Tree PAL

Policy & Action Lab

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Trees in Cities Challenge

We Need Trees in Cities

- ✓ Sustainable Development
- ✓ Climate Action
- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Disaster Risk Reduction
- ✓ Green Cities

Cities are on the frontline of our greatest local and global challenges.

Urban and peri-urban trees and forests can deliver **vibrant, resilient** and **liveable communities** today and for future for generations.

They are a cost-effective solution to deliver local and global goals, including the SDGs, Paris Agreement and Global Biodiversity Framework.

Ensuring they are part of the plan and solution requires effective policy, planning and management across sectors and levels of government.

When *planned*, *funded* 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

A COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION:

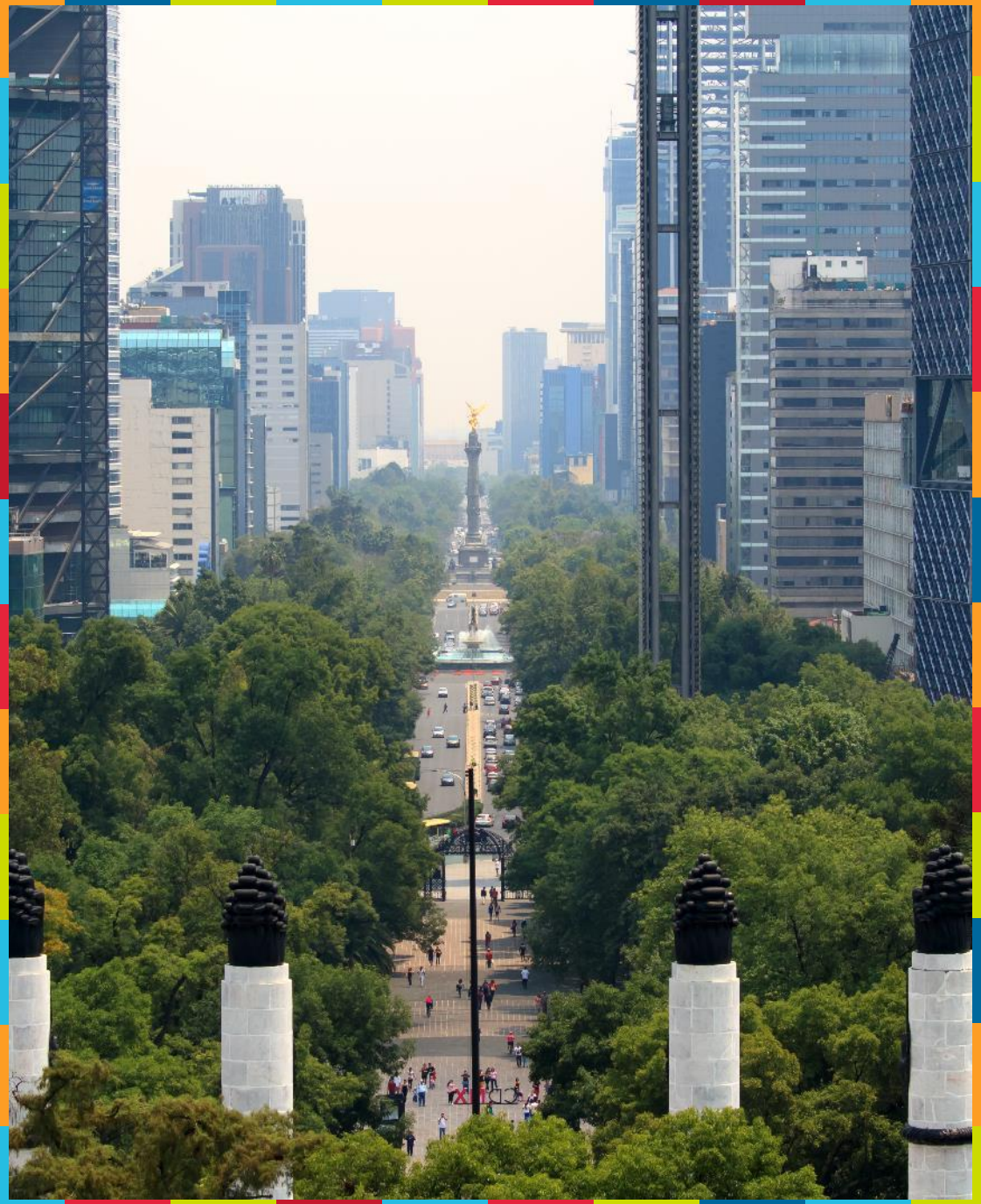
A study in Lisbon estimated that **every €1 invested in urban trees and forests generated €4.5 in benefits**

Source: A.L. Soares et al., "Benefits and costs of street trees in Lisbon, Portugal."

What we Need

Cities need support to plan, manage and invest in urban trees and nature over the long term, to deliver the many benefits of nature in cities and urban trees and maximize them over time.

