

## Moving Forward on the Green Cities Initiative

In 2016, the BIMP-EAGA Ministers agreed to the establishment of a BIMP-EAGA Green Cities Initiative and have requested the ADB to assist in developing comprehensive GCAPs, which will be emulated by other cities within the subregion in the near future. This important initiative is part of the new BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 strategy and action plan.

The city of Kendari which falls under the BIMP-EAGA subregion is the pilot city for Indonesia. Identification of other pilot cities in Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and the Philippines will be done in 2017. Preparation of GCAPs will commence in 2017; targeting the preparation of GCAPs for 1-2 cities in each country. Source of photos: ADB consultant report on the *City of Kendari: Green City Action Plan 2035* completed in 2016.

For more information, please contact:

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# THE GREEN CITIES INITIATIVE FOR BIMP-EAGA

Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines

East ASEAN Growth Area

(BIMP-EAGA)

Asia's cities are growing at breakneck speed. The BIMP-EAGA Green Cities Initiative prioritizes sustainable urban development for the subregion. The goal is to develop vibrant, livable cities that are environmentally appealing, economically competitive and socially inclusive. The BIMP-EAGA Green Cities Initiative promotes a paradigm shift – where cities pursue integrated urban development and environment planning as they make a transition to a cleaner, greener, and more prosperous future.

# The Need for Green Cities

In recent decades, Asian cities have provided better economic opportunities and higher standards of living for millions of people. However, these benefits have often come at very high environmental and social costs. Ever-growing numbers of residents, inadequate infrastructure, worsening traffic, polluted air, contaminated rivers, and rising inequalities are but a few of many challenges cities must contend with. Increasing affluence and growing urban populations are likely to further increase resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and without dramatic changes, cities' problems will likely worsen - livability will further decline, and economic productivity will suffer.

Letting urbanization continue along its present course is no longer an option. For cities to economically thrive, and their people to prosper, challenges such as shrinking green space, traffic congestion, water shortages, and flood risks have to be reduced.

Cities consume almost 75% of Earth's natural resource, and are responsible for more than 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions.



## What is a Green Cities Initiative?

Green Cities development aims to enhance city management's capacity in integrated planning and management of urban infrastructure in the cities. The aim in supporting Green Cities is to achieve smart, green and livable cities and attain sustainable urban development through the adoption of Green City Action Plans (GCAPs) by cities in BIMP-EAGA subregion. The collective GCAPs will form the BIMP-EAGA's Green Cities Initiative.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) supports the need for an integrated approach when planning to provide environmental infrastructure, services, and other public goods.

The ADB has partnered with BIMP-EAGA to outline strategies for economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and social equity.

The GCAP will support local governments as they invest in green infrastructure by identifying technical assistance and financing from the public sector, the private sector, and development partners. GrEEEn<sup>1</sup> Solutions for Livable Cities provides a road map for integrated urban development and environmental planning, using low-carbon technologies, innovative financing, enabling institutional structures, policy reform, and responsive governance.

#### **Developing Green City Action Plans**

GCAPs are specific and localized plans tailored for each city that represent a cities' prioritized, time-scaled green development and investment plan, combined with an urban management and implementation plan, a financing plan, and performance monitoring indicators. This integrated action plan is prepared by and for the city to realize its green vision. The GCAP comprises a method for improving integrated urban planning through profiling, baselining, and performance indexing, a project pipeline, an assessment of the city's fiscal capacity, consideration of alternative modes of financing for the proposed project pipeline, and a plan for implementing the project pipeline.

GrEEEn Solutions promote the 3 E's: Environment, Economic Competitiveness and Equity.

