



Annual Report

April 2025-March 2026



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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.

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia (ICLEI South Asia) comprises a multidisciplinary team of 80 staff members, 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

Countries we work in:

**India, Bangladesh,
Bhutan, Maldives,
Nepal, Sri Lanka
and Thailand**

We are also working with national and local governments in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, The Philippines and Tonga

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Messages



Hansa Patel

Chairperson, ICLEI South Asia

ICLEI South Asia was established in 2005, at a time when many cities in South Asia had not yet considered sustainable development as part of their urban planning.

I have been associated with ICLEI since its inception in 1990 and invited the organisation to South Asia to expand its activities in the region. Over the years, South Asian cities have responded to local issues with enthusiasm and a determination to bring about change for a better tomorrow.

Looking back over the past two decades, we can take satisfaction in the progress made across the region. Some countries have begun incorporating sustainable development into their policies, while others, despite resource constraints, are considering how to adopt this approach with the support and cooperation of local governments.

Last year, we marked 20 years of ICLEI South Asia's journey. Over this period, we have laid the foundation for achieving our shared goals through collective effort, exchange of knowledge and the development of local resources. ICLEI South Asia has supported local governments in sectors such as climate action and budgeting, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, urban mobility, food systems, project development and access to finance. This work also contributes to policy discussions at the state and national levels across the region.

Through workshops, conferences and training sessions, ICLEI South Asia has helped local governments and government departments become more aware of the need to address urban challenges and plan for the future. The ICLEI South Asia Secretariat has also played an important role in facilitating platforms such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and the Asia LEDS Partnership. These platforms facilitate knowledge exchange among cities and help bring local concerns into regional and international discussions.

However, the demands on cities are also growing. Climate plans must influence investment decisions, and municipal departments need the capacity and resources to sustain and expand this work.

I see a greater role for ICLEI South Asia in the coming years, working closely with local governments and technical experts to turn planned programmes into reality. City-to-city partnerships can also help local governments share experiences and support one another.

I appreciate the Executive Director and the entire ICLEI South Asia team for their sincere efforts and dedicated work.



Gino Van Begin
Secretary General, ICLEI

Cities have become central to sustainable development and climate action. Decisions on transport, buildings, energy, water, waste and land use are made at the local level, and cities feel the effects of climate change directly. Local governments must address these impacts while working towards national climate and development goals.

For more than two decades, ICLEI South Asia has worked with cities across the region to support local planning and help local governments respond to urban challenges. This experience has given the team a close understanding of the pressures cities face and the practical steps they can take to address them. It has also brought lessons that can inform urban action beyond the region.

ICLEI brings local and regional governments together and connects their work with global discussions on climate and sustainability. ICLEI South Asia contributes to this wider effort through its long-standing relationships with local governments and its understanding of the region's needs and priorities.

The inaugural ARISE Cities Forum, held by ICLEI South Asia in New Delhi in 2025, brought together cities and partners from across the Global South to discuss climate action, resilience and finance. The sessions gave participants an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss the challenges of putting plans into practice. The forum also brought the priorities of regional cities into international climate discourse.

I look forward to seeing ICLEI South Asia continue to expand its work with local governments and support their efforts to build more sustainable and resilient cities.



Emani Kumar

*Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI,
and Executive Director, ICLEI
South Asia*

Cities have a central role in addressing climate and development issues, but need government backing, finance and resources to implement plans. These needs were central to the Delhi Declaration on Local Action for Global Climate Goals, adopted at the inaugural ARISE Cities Forum 2025, co-hosted by ICLEI SA and NIUA. The Forum brought together 300+ representatives from 60 cities and 25 countries. The Declaration called for stronger cooperation between national and local governments, better access to climate finance, and a greater role for cities in shaping global climate policy.

This focus on local climate action is reflected in ICLEI SA's work with municipalities. Over the past year, our assistance helped six cities across Gujarat and Tamil Nadu mainstream climate action into governance and budgeting. We helped establish Net-Zero Cells and City Climate Action Cells, prepare climate action and annual plans, and develop climate budgets. These initiatives align with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change and the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework.

We developed Himachal Pradesh's E-Mobility Roadmap and EV Readiness Framework and helped plan over 2,000 km of Green EV Corridors. We also supported electric bus inductions in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh under the PM-eBus Sewa scheme. Nationally, our work with NITI Aayog examined India's waste sector emissions and reduction pathways through 2070.

ICLEI SA's heat action planning methodology has been tested in over 10 South Asian cities. We are advancing local heat resilience solutions, focusing on the disproportionate impact of heat on women and other vulnerable groups. Our technical assistance contributed to Narayanganj, Bangladesh's first Heat Action Plan. In Tamil Nadu, ICLEI SA's urban heat mapping and guidelines are helping identify targeted interventions, while cool-roof installations in 20 Chennai schools have reduced classroom temperatures by up to 4°C.

We also helped improve infrastructure. In Coimbatore, GIS-based utility mapping and an urban heat island dashboard are helping inform planning. With our support, Ahmedabad developed India's first city-level Policy on Good Construction Practices to reduce construction dust. In Kiribati, we are developing a nationally owned greenhouse gas inventory tool, marking ICLEI SA's first engagement in Micronesia.

To integrate nature and community needs, we supported 45 municipal schools across Delhi and Bengaluru to establish 75 food gardens, benefiting 24,427 students and aligning with the PM POSHAN Scheme. We also contributed to biodiversity assessments, and urban greening and policy measures for Ahmedabad.

Across South Asia, we advanced local adaptation planning in Nepal and Sri Lanka, disaster resilience assessments in Vijayawada and Kakinada, and climate-induced disaster planning in Bangladesh. In Darjeeling's tea-growing communities, we helped develop locally led water security plans and improve water management. We also identified gaps in local governments' assessment of climate-related losses and developed a framework to capture them.

Our work addressed other local needs, from improving e-waste collection in Pune to examining how better fresh food markets can strengthen women entrepreneurs' resilience in Nepal and Bangladesh. In our first initiative in Northeast India, we developed training modules on parental well-being and positive parenting for the Meghalaya Early Childhood Development Mission and the national Paalan 1000 campaign.

We will continue working with cities to advance their climate and sustainability goals. I am pleased to present the ICLEI South Asia Annual Report for 2025-26.

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Regional Executive Committee (REXCom) 2024-27

2024-2027

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 four members and two advisors elected for the 2024-2027 period.

JOIN US!

Local governments, and associations of local governments



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



write to us at:
membership@iclei.org

REXCom Members



Ugyen Dorji
Mayor, Thimpu Municipality, Bhutan



Bhim Prasad Dhungana
President, Municipal Association of Nepal, Nepal



Adv. V.K. Minimol
Mayor, Kochi Municipality, India

Special Advisors



Shammoon Adam
Director General, Local Government Authority, Maldives



Hemanthi Goonasekera
CEO, Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka



Member & Network Cities

NEPAL

Bhotekoshi, Dhankuta, Hariharpurgadhi, Hetauda, Kathmandu, Khanepokhari, Khaniyabas, Lalitpur, Lisankhu, Pakhar, MuAN, Pokhara, Shankharapur, Shivapuri, Tilottama, Vyas

BHUTAN

Phuentsholing, Samdrup Jongkhar, Thimphu, Sarpang

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Narayanganj, Rajshahi, Singra, Barisal, Chittagong, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Khulna, Kushtia, Mongla, Mongla Port, Sirajganj

SOUTH ASIAN REGION

India | Bangladesh | Bhutan | Maldives | Nepal | Sri Lanka

REGIONAL OFFICES

Headquarters: New Delhi, India	Southern Centre: Hyderabad, India	Country office: Dhaka, Bangladesh
Country office: Kathmandu, Nepal	Country office: Thimphu, Bhutan	

STATE OFFICES

Andhra Pradesh | Gujarat | Himachal Pradesh
Maharashtra | Meghalaya | Rajasthan | Tamil Nadu

PROJECT OFFICES

INDIA

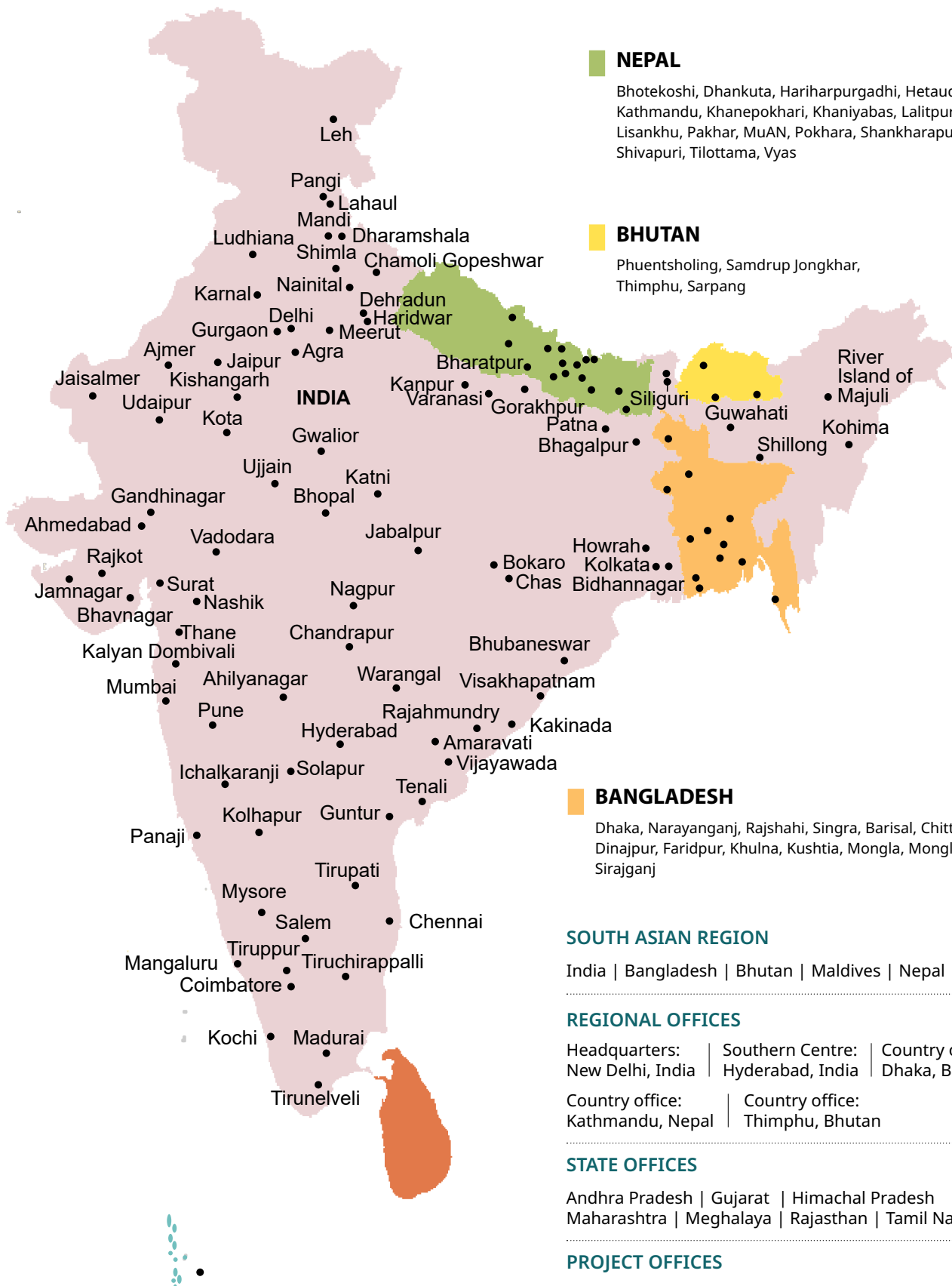
Ahilyanagar | Ahmedabad | Bangalore | Chennai | Coimbatore
Darjeeling | Dehradun | Gandhinagar | Jaipur | Kochi | Mumbai | Panaji
Pune | Rajkot | Shimla | Shillong | Siliguri | Surat | Tiruchirappalli
Tirunelveli | Tura | Vadodara | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam

MALDIVES

Addu City,
LGA, Male

SRI LANKA

Ampara, Anuradhapura,
Balangoda, Galle, Jafna, Kalutara,
Kandy, Kurunegala, Ratnapura



5 | Mission & Vision



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 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 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.

