

An aerial photograph showing a coastal city skyline in the background, with a large body of water in the foreground. The water is surrounded by lush green wetlands and marshes. The sky is clear and blue.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES INTEGRATED PROGRAM

Global Environment Facility

**ALOKE BARNWAL
THEMATIC LEAD, URBAN AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

GEF Programming

FOCAL AREAS

Biodiversity

Climate change

Land degradation

International waters

Chemicals and waste

INTEGRATED PROGRAMS (GEF-9)

Food Systems

Dryland and Drought Management

Sustainable Cities

Critical Forest Biomes

Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution

Blue and Green Islands

Global Wildlife for Development

Pollution free Supply Chains

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

- ✓ Mobilizing the Financial Sector for Environmental Goals through Blended Finance
- ✓ Community Action for Global Transformation - Small Grants Program and Beyond

CROSS-CUTTING

Gender responsiveness • Stakeholders' Participation • Private sector engagement

Why cities matter for global environment

Cities drive over 70% of global GHG emissions

Major source of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation

Key contributors to hazardous chemicals and waste pollution

Increasing climate risks: heatwaves, drought, coastal impacts

Urban systems directly affect water, food, air, and energy access

Rapid urbanization → 68% global population in cities by 2050



Rationale for Integration Approach

Why current approaches to sustainability fall short?

Siloed planning and investments-

Trade-offs; in efficiencies; missed synergies

Connection beyond city boundaries-

Catchments; Supply Chains;

Interlinked environmental issues-

Climate change; nature loss; Pollution



What does integrated approach enable?:

Integration across systems

Sectors; Spatial Scales; Governance Levels

Alignment of Priorities

Environment; Economy, Social inclusion

Improved risk management

Reduced trade-offs; Diverse engagement

Resilience, Efficient and Investable Urban Systems with lasting outcomes for the environment and people



SCIP- Objectives

Advance integrated and systems-based approaches for sustainable urban transformation and deliver global environmental benefits.

Raise cities' ambition aligned with global 2030 goals on climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution

Catalyze **increased flow of investments** to cities for implementation of sustainable solutions

