



ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL REPORT EXPERT GROUP MEETING

Bangkok, January 2016





SECTION 1: URBAN TRENDS: URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

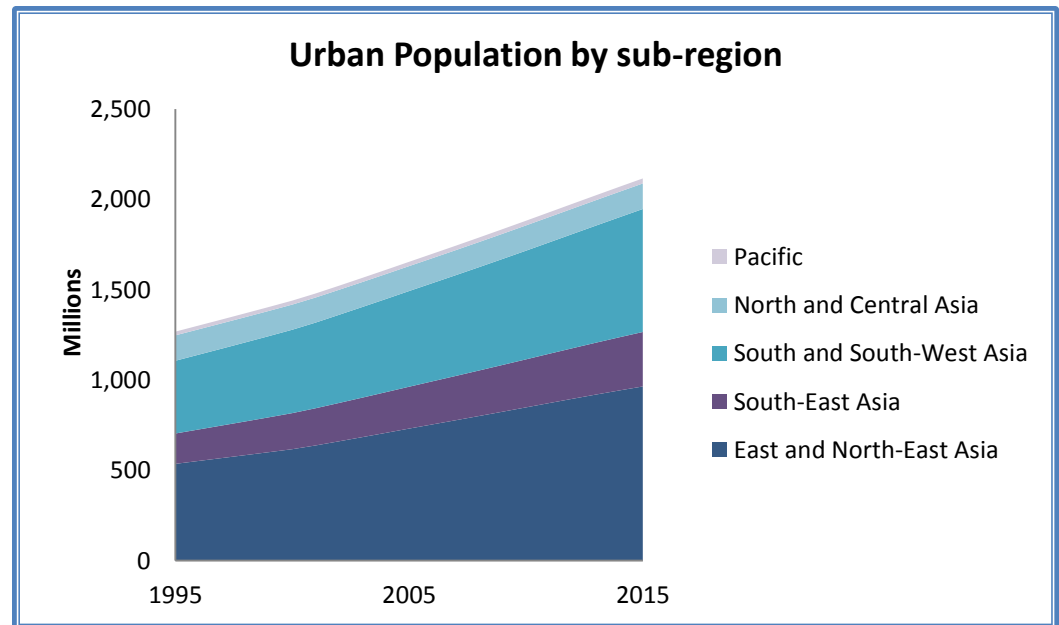
TRENDS FROM 1996 TO 2016 (EMERGING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES)

Key Messages

- ❖ The majority of countries in the region have more than 50 percent of people living in urban areas, including all of the East and North-East sub-region and the majority of countries in Central and North Asia as well as the Pacific. South and South-West Asia remains the least urbanized sub-region, albeit in terms of absolute population it has the second largest urban population.
- ❖ The majority of urban residents in the region live in cities with population under 1 million; and in 22 countries, the largest city has a population under 300,000. Small and medium cities are important for national economies and as the home of over 1 billion people.
- ❖ The spatial expansion of cities in the past few decades has resulted in blurring the urban-rural divide, merging of previously distinct municipalities and the conversion of surrounding ecosystems with subsequent environmental impact.

URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: URBANIZATION TRENDS

Asia-Pacific	1995	2015
Urban Population	1.3 billion	2.1 billion
Countries and territories >50% urban	27	33
Megacities	7	18
% of population in cities <1 million people	65%	58%



URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: LAND TRENDS

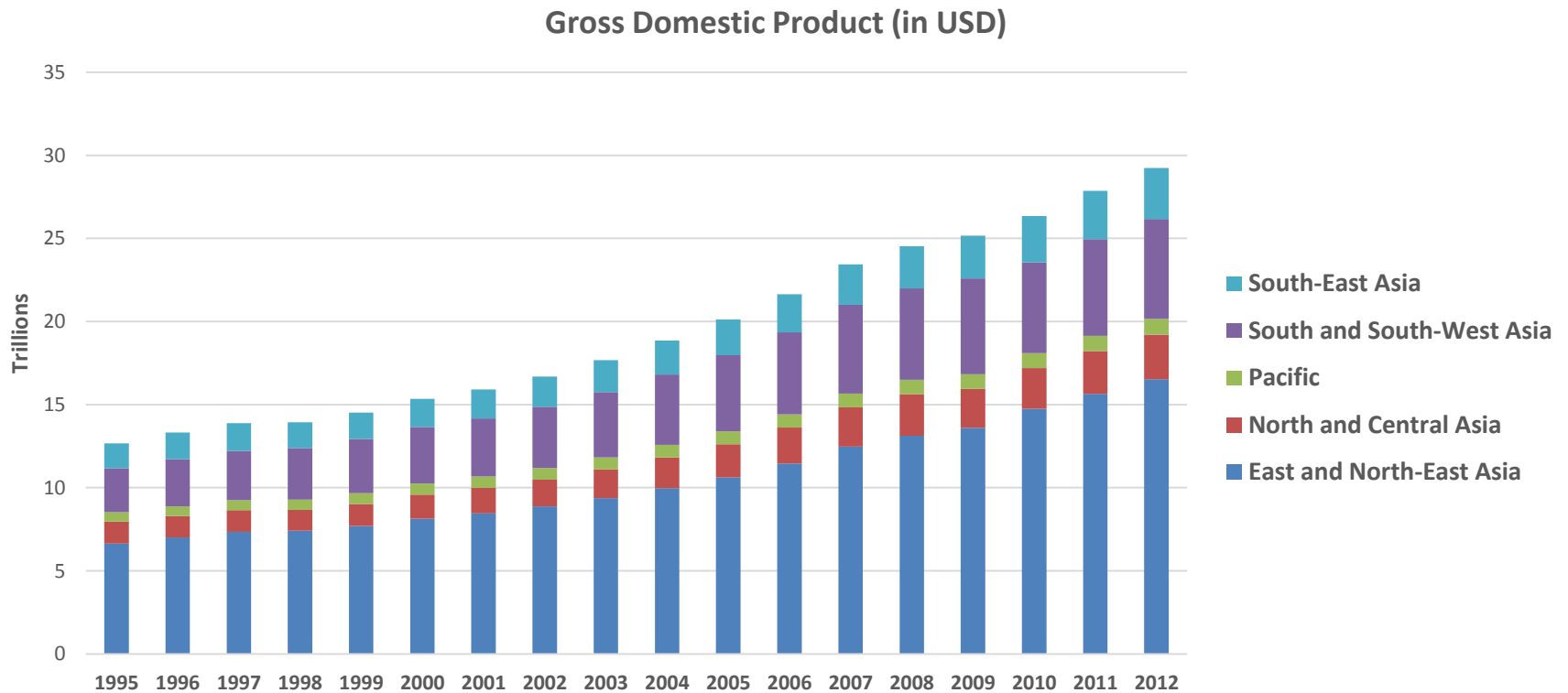
- Land Growth is higher than population growth
- Urban areas are crossing over administrative boundaries and merging
- Urban expansion causes conversion of agriculture, forests, wetlands and other ecosystems
- Ecosystem degradation, GHG emissions and pollution are current, troubling environmental trends



Pearl River Delta, China
Urban Expansion, 1989-2010
Source: GEO-5

URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC TRENDS

- GDPs and middle class steadily rising
- Substantial GDPs of cities i.e. Tokyo USD 1.9 trillion in 2010
- Increased urban economic divide in terms of income inequality in many countries

