

GGGI India: Fact Sheet

Urban Green Growth Strategies

Challenges

Recent trends and analysis indicate that India will become the world's fastest growing economy over the next two years. However, due to fast paced growth coupled with a population of 1.2 billion, India's natural resources are under increasing strain. Further, though 70% of India's population still resides in rural areas, India's urban population is growing dramatically and compounding existing sustainability challenges as well as creating new ones. For India's cities to contribute to the nation's growth in a sustainable manner they will need to address challenges that include:

- Adequate urban infrastructure and services
- Efficient land use planning
- Sustainable urban mobility
- Healthy urban ecosystem and biodiversity

Activities

Addressing these challenges will be critical if Indian cities are at the core of the economic transformation as envisaged by the Government of India (GoI). GGGI has worked to support this goal through the Urban Green Growth Strategies project, which:

- Assessed the landscape and developed a framework for potential of urban green growth in small and medium-size cities
- Identified urban green growth principles applicable to Indian cities and examined best practices in India
- Provided a scientific basis for cities to prioritize, plan and integrate green growth projects and investments
- Encouraged cities to integrate green growth into city development targets and sector-specific requirements

Overall Objectives

- Develop a framework for evaluating urban green growth potential
- Identify urban best practices in India that will support municipal and state governments to localize green growth planning and implement bankable green growth projects
- Define a basis for cities to develop green growth strategies that integrate city development targets and sector-specific requirements

Implementing Partners

- National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India
- ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability – South Asia

Results to Date

- A three volume report presenting key analysis and recommendations, released by senior officials of Ministry of Urban Development and NITI Aayog in the presence of several city representatives:
- Volume 1: Urban Green Growth Strategies for Indian Cities
- Volume 2: Green Growth Profiles of Ten Indian Cities
- Volume 3: Green Growth Good Practices
- Senior officials commended the timely findings, which will provide useful inputs to the Prime Minister's flagship program of 'Smart Cities'