# Urban Forestry

## An Integrative Nature-Based Solution

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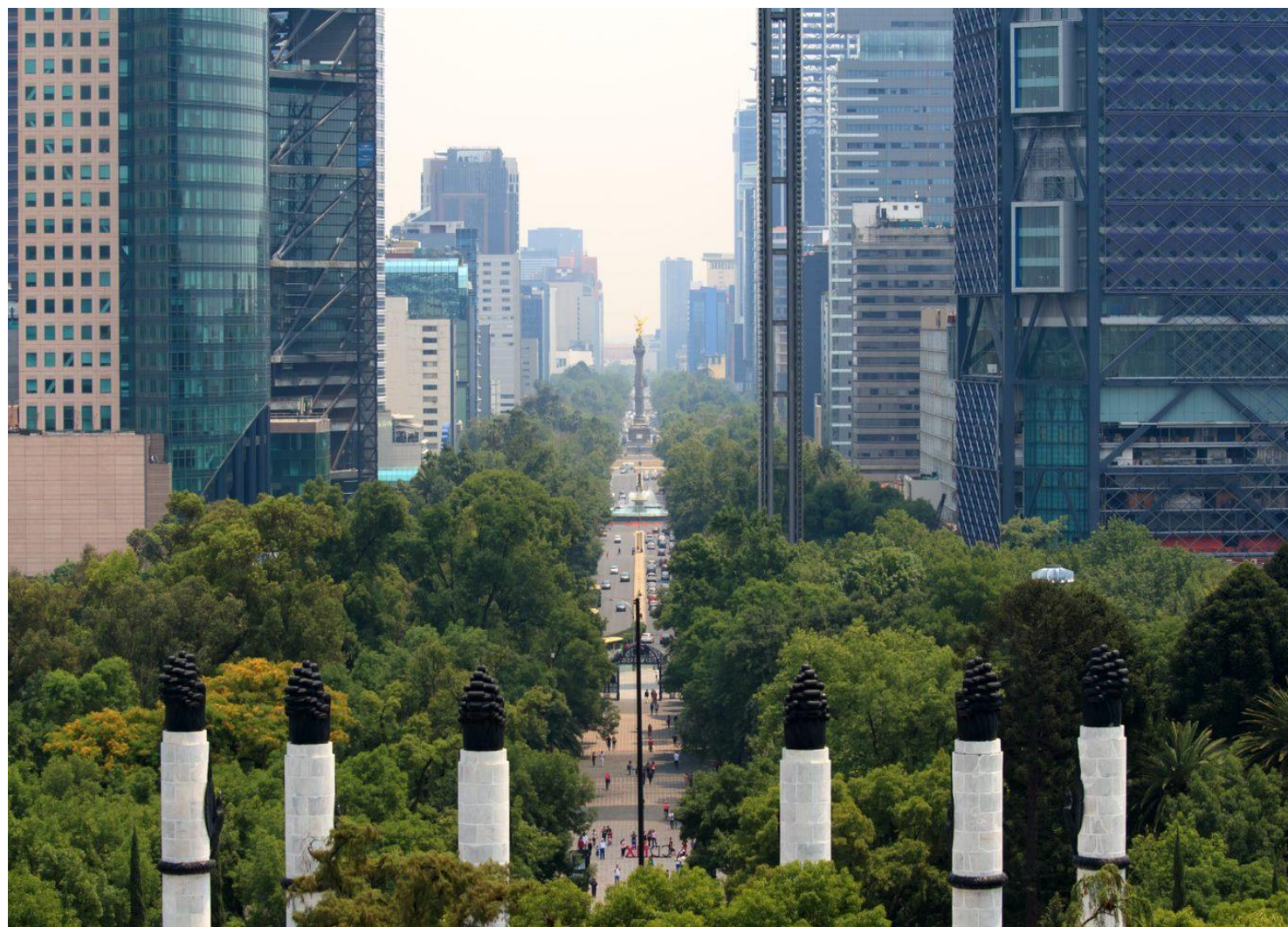
# Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Forestry in the UNECE Region

The UNECE region is home to 42% of global forests.

Yet it is also highly urbanized, with over 75% of the population in Europe and 80% in North America living in urban areas.

