

The 5th Spatial Planning Platform (SPP) Meeting Summary Report

2 - 3 February 2023
Kathmandu, Nepal

The 5th SPP Meeting Agenda

What is SPP?

Unplanned development and rapid urban growth are major issues in developing countries and require improved urban and territorial planning. The Spatial Planning Platform (SPP) was established by the Government of Japan and UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in 2018 as a network of stakeholders aiming to achieve the formulation and implementation of more effective spatial plans, at all territorial levels. SPP contributes to the sharing of experiences and knowledge, complementing UN-Habitat's global engagements as focal point for the implementation the New Urban Agenda (hereinafter referred to as NUA) in general and the International Guidelines for Urban and Territorial Planning in particular.

Background and Objective

The SPP is a mechanism for realizing the basic principles of the NUA through the promotion of national spatial planning which is an international collaborative initiative. The first meeting was held in 2018 with the participation of several governments, regions, and relevant organizations, and it has been held annually since then.

Governments are facing challenges in developing national and sub-national spatial planning policies and instruments due economic shifts, increasing natural disasters, climate change and other challenges. In this 5th meeting, we are going to learn how stakeholders are considering, developing and rolling out adequate responses to these challenges.

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, 2 February 2023

Inaugural Session

Opening remarks

Technical Session 1: Spatial planning experiences for strengthening national land/urban systems in different governance structures

Facilitator

Prof. Fukasawa Yoshinobu

Specially Appointed Professor, Center for International Affairs, Kyushu Sangyo University

Speakers

Mr. Janak Raj Joshi

Director General, Department of Survey, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation, Government of Nepal

Mr. Angkeara Prak

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction, Government of Cambodia

Ms. Kinzang Deki

Deputy Chief Urban Planner, Department of Human Settlement/ Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Bhutan

Mr. Neivaldo Nhatugueja

Technical Director, Department of Territorial Development, National Directorate of Land and Territorial Development, Government of Mozambique

Technical Session 2: Spatial planning and territorial approach for climate change adaptation

Facilitator

Mr. Bruno Dercon

Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat

Speakers

Dr. Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufique

Director, Urban Development Directorate, Ministry of Housing & Public Works, Government of Bangladesh

Ms. Remedios S. Endencia

Director, National Economic and Development Authority, Government of the Philippines

Ms. Norliza Hashim

Chief Executive, Urbanise Malaysia, Ministry of Development and Local Government, Malaysia

Mr. Vincent Byendaimira

Ag. Director, Physical Planning & Urban Development, Ministry of Lands, Housing & Urban Development, Uganda

NUA Implementation Progress Report

Dr. Bijay Singh, Member, NUA Progress Reporting Preparation Team,

Institute of Engineering, Nepal

Day 2: Friday, 3 February 2023

Day 1 Recap and Agenda setting

Summary of Day 1 and Agenda Setting

Remarks

Brainstorming Studio

Facilitator

Dr. Mahendra Subba

Urban Development Specialist, President, Regional Urban Planners Society of Nepal (RUPSON)

Case Studies Presentation

Facilitator

Ms. Pragya Pradhan

Habitat Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Nepal

Panel 1 - New approaches to urban and territorial planning

Speakers

Prof. Hongyang Wang

Nanjing University, China

Ms. Pinar Caglin

Programme Management Officer, UN-Habitat

Panel 2 - Spatial planning for climate resilience

Speakers

Prof. Saswata Bandyopadhyay

CEPT University, India

Mr. Hendricus Andy Simarmata

President, Indonesian Association of urban and regional Planners, Indonesia

Panel 3 - Governance reforms for integrated spatial planning

Speakers

Prof. Jagath Munasinghe

Head of the Department of Town & Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Dr. Pham Thai Son

Urban Development Expert, UN-Habitat Viet Nam

Closing Session

Acknowledgement

The 5th Spatial Planning Platform (SPP) Meeting

2-3 February 2023 Kathmandu, Nepal Summary Report

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Opening Remarks for the 5th Spatial Planning Platform (SPP) Meeting

Message from Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Government of Japan

**Mr. Minoru Kimura, Director-General, National Spatial Planning and Regional Policy Bureau,
MLIT, Japan**

SPP is an international platform jointly established by UN-Habitat and Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to support the development and promotion of national spatial planning and regional planning. Since its establishment in 2018, the conference has been held annually. Last year and the year before, the conference was held online to prevent the spread of Covid-19, but this year, with the cooperation of the Nepalese government, we were able to hold the conference face-to-face for the first time in three years.

In Japan, the National Spatial Plan has been formulated seven times since 1962 in accordance with the legal system. The National Spatial Plan is a spatial plan that covers infrastructure development and land use, the plan provides a comprehensive and long-term direction for national land development with an eye toward the future. Japan's population peaked in 2008 and has been declining ever since, with an accelerating decline of 640,000 people per year by 2021. In addition, we are at a critical juncture of our times, facing many challenges such as the intensification and frequency of natural disasters due to the effects of climate change, the introduction of renewable energy to achieve carbon neutrality, structural transformation to sustainable industries, and the risk of dependence on foreign countries for energy and food due to the increasingly tense international situation. In light of these circumstances, we are currently discussing a new National Spatial Plan to be formulated in the coming summer.

I know that each of the countries participating today are dealing with various challenges on a daily basis in the formulation of your national and regional plans, and in the implementation of the policies set forth in your respective plans. We have invited distinguished panelists from governments, universities, UN-HABITAT, and other organizations to discuss the effectiveness of national spatial planning and regional planning, as well as measures to address climate change. We hope that the two-day conference will provide an opportunity to share knowledge and experience on the current status of national and regional plans in each country, and to engage in meaningful and active discussions on how to address these issues.

Japan will continue to support the development of national spatial planning and regional planning in order to deepen our cooperative relationship with you and contribute to the substantial development of each country.

Message from UN-Habitat

Mr. Bruno Dercon, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat

Spatial planning is a fundamental element of sustainable development and a critical tool for achieving the SDGs. It involves the formulation of spatial visions, strategies, plans, and policies, all of which require strong institutional and participatory mechanisms and regulatory procedures. In the past 15 years, much has been accomplished in this field globally, and the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning were endorsed in 2014.

To further promote knowledge sharing, Japan initiated the Knowledge Sharing Platform for Spatial Planning, which was co-sponsored by UN-Habitat. In the wake of this platform, several initiatives were launched, including the Global Public Space Program, the Global Future Cities Program, and the MetroHUB Program. We have also seen the successful implementation of National Urban Policies in numerous countries in Asia-Pacific, notably with Korea. Additionally, in 2019, UN-Habitat, together with ESCAP, published the Future of Asia-Pacific Cities Report, the first since the NUA, which included, also for the first time a chapter dedicated to urban and territorial planning. The new edition of this Report will be published this year, and this conference is a great opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the region for the benefit of the Report and to draw up recommendations for the United Nations Habitat Assembly in June and the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum in October.

Spatial planning is an essential tool for managing urban expansion and for making cities and regions more productive, resilient, and equitable. To achieve this, national planning systems must be in place, with clear alignment to SDGs and climate targets. This must be accompanied by the development of planning capacity at all levels, including municipalities and provinces, and strong coordination between administrations and stakeholders. Furthermore, incentives and penalties must be implemented to ensure the implementation of high-quality plans.

Planners have a key role to play in this process, by supporting decision-making and coordinating plans at all levels of governance. As we look to the future, let us be optimistic that our work at this conference will help deliver sustainable and resilient cities and human settlements for the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Message from the Government of Nepal

Hon'ble Minister Bikram Pandey, Ministry of Urban Development, Nepal

Increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters such as rising sea levels and rising temperatures have caused major problems in cities and communities, and it is believed that the spatial planning concept could coordinate physical, social and environmental aspects of development. The goal of spatial planning is to ensure integrated and sustainable development at all levels of government, and also to commit to reducing household greenhouse emissions.

This conference will be a great opportunity for policymakers, planners, academics, etc. to plan and implement city improvement projects more effectively and scientifically. We have also made a National Adaptation Plan to address the effects of climate change, with a focus on increasing planning capacity. It is hoped that this conference will help identify the best practices and challenges in the region and build integrated and climate-sustainable cities.

In Nepal, regional plans were initiated in the 1960s with the Five-Year Interim Plan, and it has been transformed from the regional concept to a development concept both politically and administratively. This is a strong example of the national spatial planning model. Even for new projects such as infrastructure development and government sector, it is encouraging to organize this event that covers all parts of Nepal to engage in a meaningful dialogue on the important issues facing our cities.

We must work together with experts from different countries to bring sustainable urbanization knowledge and exchange of information to this conference to discuss the possibilities of new collaborations and partnerships, as well as to develop innovative solutions to the complex challenges we face, including climate change. We believe that the learning and knowledge gained from this discussion will help in the preparation of urban development policies and laws, adapting to climate change, and preparing appropriate plans.

The Government of Nepal is confident that this conference, which is aimed at promoting equitable urban development, will provide an opportunity to learn from each other and build an integrated, sustainable and climate-resilient future for our cities. We thank the Ministry of Land Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, and the Asian and Pacific Regional Office of UN-Habitat for giving us the opportunity to organize the 5th SPP conference on spatial planning for climate adaptation and urban development. We wish for the success of this event and hope that it will continue to be beneficial for all.

Message from OECD

Dr. Tadashi Matsumoto, Head of Sustainable Urban Development Unit, OECD

Last June, the OECD launched an implementation toolkit of the OECD Principles on urban policy at the 11th World Urban Forum. This toolkit is to support the implementation of the OECD Principles through two particular tools: a self-assessment framework and a policy database. We also contributed to the first ever G7 Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Urban Development, which took place in Potsdam, Germany in September. We were particularly pleased to see that the OECD Principles on Urban Policy were explicitly referenced as a global guiding framework in the communiqué. Last November, the OECD launched a report called “Rebuilding Ukraine by Reinforcing Regional and Municipal Governance”. Additionally, through the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative, we are supporting and offering our assistance to Ukrainian mayors.

Turning to climate, we are supporting cities and countries to drive the zero carbon transitions and building resilience. Urban climate action is a shared responsibility across levels of government. Our research shows that the OECD region and cities are responsible for more than 60% of climate-significant public expenditure and public investment. At the same time, our research demonstrates that 90% of the current urban emissions can be reduced by 2050 with existing technology. However, coordination is necessary across cities, regions, and national governments. Climate action requires a place-based approach that considers the specific local and regional context. Initial levels and trends are diverse across regions, even within the same country. Another example of regional territory diversity is the urban heat island intensity. We are promoting policy responses addressing the potential of cities using a place-based approach. We think National Urban Policies are a key instrument to drive zero carbon transitions and climate resilience from an urban perspective.

We would like to present two ongoing initiatives and invite your active participation. First, the Global State of National Urban Policy 3.0. This activity, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance, will focus particularly on two thematic issues which feature our global challenges in the current context: housing and urban resilience. Secondly, we would like to invite you to participate in the OECD Program on a Territorial Approach to Climate Action and Resilience. This focus is on multi-level climate action, and for national governments to provide an enabling environment and the necessary support for local governments to accelerate climate action.

Technical Session 1: Spatial planning experiences for strengthening national land/urban systems in different governance structures

In Technical Session 1, government experts from Nepal, Cambodia, Bhutan, and Mozambique shared their national spatial planning and regional planning experiences in their respective countries. The session focused on how to strengthen national land/urban systems in different governance structures. In this context, several key questions were presented before the sharing of country experiences.

