



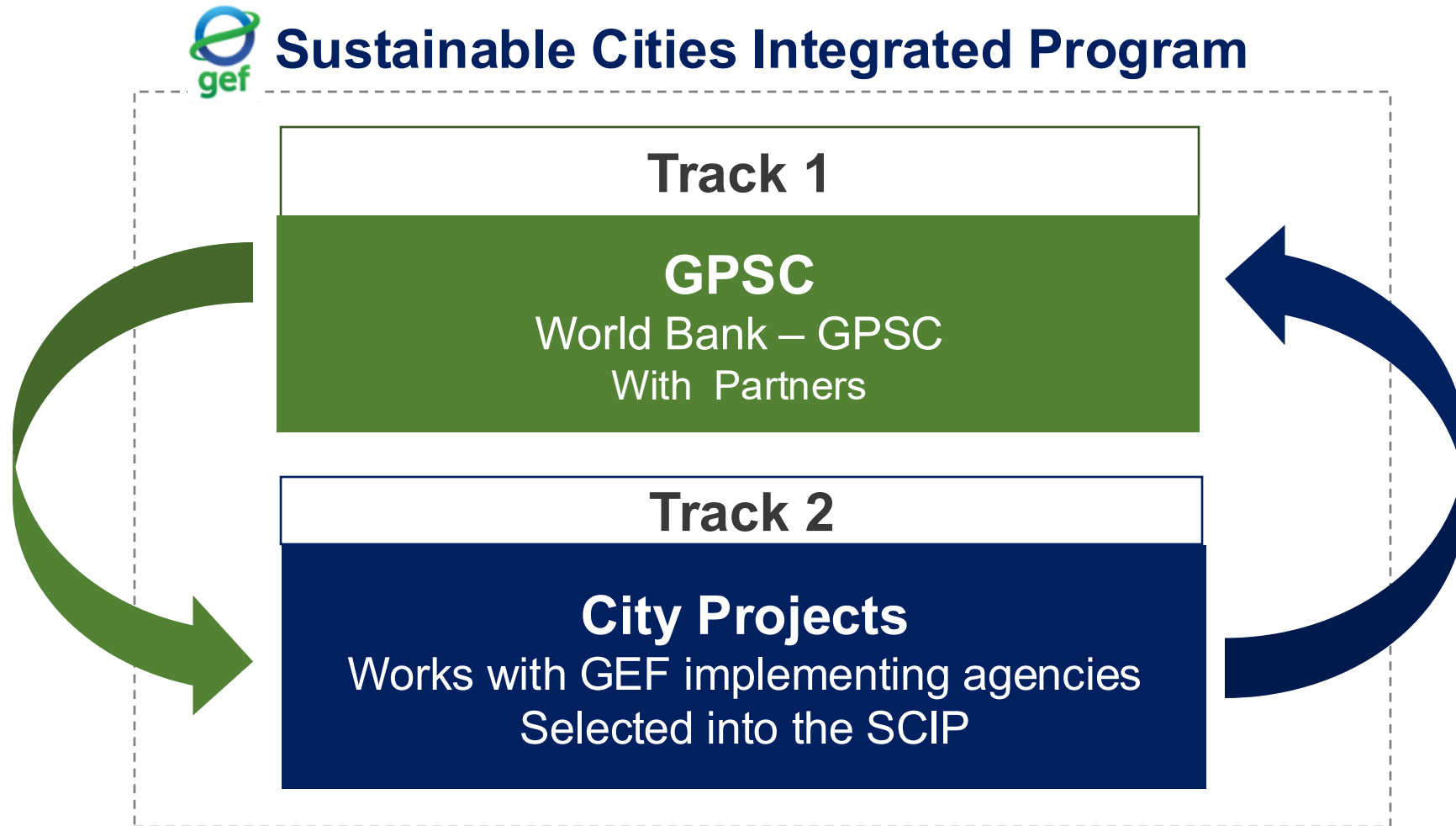
# Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC)

Xueman Wang, GPSC Program Manager, World Bank



# Sustainable Cities Program: Basic Structure

Connecting cities, investments, and partners to drive urban transformation



# Sustainable Cities Integrated Program Phases

## Three Phases · 40 Countries · 100+ Cities · \$490M+ in Grant Funding

**GEF6**  
2016-2024  
(\$151M)

11 Countries  
28 cities

1. Brazil (UNEP) – 25M
2. China (World Bank) – 36M
3. Cote d'Ivoire (AfDB) – 6M
4. India (UNIDO) – 13M
5. Malaysia (UNIDO) – 3M
6. Mexico (IDB) – 15M
7. Paraguay (UNDP) – 8.25M
8. Peru (IDB) – 7.5M
9. Senegal (World Bank, UNIDO) – 9.5M
10. South Africa (DBSA, UNEP) – 9M
11. Viet Nam (ADB) – 9M

