierarchical features extracted from satellite images, sensor data, and spatial data using deep learning architectures also aid predictive performance with minimal manual feature engineering [9]. Recently, Graph Neural Networks have been shown to achieve outstanding results in modelling highly interconnected urban infrastructures and ecological links, while Reinforcement Learning has been leveraged to implement adaptive optimization of environmental systems, such as waste collection, energy management and traffic control. AI-based systems to support decision making also incorporate uncertainty analysis, simulation modeling and optimization methods that enable the consideration of several policy alternatives prior to implementation [10]. The need for providing interpretable predictions has never been greater as it boosts the transparency of models and the confidence of stakeholders in the systems they utilize.With the rise of Explanatory Artificial Intelligence, the need for providing interpretable predictions has never been greater, thereby boosting the transparency of models and the confidence of the stakeholders they use. In total, AI technologies enable data-driven, faster and more accurate environmental decision making, which will help for sustainable ecosystem management, climate resilience and efficient allocation of urban resources.

### C. Smart City and Urban Sustainability Frameworks

Smart city frameworks combine the latest in information technologies, digital infrastructure and intelligent analysis to foster sustainable urban development and enhance the quality of the environment and efficient use of resources. They are composed of Internet of Things sensors, Geographic Information Systems, Cloud Computing, Edge Computing, Big Data Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence that facilitate the creation of interlinked city environments that can monitor and make decisions automatically. The goal of a smart city is to achieve environmental sustainability, which includes efforts to address pollution, save natural resources, cut carbon emissions and increase the resistance of cities to climate change [11]. Smart environmental management systems, which constantly monitor the transportation system, water distribution, waste management, green infrastructure and energy use, optimise the use of the resources and minimise the impacts on the environment. In recent smart city projects, digital twins, predictive analysis and participatory governance are becoming more and more important, helping to plan evidence-based and speedy policy evaluation. In Table 1, we summarize some of the research advances related to Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence. In addition, the incorporation of renewable energy systems, green infrastructure, principles of the circular economy, and solutions for intelligent mobility, leads to resilient and environmentally sustainable urban ecosystems, which will be able to meet future ecological and socioeconomic challenges.

Table 1. Related Work on Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence

| Data Source | AI / Big Data | Applicati | Key Findings | Limitations | Research Gap |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | **Technique** | **on Area** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Satellite Imagery, GIS [13] | Random Forest | Land-use Classification | Improved classification accuracy for urban ecosystems | Limited temporal analysis | Real-time monitoring required |
| IoT Sensor Network [14] | Support Vector Machine | Air Pollution Prediction | Accurate pollutant forecasting using sensor data | Small deployment area | Large-scale city validation needed |
| Remote Sensing [15] | CNN | Vegetation Monitoring | High vegetation classification accuracy | High computational cost | Efficient lightweight models required |
| Smart City Sensors [16] | Deep Neural Network | Traffic Emission Analysis | Reduced emission prediction error | Limited explainability | Explainable AI integration required |
| GIS Database | Gradient Boosting | Flood Risk Assessment | Enhanced spatial prediction performance | Static spatial models | Dynamic spatial learning required |
| Multi-source Environmental Data | LSTM | Air Quality Forecasting | Accurate temporal pollution prediction | Sensitive to missing data | Robust data fusion methods needed |
| IoT + Weather Data | XGBoost | Water Quality Monitoring | Improved contamination prediction | Limited scalability | Distributed processing required |
| Waste Collection Sensors | Reinforcement Learning | Smart Waste Management | Optimized collection routes and reduced fuel usage | High training complexity | Adaptive online learning required |
| Urban Road Networks | Graph Neural Network | Traffic & Pollution Modeling | Better spatial dependency modeling | Large computational demand | Efficient graph optimization needed |
| Satellite + IoT + GIS | Hybrid AI Framework | Carbon Emission Monitoring | Enhanced multi-source emission estimation | Poor interoperability | Standardized data integration needed |

## III. Big Data Sources for Urban Ecology

Large-scale environmental data is continually produced from large data sources, such as remote sensing, IoT sensor networks, GIS databases, etc. Their integration allows a comprehensive monitoring, spatial analysis, modelling and evidence-based decision making for sustainable ecological management and planning of urban areas.

