GPSC City Academy

Green Urban Infrastructure and Urban Nature Tourism

Framing Presentation

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Global Platform for Sustainable Cities

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INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Outline

1. Why are cities facing increasingly complex urban challenges?

2. Why are fragmented urban responses often insufficient?

3. How can green infrastructure be planned as connected urban systems?

4. How can green infrastructure support livability, tourism, and economic development?

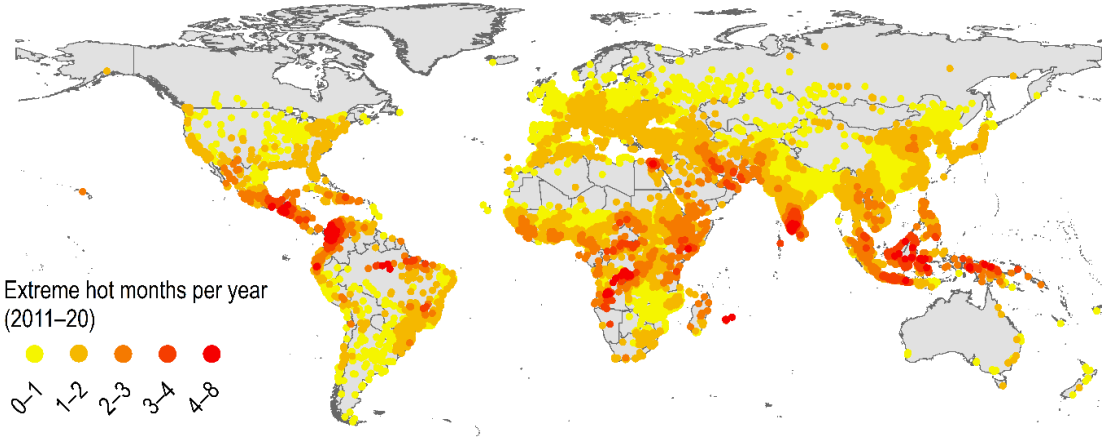
5. How can cities move from planning to implementation?

Cities are facing increasingly complex urban challenges

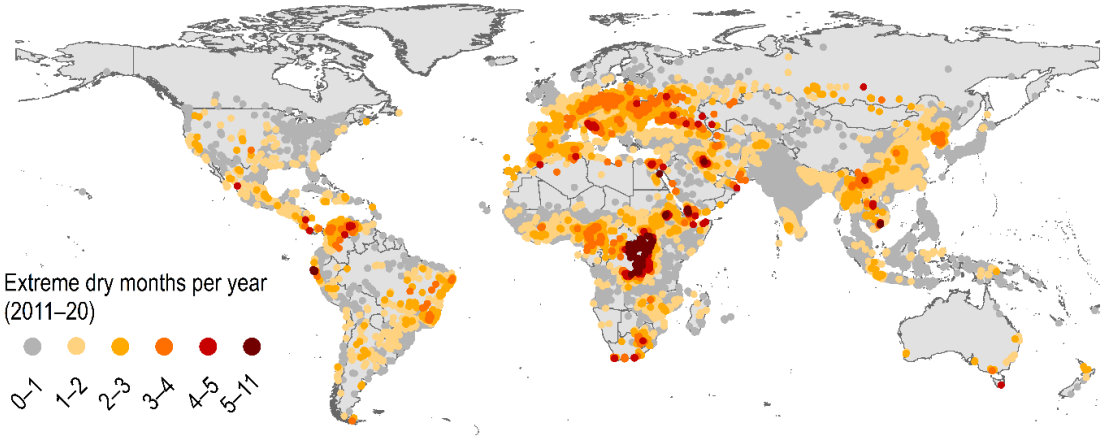
In recent decades…

- Global urban population has more than quadrupled
- Cities are generating ~70% of global CO_2 emissions and consuming ~75% of global energy
- By 2050, nearly 70% of the global population will live in urban areas
- Urban expansion is intensifying heat stress, flooding, ecosystem fragmentation, and infrastructure pressures
- Climate risks are increasing in frequency and intensity across many urban regions

Frequency of extreme hot months per year, 2011-2020



Frequency of extreme dry months per year, 2011-2020



Urban challenges are increasingly interconnected

Challenges rarely occur in isolation.
Decisions in one urban system increasingly affect outcomes across many others.

