



# Global Environment Facility: **SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAM**

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR URBAN TRANSFORMATION



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

C4B | Greening Cities | April 13, 2022

# SYSTEMIC DRIVERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

## Urban sprawl

- Greenhouse gas emissions, local pollution
- Biodiversity loss
- Land degradation
- Climate vulnerability

## Siloed planning and investments

- Sectoral planning
- Locked in investment in high carbon infrastructure
- Built and natural environment not aligned

## Inequalities and environmental injustice

- Rise in slums characterized by poor urban services
- High resource consuming communities





# APPROACH TO INTEGRATION FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY



## Vertical integration

- Alignment between national and local government towards a common sustainability goal

## Horizontal integration

- Cooperation and collaboration across sectors in planning, financing and delivery of services

## Natural and Human System Integration

- Synergy between natural resources and built environment

## Social Integration

- Gender consideration and inclusion of vulnerable to ensure equitable sustainability benefits



# GEF'S SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAM

## Program objective

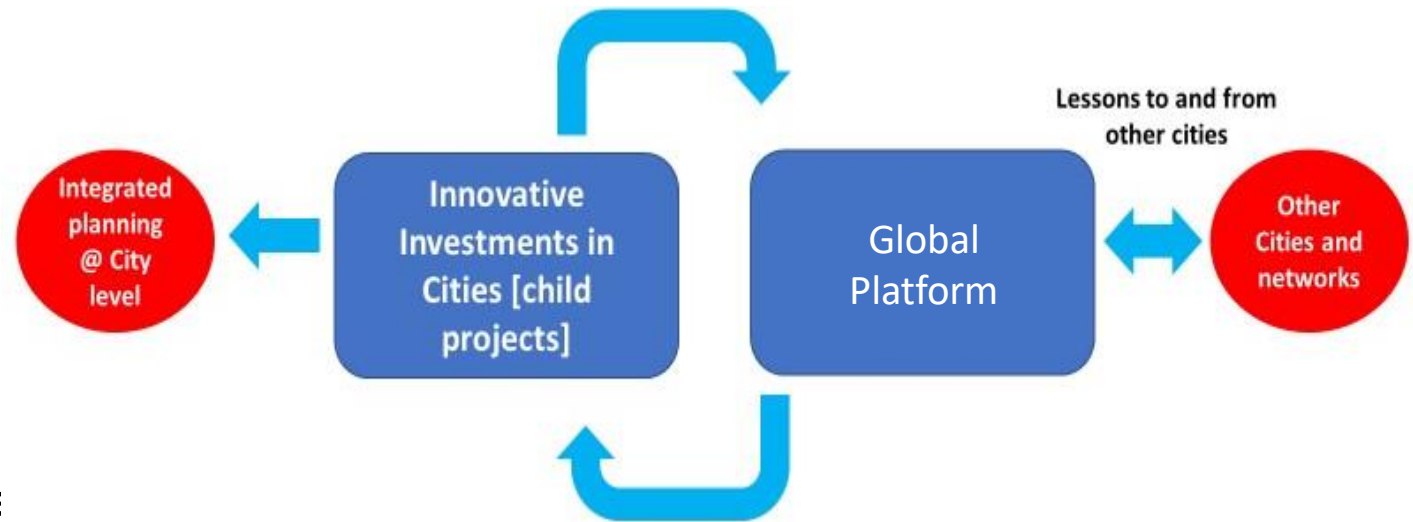
Integrated approach, utilizing the urban opportunities of efficiency, productivity and scale for multiple global environmental benefits.