Source: iStock



6 Our Pathways



EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Equitable Development Pathway builds just, livable, happy and inclusive urban communities, addresses the systemic causes of poverty and inequality, and safeguards the natural support systems for human life.



ZERO-EMISSION DEVELOPMENT

The Zero-Emission Development Pathway addresses climate change, creates new economic opportunities and improves the health of people and natural systems.



NATURE-BASED DEVELOPMENT

The Nature-based Development Pathway protects and enhances the biodiversity and ecosystems in and around our 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

The Resilient Development Pathway enables local governments to anticipate, prevent, absorb and recover from shocks and stresses, and improves essential basic response structures and functions.



CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENT

The Circular Development Pathway builds sustainable societies that use recyclable, sharable and regenerative resources, while continuing to meet the materials and development needs of a growing global population.



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ICLEI SOUTH ASIA'S 2026-2030 OUTLOOK

ICLEI South Asia has provided deep technical support to cities, regions, and countries over the last twenty years. Cities demonstrated considerable progress along a continuum that ultimately leads to the shared global goal of a sustainable and livable world. Based on current development trajectories and our ambition to scale impact, we have set several targets. Through key interventions across the five PATHWAYS, ICLEI South Asia will help 200+ cities transition towards sustainable and climate-resilient urban development.

100+ cities

Implement biodiversity strategies and nature-based solutions

Mainstream urban flood resilience actions

Enable peer learning through forums, exchanges, and digital platforms

Mainstream heat and health action



50+ cities

Enable cities to plan and implement whole-of-economy approaches to zero-emission and climate resilient development

Enable cities to institutionalise integrated energy efficiency and building decarbonisation

Increase in the EV share of public transport

Develop 100% sustainable energy action plans

Enable cities to adopt circular economy and 100% waste processing

Scale integrated water resource management



30+ cities

Develop and implement micro action plans for clean air

Develop City Biodiversity Index



25+ cities

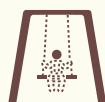
Loss and damage assessment in 5 states

Include sustainability and climate-resilient approaches in development plans/master plans in cities

10+ cities

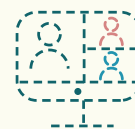
Enable integrated, gender-inclusive, low carbon, e-mobility systems

Create child-friendly cities



Embed TOD and last mile connectivity

Initiate walking/cycling connectivity with urban design



Expand the ALP and CDKN knowledge platforms to serve

20 countries

Influence **25+** national policies for low-carbon, climate-resilient development

Develop **25+** actionable knowledge products like policy briefs, good practice compendiums and reports

Mobilise US\$ **1** Billion+ climate investments via municipal budgets, financing and market based mechanisms

Support **100+** community-based, locally-led adaptation actions

Establish **150+** Urban food gardens

Build capacities of **50,000+** persons in resilient, sustainable and nature-based development

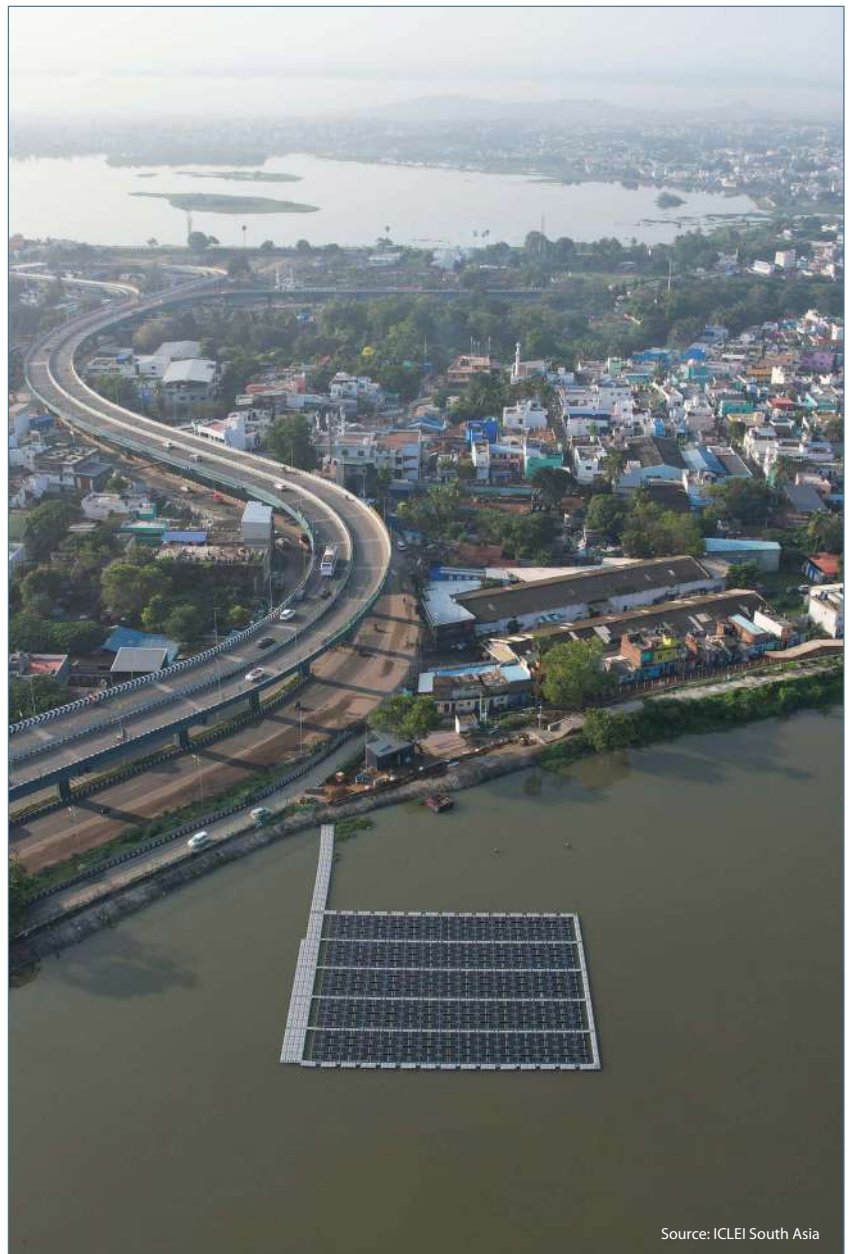
Create multiple Climate Communities of Practice platforms for cities, experts, youth and academia

Develop Urban Greening Guidelines in **20+** cities



ZERO EMISSION DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Through this pathway, ICLEI South Asia helps local and regional governments to advance toward climate neutrality by reducing carbon emissions and pollutants, while building energy-efficient and climate-neutral infrastructure and operations. Cities are supported in adopting green energy and green mobility, applying nature-based solutions, mainstreaming climate resilience, and prioritising people-centred solutions.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Floating Solar Power Plant on Periyakulam Lake in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, implemented under CapaCITIES project.

ICLEI South Asia (ICLEI SA) worked with cities and state and national governments in India, Malaysia and Kiribati on urban climate action, infrastructure, finance and environmental issues during the reporting period. The work covered net-zero planning, climate-resilient infrastructure, green finance, clean air, urban policy, and climate data and reporting.

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING AND MAINSTREAMING

The **CapaCITIES Phase 3** project team worked with six cities across Gujarat and Tamil Nadu in mainstreaming climate action into their governance processes by establishing Net-zero Cells and city-level climate action cells. Additionally, the project is supporting Ahmedabad to transition its Net-zero Cell into a full-fledged Net-zero, Environment, and Climate Resilient Department, with dedicated technical and financial resources.

State-level climate action cells: With CapaCITIES support, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu established state-level climate action bodies. In Gujarat, the State Climate Centre for Cities (SC3) was set up under the CITIIS 2.0 Programme – Component 2 (State-Level Action). The SC3 is a state-level body for coordinating urban climate action.

In Tamil Nadu, the Directorate of Municipal Administration established a State Urban Climate Action Cell.

Technical assistance: In Coimbatore, ICLEI SA undertook GIS-based utility mapping for water supply, underground sewerage, stormwater drainage and roads sectors to inform infrastructure planning and asset management, as well as access to reforms-based incentive grants under the AMRUT 2.0 mission.

A 154-kWp floating solar PV plant at

Periyakulam Lake, implemented under CapaCITIES II, was launched in November 2025. A detailed operation and maintenance plan for the plant was developed, along with cost estimates, covering roles and responsibilities, maintenance schedules, performance monitoring, safety protocols, and reporting requirements.

The project team also conducted urban heat island (UHI) mapping for Coimbatore and created a dedicated UHI Dashboard showing ward-level temperature variations. The dashboard will help identify potential extreme-heat hotspots and plan ward-level heat mitigation measures.

An urban parks dashboard was developed to map and geo-tag Open Space Reservation sites and assess their suitability for tree plantation, to support planning for urban afforestation and efforts to reduce localised UHI impacts.

In Tiruchirappalli, ICLEI SA helped scale up e-mobility by mapping existing e-charging stations, identifying priority urban hubs and shortlisting 10 locations based on land availability, accessibility, power supply and safety. The team is also conducting a technical performance assessment of rooftop solar PV systems installed across municipal buildings using data from Tiruchirappalli's existing rooftop solar PV monitoring portal. The assessment will provide insights into system performance and support improvements and future capacity expansion.

In Tirunelveli, a technical study supported the restoration of 15 lakes managed by the municipal corporation. Field visits helped identify existing and defunct inlet and outlet drains, assess encroachments and identify challenges affecting restoration. A drone survey mapped all 15 lakes for GIS-based assessment and to inform recommendations.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Vadodara, September 2025: The city Municipal Corporation and ICLEI SA exchanged an MoU for the CapaCITIES Phase III project.

In Ahmedabad, CapaCITIES helped develop a monitoring, review and verification (MRV) framework for projects identified under the Annual Action Plan 2025-26 (Urban Development Year Action Plan) and Climate Budget 2025-26. The framework will help track the implementation of climate actions and their impacts. The city was also supported in developing a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for FY 2025-26 so that its climate actions can be reported in line with the updated inventory.

ICLEI SA also assisted Ahmedabad in preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to install and maintain 100 additional outdoor air quality sensors at strategically selected locations across the city.

Vadodara received assistance to prepare a pre-feasibility report for the Canal-Top Solar PV project at Ajwa. The team also prepared a policy for Good Construction Practices in coordination with the Solid Waste Management and Town Planning Department.

Rajkot continues to receive support in assessing the potential of energy-efficiency interventions at water and wastewater facilities.

The team supported the six CapaCITIES cities

in preparing annual action plans with climate-relevant projects aligned with their Climate Resilient City Action Plans (CRCAPs), and four of them in developing climate budgets, either through dedicated chapters or notes indicating allocations for climate projects. These four cities included:

- Rajkot: 40% of the capital budget.
- Ahmedabad: 84% of the capital budget.
- Tirunelveli: 27% of the total budget.
- Tiruchirappalli: 38.4% of the total budget.

State-level Action: For the development of the Tamil Nadu Urban Greening Policy 2026, the team provided technical input on institutional frameworks, biodiversity action planning, community participation, capacity building and digital monitoring, and also prepared a guidance note on tree census. The Chief Minister launched the policy in February 2026 under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission. Indicators from the Tamil Nadu Urban Liveability Framework, developed under CapaCITIES Phase II, were used to support the 3rd and 4th assessment cycles, covering 648 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The team handled data analysis and ranking and found data gaps

and inconsistencies, which helped improve data quality.

The Urban Development & Urban Housing Department of Gujarat directed all municipal corporations to plan and implement climate-linked policies and actions by drawing on Ahmedabad's Urban Greening Policy, Good Construction Practices Policy and the Net-Zero CRCAP developed with CapaCITIES support.

CapaCITIES cities, events and projects were also discussed and showcased at the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 4.0 in February 2026.

A compendium of case studies based on the outcomes of CapaCITIES Phase II was launched during a plenary session at the ARISE Cities Forum held in New Delhi on 8 and 9 October 2025.

ICLEI SA worked with the Tamil Nadu Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC), and other state- and city-level institutions across a range of climate, energy, biodiversity, and urban resilience initiatives.