**GEF7**  
2020-2025  
(\$147M)

9 Countries  
23 cities

1. Argentina (UNEP) – 23M
2. Brazil (UNEP) – 12M
3. China (World Bank) – 27M
4. Costa Rica (UNDP) – 10M
5. India (UNEP, ADB) – 17M
6. Indonesia (World Bank) – 16M
7. Morocco (UNDP) – 9M
8. Rwanda (World Bank) – 8M
9. Sierra Leone (World Bank) – 7M

**GEF8**  
2025-2032  
(\$145M)

20 Countries  
50 cities

1. Algeria (FAO) – 3.2M
2. Belize (World Bank) – 4.1M
3. Benin (BOAD) – 7.8M
4. Chile (FAO) – 5.2M
5. China (UNIDO) – 12.5M
6. Congo (World Bank) – 7.1M
7. Cuba (UNDP) – 8.4M
8. Gabon (UNDP) – 8.8M
9. Guatemala (IUCN) – 4.2M
10. Kenya (UNEP) – 5.1M
11. Madagascar (UNIDO) – 11.2 M
12. Malaysia (UNIDO) – 4.8M
13. Mali (UNDP) – 5.2M
14. Mongolia (UNDP) – 7.9M
15. Peru (IUCN/IDB) – 13M
16. Philippines (UNDP) – 13M
17. Serbia (UNDP) – 7.7M
18. South Africa (DBSA) – 7.8M
19. Sri Lanka (UNEP) – 5.2M
20. Zimbabwe (FAO) – 3.8M