National governments need to strengthen integration of urban trees and green spaces into national policy to systemically drive and support aligned action at the local level to implement this nature-based solution.



Delivering Urban Trees as a Nature Based Solution

Long-term	• 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
Ongoing monitoring	• Do planted trees survive? • Are expected benefits obtained?
Long-term management & maintenance	• Existing trees & forest are a valuable public asset • They must survive and thrive over time • Healthy mature trees provide the greatest benefit
Adequate investment	• Need predictable finance and resources over time • Realistic budget allocation is critical to achieve outcomes

The Tree PAL Initiative

The UNECE *Tree Policy and Action Lab* supports cities and countries to plan, manage and expand urban trees and nature as a nature-based solution for local, national and global goals.

Action Lab

Direct technical assistance to cities with custom tools

Support planning, financing and managing urban trees to achieve the greatest possible scale of impact.

Learnings inform the Policy Lab

13 CLIMATE ACTION

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

15 LIFE ON LAND

Policy Lab

Support national governments to integrate urban nature and trees into national policy.

Develop, disseminate policy guidance for national stakeholders as well as cities.

Inter-governmental work with countries.

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Community of Practice

- Peer exchange and learning
- Link local with national
- Replicate and scale best practice
- Across countries
- Within countries

Building an Architecture for Systemic Action

Action Lab

Policy Lab

Community of Practice

Local with National

Aligning policy and action across levels of government is essential to efficiently deliver both local and national objectives

Tree-PAL supports capacity and helps build an architecture to support first movers and drive systemic change

City

Tree-PAL supports planning, governance and long-term implementation & finance

National

Building on City-level insights, Tree-PAL supports policy and action for a systemic national approach to implement urban trees and nature as an NBS

Systemically Deliver National Results

City pilots & metrics inform national policy & action

- Better understanding of local capacity, needs & priorities
- Identify tools and capacities to implement at national level in support of local efforts (efficiencies of scale)
- Standardized metrics help target national policy action and financial and non-financial support to cities & towns
- Strengthen national policy to systemically support & drive local action to deliver local and national goals

Join the Tree PAL Community Today

- ✓ Assess current situation
- ✓ Develop a plan
- ✓ Mobilize finance
- ✓ Link local with national
- ✓ Join our global community

Register now:

https://forms.office.com/e/ikbsY5QrR7

OUR WORK WITH CITIES AND COUNTRIES

Our Work with Cities

Trees for Resilient Green Cities Toolkit

- Is your city prepared to plan, fund and manage urban trees over time?
- Is the right local governance architecture in place?
- What are priority actions to deliver desired solutions and benefits?
- Develop implementation and financing plan as part of Tree-PAL

Our Work with Cities

Urban Tree Performance Metrics

How does urban tree and green cover compare with other cities?

Do trees survive and thrive?

Is management and expenditure effective and efficient?

What are realistic performance targets for enhancing urban tree and green cover?

Our Work with Cities

UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge

- Community of 80+ Cities
- Political Commitment
- 12 million trees pledged
- 11 million trees planted
- Peer Learning and Exchange

Examples from our Community

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

Lausanne, Switzerland

- Pledged 3,000 trees in 2021
- Will expand its canopy cover from 20% to 30% of urban territory by 2024
  - +25,000 trees with 75m^2 canopy
- Strong emphasis on heat island

Our Work with Countries

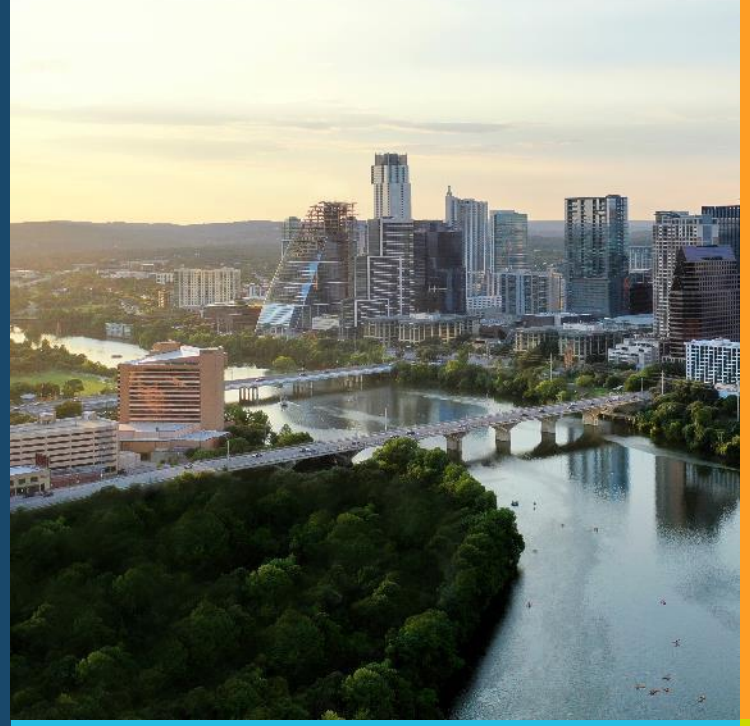
Draft Regional Urban Forest Opportunity Plan