Through the Project Management Unit (PMU) with TNGCC, ICLEI SA developed the Urban Heat Island Assessment and Strategic Guidelines for Urban Cooling, which were released at the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 4.0 in February 2026. The guidelines introduce a ward-level Heat Risk Index for Chennai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli and Tiruchirappalli. Based on the IPCC's Hazard-Exposure-Vulnerability framework, the index identifies areas facing higher heat risk and helps guide targeted urban planning and cooling measures.

Under the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM), ICLEI SA provided technical support for an investment-grade energy and water audit and a high-level waste audit at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai. The audit identified measures including power factor correction, transformer load optimisation, variable-frequency drives, centralised cooling and HVAC systems, heat pumps, improved steam distribution, efficient pumping, and low-flow plumbing fixtures. These measures could save an estimated 1.4 million units of electricity annually, with an investment of about INR 29 million and a payback period of around two years.

In October 2025, four District Decarbonisation Action Plans (Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Virudhunagar and Rameshwaram) and a real-time Climate Action Tracker, developed in association with the Vasudha Foundation, were launched. These initiatives marked a new period of district-level monitoring and coordinated implementation, supported further by newly formed District Climate Change Missions.

Other support included the development of Chennai's first City Biodiversity Index, and support for the UNEP Cool Coalition, the Tamil Nadu Green Schools initiative and the establishment of the State Heat Resilience Centre, a joint initiative of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of the United Kingdom.

KEY OUTCOMES

Milestones:

- Ahmedabad became the first city in India to implement a solar-powered, on-route charging station for public electric buses.
- Ahmedabad launched its Annual Action Plan for the Urban Development Year 2025-26, in line with the Net-zero Climate Action plan, supported by ICLEI SA.

Climate action:

- State-level climate action bodies established in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- Net-zero cells established in Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Vadodara.
- Directive issued to establish Municipal Climate Action Departments in 17 cities in Gujarat.
- City Climate Action Cells established in Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

City planning and finance:

- Six cities supported in preparing annual action plans with climate-related projects.
- Four cities supported in developing climate budgets.

Training and engagement:

- 1,349 city and state officials trained, including 25% women.
- More than 900 stakeholders and 400 youth engaged through project activities.

With support from the PMU, TNGCC advanced initiatives to strengthen passive cooling and lower-carbon construction across Tamil Nadu. The passive cooling guidelines are India's first state-level regulatory framework for passive cooling. The guidelines connect climate-responsive building design with approvals, procurement and implementation, creating a practical pathway for adoption.

The Urban Heat Island Guidelines provide a basis for strengthening heat mitigation through urban planning and investment. In Coimbatore, ICLEI SA is supporting the implementation of the District Climate Action Plan and the vision of the Government of Tamil Nadu to transform Coimbatore into a climate-neutral hub.

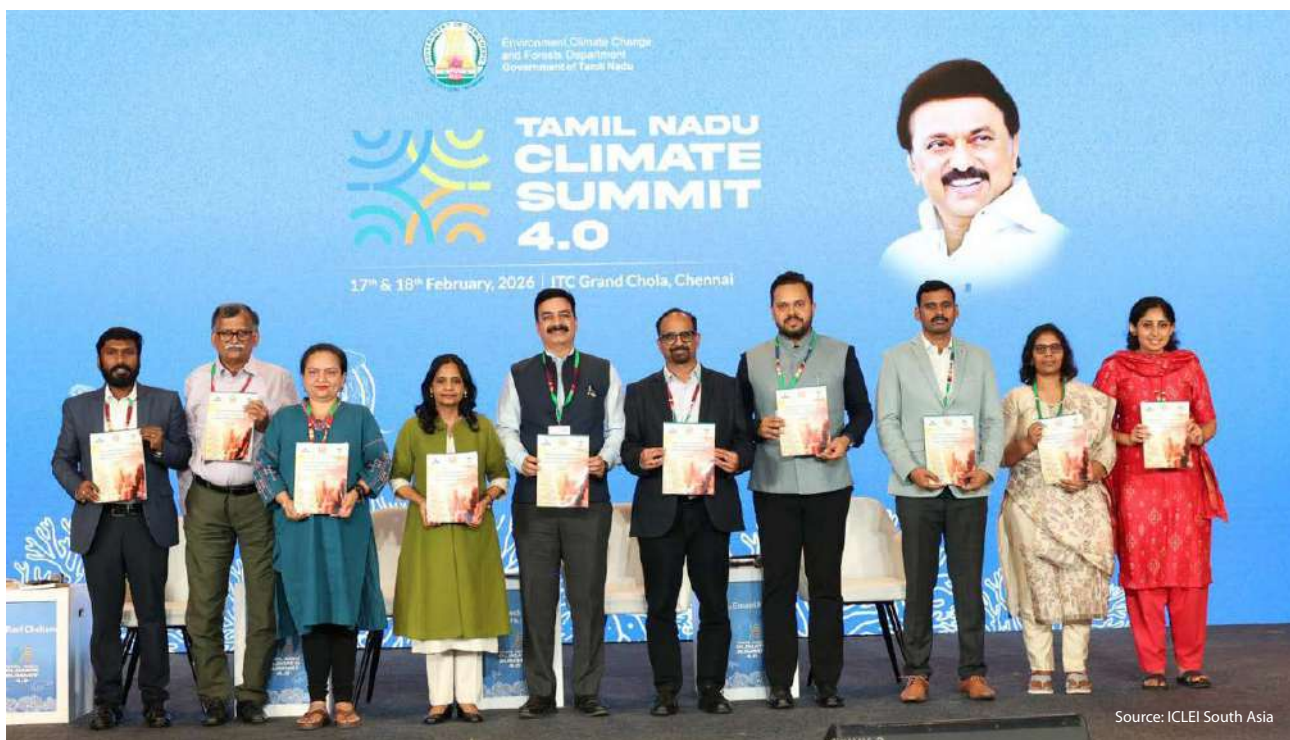
Under the Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Programme (TNCRUDP, July 2025– August 2026), ICLEI SA provided technical support to the World Bank task team on climate resilience planning, energy efficiency, and climate-resilient water and sanitation services across 21 urban local bodies (ULBs) in Tamil Nadu. The work covered reviewing 21 City Climate Action Plans (CCAPs) and the energy audit methodology, and knowledge sharing and capacity building.

ICLEI SA reviewed the CCAPs and associated water supply and sanitation (WSS) sub-plans,

CCAP inception reports and data-collection templates, and identified gaps in GHG inventories, data availability, and climate-risk assessments. Inputs were also provided on GHG inventory methods, including alignment with the GPC methodology, and on Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs).

The team also reviewed methods for calculating energy savings and identified opportunities to reduce energy use in water supply, street lighting, solid waste management and municipal buildings.

ICLEI SA conducted state-level climate risk assessments and a study across 22 small- and medium-sized ULBs to develop city-level CCAP guidelines under the Consultancy to Develop Climate Resilient Urban Infrastructure for Cities in Madhya Pradesh (MPUDP II). The work included designing methodologies for integrating nature-based solutions (NbS), green urban infrastructure, and climate-smart investments in water supply, wastewater, and urban flooding sectors. ICLEI SA also contributed to the sustainable climate finance strategies for ULBs, encompassing green municipal bonds, results-based financing, and private capital mobilisation frameworks to support long-term climate adaptation in Madhya Pradesh's urban sector.



Chennai, February 2026: The Government of Tamil Nadu released the Urban Heat Island Assessment and Strategic Guidelines for Urban Cooling in Tamil Nadu, developed by ICLEI SA, at the Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 4.0.

STRENGTHENING CITY CLIMATE ACTION

ICLEI SA worked with Vijayawada, Kakinada and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and Surat in Gujarat, to strengthen climate action planning and implementation at the city level.

The Net-zero CRCAPS for Kakinada and Vijayawada were launched in April 2025, while the Surat CRCAP was submitted to the city in August 2025. The CRCAPs were developed under the Mainstreaming Climate Action in Three Cities of Andhra Pradesh project (June 2023-August 2025). Kakinada and Vijayawada became the first cities in Andhra Pradesh to have net-zero climate action plans. Surat became the first city in Gujarat to have a climate action plan with a commitment to achieve the net-zero target by 2047; the action plan is currently under approval.

Climate Core Teams comprising representatives from different city departments and Stakeholder Committees were established to support climate action planning and implementation. The GHG inventories and CRVAs prepared for Kakinada, Vijayawada and Surat provided a baseline for emissions tracking and an evidence base for identifying climate risks and actions. All cities have committed to implement their CRCAPs.

The project also supported implementation-oriented technical studies. In Kakinada, investment-grade energy audits covered 12 water-supply pump houses and three municipal office buildings. The team prepared technical guidelines for low-carbon and energy-efficient public buildings. In Vijayawada, a study at AKTP Municipal School, which serves about 1,500 students, identified passive and active cooling, thermal comfort and energy-efficiency measures. In Visakhapatnam, the team conducted energy audits at water-pumping and wastewater infrastructure, along with an assessment of solar photovoltaic potential. For Surat, ICLEI SA prepared technical notes on captive solar photovoltaic systems and opportunity charging stations for electric buses.

Visakhapatnam received capacity-building and knowledge-sharing support and committed to preparing its own CRCAP. ICLEI SA continued to support the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal

Corporation beyond the grant period through its own resources. The Urban Systems Analysis and GHG inventory were completed during the year. Work on the CRVA was underway.

Vijayawada and Kakinada joined the Global Covenant of Mayors and reported climate data through the CDP-ICLEI Track.

The project included training and knowledge-sharing for city officials and local stakeholders on climate action and their integration through sustained involvement in project activities. The climate assessments help city officials better understand key drivers, the impacts of local climate risks on urban sectors and services, and vulnerable community groups. Knowledge-sharing activities, including workshops, consultations, and targeted training, increased awareness of tools, climate policy and interventions, and best practices.

ICLEI SA developed the CCAP for Amaravati (April–October 2025), Andhra Pradesh's new capital. It is the first for a greenfield city in South Asia, and covers the new city's development as a sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient city.

The CCAP covers nine sectors: energy and buildings, water supply, wastewater, stormwater, solid waste management, transportation, urban greening and biodiversity, health, and air quality. Measures include 100% renewable energy for utilities, rainwater harvesting in all buildings, reuse of 50% of treated water, nature-based stormwater management, decentralised waste management, electric mobility, energy-efficient and green buildings, non-motorised transport, heat resilience, early warning systems and pollution control. The plan aligns with India's NDC and Net-zero 2070 target, and Andhra Pradesh's Net-zero 2047 goal under the Swarna Andhra vision.

ICLEI SA is also developing the CRCAP for Ahilyanagar under the Government of Maharashtra's Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan. Work is underway on the baseline assessments, including the GHG emissions inventory and CRVA.

ICLEI SA partnered with ICLEI Europe to develop a GeoAI Toolkit for Urban Planners, which guides cities and practitioners in combining artificial intelligence (AI) and

geospatial analytics to strengthen evidence-based urban planning and governance. The toolkit shows how GeoAI can strengthen land-use planning, housing, infrastructure, mobility, water and waste services, disaster preparedness and climate resilience, particularly for cities with limited GIS capacity.

It draws on 12 case studies of GeoAI application across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Examples include landslide risk modelling in Nepal, AI-based mapping of water resources and wastewater treatment plants in Thailand, and a park-scale digital twin in China. The toolkit also provides cities with a step-by-step strategy to identify their needs and deploy GeoAI tools in a responsible, scalable and people-centred way.

The toolkit was launched at the 4th Global Expert Group Meeting on People-Centred Smart Cities in Baku, Azerbaijan, in December 2025.

FINANCING URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Climate Projects Preparation Facility (CPPF, February 2025 - January 2026) has been set up at the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), with ICLEI SA as its technical partner, to address the critical funding gap in early-stage project preparation support for climate-focused urban infrastructure projects in India. It also aims to bridge capacity gaps in cities by supporting the preparation of climate-responsive project pipelines, assisting at all stages of project development, covering initial development costs, and unlocking private financing through tailored financial instruments. The CPPF enables cities to operationalise bankable, climate-aligned urban infrastructure projects in line with urban policy priorities

A 300 TPD Bio-CNG facility is being designed for Vadodara Municipal Corporation, in partnership with NIUA and other partners. Procurement guidance and support will also be extended. The city administration has approved the concept note, and the MoU signing is currently underway.

