



APUFM

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SEOUL ACTION PLAN

for the development of Urban Forestry in the Asia-Pacific Region

1 Introduction

The dynamic and populous Asia-Pacific region is home to over four billion people; that is, almost 60% of the world's population. Half of these people live in cities (2017). Asia is also responsible for a large share of the future growth of the world's urban population, with for example India contributing with 404 million new urban dwellers in the next 20 years. The region includes 58 countries, ranging from Iran in the west to the Pacific Islands in the east, and is one of the world's most diverse in terms of economy, society, culture, environment and human settlements. The region is currently home to 17 megacities, a number that is expected to increase to 22 by 2030. However, the challenge of urban sustainability is expected to concentrate in small- and medium-sized cities, where almost 90% of the projected urban population growth is expected to occur.

Cities of the Asia-Pacific are now the predominant hubs of economic growth, wealth creation and innovation, and their economic successes and transformations have lifted millions of people out of poverty. Recognizing this, governments have explicitly linked their future urbanization to national development strategies and economic prospects. However, the current era of rapid urbanization has been marred by the limited capacity and sometimes resources to match the needs of any rising urban population. In many parts of the region, urbanization is characterized by lack of adequate infrastructure, poor housing, inadequate present and future maintenance management plans, lack of effective legislation, and weak financing mechanisms that hinder shared urban prosperity. Many cities and towns have been bypassed by the benefits of economic growth and wealth creation, leading to inequality amongst urban areas in the region.

The environmental quality and quality of life in the increasingly intensified and expanding cities could be improved by preserving and restoring their natural components. Forests and trees can play a cost effective role in this process. They can provide a wide spectrum of ecosystem services which span from ecological-environmental to social-economic domains. Another important consideration is that two thirds of the world's indigenous peoples live in Asia and, with the increasing transfer of people from rural to urban areas, it is essential to ensure that this wide diversity of knowledge and traditions is duly considered in the planning, design and management of urban forests.

The integration of natural processes and vegetation in urban development is gaining recognition and support in the region and urban forestry and urban greening are increasingly accepted as key components of present and future urban strategies. A number of countries, such as China and the Republic of Korea, are leading the way in the implementation of national and local programmes to promote urban forestry as a tool for sustainable and resilient urban development. However, as land values in densely urbanised cities can be extreme because of the purchasing power of commercial developments, much of the remaining green space is under threat. New developments also tend to focus on maximizing the purely economic potential of the land and do not adequately provide new green spaces within the sites.

Forests, trees and associated vegetation have played, and will do even more in the future, a central role in cities in the Asia-Pacific Region. Their huge potential to furnish nature-based solutions to achieve the goals of sustainable and liveable cities could be earnestly tapped.

The Seoul Action Plan aims to provide a coherent framework for supporting and assisting countries and cities of Asia and the Pacific willing to adopt urban and peri-urban forest and green infrastructure as strategic components of their sustainable future and as essential elements in providing a good the quality of life for their citizens. This Action Plan also serves as an instrument for coordinating the region's initiatives among the signatory cities, nations, and institutions to implement policies concerning urban and peri-urban forest and green infrastructure, and as a reference for action at the local level. It is also meant to guide Asian-Pacific countries in optimizing the potential of urban forests in contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – particularly SDG 11, which focuses on making cities safe, resilient and sustainable – and realize the global vision of the New Urban Agenda.

2 What are Urban and Peri-urban Forests and Green Infrastructure?

Urban forests can be defined as the system comprising all woodlands, groups of trees, and individual trees located in urban and peri-urban areas; they include, therefore, street trees, urban woodland parks and trees in parks and gardens, protected forest areas and managed plantations, trees on derelict land, as well as associated vegetation. Urban forests are the backbone of Green Infrastructure, i.e. a strategically planned network of high-quality natural, semi-natural, and cultivated areas designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, bridging rural and urban areas and ameliorating a city's environmental footprint.

3 What is the Seoul Action Plan?

The aims of the Seoul Action Plan are: (i) to expand awareness of the benefits that urban forests and trees provide to communities throughout the Asia-Pacific Region; (ii) to sustain and foster the growth of urban forests and trees as key-contributors to resilient cities; (iii) to support the local and national decision makers in planning, designing and managing their green capital; and (iv) to provide guidance on the key actions to be taken towards more sustainable urban development. The Seoul Action Plan is the result of

ongoing discussion among those present at the 2nd Asia Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting (APUFM) with the support of FAO. It aims to provide a concrete follow-up on the recommendations included in the Zhuhai declaration (1st APUFM, 2016). It is based on a set of guiding principles and proposes seven Goals and a number of related key actions to be implemented over the next 10 years.

