

Welcome to the Webinar

Scaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate-Resilient Cities



copenhagen climate centre



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK



Webinar - Re-imagining Urban Growth: Scaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilient Cities

4 March 2025, 14:00–15:00 CET



Julia Rocha Romero, Advisor - Nature-based Solutions, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre



Ethel Mudenda, NbS Researcher and Consultant on NbS in Zambia, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre



Daniela Rizzi, NetworkNature Project Manager, ICLEI



Henning Nøhr, Manager for Climate Adaptation, Water and Environment, Department for Green Diplomacy & Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark



copenhagen climate centre



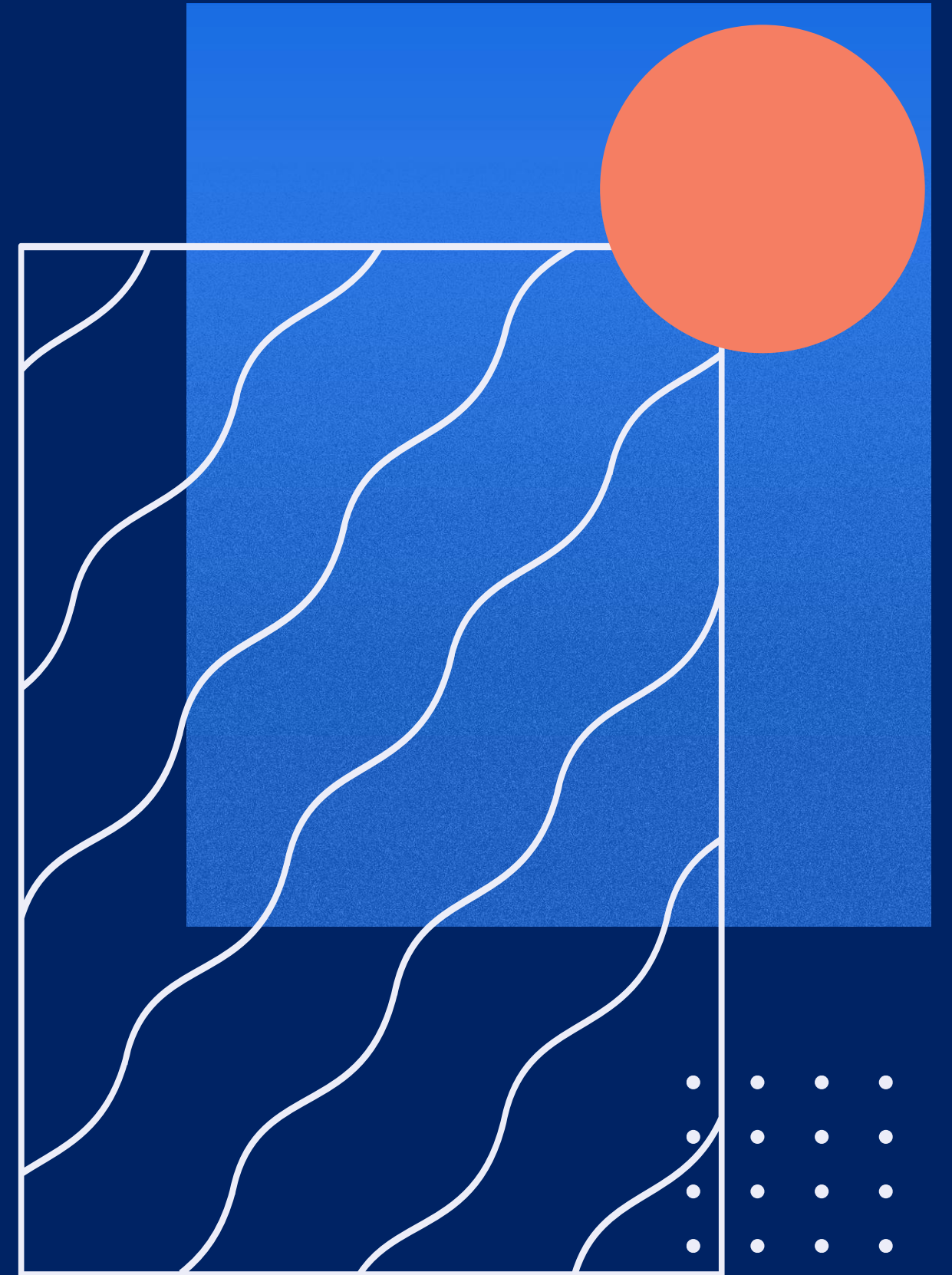
