URBAN SH/FT

TRANSFORMING CITIES FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

Annual Report
2021–2022

CONTENTS

1 FOREWORD 4
2 INTRODUCTION 6
- The Urban Challenge 8
- Cities Leading the Way 10
- Strategy 12
- Areas of Focus 14
- Gender & Inclusion 18
- Year in Review 20

3 LOCAL PROJECTS 22
- Argentina 24
- Brazil 26
- Costa Rica 28
- Morocco 30
- Rwanda 32
- Sierra Leone 34
- India 38
- China 42
- Indonesia 44

4 GLOBAL PLATFORM 46
5 MONITORING & EVALUATION 66
6 LOOKING AHEAD 72
7 GLOSSARY 74
8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 75

UrbanShift supports cities around the world to adopt integrated approaches to urban development, building an equitable, zero-carbon future where both people and planet can thrive. Funded by the Global Environment Facility and led by the UN Environment Programme, UrbanShift is implemented in partnership with the World Resources Institute, C40 Cities, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the UN Development Programme, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

FOREWORD

GUSTAVO FONSECA
Director of Programs
Global Environment Facility

Sustainable urban development is central to achieving the climate-neutral, nature-positive goals of this decade. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a financial mechanism for five major multilateral environmental agreements driving climate change awareness and promoting urban sustainability. The GEF also examines how cities can use integrated approaches to address the causes of climate change, environmental degradation and interconnected urban issues.

The pilot phase of the GEF Sustainable Cities program was launched in 2017 during the sixth GEF cycle (GEF-6). It quickly evolved into a global partnership with several key initiatives operating simultaneously to create sustainable solutions for cities in developing regions and countries.

UrbanShift, which launched in 2021, represents the next phase of the program in the GEF-7 cycle and builds on the rich experience of the GEF-6 pilot. This annual report marks UrbanShift's first year of action under GEF-7 and highlights the progress made by engaging an additional cohort of 23 cities in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Morocco, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, India, China and Indonesia.

UrbanShift was designed and initiated at a time when cities were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic added pressure to their already constrained ability to deliver urban services and confront the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and inequity. Despite these challenges, cities and national governments remain committed to sustainable growth. Many are prioritizing low-carbon strategies for a green and inclusive recovery and investing in sustainable transport, waste management, nature-based solutions, urban land use planning and energy efficiency.

Through UrbanShift's global platform, the program has started to build and strengthen institutional capacity in participating cities. As it moves toward the full implementation phase, UrbanShift is well-positioned to collaborate with cities to develop local projects that tackle climate change and enhance urban biodiversity while supporting equity and green jobs.

Globally, cities with strong sustainability leadership have become hubs for innovative, transformative solutions. The GEF is confident that with the commitment of our lead agency (UNEP), implementing agencies (UNEP, World Bank, UNDP and ADB), global platform partners (WRI, C40 and ICLEI) and other alliance partners, UrbanShift will advance urban sustainability worldwide and foster a movement of cities working to benefit people and the planet.

SONJA LEIGHTON-KONE
Acting Deputy Executive Director
UN Environment Programme

Cities and their communities are affected by the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. Cities are also linked in one way or another to about 70% of CO2 emissions. Some 1.4 billion people in cities face high climate risks, while urbanization has claimed four million hectares of tree cover in the last two decades. And, of course, cities continue to grow fast.

It is crucial that cities harness the innovation and creativity that resides within them to reduce their carbon footprints, connect more with nature and embrace the circular economy. UrbanShift, by empowering city leaders, helps them to do just that.

This annual report demonstrates that UrbanShift and its beneficiary cities are acting, in areas from nature-based solutions to climate finance. Sierra Leone's ambitious "Freetown the TreeTown" project is restoring critical forests while protecting communities from the threat of landslides. In San José, Costa Rica, UrbanShift is driving legislative reforms that reduce emissions and curtail biodiversity loss, simultaneously building resilience and safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable urban populations.

Additionally, UrbanShift's global platform is bringing valuable expertise to cities to help build on the work of the local projects. This year in Kigali, participants from 20 cities in Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Morocco joined the program's first City Academy to enhance efforts to tackle urban development challenges in the region.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) understands the powerful role cities play in confronting some of the most urgent issues facing humanity and is proud to serve as the lead agency for UrbanShift.

To see cities putting transformative ideas into action is deeply inspiring. My colleagues at UNEP and our partners at WRI, C40, ICLEI, ADB, World Bank and UNDP look forward to continuing UrbanShift's important work, strengthening our collaboration and putting people at the center of our response so that we can climate-proof the future of our urban areas.

INTRODUCTION

2

THE URBAN CHALLENGE

By 2050, 2/3 of the world's population will live in cities

70% of global CO2 emissions are produced by cities

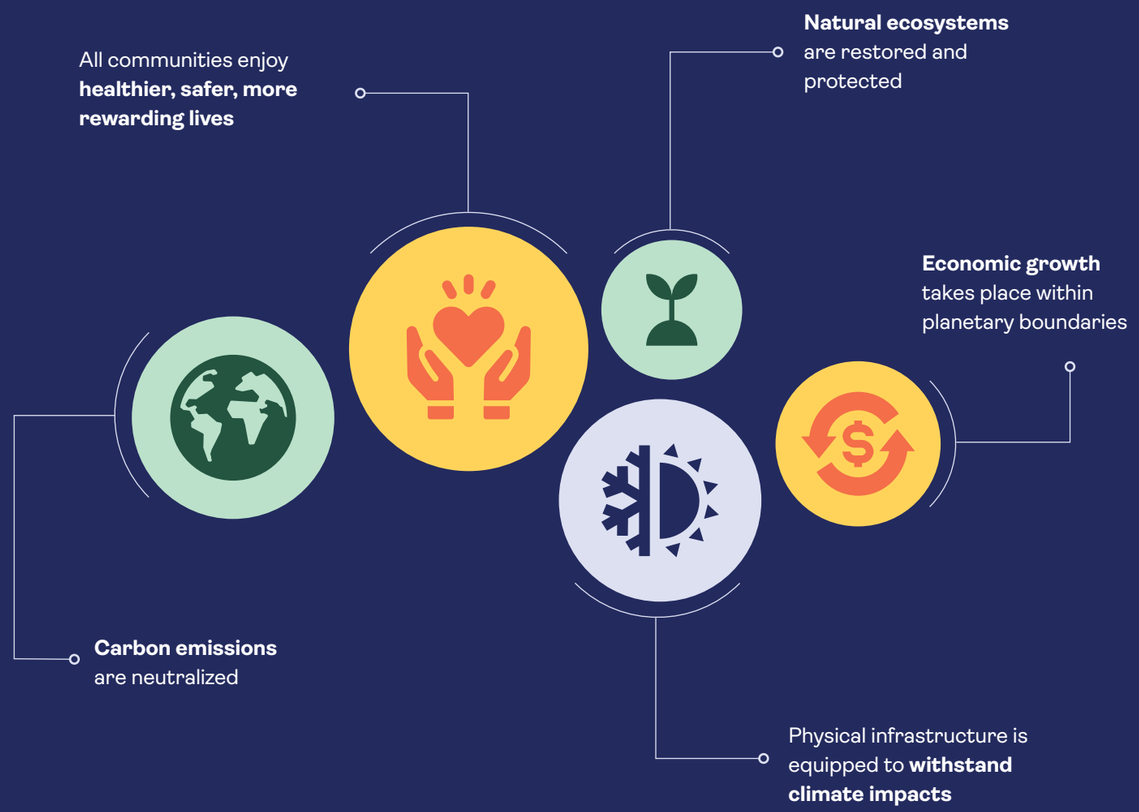
1.4 billion city dwellers are at high or extreme risk of climate hazards

25% of all city dwellers reside in informal settlements, the majority being women

4 million hectares of tree cover have been lost to urbanization in the past 20 years

As engines of the global economy and centers of creativity and innovation, cities have always possessed enormous potential for change. They play a critical role, not only in championing climate action and reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement, but in building back better from the aftermath of COVID-19 and mobilizing resources to protect the lives and livelihoods of the world's 4.4 billion urban residents.

