

# Sustainable Cities

GEF Integrated Approach Pilot



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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



## THE ISSUE

The world is urbanizing at a rapid pace. By 2050, more than 2 billion additional people will be living in cities, a 50% increase compared to today. That is equivalent to adding an urban population the size of Washington DC every month. The vast majority of this growth will be concentrated in developing countries, with nearly 90% of the increase coming from cities in Asia and Africa. As engines of economic growth, cities already produce 80% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).

Cities consume over two-thirds of global energy supply, and are responsible for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. Cities are also uniquely vulnerable to climate change: 14 of the world's 19 largest cities are located in port areas. Climate change adds to the urgency of sustainable urban planning and management, and to the an already broad set of challenges for many city governments revolving around providing jobs, services and housing to growing urban populations.

However, if managed well, compact, resilient, inclusive and resource-efficient cities could become drivers of sustainable development, contributing to both local livability and global public goods.

## OUR APPROACH

The Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot program is an ambitious attempt to promote urban sustainability, recognizing the unique window of opportunity that comes with rapid urbanization. As mayors in developing countries seek to transform cities as inclusive and resilient hubs of growth, there is a growing demand for innovative tools and knowledge to help them make informed decisions. Initiatives such as the Compact of Mayors, C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group, and the International Council for Environmental Initiatives' Cities for Climate Protection are already playing an important role in helping address this need; GEF will work with these initiative to further strengthen the overall support for cities.

The value-added GEF through the Sustainable Cities program is to promote the integration of environmental sustainability in planning and management initiatives. The program will primarily do so by providing tools, knowledge resources, and services to support local strategic planning processes and implementation efforts in targeted cities. In addition, a Global Knowledge Platform will provide access to cutting-edge tools for countries and cities to pursue aspirations for creating smart and sustainable cities of the future. This approach will bring about opportunities for greater efficiency, synergy and increased returns of investment in developing cities.

The GEF believes an integrated approach can demonstrate how innovation and high impact investment can support the sustainable management of cities. Working with partners, this effort will facilitate integrated urban design, planning and management, which lead to sustainable and resilient development and sound management of ecosystems in the context of urbanization.

## THE PROGRAM

As a result, the program is expected to create a strong network of cities that will act as global ambassadors for urban sustainability planning, with tangible benefits at both the local and global levels.

The Sustainable Cities program will invest US\$1.5 billion over five years, initially engaging 23 cities in 11 developing countries (Brazil, China, Cote d'Ivoire, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, South Africa and Viet Nam). It will be implemented as a GEF partnership involving GEF Agencies, development entities, technical institutions, city municipalities, and civil society organizations will also contribute.

Through a holistic and integrated approach, the Sustainable Cities Program will (i) facilitate knowledge-sharing among city leaders on policy reform and innovation to inform and inspire climate action; (ii) develop and deploy common standards and tools, that will help enhance credibility, transparency and usability of cities' commitments for environmental sustainability and GHG reductions; (iii) enhance the capacity of city leaders to develop and execute city-wide low-carbon plans; and (iv) provide finance for selected urban low-carbon infrastructure across a range of sectors like for example transport, energy, buildings, waste and water.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

By promoting sustainable urban development through better integrated models of urban design, planning and implementation, the program will contribute towards avoiding or reducing more than 100 million metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e in greenhouse gas emissions.



## GEF Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot

Total GEF Financing: \$151.6 million; Total Indicative Co-financing: \$ 1,478.6 million



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided \$14.5 billion in grants and mobilized \$75.4 billion in additional financing for almost 4,000 projects. The GEF has become an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector to address global environmental issues.

The GEF's 18 implementing partners are: Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AFDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), European Bank for

Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office–Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), West African Development Bank (BOAD), World Bank (WB), World Wildlife Fund US (WWF-US).

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