



BEAT THE HEAT: NATURE FOR COOL CITIES CHALLENGE

Our cities are getting hotter. Today, 56% of the world's population – 4.4 billion inhabitants – live in cities, and 1.4 billion of these people already face high climate risks.

By 2100, cities across the world could warm by 4.4°C, exposing the world's growing urban population to conditions that will damage human health, productivity, and quality of life.

It is imperative we scale up solutions to tackle dangerous urban heat. Urban nature-based solutions (NbS) are a powerful tool to cool cities and reduce extreme heat risks for urban-dwellers around the world.

THE CHALLENGE

The **Nature for Cool Cities Challenge** will ask **municipalities and provincial, county or state governments** to pledge to increase NbS implementation in their urban areas, and support a cohort of **global south cities committed to the pledge in developing and implementing NbS** to deliver on heat resilience and cooling benefits.

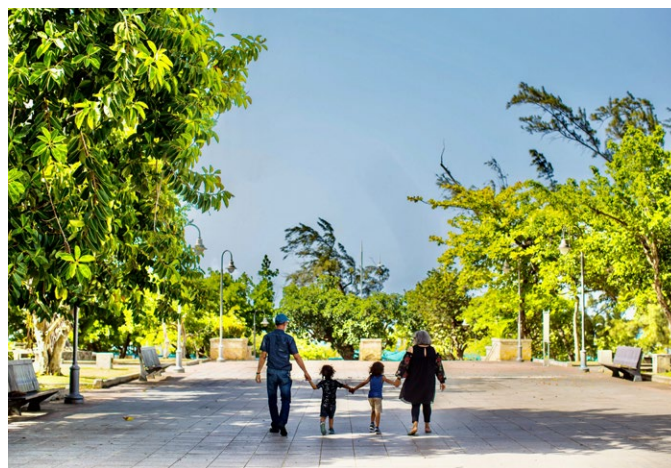
THE PLEDGE

By 2030, and with demonstrable progress by 2025, challenge participants pledge to increase or enhance the proportion of nature-based cooling solutions within built-up city surface area.

To achieve the pledge, Challenge participants will have to set:

- **quantitative target** (i.e., the area or percent of NbS to increase)
- **funding target** (i.e., the amount of budgetary resources they will spend on NbS)
- **at least three implementation actions** (policy, finance, or technical)

Partners convening the challenge will provide incubation support for a cohort of cities in low and lower-middle income countries that require assistance in defining their ambition. For the award winners, matching finance for implementation of their pledges will be provided, based on the value of investment committed, tiered by the income level of the country, alongside technical assistance, support for the development of partnerships and matchmaking.



WHAT WE AIM TO DO

- Demonstrate urban nature-based solutions' ability to mitigate the urban heat island effect, avoid emissions, and reduce energy demand
- Drive finance for replication and upscaling
- Send a demand signal to project developers and financiers

The Challenge will create an ecosystem of partners that will include financial institutions and investors, creating opportunities for cities and financiers to partner for innovative finance for implementation.

The Challenge will target an initial cohort of **9 cities** to receive financial and technical assistance, comprising

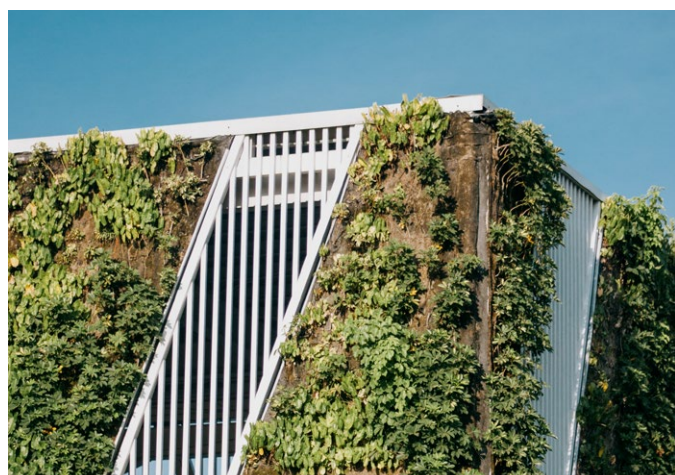
- **5 low-income participants**
- **3 lower-middle income participants**
- **2 upper middle-income participants**
- **1 high-income (global south) participant**

PARTNERSHIP

A coalition of partners are supporting the delivery of the Nature for Cool Cities Challenge with in-kind and technical support, including:



Partnership opportunities are currently being explored to secure additional finance for the challenge roll out and implementation, including **incubation grants** for cities to refine pledges, **matching funding for implementation** of the participant's targets and actions, and additional award components.



INTERESTED?

LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER YOUR INTEREST:



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