Reimagining Urban Growth

Scaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate- Resilient Cities

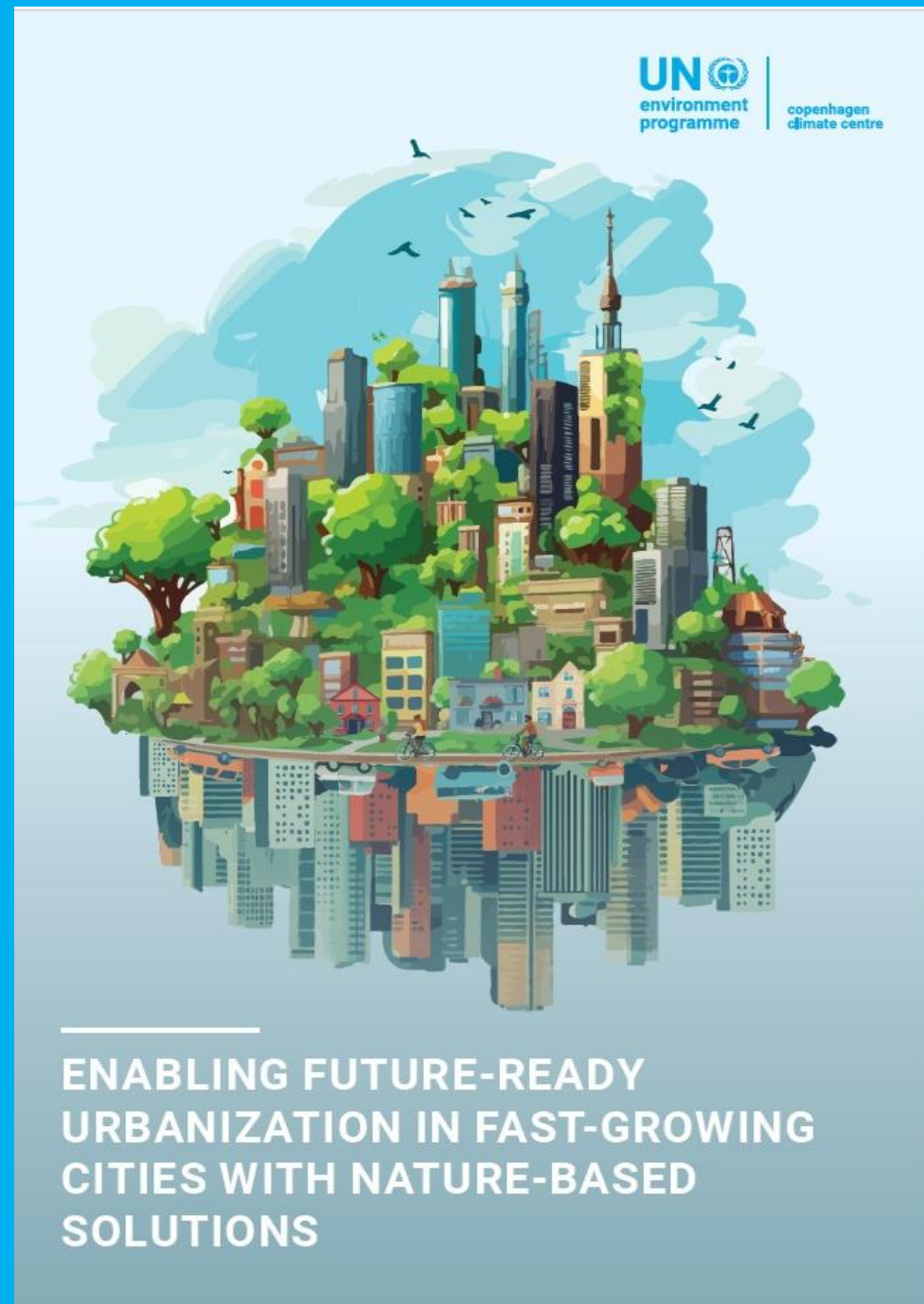


Julia Rocha Romero, Advisor on Nature-based Solutions

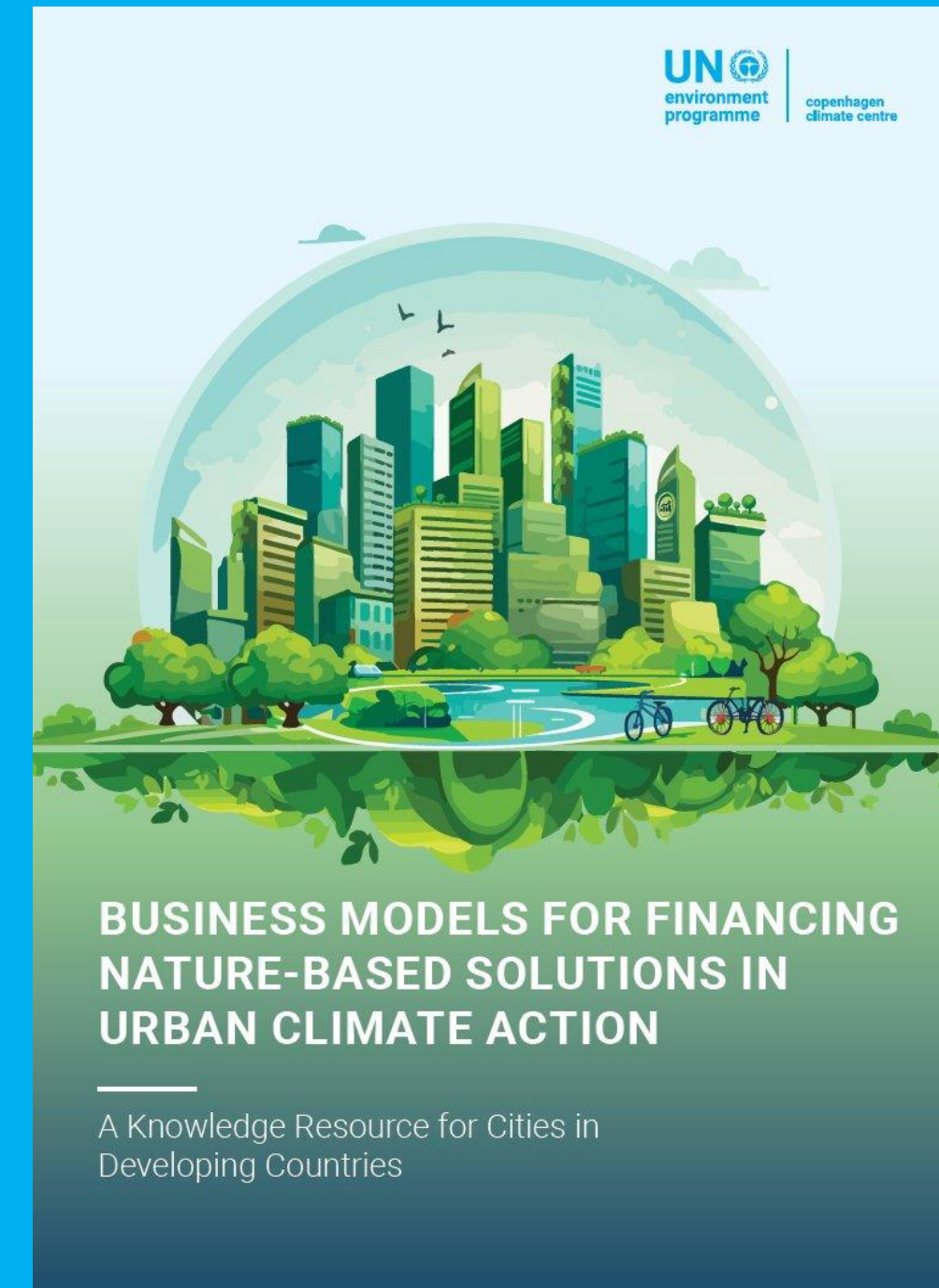
Impact Assessment and Adaptation Analysis
UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre



Policy Brief



Report



Why Urban Nature-based Solutions?