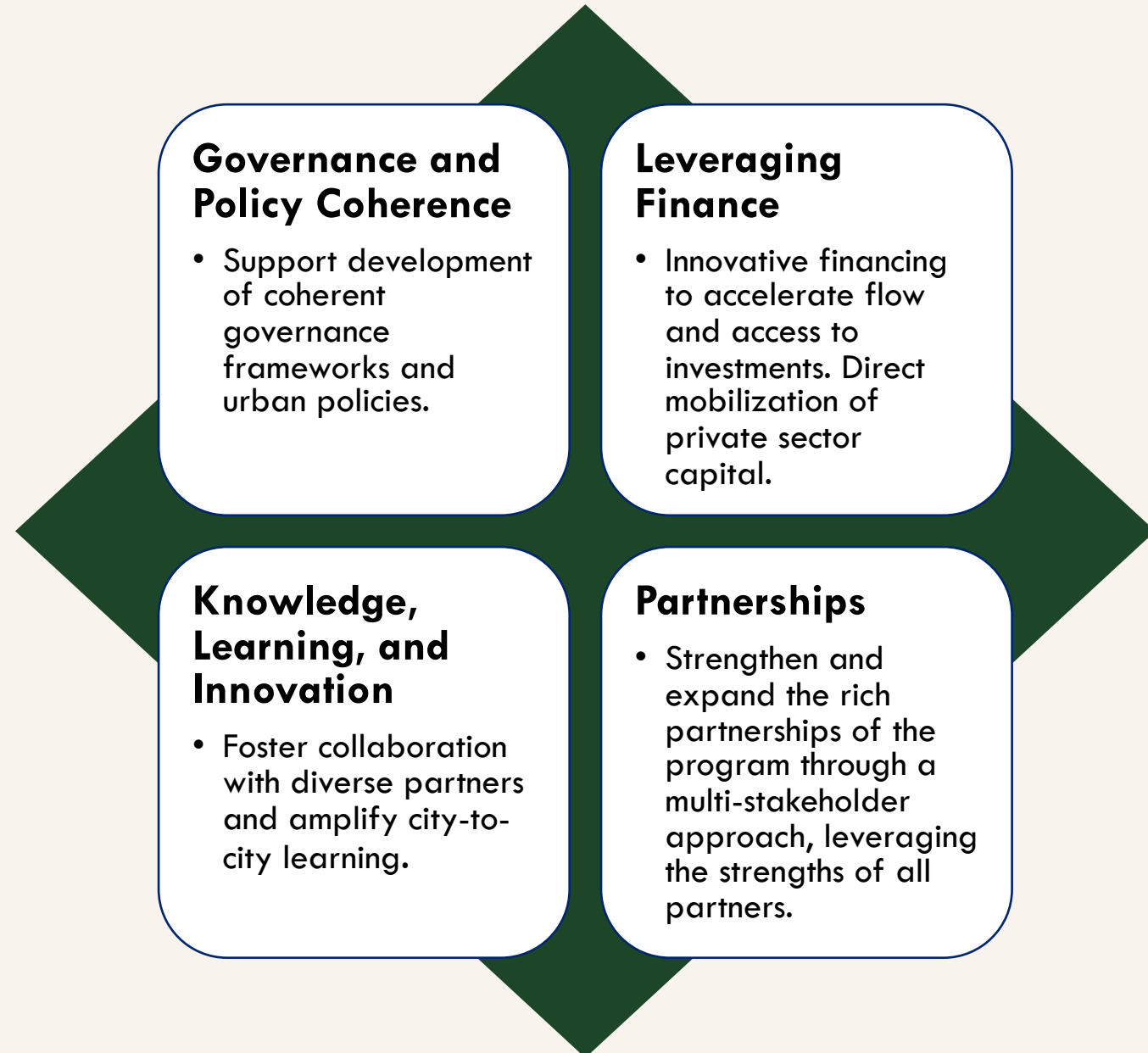
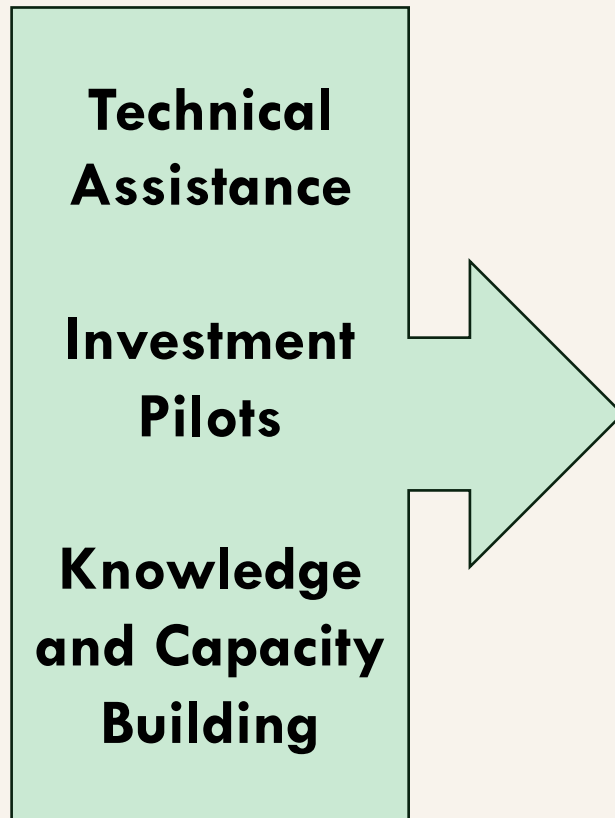
Adoption of integrated approaches for planning, sustainable infrastructure, nature and circularity solutions

Facilitate partnerships **city-city learning and knowledge exchange** on best practices and opportunities