## Four key components

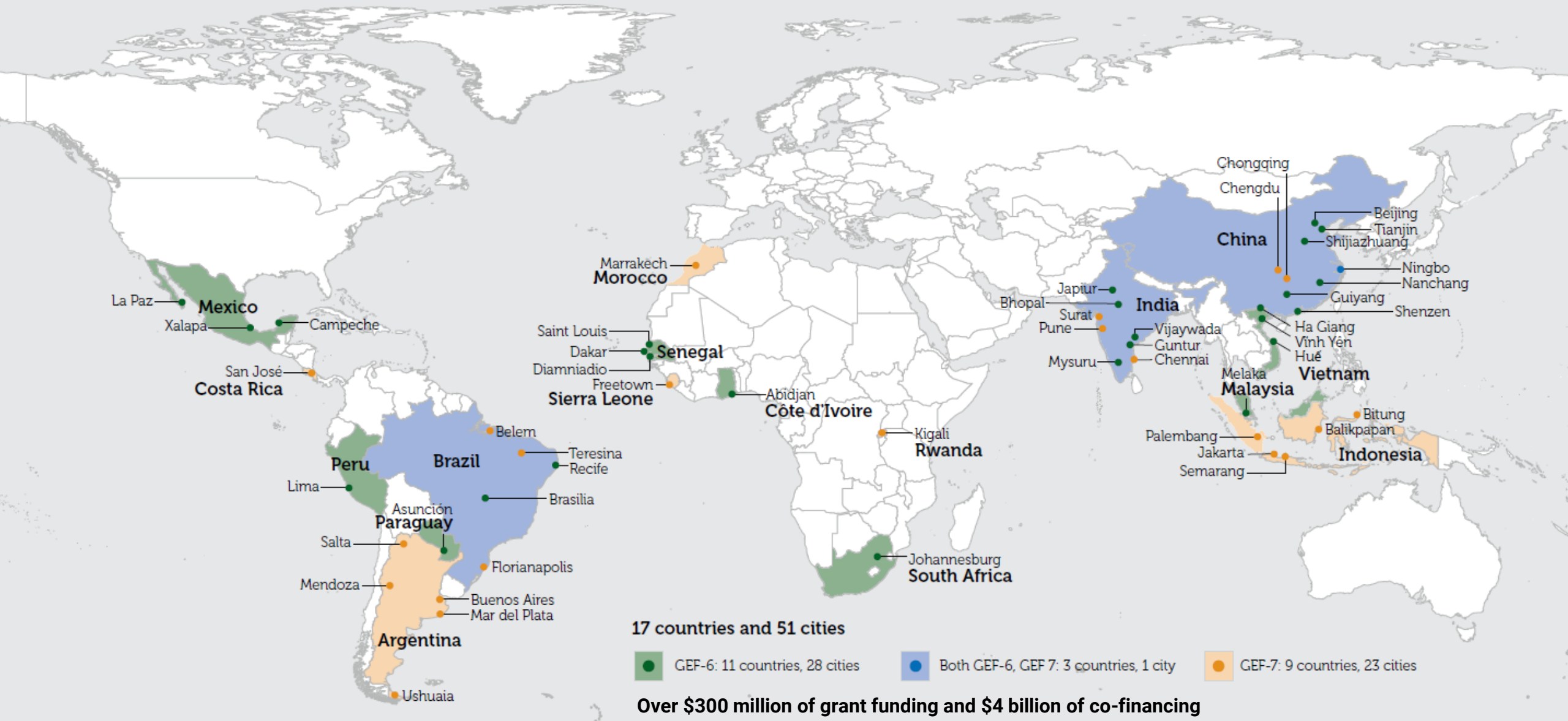
1. Improved governance and evidence based **integrated urban planning**.
2. Sustainable and integrated **infrastructure investments** in cities.
3. **Innovative financing models and municipal capacity** to access finance.
4. **Knowledge exchange, partnerships and advocacy** for urban sustainability.

## Dual approach

- Specific grant support to selected cities.
- Global support on decision tools, knowledge exchange, finance and capacity building.



# PROGRAM PORTFOLIO





# GEF FUNDED PROJECT EXAMPLES



## Costa Rica – San José

- Decarbonizing of San José Metropolitan area through integrated urban planning and legal reforms
- Interurban biological corridors to build resilience and mitigate of climate change
- Reconnecting with surrounding biodiversity for human health, social inclusion and overall well-being



## India – Chennai

- Nature-based solutions to tackle floods, extreme weather, and water scarcity.
- Restoration of Lake Kadapakkam, resting place for migratory birds
- Reforestation through ecological engineering – ‘Miyawaki Method’
- Regulating water flows in the wider urban area.



## Rwanda – Kigali

- Integrated urban land use planning, with detailed topographic model
- Stormwater Masterplan and wetland rehabilitation
- Earthwork and other nature-based structures to control flooding
- Financial innovation for investments in ecosystem services





# GEF'S APPROACH TO INTEGRATION OF NATURE IN CITIES

- Greening of cities as part of an integrated approach, to deliver multiple benefits
- Consider all steps; planning and policies, governance, partnerships and capacity building
- A metropolitan approach that goes beyond city borders and jurisdictions
- Innovative financing models to create new economic opportunities for urban nature
- A dedicated component on urban nature and biodiversity in the next funding cycle, GEF-8



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