Trees for Resilient Green Cities

Strategic Screening and Action Toolkit

3 Aug 2023
Via Zoom

Daniel Griswold
UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division
Agenda

1. Why Trees in Cities?

2. Trees for Resilient Green Cities Toolkit

3. How to Participate in the UNECE Urban Tree-PAL Initiative
Cities are on the frontline of our greatest local and global challenges. 

We are living in the urban era: 

• Cities are already responsible for around 75% of global CO₂ emissions.  
• They will account for 80% of GDP and be home to 75% of population by 2050. 

→ They are critical to the SDGs, Paris Agreement, Global Biodiversity Framework, and other Global Goals.
With increasing urbanization, cities face many challenges:

- Climate change impacts (heat, floods, landslides)
- Mental and physical health crises
- Air pollution from traffic and industry
- Loss and fragmentation of urban natural areas
Urban Trees & Forests: A Nature-based Solution

When planned and managed for the long-term, urban trees and forests:

- **MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE**
  Reduce energy consumption by up to 25% a year in shaded homes

- **COOL OUR CITIES**
  Reduce ambient temperatures up to 8 degrees Celsius

- **IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH**
  Scientifically proven to improve physical and mental health

- **GROW EQUITY**
  Provide places for recreation and increase food access through planting food forests

- **REDUCE DISASTER RISK**
  Large trees stabilize soil and intercept up to 11m³ of water, reducing flood & slide risk

- **PROTECT BIODIVERSITY**
  Form critical habitats and corridors for diverse species and pollinators

**COST EFFECTIVE:**
A study in Lisbon estimated that every €1 invested in urban trees and forests generated €4.5 in benefits
The 3-30-300 rule for greener, healthier, and more resilient cities

3  Everyone should be able to see at least 3 mature trees from their home and place of work or study
30  There should be a 30% tree canopy cover in each neighbourhood
300  The maximum distance to the nearest high-quality public green space should be 300 metres
Urban and Peri-urban Forestry

What are urban and peri-urban forests?

Simple definition: The “sum of all woody and associated vegetation in and around urban areas.”

What is urban and peri-urban forestry?

Sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry (SUPF) is the art, science, and practice of planning, designing, establishing, and managing urban and peri-urban forests to meet the current needs and desires of society for the benefits these provide, while ensuring such benefits for future generations.
Delivering the Benefits of Urban Trees and Forest

Long-term Planning
- Benefits depend on right tree in right place
- Dedicated plans are needed that consider linkages
- As is integration into broader city planning
- Include community & other stakeholders

Long-Term Management and Maintenance
- Existing trees and forest are a valuable public asset
- They must survive and thrive over time
- Healthy mature trees provide the greatest benefit

Ongoing Monitoring
- Do planted trees survive?
- Are expected benefits are obtained?

Adequate Investment
- Need predictable finance and resources over time
- Realistic budget allocation is critical to achieve outcomes
UNECE Urban Tree-PAL Initiative

Part 1 – Planning and Management

Part 2 – Implementation
Planning and Management

Purpose: Help ensure that trees and forests are well-integrated into relevant planning, management and governance activities at the local level

When: The scorecard can be completed at any time, and can be used as a tool to track progress

Approach: Self-directed scorecard

Resource Needs: Rapid internal review without new research or data collection required

Result: Highlight possible areas for improvement, prioritize actions, and develop an Implementation Scheme with a financing plan
Focus: The scorecard focuses on the planning, management, governance and financing architecture.

It does not assess the urban forest resource (e.g. it is not a substitute for an inventory).

Who can use the Toolkit? Any city or town, regardless of existing urban forest planning and management capacity and progress (e.g. low or high)
Example Question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Do you periodically conduct research on urban trees and their benefits to support the development of your planning and management approaches?</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>We conduct periodic pilots but no collaborative research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CURRENT SCORE** 0.5

**TARGET SCORE** 1

**POTENTIAL ACTIONS TO REACH TARGET SCORE:**
- Contact local urban forestry program to discuss collaboration
- Develop pilot to end architectural pruning

Are scores comparable among cities? No. The scorecard is designed for internal use, to identify relative strengths and weaknesses. In turn, this should help identify and prioritize actions for continuous improvement as part of an Implementation Scheme.
A simple implementation scheme will identify priority actions from among the potential actions identified when completing the checklist.
Funding may come from diverse sources. Expected or potential funding sources for priority actions should be identified to facilitate a structured approach to budgeting and fundraising for continuous improvement.

**TABLE 2 Financing Future Initiatives**

Which activities in Table 1 cannot be fully funded from the regular city budget or available funds? Please list below, indicating their level of readiness and potential funding sources. Please indicate the actions listed in Table 1 that are within the scope of each proposed initiative, programme or project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL OF READINESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Concept only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Planning target only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Implementation plan drafted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Investment ready budget drafted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Partial funding procured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INITIATIVE / PROGRAMME / PROJECT</th>
<th>ACTIONS INCLUDED IN SCOPE</th>
<th>READINESS</th>
<th>PLANNED LENGTH IN YEARS</th>
<th>EST. RESOURCES REQUIRED (LOCAL CURRENCY)</th>
<th>POTENTIAL FUNDING MODEL OR SOURCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
<td>Choose an item.</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
<td>Choose an item.</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHY PARTICIPATE?

• Explore a career in urban forestry
• Sharpen your strategic understanding of urban forest governance
• Contribute to your local community and global goals
You will receive a UNECE certificate of recognition for developing an Implementation Scheme with a city.
How to Participate

1. Register your interest today
2. Reach out to your local city or town forester and propose working together
3. We will email you in September to see how things are going
4. We will organize a peer exchange and learning meeting in October
5. Share the implementation plan with us to receive a certificate of recognition
UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge (TICC)

Over 80 cities worldwide have pledged to plant 13 million trees

A TICC pledge can help to:
- Mobilize finance & other support
- Build community support & engagement
- Engage & exchange with other cities

With cities on the front line of the SDGs & Climate Action

Sustainable Urban and Peri Urban Forestry...

...is a cost-effective, nature-based solution to localize biodiversity conservation, climate action, and the SDGs

- Reduce infrastructure cost with green solutions
- Mitigate urban heat island effect & heat-related deaths
- Reduce energy consumption & expenditure
- Increase pedestrian traffic (commercial, tourist and cultural)
- Reduce flood & landslide risks
- Improve physical and mental health
- Grow food in urban areas
- Create green jobs
Make a Trees in Cities pledge today!

Make a Pledge Today

Additional Resources

Download the Policy Brief on Sustainable Urban and Periurban Forestry

Download the Trees In Cities Information Brochure

Download the Draft Regional Urban Forestry Opportunity Plan

https://forms.office.com/e/51rmA0aCC8
Thank you!

Daniel Griswold
UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division
daniel.griswold@un.org