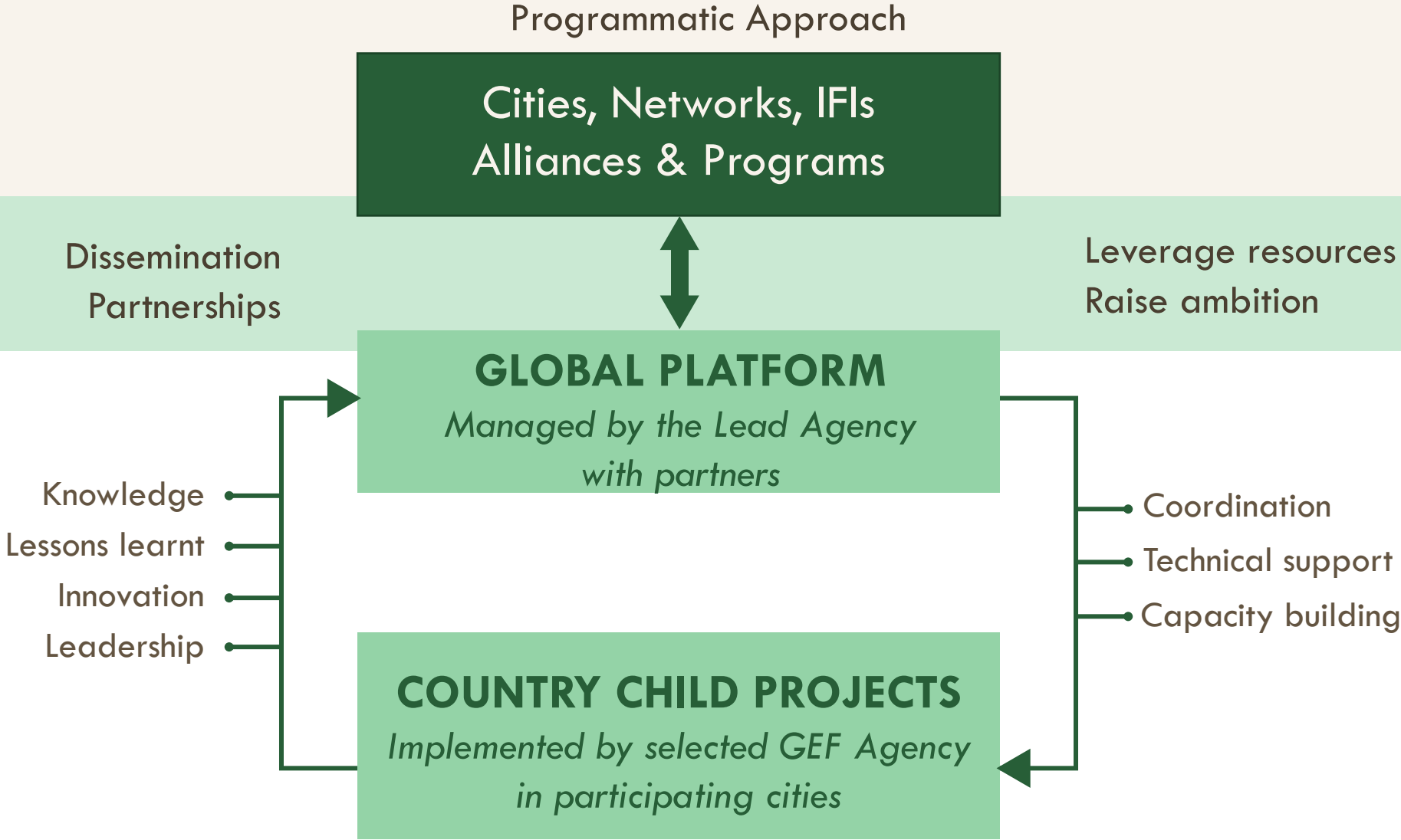
Integrated approach to deliver multiple benefits - Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Adaptation, Biodiversity, Sustainable Land Management and Reduction of Harmful Chemicals