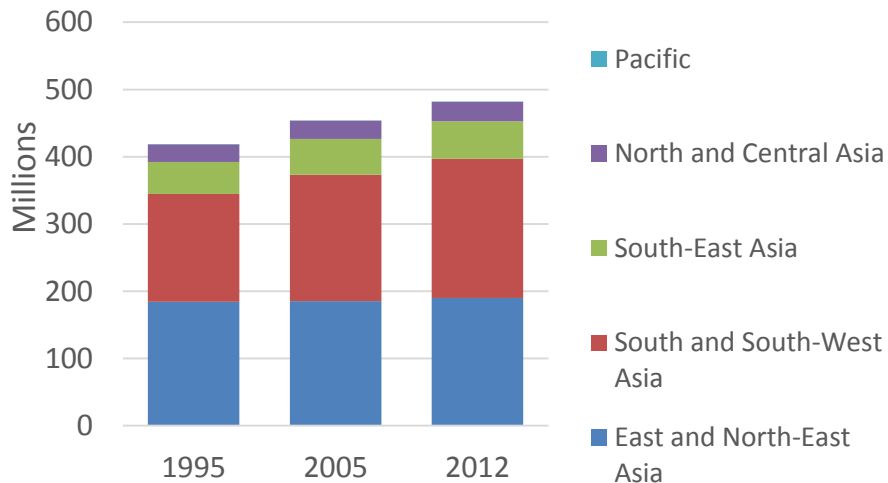


URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT: HOUSING AND BASIC SERVICES

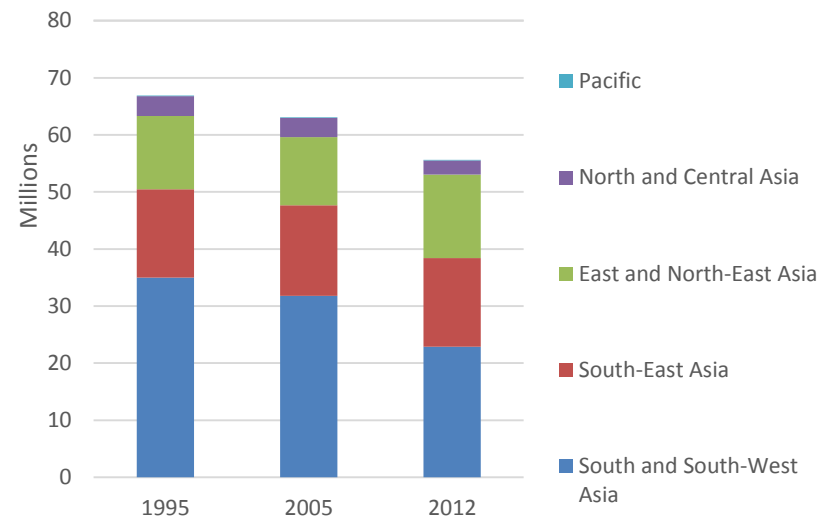
In the last two decades there have been a reduction in slum dwellers and improvements in terms of access to water, sanitation and energy.

However there remain 505.5 million slum dwellers, 480 million urban residents lacking access to improved sanitation, and 55 million urban residents lacking access to improved water sources.

People lacking access to improved sanitation in urban areas



People lacking access to improved water sources in urban areas





Questions to catalyze discussion

1. Do the key messages and information reflect your perspective on the region?
2. Does the section capture important reflection from Asia-Pacific for consideration in the global Habitat III process?
3. Is there a critical issue which is not covered?
4. Are there other national and regional examples that could be used to illustrate the key messages and issues?