# Global Platform: Bringing Cities Together to Maximize Impact

Focal Areas: Advancing policy integration across multiple areas

**Nature-Positive and  
Resilient Urban  
Development**

**Decarbonized Built  
Environment**

**Circular Economy**

**Land Use Planning and Urban Strategy/Policies**

**Inclusiveness  
Gender**

**Financing  
Private Sector Engagement**

# GPSC Modality of Operation

**Political Engagement & Leadership**  
(mayors, city leaders, partners, implementing agencies)

## Knowledge Sharing

**Generation of Knowledge Products and Tools**  
Complemented with dedicated webinars and a digital library

## Technical Support

**Capacity Development**  
facilitating training and targeted support to cities

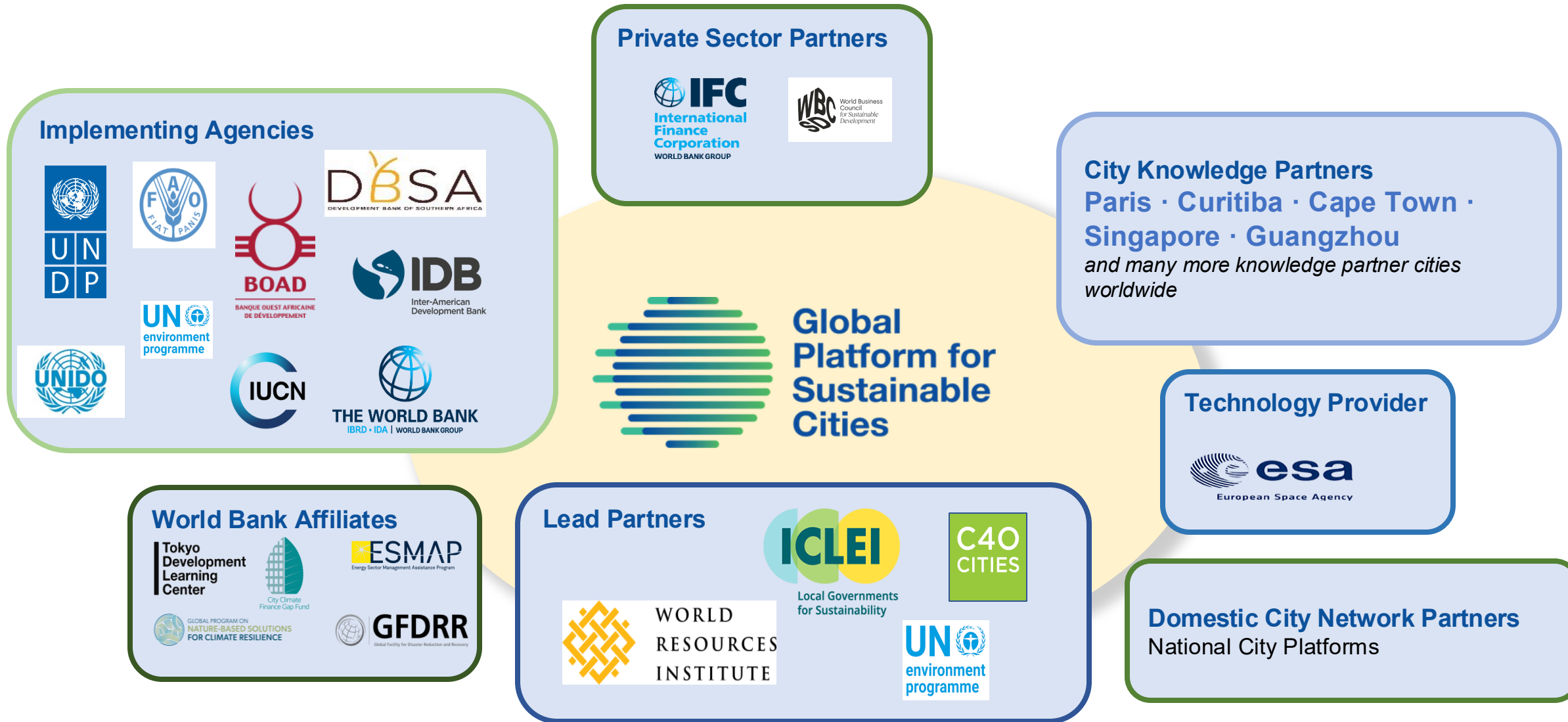
## Connecting Cities

**Build Partnerships** through Global Meetings, Mayor Forums, City Academies

## Project Design and Implementation

**Integrated planning • Investment readiness • Peer learning • Scaling solutions**

# GPSC's Broad and Growing Partnership Network



# Peer Learning and Global Exchange in Action

## GPSC Urban Nature Forum

Rio de Janeiro, November 2025

Advancing nature-positive cities through leadership, partnerships, and practical solutions for biodiversity, resilience, and climate action.

**140+ participants · 50 cities · 31 countries**

**Co-organized with IFC**



## Regional City Academy for Asia

Guangzhou, May 2025

Convening Asian city leaders to exchange experiences and co-develop strategies for resilient, low-carbon, and inclusive urban development.

