

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) actively supports various levels of government and other stakeholders in promoting integrated land-sea planning. This is essential for fostering a sustainable blue economy and enhancing the resilience of rapidly growing urban coastal populations. Cities and regions have the potential to significantly contribute to more integrated planning efforts. However, they require appropriate enabling frameworks at both national and international levels. One of the key outcome areas of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is the protection of ecological assets. This goal aims to ensure that cities protect, conserve, restore, and promote the ecosystems in and around them, encompassing both land and water environments. Crucial strategies to achieve this include improving waste and water infrastructure and planning to reduce urban sprawl. These measures are vital for creating connected, integrated, and sustainable coastal urban settings.

UN-Habitat endeavours to drive connections and action within the global environmental arena, bridging global actors and policies with local and national contexts. The organization's policy advice, technical support, knowledge production, and practice sharing are increasingly sought after by rapidly growing coastal cities worldwide. To support these cities in enhancing their interaction with the ocean, UN-Habitat has intensified its collaboration with specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). This collaboration aims to meet the cities' needs and promote nature-based solutions to achieve climate and sustainability objectives. Moreover, UN-Habitat actively participates in various platforms to foster knowledge exchange among coastal cities and to catalyze funding. Notable platforms include the Cities with the Ocean initiative, launched by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) at the Ocean Decade conference in Barcelona in April 2024, and the upcoming Ocean Rise and Resilience Coalition, set to be launched at the third United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in 2025.

Under the framework of the Global Partnership for Marine Litter and in cooperation with UNEP, UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities programme and African Clean Cities Platform are addressing marine litter and plastic pollution by improving municipal solid waste management in coastal cities. In 2021, the programmes launched the [Waste Wise Cities Tool \(WaCT\)](#), a monitoring methodology of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.6.1, which allows for rapid

communities and local governments, the program not only addresses environmental concerns but also creates jobs in waste recycling and other sectors.

UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific places particular emphasis on the Pacific SIDS, UN-Habitat chairs the [Pacific Urban Partnership](#) and regularly convenes the [Pacific Urban Forum](#). The 6th Pacific Urban Forum collaborated with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to ensure that the urban agenda is aligned with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Several informal settlements upgrading programmes directly contribute to community resilience. [The Climate Resilient Honiara Project](#) and the [Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements project](#) provide concrete solutions for urban communities particularly vulnerable to climate change.

In the Philippines the