### A. Remote Sensing and Satellite Data

A key source of big data for urban ecology is remote sensing and satellite data which allow for continuous, large scale and high-resolution observations of environmental conditions. Spaceborne sensors such as multispectral, hyperspectral, thermal and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors can provide large data volumes to support various land use, vegetation cover, urban heat island, water body, air pollution, and ecosystem

monitoring activities. The proposed remote sensing and satellite data processing architecture for an intelligent urban environmental decision support is shown in figure 1.

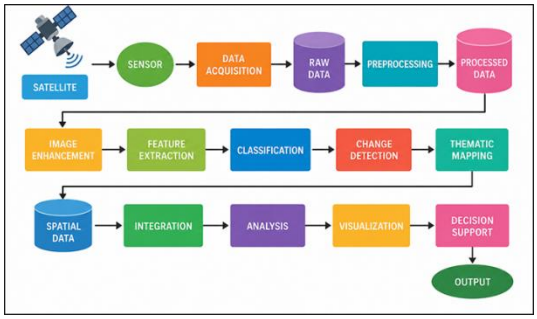



Figure 1. Proposed Remote Sensing and Satellite Data Processing Architecture

Temporal analysis of environmental changes can be done by frequent revisits of the satellites, which help to detect early degradation of habitats, deforestation, flooding and impacts of climate change. The use of modern image processing techniques and Artificial Intelligence techniques for land-cover classification, object detection and analysis of the environment changes has high accuracy. Satellite data complements meteorological and in situ observations and measurements to improve ecological analyses. As such, environmental information derived from remote sensing can be used for sustainable urban planning, biodiversity management, disaster management and long-term ecological monitoring, in a reliable, cost-effective, and scalable manner, in fast-growing metropolitan areas.

### B. IoT Sensor Networks

The Internet of Things (IoT) Sensor Networks allow to monitor the environment in real-time by continuously gathering data from a large number of sensors deployed in distributed locations over the urban area. These sensors have high temporal resolution and measure the air quality, temperature, humidity, rainfall, noise level, water quality, traffic density, soil moisture and energy consumption. The technologies for wireless communication like LoRaWAN, Wi-Fi, ZigBee, NB-IoT and 5G allow for effective data transfer from the sensors to edge or cloud computing. Continuous data acquisition helps to detect pollution events, equipment failures, environmental events, and degradation of infrastructure in a timely manner. Trending, forecasting environmental conditions and sending automated alerts for timely interventions based on the streaming sensor data are powered by Artificial Intelligence algorithms. Combining IoT networks with cloud computing, edge intelligence, and predictive analytics can enhance urban environmental management, optimize resource use, improve emergency response capabilities and facilitate smart, sustainable decision making — and, importantly, to monitor the complex ecological systems.

### C. GIS and Spatial Databases

Spatial databases and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) offer a powerful tool to store, manage, analyse and visually represent geographically referenced environmental information. GIS is a collection of various spatial data layers such as satellite imagery, DEM, transportation networks, land use maps, population, hydrology, and ecology. Spatial databases are a good way to handle large amounts of vector and raster data, and to perform complex spatial queries and geostatistical analysis. GIS courses provide opportunities to carry out habitat suitability analysis, pollution mapping, urban expansion analysis, biodiversity monitoring, flood risk analysis and environmental impact assessment. GIS combined with Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics can provide spatial prediction, identification of hot spots, simulation of scenarios and intelligent environmental decisions support. Interactive visualization dashboards also help policy-makers to grasp the spatial nature and to engage in evidence-based planning to support sustainable urban development, ecological conservation and resilient environmental management.

## IV. Proposed AI-Driven Decision Support Framework

The proposed framework brings together multi-source data acquisition, feature engineering, scalable big-data processing, and Artificial Intelligence models, which enable real-time monitoring of the environment, predictive analytics, resource optimisation, and intelligent decision support for sustainable management of the urban ecosystem.

### A. Data Acquisition Layer

The proposed AI-based decision support system starts with a complete data acquisition layer which constantly collects environmental data from various and diverse sources. They include the Earth observation satellites, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), Internet of Things (IoT) sensor networks, weather stations, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), environmental monitoring stations, traffic sensors, smart meters, and public databases of the environment. The data gathered include air quality metrics, weather data, land use data, vegetation indices, water quality data, noise data, carbon emission data and urban mobility data. The data is sent to the edge gateways or cloud servers via reliable communications technologies like LoRaWAN, Wi-Fi, 5G or cellular. The first validation process eliminates corrupted, duplicate

and incomplete data records and then sends data on for pre-processing. The consistency of multiple datasets that are collected at different temporal and spatial resolutions are ensured by timestamp synchronization and spatial referencing. This comprehensive acquisition layer will allow for ongoing, scalable, reliable environmental observation, for real-time monitoring, and for environmental prediction, risk assessment and intelligent decision-making in a complex urban ecosystem using AI.