4 Guiding Principles

The main guiding principles of the plan, based on the Zhuhai declaration, are:

- Urban and peri-urban forests and trees and green infrastructure play an important role in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals in urban contexts, and they contribute directly to health and well-being of dwellers.
- Urban and peri-urban forests and trees can provide a wide range of benefits to urban communities, by improving environmental quality, enhancing food security, conserving urban biodiversity, mitigating climate change, stimulating green economy, preserving natural and cultural heritage, strengthening social cohesion, and providing environmental education opportunities.
- The sustainable governance of resilient Asia-Pacific cities should be improved through proactive policies, strategic planning, and the development of sound legislative framework and governance system addressed to optimize the benefits provided by forests and trees in urban areas. Policy support at international, regional, national and local levels should be oriented towards integrating urban forestry into urban planning and to reducing land use conflicts between urban green and grey infrastructures.
- Awareness of the functions and benefits of urban forests and trees should be raised by increasing advocacy, communication and public education, which in turn may increase urban forestry investment by diversifying funding resources. In parallel, knowledge and information exchange should be increased by strengthening urban forestry education and research in the region through regional networking and cooperation, organizing knowledge exchange events, increasing funding support and facilitating programmes of students and staff mobility.
- Environmental quality in the Asia-Pacific cities should be improved in the immediate future by creating new urban public and private green spaces and urban forests, and by optimizing the functions, benefits and resilience of existing urban green spaces.
- Urban sustainability should be ensured by enhancing public participation and community involvement to make urban forests more accessible and to create diverse interactive programmes and activities. Local and regional traditional knowledge should be considered in the design and implementation of urban forests to adequately reflect different cultural perspectives.
- Growing urban societies should aim at protecting and restoring forests and tree resources between cities, enhancing rural-urban linkages through landscape planning and design, building interconnected regional eco-corridors, protecting healthy forest ecosystems for urban water supply, limiting unplanned urban expansion, introducing a green infrastructure approach as a new urban development planning style, and promoting integrated ecological planning of neighbouring cities. Environmental justice, which can address the unequal distribution of ecosystem service of urban forests along the socio-economic scale, should be considered in landscape planning and design of Asian cities in the Asia-Pacific.
- Common tools should be developed (including methods, models and indicators) to address research questions, fulfil educational needs and support urban forestry solutions adapted to the needs of individual cities and countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

5 Goals and Actions

Goal 1. Greener cities	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The canopy cover of cities in the region has increased by at least 10% by 2027 (e.g. if a city currently has a 10% cover, it would increase it to 11%) • By 2027 the green space available per resident has increased by at least 10% as compared to 2017
Key actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Support cities to collect baseline information on canopy cover and green space 1.2 Promote and support the implementation of urban forestry programmes, as well as the preparation of guidelines, methods and tools for assessment/inventory/monitoring of urban forests, trees and green spaces adapted to the different contexts of Asia-Pacific cities 1.3 Develop education/research programmes for assessing and monitoring ecosystem services 1.4 Propose regional, sub-regional, national and local surveys on the urban forest by selecting case studies by country, climate, population, size, form, growth rate, existing green cover 1.5 Prepare a periodic (e.g. every 5 years) report on the State of Urban Forests in Asia and the Pacific (SUFAP)
Indicators/ Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in the number of trees/canopy cover in selected cities every two years ✓ Number of cities that adopted assessment/inventory/monitoring tools ✓ Number of cities voluntarily contributing to the regional SUFAP report
Key players	UN agencies, national institutions, local stewardships, academies of science and universities, city governments; local authorities; NGOs; private sector.
Funding	UN agencies (UN-HABITAT, FAO), Asian Development Bank, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
Timing	According to the expected outcomes; annual reporting
Relation to SDGs	11

