



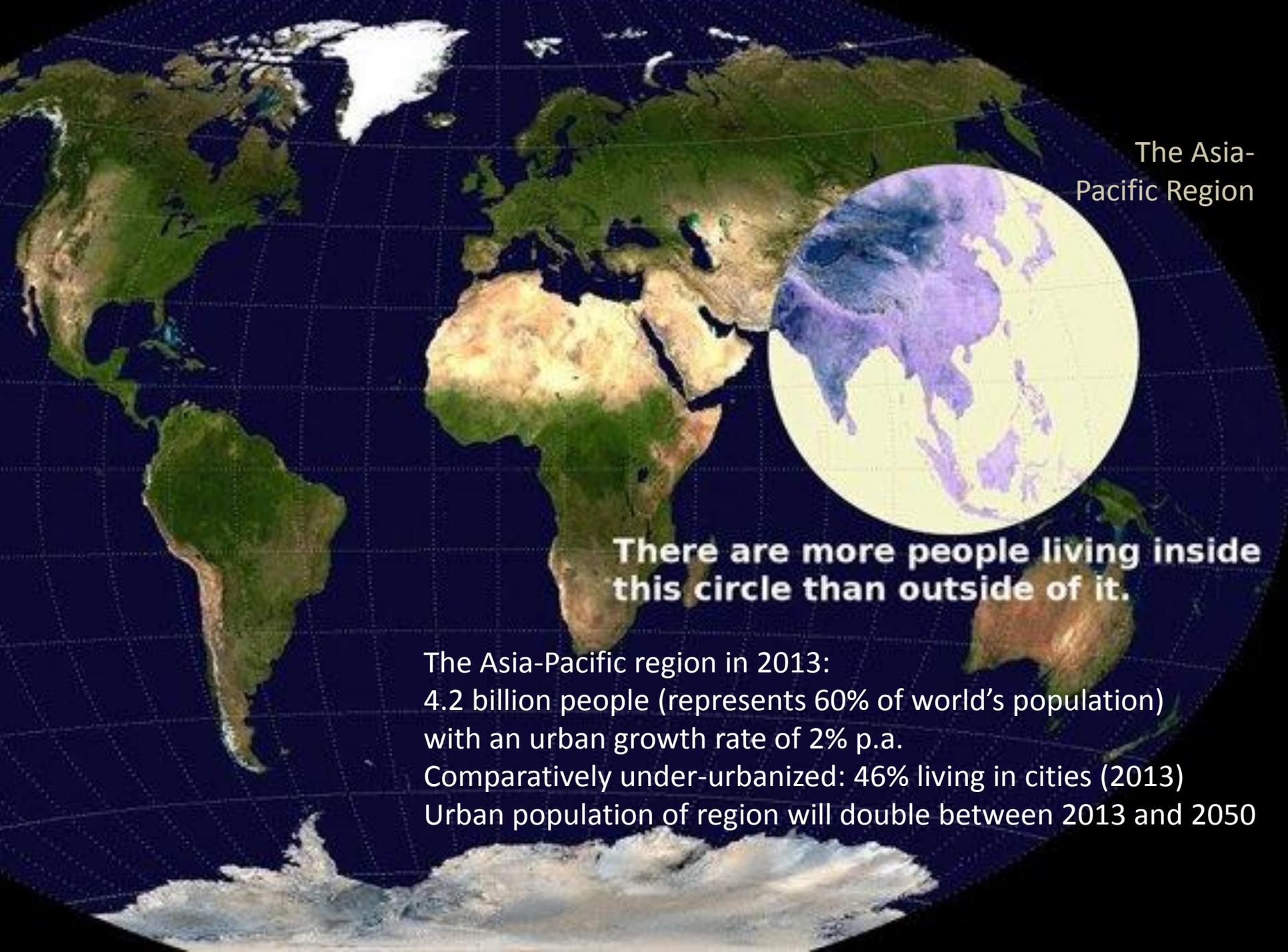
University of
South Australia

中澳城市环境与可持续发展研究中心
China-Australia Centre for Sustainable Urban Development