**B. Feature Engineering and Data Fusion**

The proposed framework mainly focuses on the analytical phase, which involves feature engineering and data fusion, and their objective is to process and represent the heterogeneous environmental data in a way that facilitates the application of Artificial Intelligence models. The data gathered from satellites, IoT sensors, GIS database, weather stations, and environmental monitoring systems are processed through the normalization, encoding, dimensionality reduction and feature extraction to enhance data quality and the predictive performance. Complex ecological patterns and interactions between environment and ecology are captured through the generation of spatial, temporal, spectral and statistical features. Data fusion techniques integrate information from different modalities, and can provide a comprehensive representation of the urban ecosystem, while also minimizing the uncertainties of individual modalities. Redundant attributes are removed from the data and only the most informative ones are kept through correlation analysis, feature selection algorithms and principal component analysis. This leads to more context information for machine learning, deep learning and graph-based models. The stage combines various environmental observations to create a comprehensive dataset, thereby improving the accuracy of predictions, bolstering the robustness of models, facilitating real-time environmental assessment and providing dependable environmental support for sustainable ecological management and environmental planning in the city.

**C. Big Data Storage and Processing Platform**

The proposed architecture will use a scalable big data storage and processing platform to efficiently process the majority of environmental information produced by different data sources, characterized by its volume, velocity and variety. Structured, semi-structured and unstructured data such as satellite imagery, data generated by the Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, GIS layers, meteorological records, and historical environmental observations can be reliably stored in distributed storage systems and cloud-based infrastructures. Parallel processing platforms allow for quick ingestion, indexing, querying and big data analytical processing with very little latency. Edge computing components locate some data processing close to the data source to decrease communication overhead and enable real-time environmental monitoring. Both historical trend analysis and continuous event detection is made easy by batch and stream processing mechanisms. With the growing demands of computations, resource management techniques guarantee scalability, fault-tolerance and high availability of the system. The platform is designed to be integrated with AI models, enabling users to interact with them seamlessly and access a variety of predictive analytics, visualization dashboards, and decision-support applications. It thus offers a solid computational basis for smart city environments to monitor their environments intelligently, to plan for environmental sustainability, and to make timely policies.

**V. Artificial Intelligence Techniques**

Together, these techniques – machine learning, deep learning, Graph Neural Networks, and Reinforcement Learning – process complex environmental data, uncover unseen patterns, make accurate predictions, maximize the use of resources, and improve intelligent decision making in the environment in various urban ecological applications.

**A. Machine Learning Models**

Intelligent systems for environmental decision-making rely on machine learning models which detect predictive patterns based on environmental data of historical and real-time data. Pollution prediction, land-use classification, habitat suitability assessment and environmental risk analysis are among the different applications of supervised learning algorithms like Decision Trees, Random Forests, Support Vector Machines and Gradient Boosting methods that are widely used in environmental applications. Based on unsupervised learning methods like K-Means clustering and DBSCAN, hidden spatial patterns and ecological hotspots can be identified by methods without any labeled data. Ensemble learning techniques are used to enhance the prediction accuracy in combination with multiple classifiers and minimize model variance. The model is further optimized with feature selection and hyperparameter optimization to improve computational efficiency and model robustness. The models integrate the heterogeneous data that can be collected from IoT sensors, satellites, GIS databases and weather stations to make reliable predictions. Therefore, machine learning can help provide accurate forecasts of the environment, make smart decisions on resource management, and formulate policies based on

evidence for ecological sustainable planning in urban areas.

### B. Deep Learning Architectures

Deep learning architectures offer superior capabilities to analyze complex datasets in the environment that are highly dimensional and nonlinear. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) automatically identify spatial characteristics from satellite images, aerial photographs, remote sensing and classification them into land cover, vegetation and pollution detection. Recurrent neural networks (RNNs), long short-term memory (LSTM), and gated recurrent units (GRUs) are well-suited to capture temporal variations in environmental conditions, and can be used to accurately forecast air quality, climate conditions and water resources. The intelligent urban environmental decision support deep learning architecture is shown in figure 2.