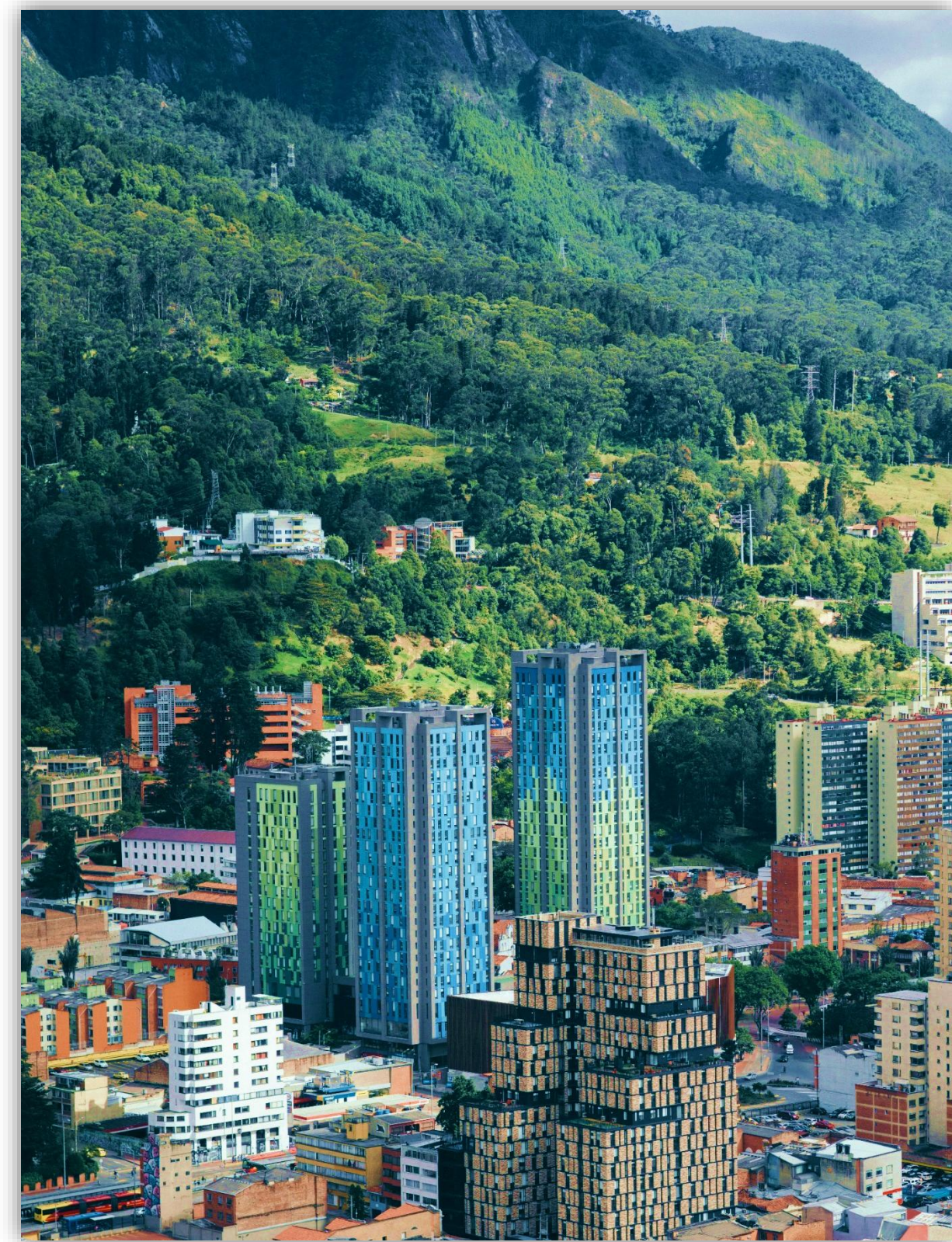
“Actions to **protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage** natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address **social, economic and environmental challenges** effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing **human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.**”

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY 5.2, 2022

Urban NbS can deliver a range of urban climate adaptation benefits to cities, including:

- **Urban Cooling**
- **Flood & Stormwater Management**
- **Coastal Protection**
- **Landslide Risk Reduction**

Additionally, NbS can provide additional co-benefits, particularly minimizing the impacts of climate-induced **non-economic losses and damages** (e.g., mental health, decrease of human wellbeing, and loss of biodiversity).