TRANSFORMATION LEVRS

SCIP Support Areas



IMPLEMENTATION MODEL



GEF-9 Sustainable Cities IP

Strategic priorities

- **Territorial approach for urban planning**
- **Policy coherence and multilevel governance**
- **Linking investment to planning**
- **Leveraging public and private sector capital for impact at scale.**
- **Knowledge management; Gender Equality**



Entry Points

Land-use planning & management

- Integrated territorial level planning
- Urban-rural linkages, mobility, informal settlements

Nature & biodiversity

- Nature-based solutions
- Ecosystem restoration and connectivity

Low carbon and resilient infrastructure

- Low-carbon/resilient transport, energy, waste, housing, water systems

Circular economy

- Zero-waste approaches
- Materials, plastics, food systems, industries

Accessing GEF Financing for Sustainable Cities

GEF Funding allocated to countries

Countries and cities consult internally to identify urban sustainability as a priority area for GEF financing.

Call for Expression of Interest issued by GEF to participate in Sustainable Cities program

Country and cities selects a GEF Agency to develop the EOI for GEF submission.

GEF Secretariat evaluates the EOIs and selects one project from each country. Incentive:STAR (1:3)

All the EOIs are combined under one program framework document by the lead agency for GEF Council approval.

Each project gets an incentive on top of country allocated fund. It enables them to connect with global platform activities.

After the program is approved, a full-scale proposal is developed by each country/city for endorsement by GEF CEO for funding.

Selection Criteria

Integration
approach

Incrementality
and global
environmental
benefits

Stakeholder
Engagement and
partnerships

Scalability and
Innovation

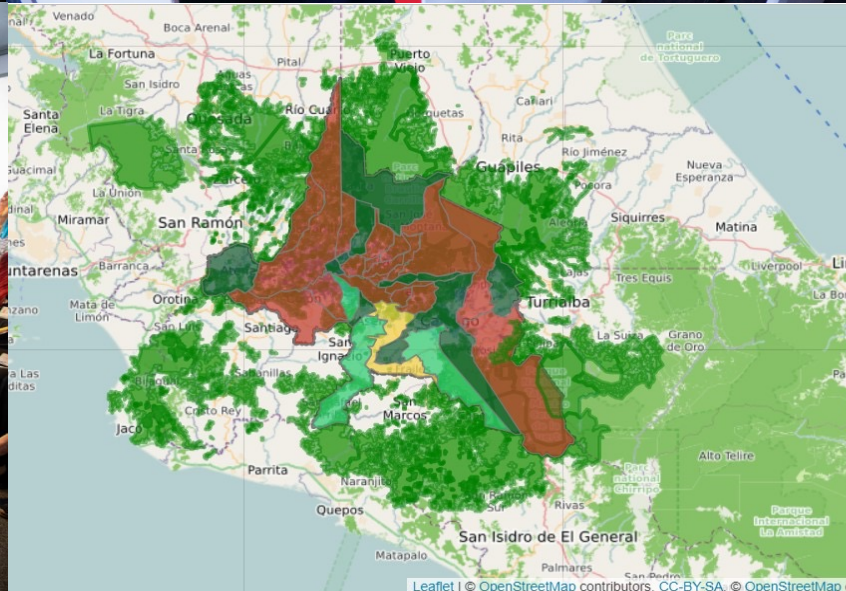
Co-financing and
leveraging
investments

Enabling
environment and
and leadership

Private Sector
Engagement

Alignment with
national and
local policies

Leadership Forums, LABS and City Academies



Knowledge Resources



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- URBAN NATURE PROGRAM
- CITY DASHBOARD
- KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES
- EVENTS
- NEWS & BLOGS
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EVENTS

FIRST MEETING OF MAYORS FORUM ON URBAN NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

NEWS & BLOGS

FIRST MEETING OF MAYORS FORUM ON URBAN NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY [SUMMARY]