UrbanShift's goal is to catalyze this potential. By empowering city leaders to work with residents, businesses, national governments and multilateral institutions, we strive to create vibrant and equitable cities where:



OUR MISSION

Transforming cities for people and the planet through integrated approaches to urban development

OUR VISION

Fostering a movement of cities to lead the transition toward a resilient, inclusive, zero-carbon urban future

CITIES LEADING THE WAY

$147 million
in grant funding

$1.9 billion
of co-financing

50 cities

17 countries

GEF-6	GEF-7	Cities and countries
11 countries **28** cities	**9** countries **23** primary cities	common to the two cohorts

STRATEGY

UrbanShift's strategy to achieving transformative urban development is based on a two-pillar approach.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Through on-the-ground investments in the GEF-7 cities, UrbanShift's implementing agencies (UNEP, World Bank, UNDP and ADB) engage with national governments, local officials and urban practitioners to plan and execute cross-cutting solutions that address multiple urban issues. These solutions apply pilot approaches that can be scaled up and replicated in other neighborhoods and cities and span a range of sectors, such as sustainable mobility, affordable housing, green infrastructure and waste management. *See chapter 3, "Local Projects," page 22.*

GLOBAL PLATFORM

To complement the local projects, UrbanShift offers a suite of capacity-strengthening activities to connect GEF-7 and GEF-6 cities, as well as interested cities from the least developed countries (LDCs), with global expertise and cutting-edge research in the field of integrated urban development. This knowledge platform is coordinated by WRI, C40, ICLEI and UNEP and taps into each organization's unique capabilities and extensive networks. The platform provides cities with opportunities to enhance their urban planning skills, engage with the private sector, and exchange best practices with their peers at virtual and in-person events. *See chapter 4, "Global Platform," page 46.*

EXPECTED RESULTS

Mitigate 170 million tonnes of CO2e emissions

Carbon sequestered by Costa Rican forests in 18 years

Manage & restore more than 1 million hectares of land

Seven times the size of Delhi

Improve the lives of 40 million people

Greater than the entire population of Morocco

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

GOAL 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

GOAL 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

GOAL 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

GOAL 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

GOAL 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GOAL 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

AREAS OF FOCUS

GEF-6	GEF-7	Cities and countries
11 countries **28** cities	**9** countries **23** primary cities	common to the two cohorts

Integrated Urban Planning & Geospatial Analysis: A participatory, evidence-based management process that advances a city's ability to work across agencies, jurisdictions and sectors to solve key planning challenges with the support of datasets and geospatial layers.

- **Lima** is implementing an integrated economic recovery plan in collaboration with the national government, focusing on public transport, waste management, active mobility and urban greening.
- **San José** and **Freetown** participated in UrbanShift's strategic planning labs, using geospatial maps to assess cross-sectoral development issues and prioritize actions. The results of the Freetown analysis were used to identify and select two informal settlements for upgrading.

Nature-based Solutions: Cost-effective and resource-efficient approaches, such as planting trees, greening roofs and restoring degraded wetlands, that utilize nature to increase a city's capacity to respond to natural disasters and shocks.

- **Recife** is piloting filtering gardens to help purify the Capibaribe River, protect mangroves and promote biodiversity conservation. The project also aims to create greater awareness among local residents of the importance of these ecosystems.
- **Chennai** has plans to rejuvenate Kadapakkam Lake, a vital water body in the Kosasthalaiyar River basin. This will enhance ecosystem services like freshwater supply and flood retention while creating recreational value for residents.

Urban Biodiversity: Data-driven practices like habitat restoration and wildlife-friendly infrastructure that protect naturally occurring species and ecological systems within and around cities, providing physical, cultural and spiritual benefits to urban residents.

- The metropolitan area of **Asunción** co-designed an eco-park in the city of Ñemby with the participation of citizens, the municipality, and other stakeholders.
- **Ushuaia** is piloting a conservation tourism and social development program in partnership with Tierra del Fuego National Park, which will include a biodiversity monitoring system.

Circular Economy: An alternative economic framework in which materials and resources are continuously cycled. This helps rebuild natural capital, restore the value of used products and reduce pollution and waste while reducing costs and creating local jobs.

- **San José** is mapping existing circular economy initiatives and investing in new business ventures with a clear focus on circularity and prioritizing the employment of women.
- **Freetown** is engaged in stimulating the recycling sector and supporting workers in small-scale waste management businesses.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Climate Action

Climate Action: Supporting cities to increase their climate commitments and develop plans to achieve climate neutrality and resilience by 2050 in alignment with national policies and international frameworks.

- **Kigali**, **Freetown**, **Marrakech** and more than 15 GEF-7 secondary cities attended the Integrated Climate Action Planning training at the UrbanShift City Academy in Kigali to develop a road map outlining their climate progress and ambitions.
- **Kigali**, **Freetown**, **Chengdu**, **Jakarta**, **Palembang**, **Chennai**, **Pune**, **Surat**, **Buenos Aires**, **Mendoza**, **Salta** and **Ushuaia** have signed the *Cities Race to Zero* pledge, demonstrating their support for inclusive climate action in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Managing Urban Growth

Managing Urban Growth: Planning mechanisms to provide affordable and sustainable housing, infrastructure and services for future urban populations through densification, transit-oriented development (TOD) and conservation of key natural areas.

- **Tianjin**, **Ningbo** and **Shenzhen** are applying TOD strategies at the city, corridor, subdistrict and station levels, helping to reverse the trend of automobile-dependent urban sprawl in China.
- **Johannesburg** has increased investment in TOD corridors, including social facilities like health clinics and libraries.
- **Recife** is developing a social housing policy that prioritizes access for women and vulnerable groups.

Climate Finance

Climate Finance: Strategies for cities to attract investment from the private sector, international institutions and development banks for capital-intensive infrastructure projects that address climate adaptation and urbanization.

- **Kigali**, **Jakarta** and **Buenos Aires** submitted successful applications to ICLEI's 2021 Transformative Action Program call, which supports cities to improve the bankability of their green infrastructure projects.
- **Marrakech, Freetown, Kigali, Dakar** and **Johannesburg** participated in UrbanShift's Adaptation Finance Academy for African cities, improving their understanding of how to access climate finance and engage with investors.

Sustainable Neighborhood Design

Sustainable Neighborhood Design: Integrated urban planning at a smaller scale, using flexible, people-centered approaches to create safe, compact and vibrant neighborhoods that reduce the need for travel across cities and strengthen the sense of community.

- **Johannesburg** is developing "eco-districts" to integrate housing, transport, and places of work and leisure with the energy and waste sectors while promoting green technologies to reduce emissions.
- **Mendoza** is planning a pilot for a sustainable, walkable, mixed-use hub to connect the city center and the La Favorita neighborhood.

GENDER & INCLUSION

Urban planning can be a powerful tool to reduce or reinforce disparities between genders. Identifying and integrating the concerns of traditionally marginalized groups is essential in order to bring about meaningful and equitable change in cities, with ripple effects on the economy and the well-being of all urban residents.

Experiences of living, working and socializing in a city can vary according to gender. For instance, women tend to face more difficulties accessing urban services, participating in political and public life, and benefiting from economic opportunities in cities compared to men.

UrbanShift seeks to mainstream gender inclusion through the local projects and the global platform. Embedding gender responsiveness into the design of the local projects is a requirement for project approval. For example, the plan to restore Kadapakkam Lake in Chennai includes ensuring that the lake's recreational facilities are safe and accessible for women, children, the elderly and the disabled. During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2021, Freetown's tree-planting initiative provided jobs to 989 Freetonians, targeting underemployed women and youth.

Similarly, UrbanShift's global platform actively engages with female leaders and experts, guided by our evolving Gender Action Plan. The June 2022 webinar, "*What would cities look like if they were designed by women?*", featured an all-female panel sharing perspectives from India, Kenya and France. Of the city representatives and urban practitioners that participated in our strategic planning labs in Costa Rica and Sierra Leone, 36% were women, exceeding the targets of the Gender Action Plan. On the UrbanShift website, the most visited publication is UN-Habitat's "*Her City*," which identifies ways to incorporate youth and gender equity into planning and design.

While urban planning and political leadership continue to be male-dominated spaces, the landscape is slowly changing. More than 50% of UrbanShift's core team, representing UNEP, WRI, C40, ICLEI, UNDP, ADB and the World Bank, is comprised of women. Through our work in GEF-7 cities and beyond, we strive to elevate the voices of women and vulnerable groups in the urban discourse, allowing equal opportunities and fulfilling experiences for all.

YEAR IN REVIEW

UrbanShift officially launched at Climate Week NYC in September 2021, with more than 1,200 participants from 110 countries joining the virtual event. We initiated our global platform activities that same month, beginning with a virtual Finance Academy. In 2022, as travel regulations pertaining to COVID-19 eased, we moved forward with organizing in-person workshops, such as the strategic planning lab in San José in April. 2022 also saw the start of several local projects.