Key takeaway points: Policy Brief

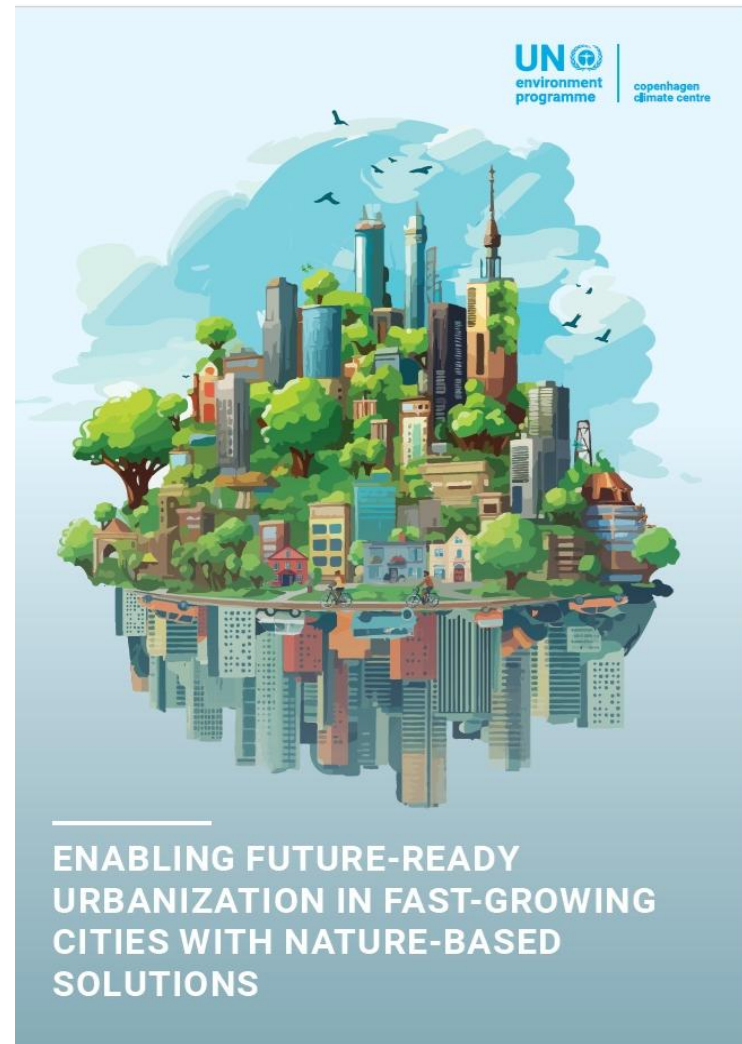
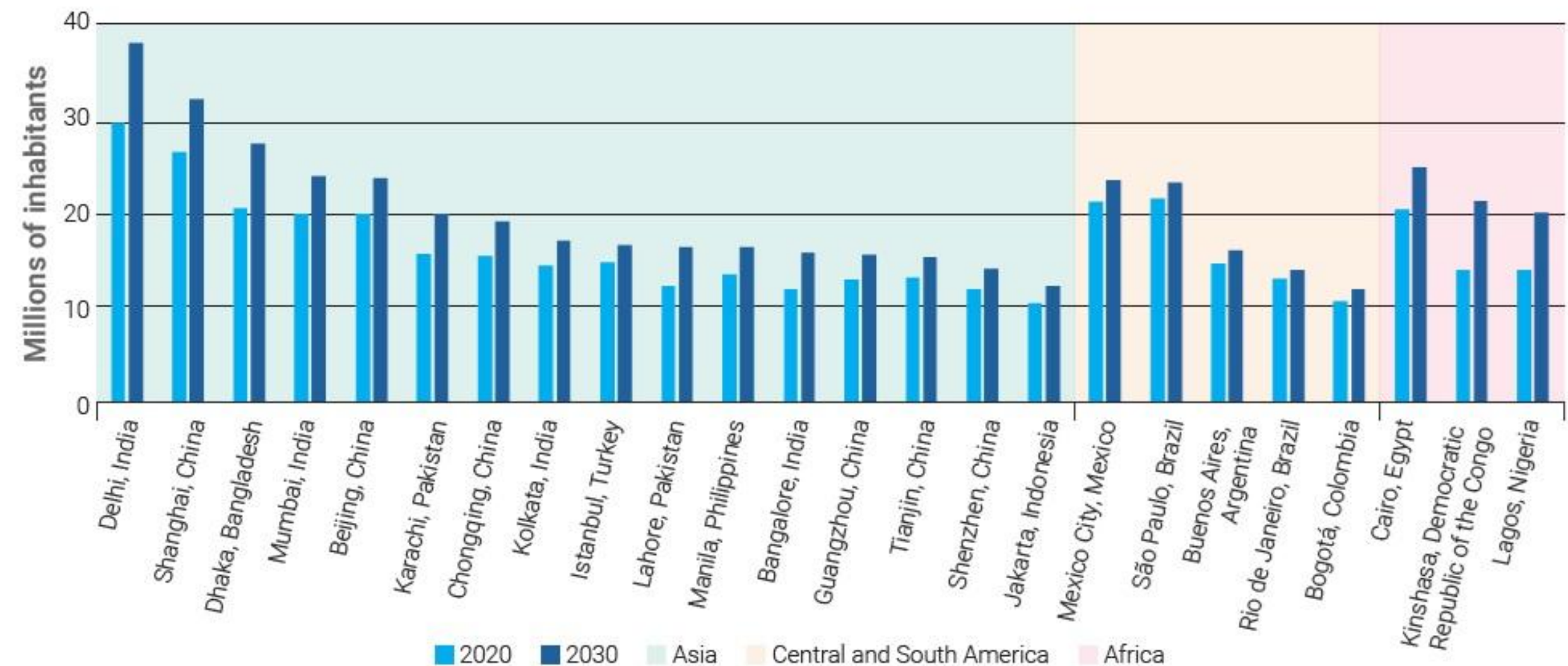


Figure 1: Projected Population Growth in LMIC Cities from 2020 to 2030 per region.