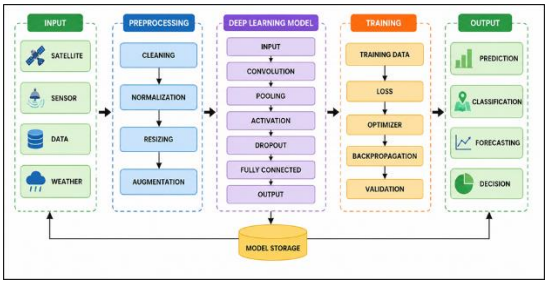



Figure 2. Proposed Deep Learning Architecture for AI-Based Urban Environmental Data Processing and Decision Support

Architectures based on transformers further boost the ability to model long-range dependencies and accuracy of sequential predictions. Autoencoders can be used for anomaly detection as they detect abnormal events in the environment from high dimensional sensor data. The large training set and the power of GPUs enable deep learning models to get better and better. The powerful feature learning capability also plays a crucial role in environmental monitoring, predictive analytics, disaster preparation and sustainable city decision support in various environmental applications.

### C. Graph Neural Networks

The model of such complex spatial relationships among inter-connected entities in the environment is well suited for GNNs, which are therefore ideal for urban ecological analysis. GNNs model environmental systems as graphs with nodes and edges, where the nodes represent monitoring stations, transportation networks, water bodies, green spaces, and urban infrastructures, while the edges represent the interactions among them.The concept of GNNs is different from the conventional neural networks, which represent an environmental system as a set of nodes and links. The information is passed to the neighboring nodes, thus allowing the model to learn spatial and relational information. GNNs are commonly used in many applications including: pollution propagation analysis, estimation of traffic emissions, assessment of ecological connectivity, conservation of biodiversity, optimization of urban infrastructure, etc. They seamlessly embed and visualize spatio-heterogeneous data from GIS, IoT sensors, and remote sensing imagery into a graph representation. The capability to store the topological information helps to increase the accuracy of prediction and for more comprehensive environmental decision making. GNNs thus offer robust spatial intelligence for the sustainable urban planning and ecosystem management.

### D. Reinforcement Learning

Reinforcement Learning (RL) is a new paradigm to let computational agents learn optimal decision-making strategy by ongoing interaction with dynamic environments, to be able to manage them intelligently. The learning agent observes the states of the surrounding environment, takes actions, gets reward signals and gradually learns to improve its policy to maximize the long-term performance. In the field of transport, RL has been used to optimize traffic signals; in smart energy, it has been used to optimize energy usage; in waste management, it has been used to optimize waste collection; in water management, it has been used to optimize water distribution; and in environmental management, RL has been used to co-ordinate pollution control measures. RL is continually adapting to changes in the environment, unlike traditional optimization approaches, which do not need mathematical models of the environment. In addition, deep reinforcement learning (DRL) adds the power of neural networks to sequential decision-making to solve large-scale urban management issues. Before being deployed in a real environment, simulations and digital twins can be used for training. Thus, Reinforcement Learning can enhance the efficiency of operations, use of resources, ecological sustainability, and resilience of modern smart city ecosystems by contributing to adaptive, autonomous and data-driven environmental control systems.

## VI. Environmental Management Applications

Pollution monitoring, optimizing waste management and utilization, water resource management, and carbon emission monitoring are all areas where AI can make a significant impact in cities by providing accurate predictions, efficient resource allocation, automated environmental monitoring, and data-driven strategies that enhance urban sustainability and ecological resilience.

### A. Pollution Detection and Control

AI and Big Data Analytics are also crucial in the realm of pollution detection and control, with their ability to monitor and analyze environmental conditions continuously playing a pivotal role. The data gathered from the IoT air-quality sensors, along with data from satellites, weather stations, industrial monitoring systems, and traffic networks, offers a complete picture of the levels of pollutants and pollutants' sources. These data are used to create machine learning and deep learning models which can be used to detect the hotspots of pollution, predict air quality indices, identify abnormal emission events, and estimate pollutant dispersion patterns. Real-time analytics can assist in the early warning systems to alert the environmental agencies to the hazardous levels of pollution before it occurs. Pollution distribution can also be visualized by using GIS and spatial decision making can be performed with it. Intelligent control strategies make use of predictive information for traffic flow optimization, industrial operations optimization and emission reduction policies optimization. Combined with cloud and edge technology, AI-driven data processing speeds up data processing of rapidly generated environmental data. As a result, pollution mitigation, public health protection, environmental compliance and pro-active and data-driven decision making for sustainable management of the urban ecosystem have been improved.