WASTE SECTOR EMISSIONS AND NET-ZERO

ICLEI SA supported NITI Aayog as Lead

Author and Knowledge Partner for a report on Scenarios Towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero – Sectoral Insights: Waste, launched on 10 February 2026. The report models emissions trajectories for solid waste, domestic wastewater, and industrial wastewater to 2070 under two scenarios: a Current Policy Scenario and a Net-zero Scenario.

The Net-zero Scenario outlines the scale and pace of transformation required to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. Circular economy principles guide the scenario, where recycling and waste processing for material and energy recovery are prioritised. It sets out three goals, 11 strategies and nine targets to cut sectoral emissions by 95.9% by 2070 compared with current policies. Key interventions for solid waste include shifting waste processing toward recycling, material recovery, and cleaner and energy-efficient waste-processing pathways such as bio-CNG and bio-methanation.

For wastewater, the focus is on increasing sewer connectivity with predominant adoption of anaerobic treatment and methane recovery solutions for domestic wastewater, while achieving 100% methane recovery from industrial wastewater by 2040. The report gives policymakers and cities a basis for aligning waste sector investments with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision and India's Net-zero 2070 target.

ELECTRIC MOBILITY

ICLEI SA continued to support the Government of Himachal Pradesh on EV policy, transport planning, charging infrastructure, public transport, financing and workforce development under the Advancing Clean Mobility project (June 2023–ongoing).

The project's work on EV charging infrastructure contributed to Himachal Pradesh ranking fourth in charging infrastructure readiness in NITI Aayog's first India Electric Mobility Index in 2025.

ICLEI SA provided technical assistance to induct 297 electric buses into the Himachal Road Transport Corporation fleet. This covered route optimisation, charging infrastructure planning and operational preparation for deployment in the state's hilly terrain. The state committed INR 420 crore for e-buses and INR 240 crore for e-depot upgrades, based on the project's technical inputs.

ICLEI SA developed the State E-Mobility Roadmap and the State EV Readiness Framework, the latter among India's first comprehensive state EV Readiness Frameworks. It also worked on EV-ready policy reforms, municipal fleet electrification and workforce development.

The team supported planning for a 2,000+ km Green EV Corridor network connecting major tourism destinations, urban centres and key transport routes in the state. The work included charging plans, site prioritisation and implementation strategies, and the identification of 402 government-owned locations for EV charging infrastructure. The charging infrastructure will also support the Department of Transport's E-taxi Scheme, under which 500 electric taxis are planned.

A public-private partnership model was developed for charging infrastructure. Under the model, 41 charging stations are being established along the state's six green corridors, and 23 petrol pump locations are being equipped with EV charging stations. More than 60 hotels in selected locations also received support for installing charging stations.

For remote and mountainous areas with grid constraints, the project introduced a Solar + Battery Energy Storage System charging model designed to meet around 80% of charging needs through solar energy. The battery stores extra solar power for use when sunlight is not available. This helps reduce dependence on the grid, lowers charging costs and emissions, and improves charging reliability. The model can be replicated along mountain corridors, at bus depots and in remote tourist areas, based on local charging needs, solar availability and grid conditions.

Nine capacity-building workshops, including programmes in Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti, reached more than 300 stakeholders. The team also developed and delivered EV training programmes for Industrial Training Institute instructors.

ICLEI SA also supported pilot deployment of electric waste collection vehicles in Shimla through CSR. The pilot resulted in a 30% reduction in Shimla's solid waste collection fleet.

In January 2026, the state Directorate of Transport, with technical support from ICLEI SA, launched the EV Dashboard (edrivehimachal.com).



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Shimla, September 2025: Shimla Municipal Corporation inducted Himachal Pradesh's first electric solid waste collection vehicles with ICLEI South Asia support.

in). It provides information on EV policies, charging infrastructure, government initiatives and incentives, along with a state-wide EV charger map and an EV cost calculator. Two publications, *Promotion of Electric Vehicles in Hilly Regions* (awareness guide) and the *EV Readiness Framework for Himachal Pradesh*, were also developed.

As a lead implementing partner of the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) E-Bus Mission (June 2024–April 2025), ICLEI SA provided technical assistance to Leh, Shimla, Bhopal, Rajkot, Surat and Udaipur in planning and financing their transition to electric bus fleets, including route planning, bus specifications, charging strategies, depot planning, procurement and financing. The project developed financeable e-bus project concepts for Udaipur and Surat using TAP criteria, TAP proposals for Shimla, Rajkot and Udaipur, and investor briefs for the identified e-bus projects.

Technical support to Bhopal and Rajkot focused on e-bus depot management. The team developed standard operating procedures for efficient e-bus depot management, supporting national schemes. The programme also included peer learning, technical assistance and exposure visits for cities and State Transport Undertakings.

CLEAN AIR & CITY-LEVEL WORK

Since 2020, ICLEI SA has supported the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in mitigating air pollution by using 15th Finance Commission grants tied to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for preparing the city's Micro Action Plan for Clean Air. The work aims to support the NCAP target of reducing PM10 concentrations by 40%, while contributing to cleaner-air commitments linked to the 2030 Commonwealth Games in the city and Ahmedabad's 2036 Olympics bid.

The project team focused on identifying pollution hotspots and major sources, developing targeted action plans and supporting their implementation. The action plans for nine long-term hotspot areas and eight short-term hotspot areas have been prepared and implemented across residential, industrial, newly developing, commercial and

old city areas. A Strategic Air Quality Action Plan has also been prepared.

A key outcome of the initiative has been the development and implementation of Ahmedabad's Policy on Good Construction Practices, which was supported by ICLEI SA and released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat on 19 July 2025. This is the first city-level policy of its kind in India, which sets out measures to reduce dust from construction activities, including real-time air quality monitoring at sites larger than 20,000 m², mist machines and dust suppression, CCTV-based compliance monitoring, green cover and wind barriers, safer handling and storage of construction materials, training for workers and contractors, and improved management of construction and demolition waste. The approach has since been replicated at the state level.

A capacity-building workshop was organised for AMC officials, focusing on new development areas, to support implementation of the Policy on Good Construction Practices. The workshop brought together 70+ real estate developers and more than 15 AMC officials and focused on practical measures for improving air quality at construction sites.

The policy implementation included overall inspections of 800+ construction sites, including 200+ construction sites using dust monitoring sensors, with penalties imposed on those that did not comply with policy requirements. More than 200 roads were also identified for redevelopment with end-to-end paving, incorporating required micro-level design and implementation measures as part of the city's air pollution mitigation measures.

Ahmedabad's efforts contributed to a 40% reduction in PM10 levels in 2024 compared with 2018-19, according to the Central Pollution Control Board. The city received an additional ₹1,274 million in performance-based incentive grants for this achievement.

ICLEI SA is providing technical support to the AMC for the Urban Development Year 2025–26 (June 2025–May 2026). The work includes support for implementing and monitoring the Annual Action Plan for Ahmedabad, which is aligned with the city's Net-zero CRCAP. An MRV framework is being set up to track the implementation of projects under the Urban

Development Year. ICLEI SA is also coordinating with more than 28 AMC departments, including zonal officers, to collect regular progress updates, identify implementation issues and support their resolution.

ICLEI SA also supported the organisation of the National Urban Conclave and Mayoral Summit, held in Ahmedabad on 15 and 16 October 2025. The event brought together more than 250 participants, including 80 mayors, commissioners and city representatives from over 35 Indian cities.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP) initiative strengthened regional cooperation and peer learning on low-emission development and climate resilience across Asia and the Pacific, and expanded engagement with member countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Technical assistance covered a range of country-specific priorities: agrivoltaic technology in Nauru; climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure in India; fuel-efficiency standards and monitoring in Nepal; and an Energy Management System design proposal for Ahmedabad. Other assignments included a framework for integrating renewable energy and battery energy storage systems (BESS) in Fiji; an

assessment of distributed solar photovoltaic and BESS in Nepal; policy pathways for national EV adoption in Papua New Guinea; recommendations for Fiji's EV Adoption Roadmap; strategies to electrify light commercial vehicles in Thimphu, Bhutan; and an assessment for a national public transport framework in Tonga.

ALP also organised a webinar on the sidelines of the 13th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), held in Bangkok. The session, titled 'From National Commitments to Local Action: Advancing Climate-Resilient Development through NDC Localisation', brought together high-level government representatives from Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, Fiji, UNOPS and ICLEI SA, moderated by the NDC Partnership. The session highlighted scalable methodologies to bridge national climate pledges with municipal-level execution, technical financing, and localised monitoring frameworks.

ALP also contributed to discussions on sustainable mobility at the Environmentally Sustainable Transport Regional Meeting and Capacity-Building Workshop in Bangkok, where participants shared experiences and lessons on eco-mobility, non-motorised transport, and low-emission urban mobility.

Going forward, ICLEI SA will implement capacity-building programmes and technical assistance to member countries on energy



Chinese Taipei, October 2025: ICLEI SA participated in the Asia LEDS Partnership Exchange Forum to discuss progress, challenges and support needed to advance Asia's transition to net zero by 2050.

efficiency, transport electrification, carbon markets and other priority areas. Some of this support builds on technical assistance already provided, while other activities respond to newly identified country needs.

Key areas of continued engagement include:

The Philippines: Capacity building and technical support on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and carbon market mechanisms.

Bhutan: Support on energy efficiency policy frameworks and approaches for tracking clean energy deployment.

Tonga: Knowledge exchange and technical support on clean energy adoption and sustainable infrastructure solutions.

SIDS: Continued engagement with Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati, Tonga, and the Pacific Community to explore collaboration on clean energy transitions and climate-resilient transport systems.

Under the Developing Green City Action Plans to Accelerate Post-COVID-19 Competitiveness and Resilience (GCAP) Subproject 2, the team prepared city profiles, CRVAs, GHG emissions inventories, and quality infrastructure investment (QII) project pipelines for five cities in Malaysia: Ipoh, Kangar, Manjung, Teluk

Intan, and Kulim Hi-Tech Park. Baseline GHG inventories for 2017–2024 and Business-as-Usual projections to 2050 were developed using a customised Malaysia version of the HEAT+ GHG emissions inventory software tool.

Stakeholder consultations, capacity-building workshops, technical training, virtual engagements and city visits helped data collection and climate action planning. The team submitted final GCAPs to the city governments for all five cities. These plans identified more than US\$10.75 billion in investment opportunities and the potential to reduce approximately 3.07 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030.

ICLEI SA is providing technical support to the Government of Kiribati through the Office of Te Beretitenti (President) under the Development of a National GHG Inventory for Kiribati project (October 2025–September 2026), the first of its kind for a Pacific Island nation. The project aims to establish a structured National GHG Inventory System, improve coordination among relevant ministries and stakeholders, and strengthen institutional capacity, data systems, and stakeholder participation. It also aims to support Kiribati's national climate reporting and commitments, strengthen



Kiribati, February 2026: ICLEI SA's first country mission to Tarawa under the Development of a National GHG Inventory for Kiribati project.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Discussion with women from the minority community in a settlement in Ahmedabad on climate change and its economic and social impacts.

governance and gender-responsive systems, and ensure long-term sustainability by aligning the national process and reporting cycle.

The initiative aligns with Kiribati's national climate priorities and UNFCCC reporting obligations and supports the island nation's NDC implementation by improving GHG emissions accounting, data transparency, and climate action planning. ICLEI SA undertook its first country mission to Tarawa, Kiribati's capital, from 10-20 February 2026. The team conducted a National Dialogue and bilateral meetings with representatives from line ministries and departments, and organised a Consultation Meeting with the Kiribati National Expert Group's Technical Working Group in Climate Mitigation. It also developed technical documents and frameworks, data collection templates and GHG emissions calculators aligned with IPCC guidelines, and is working on a GHG Inventory Platform.

The ACTIVATE Bangkok project (August 2025-October 2026) supports the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), climate resilience, and inclusive urban planning.