Goal 2. Cleaner Cities	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional and national air quality strategies and agendas recognize and include the contribution of urban forests and trees (UFTs) to the reduction and removal of air pollutants by 2020 Doubling the air pollution filtering function of urban forests and green belts by increasing their size and connectivity and optimizing their structure by 2027
Key actions	<p>2.1 Organize regional/national policy forums and events to promote and consolidate the role of UFTs and Green Infrastructure in air quality governance</p> <p>2.2 Promote and support the preparation of technical guidance at regional/national level for planning, designing and managing urban forests and green spaces as air pollution removal systems</p> <p>2.3 Promote and support the development and adaptation to Asia-Pacific cities of models quantifying the contribution of UFTs to air quality and air pollution removal</p> <p>2.4 Support and incentivize city projects implementing green belts and urban forests specifically designed and/or managed for air quality improvement</p> <p>2.5 Sustain research projects investigating the efficacy of tree species and UF design and structure in reducing/removing air pollution</p> <p>2.6 Prepare a regional database for tree/shrub species selection including both positive (efficacy of dry/wet deposition) and negative (e.g. BVOCs emission by trees) issues related to air pollution</p> <p>2.7 Contribute to regional reports on air quality (e.g. Clean-Air-Asia Annual Report)</p>
Indicators/ Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of forums and events organized ✓ Number of technical documents prepared and published ✓ Number of relevant city projects realized ✓ Number of relevant research projects financed ✓ Number of papers published ✓ Contribution to Regional/National reports
Key players	UN agencies (e.g. WHO, UN-HABITAT, FAO, UNEP – Air Quality Asia-Pacific, UN-Energy), Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) and Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (Clean Air Asia), Global-Regional cities institutions (e.g. ICLEI, Asian Mayors Forum), national institutions, local stewardships, associations, academies of science and universities
Funding	Regional and National funding schemes, UN agencies (UN-HABITAT, FAO), Asian Development Bank, private foundations and sponsorships by energy sector, bilateral programmes (e.g. USAID, EuropeAid), Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
Timing	According to the expected outcomes; annual reporting
Relation to SDGs	3, 7, 11, 13

Goal 3. Cooler cities	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional framework scheme for support and incentives for the creation and sustainable management of urban forests and other green infrastructure components for climate-change adaptation and mitigation are prepared by 2020 • Guidelines on how to substantially reduce heat island effect by 2027 are prepared by 2020 • Design and management plans to improve human thermal comfort conditions (i.e. perceived temperature, balance humidity/hottest daily temperatures, indoors working and living conditions) through tree cover throughout the city (historical/cultural areas excluded) are prepared by 2020 • A sample of 50 Asian-Pacific cities (<i>Cool Green Cities</i>) to monitor the reduction of heat island effect and the decreased difference between average air temperature in paved and semi-paved settings compared to average air temperature in green areas (at least 1°C at solar noon maximum) is selected and established by 2018 • Contributions to regional reports on climate change reduction and cooling the cities are prepared from 2018 onwards
Key actions	<p>3.1 Constitute a permanent panel of experts, decision makers, and testimonials to prepare the framework scheme for incentives and support</p> <p>3.2 Promote and support the preparation of technical guidance at regional/national level for designing and managing urban forests and green spaces to reduce heat island effect and optimize the contribution of urban forests towards increased human thermal comfort</p> <p>3.3 Constitute a multi-stakeholder partnership to select and standardize the monitoring of the <i>Cool Green Cities</i></p> <p>3.4 Establish a permanent group of experts to prepare the annual report on UFT, climate change and cooling the cities</p>
Indicators/ Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Second year activity report of the panel of experts ✓ Technical guidelines prepared ✓ Report of the implementation of the <i>Cool Green Cities</i> programme developed
Key players	UN agencies (e.g. UN-HABITAT, FAO, UN-Energy), IPCC, Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), Global-Regional cities institutions (e.g. ICLEI, Asian Mayors Forum), national institutions, local stewardships, associations, academies of science and universities
Funding	Global, Regional and National funding schemes to combat climate change, UN agencies (UN-HABITAT, FAO), Asian Development Bank, private foundations and sponsorships by energy sector, bilateral programmes (e.g. USAID, EuropeAid)
Timing	According to the expected outcomes; annual reporting
Relation to SDGs	11, 13, 3, 7

