

Cities Fit for Climate Change

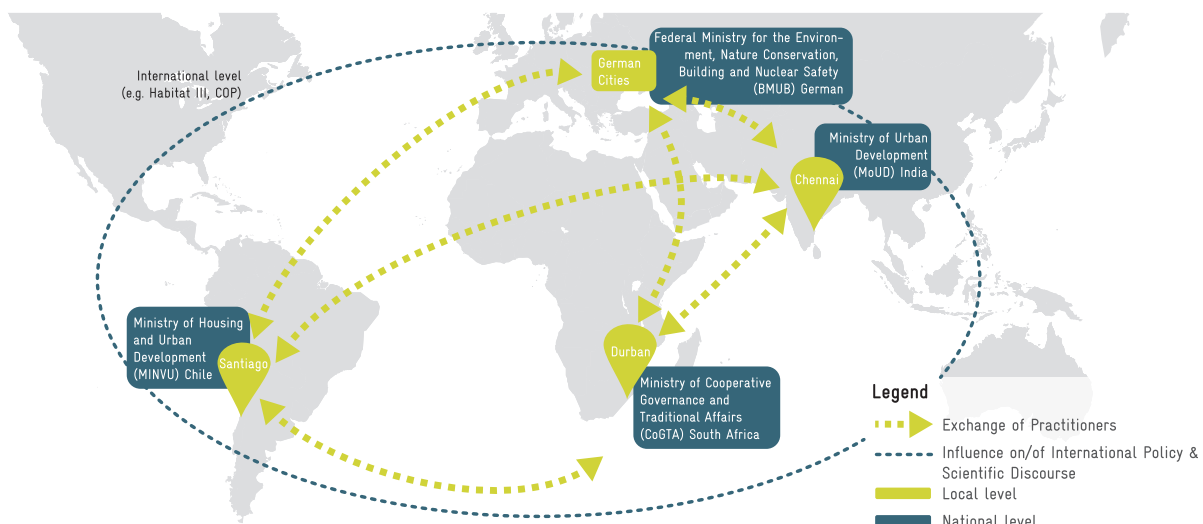
Coping with climate change begins in cities

Our cities are both contributing to and affected by climate change: they consume 70 per cent of the world's energy and heat up the earth's atmosphere by producing over 75 per cent of global CO₂ emissions. At the same time many urban agglomerations already suffer from the negative impacts of climate change: in low-lying coastal areas they are threatened by rising sea levels and storm surges; in drier climate zones they must contend with droughts and water shortages; and cities everywhere have to deal with heat islands in the densely built-up urban landscape. Accelerated urbanisation exacerbates these problems. By 2050, 6.5 billion people, or two thirds of the world's population, are expected to live in sprawling metropolises. Therefore new forward-thinking strategies for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change need to be integrated into conventional concepts of urban development in order to safeguard urban ways of life and life quality.

Our Partners in Chile, India and South Africa

The partner cities, Santiago in Chile, Chennai in India and Durban in South Africa, were selected in agreement with the relevant national ministries and authorities: the decisive factors were the commitment of the mayors and city councils, and the cities' level of climate change vulnerability. The cities determine their project priorities, which might be, for example, the climate-proofing of instruments, strategies and regulations, or the implementation of participatory city development strategies, or the development of financing options for realising available climate protection and adaptation concepts.

The partner cities exchange knowledge with each other. To facilitate this, each of the partner cities will host an annual Dialogue Forum where representatives from German cities and the other partner cities will come



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together to share their insights into climate-appropriate urban development.

Trajectories for a climate-friendly future

The existing urban development guidelines and concepts of our partner cities are to be adapted according to climate-proofing principles. Climate-proofing means that city development strategies, urban designs, land use and master plans, and all related investments are resilient and adaptable to the current and future impacts of climate change. Furthermore, corresponding climate protection measures need to be taken, and they must be aimed at decarbonisation.

These steps will provide the basis for designing an individualised climate-proof urban development model for each city. An example of reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change impacts at the same time is urban green space, which helps prevent heat island effects and flooding, absorbs carbon from the atmosphere and improves air quality and citizens' quality of life – a win-win situation for the inhabitants, city budgets, and the climate.

Trajectories for a climate-friendly future

How can cities as drivers and victims of climate change cope with the risks and become custodians of a liveable climate? This global project is focused on finding answers to this question. Because there are no universally applicable solutions, existing concepts for resilient low carbon urban development are to be analysed and compiled in a sourcebook, and selected cities are to be supported in developing case-specific climate-friendly strategies. This work will be guided by the 'Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities' and the BMUB Memorandum 'Urban Energies-Urban Challenges'. The important issue of securing financing for required infrastructure investments is also to be addressed.

The experiences of our partner cities will be shared at international conferences. The knowledge thus gained will help support the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the Habitat III processes leading to an internationally agreed 'New Urban Agenda'.

How do we plan to support strategies for climate-proof cities?

In order to work effectively together with our partners on climate-friendly urban development, this global programme is divided into different components:

Component I: Analysing pioneering approaches to climate change ...

In this module, best practice examples from around the world are to be collected and assessed. Descriptions of these projects will be compiled in a handbook, which focuses on instruments used and guidelines produced. The handbook will also incorporate retrospectives on the partner cities' projects.

... and addressing the issue of funding

The question of funding is particularly important for newly emerging and developing countries. The large amounts of financing needed for modernising and building infrastructure cannot sufficiently be provided through domestic revenues or development assistance. Appropriate legal frameworks and financial management capacities required to access international donor funds and private capital markets are often missing. The project can assist our partner cities in figuring out what financing options are available to them and how to gain access to them.



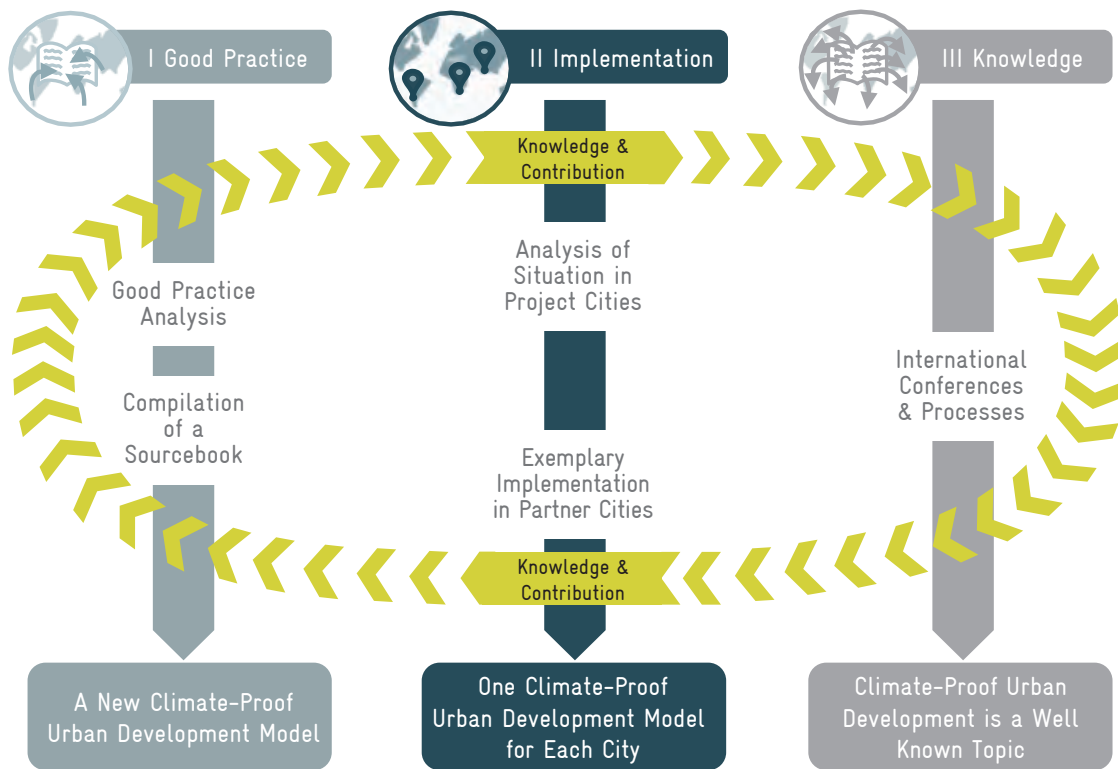
India. Photo: © Daphne Frank



South Africa. Photo: © Dean Hutton/2point8



Chile. Photo: © Amina Schild



Component II: Developing climate-proof city models in our partner countries

The second work package deals individually with each of the selected cities in our partner countries. The local situation is investigated, and available instruments, urban development policies and existing climate change mitigation and adaptation plans are examined. It is also possible to undertake vulnerability analyses, climate modelling or other case-specific studies.

The cities will be given comprehensive advice on climate-appropriate urban strategies and will be supported in developing their own climate-proof urban development model. National and regional frameworks and conditions will be taken into account in order to develop country-appropriate solutions at the local level. Financing options for the realisation of measures will be identified according to local requirements.

Component III: Contributing to the international discourse on urban transformation

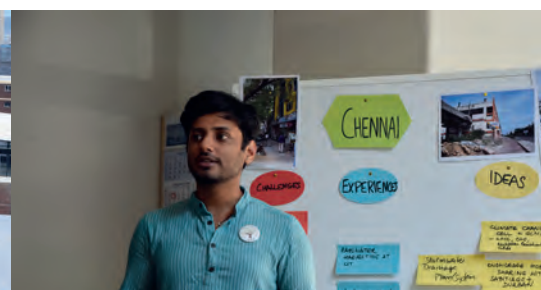
The third module focuses on supporting the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), on disseminating the knowledge gained in work packages I and II, and thereby influencing relevant international discourses. For example the project was involved in the international process leading to the formulation of the 'New Urban Agenda'. It now supports its implementation as well as the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



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Towards a New Urban Agenda

After intense preparation, the New Urban Agenda was adopted at the third world human settlements conference (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016. Following the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda directly defines the implementation of global development goals at the local level. Its central message is that sustainable, integrated, inclusive and green urban development can only come to fruition with strong cities as independent actors for development. Against this backdrop the global project offered local government decision makers a platform during the Habitat III conference to discuss their contributions to the implementation of the agenda. It supported its

partners in facilitating three networking events about subjects such as the role of national urban development policies for the implementation of climate action at the local level, climate friendly urban regeneration and the adaptation of coastal cities to climate change. All three events came to the conclusion that cities can profit enormously from national and international networks and exchange formats.

Collective learning among cities will be further intensified by the project. Its focus will be to develop climate proof urban development models for each city in cooperation with the partners. In this way, the cities will also make a contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

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