Two visioning and capacity-building

workshops, held in November and December 2025, discussed Bangkok's transport and urban development challenges, including limited last-mile connectivity, rising housing costs in central areas, fragmented transport systems and poor connectivity in peripheral neighbourhoods. Discussions covered walkability, shared mobility, tactical urbanism, gender equality, disability and social inclusion, climate adaptation and nature-based solutions in transport and city planning. The workshops strengthened BMA staff capacity and brought together government, civil society, private-sector and development partners.

The project will develop a clear TOD roadmap, a strategic concept master plan for select stations, i.e. RAMA9 and Thailand Cultural Station, through multi-stakeholder consultations involving city agencies, communities, experts, and partners. It will also outline TOD guidelines around priority transit stations.

ICLEI SA continued as the Regional Secretariat for the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) in South Asia, supporting climate reporting, technical assistance, knowledge exchange and capacity building for

member cities. Three more cities joined during the reporting period, taking the network to 55 cities across India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Cities in the region earned 94 GCoM badges across mitigation, adaptation, energy and compliance. ICLEI SA supported 27 cities with reporting climate data, commitments and actions through the CDP-ICLEI Track.

Cities were also supported with climate data reporting, climate action planning and access to climate finance. This included support for project concepts and applications to international climate finance mechanisms such as the Transformative Actions Programme (TAP), including projects on non-revenue water

reduction and management, sustainable city bus services in Thimphu, LED streetlighting in Phuentsholing, and integrated solid waste management and water supply infrastructure in Ahilyanagar.

Light-touch technical assistance was provided to cities as needed, covering energy transition, climate adaptation and resilience, urban cooling and heat action, NbS, conservation of open and green spaces, sustainable infrastructure, environmental conservation and net-zero climate action. A webinar on “Principles of a Just Transition” was also held for city officials. Helpdesk services, capacity building and knowledge-sharing platforms further assisted cities in undertaking climate actions.



FUNDING PARTNERS

- CapaCITIES – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- TNGCC - Project Management Unit (PMU) - International Sustainable Energy Foundation (ISEF)
- Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Programme - World Bank
- Consultancy to Develop Climate Resilient Urban Infrastructure for Cities in Madhya Pradesh -- World Bank via PricewaterhouseCoopers
- GeoAI Toolkit for Urban Planners – UN-Habitat via ICLEI Europe
- Climate Projects Preparation Facility -- ISEF
- Scenarios Towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero – Sectoral Insights: Waste - NITI Aayog
- Mainstreaming Climate Action in Three Cities of Andhra Pradesh – C40 Cities
- CRCAP for Surat -- C40 Cities
- CRCAP for Hyderabad – Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation
- CCAP for Amaravati - Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority
- CRCAP for Ahilyanagar – Ahilyanagar Municipal Corporation
- CRCAP for Visakhapatnam - ICLEI SA
- Technical Support to accelerate E-Mobility in HP- Phase I – ISEF
- TUMI E-Bus Mission – GIZ
- Asia LEDS Partnership -- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- Micro Action Plan for Clean Air --Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation
- GCAP Subproject 2 -- Asian Development Bank
- Development of a National GHG Inventory for Kiribati: UNOPS (NDC Partnership)
- ACTIVATE Bangkok -- UK PACT
- GCoM in South Asia (Regional Coordination and Technical Assistance) -- Bloomberg (via ICLEI WS)



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Shimla, September 2025: The Shimla Municipal Corporation inducted Himachal Pradesh's first electric solid waste collection vehicles with ICLEI SA support.



EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Through this pathway, ICLEI South Asia supports local and regional governments in pursuing policies and strategies that prioritise well-being, empowerment, and participation of individuals and communities, strengthen social justice, and foster inclusive development for all. It helps cities improve the liveability of their natural and built environments to benefit public health and overall well-being.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

ICLEI SA is helping Meghalaya integrate Paalan 1000 principles into early childhood development initiatives across West Garo Hills and East Khasi Hills.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

ICLEI SA has developed state-level training modules on early stimulation and positive parenting and is conducting pilots in West Garo Hills and East Khasi Hills.

ICLEI SA expanded its work to Northeast India for the first time by launching the **Technical Support Unit** in Meghalaya. The project (**December 2025–May 2027**) supports the Government of Meghalaya and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India's Paalan 1000 programme by strengthening early childhood development (ECD) interventions during the first 1,000 days of a child's life. The initiative is being implemented in West Garo Hills and East Khasi Hills districts, in alignment with the Meghalaya Early Childhood Development Mission (MECDM).

The project will strengthen the state's ECD policy framework by integrating the core principles of the Paalan 1000 programme—parental wellbeing, parental coaching, positive parenting, responsive caregiving and early stimulation—into MECDM

initiatives. It also supports the development of child-friendly demonstration spaces, behavioural research and social and behaviour change communication strategies, while creating a roadmap for capacity building, documentation of best practices, and knowledge exchange across states.

In the past year, the team developed state-level training modules on parental well-being, early stimulation, and positive parenting, and is conducting pilots in the two districts. It began formative research to gather evidence to inform project interventions and planning, and undertook preparatory activities, including site finalisation in East Khasi Hills. A detailed project report will be prepared once the sites are confirmed to guide the implementation of demonstration activities in the district.



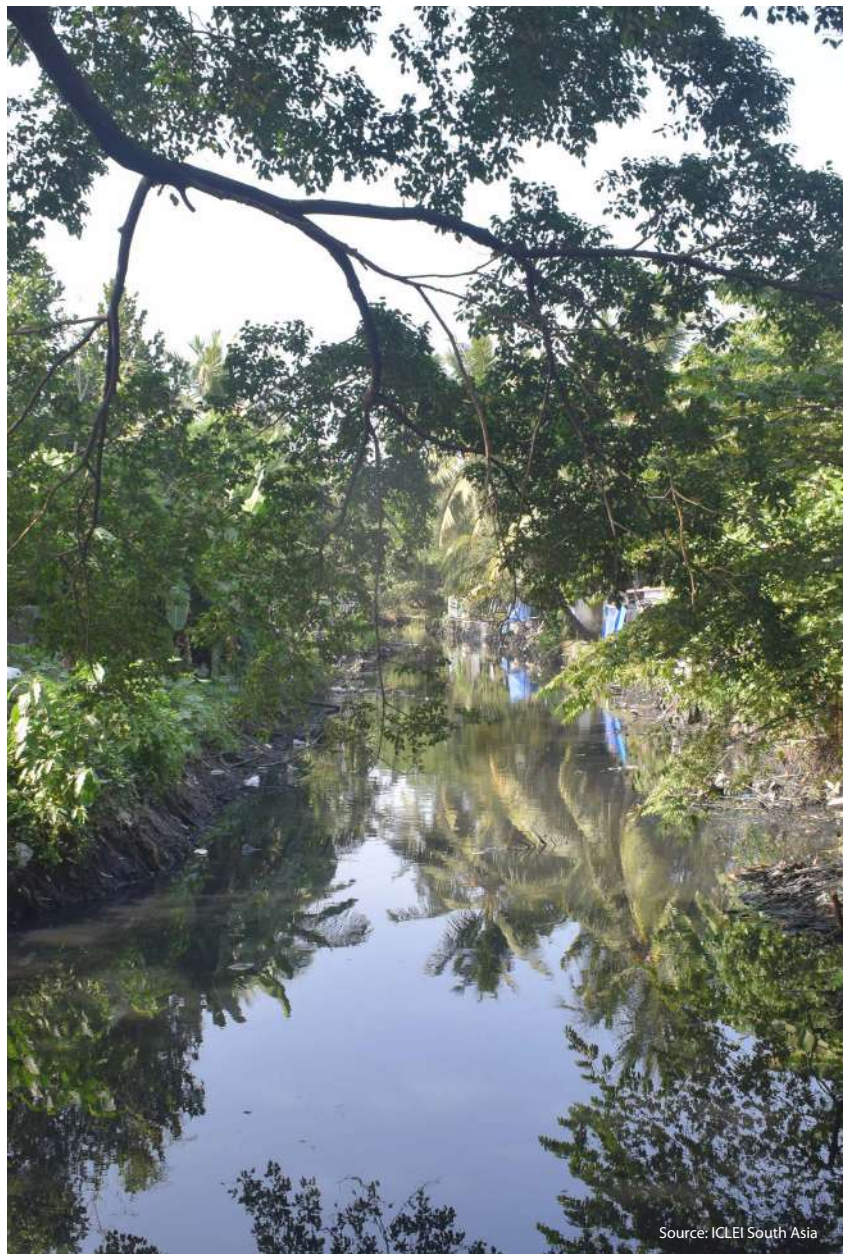
FUNDING PARTNERS

Van Leer Foundation



NATURE-BASED DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Through this pathway, ICLEI South Asia works with local and regional governments to protect the natural environment, preserve and enhance biodiversity, and safeguard the ecosystem services that support urban life. Efforts focus on developing blue-green infrastructure and promoting nature-based solutions, contributing to global goals for biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. The pathway also highlights the integration of environmental considerations into policy-making and urban planning.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

The Kochi Smart Canal project focuses on restoring the Pandarachirathodu Canal in Fort Kochi, Kerala.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

ICLEI SA supported cities and local governments across India in integrating biodiversity conservation, NbS and urban greening into planning and development. The work included biodiversity assessments and biodiversity registers, canal and waterbody restoration, urban food gardens, and policy and planning measures for greener, more resilient cities. Support ranged from developing technical guidelines and policy measures to preparing city-level plans, conducting assessments, and building local stakeholders' capacity.

The **Urban Food Gardens** initiative (April 2024-March 2027) supported the development of food gardens in government schools, combining food production with environmental education and awareness of local biodiversity. The initiative was aligned with the Government of India's PM POSHAN Scheme.

During the reporting period, the initiative established urban food gardens in 25 schools in Delhi and 20 in Bengaluru as part of a larger effort to develop 75 gardens across four metropolitan cities. The gardens gave students opportunities to grow food, learn about ecological processes, and help maintain them.

The gardens directly benefited 24,427

students, while 97,708 people benefited overall. Students received vegetables harvested from the gardens. They also contributed to project documentation by sharing photographs of food made at home using vegetables from the gardens.

Biodiversity surveys recorded 664 species in Delhi, 542 in Bengaluru and 150 in Kolkata, providing baseline information on biodiversity in participating school campuses.

Schools grew vegetables, leafy greens and legumes suited to local conditions. Delhi schools cultivated 6 to 30 crop varieties per garden, while Bengaluru schools cultivated 1 to 14 varieties. Crops included spinach, amaranthus, coriander, radish, beans, brinjal, tomato, cabbage, gourds, pumpkin, lady's finger and beetroot, among others.

The team also prepared a 'Manual on the Development of Urban Food Gardens'. It provides guidance on planning, establishing and maintaining food gardens in Indian schools and can be used by schools, local governments and other institutions.

A policy workshop was held in Bengaluru to discuss approaches to scale up urban food gardens and link them with school and urban development programmes.

Chennai, August 2025: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin released the Chennai City Biodiversity Index, developed by ICLEI SA in collaboration with the Greater Chennai Corporation.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Established 75 urban food gardens in Delhi and Bengaluru.
- Provided experiential learning opportunities to 24,427 students; the total number of beneficiaries was 97,708.
- Recorded 664 species in Delhi, 542 in Bengaluru and 150 in Kolkata through biodiversity surveys.
- Supported the cultivation of a range of vegetables, leafy greens and legumes suited to local conditions.
- Developed the Manual on the Development of Urban Food Gardens for use by schools, local governments and other institutions.

ICLEI SA also supported efforts to restore urban canals and other water bodies using green-grey and nature-based approaches, including feasibility studies, technical guidance and capacity building.

The Kochi Smart Canal project (February 2025-March 2026) supported the preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) to restore the Pandarachirathodu Canal in Kerala, using green-grey solutions. The report assessed the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of green-grey approaches in comparison with conventional grey infrastructure.

The project also held capacity-building meetings for councillors on canal restoration using green-grey solutions.

In another initiative, ICLEI SA developed the Guidelines for Canal Restoration Using Nature-based Solutions (February 2025-March 2026), covering the steps involved in planning and implementing NbS-based canal restoration. It also prepared a Compendium on Waterbody Restoration Using Nature-based Solutions, featuring 10 case studies from the Global South. The project organised two city-level workshops to develop and disseminate the guidelines, with participation from city leaders and other stakeholders.