SECTION 2: URBANIZATION AND ECONOMY

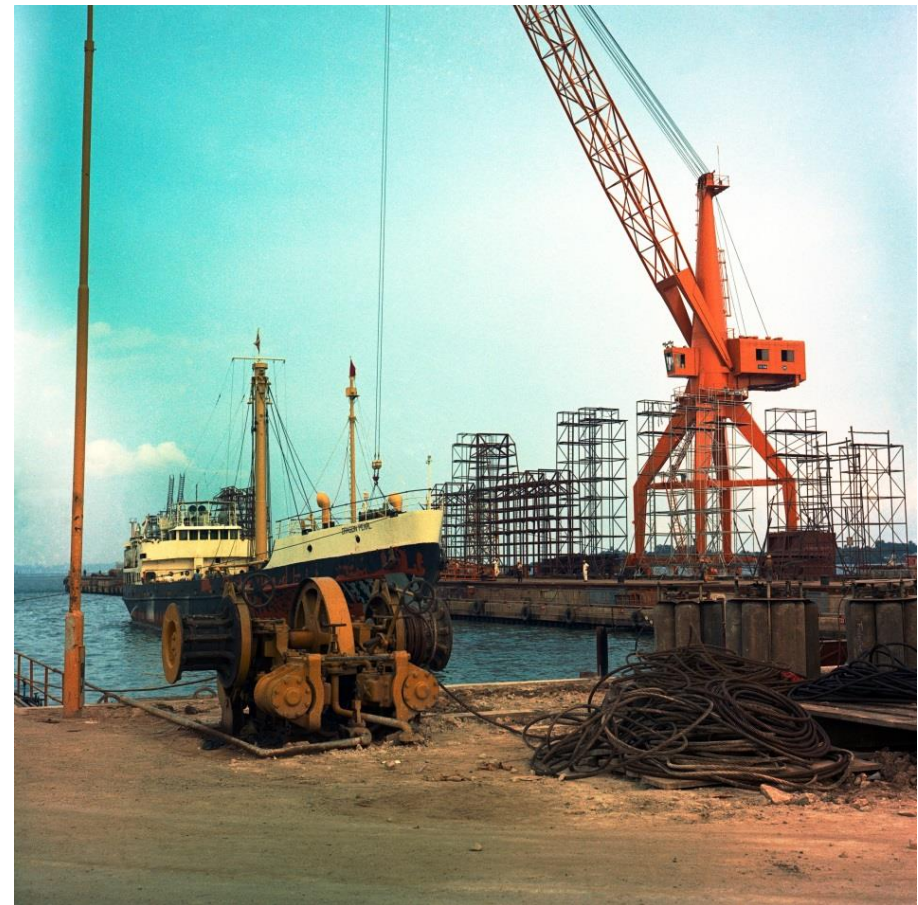
Key Messages

- ❖ The region has had a largely positive, upward economic trajectory with steady increases in national GDPs and a growing middle class, however inequality persists and the standard of living in many impoverished communities remains low.
- ❖ Economic policies on infrastructure and housing, linked with urban planning, are necessary to address current and growing challenges of sprawl, inequality and sustaining economic growth.
- ❖ Smart cities and sustainable infrastructure are at the core of sustained economic development, improving urban and rural linkages and facilitating growth and mobility.
- ❖ Unlocking diverse finance streams from the local to international is necessary to derive the quantity and quality of urban investments to fund transformative urban agendas.

URBANIZATION AND ECONOMY: INFRASTRUCTURE

Quality infrastructure is at the core of economic development and human well-being and the great potential for co-benefits and positive externalities of getting infrastructure right in cities emphasizes the need to prioritize this in Asia and the Pacific.