Fragmented Urban Responses often fail to Address Systemic Urban Challenges

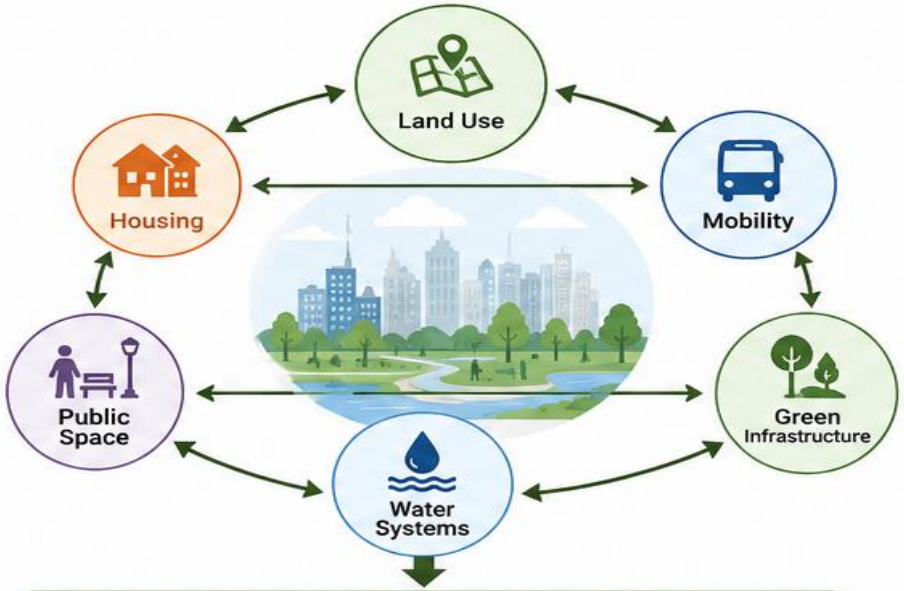
Traditional Sector-Based Approaches

- Transport Project
- Urban Park
- Flood Control Project
- Housing Development
- Tourism Initiative

Common Outcomes

- ✗ Duplicated investments
- ✗ Missed co-benefits
- ✗ Fragmented delivery
- ✗ Limited long-term impact

