



SUSTAINABLE CITIES



WHY CITIES?

Cities are the best place to start addressing three mega-trends that drive global environmental degradation: urbanization, a rising middle class, and population growth.

The GEF is launching a US\$100 million integrated program on sustainable cities that will demonstrate how innovation and high impact investment can support a sustainable management of cities. Working with partners, this effort seeks to provide policy and governance support to facilitate integrated urban design, planning, and management, which lead to sustainable and resilient development and sound ecosystem management.

With the Sustainable Cities Integrated Program, **the GEF will support participating cities to become leading examples of sustainable urban management, yielding clear and quantified improvements of the global environment.** Leaders and officials of these pilot cities will gain and put into practice the expertise and policy means to address global environmental concerns in an integrated manner.

The program will establish a common platform with two key elements:

- **Sustainability plan:** A rolling city plan that provides a clear assessment of the challenges and opportunities for achieving long-term sustainability while at the same time tackling global environmental problems.
- **Tools:** Develop a set of tools and metrics agreed with by participating cities and consistent with those spearheaded by partner institutions.

The program will also support a number of projects to demonstrate how innovation and high impact investment can support sustainable management of cities.





There is an urgency to integrate global environmental considerations and resilience into city management through planning, design, and action. We seek to help cities and national governments integrate efforts and move towards a more holistic management of global environmental issues.

Now more than ever, there is a convergence of interests and strengths in the urban space where we can collaborate with a wide range of partners. GEF's assistance would not duplicate existing efforts, but rather help integrate efforts towards greater impact.

This approach presents an innovative way to support the goals of some of the multilateral environmental conventions, where the role of the subnational governments is becoming better recognized. Much action to address these global goals needs to take place at cities.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report finds that places that have the largest urban mitigation potential are the very places that have limited governance, technical, financing, and policy capacity – this is an area that concerted public sector efforts, with support from the GEF, is strongly warranted.



LOW-EMISSION AND RESILIENT URBAN SYSTEMS

To complement the Sustainable Cities integrated program, the GEF-6 Climate Change Mitigation Focal Area has an indicative allocation of US\$210 million to support urban interventions with significant mitigation potential. Examples of projects eligible for support include:

- Integrated land use planning that supports transit-oriented development
- Mainstreaming building energy efficiency codes in cities
- Piloting distributed energy resource systems in urban districts
- Energy recovery from municipal waste

The GEF is also supporting urban resilience through its Adaptation Strategy, directing US\$195 million towards projects that enhance urban resilience through the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.



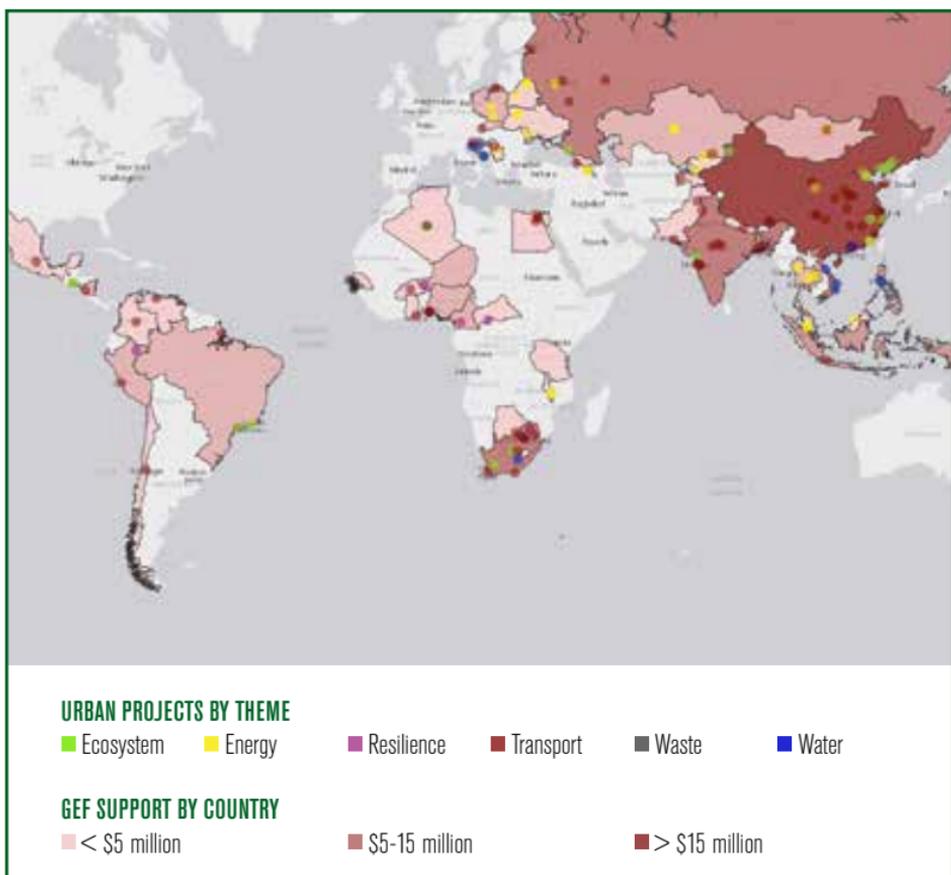


GEF WORK ON CITIES

The GEF began supporting urban programs with two grants in 1999: one helped São Paulo improve its transport infrastructure, and the other helped Beijing improve its sewage treatment and district heating.

Since then, the GEF has invested in 100 projects in 110 cities across 60 countries, with US\$580 million in grants and an additional \$7.23 billion leveraged in co-financing from the private sector and other sources (see figure below). These projects cover all major urban sectors such as energy, transport, water, and waste management. Some successful examples include the Tianjin Eco-city Project, the Asian Sustainable Transport and Urban Development Program, the Introduction of Climate Friendly Measures in Transport in Mexico City, and the Global Fuel Economy Initiative in African and South American cities.

The Sustainable Cities integrated program builds on these successes, taking a more holistic approach rather than single project-based approaches. The projected urban development needs in the coming decades present a window of opportunity for cities to manage their development sustainably, from the planning and design phase. The GEF seeks to work more directly with city governments to help their efforts in green and resilient urban planning and management.





A SUCCESS STORY: TIANJIN ECO-CITY

The GEF-Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City project, implemented by the World Bank, is recognized as a model of eco-city in China. The project demonstrates how to turn a waste land into a socially harmonious, environmentally friendly and resource-efficient city. The site, a land area of 30 square km and originally comprised mainly of saltpan, barren land and polluted water bodies, is being developed to include the newest low-carbon urban technologies and to serve as an inspiration for future Chinese cities.

The design of the city is built on three planning principles: compact land-use, transit-oriented and vegetation-and-water network planning. Accordingly, the function of the Eco-city is measured by a number of quantitative key performance indicators, as categorized below:

GOOD NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	HEALTHY BALANCE IN THE MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENT
Ambient air quality	Proportion of green buildings
Quality of water bodies within the Eco-city	Native vegetation index
Quality of water from taps	Per capita public green space
Noise pollution levels	
Carbon emission per unit GDP	
Net loss of natural wetlands	
GOOD LIFESTYLE HABITS	DEVELOPING A DYNAMIC EFFICIENT ECONOMY
Per capita daily water consumption	Usage of renewable energy
Per capita daily domestic waste generation	Usage of water from non-traditional sources
Proportion of green trips	Proportion of R&D scientists and engineers in the Eco-city workforce
Waste treatment	Employment-housing equilibrium index
Barrier-free accessibility	
Services network coverage	
Proportion of affordable public housing	

The GEF grant, via pilot investment and technical assistance, not only helps the eco-city become a resource efficient and low-carbon emission city, but also articulates the need to complement technical solutions with economic incentives, to help seek the balance between commercial and public interest, and to ensure affordability to create socially inclusive, vibrant communities.

The cumulative reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in a 20 year time frame is expected to reach the equivalent of 2.3 million tonnes of CO₂.



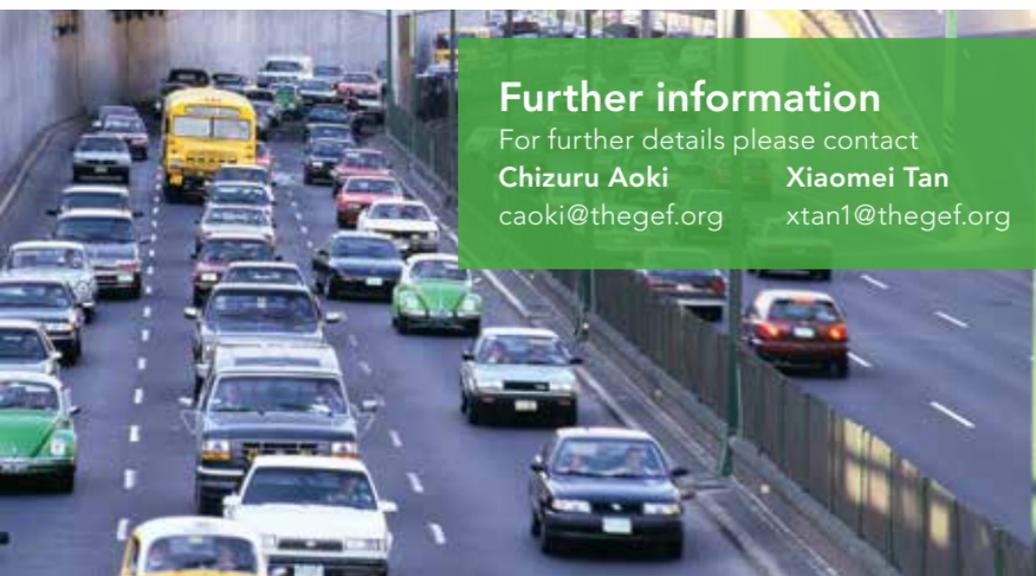
TACKLING DRIVERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN AN INTEGRATED WAY

The GEF serves as financial mechanism for several multilateral environmental agreements — including biodiversity, climate change, desertification, ozone depletion and mercury, among others- each having set ambitious targets to address multiple facets of global environmental degradation. Strong calls are being made to **promote complementarity in addressing problems that are cross-cutting in nature**, seeking to deliver more effective and scaled-up investment packages that benefit developing countries. The GEF is uniquely positioned among multilateral financial mechanisms for its ability to integrate funding lines and reinforce the multiple objectives required to promote transformational change. Recognizing the need to increase the impact of its investments given the environmental issues facing the planet, the GEF has refreshed its global strategy to guide funding over the next four years. The strategy now puts a **strong focus on tackling the drivers of environmental degradation**, which is critical to slow and eventually reverse environmental trends.

A select number of integrated investments will seek to produce multiple environmental benefits by working with a broad range of organizations and sectors, including government agencies, businesses and NGOs. This new and more integrated approach is being added to existing GEF funding modalities to strengthen its capacity to respond to priorities identified by multiple conventions and stakeholders. The GEF-6 integrated approaches include pilot investments in programs addressing:

- Global Commodities
- Sustainable Cities
- Food Security in Africa

These will test delivery of a more integrated approach to address time-bound global environment challenges whose resolution are closely aligned with targets and goals of the multilateral environmental agreements which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism.



Further information

For further details please contact

Chizuru Aoki

caoki@thegef.org

Xiaomei Tan

xtan1@thegef.org

ABOUT THE GEF

The Global Environment Facility is a partnership for international cooperation where 183 countries work together with international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, to address global environmental issues.

Since 1991, the GEF has provided US\$12.5 billion in grants and leveraged US\$58 billion in co-financing for 3,690 projects in 165 developing countries. For 23 years, developed and developing countries alike have provided these funds to support activities related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals and waste in the context of development projects and programs.

Through its Small Grants Programme (SGP) the GEF has made more than 20,000 grants to civil society and community based organizations for a total of US\$1 billion.

Among the major results of these investments, the GEF has set up protected areas around the world equal roughly to the area of Brazil; reduced carbon emissions by 2.3 billion tons; eliminated the use of ozone depleting substances in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia; transformed the management of 33 major river basins and one-third of the world's large marine ecosystems; slowed the advance of desertification in Africa by improving agricultural practices—and all this while contributing to better the livelihood and food security of millions of people.

During the latest replenishment of the GEF (GEF-6) 30 donor countries have pledged the record amount of US\$4.43 billion to support developing countries' efforts over the next four years to prevent degradation of the global environment.

GEF PARTNER AGENCIES

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
African Development Bank (AfDB)
Conservation International (CI)
Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
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)
The World Bank Group
World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)

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