Pro-Poor Urban Climate Resilience in Asia-Pacific



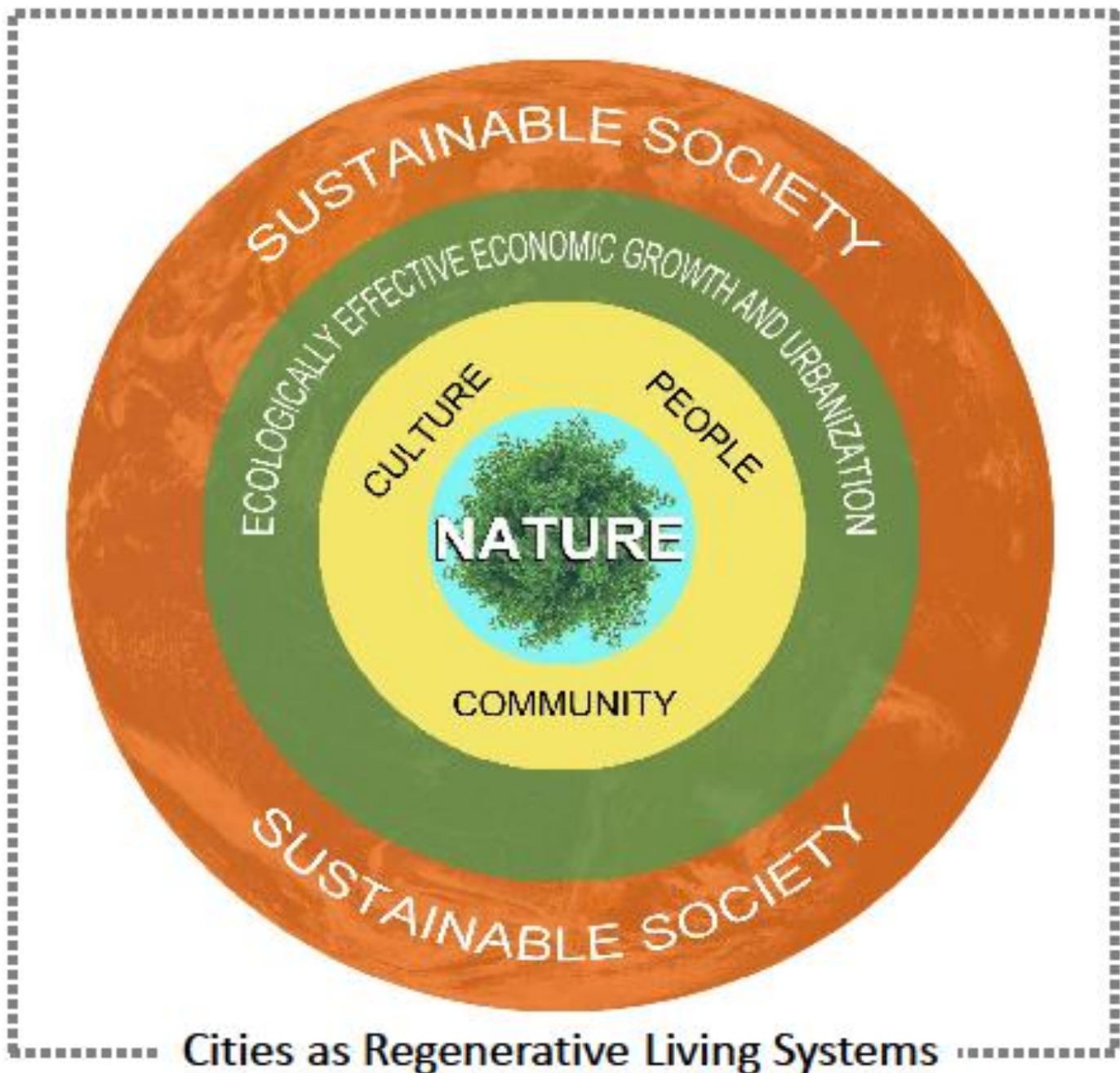
7th CITYNET Congress, Seoul
Professor Steffen Lehmann, 05 November 2013
UN ESCAP Panel Discussion