- Opportunities at local, national and regional level
- Developed for UNECE Committee on Forests and Forest Industry

National Policy Guidance & Recommendations

- Via Tree PAL Consultative Process

Our Community:
Informal Expert Network on Urban Nature



Capacity Building

Peer Exchange & Lessons Learned

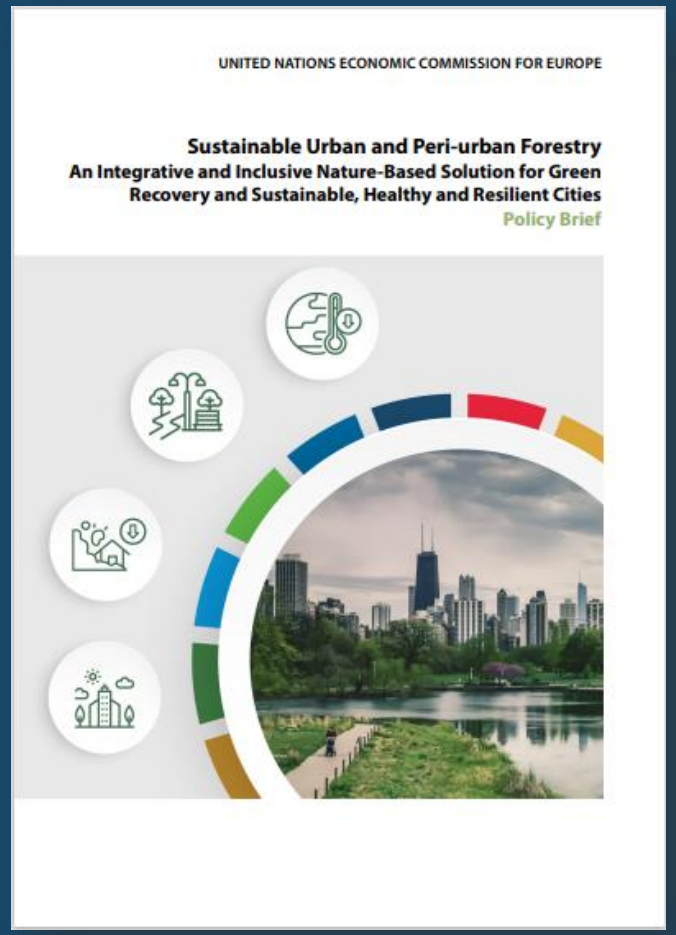
Linking Local and National

The UN Forest Podcast

Available on:

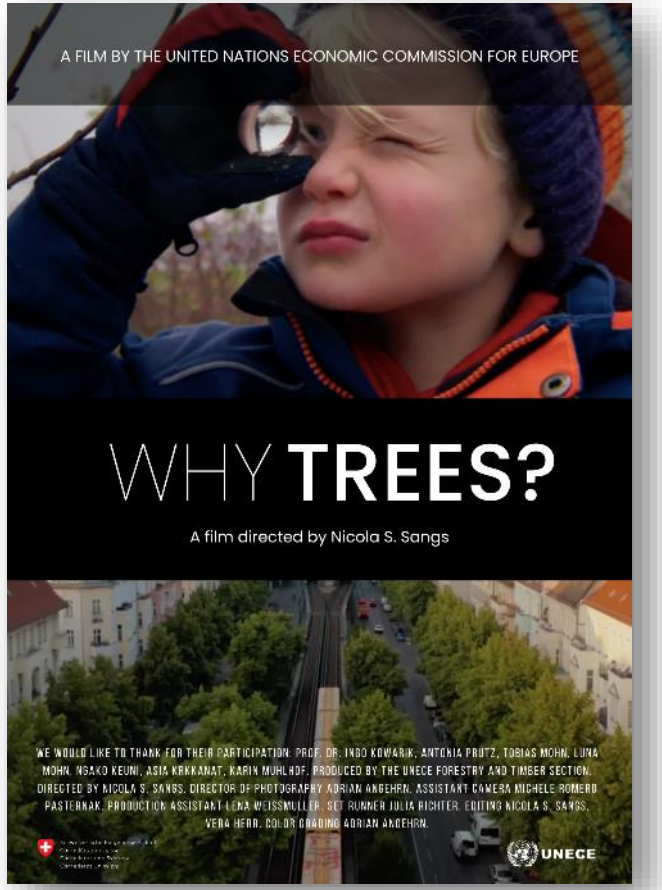
Spotify · MUSIC · SOUNDCLOUD · music

Policy Brief



https://bit.ly/3s9XIoX

Why trees?



YouTube

Thank you

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Trees in Cities Challenge

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