Source: [UNDESA, 2019](#)





Key takeaway points: Policy Brief

CAPACITY BARRIERS



REGULATORY & POLICY BARRIERS



FINANCIAL BARRIERS

- Fragmented institutional arrangements at the local level
- Lack of capacity and awareness, understanding
- Lack of translatable examples

- Difficulties in exploiting the NbS synergies between policy domains
- Lack of coordination between national and local level policies on NbS.

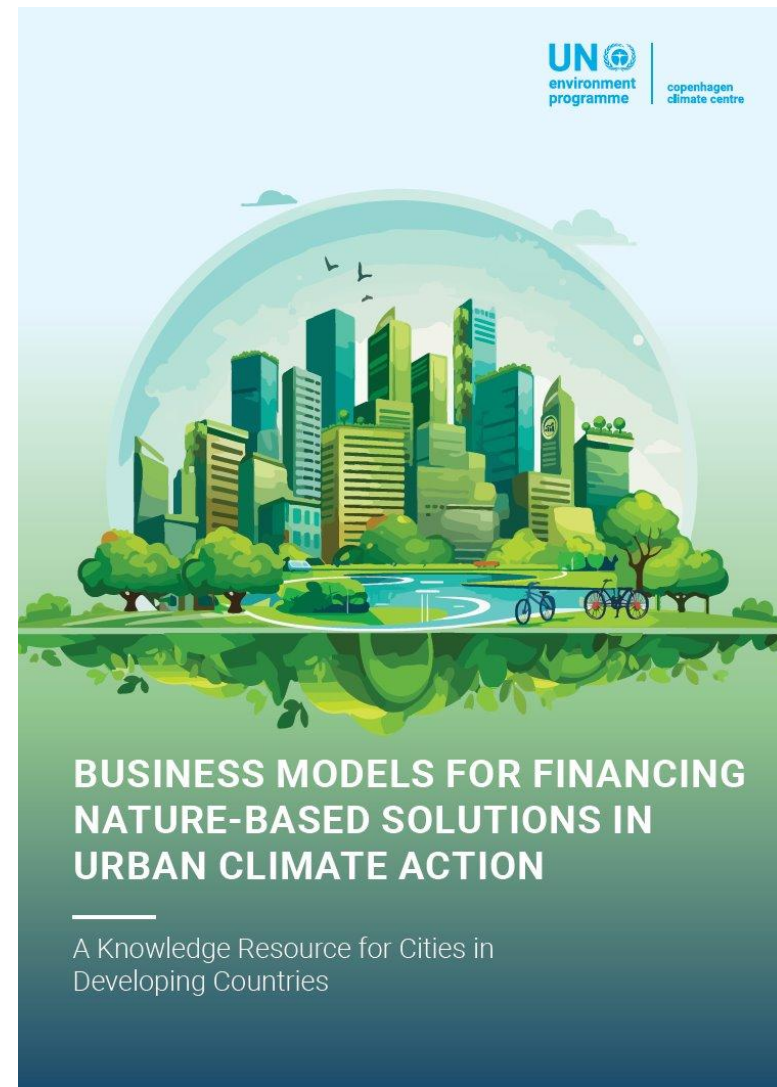
- Lack of NbS attractiveness for private sector finance
- Poor economic valuation and monetization of NbS
- Uncertainties and risks related to financing NbS and expected returns over time

- ✓ **Create Cross-Organizational Structures**
- ✓ **Build Strong NbS Evidence Base**
- ✓ **Facilitate NbS Knowledge Sharing**

- ✓ **Mainstream NbS into Sector Policies**
- ✓ **Avoid having NbS being lost in translation**

- ✓ **Leverage Revenue-Generation NbS Models**
- ✓ **Tap into Innovative Financial Instruments**

Key takeaway points: Report



Why adopt a Business Model Approach?