The Asia-Pacific Region

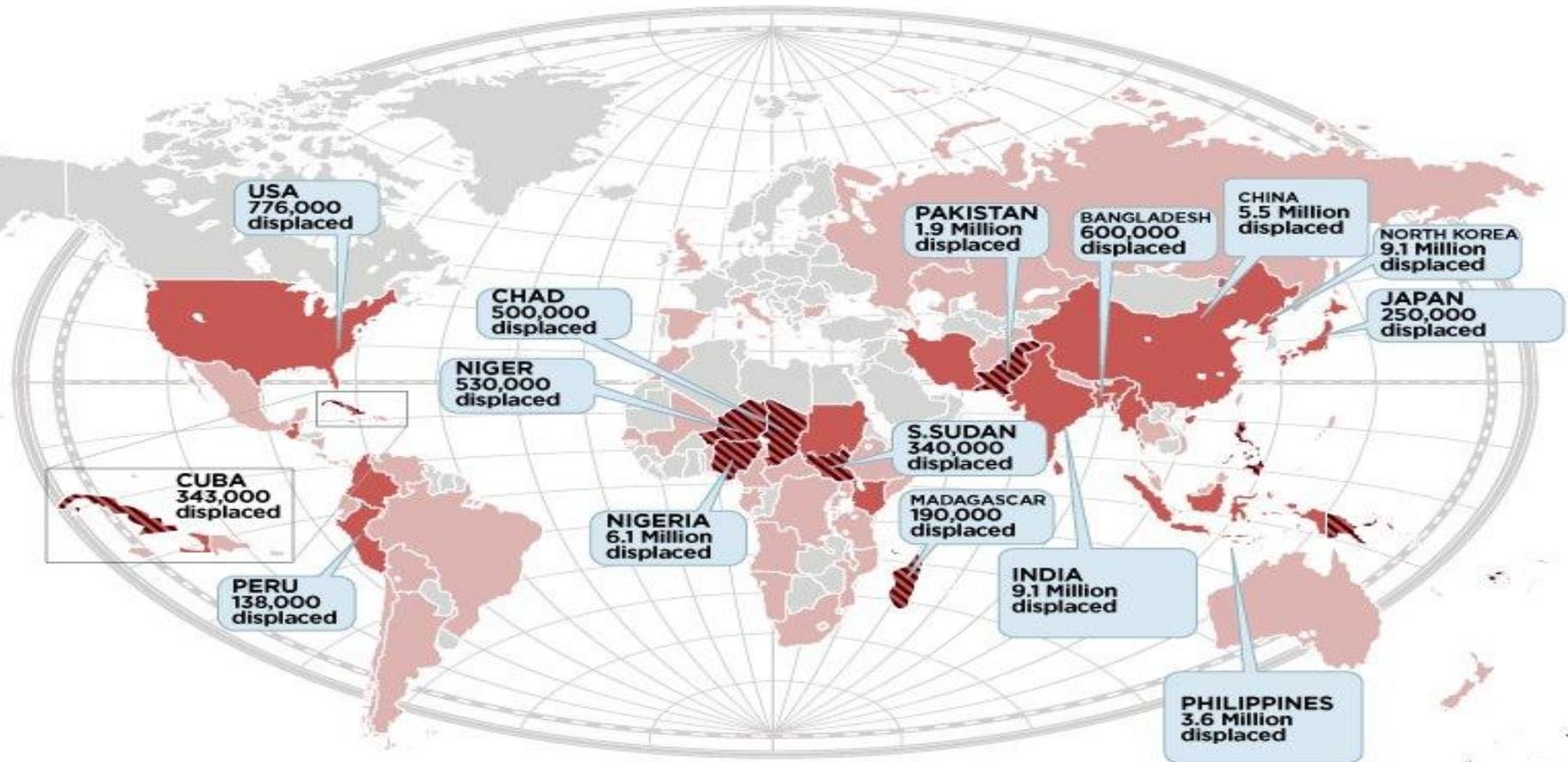
There are more people living inside this circle than outside of it.

The Asia-Pacific region in 2013:
4.2 billion people (represents 60% of world's population)
with an urban growth rate of 2% p.a.
Comparatively under-urbanized: 46% living in cities (2013)
Urban population of region will double between 2013 and 2050



Cities as Regenerative Living Systems

IN 2012, EXTREME WEATHER DROVE **MORE THAN 32 MILLION PEOPLE** FROM THEIR HOMES



98% OF CLIMATE REFUGEES WERE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Impact of climate change. Disaster risk management, future risk planning

What is urban resilience?