Key Questions:

- Spatial or territorial planning is usually conceived / developed at the national or regional level, while its actual realization and implementation is at the local level, with local government as the major actors. How can the vertical integration between the different tiers of government be ensured for development and implementation these spatial plans?
- Spatial planning in general is prepared by a line government ministry or agency, while its implementation in space would require multiple actors and sectors to come together and align their priorities, plans and investments. How can such horizontal coordination / harmonization between multiple sectors been ensured, for effective implementation of the spatial plans?
- To achieve successful development, different parts should be organized into integrated systems till an integrated system. Strengthening national land/urban systems is not simply difficult in practice, it is primarily an extraordinarily difficult proposition in theory. Why in reality, a totally integrated consciousness system hardly built and priority always goes to parts? How to have true knowledge of “harmony totality”?

1. Land Use Policy Formulation and Implementation: Opportunities and Challenges in Nepal

Land use planning and policy formulation in Nepal poses a major challenge to address the ever-increasing demand for space with limited land. This is particularly relevant due to the rise in physical infrastructure, migration and settlements within cities and urban areas. It is essential to consider human needs and ideas to maintain biodiversity and natural landscapes, leading to conflicting land use and increasing risks in the process. As such, a land use policy has been formulated.

The land is classified according to six different bases and a land use plan is generated accordingly. This plan entails five objectives that are implemented through various strategies such as consulting local stakeholders, receiving public input, and taking advice from local districts. Furthermore, a land use council system has been established at the federal, provincial and local levels. Technical and administrative circulars have been created for implementation and guidance.

Land Use Policy: Formulation Process

- Review of existing system
- Focused group discussion
- International best practices
- National/International literature
- Key informant interview
- Zero draft of the policy
- Field observation and workshop
- First Draft of the Policy
- Multi stakeholder consultation
- Experts consultation
- Final draft of the policy
- Review of the other Ministries
- Review of the Cabinet Committee
- Approval from the Cabinet

Bottom up process

- Peoples demand
- Need based
- Subsidiarity
- Local knowledge
- Flexible

Top down process

- Scientific criteria
- Land capability
- Suitability analysis
- Expert driven
- Rigid

Participatory land use planning

- Appropriate fusion of both process

A digital database of land use has been compiled, along with mapping services and guidelines for uniformity. Local land use councils and local land use implementation committees have been established to assess the value of land and levy taxes. Conflict resolution processes have also been established between provinces. Capacity building programmes have been put in place at the local level and sixty-six land classification reviews have been conducted. Additionally, a consultative process is in place to involve various stakeholders and provide recommendations to ministries and the government of Nepal.

Land Use Classification: Strategy and Results

Basis of Classification

- Existing land use
- Terrain topography
- Land Suitability
- Land Capability
- Local need



(Source: Survey Department, Nepal)

ID	Landuse	Area Sq. Km	% Cover
1	Agriculture	41279.15	27.89
2	Commercial	79.57	0.05
3	Cultural and Archeological	14.34	0.01
4	Forest	61712.80	41.70
5	Industrial	95.02	0.06
6	Mines and Minerals	25.85	0.02
7	Other	21867.35	14.78
8	Public Service	11405.11	7.71
9	Residential	1980.06	1.34
10	Riverine, Lake and Marsh Area	4943.04	3.34

In conclusion, efforts are being made to improve land use policy and ensure optimal and sustainable use of land. Technical and data support is being provided to local levels and capacity building programmes have been established. Conflict resolution between provinces is also being addressed, with stakeholders involved in policy development.

2. Spatial Planning In Cambodia

In Cambodia, there are two levels of urban planning, the National level and the Subnational level. At the National level, the National Committee on Management and Urban Planning sets the national urban planning vision every 20 years, which is updated every 10 years through the Capital Master Plan and Provincial Master Plan. At the Subnational level, 15-year visions are set and updated every 5 years, and at the lowest level, the Community Planning level, 15-year visions are also set, and updated every 5 years. The Cambodian government has implemented policies and legislation towards urban planning, such as the National Housing Policy in 2011 and the National Land Management and Urban Planning Law in 2014.

In the last 5 years, there has been significant development in the Development Pole and Development Axes defined in the National Spatial Strategy, connecting Vietnam and Laos, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, the Japanese government and other countries. Additionally, roads and routes for walking and bicycles have been developed, as well as international corridors from Thailand to Vietnam and from Laos to the coastal area. Urban areas have been divided into seven zones, connected by traffic and public transport.



In order to further develop urban planning in Cambodia, new legislation needs to be established and a National Urban Plan needs to be established. Additionally, there needs to be increased implementation of construction regulations, as well as support from external partners to ensure effective implementation. Finally, capacity building needs to be carried out in terms of training and institutional support in order to ensure successful implementation of these policies.

Outstanding Urban Challenges - Drivers

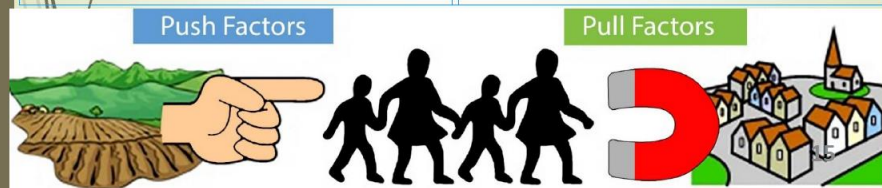
As highlighted earlier, the pace of the rapid urbanisation is driven by significant rural-to-urban migration which has multiple drivers .

Push Factors (Rural)

- Deficient infrastructure & distant facilities;
- Insufficient and inefficient services;
- Limited employment and education opportunities
- Decreasing agricultural based livelihoods, resulting in insufficient income
- Household member increase

Pull Factors (Urban)

- Better coverage of infrastructure and facilities
- Increased abundance and quality of services
- More employment opportunities and better education
- Better living standards and quality of life
- Better incomes
- Modern



3. Spatial Planning in Bhutan Using the Land Pooling Tool

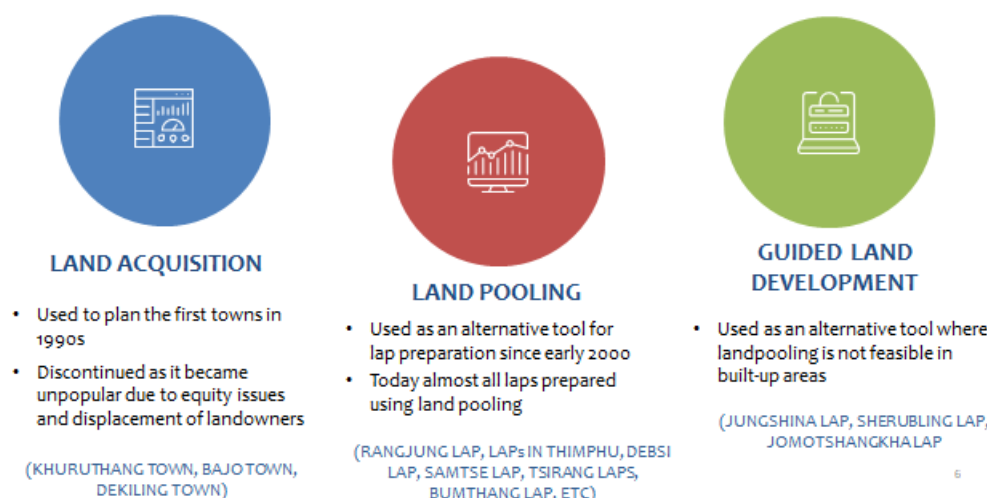
Bhutan is a landlocked country located between India and China, next to Nepal. It has a total land area of approximately 38,000 km and a population of about 763,000, with an urban population of less than 50%. Urbanization in Bhutan began with the initiation of the first five-year plan in 1961. Comprehensive master plans were prepared with the support of UN-Habitat in 1984, with the Thimphu Structure Plan being the first of these. The Comprehensive National Development Plan (CNDP) was initiated in 2001 and a Special Planning Bill was drafted in 2016. The CNDP was prepared with the support of Japan in 2018, and Regional Center Structure Plans are currently being reviewed.

At the national level, Bhutan has a CNDP and at the regional level, two or more districts are covered. At the local level, there are structure plans and local area plans. The legal framework includes the National Human Settlement Policy, Human Settlement Strategies, Special Planning Act (which is still a bill), and guidelines.

To mobilize land for public facilities, three tools are currently used in Bhutan: land acquisition, land pooling, and guided land development. Land acquisition was used initially in the 1990s, but was not popular, so land pooling was adopted instead. Land pooling is a simple and easy to understand and implement area-based method.



The framework for land pooling includes local government acts that empower it, and the Land Pooling Regulations of 2009, which were reviewed in 2018, and the Land Pooling Guidelines of 2019. Land pooling is used in almost all towns in Bhutan, with the exception of a few.

LAND MOBILIZATION MECHANISMS



As an example, a local area plan was prepared in PanBang, located in the southern foothills of the country near the Manas National Park and Sanctuary on the Indian side. A new highway was developed for the area, and in order to avoid irregular development, the land pooling contribution was calculated at an average of 26.8%. Differential land pooling contributions were introduced, depending on the land use, such as commercial courts contributing 29%, and low density land having a lower contribution.

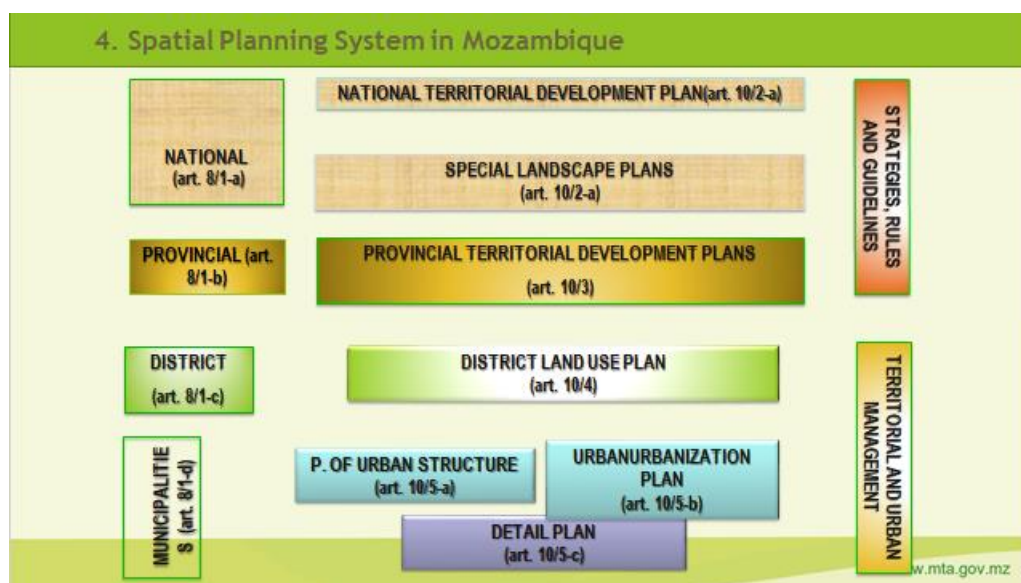
Some of the challenges with land pooling and urban planning in Bhutan include a lack of capacity, especially at the local level, a lack of funds to implement projects, and current land pooling practices not taking into account equity issues. There are also opportunities to explore the self-financing mechanism, use value-based methods to create more equity in land pooling, collaborate with international partners to create local capacity, review the land pooling contributions ceiling, and carry out research into Bhutan's land pooling practices.

CHALLENGES 	OPPORTUNITIES 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of capacity especially at the local governments ➤ Lack of funds to implement land pooling projects ➤ Legal provisions inhibits fund generation through sale of reserve plots ➤ Current land pooling practices doesn't fully consider the inequity issues created through landuse planning ➤ Land pooling contribution ceiling of 30% ➤ Public consultation and awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explore the feasibility of self-financing mechanism and amend provisions in the land act 2007 ➤ Use value-based method to create more equity in our land pooling practice ➤ Collaborate with international partners to create local capacity ➤ Review the land pooling contribution ceiling in lpr 2018 ➤ Carry out research into bhutanese land pooling practice to improve it for the current time and age

4. Mozambique Effects of Climate Change & Spatial Planning

Mozambique is located on the east coast of southern Africa and has a population of approximately 27 million people. It is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to its location in the intertropical convergence zone. Climate change manifests itself in Mozambique through drought, floods, and tropical cyclones that have affected various regions.

