

THE SUSTAINABLE CITIES CHINA PROGRAMME (1996-2007):

A COMPENDIUM OF GOOD PRACTICE



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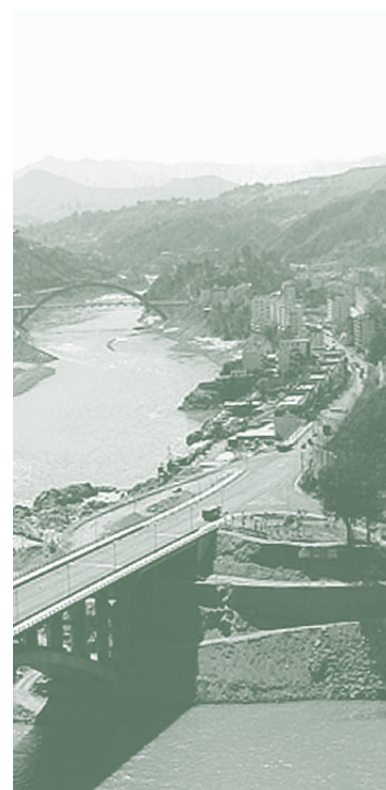
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ABBREVIATIONS

ACCA21	Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21
ACPA21	Administrative Centre for Panzhihua's Agenda 21
EMIS	Environmental Management Information System
EPM	Environmental Planning and Management
GIS	Geographic Information System
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
ROAP, UNHABITAT	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNHABITAT
SCP	Sustainable Cities Programme
SGP	Sustainable Guiyang Project
SHP	Sustainable Hailin Project
SPP	Sustainable Panzhihua Project
SSP	Sustainable Shenyang Project
SWP	Sustainable Wuhan Project
SWPO	Sustainable Wuhan Project Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Programme for Human Settlements

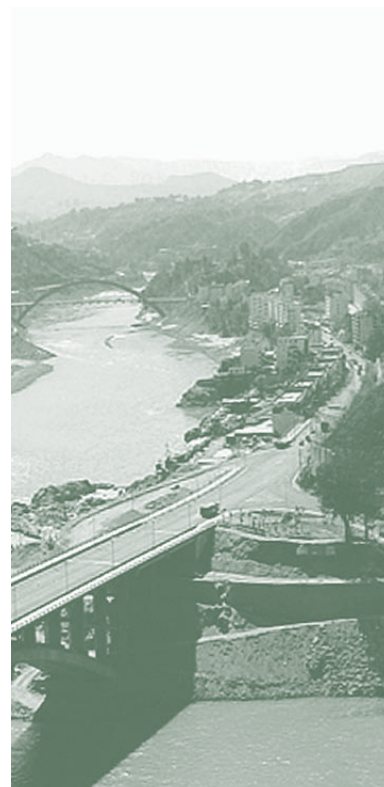


PREFACE

The Sustainable Cities Programme was first implemented in 1996 in Shenyang and Wuhan, in China. From this initial experience, the Environmental Planning and Management methodology was integrated in urban management to address pressing environmental concerns, such as air pollution, water quality, solid waste management and urban traffic. Innovative participatory and environmental governance mechanisms were tested, promoting sustainable natural, economic and social development of both cities through the implementation of demonstration projects. As a result, environmental awareness increased and cross-sector and institutional cooperation strengthened.

From the success of the Shenyang and Wuhan experiments, the Sustainable Cities Programme II was set up in 2005 between Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 and UN-HABITAT. This international project was designed to last three years. Guiyang, Hailin and Panzhihua were chosen as pilot cities of the Sustainable Cities Programme II with three main objectives: (i) to improve the Environmental Planning and Management/Sustainable Cities Programme application and policy implementation processes; (ii) to develop an institutional framework and networks for sustained Environmental Planning and Management support; (iii) to institutionalize normative functions of the Sustainable Cities Programme. The criteria used for the pilot-city selection comprised institutional, human and technical capacity, geographical location to balance between southern and western regions, the urbanization trend in relevance to upcoming environmental challenges, strong cross-sector communication and commitment by local authorities, project feasibility as well as the identification of positive outputs for city environment/development.

This publication is a review of the Sustainable Cities Programmes experience and impact in China from 1996 – 2007.





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CHAPTER 1: THE SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAMME PROCESS

The development potential of cities all over the world is being increasingly threatened by environmental deterioration. Aside from the obvious effects on the health and well-being of people, environmental degradation directly impedes socio-economic development. For development to be truly 'sustainable', cities need to find better ways of balancing the environment with the pressures on it by human beings.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERIORATION IS AVOIDABLE

The Sustainable Cities Programme recognizes that environmental deterioration is not inevitable. Although many cities are suffering severe environmental and economic damage, there are encouraging signs that deterioration is not a necessary evil or an outcome of growth. Mounting evidence from cities around the world show that the fundamental challenge to development is good urban governance, better planning and more effective management.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAMME - A PARTICIPATORY PROCESS MODEL FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Sustainable Cities Programme is a world-wide technical cooperation facility of UN-HABITAT and UNEP. It works at city level in collaboration with local partners to strengthen their capabilities for environment planning and management. It is a participatory process model to promote Good Governance. Employing a common conceptual framework tested in many countries, the Project adopts a style and methodology unique to each city to meet that city's specific needs.

The Sustainable Cities Programme emphasizes that properly planned and managed cities hold the key to human development in a safer environment.

Good Urban Governance is the key and is characterized by the principles of partnerships, transparency, & accountability. The Sustainable Cities Programme also supports the improvement of governance at the municipal level. It also promotes gender parity as an integral aspect of environment planning and

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