Webinar

Virtual event

Local project

In-person event

SEPTEMBER 7-9, 2021
Adaptation Finance Academy for African Cities

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
Sierra Leone Project Initiated

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
Climate Week NYC: UrbanShift Global Launch

OCTOBER 27, 2021
Freetown in Focus: Engaging the Private Sector on Nature-Based Solutions

NOVEMBER 9, 2021
COP26: Transforming Cities through Multi-Level Governance

NOVEMBER 24, 2021
India's ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework

DECEMBER 9, 2021
How Sustainability Indicators Can Drive Better Decision-Making in Argentina and Brazil

DECEMBER 14, 2021
Indonesia and Morocco Projects Approved

DECEMBER 18, 2021
Brazil and India Projects Approved

JANUARY 20, 2022
Website and Resource Library Launched

FEBRUARY 23, 2022
UNEA Cities and Regions Summit: Flip the Script

MARCH 10, 2022
The Cities We Need: Seven Equitable Urban Transformations

MARCH 24, 2022
Costa Rica Project Launched

APRIL 27-28, 2022
Strategic Urban Planning Lab
San José, Costa Rica

MAY 5, 2022
Rwanda Project Launched

MAY 11-13, 2022
ICLEI World Congress: Strategies for Resilient and Healthy Communities
Malmö, Sweden

MAY 13, 2022
China Project Approved

MAY 17-19, 2022
City Academy: Integrated Climate Action Planning and Nature-Based Solutions
Kigali, Rwanda

JUNE 14, 2022
What Would Cities Look Like If They Were Designed By Women?

JUNE 21-22, 2022
Strategic Urban Planning Lab
Freetown, Sierra Leone

JUNE 23, 2022
Argentina Project Launched

JUNE 29, 2022
WUF11: Accelerating the Shift to Nature-Positive and Climate-Proof Urban Futures
Katowice, Poland

AUGUST 12, 2022
Engaging Youth in Climate Action

LOCAL PROJECTS

3

From coastal management measures in Surat, India, to low-emission zones in Teresina, Brazil, and upgraded informal settlements in Kigali, Rwanda, UrbanShift is implementing pilot projects in more than 23 cities across Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, India, China and Indonesia. These projects address a range of cross-sectoral challenges, reducing carbon emissions, adapting to climate shocks and conserving biodiversity while fostering sustainable, equitable growth.

ARGENTINA

One of the largest economies in South America, Argentina is home to 45.4 million people, 92% of whom live in urban areas. UrbanShift is engaged in five cities in Argentina: **Buenos Aires, Mar del Plata, Mendoza, Salta** and **Ushuaia.**

Project Budget
$207 Million

GEF Grant: $23,447,236
Co-finance: $183,575,335

Implemented by
UNEP

Executed by
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)

The UrbanShift project will generate spaces to consolidate work streams related to science, research and entrepreneurship, and accelerate the City of Mendoza's transition to a circular economy.

SEBASTIÁN FERMANI
UNDERSECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
MUNICIPALITY OF THE CITY OF MENDOZA

The goal of this project is to accelerate green growth in Argentinian cities, reducing GHG emissions and land degradation and conserving biodiversity. We're also looking forward to participating in the activities of the UrbanShift global platform, such as the upcoming City Academy in Buenos Aires.

THAIS NARCISO
TASK MANAGER, BIODIVERSITY AND LAND DEGRADATION
UNEP

BUENOS AIRES METROPOLITAN AREA

Population: 13.6 million

Objective:

- System of interconnected, low-emission green corridors, piloted through a gender- and diversity-sensitive process of co-creation

MAR DEL PLATA

Population: 628,560

Objectives:

- Sustainable tourism plan for 2050
- Conservation investments around Laguna de los Padres and Mar Chiquita Biosphere Reserve

MENDOZA METROPOLITAN AREA

Population: 1 million

Objectives:

- Strengthening provincial and municipal digital platforms
- Demonstrating non-motorized mobility, enhanced waste management and building efficiency through a "sustainable superblock" in Mendoza city

SALTA METROPOLITAN AREA

Population: 617,183

Objectives:

- System of transit-oriented, low-emission green corridors
- Conservation partnership with Las Yungas Biosphere Reserve, producing and promoting indigenous handicrafts and agricultural goods

USHUAIA

Population: 77,260

Objectives:

- "Sustainable Ushuaia 2050" strategic plan
- Conservation tourism and social development partnership with Tierra del Fuego National Park, including biodiversity monitoring and an early detection system for wildfires

It is an honor that here, from the end of the world in Ushuaia, we are working to build a new world – one that is more sustainable, more just, more equal, and above all more aware of the impact of our actions, as a species.

WALTER VUOTO
MAYOR OF USHUAIA

BRAZIL

Brazil is the most biologically diverse country on the planet and the sixth most populous. Of its 212 million inhabitants, 87% reside in urban areas. UrbanShift supports three cities in Brazil: **Belém, Florianópolis** and **Teresina**.

Project Budget
$197.34 Million

GEF Grant: $12,552,440
Co-finance: $184,789,243

Implemented by
UNEP

Executed by
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI)

BELÉM METROPOLITAN REGION

Population: 2.5 million

Objectives:

- "Low-Emission Belém City-Center" strategic plan
- Improvements in sustainable agroforestry practices on Combú Island

FLORIANÓPOLIS METROPOLITAN REGION

Population: 1.2 million

Objectives:

- Socio-environmental macro-zoning and low-emission neighborhoods in the district of Capoeiras
- Investments in community-based conservation projects in Pirajubae Marine Extractive Reserve and Carijós Ecological Station

GREATER TERESINA INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT REGION

Population: 1.2 million

Objectives:

- Enabling gender-sensitive inter-municipal governance and management processes
- Pilot solutions for a low-emission city block in Teresina

"UrbanShift's objective is to accelerate sustainable urban development in Brazil's metropolitan regions.

We're supporting city administrators to plan and attract investments for integrated solutions which cut across different sectoral challenges and municipal boundaries. These projects, when executed by participating cities, will reduce GHG emissions, conserve biodiversity, increase climate resilience, and improve quality of life for the cities' residents.

ASHER LESSELS,
TASK MANAGER, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
UNEP

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is one of the planet's biodiversity hotspots and a global leader in environmental protection. The country is home to about 5 million people, 80% of whom live in cities. UrbanShift is engaged in the **Metropolitan Area of San José** (GAM), which comprises 31 municipalities.

Project Budget
$109.44 Million

GEF Grant: $10,317,970
Co-finance: $99,131,494

Implemented by
UNDP, Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS)

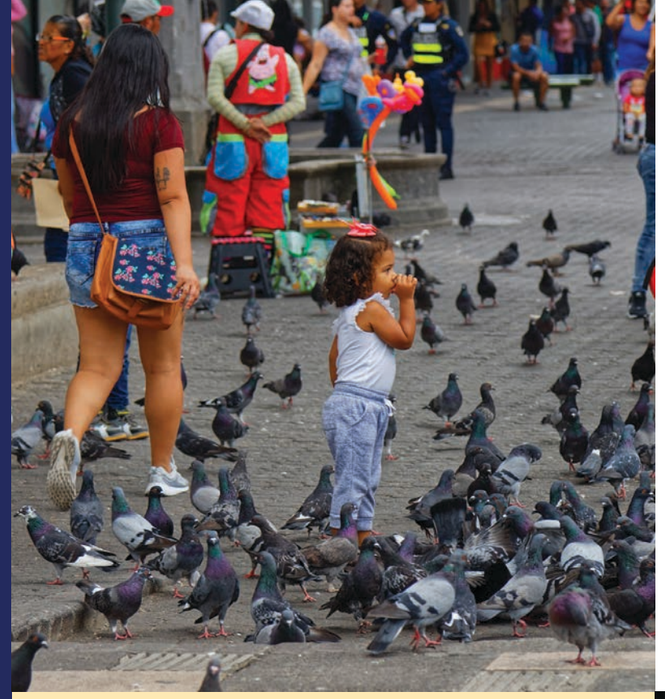
Executed by
Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE)

SAN JOSÉ METROPOLITAN AREA

Population: 2.26 million

Objectives:

- Fiscal and policy reforms to reduce emissions and loss of biodiversity
- Economic analyses of business models to decarbonize the solid waste and sewage sectors
- Participatory planning for the management and restoration of urban green spaces



Achieving decarbonization in the GAM and supporting Costa Rica's transition to a green economy is a key priority for UrbanShift.

To this end, multi-stakeholder and government engagement in the project is vital to building greater ownership from municipal counterparts. The lab hosted in Heredia in April 2022 by UrbanShift's global platform was attended by 48 representatives from 15 municipalities and served as an exercise in successful stakeholder engagement.