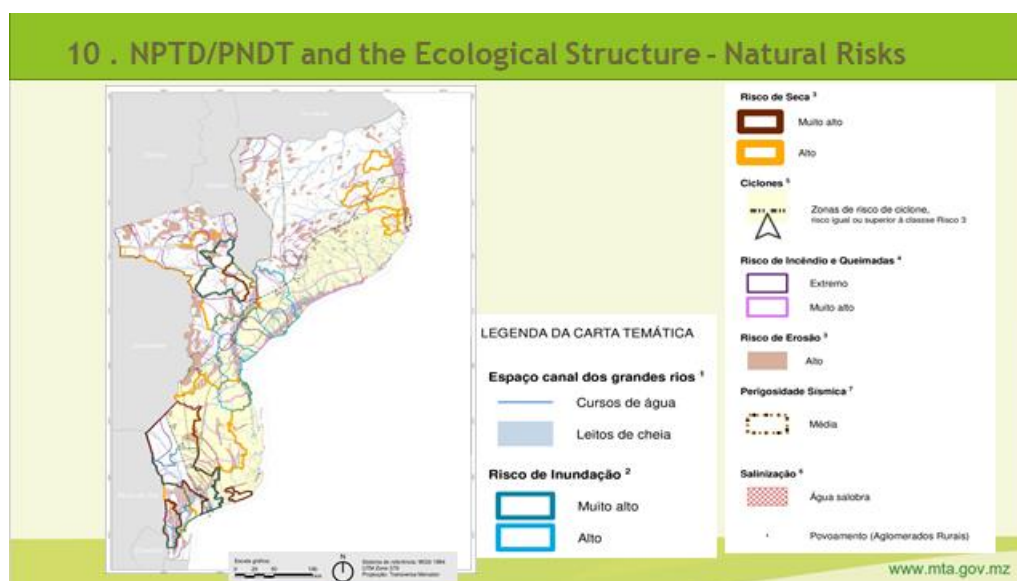
Spatial planning in Mozambique has traditionally been restricted to the organization of plans for cities and towns. However, activities of a greater dimension were included in the Territory Planning Policy in 2007. This policy consists of four levels: national, provincial, and municipal and district. The National Development Plan and the Territorial Development Plan are the two primary guiding instruments for spatial planning in Mozambique.



The Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique grants the right to the sustainable management of the environment. The legal framework of the Special Planning System includes the regulation of the Spatial Planning, the regulation of the census process, the Norms of the organization of the local public administration, and the legal frameworks for land, forests and environment.

Currently, 1550 different plans have been developed and less than 10% of them have been published and approved as laws. The implementation of spatial planning instruments, such as the occupation of new housing areas and the release of special plans, is hindered by a lack of technical capacity and equipment, as well as insufficient training of personnel.

The National Territorial Development Plan (NTDP) and the National Development Plan (PNDT) are two strategies for adapting to climate-related risks. The NTDP has an ecological structure based on risk assessment, and its objectives include the reorganization of neighborhoods and the reduction of people living in areas of risk. The PNDT seeks to provide guidance instruments to establish a set of principles that will guide the elaboration of special planning instruments, as well as order and priority of interventions.



In conclusion, the challenges to the successful implementation of spatial planning in Mozambique include the need for increased technical capacity and equipment, more training of personnel, and the development of local adaptation plans to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. Nevertheless, there have been significant successes, such as the manual for local authorities, the reorganization of neighborhoods and the reduction of people living in areas of risk.

Q&A

A major issue like land classification is that cannot be done without qualified resources. For example in Nepal, because of the lack of skilled manpower, many local level governments are facing confusion in implementing regional plans. How can this situation be solved?

Mr. Janak Raj Joshi:

We have been working to increase the capacity of the local level, including developing a basic framework for spatial planning and a base layer of classification. Every local level government is now recruiting professionals with expertise in geo-information technology and geomatics engineering related human resources. The use of such personnel is also becoming more common, and local levels should consider employing such personnel for land administration, land banking, and all land reform-related tasks.

Technical Session 2: Spatial planning and territorial approach for climate change adaptation

In Technical Session 2, government experts from Bangladesh, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Uganda shared their spatial planning and territorial approach for climate change adaptation. The session explored the importance of a coordinated framework and territorial approach for implementing mitigation and adaptation measures to effectively respond to climate change. It discussed region-specific characteristics, anthropogenic structures and processes, and place-based policies and planning in order to support localized climate change impact, risk identification and adaptation measures. In this context, several key questions were presented before the sharing of country experiences.

Key Questions:

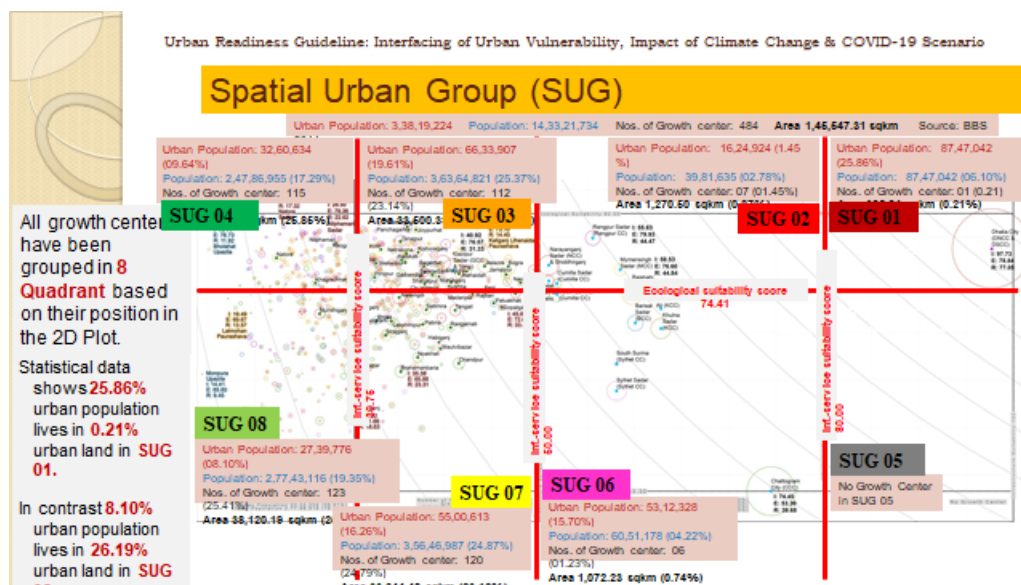
- What is the importance of a coordinated territorial approach for implementing mitigation and adaptation measures?
- How can we use best practices, lessons learned and innovative and effective tools and mechanisms to effectively plan for adaptation measures?
- What are the relational manifestation of climate change effects and adaptation, and strategies for effective implementation?
- What are the implementation challenges in terms of planning units and limited resources?
- What strategies are being implemented to address urban heat islands and urban flooding?
- How are local governments responding to climate change stresses through urban design?
- How can blue and green infrastructure be used to improve thermal comfort in urban areas?

1. Urban Readiness Guideline: Interfacing of Urban Vulnerability, Impact of Climate Change & COVID-19 Scenario

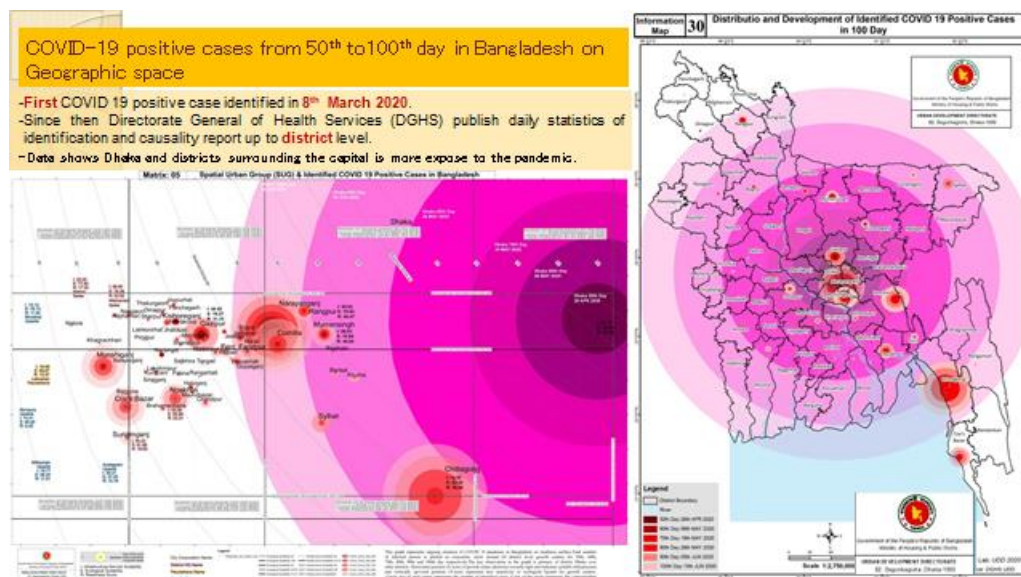
In Bangladesh, the parliamentary system is in effect, with 330 Parliament members. As each Parliament member asks for plans, planning is difficult from an ecological, economic, and social point of view. To assist the Parliament members, metrics were created to offer scenarios of what would happen if certain decisions were made or not made. Bangladesh Statistics provided the best historical data to understand the qualitative and quantitative assessment of urban centers all over the country.

Brainstorming was used to collect data from various agencies and a Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to translate the data into urban planning language. Eight ecological groups, eight geographic variables, and two geography conditions were taken into account to understand the sensitivity of the Republic. This data was used to create a map that showed flooding sensitivity and suitable areas for urban development. The infrastructure and service suitability was then analyzed. This included taking into account the number of schools, hospitals, and streets in each area. 11 different criteria were taken into account and a qualitative assessment was made. The data was then used to create a map of Bangladesh,

with Dhaka in the center and the other areas classified in terms of their infrastructure and service suitability.



The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to test these approaches and ensure they are being implemented properly. Analysis of data from the Bangladesh Ministry of Health shows that the density of a population is correlated with Covid-19 cases. Other factors, such as economic parameters and lighting systems, have also been taken into account. Of the 62 districts, 40 rely on the curve line of the density, while 15 do not comply with the infrastructure point of view.



Climate change is also a major challenge for Bangladesh. Due to rising sea levels, 30% of the population may be submerged by the year 2100. Additionally, extreme weather patterns have caused floods, leading to the submerging of catchment areas in India.

2. Strengthening Resiliency to Multiple Risks through Spatial Planning

The Philippines is an archipelago, consisting of 7,100 islands located in the Western Pacific Ocean. It is prone to tropical storms, with an average of 20 typhoons per year, and is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. 2020 posed unprecedented challenges for the Philippines, as a massive volcanic eruption of Mount Taal was followed by three successive typhoons and Typhoon Ulysses in 2020 and 2021. To top it all, the Covid-19 pandemic struck.

It has been realized that settlements rehabilitation and reconstruction is the most expensive and time consuming to implement, mainly due to land issues and availability of suitable and affordable lands. Additionally, there is a dilemma of whether to transfer vulnerable people living along the coast to a new location or to build more resilient housing in their present locations. Incorporating lessons from multiple hazards has allowed for the building of resilient communities. This includes the creation of open spaces, alternative transport modes like biking lanes, and urban resilience. To sustain this, a National Spatial Strategy has been implemented, which contributes to inclusive growth, improved connectivity, and better access to economic opportunities and social services across regions.