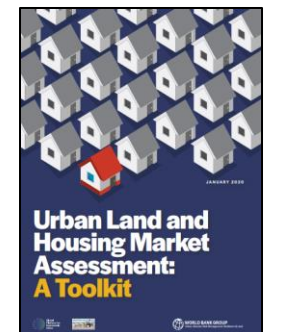
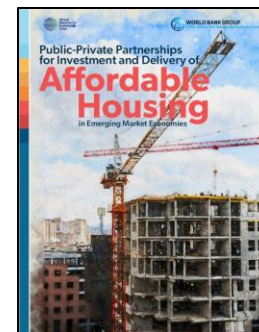
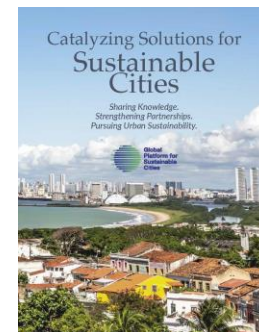
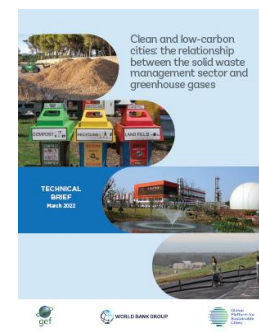
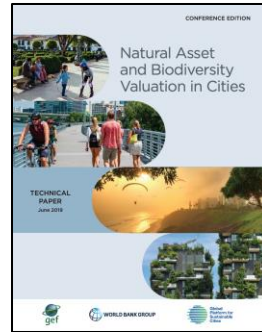
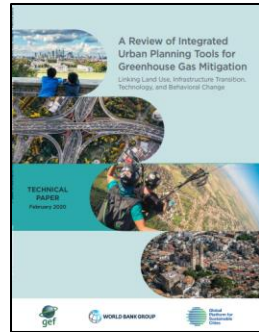
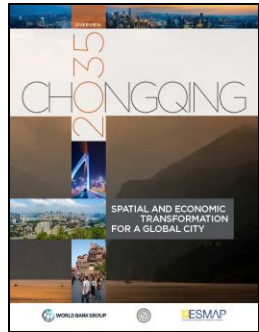
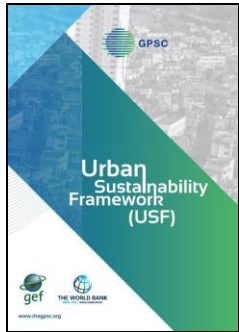
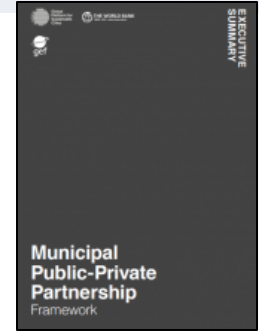
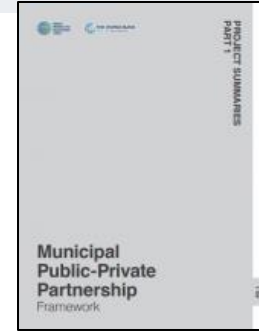
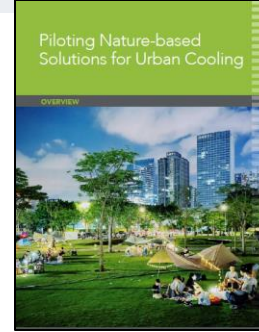
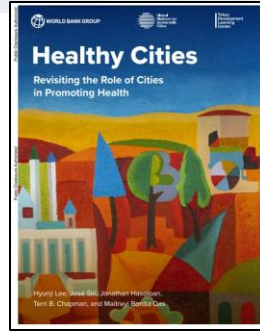
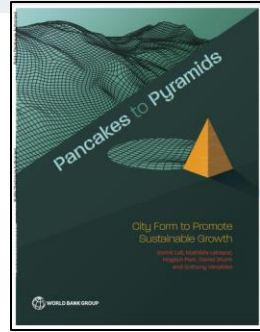
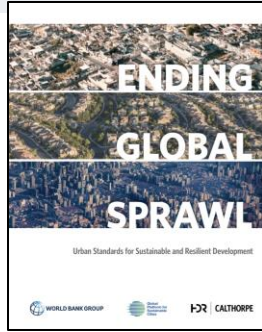
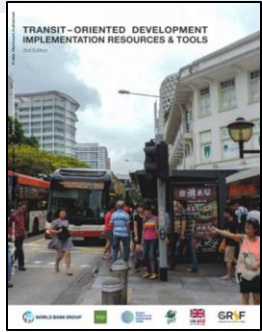
**120+ participants · 23 cities · 12 countries**

**Co-organized with CCUD**

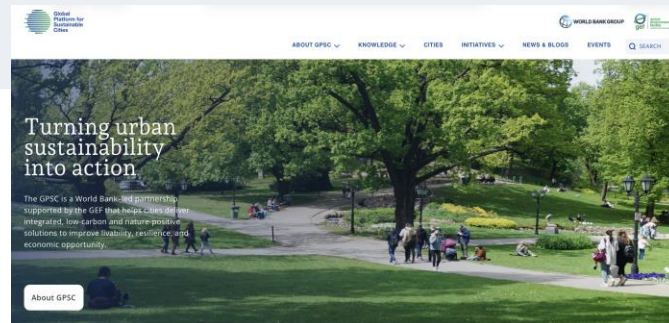


# Key Knowledge Products (examples)

## Handbooks, Guidelines, Frameworks and Toolkits



## Digital Portals



# Governance Structure

Regular meetings of  
Coordination

## Program Coordination

- Implementing Agencies
- GEF Sec.
- Lead Partners



Meetings between  
Multistakeholder Group  
and Country/city focal  
points

## Country/City Focal Point

City-level Child Project will appoint a  
country focal point to represent the  
project



## Why “Nature – Green Infrastructure”

# GEF-8 Cities – Strong “Nature” Portfolio

## Nature in Planning and Decision-Making

- Biodiversity mainstreaming
- Ecosystem diagnostics & mapping
- Integrated planning

Algeria, China Malaysia  
Peru, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Mali, Cuba

## Restoration and Ecosystem Protection

- Wetland restoration
- River systems and Coastal ecosystems
- Urban ecological restoration

Belize, Chile, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mongolia, Gabon, Guatemala, Republic of Congo

## Connectivity and Green Networks

- Green corridors and Green belts
- Urban ecological connectivity
- GI networks

Algeria, Gabon, Chile, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Kenya

## Finance and Implementation

- GI financing
- Investment pipelines
- Nature-positive investment
- Implementation readiness

