



Photo © The Banyan Tree

Environmentally Sustainable Urban Transport

Project Title

Sustainable Urban Transport Programme

Budget

Total: USD378 million

GEF (UNDP): USD4 million; and Co-financing: USD374 million (World Bank, Government of India and state governments)

Duration

2009 – September 2013

Partners

Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India; Institute of Urban Transport; State governments; Municipal corporations; and World Bank

Project Location

Ajmer, Ahmadabad, Indore, Jalandhar, Mysore, Naya Raipur, Pune, Chinchwad and Thiruvananthapuram

Challenges

Twenty-eight percent of the total population of India resides in urban areas. In the next three to four decades, the urban population is expected to grow by 60 percent. Due to urban-led economic growth, transport demand in Indian cities has increased significantly in the past decade.

The transport sector already contributes over nine percent of India's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions making the urban transport sector one of the highest contributors to climate change. India's National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) of 2006 and the National Environment Policy of the same year highlight the need to reduce urban transport emissions.

Additionally, the Indian government has proposed to finance up to 50 percent of the total cost for urban infrastructure investment projects under the National Urban Renewal Plan.

Speedy implementation of these national policies in Indian cities has been a challenge for various reasons. National and local governments lack the institutional and financing capacity to address urban transport issues in an effective, efficient, and sustainable manner.

Response

The Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are supporting the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, to reduce GHG emissions associated with transportation in urban areas through:

- Greater reliance on public transport;
- Greater reliance on non-motorised vehicles; and

- Incorporation of environmentally sustainable transport principles into the urban design of new settlements.

The project provides support to development of institutional capacity of various stakeholders like municipal corporations and other agencies engaged in urban transport and planning, transport experts and mid-level officials in the government, and officials involved in developing legal and regulatory frameworks for urban transport. An e-portal, national database and series of manuals, standards and toolkits will also be developed.

To promote greater reliance on public transport, the project will demonstrate environment-friendly transport measures in selected cities. Technical assistance to participating states in developing state-wide action plans for the implementation of the NUTP will also be provided.

The project will be co-financed by a combination of funds from the Government of India, local governments, the World Bank and the UNDP.

Impact

The project envisages a reduction in GHG emissions from urban transport. In the long-term, this project aims to bring about a paradigm shift in the way India's urban transport systems are planned and managed, from unsustainable development patterns to sustainable low-GHG urban transport development.

For more information, please write to info.in@undp.org

Last updated: September 2009