Rising above the devastation: recovery from disasters



Settlements rehabilitation and reconstruction have the highest costs and the longest time to implement, relative to other sectors

- ✓ Building communities, not just houses
- ✓ In-situ vs. resettlement
- ✓ Incorporate lessons from multiple hazards
- ✓ (eg., more open spaces, alternative transport modes through bike lanes, improve walkability)



Urban climate resilience projects have also been implemented, which use science-based information and climate disaster risk assessments to plan cities. Strategies such as combating urban heat stress, and designing esplanades, reducing green-house-gas emissions, and encouraging non-motorised systems are being applied. In addition, efforts are being made to mitigate the impacts of climate change along major river systems. A programmatic convergence budgeting approach is being used to support programmes and projects, and access to government financing for climate change projects is being increased.

To improve urban planning and disaster reduction, a special reference national exposure system and databases need to be developed. Real-time special information for disaster response, recovery, and monitoring of climate change needs to be provided. Furthermore, capacity building for local government units in interpreting climate data and assessments must be sustained.

- ✓ Programmatic and convergence approach for prioritizing climate vulnerable areas in budget allocation



The Risk Resiliency Program identifies projects that strengthen the resiliency of natural ecosystems and adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities in eight provinces located **along major river basins**

The program convergence budgeting provides funding to an integrated set of programs and projects across government agencies.

Source: DRR CCAM/ DENR

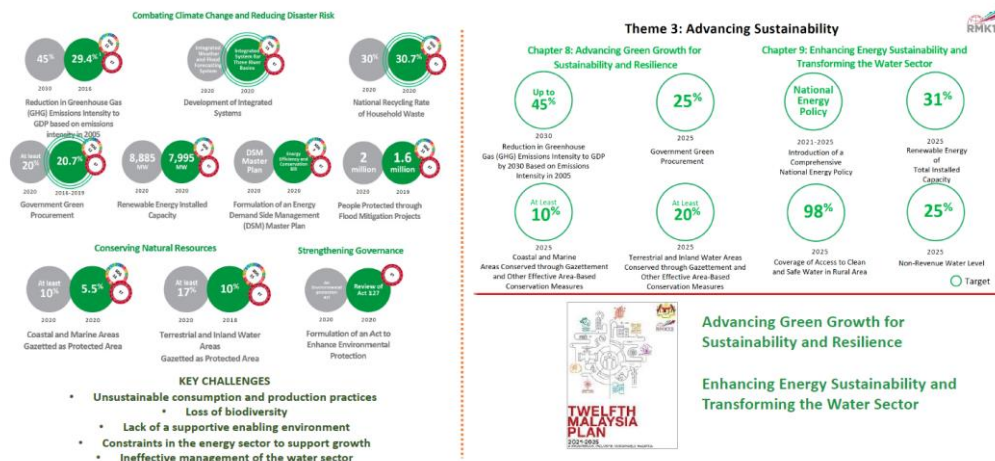
- ✓ Improving LGU access to government financing for climate change projects

3. Climate Action in Territorial Planning and Its SDGs Localisation

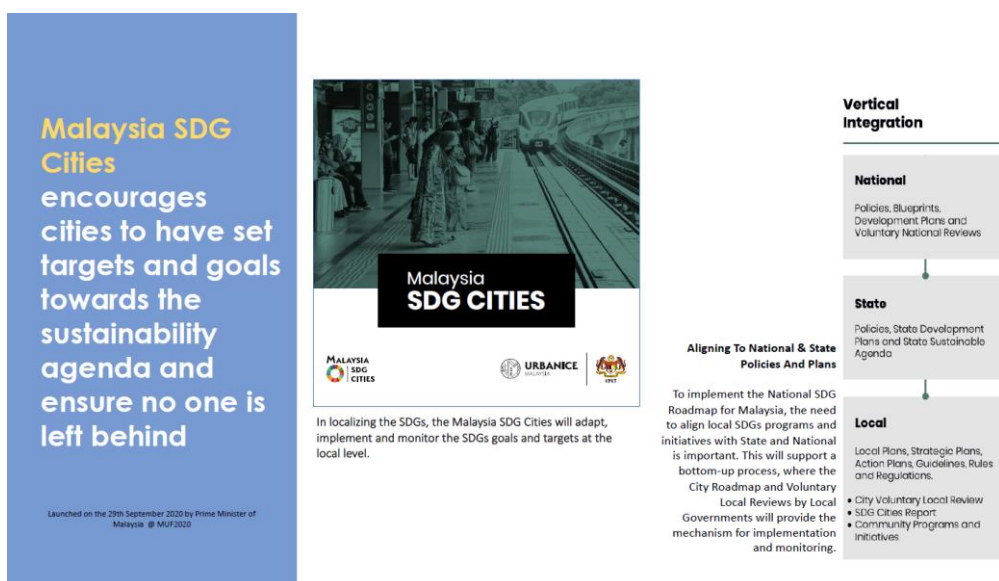
In Malaysia, the Town and Country Planning Act of 1976 has helped to make urban planning easier to manage, with the local government and planning part split between the same ministries. Currently, the urbanization rate is 77-78%, projected to increase to 84% by 2050. This has caused debate on whether or not to continue growing, as we must now create livable cities, not just provide jobs. Additionally, shrinking population sizes in cities like Kuala Lumpur and an aging population of 8% (projected to reach 11% in 2040) have made it difficult to accommodate for such a society. Environmental issues have also arisen, with 104 floods, 71,000 people displaced, and 418 evacuation centers set up in 2020, resulting in 6.5 billion Malaysian Ringgit in property damage.

Since the 1970s, Malaysia has subscribed to the sustainable agenda, with economic blueprints and development plans having sustainable goals in mind. The 12th Malaysia Plan is a five year economic plan that focuses on GDP contribution and social well-being, taking into account income disparity and regional imbalance. To ensure successful implementation of policies, an institutional framework, policy documentation, and governance systems have been put in place. The Sustainable Development Goals are included in the document as a framework, and a national Low Carbon Cities Plan has been developed, with 55 out of 155 local governments reporting their carbon emissions. The Climate Change Action Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, has decided to focus on both mitigation and adaptation, with Malaysia committing to reduce 45% of carbon emissions by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. A National Physical Plan has been developed, which affects over 5 million people in coastal areas, and 20 agencies from 10 different Ministries have collaborated to create development control plans.

12th Malaysia Plan sets clear targets in Advancing Sustainability Addressing Urbanisation and Climate Change Agenda Comprehensively



Regional territorial planning is essential to ensure regional plans are in line with national policies. In the Singapore Economic Corridor, a Low Carbon Society Blueprint was developed, with a grading system from one diamond (lowest level of carbon emissions) to five diamonds (highest). To address the issues of different standards and unequal distribution of money, a joint body was established to oversee operations in the area. This body looks into environmental, infrastructure, and urban amenities, and is relatable to the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change. To promote localization of the SDGs, the Malaysian government launched the SDG Cities Initiative, encouraging all 155 local governments to prepare an SDG roadmap. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many city governments had to focus on SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), highlighting the need to strengthen local governments and empower them with appropriate funding. Planning is dynamic and should not be seen as a static model of development, and the SDG process can be used to address sustainable cities, communities, and climate action.



4. Uganda's Nascent National Spatial Planning and Its Envisaged Contribution to Climate Resilient Urban Development

Uganda is 241,000 square kilometers in area and has a population of approximately 42 million. This is estimated to rise to 73 million by 2017 and 100 million by 2100, making it the 11th most populous country in the world. This population situation has made it necessary for us to get into special planning.

The National Development Plan was approved by Cabinet last year in November. It focuses on two main variables: population and land. The strategy proposed is sustainable organization, which is intended to accommodate a growing population while freeing up land for agriculture. This is the basis for the discussion on climate change, as it is expected to reduce pressure on the country's grasslands, forests, etc.

2

Overview of Uganda's National Physical Development Plan (NPDP)

- › Approved by Cabinet on **14th November 2022**
- › Hinges on two main variables - **population and land**
- › **Sustainable urbanization** proposed as a strategy for **accommodating growing population** while **freeing land for agriculture**



The objectives of the plan include maximizing regional balance and equity, maximizing agriculture, maximizing national connectivity and infrastructure, and maximizing the national economy. Strategies for achieving these objectives include the establishment of polycentric cities, the creation of a bio region, the prioritization of public transportation, and the prioritization of infrastructure such as water and sewage for domestic and agricultural use.

The plan also emphasizes smart, compact settlements located along major transport corridors. This is intended to reduce movement and ensure climate resilience. The plan also calls for the establishment of a hierarchy of urban centers, from cities to the smallest urban center.



Proposed Settlement System for Climate Resilience

Principles

- › **Prioritize infrastructure and public transport in order to reduce movement**
- › **Manage urbanization and ensure climate resilience.**



The implementation of the plan includes compliance with the plan before any project is admitted into the public investment plan. A special data team is also being set up to capture data and serve as a one-stop center. Additionally, flagship projects identified in the plan are being prioritized.

The plan is expected to contribute to climate resilience and urban development in Uganda by reducing pressure on the main city, prioritizing public transportation, and creating compact settlements. It is also expected to lead to the establishment of water treatment plants and transmission lines, as well as land use regulation and compliance.

Q&A

After completing the vulnerability analysis, what local level planning instruments or tools are used to reduce the vulnerability or build resilience?

Dr. Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufique:

We have an extensive Geographic Information System (GIS) at the local level, and we are trying to convey all the systems to the local authorities to make them understandable. We are not just using GIS or ICT tools, but rather trying to identify the problems and how to solve them, using both indigenous knowledge and planning perspectives to make them sustainable in the long run. This is all about awareness.

Ms. Kinzang Deki:

We are using a similar approach in Malaysia, where the National Coastal Vulnerability Index (NCVI) is used to translate into local plans. The biggest challenge we face is the training and capacity building of using the NCVI, so we have been teaching local government people to understand how to use the parameters for processing planning applications. We are also working with Mercy Malaysia to train local governments on how to identify very local actions, such as schools and

facilities, and turn them around. We are working with District level Authorities, which is our smallest level authority, to help them with capacity building.

Issues related to migration mentioned in the Uganda's presentation, who will do the agriculture if people migrate to urban areas?

Mr. Neivaldo Nhatugueja:

We aspire to increase urbanization from 30% to 40-60%, similar to Malaysia, while allowing people to move freely and access bigger parcels of land for agricultural purposes, even if they stay in cities.

What kind of consultation or negotiations have taken place between states regarding climate change actions?

Ms. Kinzang Deki:

In Malaysia, consultation and negotiations between states take place in the form of engaging processes, such as meetings between local councils, reviews by the National Physical Planning Council, and public processes, in order to reduce conflicts between borders. Additionally, an International Security National border study is being conducted to further reduce conflicts between borders.

Dr. Khurshid Zabin Hossain Taufique:

Regarding the consultations and negotiations between states regarding climate change action, it can be noted that Bangladesh has a good water sharing agreement with India for 54 common rivers. Due to climate change, India has had to open all the gates to ensure Bangladesh gets the water it needs. Bangladesh has also developed a strong immune system to cope with the effects of climate change.

Mr. Neivaldo Nhatugueja:

Uganda is a member of the East African Community, the Government Authority on Development, the Nile Basin, and the Electric Victoria Basin, all of which provide collaboration mechanisms and institutions for consultation and negotiation between states on issues such as land, desertification, and resources.

NUA Implementation Progress Report

On the first day of the 5th SPP meeting, Prof. Sangeeta Singh, Convenor of Nepal National Urban Forum, Director of Center for Applied Research and Development, Institute of Engineering, shared the status of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Nepal.

Nepal has been engaged with Habitat since the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver, Canada in 1976 and has subsequently developed policy and plans such as the Local Self-Governance Act 1999, 20 Year Plan of Action, and the National Policy 2007. The objectives of the New Urban Agenda are to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable and smart, to provide decent jobs, housing and infrastructure services to the growing population, and to achieve sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity. Nepal has faced challenges such as restructuring after the 2015 constitution, the 2015 earthquake, and the recent COVID-19 outbreak, all of which have highlighted the need to decentralize governance and rethink infrastructure in order to respond to future disasters.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **The national level restructuring- local, provincial, and federal governments** has altered the management and response to urbanisation. Contextualising sustainability topics into the lowest structural level, say municipalities, in terms of their responsibilities, capacity, and knowledge, and most importantly political and administrative coordination with service providers and other administrative levels is still a juggernaut.
- **The 2015 Gorkha earthquake**, on the one hand one of the major hurdles to overcome the shelter adequacy and other infrastructural demands and economic deficiency, on the other hand provided the opportunity to rethink and reassess the urban issues, governance and urban governance for the urbanisation trends incorporation of such factors for the future goals.
- **The recent COVID-19 outbreak**, has been a major hurdle to overcome especially taking into account not just health issues but the related economic and infrastructural impacts in future years. Most importantly, the outbreak has exposed the lack of infrastructure required for such an outbreak.

A team of experts has been organized to analyze the context, collect information on national reports and plans of action, identify key drivers and enablers, and differentiate them into three headings (transformation, commitments for sustainable events, and effective implementation and follow-up process). A national workshop will then be held to review the findings, identify gaps between policy frameworks and projects, and interact to find emerging integrated solutions to assess if they are transferable, scalable, shared, and collaborated. Finally, findings, issues, and challenges will be agreed upon to prepare a final report.

Nepal is committed to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and has been working to do so across different line agencies and ministries. To address sustainable social inclusion and poverty elevation, Nepal has aimed to provide legal identity cards to the poor and integrate them into the national identity card system with allocated budget for the fiscal year 2022 and 23 to generate employment and elevate poverty. Nepal has also aimed to ensure gender equality at all levels and sectors, as well as institutionalizing a system of gender responsive budgeting to promote equality and empowerment.

In terms of access to adequate housing, Nepal has placed the Nepal Center policy 2012 and enacted the Right to Housing Act 2018 which makes provisions for housing to the landless community within the next 3 years. The Right to Housing Act also provides the legal basis to construct and operate rental housing with private and Cooperative Investments and also for the government, province or local level to provide home and concession financing facilities to people and families without house or landownership. The 15th plan also reflects commitments to construct approximately 2 million housing units by 2023, with 400,000 housing units for the poor and marginalized communities by 2022 and 23.

In terms of securing tenure and landownership, the National Land Policy 2009 has been adopted and the budget 2020 has been allocated for the management of landless people, squatters and unorganized settlers. This has been included in the National Urban Development Strategies 2017, which encourages corporate and cooperative mechanisms for the production of housing for the economically poor.



Nepal has taken steps to implement the New Urban Agenda by developing supportive frameworks such as the Local Government Operation Act of 2017. This act gives local authorities the power to make their own laws and mobilize resources for infrastructure development. It also includes a Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act, which empowers local governments to create plans and programs for natural resource management. Additionally, Nepal has developed a 14-stage participatory process for planning, which involves input from civil societies and marginal groups.

The National Urban Development Strategy of 2017 aims to improve the quality of life and balance systems while the National Urban Policy Framework is still in draft form. The 15th Plan seeks to create an equitable society with social justice, end poverty and reach the level of a developed country by 2030.

In order to continue the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, Nepal must address key issues related to decentralization and government structures, develop more special and territorial level planning processes and enact and implement the National Urban Development Strategy. Furthermore, financial resources and frameworks must be provided to the local level to ensure proper implementation.

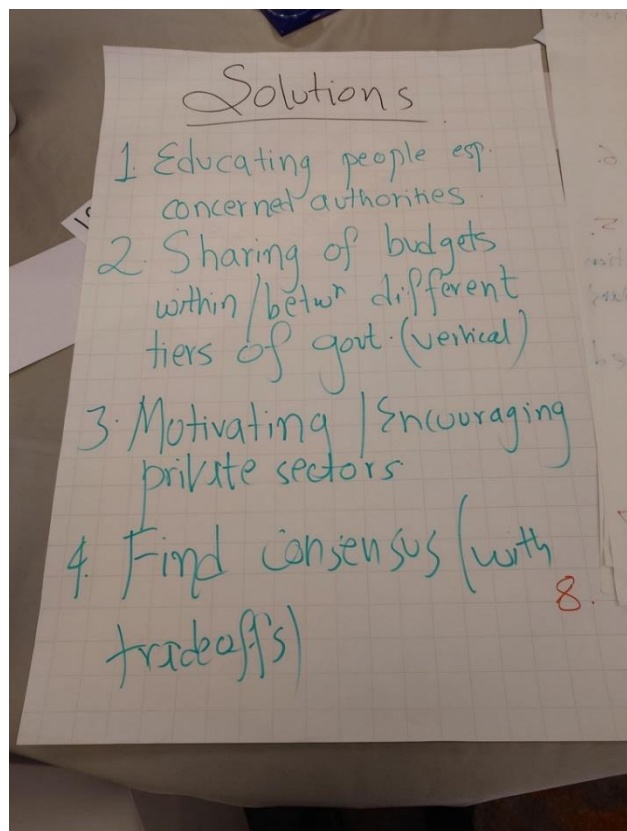
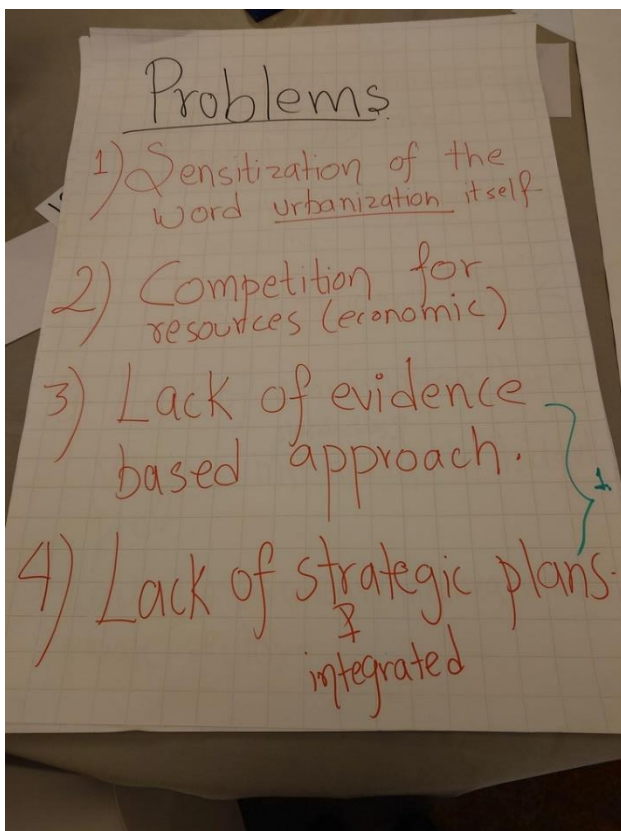
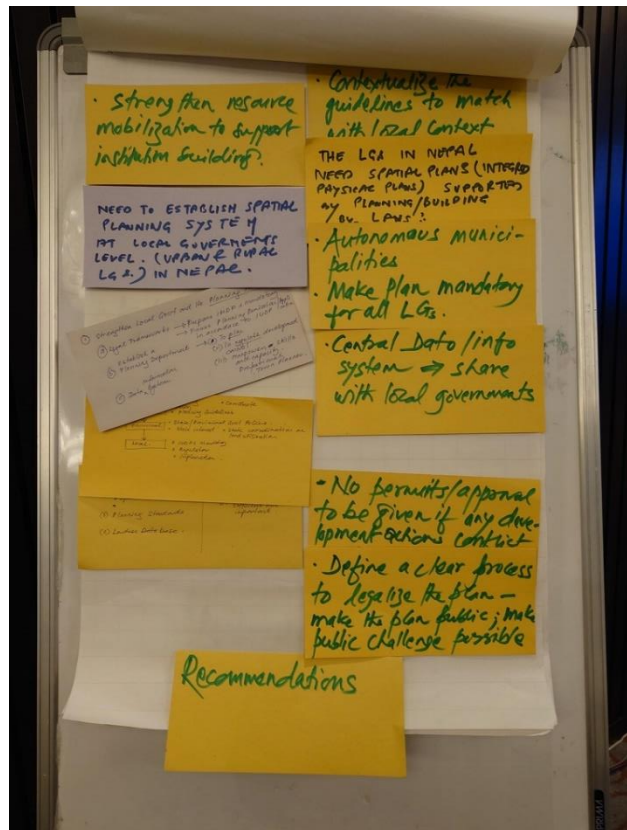
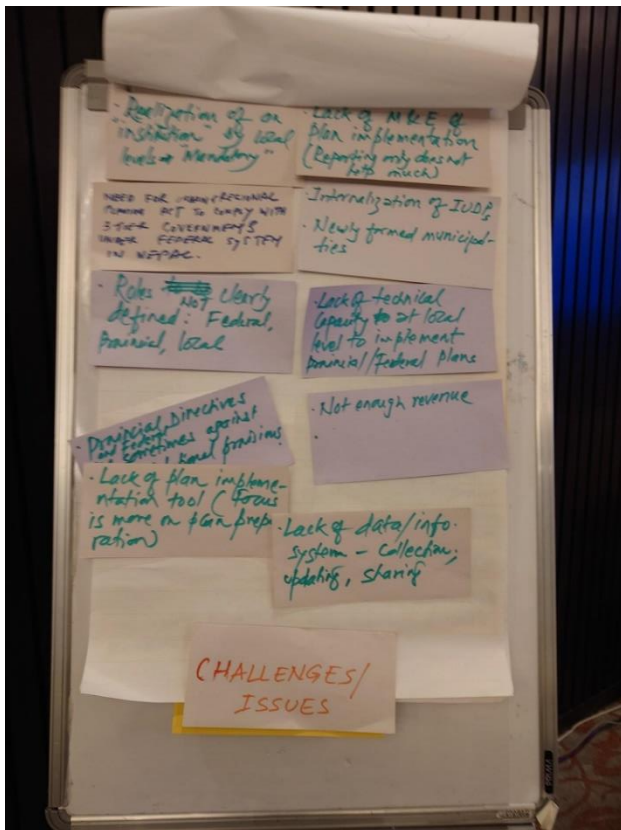
KEY REFLECTIONS

- With the adoption of New Constitution and consequent Local Government Operation Act, 2017 the notions of sustainability and sustainability issues are contextualized at the local level that realigns in the sense of transformative urban development and thus in the sense of the New Urban Agenda.
- The National Urban Development Strategy (NUDS)-2017 strategies for improving the urban quality of life and balanced urban system are in general complementary to the goals of New Urban Agenda (NUA) 2030.
- Nepal's efforts to sustain adequate drinking water and sanitation, infrastructural improvements, preventing environmental degradation, and improved local governance are covered mainly from (among many) an urban policy framework, 2019 (draft) and development efforts of line agencies.
- The 15th Plan (2019/20-2023/24) envisioned an equitable society based on social justice and attain the SDGs by ending absolute and multidimensional poverty by 2030 and graduate to a middle-income country and to reach the level of developed countries by 2043, that the New Urban Agenda also expected for the economic Prosperity.

Brainstorming Studio and Poster Presentations

On the second day of the 5th SPP meeting, a brainstorming session was organized in collaboration with Regional Urban Planners Society of Nepal (RUPSON). It was facilitated by Dr. Mahendra Subba, President of RUPSON. The brainstorming studio and the poster presentations on Nepal engaged the participants in hands-on learning and discussions on the issues and prospects for Nepal to roll out the national urban development strategies in the new federal structure.





Panel 1 - New approaches to urban and territorial planning

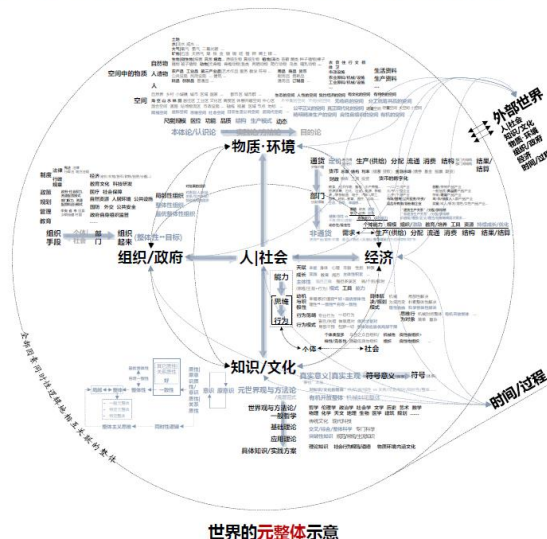
The second day of the conference featured three case study panels. In Panel 1, The first presentation "Spatial Planning to Build Holistic Integrity/Synergy for Development: Experiences from China" was given by Prof. Hongyang Wang from Nanjing University, and the second presentation "Integrated Spatial Planning for Resilient and Sustainable Development" was given by Ms. Pinar Caglin from UN-Habitat.

1. Spatial Planning to Build Holistic Integrity/Synergy for Development: Experiences from China

The current global context presents a difficult situation for development, with decreased competition, knowledge-based and capital-intensive industries, protectionism, and potential for conflict. Spatial planning has been used for 40 years in the Global South to facilitate development, though with varying levels of success. In order to address macro-developmental issues, spatial planning must be holistic, with an understanding of its objectives and the conditions necessary for its successful implementation. Countries that have successfully used spatial planning to reshape development have demonstrated the critical role it can play. It is essential to understand the rationales underlying good and bad development in order to effectively use spatial planning.

The answer to what are the critical factors for development is that it is not determined by any one single factor, but by the totality of all relevant factors in a cooperative, integrated manner. This holistic approach involves the development of all aspects, not just high-tech capital, resources, infrastructure, and technology, but also general people and administrative systems. This explains the current state of spatial planning, which often fails to promote development. Furthermore, the efforts put in are not rewarded equally, and it is often difficult to calculate the totality of all aspects. This highlights the need for a paradigm shift in our understanding of the world, from a fragmented view of individual parts to a holistic view of the whole.

3. Paradigm Shift from Atomism to Non-mechanical, Relational, Synchronical Logic & Holistic Structural Holism Perspective of SP, and Evidences from China




We need to understand the strategic plan, prioritize, and link with a holistic structure. This means understanding all the difficulties and making a Paradigm shift from a linear to a holistic approach. This means evaluating the totality rather than any part, thinking about synchronous logic, taking into account the global, national, and original contexts, and identifying the Strategic part to achieve the optimal holistic effects all together. This requires more than just data and is something that requires the human mind. We are trying to build holistic scenarios until we find the optimal scenario, as fragmentation is a natural tendency, and integrity is a limited, and sometimes unique, opportunity.

In China, a dissipative totality exists and is necessary for development. This totality is based on holistic integrity and synergy. We must be able to create holistic scenarios and adapt to changing contexts, such as the current pandemic. This holistic understanding allows us to recognize that freedom must be balanced with the need to keep society safe. In China, the key to development is peace and stability, as well as strategic interventions. We have come to a development stage which requires absolute innovation and adequate productivity. We must also focus on the secondary distribution of development and effective supply to areas that need it. Additionally, we must think in terms of open-mindedness, public interest, and holistic spatial planning. This requires a paradigm shift in thinking and the creation of infinite holistic scenarios in order to find the optimal solution.

4. Innovative SP for Optimistic Development of Global South in a Tougher Time

Global North ↔	China	↔ Own models for different countries, habitats, plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-mid development stage. Infinite general supply capacity. Saturated general demand. Past model of dev can't sustain: deteriorating competition, room of general growth greatly reduced, polarization easy to accelerate. Understanding this, accepting much of this, and thinking new model. • Avoid over-involution. Polarized manufacture, taking seriously secondary allocation. Guarantee decent social welfare for all people. Service sector. Re-shaping competitive spirit. Paving path for absolute innovation. Understanding the real origin of absolute innovation. • Relative innovation room for development: supplies to places with demands are effective. Rural, lower tiers of cities, international market. • Structural and qualitative improvement rather than quantitative expansion. • • Truly commanding holism epistemology & methodology... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus for holistic synergy INSTEAD OF dissipation. Understanding the primary function of SP is to build synergetic consensus. • Open-minded instead of mechanical thinking. Willing to accept appropriate changes. • Holistic SP in category INSTEAD OF partial SP. International conditions have to be well considered. National & regional conditions shall also be well-taken. To achieve holistic synergy, there should be national SP either as national policy or a plan for local plans to conform. • LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING as the prime goal. This is also a "holistic concept": its prime meaning is the healthy synergy of the society, and then the capacity of individuals. It also includes other capacities including production chain, transportation and other infrastructure, and governance etc. International conditions provide enormous opportunity for local capacity building. Again, this is a holistic schemes design and comparison, to find out optimal holisticty. • • After all, holistic thinking and planning.

 Hongyang WANG_Spatial Planning to Build Holistic Integrity/Synergy for Development

2. Integrated Spatial Planning for Resilient and Sustainable Development

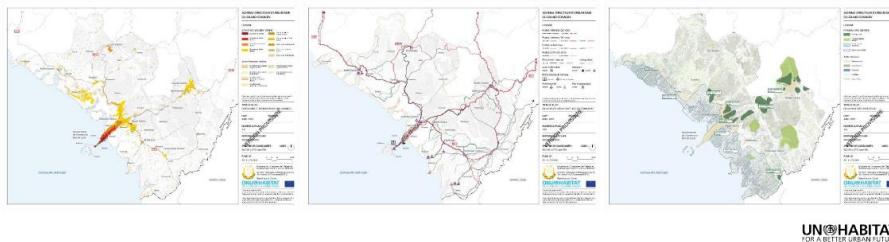
Urban Lab at UN-Habitat headquarters develops spatial planning methodologies, approaches, and tools, and then implements them in different countries before returning to improve them. It is important to remember that although having a plan is important, quality matters; there are good plans and bad plans, and if a bad plan is implemented, the results will be bad. It must be remembered that reaching

development goals is not as important as achieving sustainable development goals. In many cases, governments have plans but lack the knowledge on how to implement them. This is a very complex challenge and is where UN-habitat can provide support with technical expertise and methodologies. There is often a lack of financial resources to implement a plan. In order to address this, a capital investment planning methodology has been developed that links planning decisions to implementable actions. It is essential to understand the data and to translate the policies at the national level into plans. It is also important to think about local implementation at the neighborhood level and to consider top-down and bottom-up approaches.

Recently, the methodology was adopted in Conakry, the capital of Guinea in Africa. There is a major issue with the population flow from rural areas to urban areas, all seeking to live in Conakry due to the lack of access to services and investments in other cities. To balance this system, a Matrix of Functions was used to look at all kinds of urban facilities, such as education, housing and public spaces, in order to identify what is missing in each settlement. A vision and a list of recommendations was then developed. Future scenarios were tested and prioritized projects were listed. Prioritization indicators were then linked to the spatial recommendations and investment cards were developed for the government in order to identify how to find the funding for each project.

Balancing the Territorial Development in Great Conakry Achievements

- A simple but strong enough methodology for rebalancing the development
- Implemented national strategies
- Reinforced intermediary cities to relieve the demographic pressure on the capital
- Realistic prioritisation of projects

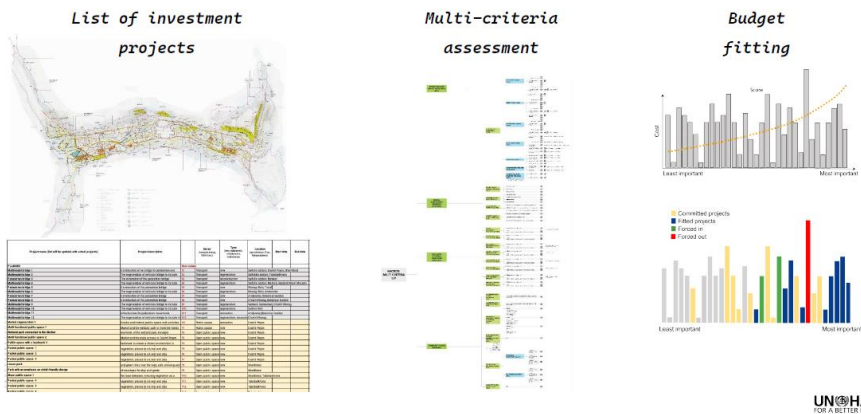


UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

The Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO) in Tajikistan faces a unique set of challenges due to its political, environmental, and social context. Politically, GBAO has been left behind, leading to a lack of investment and conflicts with the central government. Environmentally, the mountainous region is prone to natural disasters due to climate change. Socially, the minority group living there lack access to education and social services, leading to food insecurity and migration. In order to better address these issues, local-level solutions must be developed. This could involve building infrastructure, implementing growth management and conservation techniques, and creating mixed-use principles and public spaces to provide job opportunities. The government must prioritize and budget projects in order to successfully implement plans. By taking a human-centric approach and following these steps, GBAO can begin to create a better quality of life for its inhabitants.

Integrated Spatial Planning in Mountain Settlements

Spatially Targeted Capital Investment Planning



The planning methodology involves identifying the needs of the city through evidence-based approaches, developing responses and scenarios to address those needs, and then prioritizing the necessary projects. It is also necessary to design the projects according to international urban and territory planning guidelines (IGUTP), and to break down the global frameworks into more practical, implementable tools. Urban Lab is developing these tools to help governments and professionals make their cities more compact, connected, inclusive, vibrant, and resilient.

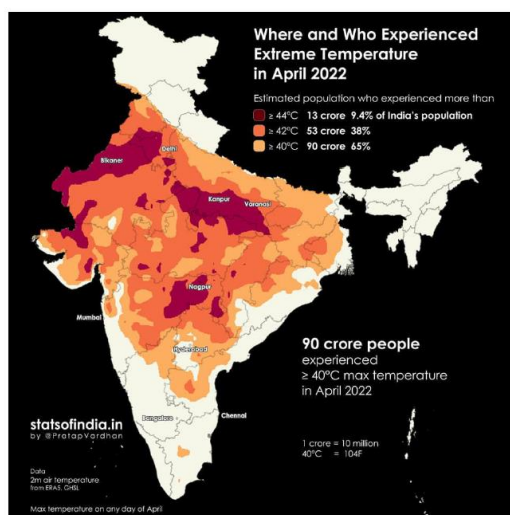
Panel 2 - Spatial planning for climate resilience

In Panel 2, the first presentation "Operationalizing Climate Risk Informed Urban and Territorial Planning Experiences and Lessons from Indian Cities" was given by Prof. Saswata Bandyopadhyay from CEPT University, and the second presentation "Toward climate-proofing spatial planning" was given by Mr. Hendricus Andy Simarmata from Indonesian Association of urban and regional Planners.

1. Operationalizing Climate Risk Informed Urban and Territorial Planning Experiences and Lessons from Indian Cities

In order for urban areas to be safe and secure for economic development, urban sprawl must be taken into consideration. Affordable technologies are now available to measure urban growth, with many Indian cities being denser in the center and sprawling outwards. The National Capital, Delhi, for instance, is estimated to expand by 50 square kilometers every year. Urban planning is necessary to address the vulnerability of climate change, as repeated climatic shocks and stresses are experienced, especially in the summer when there is an extreme heat and lack of water. Furthermore, when it rains, there is often flooding due to lack of capacity. To address this issue, enabling legal conditions and institutional frameworks must be established to support urban planning. Different actors in the space must be considered, including land above and below, agriculture, urban ministry, transport ministry, road ministry, wildlife ministry, and oceanography ministry.








Indian Cities are at the forefront of Climatic Vulnerabilities



Instead of a rigid land use, Indian Cities are required need to develop flexible strategies towards Complex Adaptive Requirements of an increasingly uncertain future

Ahmedabad, a city located in Gujarat in the western part of India, is the 107th largest city in India, also a very powerful economic hub with population of over 5 million. This city has been using a planning tool, which was introduced in the Bombay Province and then enacted in this province, to become self-sufficient. The tool creates a three-tiered system. The first level is a large plan, which is drawn on different scales. The regional scale is one inch to 25,000, while the plot scale is one inch to 50,000. This plan creates a grid of streets, taking into account the future growth of the city, its transportation, and its access to water resources. The second level breaks the plan into smaller pieces of 200 to 250 acres. This land is then

developed, and 40% of the agriculture land is taken away. 15% of the land is used for roads, 10% for social amenities, infrastructure, parks, and gardens, 5% for affordable housing, and 5% is kept for the local authority. Today, Ahmedabad has a land bank and does not have to rely on funds from the central government. The town planning scheme is being changed to account for climatic risks and hazards, as well as to increase the amount of blue and green spaces to 30%.

Sustainability Measures in Micro Level Planning			
Building Level Components that can be implemented atop or around buildings	 Green Roofing Planted layer of shallow or deep green systems or gardens atop roof of buildings	 Rainwater Harvesting Water collection and storage systems in all buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes all the tools/ options/ innovative ideas that can be used to increase the green spaces and the infiltration capacity of TP Scheme. This toolkit organizes the components into typologies that correspond with the urban systems that can be improved. GREY + GREEN Infrastructure approach
Street Level Components that delay stormwater and increase infiltration opportunities	 Sidewalk planters Planter beds and tree pits on wide sidewalks – Greening the streets	 Bioswale channels Landscape feature along avenue medians and other linear strips	
Neighborhood Level Interventions that can store water within urban public spaces	 Constructed ponds/wetlands Designed water bodies within parks and open spaces and low-lying areas	 Parks and Gardens Landscape features within parks and open spaces with infiltration potential	
			 Penetration wells (Khambati kuva) Landscape features within parks and open spaces with infiltration potential

Urban Design is also being used to give citizens confidence in the plan. The planning department need to change its approach to include more communication with the community and to make the guidelines easier to understand.

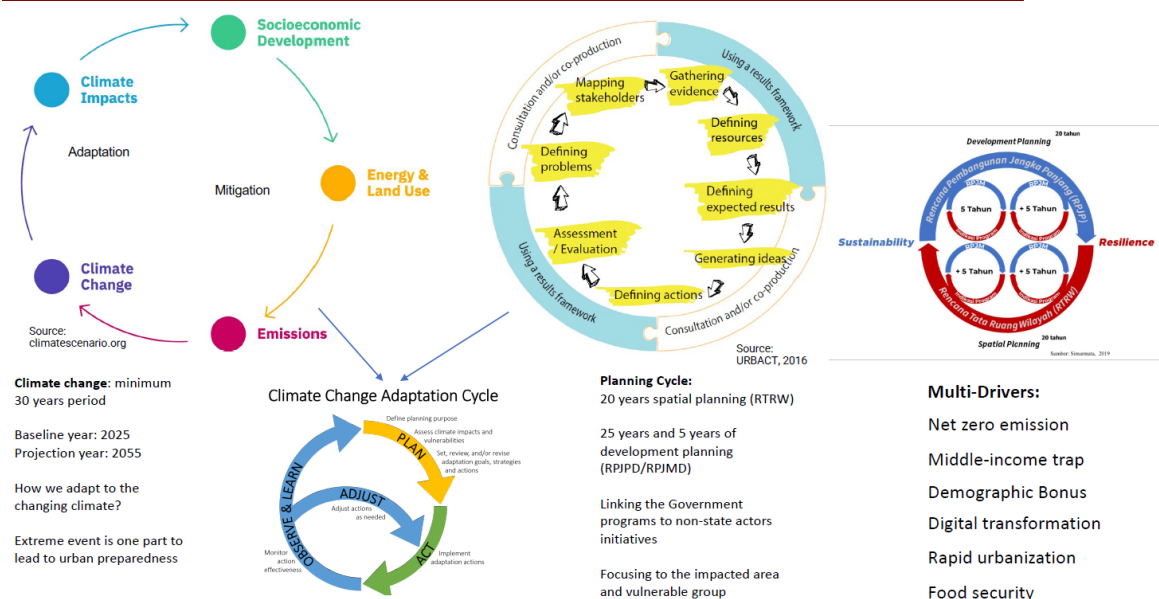
2. Toward climate-proofing spatial planning

Indonesia is a rapidly urbanizing nation, with more than 20 Urban Regions now becoming mega urban regions. The National Government is faced with the challenge of managing the expansion of cities and the influx of people from rural areas, often resulting in informal settlements. To address this, the Asian Development Bank has supported the government in preparing a guidance for Metropolitan Special Planning Framework and Urban Decision Assessment. This guidance will link the climate change cycle to the planning cycle in Indonesia, with a minimum of 30 years of historical data and projections for the next 50 or 100 years. It will also include a data sharing mechanism within the metropolitan area, with a case study of Palembang in Southern Sumatra.

The key focus is to link climate change to development, not just focus on adaptation and mitigation. This includes land-based or agriculture, forestry and land use, and urban sectors like transportation and energy. An inventory of blue carbon, mangrove, cigarettes and swamps has been developed, and climate risk is calculated. Additionally, food security, escaping the middle-income trap and digital transformation are also important. Mitigation strategies such as mangroves that can absorb carbon for inventory and storage

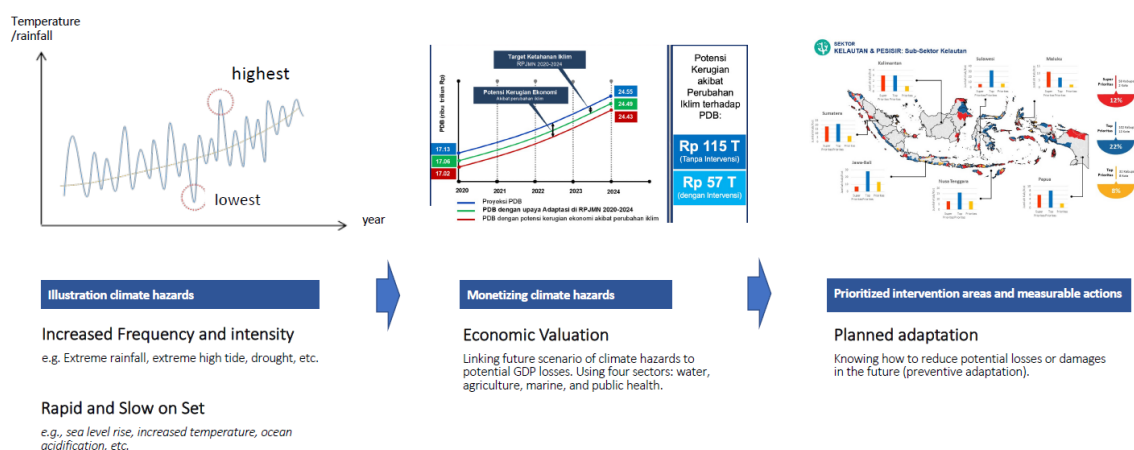
should be promoted, and programs should be designed to integrate adaptation and disaster service reduction, and adaptation and climate change mitigation, so that multiple benefits can be achieved.

Synchronizing the planning cycle with climate change scenario: An emerging integrative planning tool



A comprehensive strategy has been developed to address climate change in Indonesia. This includes regulatory support and the development of self-assessment tools to investigate the mainstreaming of climate change. Technical assistance is provided to five major cities, with the World Resources Institute Indonesia asking local governments what kind of climate and Nature-based adaptation resolutions they have developed, and capacity building. The strategy also includes integrating climate change into development planning, and monetizing potential losses. Additionally, a five-year plan was proposed to estimate climate hazards and monetize them into four sectoral areas: economic, water, agriculture, and public health.

Monetizing potential loss and damage (impacts of climate change) as the key performance indicators of climate resilient development – BAPPENAS



Source: Bappenas, 2019

The strategy also includes linking development planning with creative financing. Private sector involvement is also encouraged, with additional requirements for building permits that include climate change adaptation. Urban planning standards are also being revisited. These include Urban Design Standards, Urban Facility Standards, and Multipurpose Facility Standards. The strategy's last component is to move from planning to controlling land use. This includes five steps to strengthen controlling, with self-assessment tools being developed. When controlling, it is important to provide solutions in a polite manner and not rely on law enforcement.

The Indonesia Citizen Satisfaction Index (ICS) is a tool developed to measure the level of satisfaction of citizens with the services and amenities they have access to in their cities. The ICS is not intended for ranking but rather as a self-reflection tool. This index is especially important in preparation for the 2024 elections, when a new president, governor, and mayor will be elected in Indonesia at the same time. The ICS can be used as a baseline to inform the midterm development plans of the cities in the next five years. This initiative is an effort to advocate for improved services and amenities in Indonesia, and to provide insight into the goals of the project.

Q&A

How can a large country like India ensure that its service regulations are uniformly implemented across cities, and what authority do state governments have to change regular planning systems?

Prof. Saswata Bandyopadhyay:

In India, the term "Master Plan" was initially used to refer to the planning principles inherited from the British government, however, due to the fact that 40-50% of a city's population lives informally, the term was slowly replaced with "Development Plan". Although there is a national guideline which was attempted in 1995 and revised in 2014, urban and land is a state subject, so the guideline is advisory in nature. Each state is mandated by their provincial State Urban Development and Town Planning Act and the regulation which is called Unified Building Regulation, which combines planning and building regulations. Incentive schemes such as AMRUT, Local Area Plan and Town Plan have been introduced by the Central Government, providing funding support to cities for the preparation of plans, and the introduction of a National Urban Planning Index to be eligible for national support.

We identified three things that were working in our efforts to mobilize funds, determining the role and functions of an urban planner, and increasing capacity to do the work. We also realized that communication to the community was essential to explain the value of our plans and that in some provinces farmers are now actively seeking out planners for their land value to increase. These strategies have been successful in some provinces, such as Gujarat, but have been more difficult to implement in others, such as Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

What will happen to Jakarta when a new capital city is now trying to established?

Mr. Hendricus Andy Simarmata:

Jakarta will become a center of both business and finance, with a new specialty law to put in place legal regulations, a strong regulation on groundwater taking, low-carbon development initiatives such as electrical buses, LRT, and electric road pricing, as well as green open spaces and green buildings. Additionally, a 50-year defense strategy has been put in place to protect the city from potential sinking.

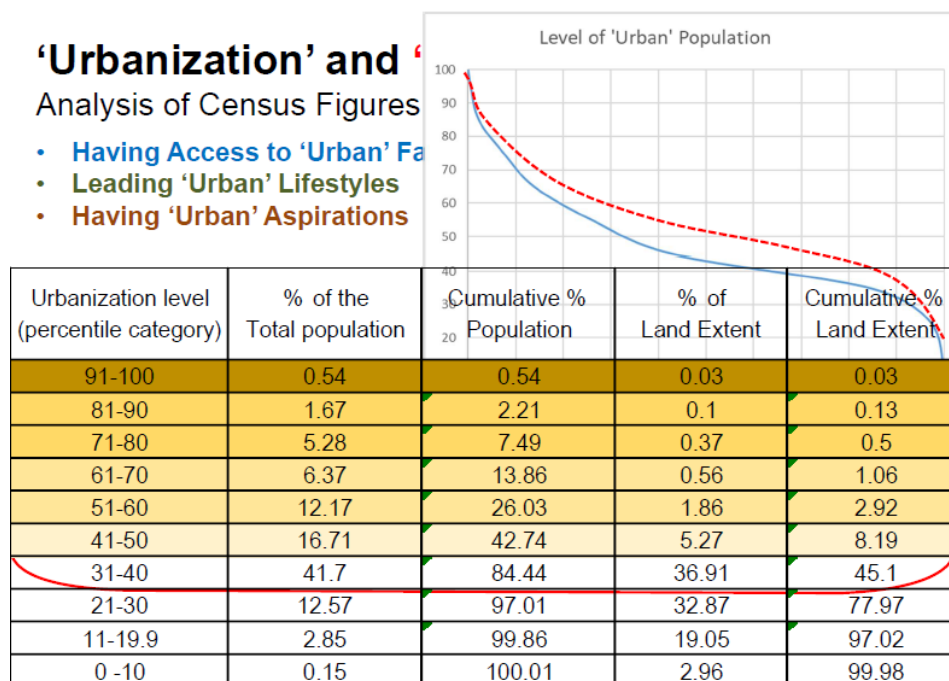
Panel 3 - Governance reforms for integrated spatial planning

In Panel 3, the first presentation "The Making and the Unmaking of a National Level Physical Planning Policy" was given by Prof. Jagath Munasinghe from University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and the second presentation "Toward Integrated Planning: Recent Institutional Reforms in Spatial Planning of Vietnam" was given by Dr. Pham Thai Son from UN-Habitat Viet Nam.

1. The Making and the Unmaking of a National Level Physical Planning Policy

Sri Lanka introduced the National Physical Planning Act in 1946, one year after gaining independence from the United Kingdom. This Act provides for the preparation of a national level plan, and was updated in 2000. To create this plan, the process of consultation, public consultation, data collection, and consultation with Ministries and other stakeholders was followed and took approximately three years to complete. The plan contains four main policies: conservation of the critical and natural environment, promotion of livability for humans, optimization of resources, and exploration of potential resources.

Despite statistics from the Census Department showing that Sri Lanka's urbanization rate is less than 20%, it is believed that this statistic is misleading. Development policies are mostly based on the development of agriculture, but this may not be the most effective approach. In order to better understand the urbanization of Sri Lanka, 15 different indicators were examined. It was found that only 5% of the population is more than 90% urbanized, 13% are more than 75% urbanized, and 42% are more than 50% urbanized. It is likely that this percentage has increased since the 2012 census.



Source: Munasinghe, M, Geeganage, C and de Silva C, 2015.

Analysis of population distribution patterns has revealed that the population is shifting to certain areas, and that there is hidden urbanization occurring in rural areas. This could lead to many problems if not addressed properly. The data collected for this analysis has been used to create graphs and maps, which

help to better understand the urbanization of Sri Lanka. The education level in Sri Lanka was examined as part of this analysis, with statistics from the Prime Minister's Office showing that increase and decrease in education levels. It was found that although Sri Lanka had a low unemployment rate of 4%, it was higher in areas with higher education levels. The infrastructure of Sri Lanka was also assessed, with 12% of the land area being identified as sensitive areas that should not be developed.

Further research revealed that the Millennium Challenge Corporation had interpreted the National Physical Plan's spatial structure as a fence, which could be used for political purposes. It was found that plans can be used for either good or bad purposes, depending on how they are used. Plans also have to be understood properly, as misinterpretations can lead to negative consequences. Plans can bring satisfaction and hope when they are successful, but can also bring wisdom when they fail.

Lessons Learnt:

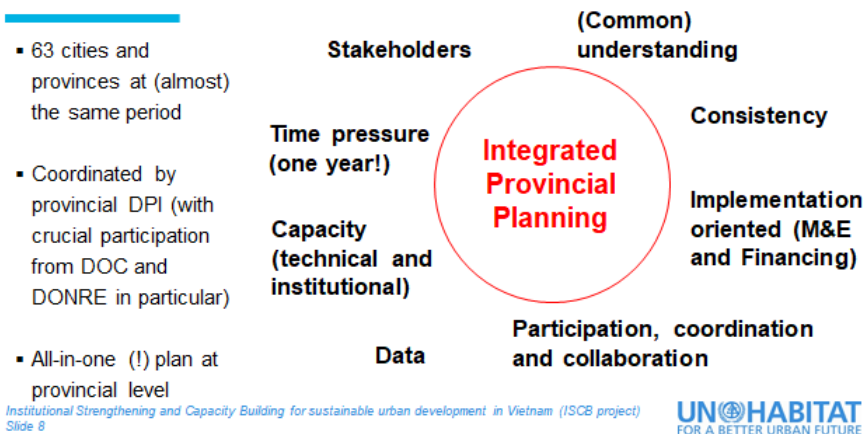
- **The facts are silent in the darkness of fears.**
- **Purpose gives meaning to the tool.**
- **Conclusions are relative to the intentions.**

2. Toward Integrated Planning: Recent Institutional Reforms in Spatial Planning of Vietnam

Vietnam is located between three countries and has a population of more than 90 million people. Spatial planning in Vietnam is divided into three levels: the provincial level, the district level, and the commune level. At the provincial level, there are 63 municipalities. At the district level, there are more than 700 municipalities, and at the commune level, there are 8,500 towns and villages. To improve the spatial planning platform in Vietnam, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) issued the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SCDP), and the Ministry of Construction issued the Space Plan. Before 2019, there were not even 100 sector plans. In order to develop something, local adjustment plans must be made, which can take time and is a very complicated process that can lead to corruption and misuse. To address this, the central government created a new law to regulate all plans and make it easier for MPI to implement plans.

In some specific areas, such as Ho Chi Minh City, there are four key plans or space plans approved by the central government. The Central City Line is an example of a plan that is being transformed after the implementation of the planning law. Now, the integrated plan is left by the planning law, and there is a three-level plan: the national plan, the provincial plan, and the municipal plan. The Planning Law is also intended to replace existing plans with one integrated plan, but it is not possible to replace all plans.

Provincial plans: technical challenges



The Planning Handbook and Planning Data Guideline are being prepared by the Ministry of Planning and Investment under the support of UN-Habitat to provide technical training for local authorities. Policy dialogues, training, and support for plan reviews are also being organized to ensure that planning is done in a systematic and participatory manner. The ISCB project is being implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Investment to support this process.

The central government of Vietnam and its collaboration with local governments are supported by UN-Habitat in the hope of creating an integrated plan in the upcoming year. This plan would make Vietnam more accessible and inclusive.

What's next for Spatial Planning in Vietnam?



Commitment

The SPP Conference concluded with a MOUD (Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Nepal) and participant commitment to derive the learnings from the SPP and international experiences for evidence-based policy formulation, use of fit-for-purpose planning tools with an integrated approach through sub-national spatial planning, and forge collaboration/coordination between sectors, administrations, and stakeholders, delivering sustainable solutions to drive sustainable urbanization.

National Spatial Planning for Integrated and Climate Resilient Urban Development

Kathmandu 1-3 Feb 2023 - MOUD/GON MLIT/GOJ UN-Habitat/ROAP

1. **The 5th SPP conference underscored the importance to host knowledge exchange** meetings between senior officials and specialised planning experts on the progress made in developing Asia and the Pacific and elsewhere on improving national planning systems and spatial planning capacity at all levels. Spatial planning is a pivotal tool to plan and act at all levels on NDCs, the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, in the context of climate change and pandemic recovery.
2. **The meeting showed steady progress on the establishment of national planning systems**, albeit the experience and trajectories are diverse. Equitable economic development, land resource management and adequate subnational governance remain basic drivers, but so is resilience, environmental management and adaptation, in the wake of multiple hazards and climate challenges. The global principles of the IG-UTP remain key guidance but are still insufficiently adopted nationally and localized.
3. **Spatial planning at all levels needs to be evidence-based, making best use of increasingly affordable, accessible data resources and planning tools.** National and sub-national planning and its evidence can be increasingly real-time, integrated, comprehensive and easily accessible, at an affordable institutional cost at all levels. The SPP conference showed again clear evidence of national spatial planning information systems supporting evidence-based national urban policy decisions, such as the coherent designation of subnational priority urban development areas beyond existing administrative boundaries.
4. **National spatial planning systems have been introduced in all participating countries but they are not necessarily yet fit-for-purpose to drive sustainable urbanisation.** The litmus test for fit-for-purpose planning systems are about delivering real-time, specific, positive subnational and local governance outcomes. The Conference showed best experience where national planning systems and coordination focuses on steering accelerated inclusive and resilient local development.

5. **Diverse government entities, specific to national contexts, can host national spatial planning platforms to promote fit-for-purpose planning systems and outcomes in support of sustainable urban development with positive outcomes on resilient local development.** National Spatial Planning Platforms can support horizontal and vertical coordination as well as much needed capacity development, in collaboration with associations of planners and local governments and with relevant educational institutions. It can host the development of national strategic action plans for the fit-for-purpose planning system development. They shall also support the required capacity development and certification needed at all levels, develop and promote tools and guidelines and monitor progress.
6. **Spatial planning, at sub-national level, delivers unique benefits and the Conference ample and recent experience.** These are benefits beyond conventional land use planning. Sub-national spatial planning is an essential tool for urban growth management, to steer towards sustainable and resilient urban expansion, to introduce or retrofit urban areas with effective and clean transport provisions and to ensure other urban provisions to be timely planned for. Equally important is that sub-national spatial planning is an essential and affordable tool for integrated governance and coordination, between sectors, administrations and stakeholders, delivering sustainable solutions and aiding conflict resolution on issues of blue and green development, urban and rural, public and private, developing and left-behind.
7. **The Conference calls for more global and regional action and collaboration, both in inter-governmental meetings and elsewhere.** The Conference appeals to ministers and senior officials to promote fit-for-purpose national planning systems in high-level meetings on sustainable urban development, including in the 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly (June 2023), the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (Oct 2023) and the 12th Sessions of the World Urban Forum (January 2024). The Spatial Planning Platform will continue to support specialised knowledge exchange and capacity development to developing countries, regions and cities at regional and global level in support of sustainable urban development and climate action. MLIT and UN-Habitat thanks the MOUD for the hospitality and impressive and inclusive co-hosting of the 5th session in Kathmandu.

Glossary

GOJ - Government of Japan

GON - Government of Nepal

MOUD - Ministry of Urban Development (Nepal)

MLIT - Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Japan)

NDC - Nationally Determined Contribution

ROAP - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN-Habitat)

SDG - Sustainable Development Goals

SPP - Spatial Planning Platform

Conclusion

The 5th meeting of the Spatial and Regional Planning Platform (SPP) was successfully organized, with government officials, experts, academics and planning professionals. The learning and knowhow exchange in the 5th meeting was very pronounced. The meeting discussed the increasing importance of national and regional planning, novel methods of evidence generation, challenges and solutions with regard to formulation and implementation and the ever-stronger driver of climate policy.

More sharing of experiences and perspectives will be of great use for policy making for sustainable urban development in participating member countries. It was noted that the Ministry of Urban Development of Nepal is pursuing the formulation of an Urban Development Act and relevant guidelines to facilitate faster planning and to reduce conflicts of environmental, social and climate concerns.

Participants were encouraged to review and facilitate the development if relevant of National Spatial Planning Platforms and, of course, the future hosting of regional and global planning conferences, including SPP meetings.

The 3rd international conference in Urban and Regional Planning will take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2023 May, hosted by Bangladesh Institute of Planners. At the 6th SPP meeting, the SPP organisers plan to continue sharing unique examples of efforts of the implementation of the IG-UTP, accelerating the achievements of the SDGs and the realization of NUA in countries and cities.

UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (Fukuoka)