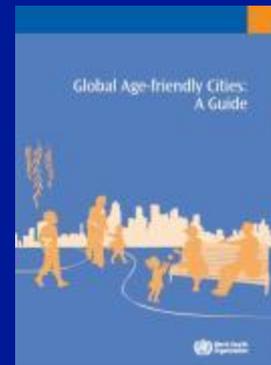
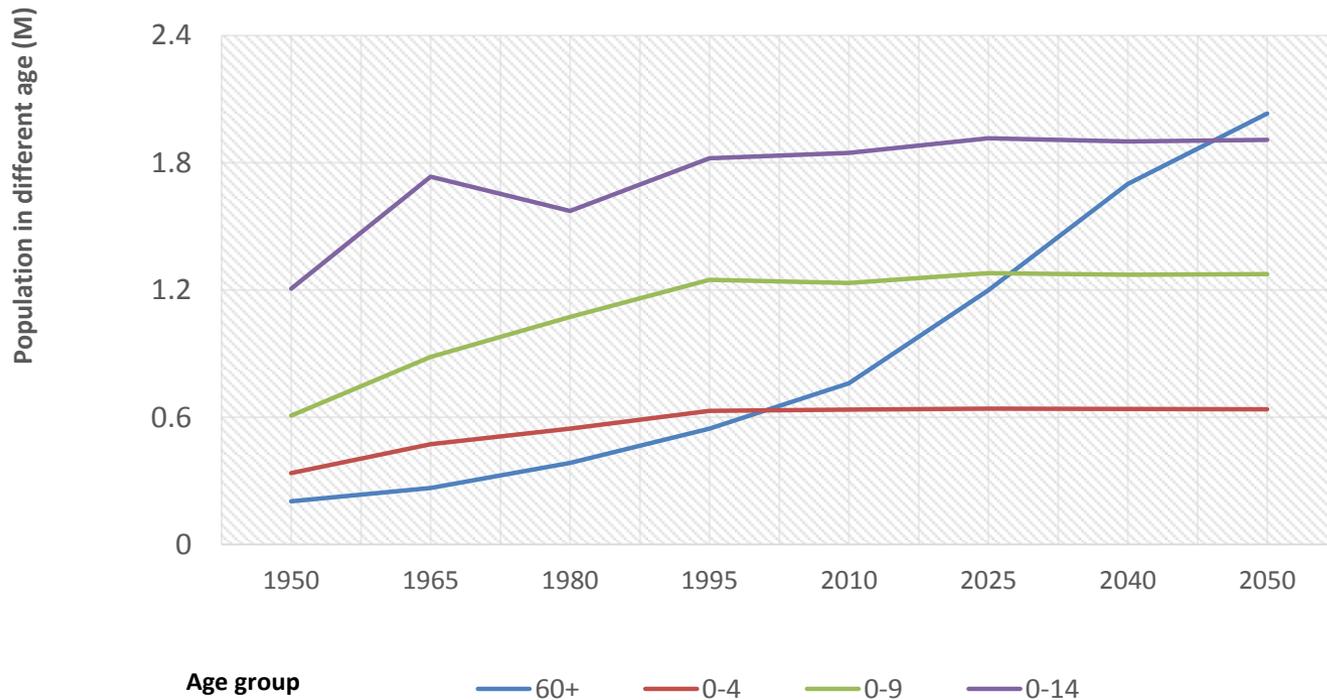
RESILIENCE = *the adaptive capacity, ability to recover quickly, the preparedness to crisis or natural disasters; resilience is built up over a long period, e.g. to deal with the impacts of climate change on cities (sea-level rise; heat waves; urban flooding; erosion; storms; etc).*

But: a good understanding of *urban resilience* is still missing

- **How to measure resilience and preparedness?**
- **Is the concept of *resilience* too narrow to address urban poverty?**

