



Capacity Building for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient City Development project (CapaCITIES)

CONTEXT

Today, cities account for approximately two-thirds of global energy use and over 70 percent of energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that drive global climate change. India is the fourth largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world and with the accompanying rapid urbanisation, there is an urgent need for climate action especially across its 4000 plus urban centres. Old and new cities across India are facing immense pressure due to ever-rising demand for energy, infrastructure and services. This will be further accentuated by the growing risks caused by climate variability, which are most likely to affect the poor and vulnerable segments of the urban populations. In view of this, the cities need to come up with integrated plans and solutions for dealing with the combined challenges of urban growth, poverty and climate change risks and move towards low emission, climate resilient and sustainable urban development.

Through the Capacity Building for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient City Development project (CapaCITIES), SDC responds to the Government of India's objective of developing "Climate-Smart Cities". After the successful implementation of the first phase, the CapaCITIES project in its second phase is focusing on enhancing the capacities of 8 cities and 2 states of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. The project works on mainstreaming climate action in urban development through adoption of integrated climate-resilient planning, design of innovative finance mechanisms and development of climate-resilient infrastructure. The project brings together Indo-Swiss expertise in the sectors of water, waste and transport to demonstrate scalable solutions of urban climate action in India, with a global relevance.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of CapaCITIES project is to achieve lower greenhouse gas emissions growth path and to increase the resilience of select Indian cities and states against climate change impacts.

The primary objectives of the project in phase 2 are:

- City and state governments integrate climate change aspects (adaptation and mitigation) into urban planning and implementation.
- Enhanced capacities of city and state governments to access finance for scaled up urban climate action.
- Enhanced knowledge on accelerating city climate action at the national and global level.



Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency



Natural Resource Management

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Area: Adaptation and Mitigation

Duration: September 2019 - June 2024 (Phase 2)

Budget: CHF 4'900'000

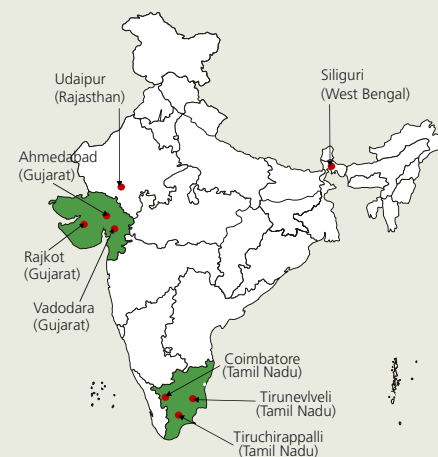
Implementation Partners:

- South Pole Carbon Management Ltd., Switzerland
- ICLEI South Asia
- Econcept AG, Switzerland

Public Sector Partners:

- National Institute of Urban Affairs
- Municipal Corporations and city level authorities
- Urban Development/Climate Change/ Municipal Affairs Department of Government of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

Geographic Focus:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8 Climate Resilient City Action Plans (CRCAP) ratified/approved by the Municipal Corporations.
- Highest 4 star ranking awarded to 3 partner cities (Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Rajkot) for their performance in the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- Specific allocations made in the municipal budgets to implement actions identified in the climate action plans (e.g. Rajkot municipal corporation allocated CHF 127 million in two years for climate actions).
- Cities implement innovative and scalable mitigation solutions (e.g. 124'900 t of CO₂e/year emissions avoided as a result of 20 TPD plants in Udaipur).
- Carbon credit concept for electric buses in Ahmedabad submitted to the state government by the CapaCITIES project. The 350 electric buses will lead to an annual average emission reduction of ~9100 tons CO₂e.
- Adaptation related interventions implemented in partner cities (e.g. ground water recharge systems to reduce short term urban flooding, provision of acoustic water leak detection systems, improvement in vegetative covers, dual plumbing, rainwater harvesting).
- Support to the MoHUA Smart City Mission in the preparation of the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework. CapaCITIES's city climate action plan methodology disseminated by the Ministry as an advisory and good practice to all 100 smart cities in India.



PLANNED RESULTS

- Simplified Climate Resilient Cities Process and assessment instruments (Basket of Solutions) are prepared, Climate Resilient City Action Plans (CRCAP) prepared, implemented and monitored in all 8 cities.
- Institutionalization of the urban climate action planning process at the state level in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat as well as at the national level through NIUA.
- Public private co-financing mobilised for financing city climate actions; knowledge products disseminated and reported at the national level; policy dialogues conducted at the national level for mainstreaming project results; project outcomes and knowledge products documented, disseminated and reported at the global level.
- Dissemination of best practices (approach and pilots) to other Indian cities and countries, improved access of the partner cities to participate in global city networks and coalitions.



IN NUMBERS



According to IPCC, urban infrastructure accounts for over 70% of global energy use and energy-related GHG emissions.



Over 64% of the world population is expected to live in cities by 2050.



According to UN DESA, India is projected to add more than 400 million urban dwellers by 2050.



India aims to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from the 2005 level.



Lead photo Prashanth Vishwanathan © SDC; photo 1 Sundeep Bali © SDC, photo 2 Payal Kakkar © SDC, photo 3 Palani Kumar © SDC

ABOUT SDC IN INDIA

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a partner of India for more than 60 years. Since 2011, SDC's engagement focuses specifically on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and other environmental challenges. The office in India is part of SDC's strategic engagement on Climate, Disaster Risk Reduction and Environment. As part of its regional and global initiatives, SDC also has ongoing activities related to food systems, water and health in India.

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