Philippines, South Africa, Madagascar, Mongolia, Guatemala, Republic of Congo, Benin, Serbia, Gabon, Peru

# How GPSC Supports “Nature” Portfolio: Urban Nature Program

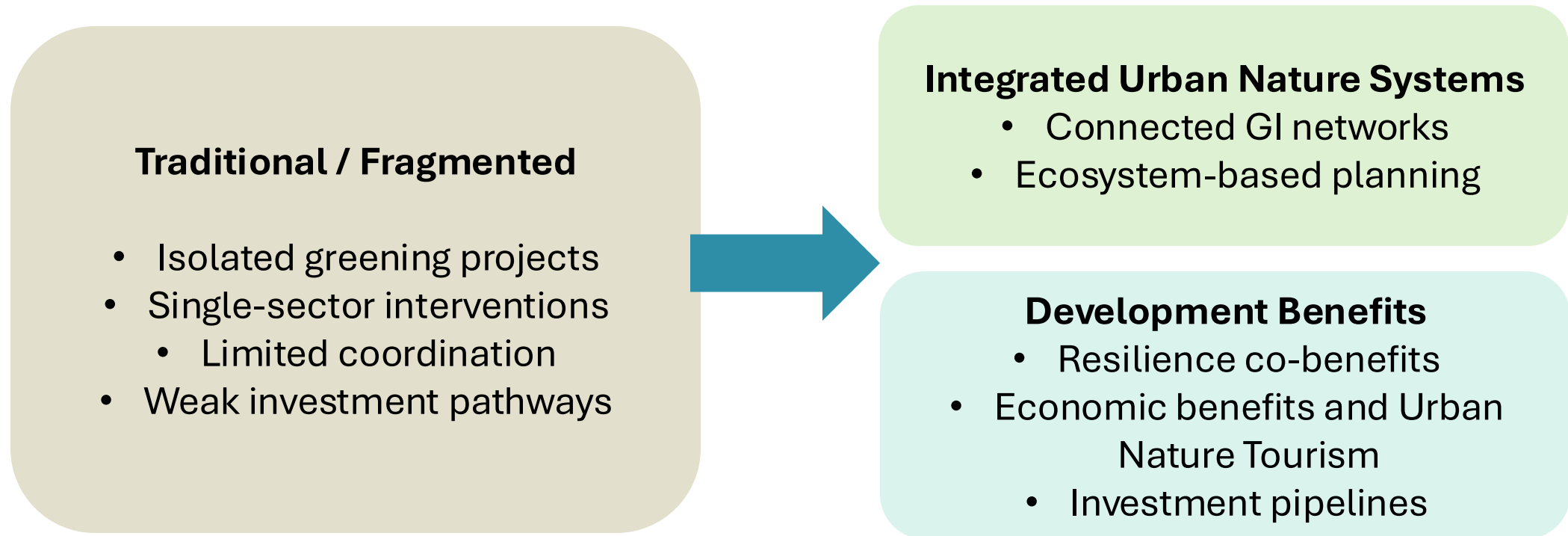
**Objective:** Scaling up financing to (i) support green and blue urban infrastructure and (ii) implement integrated solutions to address climate change and biodiversity loss



A joint undertaking of WB, UNEP, ICLEI, and other partners

# From Project to Scale and System Thinking

**GPSC supports cities in moving from isolated green projects toward integrated systems, investable pipelines, and stronger urban value creation**



**The Academy supports cities in moving from isolated green projects toward integrated GI systems that enhance resilience, strengthen investment pathways, and unlock economic value, including tourism**

# Samarkand Academy at a Glance

**DAY 1 - Planning  
Integrated Green  
Infrastructure**

**DAY 2 - Leveraging GI for  
Urban Nature Tourism and  
Local Benefits**

**DAY 3 - Action Plans  
and Next Steps**

## Academy Approach

Topic Introduction – Case Studies – Countries/Cities Response – City Action Plan

**Session 1.** Introduction: A Network Approach to Green Infrastructure

**Session 2.** Planning Green Infrastructure as Integrated Networks

**Session 3.** Linking Learning to Project Design and Implementation

**Networking Reception** at Lia!

**Session 4.** Tools and data for decision making

**Session 5.** Leveraging GI Systems for Urban Nature Tourism and Local Economic Development

**Session 6.** Unlock value: Urban regeneration for Tourism and Local Economic Development

**Site Visit:** Samarkand Walking Tour

**Preparation** for City Action plan

**GEF Learning Station:** GEF-8 SCIP Integrated learning sessions

**City Action Plans** by Delegations and Experts Feedback