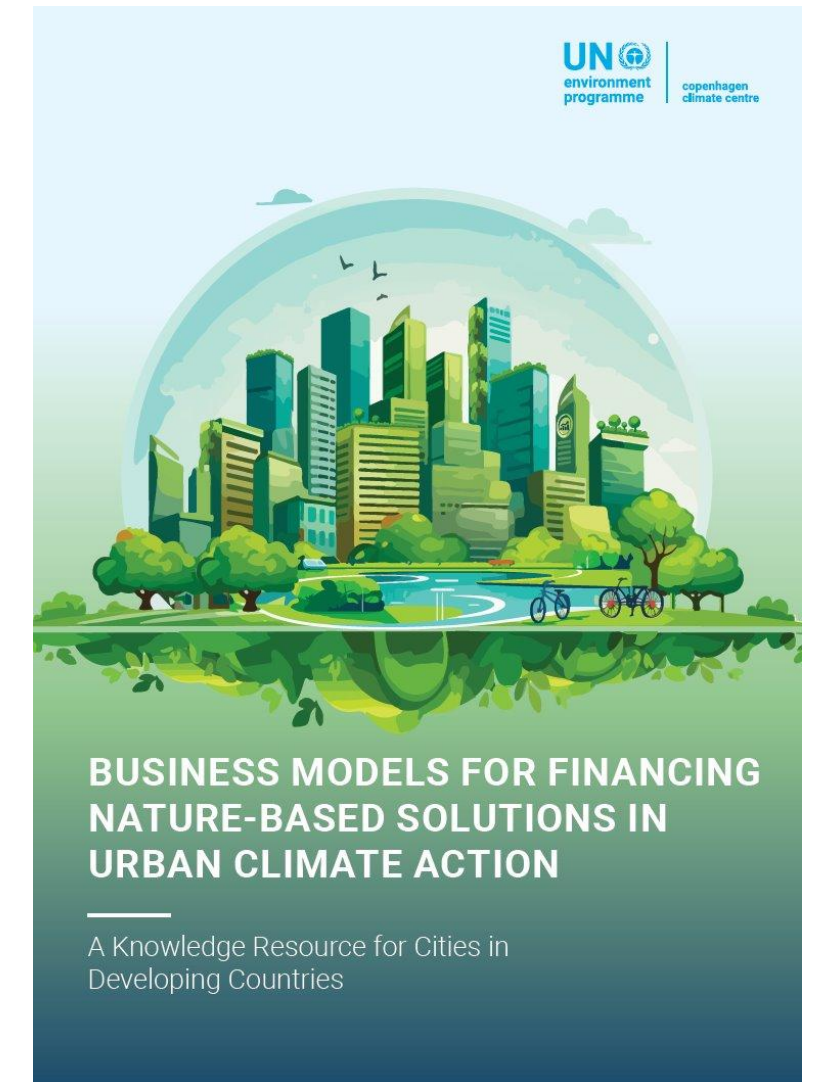
- ✓ By adopting a business model lens, projects can highlight the potential for value creation and delivery via urban Nature-based Solutions (NbS).
- ✓ Business models provide a **practical framework for organizing project and investment planning**, helping structure information for investors, stakeholders, and the public.

Value-proposition-based NbS business models emphasize **the environmental, social, and economic benefits**, showcasing both monetary and non-monetary values to strengthen **stakeholder support**.



Key takeaway points: Report

Figure 26: Key elements of the urban NbS Business Model canvas



Key takeaway points: Report



Think “Bigger/Wider”: *How can the infrastructure interact with the urban environment in the short, medium, and long term?*

Consider Key Roles: *What can each stakeholder contribute to the development of the NbS? What capacities need to be developed and strengthened?*



Weight Costs against Benefits and Understand the Trade Offs: *What are the projected gains and resources to be invested in a given NbS over time and scales? What are the blind spots and trade-offs at hand?*

Pivot for Innovative Solutions for Overcoming Financing Barriers: *How can policies and regulations create an enabling environment for private sector engagement?*

In sum: Why does it matter?

- **Cities in LMICs at the frontlines of the climate crisis**
- **Finance flows for all NbS are estimated at approx. US\$200 billion**, but this figure is around one third of what is needed to reach climate, biodiversity and land degradation targets before 2030.
- Annual finance flows from public and private sources that have a direct negative impact on nature are estimated at almost **US\$7 trillion per year**.
- **NDCs 3.0** being submitted and urban content is increasingly relevant.
- National plans like NDCs, NAPs, and **National biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans** (NBSAPs) are key for mainstreaming NbS into **local policy**.
- **Overcoming the impending barriers outlined in the policy brief remains essential.**



Curious for more?