With increasing urbanization, cities everywhere and in the UNECE region 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

Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Forestry is an **integrative nature-based solution**

It must a core component of efforts by the forest sector to deliver the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

# 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.
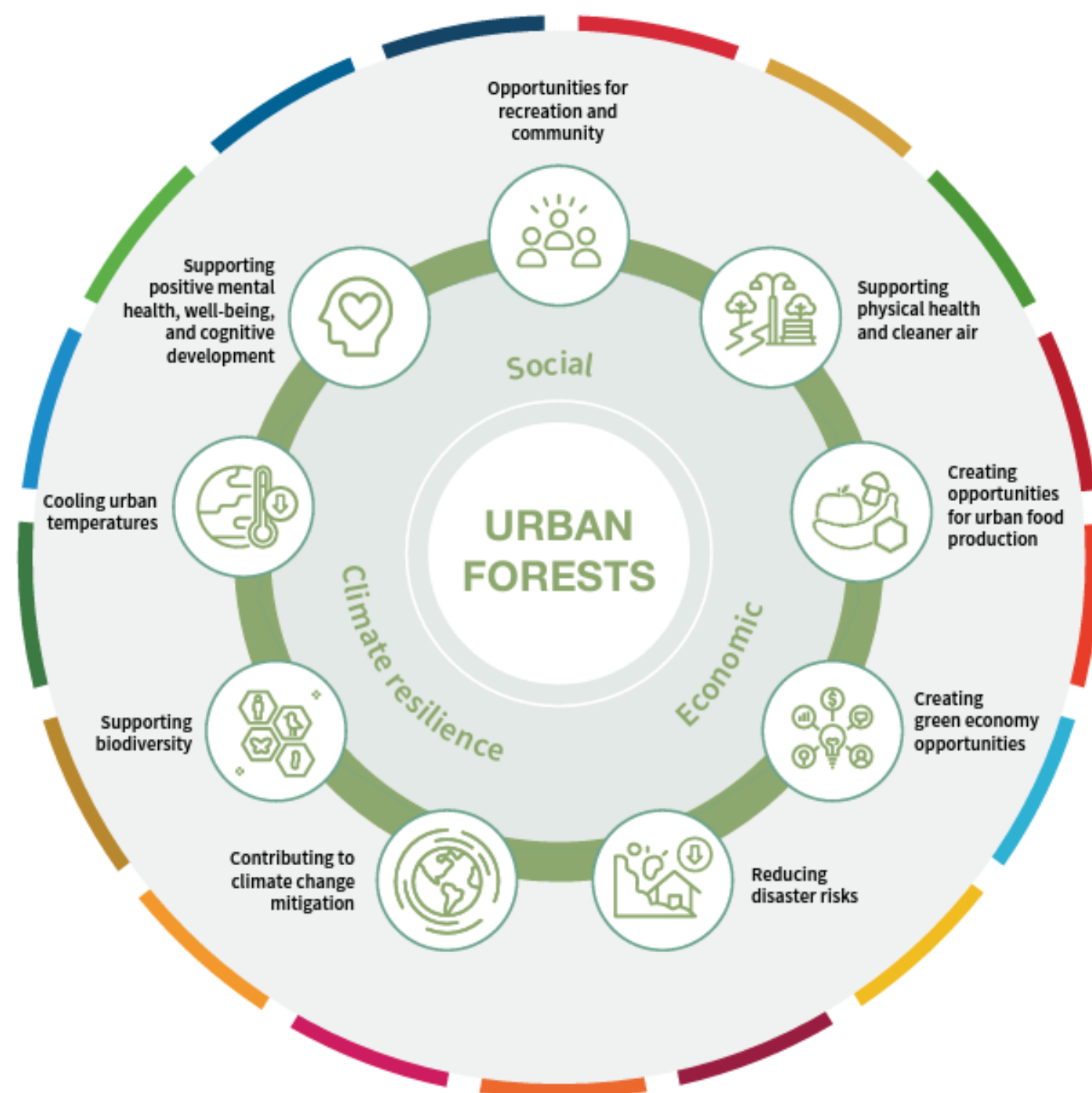
# Urban and Peri-urban Forestry

