

Urban-LEDS II

Newsletter #2

March 2019



Electric Motorbike taxis in Urban-LEDS country Lao PDR

Urban-LEDS II Project: What's it all about?

UN-Habitat and ICLEI are working closely together to accelerate urban low emission development and climate resilience, engaging with more than 60 cities worldwide.

Urban-LEDS II is an implementing project of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM).

The project provides technical assistance to cities and towns. Technical assistance is provided to cities and towns in 8 countries with exchanges with 16 European cities, helping them develop robust strategies and integrated climate action plans, underpinned by knowledge gained from risk & vulnerability assessments and greenhouse gas emission inventories.

A key component of the project is the fostering of a multilevel governance approach to urban climate action.

The project encourages discussions between all levels of government to explore vertically integrated approaches that address how to improve governance structures, effective communication, intra-governmental coordination, engagement of relevant stakeholders and finance flows, in all relevant sectors.

Highlights from this issue...

Country News from the 8 project countries

Multi-level governance: what is it and why does it matter?

Project synergies with the government of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa

City in focus: Rajkot, India

Urban Champion: Roberto Cláudio Rodrigues Bezerra, Mayor of Fortaleza

Key Project Facts

Name: Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS II)

Start Date: 1/4/2017 End Date: 28/2/2021

Duration: 48 months

Total Budget: 8,000,000 €

Funding mechanism: European Union (DCI-ENV/2017/384-555)

Consortium: UN-Habitat HQ and regional offices in Lao, Rwanda and Colombia, ICLEI World Secretariat and 5 ICLEI regional offices active in Europe, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, India, Lao PDR, Rwanda and South Africa

Multi-level governance: what is it and why does it matter?

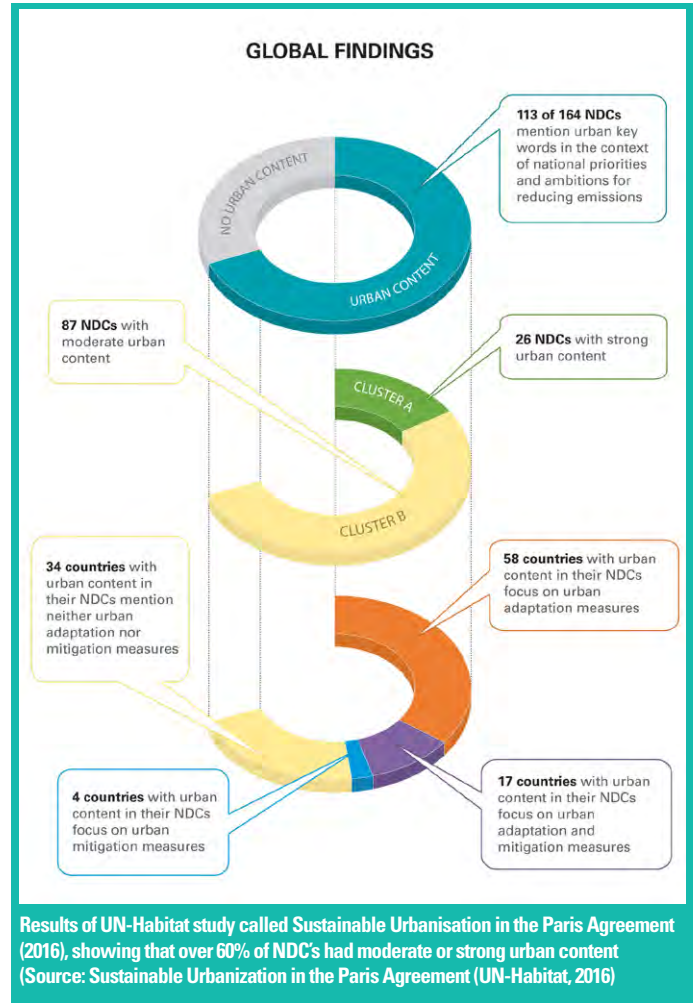
As we rapidly approach the third decade of the 21st Century, one in which scientists warn the climatic “point of no return” is likely to be reached, the way in which we work together may be the most important factor determining the future of life on this planet.

The Paris Agreement, ratified in 2016, was a momentous occasion in our transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future. Implementing it will require an intense focus on governance: who has the power and resources to do what, by which means, and to what end?

In the Urban-LEDS project, ICLEI and UN-Habitat are working with national and sub-national governments to enhance systems that support lower emission development and help national governments to meet the targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Highlights include:

- Hosting Talanoa Dialogues in project countries to foster better communication and understanding between partners
- Mapping opportunities and making recommendations for improving MRV systems and enabling frameworks for sub-national climate action
- Implementing pilot activities that enhance multi-level governance, such as mainstreaming climate change considerations into National Urban Policies

Multi-level governance is one of the most important keys to open the door to the future we all signed up to in Paris in 2015. Even crafting the key will require us to work together, think in systems, have difficult conversations, and make difficult, contested decisions. The UN-Habitat partnership with GIZ and ICLEI is part of our effort to support a framework in which those difficult decisions become a little bit easier.



Read the full story on multi-level governance in recent blogs by [UN-Habitat](#) and in ICLEI’s report “[Leveraging subnational action to raise climate ambition](#),” to find out more about the Talanoa Dialogues.”

Project synergies: Covenant of Mayors in Sub Saharan Africa (COM SSA)

The Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) is funded by the European Union and is the regional Covenant of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM).

ICLEI Africa and ICLEI World Secretariats are key implementing partners, and UN-Habitat sits on the advisory board. The CoM SSA and the Urban-LEDS project are closely aligned; working together to address the shared objectives of accelerating energy access,

tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Key synergies between the two projects include the provision of technical assistance to cities on climate action planning following COM SSA guidelines, peer to peer exchanges at co-hosted events, and knowledge sharing between project partners.

Read the full story [here](#)



Covenant of Mayors
in Sub-Saharan Africa

Bangladesh: Bangladesh hosted Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue

Stakeholders, including national and local government, attended an exciting dialogue to take stock of climate action and collaboration in Bangladesh. Some of the key lessons identified at the dialogue were building awareness, innovative finance and improving capacity building among all level of stakeholders. Read the [Report](#) and the [full story here](#).



The Bangladesh Talanoa Dialogue in full flow

Brazil: Peer to peer exchange for energy efficiency actions

In a series of national workshops, the 8 Brazilian project cities confirmed their interest to prioritise actions in the energy and transport sectors in Urban-LEDS phase II. The agenda for 2019 will include peer to peer learning and exchange between project cities on these two crucial topics.



Colombia: A busy year ahead

Like in Brazil, a series of technical workshops in Colombia with project cities and institutions, engaging more than 180 people, have resulted in the identification of energy and transport as the two priority sectors, alongside a strong focus on support to structure and design projects in order to attract funding for implementation. 2019 promises to be a busy year!

India: Stakeholders gather for first Talanoa Dialogue in India

Jointly organised with the Ministry of Environment, this dialogue aimed to strengthen aspects of multi-level governance to enable accelerated and effective on-ground action aimed at achieving NDC commitments.

Read the [report](#), and the [full story](#) here.



The India Talanoa Dialogue in full flow

Indonesia: Indonesian cities and provinces stress the importance of synergistic climate action

City to Province dialogues were held in October and November 2018 to discuss and promote inter-governmental collaboration for climate action.

The dialogue served as a venue for cities and regencies to discuss with their respective province regarding the progress, challenges, and needs of local governments in contributing to the national target of GHG emission reduction by 2030.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Participants at the City to province dialogue on climate action



Electric tuk tuk transport in Lao

Lao PDR: Urban LEDS II project set to launch

A mapping exercise has explored the institutional and policy landscape in Lao and identified possible opportunities to enhance multi-level governance in support of low emission development at all levels of government.

Read the [full story](#) here.

Rwanda: 2018 Africa Green Growth Forum hosted in Kigali

The Mayor of Kigali, an Urban-LEDS participating city, co-hosted this forum on the pressing challenges and opportunities facing cities across the continent as they strive for green growth.

Read the [full story](#) here.



The Mayor of Kigali (centre) welcoming hosts to the Forum



Participants in Saldanha Bay discussing informal settlement electrification

South Africa: Peer to peer exchange for off-grid electrification

Saldanha Bay Local Municipality and Stellenbosch Local Municipality met in a peer to peer exchange to discuss the barriers and enablers of off-grid electrification in low income communities and informal settlements.

Read the full story [here](#).

City in focus : Rajkot, India scales up its climate resilience and low carbon transition

“Rajkot is a progressive city that has participated in various national and international initiatives, which have helped the city think and plan in advance for a resilient and low carbon future. We are ‘learning by doing’ and are happy to share experiences from our journey to achieve our climate goals with other cities through the Urban-LEDS II project.”

Mr. Banchhanidhi Pani, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Rajkot Municipal Corporation



The 145 kW Solar PV system installed at one of Rajkot's water treatment plant, as part of its Urban-LEDS response in phase 1

Rajkot is an industrial city situated in the Indian state of Gujarat. Rajkot's population is 1.28 million (2011) and lies in an arid zone, with irregular and erratic monsoons, experiencing a predominantly hot and dry climate. Rajkot is committed to act on climate change and continuously strives to expand its efforts in this regard.

As a model city in the Urban-LEDS I project, Rajkot prepared its first climate mitigation action plan in 2016. This has been updated to a Climate Resilient City Action Plan that includes both climate mitigation and adaptation measures, with technical support from Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) through the CapaCITIES project. Through its action plan, the city has recently set a mitigation target of 14% absolute reduction in its annual GHG emissions by 2022-23 as compared to its 2015-16 baseline.

To achieve its climate targets, Rajkot has undertaken several strategic interventions including:

- Energy efficient LED street lighting retrofits piloted for 400 conventional high-pressure sodium vapour (HPSV) lamps in the Urban-LEDS I project have been scaled up to replace all 67,000 HPSV street lights in the city with LED lights through the energy service companies (ESCO) model, with no upfront capital investment by the city. 60% energy savings have resulted. Efforts are also underway to replicate a pilot installation of a 145 kWp solar PV system in Rajkot's Aji treatment plant.
- Green building measures, including building envelop and design solutions and solar PV systems have been adopted in social housing projects built by the city government. Policy guidelines have been prepared to promote private green buildings. About 61% of Rajkot's households have installed LED lights.
- Improved water resource management: a water augmentation study has been conducted to identify flood prone areas, with the support of SDC. Area based recharge systems have been installed at five locations to reduce flooding risks.

Based on its learning from the Urban LEDS I project, Rajkot continues to tap into new opportunities for long-term LEDS action.

Upcoming events:

[UN Climate Week: Africa](#)

18-20 March 2019. Accra, Ghana

[1st UN-Habitat Assembly](#)

27-31 May. Nairobi, Kenya



[Resilient Cities conference.](#)

25 – 27 June. Bonn, Germany



Urban-LEDS European study tour for participating cities

17-25 June

Urban champion

Every other newsletter, we hand over the mic to local government staff in Urban-LEDS cities, so they can tell you their story of promoting low-carbon development in their municipalities



Roberto Cláudio Rodrigues Bezerra
Mayor of Fortaleza

The City of Fortaleza in Brazil faces challenges like many large cities: fast and disorganized growth, public demands for security, housing, education and health, and the threat of climate impacts. Roberto Cláudio, the Mayor of Fortaleza, a coastal city in the north-eastern regional of Brazil, has the responsibility to manage these challenges.

One of the reasons why Roberto Cláudio got involved in politics, he says, was to make a difference in people's lives. Married, a father of two daughters, and a doctor by profession, his career included a long period working in public health policy. He believes that the

transformation of a city does not depend on one person – the mayor - but is led by the implementation of public policies that engage all sectors in a city, and its entire population. *“My expectation is to leave the seed of a future legacy that could change the way in which the citizen of Fortaleza looks at the environment and the development of the city”*; he mentioned.


For the Mayor, the first phase of the Urban-LEDS project was a learning opportunity, which included the creation of the city's first inventory of GHG emissions and an accompanying reduction plan. With waste and


transport revealed to be the largest sources of emissions, Fortaleza has begun to introduce incentives for public transport, and is implementing a waste management plan that involves the public and private sectors. In 2018, the city was the winner of the Sustainable Transport Award of the Institute for Transport and Development Policies (ITDP), for the implementation of good practices in sustainable transport and traffic safety and is set to host the Mobilize International Congress in June 2019.


In this new phase of Urban-LEDS, Fortaleza has reached a level of maturity and accumulated knowledge that, according to the mayor, will allow the them to take bigger steps on the path to low carbon development. Now, their great ambition is to create a plan to adapt to climate change, which aims to create more inclusive public policies, generate jobs and, at the same time, drive the achievement of sustainable development.

Find out more about Fortaleza's Urban-LEDS phase 1 achievements in this [video](#)

For more information on the Urban-LEDS project;

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