NEWS & BLOGS

HOW PARIS IS LEVERAGING NATURE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

NEWS & BLOGS

URBAN NATURE PROGRAM

EVENTS

URBAN NATURE PROGRAM EXPERT MEETING: URBAN NATURE, GREEN URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Knowledge Resources

<p>Cities and Culture Leveraging culture and creativity for sustainable development</p>	<p>Climate Change Supporting transition to low-carbon and climate smart urbanization</p>	<p>Gender and Cities Seeking the full and equal participation of women and men, girls and boys</p>	<p>Geospatial Data and Indicators Understanding cities and land through spatial data and analytics</p>
<p>Greening Cities Integrating urban biodiversity, natural capital accounting and nature-based solutions</p>	<p>Integrated Urban Planning Planning sustainable cities through a multisectoral approach</p>	<p>Municipal Finance and PPP Enabling and securing adequate financing mechanisms</p>	<p>Solid Waste Management Promoting waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and material and energy recovery</p>

ONLINE CITY ACADEMY

URBAN SH/FT

The UrbanShift City Academy offers city officials and urban practitioners open access to eight self-paced online courses, focused on urban planning themes that are critical to shaping low-carbon, climate-resilient and inclusive cities. The courses have been developed by experts at the UN Environment Programme, World Resources Institute, C40 Cities, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and other global partners.

EXPLORE THE COURSES

Navigate to the course pages to learn more about the curriculum and enroll.



ACCESSING URBAN CLIMATE FINANCE

The goal of this course is to increase the capacity of city-level actors to mobilize and access finance for sustainable and climate-resilient urban infrastructure projects. It offers guidance to subnational governments to better understand the planning, design, and financing processes for these critical projects, shaping net-zero cities that are able to meet the needs of all their residents.

ACCOMMODATING URBAN GROWTH

Municipalities, especially in the rapidly growing cities in Global South, must now prepare their cities to accommodate their anticipated growth through both densification and climate-resilient urban expansion. This course provides the conceptual framework, the methodologies, the statistical evidence, the case studies, and the readings required to gain both the knowledge and the confidence to plan and implement these strategies.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EXAMPLES

Land use and spatial planning

- Integrated land use planning in Dakar, Abidjan, Kigali and Freetown to integrate nature and increase climate resilience.
- Spatial plans and assessments for coastal areas & watersheds – Mexico, Peru, India

Nature-based solutions

- Green spaces, wetland restorations, urban forests, lake restoration, green spaces, biodiversity corridors-
- Kigali, Chennai, Freetown, Marrakesh, Chengdu, San Jose, Ushuaia, Belem.

Circularity, - food, plastics and municipal waste management

- Waste to energy – Mexico, India
- Waste to compost – Viet Nam
- Integrated waste management – San Jose, Costa Rica
- Integrated landfill management – Rwanda, Sierra Leone
- Urban food and waste management- South Africa, Zimbabwe, Chile

Clean energy and energy efficiency

- Solar PVs and energy efficient buildings – Mexico, Brazil
- Smart grids and renewable energy integration – Malaysia
- Energy Efficient Buildings- Serbia, Sri Lanka

Zero carbon/ Low carbon transport

- TOD – China, Costa Rica, India, Argentina
- Public Transport and BRT – Cote d'Ivoire Argentina
- Bike lanes – Paraguay, Costa Rica, Argentina
- E-mobility – India, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam

Low-emission zones and eco-districts

- Low emission zones in cities in Brazil and India
- Eco-districts with local urban farming and resource efficiency – South Africa

Digital technology and data management

- Geospatial data-based planning
- Data collection, dissemination systems
- Decision tools



SUSTAINABLE CITIES

INTEGRATED
PROGRAM

Open Session

Sustainable Cities and Global Environmental Benefits

Integrated Approach-

Program Governance- Global Platform- Child Projects- Incentives

GEF-9 Priorities

Timeline and Process for Participation in SCIP, Plastics IP, BGI, and LDCF/SCCF