**Why is urban and peri-urban forestry important?**



Urban and peri-urban forestry is a nature-based solution for global challenges

*Sustainably managed urban and peri-urban forests helps localize implementation of the*

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Sustainable Development Goals
- UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement
- Sendai Framework
- Other National and Global Goals

# Advancing Urban and Peri-urban Forestry

## Looking back...

- Over 75 years, UNECE has helped to build a resilient forest sector in Europe

- The UNECE region has experienced decades of net gain in forest area, the only global region with a positive trend

→ Sustainable Forest Management works

**Learning from the past**

**Transforming for the future**



### Looking ahead...

- Need to rebuild our societies to promote nature and climate positive development

- UNECE is committed to  support sustainable management and expansion of urban and peri-urban forest cover as a nature-based solution and critical infrastructure

# UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge (TICC)

**Over 60 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

$ Economy

Biodiversity

Health & well-being

Mitigation, Adaptation & DRR

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

# Delivering Urban Forestry

## 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

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

## 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

## Adequate Investment
- Need predictable finance and resources over time
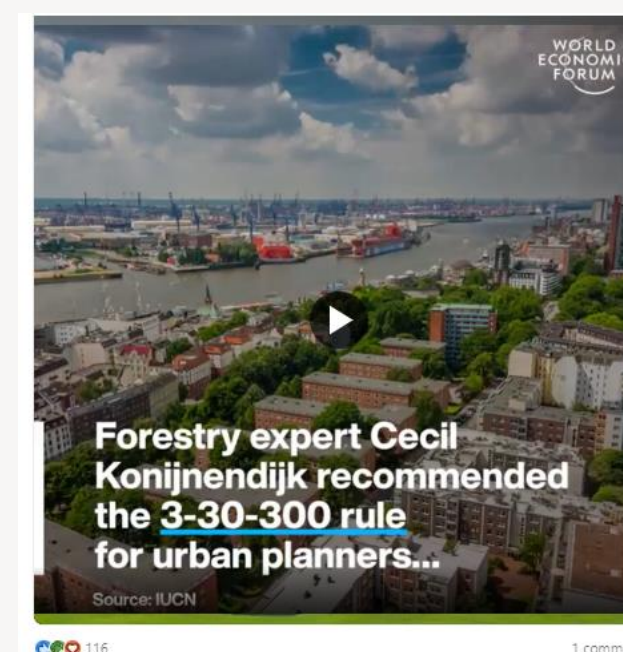- Realistic budget allocation is critical to achieve outcomes

## 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.

# Make a Trees in Cities pledge today!

First, define your pledge:

- *Sustainable Urban Forestry Measures*
- *Sustainable Urban Forestry Targets*
- *Tree planting targets*

Then submit a pledge letter to UNECE Executive Secretary Ms. Olga Algayerova
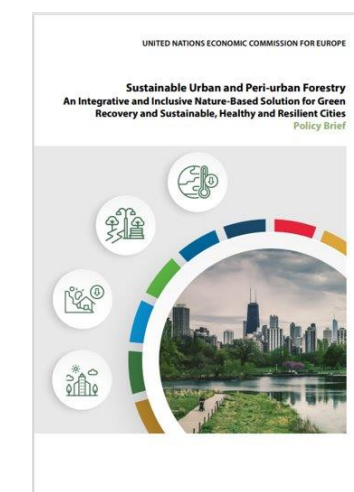
Implement, Monitor and Share Progress

A pledge letter template is available at: https://bit.ly/3BfsGxq  (or scan the QR code)

SCAN ME

Download our **Policy Brief on Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Forestry**

Download our **Trees In Cities Information Brochure**

Download our **Draft Regional Urban Forestry Opportunity Plan**

# Thank you, and...

## ...let's work together to grow what works!

| Register for the Benchmarking Survey | Make a Trees in Cities Pledge Today! | Join the Informal Network of Experts |
|---|---|---|
| Scan QR code or visit https://forms.office.com/e/CDk0YAZf42 | Scan QR code or visit https://treesincities.unece.org | Scan QR code or visit https://forms.office.com/r/M2gFtdgbju |