LUDMILLA DINIZ
ENERGY AND CLIMATE SPECIALIST
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
UNDP

To build more resilient cities, we must provide local governments with the tools to promote socially and environmentally sustainable development initiatives, which lay the foundations for a new urban paradigm – cities that are integrated as living and dynamic entities in a global ecosystem.

JOHNNY ARAYA MONGE
MAYOR OF SAN JOSÉ

MOROCCO

Morocco is home to over 36 million inhabitants and has the third largest economy in North Africa. UrbanShift is engaged in the city of **Marrakech**, which comprises about 5% of Morocco's urban population.

Project Budget
$307.97 Million

GEF Grant: $9,416,167
Co-finance: $298,556,388

Implemented by
UNDP

Executed by
Government of Morocco

MARRAKECH

Population: 928,850

Objectives:

- Review of urban planning framework
- Development of business plans for waste management, biodiversity and water sectors
- Nature-based solutions (NbS) and agrobiodiversity pilot
- Sustainable mobility systems

The goal of UrbanShift's project in Morocco is to promote strategies to reduce urban GHG emissions, develop innovative financing instruments and support land restoration.

We're excited to work on the tangible activities planned for Marrakech, such as the implementation of a low-emission zone near the tourist area, a network of solar charging stations for electric vehicles, and the transformation of the Sidi Ghanem industrial zone to an eco-park.

We also look forward to hosting the City Academy in 2023 and continuing our collaboration with the UrbanShift global platform, after the Morocco delegation's rewarding experience at the City Academy in Kigali.

AMAL NADIM
TEAM LEADER
ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
UNDP

RWANDA

Located in the Great Lakes region of East Africa, Rwanda has an urban population of about 2.2 million. UrbanShift is engaged in the capital, **Kigali**, as well as six secondary cities: **Huye, Muhanga, Musanze, Nyagatare, Rubavu** and **Rusizi.**

Project Budget
$158 Million

GEF Grant: $8,072,715
Co-finance: $150,000,000

Implemented by
World Bank

Executed by
Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA)

KIGALI

Population: 1.63 million

Objectives:

- Rehabilitation of five critical wetlands
- Development of a stormwater master plan and solid waste strategy
- Upgrading of four informal settlements

PRIORITY AREAS FOR SECONDARY CITIES

- Investments in basic infrastructure, such as road networks
- Waste management
- Drainage and stormwater management
- Sustainable transport

UrbanShift's intervention in Rwanda, known as the Rwanda Urban Development Project (RUDP II), is working to improve access to basic services, enhance resilience to climate risks and natural disasters, and strengthen integrated urban planning and management.

Studies for the rehabilitation of five wetlands in Kigali have been initiated and the LiDAR survey finalized, which will inform the construction of flooding hotspots in Kigali and the development of the city's stormwater master plan.

We're looking forward to the project's upcoming activities, including the construction of roads and drainage systems in the secondary cities and capacity-building through engagement with the UrbanShift global platform.

HISHAM OSMAN
TASK TEAM LEADER
WORLD BANK

Kigali had the honor of hosting UrbanShift's first African City Academy in May 2022. It was a wake-up call for cities in the region to adopt nature-based solutions, climate adaptation and resilient planning measures in urban infrastructure development projects.

PUDENCE RUBINGISA
CITY OF KIGALI MAYOR

SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone is one of Africa's smallest countries by size, with an urban population of 3.4 million. UrbanShift is engaged in **Freetown** and seven secondary cities: **Western Area District, Makeni, Koidu New Sembehun, Kenema, Bo, Port Loko** and **Bonthe.**

Project Budget
$56.72 Million

GEF Grant: $6,727,262
Co-finance: $50,000,000

Implemented by
World Bank

Executed by
Ministry of Finance

FREETOWN

Population: 1.23 million

Objectives:

- Investments in the ongoing "Freetown the TreeTown" tree-planting campaign
- Sustainable public transport and transit-oriented development
- Flood mitigation systems

PRIORITY AREAS FOR SECONDARY CITIES

- Improved integrated urban planning
- Upgrading of central markets
- Improved solid waste management
- Disaster warning and response systems

The Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project (RUSLP), as UrbanShift's intervention in Sierra Leone is called, aims to improve flood and landslide risk management and basic service delivery in Freetown and the secondary cities.

Since the initiation of the project, the RUSLP has supported the planting of about 500,000 trees, grasses and shrubs in the Western Area peninsula, contributing to the Freetown City Council's target of planting 1 million trees to mitigate the impacts of recurrent landslides.

Freetown also participated in the UrbanShift City Academy held in Kigali, Rwanda in May 2022, and hosted the strategic planning lab in June 2022. The lab was attended by 31 national and local council officials, looking at ways in which the RUSLP could utilize geospatial analysis to update the Freetown Structure Plan of 2014.

DAVISON MUCHADENYIKA
URBAN SPECIALIST
WORLD BANK

“Under the RUSLP, Freetown will have the ability to manage its natural resources and mitigate critical recurring hazards through scaling up spatial planning capacity with a robust, data-driven approach.

YVONNE AKI-SAWYERR
MAYOR OF FREETOWN

CASE STUDY

FREETOWN THE TREETOWN CAMPAIGN

Against the backdrop of population expansion, rapid urbanization, heat stress and landslide risks, the Freetown City Council (FCC) came up with a plan to plant and grow 1 million trees by 2022 – an effort that would increase the city’s vegetation cover by 50%. The campaign is part of the FCC’s ambitious three-year Transform Freetown Strategy, launched by Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr in 2019 to reshape the Sierra Leonean capital into a productive, livable and resilient city.

The “Freetown the TreeTown” campaign pioneers an innovative, self-sustaining tree growing model. The FCC, working closely with neighboring Western Area Rural District Council, has partnered with Greenstand, a nonprofit that develops open-source technology to manage environmental goods and services. Community-based growers use Greenstand’s TreeTracker app on locally available smartphones to create a unique geotagged record, or ID, for each new tree planted. Growers revisit each seedling periodically to water, maintain, verify and document the plant’s survival, receiving mobile money micropayments for their efforts.

The goal of this growing and monitoring model is to enhance community ownership over the project and guarantee that the targeted 80% tree survival rate is achieved. To ensure sustained financing for future tree planting, tree IDs can be turned into “impact tokens,” which can then be bought, sold and traded online by businesses and individuals. Beyond the individual geotagging of new plantings, the growing model also includes an intricate seedling purchasing, distribution and management system supported by open-source applications.

Source: "Freetown the TreeTown campaign: Using digital tools to encourage tree cultivation in cities." World Bank Blogs (July 20, 2021)

PROGRESS UNDER RUSLP TO DATE

500,000
trees planted and mapped (including mangroves, shrubs and grasses)

372
growers trained to water, maintain and track tree growth

1,232
climate action ambassadors trained to conduct community awareness and environmental education

900+
citizens provided short-term and permanent jobs, targeting the marginalized, vulnerable, and underemployed women and youth

INDIA

India is one of the world's fastest-growing economies and accounts for over 17% of the global population. UrbanShift has projects in **Chennai**, **Pune** and **Surat**, and two secondary cities, **Agra** and the **Puducherry Union Territory**.

Project Budget
$517.09 Million

GEF Grant: $17,215,652
Co-finance: $499,881,950

Implemented by
UNEP, ADB

Executed by
National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN REGION

Population: 11 million

Objective:

- Application of nature-based solutions (NbS) to mitigate urban flood risks and strengthen ecosystems services in Kadapakkam Lake

SURAT METROPOLITAN REGION

Population: 6 million

Objective:

- Climate-resilient coastal zone development, including upgrading the Dumas Seafront recreational areas through low-emission, gender-inclusive mobility strategies and NbS

> Pune's urban issues, like traffic congestion, are interconnected with its environmental issues, like air pollution and loss of tree cover. The UrbanShift project will help Pune to address these challenges in an integrated, cohesive way.

ANIRUDDHA SHAHAPURE
CHIEF KNOWLEDGE OFFICER
PUNE SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PUNE METROPOLITAN REGION

Population: 9.42 million

Objectives:

- Low-emission transit-oriented development station area (TSA)
- Advancement of green corridors
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure

PRIORITY AREAS FOR SECONDARY CITIES

- Improvements in public transport networks
- Development of green, low-emission corridors
- Strengthened coastal resilience through NbS

> The Indian government has initiated various programs to address climate change and sustainable urban development, such as the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, State Climate Action Plans and the Smart City Mission. The UrbanShift project will build upon existing investments at the central, state and local levels. It will also help in improving the capacity of local urban bodies in integrated, evidence-based spatial planning.

