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## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.



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## Cities Fit for Climate Change

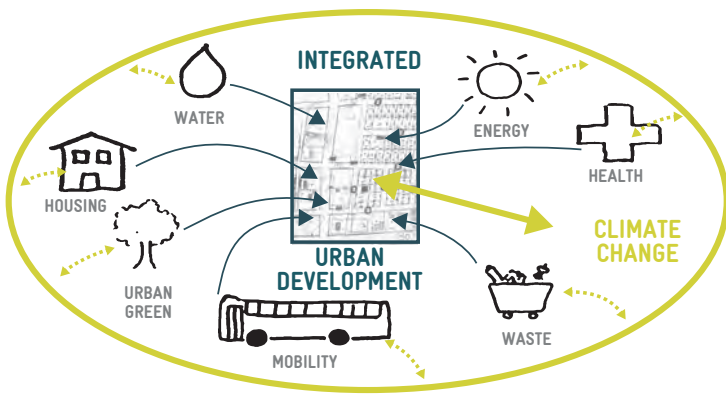
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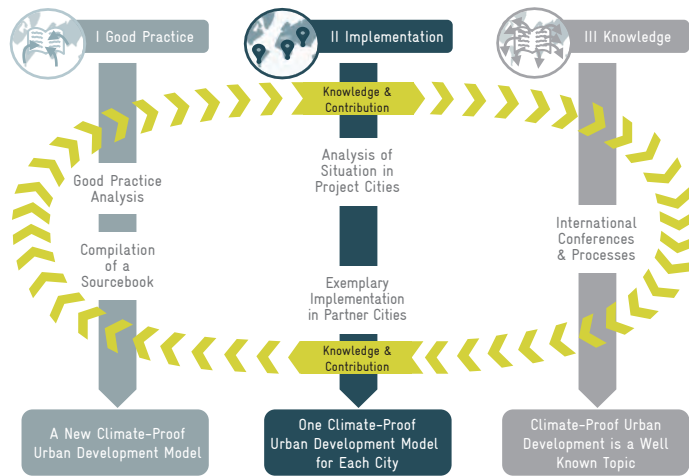


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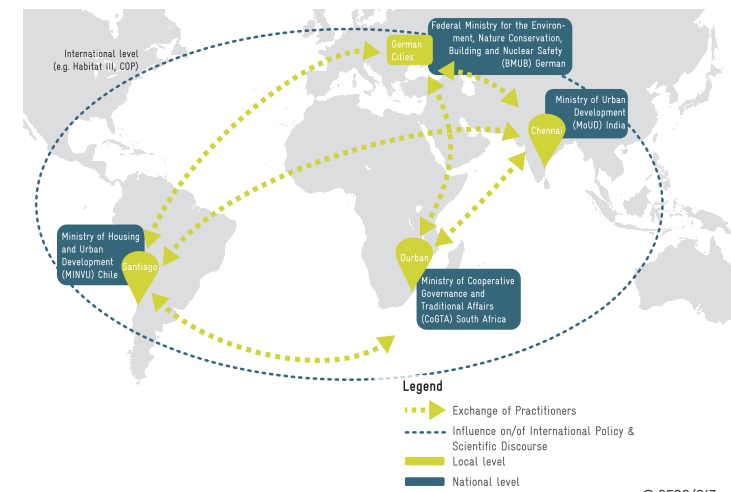
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### Trajectories for a climate-friendly future

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. As 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 contributes to the implementation of the 'New Urban Agenda', the international agreement of the Habitat III process.

### Climate-proofing provides orientation

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.

### 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 are to exchange knowledge with each other and with German and further cities. To facilitate this, each of the partner cities will host an annual workshop Dialogue Forum where representatives from German cities and the other partner cities will come together to share their insights into climate-appropriate urban development.



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