Goal 4. Healthier cities	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Role of urban forests and trees (UFTs) as a positive component of human health and wellbeing - including recreation and sport - is acknowledged and incorporated into national public health plans by 2020 • The savings in healthcare costs generated by urban forest ecosystem services are recognized and taken into account in relevant policies and duly incorporated in the financial accounts of governments by 2027 • Universal access to quality, safe and inclusive urban forests and green spaces is assured by 2027.
Key actions	<p>4.1 Champion regional and national campaigns that link trees to human health and wellness</p> <p>4.2 Prepare a regional framework of sound standards for the design and management of urban forests with the aim of encouraging physical activities and improving mental health to be adopted by Asian and Pacific cities</p> <p>4.3 Support planning, design and management guidelines of urban forests and green spaces to improve human health and wellbeing</p> <p>4.4 Develop tools (e.g. research, monitoring, statistics) to improve and highlight the relationship between urban and community forestry/green infrastructure and improved public health/wellness</p> <p>4.5 Develop and implement at least two regional programmes with regional (e.g. WHO) and national institutions to obtain facts and figures on the relationships between the presence of UFTs and health and wellbeing</p> <p>4.6 Preparation of an annual regional report on the relationship between UFTs and human health and wellbeing in cooperation with regional and national institutions dealing with healthcare</p> <p>4.7 Preparation of a Red List of tree/shrub species, commonly used in urban areas, potentially inducing direct (e.g. allergies, respiratory diseases) or indirect (e.g. emission of BVOCs catalysing ozone formation) health discomfort and problems.</p>
Indicators/ Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of promotional campaigns activated at regional, national, and local levels ✓ Publication of standards, guidelines, and supporting tools (number of publications, circulation, number of downloads) ✓ Trend of deaths by non-communicable diseases in selected case studies in the region according to the amount of urban forest and green spaces available ✓ Frequency of people practising outdoor activities in green spaces in selected case studies ✓ Frequency of children affected by obesity vs. green space accessibility and availability in selected case studies ✓ Number of cooperation programmes activated
Key players	UN agencies (e.g. WHO, UN-HABITAT, FAO), Global-Regional institutions (e.g. ICLEI), National Institutions, Local Stewardships, Academies of Science and Universities, Associations, health care organization, NGOs, park associations
Funding	UN agencies (WHO, UN-HABITAT, FAO), World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
Timing	According to the expected outcomes; annual reporting
Relation to SDGs	3 (3.4, 3.9); 11

Goal 5. More inclusive cities

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reference framework for the designation and inventory of trees and forests of sociocultural significance in and around Asian-Pacific cities is prepared by 2020 • Popular and educational tools promoting the importance and value of urban forests and trees (UFTs) as cultural heritage are prepared by 2022 • Sound research programmes on the perception of the community with regard to UFTs sociocultural values are developed by 2027 • Equitable distribution of benefits from urban forests across socio-economic and cultural groups in cities is achieved by 2027
Key actions	<p>5.1 Develop regional/national schemes for city “branding/identity” around the value of urban forests and trees</p> <p>5.2 Launch a regional contest (photo, narrative, performance, etc.) on the theme “beloved heritage trees and forests in our cities”</p> <p>5.3 Prepare and publish an educational toolkit series on UFTs as an integral part of cultural heritage</p> <p>5.4 Prepare National Catalogues and give legal protection to heritage trees in cities and to urban forests with historical/cultural value</p> <p>5.5 Promote and support joint regional research programmes on the perception by the community of the cultural values of UFTs</p> <p>5.6 Contribute to the monitoring and protection of the regional green cultural heritage and protected areas</p> <p>5.7 Include multicultural considerations in the design of urban forests and green spaces</p> <p>5.8 Assess current distribution of benefits from urban forests for different socio-economic and cultural groups in cities and develop interventions for more equitable distribution of benefits if necessary</p>
Indicators/ Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of branding schemes activated ✓ Number of participants to the “beloved heritage trees and forests in our cities” ✓ Number of languages of publication of the EDU toolkit ✓ Number of downloads of the educational toolkit ✓ Number of countries preparing the <i>Catalogue of Heritage Trees</i> ✓ Number of research programmes financed and completed ✓ Number of papers published ✓ Number of user groups of urban forests resources
Key players	<p>UN agencies (e.g. UNESCO, UN-HABITAT), Educational Regional Panels, Educational and cultural national boards, Global-Regional cities institutions (e.g. ICLEI, Asian Mayors Forum), national institutions, local stewardships, associations, academies of science and universities, schools</p>
Funding	<p>Global, Regional and National funding schemes for culture and education, UN agencies (UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, FAO), Asian Development Bank, Association and NGOs, culture promotion funding schemes, private foundations and sponsorships, bilateral programmes and twin cities programmes)</p>
Timing	<p>According to the expected outcomes; annual reporting</p>
Relation to SDGs	<p>11</p>

Goal 6. More biodiverse cities	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation and creation of diverse nature green spaces in urban areas is promoted by 2020 • Strategies and guidelines for urban biodiversity conservation are developed by 2022 • Initiatives and schemes to harmonize national/local policies to better connect natural landscapes in and around urban areas are promoted by 2027 • Promotional material on <i>Forest and Nature in Cities</i> is prepared by 2022
Key actions	<p>6.1 Promote and support a regional/national schemes to increasing the number, size and quality of protected areas in urban and peri-urban contexts</p> <p>6.2 Prepare a multi-stakeholder scheme to address the multiple drivers of biodiversity loss in urban/peri-urban environments and guide biodiversity conservation efforts</p> <p>6.3 Formulate guidelines on how to value the role of urban forests in conserving local biodiversity (e.g. subsidies, by-laws, certification programmes and codes of conduct). For example, financial mechanisms can be established for compensating private landowners who contribute to the conservation of urban forests</p> <p>6.4 Promote the inclusion of urban/peri-urban protected areas in already existing Asia-Pacific programmes and initiatives (e.g. IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme Asia)</p> <p>6.5 Strengthen the participation of Asian-Pacific cities in existing global and local alliances and partnerships dealing with nature conservation in urban areas (e.g. BiodiverCity® - IBPC)</p> <p>6.6 Support the preparation of promotional material for the general public (e.g. documentary films, video clips, infographics, mobile Apps) on the benefits of forest and nature in and around the cities, and implement citizen science programmes</p> <p>6.7 Champion the designation of <i>Asia-Pacific Biodiverse Cities</i></p> <p>6.8 Promote the involvement of the public through citizen science and environmental education programmes</p>
Indicators/Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number and percentage of protected areas located in urban and peri-urban areas ✓ Percentage of ecologically urban and peri-urban sensitive natural areas that are under protection ✓ Quality of the connectivity between natural areas (or, on the contrary, level of habitat fragmentation) ✓ Number of nations/cities signing the multi-stakeholders scheme (point 6.2) ✓ Number of languages in which the guidelines are translated ✓ Number of downloads of the guidelines ✓ Number of alliances, partnerships, and initiatives specifically referring to UFTs of Asia-Pacific cities as biodiversity spots for the region ✓ Number of documents (promotional material) prepared ✓ Number of downloads of the documents prepared ✓ Number of applications for/designation as <i>Asia-Pacific Biodiverse Cities</i>
Key players	UN agencies (e.g. UNEP, UN-HABITAT, FAO), CBD, IUCN - Asia, WWF, Global-Regional cities institutions (e.g. ICLEI, Asian Mayors Forum), National institutions, local stewardships, associations and NGOs, academies of science and universities
Funding	UN agencies (e.g. UNEP, UN-HABITAT, FAO), IUCN – Asia programmes, WWF initiatives and projects, Global-Regional cities institutions (e.g. ICLEI, Asian Mayors Forum), national institutions, private foundations and sponsorships by nature conservation sector, bilateral programmes (e.g. USAID, EuropeAid), local stewardships, associations and NGOs.
Timing	According to the expected outcomes; annual reporting
Relation to SDGs	11, 15, 13

Goal 7. Wealthier cities	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance framework and eco-models specifically adapted to Asia-Pacific cities and addressed to assess ecosystem services, benefits and savings derived from UPF and green spaces are prepared by 2020 • The incorporation of “turning grey to green” issues in urban growth strategies is promoted and supported by 2027 • The development of regional agreements and national/local policies and regulations to promote green businesses, green jobs, urban forest and tree products is promoted and realized by 2022 • Funding schemes and private-public partnerships for the promotion of green jobs and opportunities in urban forests and green spaces are implemented by 2022
Key actions	<p>7.1 Support action research on models (e.g. i-Tree ECO) oriented to valuing and accounting the ecosystem services and benefits provided by urban forests and green spaces specifically adapted to Asia-Pacific cities</p> <p>7.2 Prepare regional and sub-regional agreements for promoting green business, green jobs and marketing products from urban forests and trees (UFTs)</p> <p>7.3 Create an online marketplace of Asian cities for green jobs, opportunities, and initiatives</p> <p>7.4 Join existing private/public alliances and partnerships funding and sustaining <i>green</i> business</p> <p>7.5 Create new alliances and partnerships with public institutions and civil society bodies (i.e., associations, NGOs, Foundations) aiming to promote initiatives of reducing urban poverty by green job opportunities in UFTs management/maintenance</p> <p>7.6 Propose Regional contests/awards for <i>Asia-Pacific Green City</i></p>
Indicators/ Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number of action research projects activated and completed ✓ Number of reports and papers published ✓ Number of agreements implemented ✓ Number of people employed in the <i>green</i> industry ✓ Number of visitors of the online marketplace ✓ Number of partnerships and programmes joined by the city ✓ Number of partnerships activated ✓ Number of Second year applications to <i>Asia-Pacific Green City</i> contest
Key players	UN agencies (e.g. UN-HABITAT, FAO, UNDP, International Labour Organization), World Bank, Global-Regional cities institutions (e.g. ICLEI, Asian Mayors Forum), national institutions, local stewardships, associations and NGOs, academies of science and universities
Funding	UN agencies (e.g. UN-HABITAT, FAO, UNDP, International Labour Organization), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asia Development Bank, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic community, International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Private sector and companies (e.g. Eco-Business), Global-Regional cities institutions (e.g. ICLEI, Asian Mayors Forum), national institutions, local stewardships, associations and NGOs, academies of science and universities
Timing	According to the expected outcomes; annual reporting
Relation to SDGs	11, 8, 1

Goal 8. Safer cities	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional framework scheme harmonising urban forestry and green infrastructure strategies oriented to fulfil national and global commitments and directives for climate change mitigation and adaptation is adopted by 2020. • Regional Guidelines on planning, design, management, and governance of urban forest focusing on climate change mitigation and reduction are prepared by 2021; • Evidence-based policy briefs on the past, present, and future role of urban forests and green infrastructure in regulating Increasing resilience to extreme weather events, flooding events/stormwater runoff, land and landscape degradation are prepared at regional/national level are prepared by 2025 • A periodic (biennial) report on climate change reduction, water control and watershed health is prepared by 2019 onwards.
Key actions	<p>3.1 Ensure that design, implementation and management issues regarding the role of trees, forests, and green infrastructure components are included in cities strategies, planning, and ordinances.</p> <p>3.3 Promote and support the preparation of technical guidance at regional/national level for designing and managing urban forest and green spaces to reduce climate change effects and to reduce the short- and long term risks of extreme weather events.</p> <p>3.4 Constitute a panel of experts and a multi-stakeholders partnership to select and monitor the Safer Green Cities;</p> <p>3.5 Establish a permanent group of experts to prepare the annual report on UFT, climate change, protection of watersheds, land degradation and water control.</p>
Indicators/ Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Second edition activity report of the panel of experts; ✓ Guidelines prepared, published, and translated; ✓ Policy briefs prepared;
Key players	UN-Agencies (e.g. UN-HABITAT, FAO, UN-Energy), IPCC, Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), Global-Regional cities institutions (e.g. ICLEI, Asian Mayors Forum), National Institutions, Local Stewardships, Associations, Academies of Science and Universities
Funding	Global, Regional and National funding schemes to combat climate change, UN- Agencies (UN-HABITAT, FAO), Asian Development Bank, Private Foundations and Sponsorships by energy sector, bilateral programmes e.g. USAID, EuropeAid)
Timing	According to the expected outcomes; periodic reporting
Relation to SDGs	11, 13, 3, 7

6 Time frame/Roadmap

The Seoul Action Plan has an overall 10-year horizon. The outcomes have different timeframes in relation to the realistic possibilities of achieving them and to the relative importance and urgency of the actions to be taken.

Some of the outcomes are expected to be achieved within a 1-2 year timespan (2018/19), and the specific roadmap is linked to the achievements to be reached by the next *Asia-Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting*.

Other outcomes have 2020 as a deadline (3-year timespan) to cope with the need for global/regional milestones and reflect the urgency of measures and actions (e.g. guidance tools, promotional campaigns).

A 5-year time-span (deadline 2022) has been set for actions requiring more efforts in policy, research and implementation. This timespan also accounts for the development of the necessary monitoring system for the selected indicators.

Finally, the deadline for “pillar” outcomes has been set for 2027 in order to produce a robust set of achievements in the next decade.

The implementation of the Seoul Action Plan requires, first of all, the activation of Working Groups assuming the responsibility of setting the Plan in motion.