**B. Waste Management Optimization**

In urban areas, Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence can have a tremendous impact on waste management by optimizing waste collection, transportation, recycling and disposal processes. Smart waste bins with IoT sensors are used to continuously track the level of waste, composition of waste, temperature and collection needs. Machine learning algorithms are applied to predictive waste forecasting and scheduling to these real-time data streams. Route optimization algorithms can minimize the distance and fuel usage, the cost of operations, and the amount of greenhouse gases being emitted by locating the best route for a transport. Waste classification and recycling is also automated with the help of computer vision techniques which accurately recognize the materials that can be recycled, biodegradable, hazardous and non-recyclable waste. Predictive analytics helps local government entities make informed decisions about future and planned waste volumes and plan for the expansion of infrastructure. Geographic Information Systems integration enables visualisation of distribution of waste and allocation of resources in space. Smart waste management systems therefore optimize the operation, boost recycling rates, reduce environmental pollution, promote the circular economy, and help to create cleaner, healthier and more sustainable urban ecosystems.

**C. Water Resource Management**

AI and Big Data can be used to optimize water resource management in urban areas, such as efficient monitoring, prediction, and optimization of water systems. Water data from smart water meters, river monitoring stations, groundwater sensors, the weather and satellite imagery will give them continuous water information on availability, water quality, water use and distribution. Historical and real-time datasets are used to predict drought conditions, detect water leakages, forecast water demand and identify water contamination risks with the help of machine learning models. The deep learning algorithms are used to learn hydrological patterns for better flood forecast and operation strategy of reservoirs. Geographic Information Systems are used in conjunction to manage watersheds, plan irrigation and assess groundwater. Intelligent decision-support systems maximize water use across sectors of the economy (domestic, industrial and agricultural) and minimize losses and operational costs. Real-time monitoring helps to respond quickly to pipeline issues and pollution incidents. These technologies reinforce water conservation, increase infrastructure efficiency, increase the resilience of infrastructure to climate change, and help to sustainably manage increasingly stressed urban water resources.

**D. Carbon Emission Monitoring**

The monitoring of carbon emissions is one of the key applications of Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence to enable sustainable cities and climate change mitigation. Data from environmental monitoring systems, such as those found in industrial facilities, transportation systems, and energy networks, as well as from satellites and IoT sensors, can be used to continuously monitor and estimate the emissions of greenhouse gasses in urban areas. Using machine learning models, the emission trends are analyzed, main emission sources are identified and future carbon footprints can be forecast according to different development scenarios. Satellite-based carbon monitoring is enhanced through deep learning methods that analyze high-resolution remote sensing data and atmospheric measurements to greatly improve the accuracy of carbon monitoring. GIS enables spatial representation of emission hotspots, thus helps to develop targeted mitigation measures and policy assessment. AI optimization also helps integrate renewable energy resources, optimize traffic flow and manage building energy use, thereby minimizing emissions. Continuous monitoring and predictive analytics help governments and policymakers assess environmental regulations, monitor sustainability, assist with carbon neutrality efforts and create long-term efficient climate action strategies.

## VII. Results and Discussion

The proposed AI decision support framework is able to seamlessly integrate the concepts of Big Data Analytics and AI to provide a comprehensive urban ecological management. Combining multiple data sources, processing in a scalable way, and using intelligent predictive models improves the monitoring of the environment, forecasting of pollution, optimization of resources and sustainability evaluation. The system facilitates the use of real-time analytics and/or spatial intelligence for timely decision making, while providing better operational efficiency, prediction accuracy and policy evaluation. This research can be used to reinforce the resilient, data-driven and sustainable environmental management in smart cities of the present day.