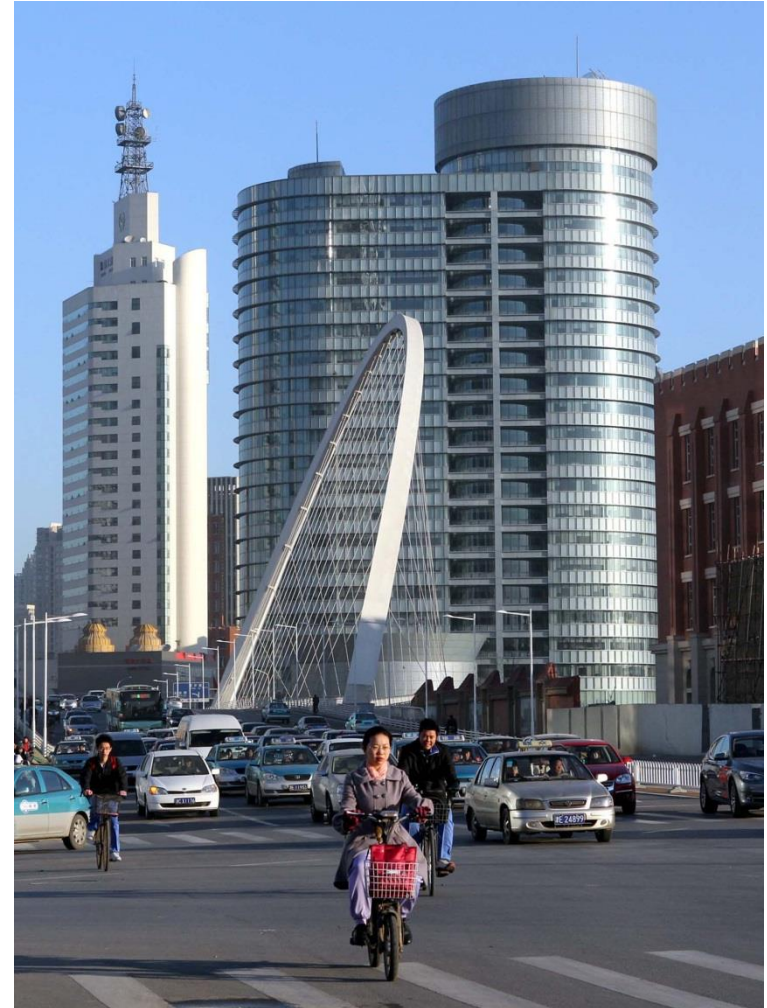
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Energy and ICT Infrastructure
- Infrastructure for Urban/Rural Linkages
- Housing



URBANIZATION AND ECONOMY: SMART CITIES

Smart cities – defined as cities that use ICT to enhance urban services and improve interaction between governments and peoples – are increasingly becoming a focus for countries in the region.

- ❖ India: pledged 100 smart cities focused on redevelopment of key sectors, for example smart water and waste management, smart buildings and smart grid/clean energy
- ❖ Thailand: announced turning Chiang Mai and Phuket into smart cities focused on tech start-ups
- ❖ Pakistan: developing a Smart City Strategic Plan to harness technology for sustainable urban solutions.
- ❖ Turkey: desire to transform cities into smart cities by developing infrastructure and capacity with regards to ICT.



URBANIZATION AND ECONOMY: INVESTMENT



Financing for urban transformations

Private Sector: Direct Investment, finance

Public Sector: Enabling Policies, tax revenues





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SECTION 3: URBANIZATION AND SOCIAL EQUITY

Key Messages

- ❖ Equity and social inclusion need to be prioritized as urbanization trends continue across the region.
- ❖ Inclusive policies and programs to address the economic, institutional and structural aspects of inequality, especially housing and land tenure are the foundation of improving the livelihoods of the most vulnerable urban dwellers.
- ❖ Marginalized communities, including women, youth, the elderly, migrants, and ethnic minorities, need to be involved in the development of policies and implementation of programs and policies to ensure that their needs and priorities are addressed.

URBANIZATION AND SOCIAL EQUITY: INSTITUTIONAL INEQUALITY

Urban poor community leaders in the region determined that insecure land and housing was “what most clearly separates the poor from the non-poor” in Asia-Pacific. They also highlighted the very poor living conditions associated with the lack of basic services in informal settlements.



Housing

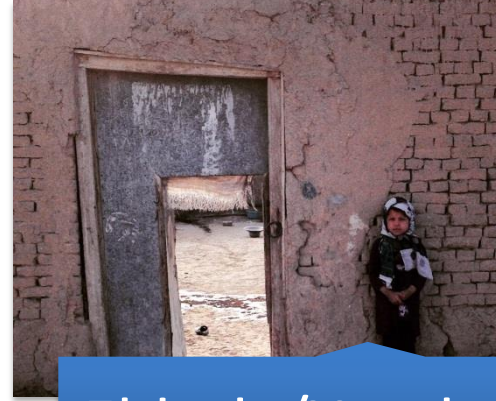
Basic Services

Land Tenure

URBANIZATION AND SOCIAL EQUITY: STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY



Migrants



Elderly/Youth



Gender





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SECTION 4: URBANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Key Messages

- ❖ Sustainable economic growth and urban development of Asia-Pacific cities is threatened by a wide range of environmental issues, such as pollution, ecosystem degradation, high risks of natural disasters and rising average temperatures.
- ❖ Cities need to focus efforts to build resilience on the most vulnerable areas but should have the opportunity to yield multiple benefits as interventions to add resilience can also address issues identified as necessary for improved social inclusion.

URBANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

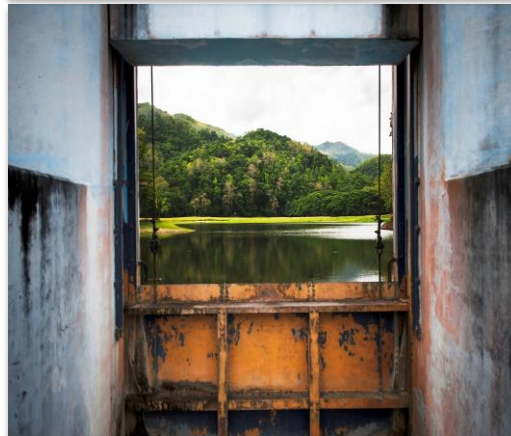
Pollution



Biodiversity



Water Management



URBANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENT: CLIMATE CHANGE

The IPCC report is clear that there are many climate change-related risks in urban areas and they are on the rise.

The risks include:

rising sea levels	storm surges
heat stress	extreme precipitation
landslides	drought
increased aridity	water scarcity
air pollution	inland and coast flooding

Climate change will not only affect the natural environment but it will also impact the built environment and large-scale infrastructure including sanitation, transport and telecommunications.



The recent climate change negotiations at UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Paris, France in December 2015 ended with the Paris Agreement in which member countries agreed to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2°C (3.6°F) by 2100 with an ideal target of keeping temperature rise below 1.5°C (2.7°F).

URBANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENT: NATURAL DISASTERS

Many cities are not vulnerable to just one disaster risk with approximately 60% of Asia-Pacific city dwellers, over 700 million people at extreme to high disaster risk, classified as cumulated risks of cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and floods. Flood risk and associated losses are heavily concentrated in India, China and Bangladesh with Delhi, Shanghai, as well as Tokyo – three of the most populated cities in the world – at high risk of floods. The Asia region, not including the Pacific has more than 90% of the global population exposed to tropical cyclones.



URBANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENT: RESILIENCE

- ❖ Effective multilevel governance of cities to promote urban transformations through the effective use of urban planning and policy instruments
- ❖ Align policies and incentives for sustainable development, climate change adaptation, mitigation, DRR and other high-priority urban agendas
- ❖ Strengthen local government and community adaptation capacity
- ❖ Encourage synergies with the private sector
- ❖ Develop appropriate financing and institutions to establish significant financial flows
- ❖ Utilize science and technology from both the urban planning and environment fields, such as GIS for spatial planning and vulnerability assessments to develop city-specific options
- ❖ Identify mutually reinforcing policies with co-benefits for the most vulnerable populations
- ❖ Raise awareness of urban populations about their impact on degrading ecosystems

Approaches to resiliency that deliver co-benefits for adaptation, disaster risk reduction, food security and mitigation as well as addressing sustainable development goals are cost-effective and full of positive impact for the urban population in Asia-Pacific.





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SECTION 5: GOVERNANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY

Key Messages

- ❖ Establish governance frameworks that respond to urban realities and meet the needs of diverse populations.
- ❖ Collaborative governance across scales and sectors which actively engages the private sector is needed to address the difficult challenges of Asia-Pacific cities.
- ❖ Inclusive, participatory governance is fundamental to improving urban planning so that cities are accessible and functional for all residents.
- ❖ The region presents a unique opportunity to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience within the diverse Asia-Pacific region to facilitate south-south collaboration and regional approaches to local, national, regional and global issues.

URBANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

- National and Municipal Governance
- Participatory Governance and Inclusive Urban Planning
- Accessibility: Equitable, Spatial Land Allocation





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Feed the conversations
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