The Development of People's Biodiversity Registers in Goa project (December 2018-December 2027) supported the development and verification of eight People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) in Goa during

the reporting period. The work is aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

ICLEI SA is supporting the development of Uttarakhand's State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (June 2025-June 2026). The team conducted stakeholder consultations, city-level meetings, and workshops as part of the planning process.

The project also supported cities in assessing urban biodiversity and developing conservation and urban greening measures, including City Biodiversity Indices (CBI) for Chennai and four cities in Andhra Pradesh, and urban greening policy measures for Ahmedabad.

ICLEI SA also provided technical support to the 'State Level Urban Greening Committee, Gujarat State' to draft a 'State Level Urban Greening Policy for Gujarat'. The draft policy is under approval.

For the Chennai CBI (June 2024-June 2025), the team prepared indicator-wise recommendations to help the city maintain or improve its score across the index. Shri M. K. Stalin, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, released the publication on August 25, 2025.

The team also developed similar indicator-wise recommendations for Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Kadapa, and Tirupati under the City Biodiversity Indices for Four Cities in Andhra Pradesh project (February 2023-June 2025).

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel released the Urban



Ahmedabad, July 2025: Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launched "Greening Policy Measures for a Greener Ahmedabad".

Greening Policy Measures for a Greener Ahmedabad: Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Future at the Urban Development Year 2025 Celebration event hosted by AMC on July 19, 2025. The policy measures build on the city's commitments under Mission LiFE – “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam”, the Panchamrit commitments made at COP26, the Mission Million Trees campaign and the Ahmedabad Net-zero CRCAP.

ICLEI SA provided technical support to AMC in preparing these policy measures (December

2024-July 2025), which cover tree plantation in public and private areas, conservation of existing trees, biodiversity, scientific greening practices, and measures to improve tree survival rates. They also cover diverse green spaces, including urban forests, rooftop gardens, and oxygen parks.

The policy measures provide for public participation, corporate social responsibility and corporate environmental responsibility engagement, and community awareness through campaigns and training.



Delhi/Bengaluru: Produce from food gardens developed by ICLEI SA in municipal schools.



FUNDING PARTNERS

- Development of 75 Food Gardens in 4 Megacities – Amazon
- Development of People's Biodiversity Registers in Goa – Goa State Biodiversity Board
- Development of City Biodiversity Index of Chennai
- Development of City Biodiversity Index for 4 cities in Andhra Pradesh - Andhra

Pradesh State Biodiversity Board

- Guidelines for Canal Restoration using Nature-based Solutions – CDKN
- Kochi Smart Canal – ORRAA
- Development of Urban Greening Policy Measures for Ahmedabad – Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation
- Development of SBSAP for Uttarakhand -- UNDP



RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Through this pathway, ICLEI South Asia helps local and regional governments and their communities embed resilience into their development policies and strategies and lay the groundwork for recovery following shocks and stresses. Actions strengthen essential systems, enhancing cities' ability to safeguard citizens from man-made and natural hazards.



Source: Unsplash

ICLEI SA worked with cities, local governments and communities in five countries to strengthen climate resilience. The work spanned climate risk assessment, adaptation and disaster resilience planning, community-led action, NbS, heat action, resilient urban development and approaches to address climate-induced losses and damage. Together, these efforts helped local governments and communities build capacity, respond to local risks and embed resilience in urban planning and development.

The **Climate and Development Knowledge Network-Accelerating Inclusive Climate Action** programme (CDKN Phase 3, August 2024-July 2026) is supporting locally led climate resilience and adaptation work across India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, combining climate risk assessments with community consultations, capacity building and planning support during the reporting period.

Nepal: The cities of Dhulikhel and Karjanha are receiving support to prepare inclusive Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs). These plans build on local climate risk and vulnerability assessments, strengthened with inputs from the communities through shared learning dialogues and focus group discussions, which help to identify specific challenges and solutions for vulnerable populations like women and marginalised groups. Both cities identified rising temperatures and erratic rainfall as key climate risks. Over 400 community members took part in the assessments, with women making up a significant share of the participants. To facilitate the effective participation of traditionally marginalised populations, separate discussions were held with women and marginalised groups to capture their specific issues and challenges. The findings were discussed with municipal officials, climate core teams and communities to identify adaptation priorities and solutions.

In Karjanha, a Knowledge-to-Action (K2A) intervention is supporting the rejuvenation of a traditional well near Shiva Mandir in Ward 4, which is expected to provide safe drinking water to 35 households from a marginalised community. Subsurface water harvesting in Bhulkiya Khola locality was also identified as a

possible adaptation measure.

ICLEI SA also prepared a draft policy brief titled “Promotion of Green Bonds at Local Level in Nepal,” which is planned for publication this year.

India: ICLEI SA is supporting the development of local plans on local, inclusive and equitable climate-induced disaster resilience. In Vijayawada and Kakinada, the project team carried out city-level disaster resilience assessments using the UNDRR Disaster Resilience Scorecard. The findings informed climate-induced disaster resilience planning guidelines, based on discussions with municipal officials, stakeholder consultations and eight FGDs with communities, including fisherfolk, waste pickers, daily-wage workers and residents of canal-bank and hillslope settlements.

The assessments highlighted different risks in the two Indian cities. In Vijayawada, the vulnerability of slum communities living along canals, stormwater drains, riverbanks and hill areas was a key concern, while in Kakinada, the absence of a comprehensive risk assessment covering different hazard scenarios and their impacts was highlighted. The recommended measures for Vijayawada include flood-resilient parks, slope stabilisation in landslide-prone areas, sensor-based landslide early-warning systems, psychosocial support, and livelihood restoration as part of pre-disaster planning and post-disaster recovery.

The resulting disaster risk resilience (DRR) guidelines cover the pre-disaster, response and recovery phases, and include gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) considerations. The guidelines also recommend improved governance arrangements, digital record-keeping, monitoring, training and capacity building of communities and local government officials.

At the national level, CDKN Asia is preparing a training module on GESI- and EbA-integrated Climate-induced Disaster-Resilient City Action Plans, as well as a policy brief titled “Local Resilience: Integrating Gender and Climate Adaptation into Disaster Policies”. The training module will be used in the CDKN Asia training and peer exchange programme for local governments.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Rohini Tea Garden, Kurseong Block, West Bengal, March 2025: Focus group discussion with the community under the CLAP project.

The Community-led Action Plan (CLAP) for Climate Resilient Water Security Project (Oct 2023–June 2027) is training more than 200 community members from remote hamlets of Nagri Farm, Dhajea, Gidda Pahar and Rohini tea gardens in the Darjeeling Himalayas in West Bengal. These trainings focus on water resource management, infrastructure monitoring, livelihoods, and water governance, combining ICLEI SA's technical expertise with communities' local knowledge to drive water security in the region. The trainees include a corps of barefoot hydrogeologists and members of water committees from each hamlet, apart from other community and elected Panchayati Raj institution (PRI) members. The CDKN K2A project has cofinanced all training imparted to the communities.

The project has established a barefoot hydrogeologist corps and water committees in each hamlet, with community members, especially women, encouraged to join. The team has supported and trained them to (i) prepare community-led Water Security Plans (WaSPs), (ii) manage local water resources, and (iii) monitor water-related infrastructure and issues. The water committee members have also been trained on maintaining record books, meeting minutes, and account books.

Together, the barefoot hydrogeologists and the water committees form a central element of the project and serve as the crucial half of an institutional platform that is being set up for locally led water governance. Tea estates, PRIs, and government line departments form the other half of the institutional platform. The water committees and barefoot hydrogeologists are the primary voices of the communities that engage with the government and tea estates.

The project developed a framework for preparing WaSPs based on baseline data and community knowledge. It adapted a standard plan template to each hamlet's context, covering local water-related challenges, priority interventions, governance and monitoring arrangements, and indicative costs. The WaSPs, co-created with each hamlet's community, include actions to enhance water resilience. ICLEI SA is piloting a few of these actions under the project. These pilots include staggered contour trenches in Nagri Farm, Rohini, and Gidda Pahar, solar-based upslope water pumping in Nagri Farm and Rohini, gravity-based water supply in Dhajea and Gidda Pahar, water absorption trenches in Rohini, loose-boulder check dams in Dhajea, water storage tanks in all four hamlets, and tree plantation to enhance spring health in Nagri Farm, Dhajea,

and Rohini. The technical designs for the pilots were developed in consultation with the relevant communities, PRIs, Public Health Engineering Department, and tea estates. Community members provided voluntary labour during the construction phase of the pilot infrastructure and have contributed financially to maintain the same post-commissioning.

Sri Lanka: The cities of Nuwara Eliya and Kandy are developing their Local Climate Adaptation Plans with support from ICLEI SA. The plans include baseline assessments, climate risk and vulnerability assessments, and prioritised adaptation actions.

The process included consultations with local communities, including women, older people and marginalised groups. In Nuwara Eliya, FGDs were held in every ward, while in Kandy, discussions brought together clusters of wards (2-3 wards) at one place. These discussions helped to make the plans more inclusive and considerate of different community needs.

The Nuwara Eliya consultations identified solid waste management (SWM) in four tea estate divisions as a priority challenge. A proposal was developed to establish four segregated waste-collection units in these areas through the K2A project funds in Sri Lanka. The local government plans to establish an Estate Infrastructure Development Committee from among the local communities for the maintenance of the K2A project.

Bangladesh: ICLEI SA is supporting Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat in preparing climate-induced DRR Action Plans to address key risks: fluvial flooding, drought, riverbank erosion, waterlogging and lightning in Nilphamari; and pluvial flooding, drought, heat waves and riverbank erosion in Lalmonirhat, along with measures for before, during and after disasters. The plans' recommendations include a varied range of infrastructural and non-infrastructural measures such as early warning and communication systems, restoration of critical infrastructure, volunteer response networks, evacuation planning, public awareness, rapid damage assessment, livelihood recovery, and psychosocial support. GESI and EbA considerations in the proposed actions include an accessible, gender-responsive real-time disaster information mobile app; lightning

safety training for schoolchildren, farmers and construction workers; climate-resilient farming and market access training for farmers; emergency cash support for farmers facing livelihood losses; rehabilitation grants for displaced families; and targeted outreach to older people, children and other high-risk groups.



Nepal, July 2025: Community engagement at the ward level in Karjanha to identify Local Adaptation Plan of Action interventions.

Regional learning and exchange: ICLEI SA participated in regional discussions on local climate action and urban resilience. At the 13th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in Bangkok, it supported a session titled 'Connecting the Dots: Integrating VLRs and VNRs for SDG Reporting'. Participants from the Maldives, Nepal and Fiji, along with the CDKN Global Network, ESCAP and ICLEI SA, discussed how Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) could be linked to Voluntary National Reviews. The discussion called for greater national support for VLRs, better local data systems and stronger links between local priorities and national SDG planning.

CDKN is also conducting a year-long training and peer exchange programme (October 2025–November 2026) for municipal officials from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, focusing on climate action and resilience, DRR and sustainable SWM. The training covers 17 ULBs, with 22 municipal officials, including three women, participating. It began with an in-person training in October 2025, followed by six webinars on climate resilience, sustainable SWM, circularity and the UNDRR Scorecard.

Under the CLARE Knowledge Brokering

project (August 2024–July 2026), ICLEI SA supported five projects, while a sixth initiative on Environmental Guardianship in Fulhavalhu in the Maldives also commenced during the period.

In Narayanganj, Bangladesh, the team provided technical support for the city's Heat Action Plan (HAP), which addresses heat stress through measures such as a heat early warning system, urban greening, shaded public spaces, cooling spaces and heat-resilient infrastructure. The plan is the first HAP prepared for a city in Bangladesh and covers nearly 2 million people, with particular focus on outdoor workers, industrial labourers, slum residents, women, children, older people and people with pre-existing health conditions.

More than 800 community members from all 27 wards of the city participated in household and field surveys. An additional 48 stakeholders from government agencies, academic institutions, technical organisations and development partners took part in a Shared Learning Dialogue. Climate analysis, field surveys and stakeholder consultations were used to assess heat exposure and vulnerability and identify measures for heat preparedness and response. The work led to the development of the HAP, heat-risk and vulnerability assessments, sector-wise recommendations, an institutional implementation framework and priority actions for heat preparedness. The HAP is aligned with the National Adaptation Plan, Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

In Nepal, support for the Municipal Association of Nepal resulted in a training module, a Train-the-Trainer programme and guidance on integrating GESI, NbS and EbA considerations into the process of developing Local Adaptation Plans of Action in local municipalities.

ICLEI SA also supported Mahila Housing Trust in developing a climate-resilient, gender-equitable and inclusive plan for street vending zones in Rajkot. FGDs were conducted across nine vending zones, covering 467 existing vendors, including 115 women. The consultations highlighted key climate and gender-related challenges, including

inadequate shade and water supply, flood risks from poor drainage and lack of roofing, and safety and sanitation concerns for women vendors.

The identified priority measures included adequate shading and durable cool-roofing solutions, improved working conditions, well-maintained sanitation facilities, and CCTV cameras to improve safety and responsiveness, particularly for women vendors.

The Enhancing Local Capacities in Socially Inclusive Resilience in Asia (SIRA) project (May 2024–June 2026) collaborated with municipalities in Bangladesh and Nepal to improve their capacity for climate resilience planning, DRR, NbS and SWM.

ICLEI SA provided training and advisory support for planning and strategy development on these topics. Country needs assessments, key informant interviews, expressions of interest and application assessments were used to select 17 municipalities in each country. Forty-nine municipal officials from each country from technical, administrative and finance departments took part in the programme. Training modules were developed around the needs identified through the initial assessments.

The modules drew on national policies and plans in both countries, including Bangladesh's National Disaster Management Plan, Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, Standing Orders on Disaster and solid waste management policies, and Nepal's National Adaptation Plan and Local Government Act. The training helped municipal officials relate these policies to local planning and implementation and share experiences on climate resilience, DRR and inclusive urban development.

Importantly, the SIRA Internship Programme was launched to give young female professionals practical experience in climate resilience. During the reporting period, it supported 26 interns across Bangladesh and Nepal in working with municipalities, NGOs and ICLEI country offices. The initiative encouraged the participation of women professionals in sustainable development.

ICLEI SA leads the Global Platform activities of

the UrbanShift programme in India, supporting institutional capacity building in Chennai, Pune and Surat, and in the secondary cities of Agra and Pondicherry. These cities are receiving a suite of activities to strengthen integrated urban planning strategies, such as applying NbS to mitigate urban flood risks and strengthen ecosystem services; developing climate-resilient coastal zones through low-emission, gender-inclusive mobility strategies and NbS; and advancing green corridors and EV charging infrastructure.

During the reporting period, the programme continued to support these cities through knowledge exchange, capacity-building activities and peer learning on sustainable urban development.

A City Academy training event was held in July 2025 in China, bringing together representatives from UrbanShift cities and partner organisations. The programme was attended by a city official from Puducherry (GEF-7 city), the Commissioner of Bhopal (GEF-6 city), officials from the NIUA, and representatives from UNIDO India.

A National Learning Dialogue, held during the ARISE Forum in New Delhi in October 2025, was attended by representatives from Puducherry, Pune, Bhopal, and Vijayawada. The dialogue focused on innovative smart infrastructure, transit-oriented development and women-friendly transport systems.

The Assessing and Managing Loss and Damage: Local-level evidence to inform global-level action in Gujarat State project, implemented in Ahmedabad and Surat (March 2024–September 2025), identified gaps in how local governments assess climate-induced losses. It found that existing disaster management systems focus mainly on response, relief and immediate physical damage, while they do not adequately capture indirect and long-term impacts, preparedness, non-economic losses and residual risks.

The project developed and proposed a framework for city-level loss and damage (L&D) assessment, including economic and non-economic L&D. The framework defines roles that the potential 'Urban Disaster Management Authority' (UDMA) could play, and proposes standardised L&D indicators, processes



Male, Maldives, July 2025: Stakeholder workshop to develop and finalise Malé City's first Voluntary Local Review.

for common data systems, and greater community involvement in documenting and validating losses. It also proposes using existing communication and monitoring systems such as the Integrated Command and Control Centres in Surat and Ahmedabad to monitor sectoral impacts, service disruptions and future risks, and linking L&D findings with urban planning, investment and recovery programmes.

The project also carried out a children-focused L&D assessment for Udaipur, covering the impacts of extreme heat and urban flooding on children's health, nutrition, education, WASH, safety and cultural life. It outlined 140+ L&D indicators for children affected by heat and flooding. It identified gaps in child-sensitive data, monitoring and coordination, and proposed child-focused indicators, stronger institutional roles and coordination, and child-centred data and monitoring systems. It also proposed links with national and global policy frameworks, climate financing mechanisms and technical partnerships.

Malé completed its first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) with technical support from ICLEI SA, becoming the first island city in South Asia to do so. The review brought together the Malé City Council (MCC), government agencies, sectoral departments, civil society, academia and the private sector to assess the city's progress on the SDGs and identify areas for action.

ICLEI SA supported the MCC with SDG localisation, indicator mapping, data analysis and benchmarking, and the integration of the SDGs into existing city plans. Two stakeholder workshops also brought city departments



Dhangadhi, Nepal, November 2025: Training municipal officials in solid waste management planning under the SIRA project.

together to discuss SDG monitoring and reporting.

The VLR provided a baseline of Malé's SDG performance, comparing local indicators with national benchmarks. It identified housing,

waste management, infrastructure, climate resilience and governance as priority areas and linked the findings with the Maldives' national SDG framework and Malé City's Strategic Action Plan.



FUNDING PARTNERS

- Climate and Development Knowledge Network-Knowledge to Action – Directorate General for International Cooperation, The Netherlands and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada
- Community-led Climate Resilient Water Security in Northern West Bengal – Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
- Research for Impact Hub of Climate Adaptation and Resilience Programme of IDRC (CLARE R4I Hub) – The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom; IDRC, Canada
- Enhancing Local Capacities in Socially Inclusive Resilience in Asia – FCDO, UK; IDRC, Canada
- UrbanShift - Global Environment Facility via ICLEI World Secretariat
- Assessing and Managing Loss and Damage: Local-level Evidence to Inform Global-level Action in Gujarat State – UNEP CCC
- Assessing and Managing Loss and Damage in Children, Udaipur – UNEP CCC
- Maldives Voluntary Local Review – UNESCAP



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Enabling community-led water security in the Darjeeling Himalayas under the CLAP project.



CIRCULAR DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Through this pathway, ICLEI South Asia supports local and regional governments in adopting resource looping, adaptation, and ecological regeneration. It encourages a shift away from the linear take-make-dispose model of production and consumption, advancing the decoupling of economic growth from resource depletion and environmental harm. Cities are guided to ensure equitable access to resources and to create closed-loop urban and peri-urban systems.



Source: Unsplash

ICLEI SA advanced circular approaches across urban resource and food systems. Work included strengthening e-waste collection and tracking in Pune, supporting more resilient and sustainable local fresh food markets, and documenting food waste reduction and circular bioeconomy solutions across Asia.

Pune Municipal Corporation and ICLEI SA launched the **Green Byte Pune** project (November 2025-June 2027) to improve the collection, tracking and monitoring of electronic waste (e-waste). The project aims to prevent the diversion of e-waste to unauthorised recyclers and develop Pune's first e-waste inventory and real-time monitoring dashboard to enhance transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making. It will establish Decentralised E-waste Collection Centres (DEWCCs) as local drop-off and collection points, making it easier for residents and businesses to dispose of old electronics responsibly. These DEWCCs will also help maximise e-waste collection and channel more material to authorised collectors and recyclers. The project supports the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, India's Circular Economy Action Plan, and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 and the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026.

The **Strengthening Local Fresh Food Markets for Healthier Food Environments within Planetary Boundaries** (CityFood Programme–Phase II, November 2024–December 2025) project aimed to develop local fresh food markets as entry points for healthier, more resilient and sustainable urban food systems. The second phase focused on facilitating knowledge exchange among cities and helping them assess food market challenges and opportunities to improve governance, planning, and knowledge sharing.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

A key achievement was the development of case studies on Sandhikharka, Nepal, and Dhaka North, Bangladesh, as part of the *CityFood Market Handbook for Healthy and Resilient Cities* compendium, which includes 31 case studies from across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The two South Asian case studies showed how market improvements increased the resilience of women entrepreneurs across economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The team held four international virtual peer-learning workshops. Meanwhile, Phuentsholing Thromde (Bhutan) joined the CityFood Interest Group.

Under the **Best Practices for Food Waste Management in Cities in Asia: A Regional Analysis** project, ICLEI SA is documenting city-level best practices on food waste reduction and circular bioeconomy solutions across Asia. The collaboration with FAO (January 2026–June 2026) will produce a regional compendium of case studies from three to five Asian cities, including actionable policy and investment recommendations.

Pune, March 2026:
E-waste awareness and collection drive under the Green Byte project.



FUNDING PARTNERS

- Strengthening Local Fresh Food Markets for Healthier Food Environments within Planetary Boundaries - Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supported by GIZ
- Best Practices for Food Waste Management in Cities in Asia: A Regional Analysis -- Food and Agriculture Organisation



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

ICLEI South Asia's Knowledge Management and Advocacy vertical draws on evidence, practical experience and innovations from ICLEI South Asia's members and the local and regional governments it works with to develop resources that inform decision-making. During the year, the team shared good practices through forums, partner meetings, peer-learning initiatives, thematic forums, digital repositories and publications.

ARISE CITIES FORUM 2025

The first **ARISE Cities Forum**, organised by ICLEI South Asia, in partnership with NIUA, brought together more than 300 participants from 20 countries, including government officials, city leaders, urban practitioners, development agencies, civil society organisations, and young people. The Forum concluded with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration on Local Action for Global Climate Goals, which called for stronger cooperation between different levels of government, better access to climate finance for cities, and a greater role for local governments in global climate decisions. The Declaration was intended to take the priorities of cities in the Global South to COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

The Forum highlighted the need to integrate climate action into city planning and governance, improve access to climate finance, strengthen disaster preparedness

and build the capacity of local governments to put climate plans into practice. Discussions also stressed the importance of coordinated action across urban services, including water, waste, energy and transport, alongside nature-based solutions and inclusive development.

Participating organisations included MoHUA, NIUA, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, IDRC Canada, KfW, C40 Cities, the United Nations, GIZ, the World Bank, ADB and Dasra. The Forum reached an estimated 650,000 people through digital channels. The Forum's Conference Report was released at COP30 in Brazil, and the Delhi Declaration was shared through digital channels.

ICLEI@20

To mark ICLEI South Asia's 20th anniversary, the team ran a year-long campaign documenting the organisation's work with municipalities and partners over two decades. A dedicated webpage and timeline traced key milestones, and more than 50 partners and funders shared messages. The team also produced *Two Decades of ICLEI South Asia*, a publication covering the organisation's history, milestones, partnerships, products and areas of work.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Launched in April 2025, the Youth for Climate Hackathon invited young people to



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Delhi, October 8, 2025: Hon'ble Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Tokhan Sahu inaugurated the ARISE Cities Forum 2025.



Source: ICLEI South Asia

Delhi, October 9, 2025: Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Shankar Lalwani handed over the Delhi Declaration to ICLEI South America Director Rodrigo De Souza Corradi for onward submission to the COP30 Presidency in Belém, Brazil.

develop practical, scalable solutions to climate challenges in South Asian cities. The winning team of the Youth Hackathon, presented its proposal on neighbourhood cooling strategies to tackle urban heat in Vijayawada. Selected solutions were featured in the *Youth for Climate COP* booklet, which was handed over to the COP Presidency at the ARISE Cities Forum. A separate session at the Forum,

"Shaping Urban Climate Futures: Media Narratives, Citizen Participation, and the Youth Perspective," examined how young people can help shape public understanding of urban issues through storytelling, digital platforms and citizen journalism.

ICLEI SA also partnered with 10 youth-led organisations to organise a series of climate webinars attended by more than 100 young people.

At a Glance

10,000+

New organic followers

8000

New LinkedIn followers

1,200+

Social media posts

400+

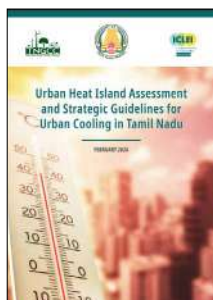
New newsletter subscribers

50+

Videos produced

90+

News articles



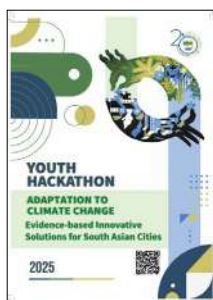
Urban Heat Island Assessment and Strategic Guidelines for Urban Cooling In Tamil Nadu

https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/TN-Urban-cooling-guidelines_ICLEISA_low-res.pdf



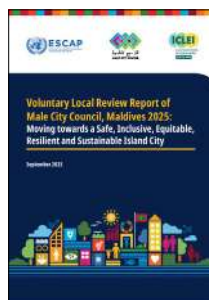
GeoAI Toolkit for Urban Planners

<https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/GeoAI-Toolkit-for-Urban-Planners.pdf>



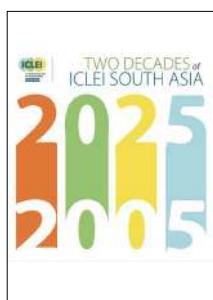
Youth Hackathon 2025 Booklet – Adaptation to Climate Change

<https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Youth-Hackathon-2025-Booklet-Adaptation-to-Climate-Change-ICLEI-South-Asia.pdf>



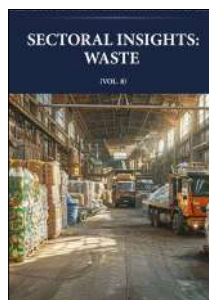
Voluntary Local Review Report of Male City Council, Maldives 2025

https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/VLR_Male12.09.25-2.pdf



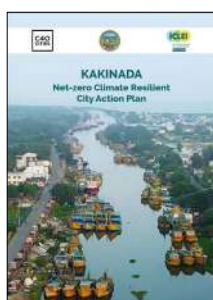
Two Decades of ICLEI South Asia – 20 Year Book (2005-2025)

<https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Two-Decades-of-ICLEI-South-Asia-20-Year-Book.pdf>



Scenarios Towards Viksit Bharat And Net Zero / Sectoral Insights: Waste

<https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Scenarios-Towards-Viksit-Bharat-and-Net-Zero-Sectoral-Insights-Waste.pdf>



Kakinada Net-zero Climate Resilient City Action Plan

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YwNhZTMR0CDnPE9xjSk6jKYODKCE4cRh/view>



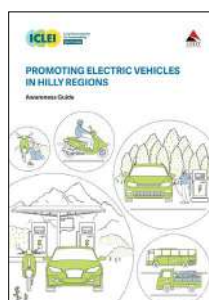
Guidelines on Canal Restoration using Nature-based Solutions

<https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Guidelines-on-Canal-Restoration-using-NbS-1.pdf>



City Biodiversity Index: Chennai

<https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Chennai-City-Biodiversity-Index-ICLEI-South-Asia.pdf>



Promoting Electric Vehicles in Hilly Regions

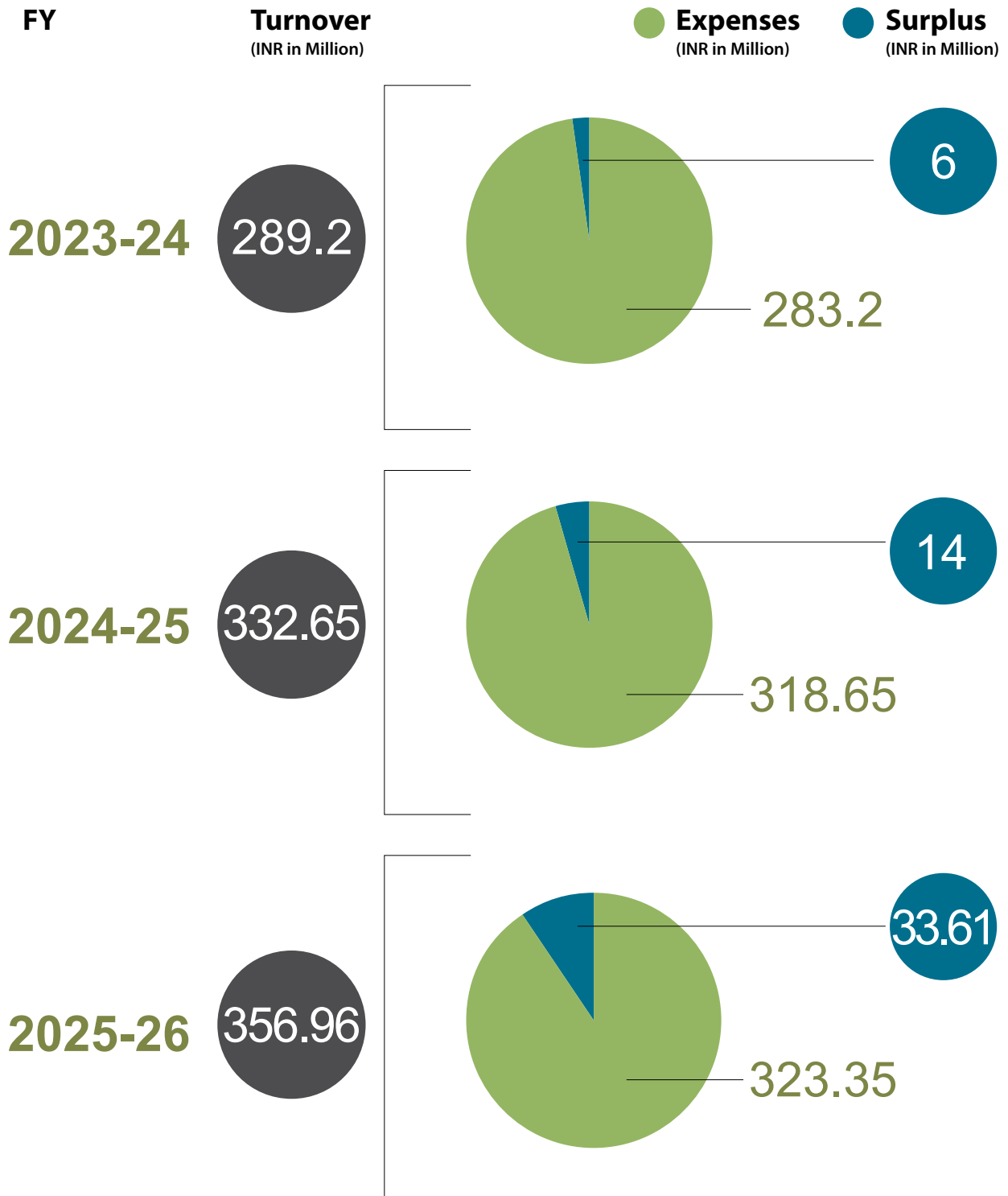
<https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Promoting-Electric-Vehicles-in-Hilly-Region-Awareness-Guide.pdf>





Three-Year Financials

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia





जयपुर 23-02-2026

भास्कर खास मुंबई क्लाइमेट वीक में देशभर के युवाओं ने पेश किए समाधान शहरों की सूरत संवारने के नए रास्ते बना रहे युवा

गुजरात रिकवरी मुंबई | आज हमारे सामने वह समय है जब शहरों का भविष्य सिर्फ बड़े दूर से तय नहीं होगा, बल्कि इससे तय होगा कि हम कैसे चलते हैं, क्या बचते हैं और कैसे जीते हैं। मुंबई क्लाइमेट वीक में देश भर के युवाओं व नीति निर्माताओं ने समाधान पेश किए। इनमें से कुछ इस प्रकार हैं-

1. वेदांत म्हात्रे: फुटपाथ की नई डिजाइन से पैदल यात्रा सुगम की
मेट्रो और बस तक पैदल आने-जाने वाली के लिए सड़कों पर जगह कहां है? इसी सवाल से पैदा हुई 27 कांय इनिशिएटिव्स इनीशियर वेदांत म्हात्रे की यात्रा। अपनी अर्बन आर्किटेक्चर बिरोपल मिश ऐपवर्क नुके (26) के साथ उन्होंने मुंबई की बिना फुटपाथ वाली सड़कों को नई डिजाइन बनाने शुरू की। 'वॉकिंग प्रोजेक्ट' के तहत 'पैदल चलो' अभियान चल रहा। 14 प्रमुख मार्ग पर 16.55 किमी लंबे फुटपाथ को डिजाइन तैयार कर कोअपसी को सौंपे। इससे प्रभावित होकर कोअपसी ने 100 करोड़ रु. का फुटपाथ प्रोजेक्ट शुरू किया।



2. शिल्पी: कपड़ा कंपनियों की कतरनों से फ्रॉक तैयार करती हैं
48 वर्षीय शिल्पी दत्ता सोन ने 6 साल पहले बैंक को स्थिर नेकरी छोड़कर कपड़ा कंपनियों से निकली कतरनों से नई फ्रॉक बनाना शुरू किया। वे मुंबई के रगतार मार्केट से कतरन लाती थीं। उनके काम को नीति आयोग से सस्टेनेबिलिटी सर्टिफिकेट मिला है। वे सामान्य कपड़ा निर्माण को तुलना में 45% तक कम बचाने उत्सर्जन करती हैं। 2021 में बावी बनाने वाली अमेरिकी कंपनी मैटेल ने उनके कपड़ों को अपने ब्रांड नाम से बाजार में उतारा। वर्तमान में वे सालाना 45 हजार से अधिक फ्रॉक तैयार कर रही हैं।



3. सौम्या: 'ग्रीन सिटी' का प्लान बना हीट स्टोक के कैसे घटा रही
सौम्या चतुर्वेदुला ने अमेरिका से पर्यावरण विज्ञान में एमएस किया है। वे अपने संगठन आईसीएलआई के जरिए शहरों को बेहतर बनाने के समर्थन देती हैं। अहमदाबाद में ग्रीन व आर्ट्स से होने वाली हीट स्टोक की घटनाओं को कम करने के लिए उनको संस्था ने ग्रीन सिटी प्लान तैयार किया। फिर शहर में एक करोड़ से अधिक पेड़ लगाए गए। सौम्या की संस्था देश के 70 शहरों के लान्ड, बार्डिन्ग व वाटर खोती का पुनर्जीवन पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए बेहद जरूरी है।



Pandarachira canal in West Kochi to be restored with international funding

The move comes close on the heels of criticism that canals in West Kochi were overlooked under the IURWTS, a project to restore six critical canals in the city

Updated: June 19, 2025 12:57 am IST - KOCHI

THE HINDU BUREAU

READ LATER



The Pandarachira canal, once a major cargo route to Kochi, has become a source of pollution and waterlogging. (Photo: CIRCULAR SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT)

The Kochi Corporation has drawn up a ₹100-crore project backed by international funding to restore the Pandarachira canal in West Kochi.

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) South Asia and Swiss Re will jointly implement the project. The Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance has agreed to fund the project through grants. The move comes close on the heels of criticism that canals in West Kochi were overlooked under the Integrated Urban Regeneration and



ICLEI SOUTH ASIA – IMPACT IN NUMBERS



₹105,765 million
- Municipal climate-budget
allocations for climate
initiatives in **5 cities** under
CapaCITIES project



₹6,600 million-
allocated by Himachal
Pradesh for electric buses
and e-depot upgrades



75 Urban food gardens
established in municipal schools
in Delhi and Bengaluru



97,708 – Persons,
including **24,427 students**,
directly benefited through
urban food gardens



43 - ULBs covered through
CCAP reviews and climate-
resilient planning support across
Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh



28 - climate action plans,
assessments, technical
outputs, toolkits and policy
products developed



20 – Greater Chennai Corporation schools covered for installing cool roofs



2,000+ km - Green EV corridors planned across Himachal Pradesh



650,000 -- Estimated digital reach of the inaugural ARISE Cities Forum



350+ - Electric buses sanctioned for Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh under PM-eBus Sewa scheme, based on technical support by ICLEI SA



5000+ - People participated in capacity-building, knowledge exchange and in building sustainable solutions.



300+ - Participants from 20 countries at ARISE Cities Forum



Delhi, January 2026

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