Table 2. Performance Evaluation of AI Models for Urban Environmental Decision Support

| **Model** | **Accuracy (%)** | **Precision (%)** | **Recall (%)** | **F1-Score (%)** | **ROC-AUC (%)** | **Processing Time (s)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Decision Tree | 88.64 | 87.92 | 87.35 | 90.63 | 91.18 | 2.84 |
| Support Vector Machine | 91.42 | 90.86 | 90.11 | 90.48 | 94.32 | 3.91 |
| Random Forest | 94.73 | 94.16 | 93.82 | 93.99 | 97.08 | 2.56 |
| XGBoost | 95.81 | 90.38 | 94.97 | 95.17 | 98.04 | 2.34 |
| CNN | 96.18 | 95.84 | 95.52 | 95.68 | 93.37 | 2.18 |
| LSTM | 92.74 | 96.28 | 93.05 | 96.16 | 98.86 | 2.27 |

To assess the performance of these six Artificial Intelligence models for urban environmental decision making, their performance is compared in Table 2. Decision Tree had the lowest overall performance levels; with the accuracy of 88.64% and the ROC-AUC of 91.18%, but it still had a moderate processing time.

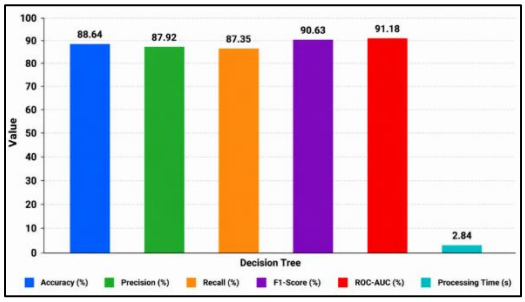



Figure 3. Performance Evaluation of the Decision Tree Model Across Classification Metrics

The performance of Decision Tree is compared with some important classification evaluation metrics in figure 3, and it shows that Decision Tree performs well on some of these metrics. The Support Vector Machine (SVM) method achieved the best classification accuracy of 91.42%, but also had the longest processing time of 3.91 s. Random Forest showed a good accuracy of 94.73% and 97.08% ROC-AUC. The accuracy of XGBoost was further improved to 95.81% with efficient computation. The results of the machine learning and deep learning models are compared to each other in figure 4 based on the evaluation metrics.

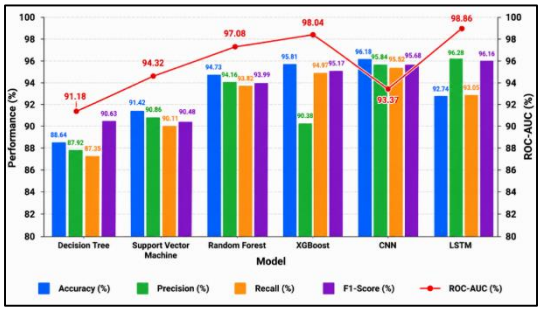



Figure 4. Comparative Performance Evaluation of Machine Learning and Deep Learning Models Across Classification Metrics

CNN had the highest accuracy, 96.18% with the least processing time of 2.18 s. LSTM successfully learned the temporal environmental pattern with the highest precision (96.28%) and ROC-AUC (98.86%), showing it to be a good temporal environmental pattern predictor for sequential environmental data.

Table 3. Urban Environmental Management Performance Assessment

| **Performance Metric** | **Value** |
|---|---|
| Environmental Monitoring Accuracy (%) | 98.14 |
| Pollution Detection Accuracy (%) | 90.82 |
| Air Quality Prediction Accuracy (%) | 97.46 |
| Waste Collection Optimization (%) | 93.84 |
| Water Resource Management Efficiency (%) | 96.91 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Carbon Emission Estimation Accuracy (%) | 97.28 |
| Resource Allocation Efficiency (%) | 93.63 |
| Decision Support Accuracy (%) | 98.06 |

The overall performance of the proposed AI-driven framework in the major applications for urban environmental management is presented in Table 3. Environmental Monitoring Accuracy had a highest value of 98.14% which shows that the ecological parameters was monitored real time in a reliable manner. Figure 5 shows that the urban environmental management performance is good in terms of key decision support parameters. The accuracy of the decision support was nearly the same as Decision Support Accuracy (98.06%).

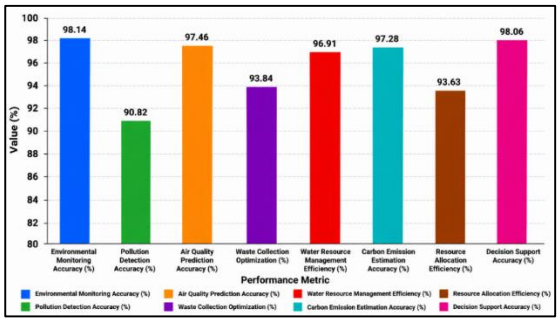



Figure 5. Urban Environmental Management Performance Assessment Across Key Decision Support Metrics

The air quality prediction and the estimation of carbon emission had high prediction value at 97.46% and 97.28% respectively. The Water Resource Management Efficiency was 96.91%, indicating good optimization of water distribution and conservation strategies. Waste Collection Optimization and Resource Allocation Efficiency achieved 93.84% and 93.63% respectively, and Pollution Detection Accuracy scored 90.82%, indicating potential for further enhancements in intricate urban air pollution monitoring situations.

## VIII. Challenges and Future Research Directions

Explainable Artificial Intelligence, federated learning, digital twins and scalable intelligent systems for reliable, transparent and sustainable environmental decision-support systems are topics that need to be explored further in future research, considering data heterogeneity, privacy, cybersecurity, and interoperability, as well as the interpretability of models.

### A. Data Quality and Heterogeneity

Human beings still face challenges in data quality and heterogeneity in the use of Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence in the field of urban ecology and environmental management. The variety in data sources for environmental data, such as from satellites, IoT sensors, GIS platforms, weather stations, and governmental databases, leads to varying spatial, temporal, data format and measurement standards. Additionally, data may be missing, noisy, inconsistently labeled, and/or the sensors may fail. To integrate data that is available in structured, semi-structured and unstructured form, powerful pre-processing, normalization and data fusion tools are necessary. Automated data cleaning, standardized data-sharing protocols, semantic interoperability and adaptive fusion algorithms need to be studied in the future. Reliable and efficient quality assessment mechanisms will help ensure data consistency, better performance of AI models, and enable highly reliable, scalable, and trustworthy environmental decision-making systems.

### B. Privacy and Security Issues

With the integration of big data from the environment and cities for intelligent decision making, privacy and security are of paramount concerns. Smart city infrastructures constantly gather data from IoT devices, surveillance systems, transportation networks, energy systems and public services, making it easy for hackers to gain access, become victims of cyberattacks and misuse the data. Location data and infrastructure are sensitive and information data need secure storage, transmission and access control mechanisms. Data protection and system resilience can be enhanced through the use of these technologies, such as encryption, authentication protocols, blockchain technology, and secure cloud computing platforms. But collaborative model training without sharing raw data is a promising approach, such as federated learning and privacy-preserving Artificial Intelligence. Strengthening cybersecurity measures, promoting ethical AI governance, compliance with regulations, and transparency in data management practices are key areas for future research to foster trust and secure environmental monitoring systems.

### C. Model Interpretability

To improve the acceptance of Artificial Intelligence-based environmental decision-support systems, it is crucial to make them interpretable. While many models of machine learning and deep learning achieve high accuracy in predicting outcomes, they are generally black-box models, making it difficult to understand the way in which they make their prediction. A lack of transparency can decrease acceptance of the use by the policy makers, environmental scientists and regulatory agencies. The techniques of Explanable Artificial Intelligence (e.g., SHAP, LIME, Grad-CAM, attention visualization) are used for identifying influential features and giving understandable explanations for the predictions of AI models. Future research should aim at creating AI models inherently interpretable

and balanced between predictiveness and interpretability and fairness. Better visualization tools and methods, uncertainty quantification, human-AI interaction, and standardisation of evaluation metrics will foster trustworthy, accountable, and practical environmental decision making for various urban ecosystems.

## IX. Conclusion

Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are powerful tools that can revolutionize urban ecology and environmental management, providing intelligent data-driven support for decision-making in various environmental scenarios. Proposed framework facilitates multi-source data collection, feature engineering, scalable big data processing and embeds the advanced AI methodologies such as machine learning, deep learning, Graph Neural Networks and Reinforcement Learning for enhanced monitoring and predictive analysis of the environment. The framework allows for accurate detection of pollution, waste management optimization, efficient use of water resources, and continuous monitoring of carbon emissions through information from remote sensing and IoT sensor networks, as well as GIS databases. In addition, the real-time analytics capabilities, the cloud-edge computing and spatial intelligence capabilities improve the efficiency of operations and help for proactive environmental planning. While data quality, interoperability, privacy, security, and model interpretability are still challenges to be addressed, they are promising solutions for future research: the new technologies Explainable Artificial Intelligence, federated learning and digital twin systems. In general, the AI-based decision support system has a great potential in enhancing ecological resilience, smart sustainable urban development, sustainable environmental policy formulation, and creation of intelligent, adaptive and environmentally friendly smart cities.

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