



Urban Forestry Benchmarking

Goals and Opportunities

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Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry



Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry

Register your interest to join the Network of Experts.

- Knowledge exchange
- Capacity-building
- Peer-to-peer learning
- Collaboration



Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry



- 1. First Meeting of the Informal Network of Experts** on Sustainable Urban Forestry (19 October 2021);
- Urban and Peri-urban Forest Ecosystems for Green Recovery – Linking National Policies and Local Action (Foresta 2021 Side Event) (22 November 2021);
- 3. Meeting of the Informal Network of Experts** on Sustainable Urban Forestry (8 December 2021);
- Organization of a **workshop** on “Scaling up Urban Greening and forests in Cities” (18-19 Mar 2022);
- Informal meeting on benchmarking collaboration (**Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry**) (28 March 2022);
- “Urban Forests for Future-Proof Cities” roundtable during the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2022 and **Meeting of the Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry** (7 April 2022);
- “Opportunities for Advancing Urban Forestry in the UNECE Region: Policy Roundtable” and Fourth Meeting of the **Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry** (16 September 2022);
- 8. Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry: Benchmarking Collaboration (Second Meeting)** (5 October 2022).



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Why Benchmarking



- Benchmarks help assess whether urban forestry plans and targets are ambitious and realistic...and much more.
- However, it is difficult to find and engage with peer cities with comparable urban forests.
- And the way cities define and measure urban forests (e.g. canopy cover) can vary in significant ways.



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Nice, France

Will plant +280,000 trees by 2026

Will develop 70 hectares of green space

Current tree cover: 1 tree for every 5 inhabitants

Future tree cover: 1 tree for every 1 inhabitant

Tshwane, South Africa (incl. Pretoria)

Planted 8,907 trees in 2021

Will plant 10,000 in 2022

Focus on promoting ecological integrity

Plans to be global forerunner in green
infrastructure development



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Geneva



- Pledged 1,433 trees in 2021
- Canopy cover from 21% to 30%
- Progressively abandoning the pruning of 900 architectural trees
- Planting micro-forests, increasing biodiversity

Lausanne



- Pledged 3,000 trees in 2021
- Canopy cover from 20% to 30% of *urban* territory by 2040.
 - +25,000 trees with 75m² canopy
- Strong emphasis on heat island



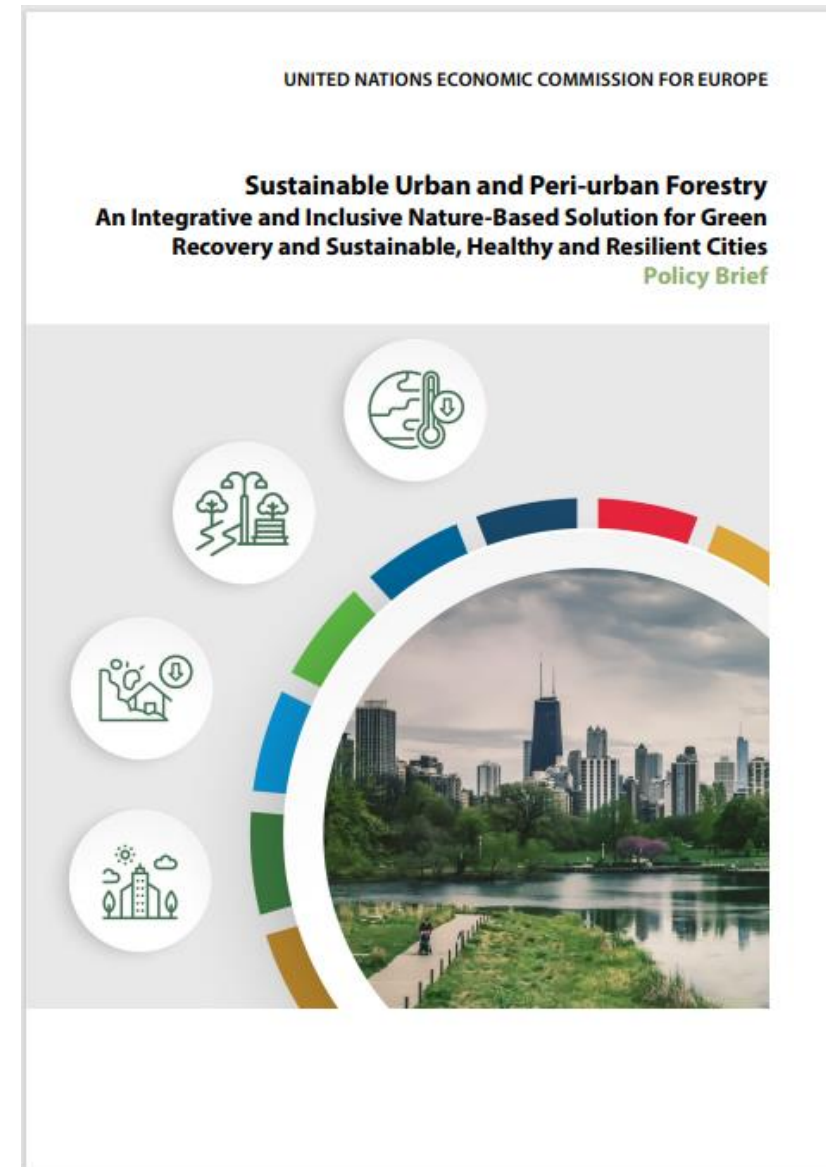
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Theory of Change

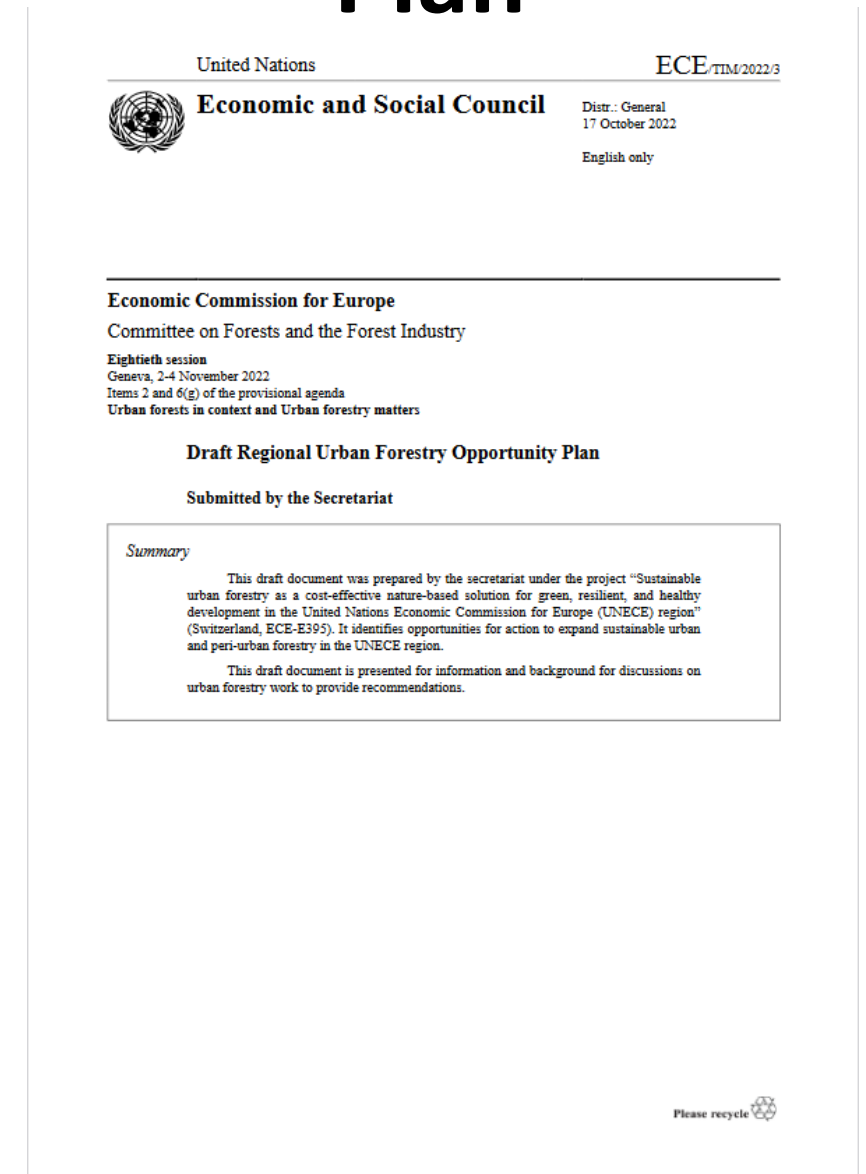


Target Outcome: As nature-based solutions and critical green infrastructure, urban and peri-urban forests are sustainably managed and expanded over time to maximise the contribution of their benefits and services to local, national and global goals.

Policy Brief



Regional Opportunities Plan



<https://treesincities.unece.org/>



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Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2022

Urban forests for future proof cities



Sustainable urban forestry is an integrative and cost-effective nature-based solution

Policy actions must be aligned across sectors and levels of government

National governments well positioned to support city level action

Integrated long-term planning, design, management and finance is critical to unlock and maximise co-benefits

Green spaces are not a cost but a good investment

Urban forests should be accessible to all



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Theory of Change



Delivering the target outcome and maximising the potential benefit of urban forests depends on ensuring that urban forests are composed of the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason, and that they survive and thrive over time. This requires:

- **Output 1:** Integrated long-term planning
- **Output 2:** Sustainable management over time
- **Output 3:** Adequate and predictable resources
- **Output 4:** Enabling and supporting policy and governance structures
- **Output 5:** Sustained political support and capacity building



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Benchmarking Goals



For benchmarking to contribute to successful urban forestry outcomes, in accordance with the theory of change, benchmarking goals include:

- 1. Planning:** Benchmarks help policymakers and planners to set ambitious yet realistic urban forestry targets.
- 2. Management:** Urban forests survive, thrive and expand over time while consistently delivering desired benefits and ecosystem services
- 3. Resources:** Planners and decision makers can target and allocate resources more efficiently.
- 4. Policy** is more coherent and supportive of urban forestry across sectors and levels of government.
- 5. Political will:** Political commitments are clear and measurable over time.



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Benchmarking Objectives



Integrated long-term planning

- Facilitate comparability among urban areas
- Provide information needed for long-term planning (e.g. master plans)
- Maximize compatibility with data from urban forestry inventories
- Include information on change in urban forest cover over time
- Include information on available resources (financial and non-financial)
- Include information on stakeholder engagement, including community engagement
- Complement existing capacity building and advisory services



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Benchmarking Objectives



Sustainable management and maintenance over time

- Provide information on whether *planted* trees are successfully *established*
- Provide information on whether *existing* trees are sustainably *managed*
- Understand the proportion of urban forestry budgets and other resources dedicated to tree maintenance
- Inform adaptive management



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Benchmarking Objectives



Adequate and predictable resources

- Understand and compare financial and non-financial resource allocation among groups of benchmarking peers to better assess resource needs to implement specific planning targets.
- Support efforts by national and subnational policymakers to target financial and non-financial support at the city level.
- Assess the predictability of urban forestry budgets and access to non-financial resources.



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Benchmarking Objectives



Enabling policy and governance structures

Benchmarks should (be):

- Defined at city scale, but relevant to inform policy targets from city to national scale
- Defined in a way that is comparable across diverse governance structures
- Usable by cities with different levels of capacity to provide requested information
- Differentiate between urban forest cover on public and private lands
- Differentiate urban forests managed by cities from urban forests managed by other public institutions (e.g. at the subnational or national level).
- Consider different urban conditions and aim to be defined inclusive



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Benchmarking Objectives



Political Will

Benchmarks should (be):

- Request information on urban forestry targets as part of benchmarking
- Support clear, concise communication of urban forestry targets and outcomes to constituents, stakeholders and networks
- Support the identification of comparable peers and the potential exchange of information, vision and collaboration
- Relevant to aligned programs and mechanisms providing resources



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Thank you, and...



...let's work together to grow what works!

Register for the
Benchmarking Survey



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Cities Pledge Today!



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