The ClimateTech Podcast

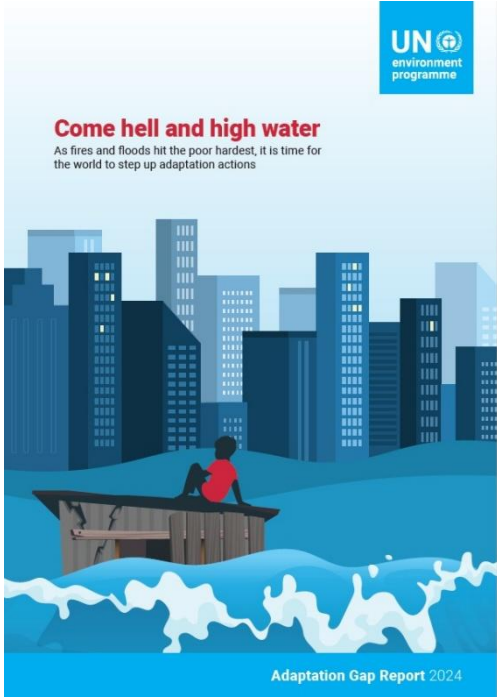
Welcome to the ClimateTech Podcast.

In this podcast series, experts and practitioners present their views and insights on specific technologies or sectors, that can help us address the climate crisis, and more importantly, how we can speed up its implementation in the developing world.

Urban Climate Technology - Green solutions and water Spreaker

00:00 42:33

Listen on Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts, Spotify



Come hell and high water
As fires and floods hit the poor hardest, it is time for the world to step up adaptation actions

UN environment programme

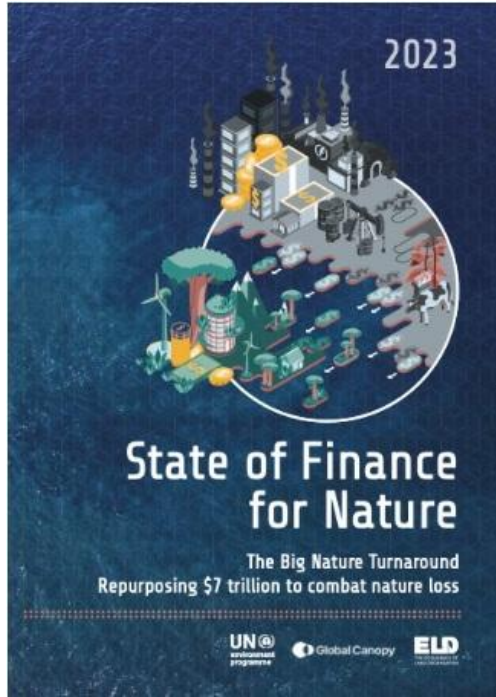
Adaptation Gap Report 2024



From Grey to Green
Better data to finance nature in cities

UN environment programme

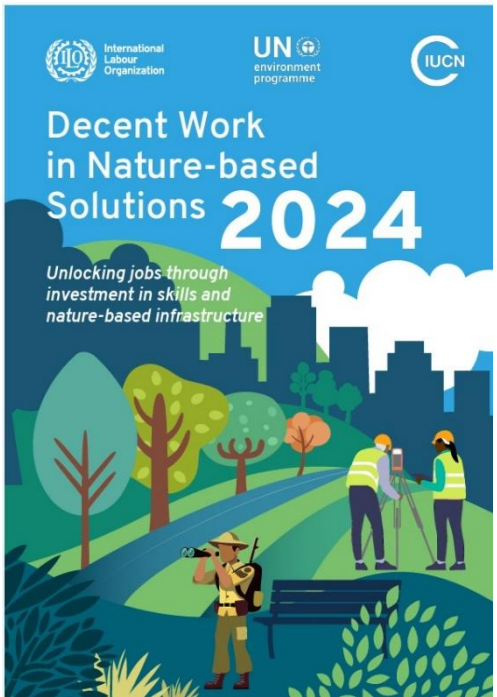
State of Finance for Nature in Cities 2024



2023

State of Finance for Nature
The Big Nature Turnaround
Repurposing \$7 trillion to combat nature loss

UN environment programme, Global Canopy, ELD



International Labour Organization, UN environment programme, IUCN

Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2024
Unlocking jobs through investment in skills and nature-based infrastructure



<https://unepccc.org/the-climatetech-podcast/>

Thank you!

Julia Rocha Romero, Advisor on Nature-based Solutions

Impact Assessment and Adaptation Analysis
UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre



Webinar - Re-imagining Urban Growth: Scaling Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilient Cities

4 March 2025, 14:00–15:00 CET



Questions & Answers



Julia Rocha Romero, Advisor -
Nature-based Solutions, UNEP
Copenhagen Climate Centre



Ethel Mudenda, NbS Researcher and
Consultant on NbS in Zambia, UNEP
Copenhagen Climate Centre



Daniela Rizzi, NetworkNature
Project Manager, ICLEI



Henning Nøhr, Manager for Climate
Adaptation, Water and Environment,
Department for Green Diplomacy & Climate,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark