

# ANNUAL REPORT

ICLEI SOUTH ASIA



**APRIL 2020 -  
MARCH 2021**



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# WHO WE ARE

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

**At ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia (ICLEI South Asia) —** we are a group of more than 60 professionals, including, climate change specialists, civil engineers, ecologists, energy managers, environmental engineers, environmental planners, power systems engineers, transportation engineers and urban planners. We work together to support South Asian cities on multiple aspects of sustainable development. We aim to build and serve a regional network of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in regional and global sustainability through local initiatives.

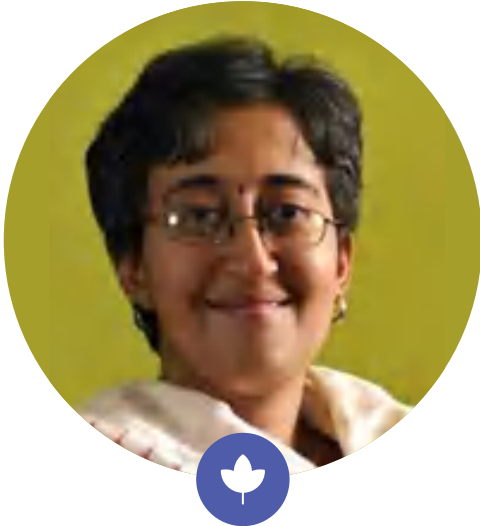
## ICLEI SOUTH ASIA NETWORK

### 100+

Local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.

### 6 countries

We work in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. We have also worked with national and local governments in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Mongolia.



## Atishi Marlena

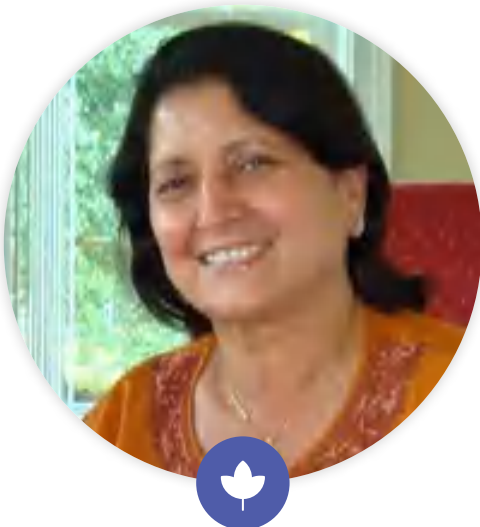
**VICE-PRESIDENT**, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability  
**MEMBER**, ICLEI Global Executive Committee  
**MEMBER**, ICLEI South Asia Regional Executive Committee  
**MEMBER OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**, Delhi

“

I have the honour of representing ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in my capacity as its Vice-President for the period 2021-2024. ICLEI is a growing global network of more than 2500 cities, towns and regions in more than 125 countries, committed to sustainability through low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

If anything, the past year has taught us is that we need to be prepared for resilient development to enable us to absorb shocks and challenges. The experience gained by local, regional and national governments in dealing with the pandemic has to be used for dealing with other emergencies such as biodiversity breakdown and the climate emergency.

However, no environmental policy or measure will succeed without public acceptance and public participation. Putting people first should be a core strategy, which can power sustainable change. I am happy to observe that ICLEI South Asia's programmes and strategic planning focus on building inclusive and sustainable cities where no one is left behind. I wish it greater success in the years to come.



## Hansa Patel

**CHAIRPERSON**  
ICLEI South Asia

“

We are pleased to report further progress in our efforts to support national and sub-national governments in taking effective steps towards building resilience in mitigating the effects of climate change.

During the peak period of the pandemic, when the world was struggling to cope with the unprecedented situation, all regional centres of ICLEI in different continents were trying their best to find workable solutions. The initial effort was to support local governments in delivering essential services to the people with all available resources on the one hand, and to develop strategies for low-carbon development, energy efficiency, e-mobility and green economy on the other hand, which are compatible with the achievable national and international climate targets and environmental goals.

At ICLEI South Asia, we recognise the need for taking early action and the importance of catalysing desirable action. In the course of our work, we listened to the opinions of a wide range of experts and sought the views of key stakeholders regarding the best possible options in the prevailing environment. With the support of our members, we are reviewing their post-pandemic economic recovery plans that would be based on climate-resilient infrastructure and science-based targets and methodologies.

We are ready to deal with all emerging and complex challenges with our own planning and workable solutions. We firmly believe that with the right focus and approach, communities and governments can rise up to challenging situations and become stronger and more resilient to drive sustainable impact. On this optimistic note, let me present the Annual Report containing our activities for the year 2020-21. I welcome your support and guidance in our future endeavours.



## Gino Van Begin

SECRETARY GENERAL

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability



The pandemic has made a profound impact on our lives, making us realise who we are, how we are all connected and the implications of our actions. While this has been a sudden shock to our world, science has also been sending us the same message for years regarding climate change. How we respond to these immense challenges today will determine our tomorrow.

At ICLEI, we are happy to be a network that is led by committed city leaders who are champions of resilience actions, planning for a better future. We are regionally driven, and value partnerships across sectors, and between governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector and civil society. We believe that local actions drive global change, and our programmes and projects have shown that we really can impact community and governmental behaviour.

In the Indian subcontinent and also beyond, ICLEI South Asia is driving these partnerships and collaborations to promote positive, inclusive and solutions-driven approaches to enhance community resilience and sustainable living, through actions on the ground and efforts to shape subnational and national policies. Our work gives me hope that transformative action is not an impossible dream. I encourage other cities in South Asia to join our network and become part of a stakeholder-driven model of sustainable development.



It was a year that saw normal life being upended everywhere. Countries went under lockdown, essential supply chains were disrupted and innumerable livelihoods were lost, to mention just a few of the repercussions of the pandemic.

At ICLEI South Asia too, our on-ground activities took a backseat initially as we pivoted to supporting local governments in dealing with various challenges. We stepped up and provided essential PPE kits for healthcare staff; developed communication material in local languages on sanitation measures; streamlined the distribution of food packets among needy people; digitised survey forms that sought details from citizens such as their travel and medical history; developed COVID-19 risk and hotspot maps; prepared datasheets to monitor freight vehicles during the lockdown; and helped in the smooth running of waste processing plants, among other efforts.

We quickly adopted new safety protocols, and were soon able to resume several of our activities. We engaged with members virtually to improve capacities and advance climate goals, develop greenhouse gas inventories, promote electric mobility, prepare climate action plans, people's biodiversity registers and natural asset maps, strategise to create safe spaces for children, promote plastic waste recycling, strengthen vertical integration and facilitate multilevel dialogues. The pandemic has tested our resolve, but we have faced the challenges with flexibility and fortitude. I am happy to present the Annual Report of our activities in the year 2020-21, and hope that it gives valuable insights into our work.



## Emani Kumar

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, ICLEI and

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ICLEI South Asia

# THE ICLEI SOUTH ASIAN REXCOM 2021 -2024

One of the governance bodies for ICLEI, the South Asian RexCom, or Regional Executive Committee, is the regional representation of ICLEI members in South Asia. It consists of five members and three advisors elected for the 2021-2024 period.

## REXCom MEMBERS



**A. H. M. Khairuzzaman  
(Liton)**

**Mayor, Rajshahi City  
Corporation, Bangladesh**

**Portfolio:** Low-Emission Development



**Ashok Byanju**

**President, Municipal  
Association of Nepal, Nepal**

**Portfolio:** Circular Development

## Special Advisors



**Satya Kaundal**

**Mayor, Shimla, India**



**Atishi Marlena**

**MLA from Kalkaji, Delhi;  
Chairperson of Delhi Assembly  
Committees of Ethics,  
Environment and Education,  
Delhi Government, India**

**Portfolio:** Nature-Based Development



**Fathimath Afshaan  
Latheef**

**CEO, Local Government  
Authority of Maldives,  
Maldives**

**Portfolio:** Resilient Development



**Sunil Uniyal**

**Mayor, Dehradun, India**



**Yasmin Kidwai**

**Councillor, South Delhi Municipal  
Corporation, India**



**Ugyen Dorji**

**Mayor, Thimphu Municipality,  
Bhutan**

**Portfolio:** Urban Reforms

## JOIN US!

Local governments, and associations of local governments

Please visit our website: <http://southasia.iclei.org/our-members/join-us.html>

or write to us at: [membership@iclei.org](mailto:membership@iclei.org)





## OUR

### MISSION

To build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability with special focus on environmental conditions through cumulative local actions.

## OUR

### VISION

ICLEI envisions a world of sustainable cities that confront the realities of urbanisation, adapt to economic and demographic trends and prepare for the impacts of climate change and other urban challenges. This is why ICLEI unites local and regional governments in creating positive change through collective learning, exchange and capacity building.

## OUR

### MEMBERS

ICLEI Members are committed local and regional governments, representing diverse communities the world over. They guide our efforts to make sustainability fundamental to all development and to scale up sustainable urban development worldwide. ICLEI Members steer the direction of our work, shape our strategy and support the mission, mandate and principles set in our statutes. They are eligible to vote and take part in our network-wide governing bodies. Membership is open to all local and regional governments, as well as to their global, regional, national and subnational associations.



# ICLEI South Asia

is now a network of more than 100 local and regional governments. We encourage more cities to join our network. Please visit <https://iclei.org/en/join.html> or write to us at [membership@iclei.org](mailto:membership@iclei.org)



# OUR PATHWAYS

To sustainably manage our rapidly changing urban and global environment and to transform our cities and regions that surround them, we drive action through five critical and strategic pathways that are closely interlinked.



## **LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT**

Help curb climate change, reduce pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions in all activities, achieve climate neutrality and promote renewable energy and peoplecentred solutions such as walking and cycling for sustainable passenger mobility.

## **EQUITABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT**

Help to build more just, liveable and inclusive urban communities, address poverty and pursue processes and patterns of an “inclusive development for all” that safeguard the natural support systems for human life.

## **NATURE-BASED DEVELOPMENT**

Protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecosystems in and around cities, which underpin key aspects of our local economies and upon which we depend for the well-being and resilience of our communities.

## **RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT**

Support cities to anticipate, prevent, absorb and recover from shocks and stresses, in particular those caused by rapid environmental, technological and social change, and to improve basic response structures.

## **CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENT**

Promote models of production and consumption to build sustainable societies that use recyclable, shareable and regenerative resources to meet the material / development needs of a growing population.



# 01

## LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



*Through this pathway, we help local and regional governments raise their climate ambition to reduce the carbon intensity of development action. We aim for carbon-neutral infrastructure and operations, and give priority to sustainable urban development to aid green recovery in the post-pandemic world.*

*We supported more than 100 cities across 5 countries in South, South-east and Central Asia in capacity development, and in preparing, implementing and mainstreaming integrated low-carbon climate action plans for improved freight and waste management, energy efficiency and economic recovery.*

The second phase of the Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Climate Action in Cities (**CapaCITIES-II**) project continued the successful run of the first phase. We updated the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory in Phase-1 cities, and developed the inventories in four Phase-2 cities. We simplified the climate planning process ClimateResilientCities Process and prepared assessment instruments.

We are supporting cities in developing bankable projects and showcasing innovative pilot projects such as the development of floating solar projects in Coimbatore and Ahmedabad, and of Udaipur's walled city as a Green Mobility Zone with amenities to support and promote electric mobility, as well as designing and developing Miyawaki forests in three cities. The cities are in the process of finalising other pilot implementation projects.

We supported 17 cities in responding to the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF 2.0), and disseminated knowledge on climate actions in eight partner cities and products such as toolkits that were developed to enable sharing of knowledge. The cities of Rajkot and Udaipur were supported in their activities under the Cycle4Change Challenge initiative of the Smart Cities Mission that promotes quick cycle-friendly initiatives in response to the pandemic. To help doctors and healthcare workers battling the pandemic, we donated 100 Personal Protective Equipment kits to the Siliguri Municipal Corporation in West Bengal.



The world's largest lockdown, announced in March 2020 in India to curb the spread of the pandemic, caused a severe disruption of supply-chain networks of even essential goods across the country. However, the cities of Kochi, Panaji and Shimla, supported by our **EcoLogistics** project, were better prepared in dealing with the crisis. Kochi and Panaji had already constituted multi-stakeholder committees under the project. These cities collaborated with private stakeholders to ensure transportation of goods and last-mile delivery of essential items to the people under lockdown. We also assisted the multi-stakeholder committees to address issues of stakeholder fragmentation and close the gaps in urban freight movement. As part of the baseline, the emissions from urban freight activities in cities have been estimated using the EcoLogistics self-monitoring tool (developed as part of the project to help local governments estimate, evaluate and track their urban freight emissions over time). The three cities approved the urban freight baselines that we prepared, following which the multi-stakeholder committees are discussing Low Carbon Action Plans for Urban Freight.

As co-host of the **Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP)** Secretariat, we have been promoting and enabling low-emission, climate-resilient development across the Asia-Pacific region. Following the national lockdown in India after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a ban on domestic and international travel, we shifted our activities online and continued to engage with

members of the ALP to improve capacities, advance climate goals and enhance NDC implementation and alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reaching out to more than 5500 practitioners through our online interventions.

We identified viable technological solutions for space heating in residential buildings in Mongolia's capital city Ulaanbaatar, and supported the development of an emission reduction tool for that country's Trade and Development Bank to aid loan approvals.

We supported the preparation of Climate-Resilient City Action Plans for Kurunegala city in Sri Lanka and Sarpang district in Bhutan, and of the 'Beijing's Pilot Emission Trading System' case study developed by the ICLEI East Asia Secretariat, and also prepared a case study on 'Benchmarking Energy Use for Improving Building Energy Efficiency in Nagpur - Good Practices and Lessons Learnt'.

Deep-dive support was extended to Nepal's Electricity Regulatory Commission on electricity utility planning approaches. With the pandemic having adversely affected the NDCs of several countries, many ALP members are actively developing green economic recovery packages. We conducted a study to assess ways of increasing ridership to support the green recovery of the public transport system in the city of Chiang Mai in Thailand.



## 5 factsheets with infographics

Prepared guidelines for energy-efficient and climate-responsive homes, addressing building form and orientation, envelope and materials, passive day lighting strategies, cooling strategies for thermal comfort and energy-efficient technologies. 5 fact sheets focusing on these concepts were also prepared.

## Design review of 900 dwellings

under affordable housing scheme recommended measures for enhancing of thermal comfort and energy efficiency.



## Energy conservation measures

identified in municipal & private buildings by conducting investment grade energy audits.

Additionally, we organised capacity building and peer learning for government representatives through online sessions on grid renewable energy, clean mobility, building energy efficiency, NDC finance and sub-national integration, under the thematic Communities of Practice.

We successfully wrapped up the **Building Energy Accelerator** (BEA) project, under which we conducted design review of **900 dwellings** of the Maharashtra state government's affordable housing scheme in Nagpur, called the "Home Sweet Home" project. The project had linkages with the Government of India's Energy Conservation Building Code, Indian Green Building Council rating / Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment, Municipal Demand Side Management scheme of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Maharashtra state's green building policies. We developed 'Easy to Understand' technical guidelines for the development of energy-efficient housing and a building energy performance benchmarking process that Nagpur is keen to continue for commercial buildings to tap into the significant energy-saving potential.

Under the **Strategies for Enabling Energy Storage in Indian Cities** project, we are identifying needs, opportunities and enabling strategies for coordinated action between urban local bodies and power distribution companies to promote utility-scale energy storage in cities, and are showcasing the potential of locally coordinated initiatives in achieving large-scale deployment of renewable energy and electric vehicles, enabled through Battery Energy Storage Systems. It is the first project where we are attempting such an approach with high replication potential. The initiative is aligned with the NDC targets of reducing GHG emission intensity up to 33-35% from the 2005 level by 2030, and 40% non-fossil based electricity generation in the energy mix.

We organised 10 virtual training workshops on GHG and Climate Action Planning in four months for more than 200 participants from 77 cities and 18 states across India, under a project titled '**Webinar Trainings on Greenhouse Gas Inventory for States & Urban Local Bodies**'. The cities were supported in reporting to the CSCAF and Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), and to improve reporting on the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System.

Our **GCoM Global-Regional Coordination Project** strengthened the engagement of city networks within GCoM. We mobilised eight new cities to join the GCoM

network, and supported 16 South Asian cities in reporting to the CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System. The GHG Emissions Inventory of seven Indian and two Bangladesh cities were updated on the reporting system. Two virtual training sessions were conducted to introduce cities to GCoM's Common Reporting Framework (CRF) and the CDP ICLEI Unified Reporting System.

The GCoM South Asia Helpdesk provided virtual training to 25 cities in South Asia on the CRF, and supported the appointment of Ms. Rosy Senanayake, former Mayor of Colombo, as a member of the GCoM board.

We also developed new methodologies and data banks for calculations. Significantly, Rajkot has become fully GCoM compliant, bagging all four badges intended to reward achievement and progression within the different phases of participation of a city in the GCoM initiative – from commitment, to planning, to implementation and monitoring. It also emerged as the National Winner of Worldwide Fund for Nature's Global One Planet City Challenge 2020.

Under the **UrbanShift Global Platform**, we provided technical support and inputs for the development of the Government of India's national child project proposal, and completed the Light Touch City Needs Assessment for the cities of Pune, Surat and Chennai. The project has synergies with several national programmes, such as the Smart Cities Mission and other capacity building initiatives anchored by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). It is aligned particularly to SDG 11 towards making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

We contributed to the alignment of existing Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems for GHG emissions and mitigation actions with the NDCs under our **Under2 Coalition - The Climate Footprint Project**. We produced India-specific multi-level governance framework assessment and stakeholder mapping, and organised the first national multi-level governance dialogue, and a multi-level governance dialogue for Chhattisgarh to align existing MRV systems at all levels of government to make them more efficient. Based on the outcomes of the dialogues, a guidance document on vertical integration of MRV systems was prepared for the Government of India. The project has synergies with various national and state initiatives on establishing GHG inventories, and will contribute to the national obligations towards the Paris Climate Agreement.



## Bending the Emissions Curve

Our Urban Low Emission Development Strategies II (Urban-LEDS II) project supported 8 South Asian cities, including two model cities in India (Thane and Nagpur); and two model cities (Narayanganj and Rajshahi) and four satellite cities (Singra, Sirajganj, Faridpur, and Mongla) in Bangladesh in moving ahead with their climate action planning, and in leading implementation of actions in the areas of biodiversity and green spaces, waterlogging and flood management, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and clean air. We co-developed a multi-level governance study and factsheet for India and identified opportunities for vertical integration related to Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Bangladesh. The project supports various national programmes in India and Bangladesh, such as AMRUT, Smart Cities, Swachh Bharat Mission, and Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and National Sustainable Development Strategy 2010-21, as well as the SDGs, Paris Climate Agreement, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and New Urban Agenda.



First-ever city-wide GHG emissions inventories developed in Bangladesh, by Rajshahi and Narayanganj cities.



Nagpur & Thane updated GHG emission inventories for the year 2017-18.



Innovative pilots implemented, such as energy-efficient retrofit, Internet of Things (IoT)-based monitoring of groundwater, & IoT-based early warning system/ flood sensors.



Nagpur, Thane, Rajshahi & Narayanganj received inventory compliance from GCoM.



Thane & Nagpur supported to successfully report to CSCAF 2.0.

## Funders

### CapaCITIES-II:



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

### Webinar Trainings on Greenhouse Gas Inventory for States & Urban Local Bodies



International Urban Cooperation (IUC) India

### EcoLogistics:

Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Germany) through its International Climate Initiative programme



### GCoM Global-Regional Coordination Project:



Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)

### ALP:



GIZ

### BEA:



World Resources Institute/ Global Environmental Facility



Strategies for Enabling Energy Storage in Indian Cities - Shakti Energy Foundation

### UrbanShift / Sustainable Cities Impact Program Global Platform



Global Environment Facility (GEF)

### Under2 Coalition:



The Climate Group

### Urban-LEDS II:



European Union



# 02

## EQUITABLE AND PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



*We recognise the need to put people first for sustainable development. We support local and regional governments in embedding people-centred approaches in planning and implementation of activities that support inclusive development for all and safeguard natural support systems for human life. We help to ensure that these governments engage in participatory governance, improve the liveability and safety index of the natural and built environment in and around cities, and promote green infrastructure and services that support healthy and sustainable lifestyles.*

Our pioneering tactical interventions to create visually compelling urban streetscape, rejuvenate neglected public spaces, improve the built urban environment and create safe and engaging streetscape for children and their caregivers in Udaipur, Rajasthan, under the one-of-a-kind **Urban95 programme** found widespread approval among stakeholders.

The city understood the significance of data specific to young children and their caregivers and, as a first step, decided to allocate INR 100,000 in its annual municipal budget under the development head for the Urban95 programme.

Active data development specific to young children was recognised as a scale-up activity, and therefore in Urban95 Phase II, a data dashboard is being prepared.

Aligned to the vision and goals of Government of India's missions and initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Nurturing Cities Challenge, Cycle4Change Challenge and Street for People Challenge, tactical interventions under the Urban95 project saw Udaipur emerge as a "lighthouse city", as declared by the Smart City Mission.



While the first phase of Urban95 focused on implementing pilots and testing interventions, Urban95 Phase II is carrying forward the initiatives by scaling them up and developing permanent spaces for young children and their caregivers.



Udaipur recognised as “lighthouse city” by Smart City Mission under Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge of Government of India.



Assessment of services and facilities specific to young children and their caregivers completed on the basis of secondary data and primary surveys.



Template for infant-toddler-caregiver integration in Udaipur developed.



Action plan prepared for Udaipur, focusing on streets & mobility, parks & open spaces, education and health.



Phase II is focusing on study of behavioural components and development of permanent projects for young children and their caregivers.

## Funder



Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF)



# 03

## NATURE-BASED DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



*Under this pathway, we recognise the need to collaborate with public and private stakeholders for integrating ecosystem services into policy making, planning and implementation of specific projects. We promote effective solutions and good practices to protect and increase the value of urban biodiversity. We provide technical advice to local governments, promote knowledge sharing, and support the conservation of ecosystem assets that are essential to achieving the goals of national laws and international conventions like the Biological Diversity Act, Aichi Targets, Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).*

We worked with more than 50 local bodies in the states of Goa and Himachal Pradesh and four fast-growing cities of Kochi, Gangtok, Nagpur and Hyderabad to develop nature-based solutions towards improving the utilisation and management of our natural capital.

As the technical support group for the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB), we worked with 53 local bodies of Goa to prepare the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), and completed 22 reports despite significant delays and difficulties due to the pandemic. This encompassed documenting the local biological resources, their medicinal and other uses, and traditional knowledge associated with them. The development of the PBR is mandated as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and the project has links with the National Biodiversity Action Plan and State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

In another initiative, Assessment of Biodiversity of Hyderabad City, supported by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), green cover maps and taxa (any unit used in the science of biological classification) lists of the city have been prepared. The

City Biodiversity Index of GHMC, developed initially in 2012, is also being revised and recalculated. We also provided critical support to Hyderabad to win Arbor Day Foundation's '2020 Tree City of the World' award, based on floral data.



### Video Series

in Konkani on development of PBR.



### Booklet

on Wild Edible Plants of Goa.



### Green Cover Map

of Hyderabad.



### Natural Asset Map

of Hyderabad.



### Illustrated Natural Asset Map

of Nagpur.



### City Biodiversity Index & Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans

of Kochi & Gangtok.



We carried out ground-level data collection, including stakeholder consultations, and quadrat studies in the project landscape in order to identify four highly degraded sub-river basins (SRB) in alpine and sub-alpine pasturelands in Lahaul and Pangi, Himachal Pradesh, as part of the SECURE Himalaya project. In each of the four SRBs, the extent and intensity of degradation and the drivers of degradation have been identified to help develop mitigation plans.

Under the Understanding Innovative Initiatives for Governing Food, Water and Energy Nexus in Cities project, implemented in Nagpur and Gangtok, we prepared city-specific case studies on blue-green infrastructure and innovative ways to implement the Nexus approach.



# INTEGRATED ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY

We worked with the cities of Gangtok and Kochi to develop their City Biodiversity Index (CBI) and Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAP) under the **INTERACT-Bio project**. Kochi's action plan is India's first scientifically informed and participatory LBSAP. The CBIs and LBSAPs will support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into urban governance in these cities.

In the LBSAP, Kochi has identified nine focus areas laid down to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity, maintaining an uninterrupted flow of ecosystem services, and ensuring sustainable, safe and climate-resilient development. The focus areas are: agriculture; air; avenue trees; green and open spaces; inland water bodies (canals, rivers and ponds); islands; lakes (Vembanad lake); marshes and mangroves; seashore and sandbars. The LBSAP has a detailed action plan to address degradation in these critical ecosystems, and the city has included the action points in its annual municipal budget.

Five focus areas have been identified in the LBSAP of Gangtok: maintenance of forests and ecosystem services they provide; promotion of urban agriculture for urban food security; maintenance and expansion of green spaces and avenue plantations; conservation of water resources; and awareness raising and capacity building. Detailed time-bound action plan for each of the focus areas have been provided in the LBSAP.

With the aim of augmenting the pollinator base and also to communicate the significance of pollinators to the citizens, a pilot project on the development of a pollinator garden has been initiated in Subhash Bose Park in Kochi. The pollinator garden and a herbal garden, which is also being developed, will form part of a live nature interpretation zone.

'Hope in the City', a comic book on how cities can combat climate change with nature-based solutions, was released globally (online) on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (World Environment Day), and was greatly appreciated by stakeholders.

These project activities are in line with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan, and support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, SDGs 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, i.e. good health and well-being, clean water and sanitation for all, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action life below water and life on land, respectively.





## Funders

People's Biodiversity Register:



Goa State Biodiversity Board

Assessment of Biodiversity of  
Hyderabad City:



Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource  
Management for Sustainable Development in  
Gangtok:



Gangtok Municipal Corporation

SECURE Himalaya :



United Nations Development Programme

Understanding Innovative Initiatives for Governing Food, Water  
and Energy Nexus in Cities project:



Federal Ministry for Education and Research, Germany

INTERACT-Bio :



Based on a decision of the German Bundestag

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Germany) through the  
International Climate Initiative





# 04

## RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

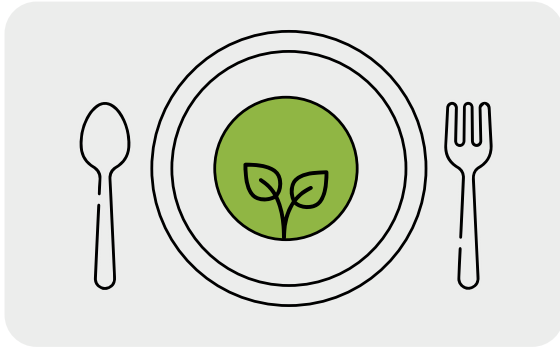


*Through this pathway, we support local and regional governments to integrate resilience thinking into planning to build urban resilience against new risks and impacts. We help to strengthen multilevel collaboration and vertical integration, science-policy dialogues, and innovative solutions for urban resilience. We pursue a transparent and inclusive approach to build local alliances, increase capacities to accelerate implementation of plans, and enhance trust in institutions and the processes that support them.*

We supported five countries in South Asia to develop urban development plans to enhance climate resilience, and deal with climate change, heat stress and food supply management issues, and prepared country-specific and appropriate knowledge products by partnering with prominent institutions and experts.

Under the **Climate Resilient Inclusive Smart Cities (CRISC)** project, we are supporting national and local development planning agencies and two local authorities - Sirajganj and Satkhira - in Bangladesh to develop climate-resilient and inclusive urban development plans by identifying local climate risks and assessing their vulnerabilities. The CRISC project focuses on the climate risks and urbanisation issues addressed in Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, Fifth Five Year Plan, and Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

We have developed extensive training modules in the form of PowerPoint slide decks and manuals to facilitate training of local policy and decision makers as well as technical staff from local and national government agencies on climate-resilient and inclusive urban development actions. In addition to the trainings, under the project we will



help to organise policy dialogues and national and international peer-to-peer exchanges, to promote integration of climate concerns in urban development plans.

Under the **Urban Food Systems, Dhaka project**, we facilitated dialogues in selected subnational governments to identify their needs and recommendations, prepared brief reports on the outcomes of the dialogues, and supported these governments to participate in national and global events such as the UN Food System Summit and the Nutrition for Growth Summit. The project will build strong synergies with ICLEI's global and regional advocacy platforms on urban food systems, such as the ICLEI-RUAF CITYFOOD Network, and help to shape key messages that ICLEI and the FAO will present to the UN Forum on Sustainability Standards Secretariat.

## CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE BROKERS

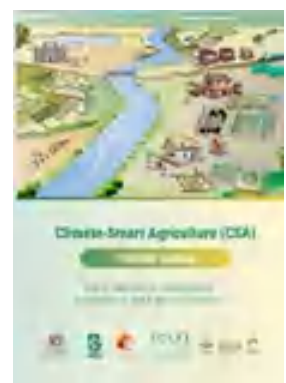
As the Asia coordinator for the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), we have been acting as knowledge brokers to make information and learning on climate-compatible development easier to access and use. We partnered with prominent institutions and experts in South Asia under the CDKN - Knowledge Accelerator project to enhance individual and collective actions that address climate change impacts and build effective adaptation and resilience strategies. We co-developed several knowledge products that are country-specific,

nationally appropriate, and are consistent with each country's development objectives, thereby increasing their credibility and usability.

We organised a month-long series of webinars on climate resilience and its various aspects, including urban and peri-urban planning, gender-responsive budgeting, and green economic recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinars had a wide outreach, bringing in participants from not only South Asia, but also Europe, Africa and South-east Asia.