HITESH VAIDYA
DIRECTOR
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF URBAN AFFAIRS

CASE STUDY

KADAPAKKAM LAKE PROJECT

UrbanShift's work in Chennai will demonstrate a nature-based approach to the restoration and conservation of Kadapakkam Lake, a key water body within the Kosasthalaiyar Basin. This intervention will deliver multiple co-benefits, improving flood retention in the 55-hectare lake, protecting it from wastewater discharge and encroachment, and enhancing local biodiversity through the creation of a bird reserve and a forest of native trees. The project also proposes upgrading the lake's recreational facilities to include a cycling track, walking path, play area, open air theater, library, and hobby fishing and boating facilities, emphasizing accessibility for the elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities.

The Kadapakkam Lake model will be scaled up and replicated in other Indian cities and urban water bodies that face similar flooding, pollution and encroachment challenges.

“Creating a balance between nature and development is key. By protecting nature, we protect the health of our citizens.

BANCHHA NIDHI PANI
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER
SURAT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

CHINA

With 1.4 billion inhabitants, China is the most populous country in the world and the second-largest economy. UrbanShift is engaged in three primary cities and one city cluster in China: **Chengdu, Chongqing, Ningbo** and **Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle.**

Project Budget
$327.60 Million

GEF Grant: $26,909,050
Co-finance: $300,693,050

Implemented by
World Bank, China Center for Urban Development (CCUD)

Executed by
Ministry of Finance

CHENGDU

Population: 16.58 million

Objectives:

- Supporting Chengdu's "Park City" strategy
- Mapping natural assets, with a focus on critical wetlands
- Ecological connectivity with the giant panda reserve and other national parks
- Integrated management strategy for the Tuojiang River Basin

CHONGQING

Population: 32 million

Objectives:

- Nature-based planning solutions in the Bishan District
- Support for integrated energy management in the historical Yuzhong District

NINGBO

Population: 8.54 million

Objectives:

- City-wide biodiversity strategy, including habitat rehabilitation and wetland protection
- Ecological spatial planning through natural capital accounting systems and NbS
- Carbon emissions monitoring and indicator system

CHENGDU-CHONGQING ECONOMIC CIRCLE

Population: 96 million

Objectives:

- Improved ecological connectivity and biodiversity conservation
- Plastic waste management strategy
- Coordinated regional approach to carbon emissions peaking and neutrality

"The priority for UrbanShift in China is to support cities in achieving carbon neutrality and enhanced urban resilience through creating a high-quality indicator framework on low-carbon development, implementing nature-based solutions and urban biodiversity strategies, and mainstreaming climate-responsive, integrated urban planning at the city level.

XUEMAN WANG,
SENIOR URBAN SPECIALIST
WORLD BANK

INDONESIA

Home to over 270 million people and 12% of all known mammal species, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world and the largest economy in Southeast Asia. UrbanShift is engaged in five cities in Indonesia: **Jakarta, Balikpapan, Semarang, Bitung** and **Palembang.**

Project Budget
$178.17 Million

GEF Grant: $15,870,200
Co-finance: $162,300,000

Implemented by
World Bank

Executed by
Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS)

JAKARTA

Population: 10.5 million

Objectives:

- Strategic planning support
- Improved access to clean water
- Stormwater management using NbS

SEMARANG

Population: 1.8 million

Objectives:

- Circular economy business plan for waste management
- Energy-efficient and sustainable public transport

PALEMBANG

Population: 1.6 million

Objectives:

- Implementation of “agropolitan” strategies
- Transformation of the Musi riverbank into an integrated development corridor
- Investments in energy-efficient street lighting

BITUNG

Population: 219,000

Objectives:

- Management of plastic waste and marine pollution
- Restoration of coastal ecosystems
- Improvements in drainage systems

BALIKPAPAN

Population: 625,965

Objectives:

- Impact assessment of the development of Indonesia’s new capital in East Kalimantan
- Flood and watershed management

“UrbanShift’s project will contribute to fostering transformational change in Indonesian cities through evidence-based planning, leading to prioritized investments for climate-smart development, biodiversity conservation and effective waste management.

The participating city governments will also benefit from strengthened capacity to apply nature-based solutions, circular economy strategies and climate adaptation measures at the local and municipal level.

YUKO ARAI
URBAN SPECIALIST
WORLD BANK

GLOBAL PLATFORM

4

City Needs

Training & Capacity-building

Networking & Advocacy

To achieve sustained action at the city level, government officials and urban practitioners must be empowered with the technical knowledge and tools required to transform their urban environments. UrbanShift offers a specialized suite of activities – such as labs, workshops and webinars – to enhance integrated planning capacity in GEF-7 cities while leveraging the power of dialogue, networking and advocacy to reduce emissions and spur sustainable investments.

GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS

UrbanShift's data team provides datasets, geospatial layers, baseline indicators and replicable analysis methods to all UrbanShift cities based on core GEF priority areas, such as biodiversity and land degradation. The analyses serve to highlight key development challenges faced by the cities, support local actors to undertake evidence-based solutions, and improve municipal and regional coordination on data collection, sharing and management. The spatial layers are compiled using open-source global data and provide a starting point for discussions at the strategic planning labs. All data reports can be found online on the *UrbanShift Data Hub*.

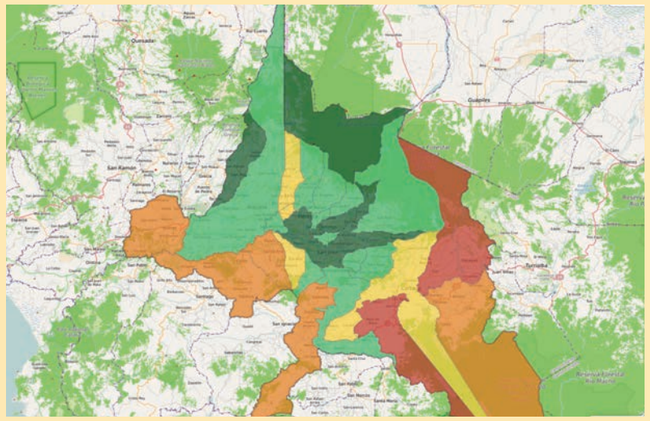
CASE STUDY

ASSESSING URBAN BIODIVERSITY IN SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Biodiversity is one of three indicator areas selected by UrbanShift's geospatial data team to align with the priorities of the GEF. Guided in part by the *Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity*, data scientists at WRI completed a baseline assessment related to biodiversity in the San José metropolitan region of Costa Rica. The goal of the analysis was to support local governments to incorporate biodiversity into urban design mechanisms and invest in the benefits that nature provides to cities. *Read the full article*.

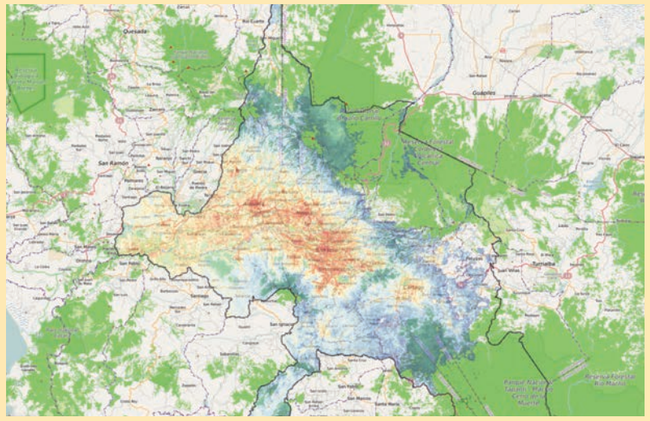
HABITAT CHANGE AND CONNECTIVITY

As Costa Rican cities plan for urban regeneration, it is important to expand the area of natural spaces and improve their connectivity. Some San José municipalities have made progress regarding habitat restoration, with at least 1% of land in six municipalities restored or passively converted to natural classes since 2000. However, most of these municipalities have lost more habitat in that time than they have gained.



RECREATIONAL AREAS AND POPULATION DENSITY

The San José region contains large recreational areas, like nature reserves, and smaller areas like urban parks. Although 70% of residents have walkable access to these areas, the overall amount of green space is less than 0.1 hectare per 1,000 people – significantly lower than the scoring of the Singapore Index, which recommends at least 0.9 hectares of recreational space per 1,000 people



TREE COVER, IMPERMEABLE SURFACES AND HEAT

The green infrastructure that supports biodiversity can also increase a city's resilience to climate stresses and shocks. The relationship between tree cover and land surface temperature in the San José region is strong: from February through March, the hottest time of year, areas shaded by trees are up to 10 degrees Celsius cooler than those without trees.

UrbanShift's global offer is grounded in the belief that cities must transition towards efficient, nature-positive economies that are able to minimize resource consumption while maintaining social wellbeing and opportunities for all groups, especially those that are often disadvantaged and underserved.

ROGIER VAN DEN BERG
ACTING GLOBAL DIRECTOR
WRI ROSS CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

STRATEGIC PLANNING LABS

The strategic planning labs are hands-on workshops organized by WRI in each of UrbanShift's nine countries, and aim to improve the host city's ability to operate across agencies, jurisdictions and sectors on a specific urban planning challenge. The scope of the labs ranges from supporting integrated design in a nascent project to creating spaces for exchanges between stakeholders in an existing project. Tailored geospatial analyses are used in the labs to identify and understand the most pressing urban issues and to aid participants in designing and prioritizing solutions.

APRIL 27-28, 2022

URBAN REGENERATION DRIVEN BY TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Heredia, Greater Metropolitan Area of San José, Costa Rica

48 participants (37.5% female)

23 institutions and 15 municipalities

Participants visited downtown Heredia and designed interventions to enhance the sustainability of areas affected by the district's electric train project. They focused on integrating active mobility and green corridors along key streets impacted by the project.

JUNE 21-22, 2022

REGULATING CLIMATE RISKS AND MANAGING URBAN GROWTH

Freetown, Sierra Leone

42 participants (35.7% female)

19 institutions and 3 cities

Participants brainstormed and presented solutions to the urban growth challenges and climate risks faced by the community of Moyiba. They visited Moyiba and observed firsthand how unplanned settlements have led to significant loss of tree cover and accessibility, pushing residents to live and work in landslide-prone areas.

The geospatial analysis produced for the lab was used in a discussion with the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) on participatory slum upgrading. Based on the results of the analysis, two sites for slum upgrading were identified and prioritized as part of the Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project (RUSLP), UrbanShift's local project in Sierra Leone (*see page 34*).

CITY ACADEMY

The City Academy consists of eight courses on integrated planning themes targeted at city-level decision-makers and practitioners. The courses feature research and findings from leading experts and institutions and will be available online for free, self-paced learning in 2023 as part of the virtual City Academy. UrbanShift also offers in-person training based on the City Academy curriculum in each of the nine countries. These workshops combine presentations, discussions and interactive exercises with site visits and the sharing of best practices. The intention is to deepen participants' knowledge of the topics discussed and spark ideas for innovative strategies to tackle the development challenges found in their cities.

COURSE TOPICS

1. Integrated Urban Planning
2. Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
3. Urban Biodiversity
4. Circular Economy
5. Climate Finance
6. Green and Thriving Neighborhoods
7. Integrated Climate Action Planning (ICAP)
8. Accommodating Urban Growth

MAY 17-19, 2022

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

- Kigali, Rwanda
- 75 participants (21% female)
- 20 cities and 3 countries (Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Morocco)

ICAP

Participants in the ICAP training, delivered by C40, studied the building blocks of climate action planning – mitigation, adaptation, inclusivity and integration. They completed a road map detailing areas where additional efforts were required to advance climate action planning within their individual contexts.

NBS

Participants in the NbS training, delivered by WRI, learned strategies to co-create and finance NbS projects. They conducted a cost-benefit analysis and prepared an action plan of next steps to promote NbS in their respective cities and countries.

SITE VISIT

The Kigali City Academy included a visit to the Nyandungu Wetland Eco-Tourism Park, a project of the Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA), City of Kigali, and the Rwanda Green Fund. Through the Nyandungu project, 120 hectares of degraded wetland have been successfully rehabilitated, illustrating a successful example of nature-based infrastructure and city-level climate action.

PEER EXCHANGE

The City of Kigali (CoK) and the Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA) hosted the Sierra Leone delegation, which consisted of local and national government representatives, to present the master planning process for Kigali. The CoK administration explained its plans to accelerate climate-resilient infrastructure development in Kigali and emphasized the need for close collaboration between national and local governments.

CLIMATE FINANCE

The climate finance component aims to help cities improve their understanding of urban climate finance, increase capacity to formulate bankable green infrastructure projects, and connect with public and private sector investors. This component consists of six complementary activities, including a course on accessing climate finance delivered through the City Academy, Finance Academies, and early-stage project assistance through ICLEI's Transformative Actions Program (TAP).

TAP

The TAP is a global initiative to support local and regional governments in transforming their resilient development infrastructure concepts into mature, robust projects. Three UrbanShift cities (Buenos Aires, Jakarta and Kigali) successfully submitted projects to the 2021 TAP call.

FINANCE ACADEMIES

These intensive workshops, organized by C40, take place virtually and in-person three times in each UrbanShift region (Africa, Asia and Latin America) and bring city officials together with financial and technical experts to address a financing challenge within a specific sector or region.

Through the TAP project pipeline, ICLEI experts guide local infrastructure projects seeking finance and investment.

The recent projects submitted by Buenos Aires, Jakarta and Kigali showcase the breadth of local climate action – from healthy public spaces to sustainable mobility and waste management – with an estimated investment volume of more than $21 million.

MARYKE VAN STADEN
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & CARBONN CLIMATE CENTER
ICLEI

SEPTEMBER 7-9, 2021

ADAPTATION FINANCE ACADEMY FOR AFRICAN CITIES

Virtual

46 participants (10% female)

13 cities and 8 countries (Rwanda, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa)

During the workshop, experts and participants engaged in discussions that emphasized the practical application of adaptation finance knowledge, e.g., specific grants for nature-based solutions or strategies to tackle funding problems faced by municipalities. Although the COVID-19 pandemic impacted municipal budgets and priorities, adaptation efforts were ongoing and city governments were keen to act, expressing their need for support in navigating financial options and developing capacity to apply for funding.

The event was very well-organized, and the discussions were enriching and inspiring.

PARTICIPANT
ADAPTATION FINANCE ACADEMY FOR AFRICAN CITIES

WEBINARS

The UrbanShift webinar series spotlights critical and emerging topics related to urban sustainability, climate resilience and mitigation, highlighting the perspectives and experiences of various stakeholders from the program's three regions. These free, open access webinars feature subject matter experts speaking on practical solutions to urban planning challenges. They emphasize the important role of traditionally marginalized groups and outline the limitations and opportunities to foster inclusive, sustainable urban growth in the global South.

OCTOBER 27, 2021

FREETOWN IN FOCUS: ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Freetown, Sierra Leone

137 attendees

Freetown City Council shared insights on the city's innovative tree-planting campaign, "Freetown the TreeTown," illustrating an inspiring example of city-business collaboration to implement natural climate solutions in urban environments (*see page 37*).

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

INDIA'S CLIMATE SMART CITIES ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK"

Pune, India

77 attendees

India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the City of Pune discussed their experience implementing the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0, which consists of 28 indicators that support Indian cities to measure their climate impact and progress.

DECEMBER 9, 2021

HOW SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS CAN DRIVE BETTER DECISION-MAKING IN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL

Cañada de Gómez, Argentina / City of Niterói, Brazil

153 attendees

Argentina's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS) and the City of Cañada de Gómez shared their Sustainable Cities Guide, a diagnostic tool built to aid local governments as they evaluate urban sustainability as part of an integrated planning process. The City of Niteroi also presented Brazil's Cities Sustainable Development Index.

MARCH 10, 2022

THE CITIES WE NEED: SEVEN EQUITABLE URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

Bogotá, Colombia

378 attendees

Experts from the WRI Ross Center examined the findings of WRI's flagship World Resources Report, *"Towards a More Equal City,"* which describes seven transformations that can improve access to core urban services. A former city official from Bogotá, Colombia shared their experience in municipal finance and offered practical recommendations that can be adopted in other cities.

> This framework is an umbrella initiative, under which discussion about responsible and climate-sensitive urban development is taking place among national, state and local governments and other stakeholders in India.
>
> **KUNAL KUMAR**
> *JOINT SECRETARY*
> *MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS*
>
> *SPEAKING AT "INDIA'S CLIMATE SMART CITIES ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK" WEBINAR*

> If you want to see change, you have to initiate it. I encourage women to take up leadership positions despite the structural discrimination that can intimidate us.
>
> **EMMA MILOYO**
> *PRESIDENT, ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION OF KENYA*
>
> *SPEAKING AT "WHAT WOULD CITIES LOOK LIKE IF THEY WERE DESIGNED BY WOMEN?" WEBINAR*

JUNE 14, 2022

WHAT WOULD CITIES LOOK LIKE IF THEY WERE DESIGNED BY WOMEN?

Chennai, India / Paris, France / Kenya

292 attendees

Prominent female urban planning experts from India, Kenya and France reflected on the limited role that women have traditionally exercised in the design of cities. They discussed the importance of creating conducive conditions for women to participate in city-level decision-making, which helps cities become safer and more accessible for all.

AUGUST 12, 2022

ENGAGING YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION

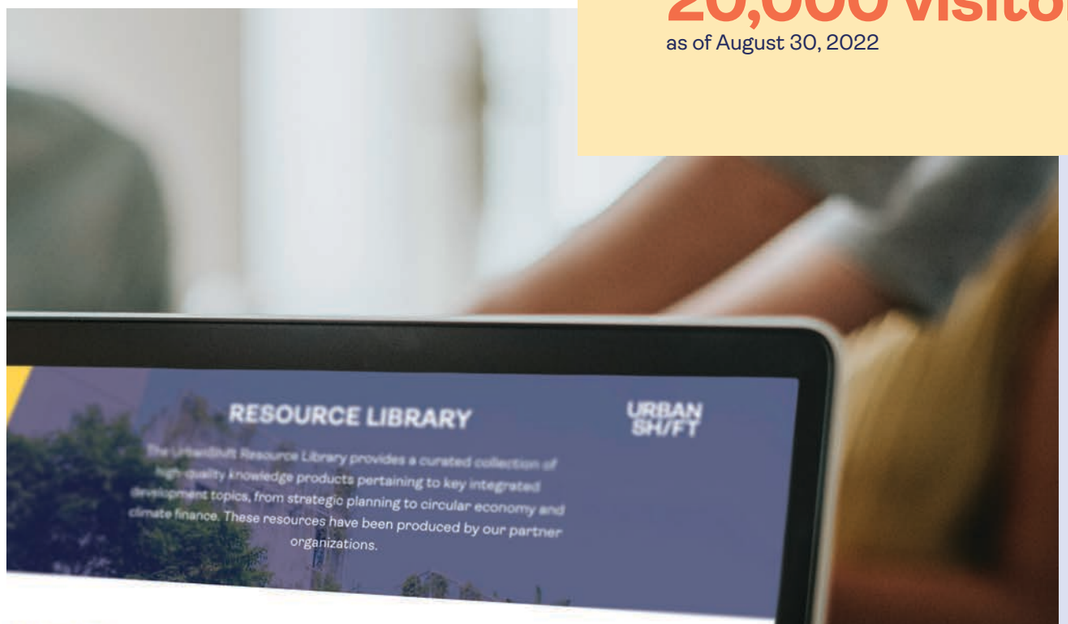
Surat, India / Bandung, Indonesia / Freetown, Sierra Leone / China

200 attendees

To celebrate International Youth Day, city and youth representatives from India, China, Indonesia and Sierra Leone explained the dangers of "youthwashing" and discussed the critical role that young people must play in addressing the climate emergency.

WEBSITE

The *website* plays an essential role in UrbanShift's capacity-building effort. It serves as a repository of research and knowledge about the program's core themes and offers a guide for upcoming events and activities. Available in six languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Indonesian Bahasa and Mandarin), the website was launched in January 2022 and includes a *curated library* of reports, toolkits and case studies, *recordings* of all UrbanShift webinars, and a *Data Hub* containing global datasets and geospatial layers for the primary GEF-7 cities. The website will also host the virtual City Academy, to be launched in 2023.



WEBSITE AT A GLANCE

20,000 visitors
as of August 30, 2022

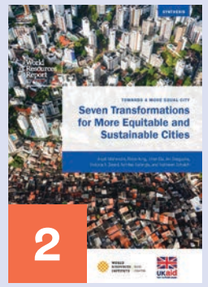
5,500 subscribers
to the UrbanShift mailing list

MOST POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

1

Her City: A Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design

2



Seven Transformations for More Equitable and Sustainable Cities

3

Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities: The Power of Nature-Based Solutions

CLIMATE ACTION

The climate action initiative is spearheaded by C40 and provides tailored support to cities to help address the climate crisis at the local level. It includes an online course on integrated climate action planning and in-person training delivered during three regional City Academies, as well as guidance to city staff on committing to ambitious climate action through declarations, initiatives and mayoral leadership.

“Through the climate action workstream, we want to inspire and encourage GEF-6 and GEF-7 cities, and other cities around the world, to take bold climate action that will protect the most vulnerable and prevent the local economy from getting locked into carbon-intensive pathways. Only then will our cities prosper.

ANDREA FERNANDEZ
MANAGING DIRECTOR
C40

URBANSHIFT FORUMS

UrbanShift Forums are the flagship events of the program. Here, senior political and technical representatives from participating cities and countries meet with international organizations and the private sector to discuss critical urban development issues affecting the region. At these forums, cities have the opportunity to learn about regional challenges and replicable solutions, explore financing for projects, and boost climate commitments at the local and national level.

The forums also showcase UrbanShift’s various knowledge-based and capacity-building activities, such as City Academies, peer exchanges, and the City-Business Hub, a half-day event for city officials, businesses and international organizations to engage on strategies that promote innovative sustainability solutions. A total of three forums will take place, one in each UrbanShift region, with the first scheduled for India in early 2023.

NATIONAL-LOCAL DIALOGUES

The national-local dialogues serve to stimulate communication and enhance coordination between different levels of government in UrbanShift’s nine countries. The purpose of the dialogues is to facilitate discussions on national policies for sustainable urban planning, resulting in improved multi-level governance, more concrete climate action, and stronger collaboration between national and subnational local actors. ICLEI will organize two dialogues in each country, modeled on the Talanoa Dialogue approach and conducted in the national language. A multi-level governance road map outlining country-specific objectives will be set in motion between the two dialogues. The first dialogues will commence in November 2022 in Brazil and China, followed by Argentina and India.

PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT GROUP

The Partnership Engagement Group (PEG) is a strategic coalition of prominent global actors, initiatives, alliances and networks in the urban development space. The group provides insights to shape and strengthen UrbanShift's capacity-building activities and deliver more robust support to the beneficiary cities. UrbanShift's PEG members have been involved in the development of City Academy curricula, have participated in the webinar series, and have contributed to the program's advocacy engagements at several international platforms, such as the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) Cities and Regions Summit and the World Urban Forum.

The Partnership Engagement Group is central to UrbanShift's integrated approach and helps us deliver innovation and impact at scale.

ALOKE BARNWAL
SENIOR CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIALIST AND URBANSHIFT COORDINATOR
GEF

ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

UrbanShift's advocacy effort, led by UNEP, aims to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities on the path to sustainable cities through international platforms like Climate Week NYC, the UN Climate Change Conference and the World Urban Forum. In collaboration with the PEG, the program prioritizes the urban sustainability agenda at these platforms and provides a space for city and national stakeholders to share their experiences with a global audience.

Through the advocacy effort, UrbanShift contributes to key regional and global processes, such as the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). It also works to highlight the importance of the program's core themes, including multi-level governance, local climate action and nature-based solutions.

The UNEA Cities and Regions Summit illustrated how UrbanShift, through its advocacy work, is enhancing the space given to cities at the international level.

It was also a clear success story of partnership engagement. Partners collaborated on the summit's organization and helped develop an outcome document reflecting their priorities for accelerating the uptake of urban nature-based solutions, which was then presented to the member states in the plenary of the UN Environment Assembly.

SHARON GIL
TECHNICAL LEAD FOR URBANSHIFT
UNEP

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

URBANSHIFT GLOBAL LAUNCH

Climate Week NYC

Spotlight on
India / Freetown, Sierra Leone / Ushuaia, Argentina

1,200 attendees

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

Transforming Cities through Multi-Level Governance

COP26, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Brazil / Rwanda / India

102 attendees

FEBRUARY 23, 2022

Flip the Script: Cities and Nature

UN Environment Assembly Cities and Regions Summit

India / Colombia / Mexico / Chengdu, China / Stockholm, Sweden / Montreal, Canada,

525 attendees

MAY 13, 2022

Forward and Up: Together for Sustainability

ICLEI World Congress 2021-2022, Malmö, Sweden

Pune, India / Buenos Aires, Argentina / Freetown, Sierra Leone / Recife, Brazil / Malmö, Sweden

1,685 attendees

JUNE 29, 2022

Accelerating the Shift to Nature-Positive and Climate-Proof Urban Futures

World Urban Forum 11, Katowice, Poland

Morocco / India / Alajuelita, Costa Rica / Utrecht, Netherlands

144 attendees

MAY 11 / JULY 6 / SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Urban Environment Days: UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks for Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia Pacific and Africa

Mexico / Argentina / China / India / Sierra Leone / South Africa / Rwanda

“In an increasingly urban world, investing in our cities is one of the best ways we can achieve global environmental benefits across sectors – from conserving biodiversity to reducing carbon emissions and increasing resilience to shocks like climate events and pandemics.

CARLOS MANUEL RODRIGUEZ
CEO AND CHAIRPERSON
GEF

SPEAKING AT THE URBANSHIFT GLOBAL LAUNCH

MONITORING & EVALUATION

5

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities that accompany urban growth, UrbanShift's objective is to strengthen cities' abilities to implement integrated planning strategies that create demonstrable impact at the local level and produce long-term, global environmental benefits.

Figure 1 (below) shows the program's overall targets in terms of landscapes improved, GHG emissions mitigated, and urban residents directly benefited. These targets contribute toward the GEF's approved core indicators.

Figure 2 (page 68) illustrates the framework of components around which the program is structured. The outcomes of the local projects and global platform cut across all four components, contributing to at least one of the 11 indicators. **Figure 3 (page 70)** maps out the specific indicators that the local projects and global platform are expected to advance.

FIGURE 1:
UrbanShift Program Indicators

RESULTS	ESTIMATED TARGETS
Terrestrial and marine areas under improvement (hectares)	**1,241,529.82**
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO_2e)	**174,476,844**
Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender	**40,837,450** Women: **20,239,376** Men: **20,598,074**

FIGURE 2:

UrbanShift Program Results Framework and Indicators

Component 1

Sustainable and integrated urban planning and policy reform

Outcome 1

Local and/or national governments have strengthened governance, institutions, processes and capacities to undertake evidence-based, sustainable, inclusive and integrated planning and policy reform

Indicator 1

No. of countries that improve enabling framing conditions to support multi-level integration and policy reform

Indicator 2

No. of cities with improved evidence-based sustainable, inclusive, gender-sensitive and integrated plans and processes

Component 2

Sustainable, integrated, low-carbon, resilient, conservation or land restoration investments in cities

Outcome 2

Local and national governments have undertaken sustainable, integrated, low-carbon and resilient conservation or land restoration investments in cities

Indicator 3

USD of sustainable, integrated, low-carbon and resilient conservation or land restoration demonstrations and/or investments

Indicator 4

No. of cities with sustainable, integrated, low- carbon, resilient, conservation or land restoration investment plans or project pipelines

Component 3

Innovative financing and scaling up

Outcome 3

Local and national governments initiate innovative financing and business models for scaling up sustainable urban solutions

Indicator 5

No. of cities with enhanced access to financing for scaling up sustainable urban solutions

Indicator 6

No. of cities and countries that have initiated innovative financial mechanisms and/or business models for scaling up sustainable urban solutions

Indicator 7

USD leveraged through innovative financial mechanisms and business models for scaling up sustainable urban solutions

Component 4

Advocacy, knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and partnerships

Outcome 4

Advocacy, knowledge exchange, capacity-building and partnerships

Indicator 8

No. of resolutions and/or commitments to advance urban sustainability and inclusiveness in high-level policymaking events

Indicator 9

No. of urban practitioners that used the knowledge acquired from the training or materials of the global platform (gender disaggregated)

Indicator 10

No. of cities that have more ambitious environmental targets for their sustainable and inclusive integrated plans

Indicator 11

No. of cities that have shared their good practices and lessons learned with the global platform

FIGURE 3:

Initial mapping of how UrbanShift's local projects and global platform contribute to the Program Framework Indicators

Components	Indicators	Global Platform	Argentina	Brazil	China	Costa Rica	India	Indonesia	Morocco	Rwanda	Sierra Leone
1 **Sustainable and integrated urban planning and policy reform**	1. **No. of countries** that improve enabling framing conditions to support multi-level integration and policy reform	✓				✓			✓		
	2. **No. of cities** with improved evidence-based sustainable, inclusive, gender-sensitive and integrated plans and processes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 **Sustainable, integrated, low-carbon and resilient conservation or land restoration investments in cities**	3. **USD of sustainable**, integrated, low-carbon, and resilient conservation or land restoration demonstrations and/or investments					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	4. **No. of cities** with sustainable, integrated, low- carbon and resilient, conservation or land restoration investment plans or project pipelines		✓	✓	✓			✓			
3 **Innovative financing and scaling up**	5. **No. of cities** with enhanced access to financing for scaling up sustainable urban solutions	✓			✓		✓				
	6. **No. of cities and countries** that have initiated innovative financial mechanisms and/or business models for scaling up sustainable urban solutions		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	7. **USD leveraged** through innovative financial mechanisms and business models for scaling up sustainable urban solutions					✓					
4 **Advocacy, knowledge exchange, capacity-building and partnerships**	8. **No. of resolutions and/or commitments** to advance urban sustainability and inclusiveness in high-level policymaking events	✓									
	9. **No. of urban practitioners** that used the knowledge acquired from the training or materials of the global platform (gender disaggregated)	✓				✓	✓			✓	
	10. **No. of cities** that have more ambitious environmental targets for their sustainable and inclusive integrated plans		✓	✓	✓						
	11. **No. of cities** that have shared their good practices and lessons learned with the global platform	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓

Local projects used the Program Framework Design (PFD) indicators and adapted them to their individual contexts.

LOOKING AHEAD

ALOKE BARNWAL
Senior Climate Change Specialist
and UrbanShift Coordinator
Global Environment Facility

UrbanShift has an ambitious agenda to support sustainable urban transformation in the nine countries and 23 cities of the GEF-7 cohort and beyond. The program's global platform made a strong start despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, organizing a successful City Academy in Kigali, strategic planning labs in San José and Freetown, and several global advocacy events. Meanwhile, early on-the-ground action in some cities demonstrated the value of UrbanShift's deeply collaborative framework and robust financing.

Moving forward, the program will direct its energy on fomenting this collaborative ethos, boosting city leadership, building technical capacity and catalyzing innovation. The global platform will continue to organize City Academies, planning labs, peer exchanges and webinars. It will also facilitate dialogues with national governments in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Morocco, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, India, China and Indonesia to promote multi-level governance and spur inclusive discussions on integrated urban planning. UrbanShift's first regional forum will take place early next year in India, providing a space for key urban actors at the national, regional and city level to receive training in relevant topics, explore financing for projects, and reaffirm climate commitments.

The upcoming few months are strategically very important for UrbanShift, in light of the UNFCCC COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh and the CBD COP15 in Montreal. The GEF considers engagement in these global discourses as invaluable for highlighting the critical role of cities and integrated approaches in achieving climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

Embarking into 2023, we are excited to strengthen our work with the UrbanShift Partnership Engagement Group, identifying concrete opportunities to co-create solutions for scale and impact. We also remain open to new partnerships and innovative ideas that support our ambition toward building a zero-carbon, nature-positive, equitable and resilient urban future.

GLOSSARY

A

ADB: Asian Development Bank

B

BAPPENAS: Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning

C

C40: C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

CBD COP: Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

CCUD: China Center for Urban Development

CO2 : Carbon dioxide

CoK: City of Kigali

COP: Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC

E

EV: Electric Vehicle

F

FCC: Freetown City Council

G

GAM: Metropolitan Area of San José (Costa Rica)

GEF: Global Environment Facility

GEF-6: GEF Sixth Replenishment Cycle

GEF-7: GEF Seventh Replenishment Cycle

GHG: Greenhouse Gas

I

ICAP: Integrated Climate Action Planning

ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability

L

LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean

LDC: Least Developed Country

LiDAR: Laser imaging, detection, and ranging

M

MAyDS: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Argentina)

MCTI: Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Brazil)

MEA: Multilateral Environmental Agreement

MINAE: Ministry of Environment and Energy (Costa Rica)

MININFRA: Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure

MoHUA: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (India)

N

NbS: Nature-based solutions

NIUA: National Institute of Urban Affairs (India)

NYC: New York City

O

OTS: Organization for Tropical Studies

P

PEG: Partnership Engagement Group

R

REMA: Rwanda Environment Management Authority

RUDP: Rwanda Urban Development Project

RUSLP: Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project

S

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

SIS+: System of Innovations and Solutions for Sustainable Urban Planning

SLURC: Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre

T

TAP: Transformative Actions Program

TOD: Transit-Oriented Development

TSA: Transit-Oriented Development Station Area

U

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNEA: United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

W

WRI: World Resources Institute

WUF: World Urban Forum

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C40 CITIES

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

UNDP

WORLD BANK GROUP

ADB ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK