



UN-HABITAT

UN-Habitat's work on adaptation and resilient human settlements

Session 4

Oddy Angelo

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The Global Climate Challenge

Rising Global Temperatures

Global warming has increased to approximately 1.4°C by 2023, with projections up to 3.5°C by 2060 under varying emission scenarios.

Urban Vulnerability

Cities contribute about 70% of global GHG emissions and face severe risks from climate impacts like floods and heatwaves.

Biodiversity Loss

Urban expansion threatens biodiversity hotspots, risking the loss of 290,000 square kilometers of natural habitats by 2030.

Urban Systems Thinking

Integrated planning is crucial for reducing emissions and adapting cities to climate change, thereby avoiding maladaptive pathways.



Asia-Pacific: Most vulnerable to climate change

Vulnerability Hotspots

1. Greater Black Sea
2. Altai Sayan
3. Lake Baikal
4. Amur Heilong
5. Eastern Himalayas
6. Yangtze Basin
7. Mekong Complex
8. Western Ghats
9. Sumatra
10. Borneo
11. Coral Triangle
12. Pacific Islands

Key risks related to climate change

- Wildfires 
- Heat wave 
- Biodiversity 
- Heat island 
- Dust storm 
- Agriculture 
- Extreme rainfall 
- Floods 
- Sea level Rise 

compounded by...



Increasing rapid **urbanization** & **population growth**



A **geography** with low-elevated territories & vast coastlines

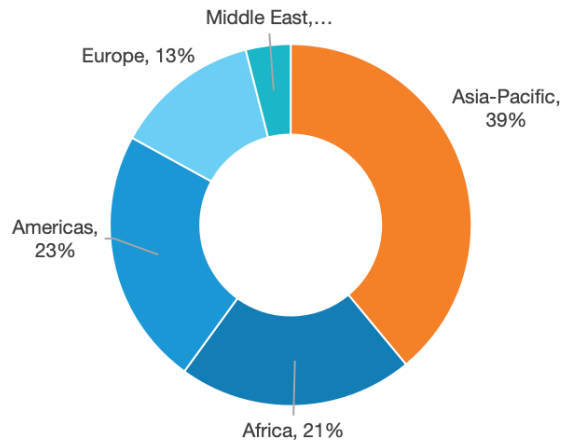


Multiple **other crises** such as COVID-19, migration, conflict, inequality, and disaster risks

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable to climate change

Impacts of Climate Change in Asia-Pacific

Climate Hazards



40%

of disasters worldwide have occurred in the Asia-Pacific from 2000 to 2021

Economic Impact



US \$3.8 M

in economic damages monthly in the Asia-Pacific from 1970 to 2022

US \$57 M

in economic damages in the Asia-Pacific in 2022 only

Social Impact



+7,500

Deaths caused by disasters in the Asia-Pacific region in 2022

24M

People displaced by climate disasters in the Asia-Pacific in 2024



Regional Climate Change Trends and Impacts

Rising Temperatures



Changing Precipitation Patterns



Sea-Level Rise



Extreme Weather Events



Urban Heat Islands (UHI)



Ecosystem Degradation



Air and Water Pollution



Water Scarcity



UN-Habitat Asia-Pacific & Climate Adaptation

Strengthening Local Resilience

- Conducting climate vulnerability assessments
- Developing district-level adaptation plans
- Promoting nature-based solutions and risk-informed urban planning

Inclusive and Participatory Planning

- Ensuring the voices of women, ethnic minorities, and vulnerable groups are reflected in adaptation strategies
- Supporting community-led adaptation efforts

Policy Alignment

- Supporting national frameworks such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
- Aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 11 and SDG 13

Capacity Building and Coordination

- Enhancing institutional capacity at national and sub-national levels
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder coordination for effective climate action

10-year partnership with the Adaptation Fund to address climate change



Our partners



National level
Government



Local Level
Government



Non-government
Organization



Non-profit
Organization

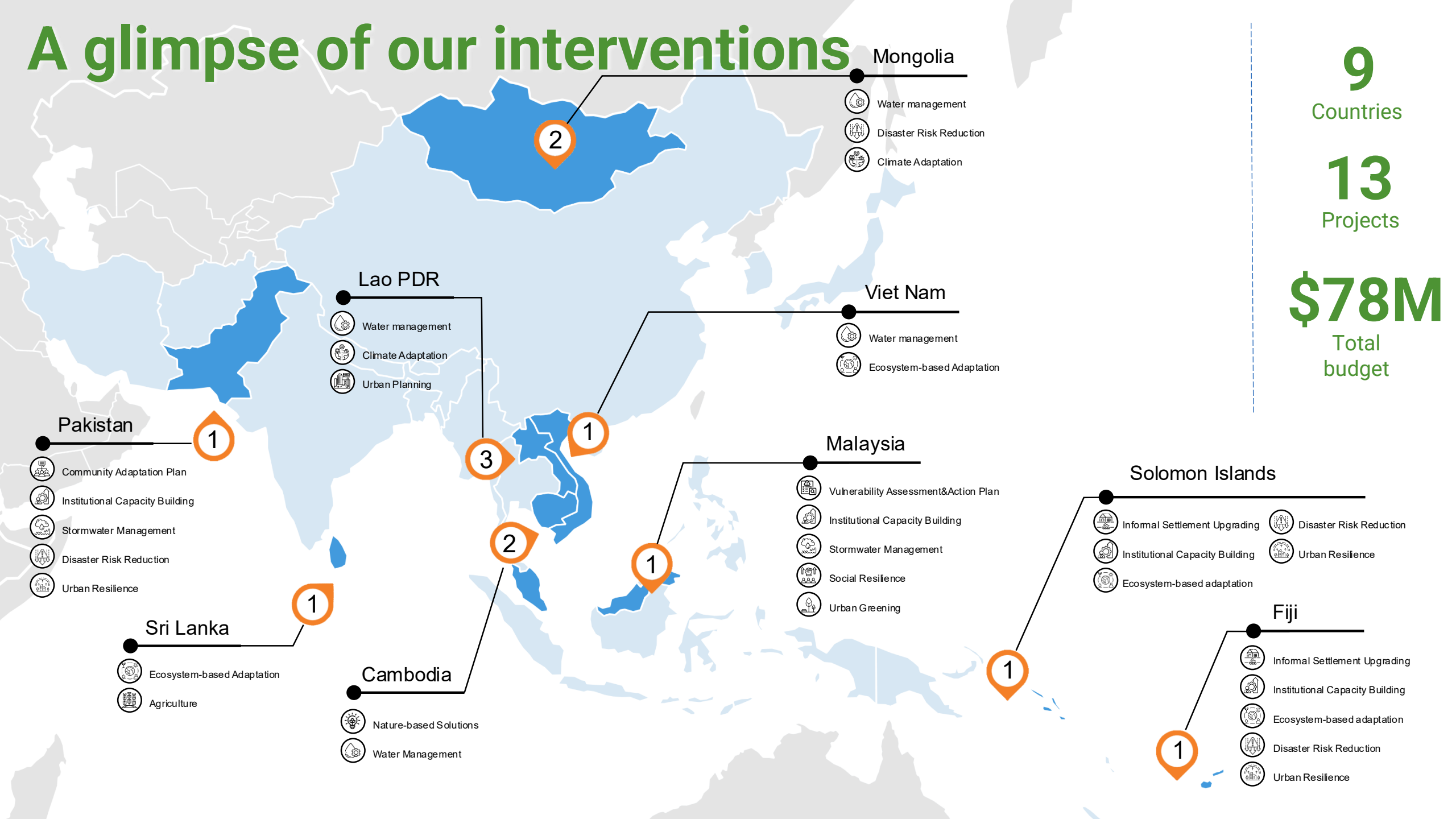


Community Groups



Community-Based
Organization

A glimpse of our interventions



9
Countries

13
Projects

\$78M
Total
budget

Adapting to Change: Our Regional Climate Action Interventions

Fiji

- 
- Strengthening institutions for local climate action
 - Strengthening resilience in informal settlements
 - Resilient physical, natural, and social assets
 - Awareness, Knowledge, and Communication

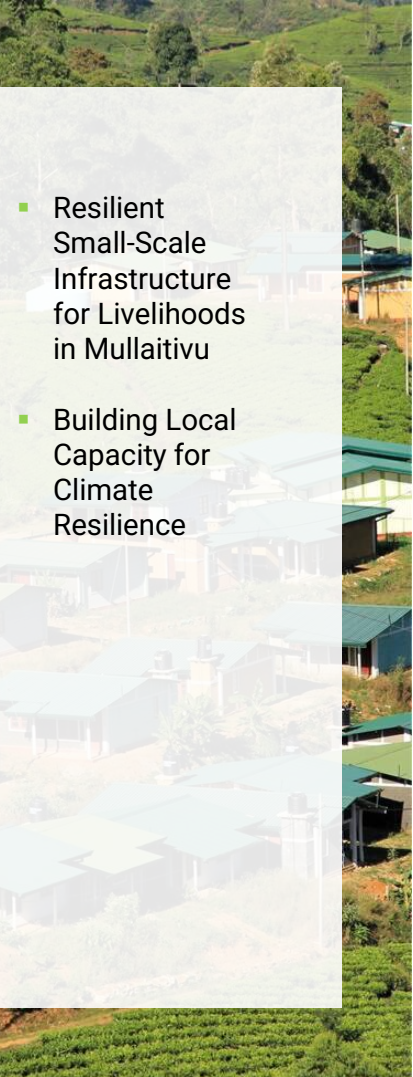
Malaysia

- 
- Urban Greening for Heat Island Adaptation
 - Built Solutions for Urban Flood Resilience
 - Community Vulnerability Assessments and Action Plans
 - Enhancing Community Resilience
 - Institutional Strengthening and Learning Hub

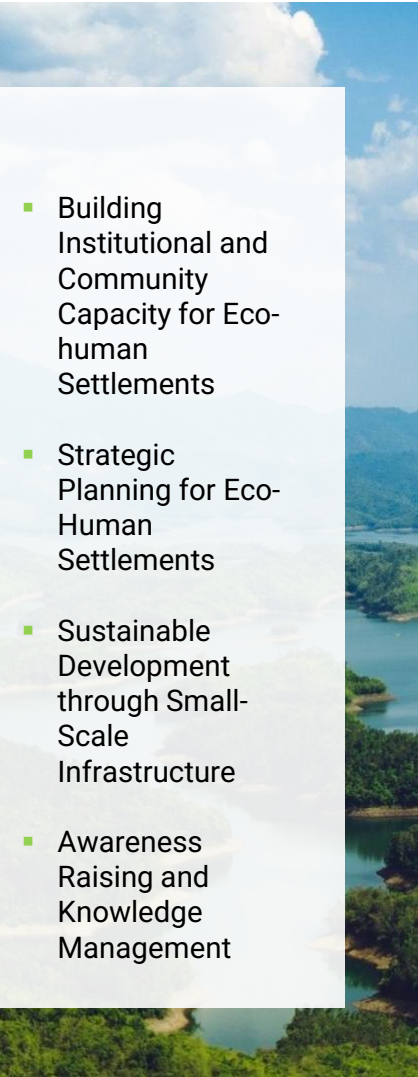
Solomon Islands

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- Community-level actions
 - Community-level capacity strengthening
 - Ward-level actions
 - Ward-level capacity strengthening
 - Urban Governance and Capacity Building
 - Knowledge Management and Advocacy

Sri Lanka

- 
- Resilient Small-Scale Infrastructure for Livelihoods in Mullaitivu
 - Building Local Capacity for Climate Resilience

Viet Nam

- 
- Building Institutional and Community Capacity for Eco-human Settlements
 - Strategic Planning for Eco-Human Settlements
 - Sustainable Development through Small-Scale Infrastructure
 - Awareness Raising and Knowledge Management

Adapting to Change: Our Regional Climate Action Interventions

Cambodia

- 
- Building Local Capacity for Long-Term Climate Resilience
 - Building Institutional Capacity to Sustain Climate Investments
 - Building Resilience with Protective Infrastructure and Ecosystems
 - Restoring Coastal Ecosystems for Resilient Livelihoods
 - Building Climate Resilience Through Capacity & Knowledge Sharing

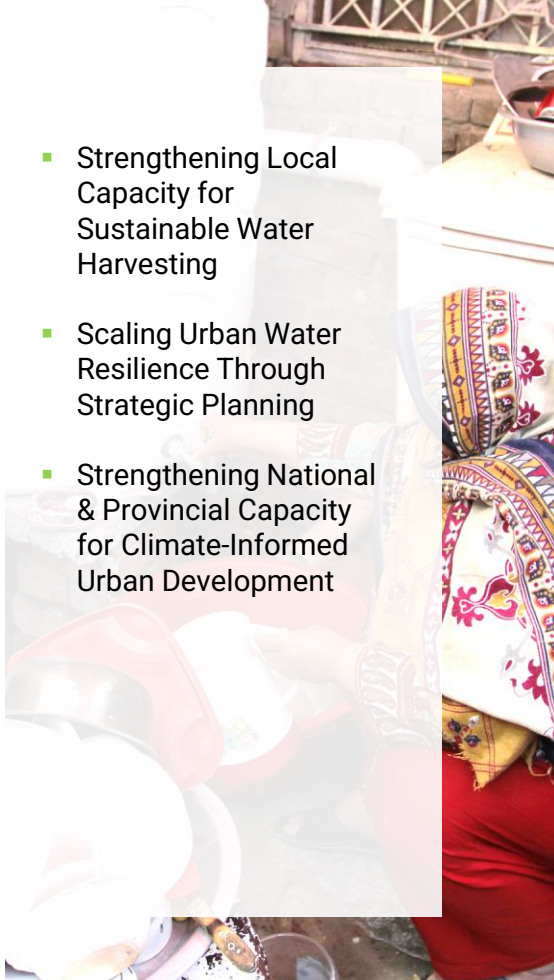
Lao PDR

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- Enhancing Adaptive Capacity for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure
 - Empowering Communities Through Resilient Infrastructure & Housing
 - Strengthening Community Awareness for Climate Resilience
 - Integrating Climate Adaptation into Inclusive Town Planning
 - Inclusive Infrastructure for Climate Resilience
 - Scaling Climate Awareness Across the Economic Corridor

Mongolia

- 
- Enhancing Regulatory Frameworks for Climate Resilience
 - Building Multi-Level Capacity for Climate Adaptation
 - Reducing Flood Risk Through Resilient Infrastructure
 - Enhancing Knowledge to Sustain and Scale Project Gains
 - Generating Hazard Data for Resilient Urban Planning
 - Community-Led Planning for Flood Resilience in Ger Areas

Pakistan

- 
- Strengthening Local Capacity for Sustainable Water Harvesting
 - Scaling Urban Water Resilience Through Strategic Planning
 - Strengthening National & Provincial Capacity for Climate-Informed Urban Development

Adapting to Climate Change Through Nature-based Solutions

- Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems **that increase climate resilience and address societal challenges** at the same time.
- Making **nature an ally** to adapt to climate change impacts.
- In concrete terms, it means **relying on capital that nature offers us**, such as forests, mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass beds (etc.).
- The implementation of NbS has been described as “cost-effective” as **it brings many co-benefits**.

What are Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

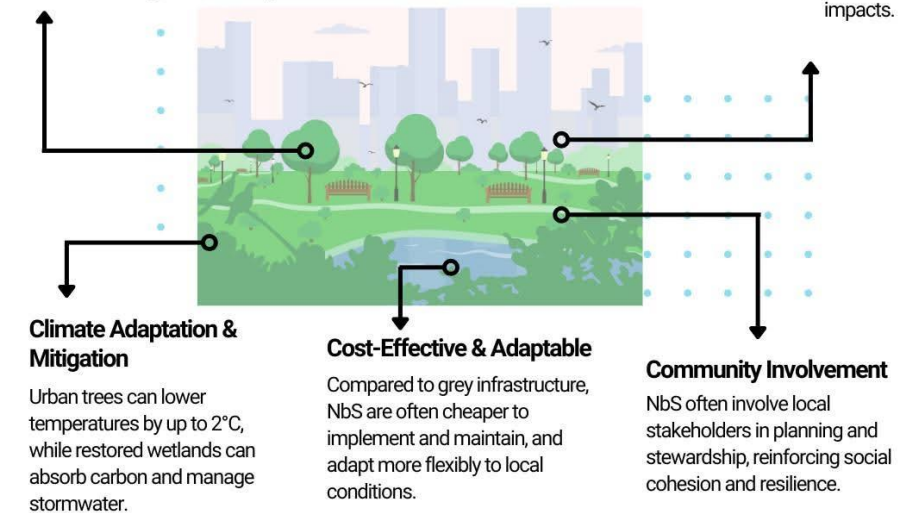


Natural Systems for Urban Challenges

NbS use ecosystems—like wetlands, forests, and green spaces—to reduce risks such as flooding, heat, and air pollution.

Co-benefits for People and Planet

NbS support biodiversity, improve public health, and enhance urban livability while mitigating climate impacts.





We previously had to carry water from the river, and due to the lack of water, there were no toilets. Now, schools and households can access clean water!

Villagers from Saravane, Lao PDR

Such changes are happening in many **other sectors** in more places



600K+

Direct beneficiaries supported by the project

1.8M+

Indirect beneficiaries supported by the project

50%+

Beneficiaries are women

Accelerating Multilevel Climate & Urban Environment Action in the Asia Pacific Region



Urban Energy

Cities account for over 75% of global energy use and emissions—especially in the Asia-Pacific region. To meet climate goals and tackle energy poverty, UN-Habitat is accelerating access to renewable energy for vulnerable urban communities



Biodiversity

The Asia-Pacific region hosts nearly half of the world's biodiversity hotspots, supporting approximately 200 million people. But rapid urbanization and land-use change have driven habitat loss and environmental degradation. To reverse biodiversity decline, cities must adopt proactive, nature-positive urban planning.



Pacific Climate Resilience

Pacific SIDS face rising climate risks as global temperatures near 1.5°C. Existing systems fall short, making adaptation harder and increasing loss and damage. A resilient future depends on coordinated action by governments, communities, and partners across all levels.



Stronger NDCs

Asia-Pacific is rapidly urbanizing and facing growing climate risks. UN-Habitat ROAP supports countries in integrating urban climate actions into NDCs through capacity building, tools, and regional coordination to accelerate urban-inclusive climate commitments.



Green Buildings

With rapid urbanization, the building sector in the Asia-Pacific is a significant source of emissions. UN-Habitat ROAP's Green Buildings Programme promotes energy efficiency, sustainable materials, and resilient design to drive decarbonization and sustainable urban development.

Accelerating Multilevel Climate & Urban Environment Action in the Asia Pacific Region



Urban Heat

Asia-Pacific cities face rising climate risks—from extreme heat to rapid urbanization. UN-Habitat is driving regional action through renewable energy access, green buildings, nature-positive planning, and urban-integrated climate strategies to build resilient, inclusive cities.



Urban Health

Climate change is worsening urban health risks in the Asia-Pacific—from heat stress to air pollution and disease. UN-Habitat promotes integrated planning that links climate action with healthier, more resilient cities.



CC - Crisis

The Asia-Pacific region faces overlapping crises—from climate change and disasters to conflict and displacement. With 7 million refugees and 5 million IDPs, there's an urgent need to integrate climate resilience into humanitarian and development responses for more inclusive, adaptive human settlements.



Urban Loss&Damage

Asia-Pacific is highly climate-impacted—hosting 6 of the 10 most weather-affected countries and 78% of global disaster displacements. Informal settlements face rising loss and damage. Proactive, informed urban responses are critical.



C-Communication for Local Leaders

Local leaders play a crucial role in climate communication, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, where the impacts are deeply felt. Yet misinformation and limited resources hinder progress. UN-Habitat supports stronger local messaging to drive awareness, partnerships, and action.

THANK YOU