Three international policy dialogues were organised, during which three policy briefs – 'Peri-Urban Systems- The Potential for a Planned Approach in India', 'Urban Resilience Planning in Bangladesh' and 'Supporting Climate Action through Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Nepal' – were launched following discussions on the respective issues.

We are also supporting the municipalities of Singra in Bangladesh and Dhulikhel in Nepal to conduct voluntary local reviews of SDGs in their cities.

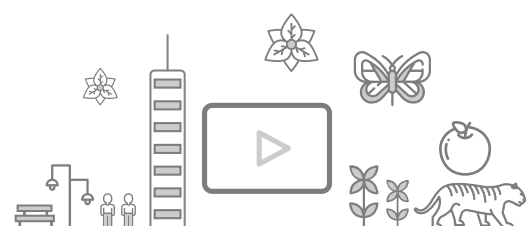


# KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION



## 3 Policy Briefs and 3 International Policy Dialogues

on management of peri-urban ecosystems in India, urban resilience planning in Bangladesh and gender-responsive budgeting in Nepal.

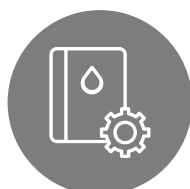


## 9 Webinars

on issues such as climate resilience in South Asia, urban and peri-urban area planning, gender-responsive climate resilience, climate finance, knowledge brokering, heat stress and effect of the pandemic on air quality.



2 videos, toolkit & demonstration packet on city heat resilience; sensors installed in 7 schools in Surat and Ahmedabad under Earth Leaders Programme, to generate data on air quality, ambient temperature & relative humidity.



Guidebook on Pani Chautari or water forums for informed dialogue on urban water issues; water forums institutionalised in two cities in Nepal.



Compendium, manual and documentary on climate-smart agriculture practices for Nepal, besides trainings and good practices flyers.



4 podcasts on building gender-inclusive urban resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Funders

### CDKN:



International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; Directorate- General for International Cooperation (DGIS), Netherlands



### Urban Food Systems, Dhaka:



Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

### Climate Resilient Inclusive Smart Cities:



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany, commissioned by GIZ









# 05

## CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



*Through this pathway, we take a broad perspective of circular economy, based on regenerative business design principles, human-centric design and community engagement models. We help local and regional governments to decouple urban development and economic development from resource consumption and factor environmental and social costs into the price of goods and services. We aim to support development of local economies that minimise extraction of natural resources, maximise waste prevention, and optimise environmental, social and economic values throughout the lifecycles of materials, components and products.*

We supported Hyderabad city to realise multiple environmental and community benefits through activities under our Promoting Sustainable and Scientific Plastic Waste Management in Hyderabad project.

Key tangible and intangible impacts of our project included behavioural and mind-set change in terms of adopting eco-friendly alternatives over the convenience of plastics and exploiting the economic opportunity of plastic waste recycling. We helped to empower women by encouraging them to become producers of alternatives to plastic products, and raised community-level awareness on avoiding single-use plastics. We supported decision-makers with information on technology options and environmental control mechanisms; and incentivised the recycling of PET bottles.

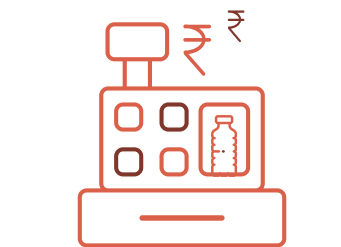
Significantly, all these activities advanced the objectives of national programmes such as the Swachh Bharat Mission and of the Government of India's commitment to "phase out the most problematic single-use plastics by 2025."

Additionally, the project is aligned with SDGs 3, 5, 11, 12, 13 and 14, on well-being, gender equality, sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and production, climate action and on preventing and reducing marine pollution, respectively.

The lessons learnt under the project are being taken forward and incorporated in our efforts to provide technical expertise to other Indian cities under the Alliance + ICLEI Developing Plastic Waste-Free Cities project.

We have entered into a partnership with the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) to assist local

governments in identifying and enabling deployment of solutions that can help them to sustainably manage the plastic waste problem. We are collaborating with AEPW in pilot projects in two Indian cities - Warangal and Surat - and three Southeast and East Asian cities -Jambi in Indonesia, Iskandar Malaysia and Iloilo City, the Philippines.



### 3 Reverse Vending Machines

(RVMs) installed in Hyderabad for citizens to exchange PET bottles for cashbacks/ discounts. Within 3 months:

- ▶ 2,126 PET bottles (or 32 kg of plastic flakes) recycled
- ▶ 159.5 litres of water, 1.9 litres of fuel, 0.02 cubic yards of landfill space saved
- ▶ Prevented almost 0.08 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



### 30,000 Biodegradable Starch Bags

Distributed free of cost to 135 shops.



### Urban Local Body Officials

Trained to develop city level plastic waste management action plan.



### Compendium

on plastic recycling and processing technologies developed.



### Women's Self-Help Groups

Involved in producing cotton cloth bags.



### Various Information Education and Communication

Activities used to raise awareness about using alternatives to plastic.

### Funders

Promoting Sustainable and Scientific Plastic Waste Management in Hyderabad:



Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) & Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET)

Alliance + ICLEI Developing Plastic Waste-Free Cities:



Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW)

# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

## USD 90 million

overall added to annual municipal budgets of Rajkot, Kochi, Hyderabad and Udaipur for socially inclusive climate-resilient urban sustainable development.

## 8000+

people reached out to through webinars, trainings and workshops.

## 2 cities

Singra in Nepal & Dhulikhel in Bangladesh, became first in South Asia to launch Voluntary Local Reviews of SDG initiatives, with our support.

## 80+

knowledge products developed.

## 80+

local bodies supported through our work.

## 10+

action plans on urban sustainable development prepared.

## 38 cities

from 5 countries in South Asia pledge to fight air pollution, under our initiative to mark the UN's first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies.

## 1<sup>st</sup> city in South Asia

to be declared compliant with GCoM requirements is Rajkot, which cements its position as a climate pioneer to be declared compliant with GCoM requirements is Rajkot, which cements its position as a climate pioneer.

## 100+

local and regional governments are in our network.

## 10+

pilots on urban resilience and sustainability implemented.



# PUBLICATIONS



Green Bonds in India - A Case Study



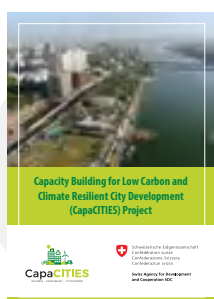
Beijing's Pilot Emission Trading System - A Case Study



Benchmarking Energy Use for Improving Building Energy Efficiency in Nagpur - A Case Study



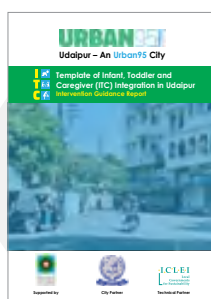
Plastic Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan for Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation



CapaCITIES II: A Brochure



Policy Brief on Planning an Integrated Approach to Management of Peri-Urban Areas



Template of ITC Integration in Udaipur - Intervention Guidance Report



Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Kochi Municipal Corporation



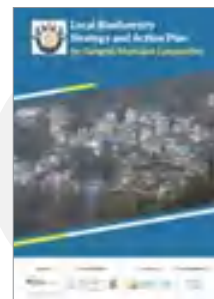
City Biodiversity Index - Kochi



Policy Brief on Supporting Climate Action Through Gender-Responsive Budgeting



City Biodiversity Index - Gangtok



Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Gangtok Municipal Corporation



Hope in the City A Comic Book on the Need to Conserve Urban Biodiversity



Training Manual on Climate - Smart Agriculture



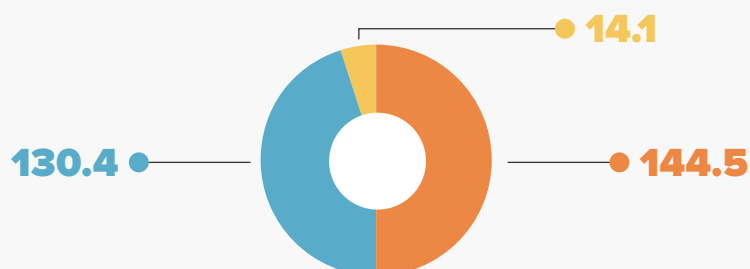
Urban Biodiversity Map of Nagpur



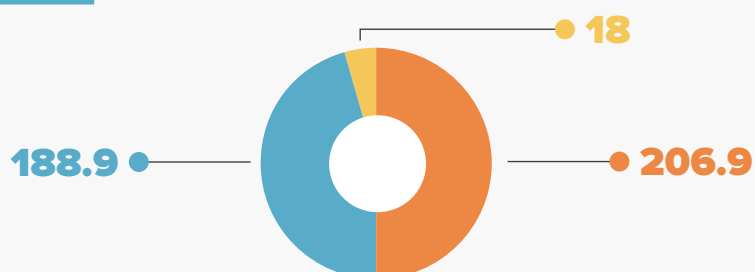
IEC poster on maintaining social distancing in park, for use by Udaipur Municipal Corporation

# THREE-YEAR FINANCIALS

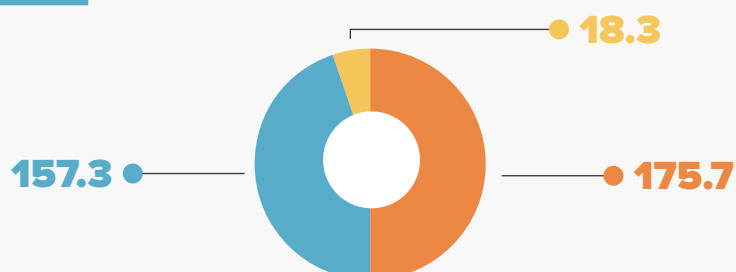
## FY 2020 - 2021



## FY 2019 - 2020



## FY 2018 - 2019



Income in Million Rupees Expenditure in Million Rupees Surplus in Million Rupees









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