Integrated Urban Systems Approach

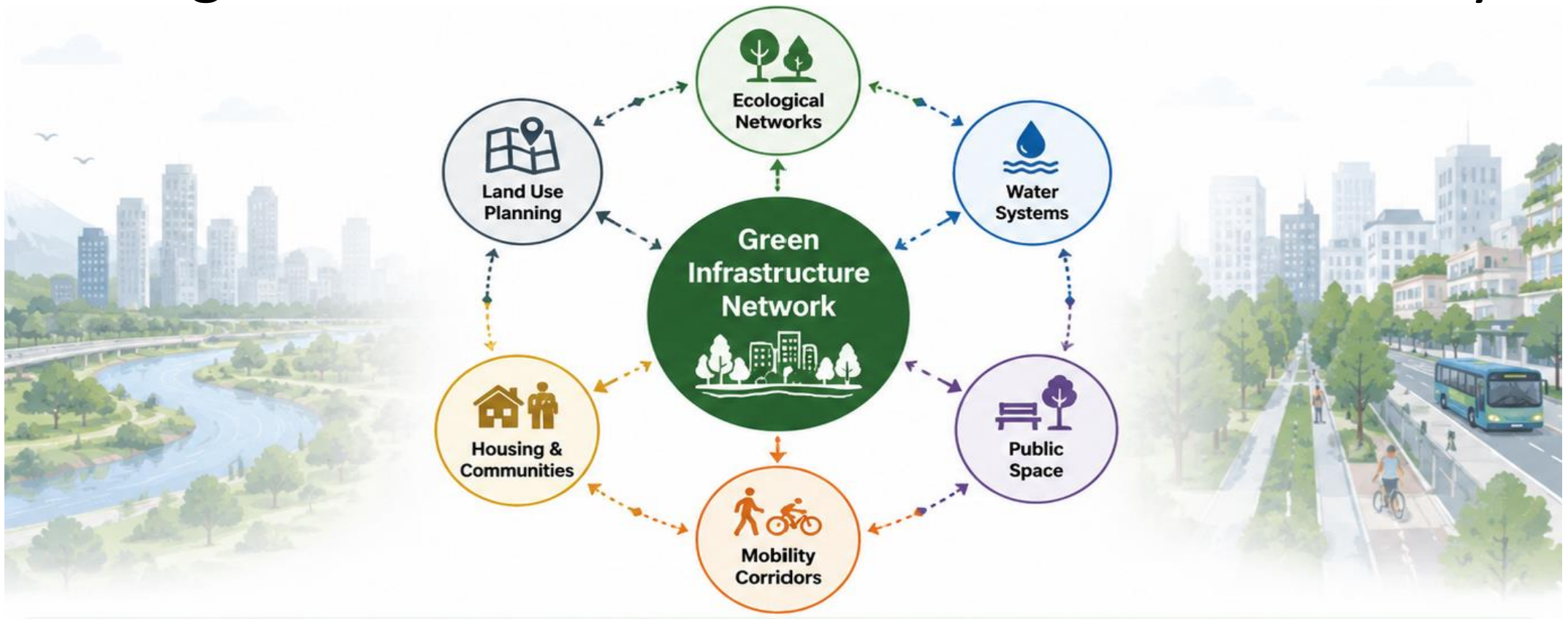


Potential Outcomes

- ✓ Greater resilience
- ✓ Improved livability
- ✓ Biodiversity gains
- ✓ Tourism and place-making benefits
- ✓ More efficient investment

The challenge is often not the absence of projects,
but the lack of **integration** across urban systems, institutions, and investments.

Planning Green Infrastructure As Connected Urban Systems



Planning Across Scales

Metropolitan Scale
- Ecological corridors
- Watersheds
- Regional green networks

District Scale
- Parks and open space systems
- Green streets
- Blue-green corridors

Neighborhood Scale
- Public spaces
- Streetscapes
- Community green infrastructure

Green infrastructure delivers the greatest value when planned as a connected urban system rather than as a collection of individual projects.

Green Infrastructure as a Driver of Livability, Tourism, and Economic Development

LIVABILITY
- Better public spaces
- Recreation and health
- Walkability and quality of life

RESILIENCE
- Heat mitigation
- Flood management
- Climate adaptation

BIODIVERSITY
- Habitat connectivity
- Ecosystem restoration

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

TOURISM & PLACE-MAKING
- Waterfront revitalization
- Cultural landscapes
- Destination attractiveness

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- Local business activity
- Investment attractiveness
- Jobs and competitiveness

When planned as part of broader urban systems, green infrastructure can simultaneously contribute to resilience, livability, tourism, biodiversity, and economic development.

Moving from Planning to Implementation

1 PLANNING

- Identify ecological networks
- Map green-blue infrastructure systems
- Integrate GI into land use planning

2 PRIORITIZATION & INVESTMENT

- Link plans to capital investment decisions
- Identify priority corridors and projects
- Align infrastructure and development objectives

3 GOVERNANCE & COORDINATION

- Coordinate across sectors and agencies
- Align institutional mandates
- Build partnerships across stakeholders

4 DELIVERY & SCALING

- Move beyond pilots
- Mainstream GI into urban development
- Scale implementation across cities and regions

5 MONITORING & ADAPTATION

- Track performance and outcomes
- Use data to inform decisions
- Adapt and improve over time

The challenge is not only how to plan green infrastructure, but how to embed it within the **institutions, financing systems,** and **implementation pathways** that shape urban development.


Thank you!