Ageing Population – Demographic Change

Number of people 60+ age in compare to young age, globally



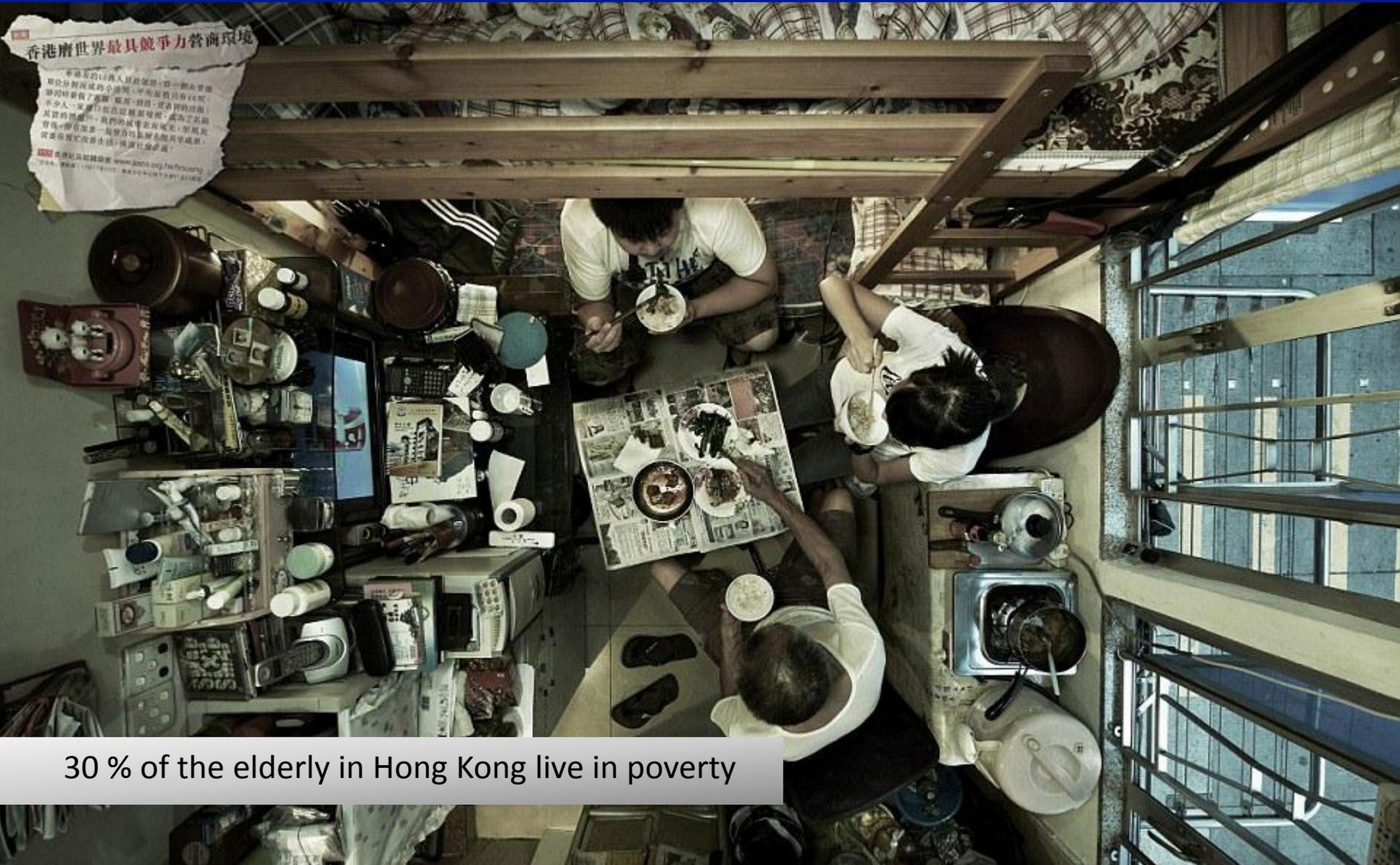
Heat waves kill!

Heat stroke and dehydration:

Mortality rate of older people doubles in heat waves

World Health
Organizaton, 2007

Social inequality and overcrowded cities – poverty in the city: tiny, 5sqm cramped flats in Hong Kong



香港曆世界最具競爭力营商环境

香港的高昂租金，是许多人居住困难的一个主要原因。但比这更严重的是，平均而言，只有1/3的香港人拥有自己的房子。这导致了许多人住在拥挤的出租公寓中。我们的城市正在失去其独特的魅力，我们正在失去我们的生活方式。让我们一起努力，为香港的未来而奋斗。

香港社会服务委员会 www.hksc.org.hk

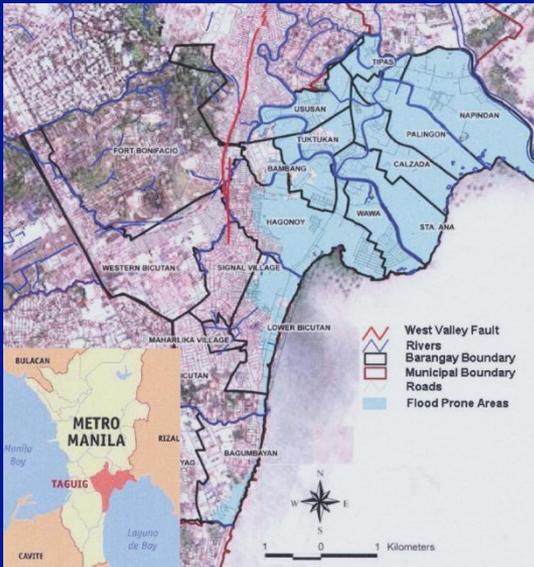
30 % of the elderly in Hong Kong live in poverty

Decent affordable housing ownership



Urban slum in Metro Manila (Taguig City)

Regular flooding – need to relocate community into new housing
(AusAID-program: contributes to new housing for 1.800 families)



Careful
impact assessment
of relocation plans
is essential

Public participation and inclusive decision-making

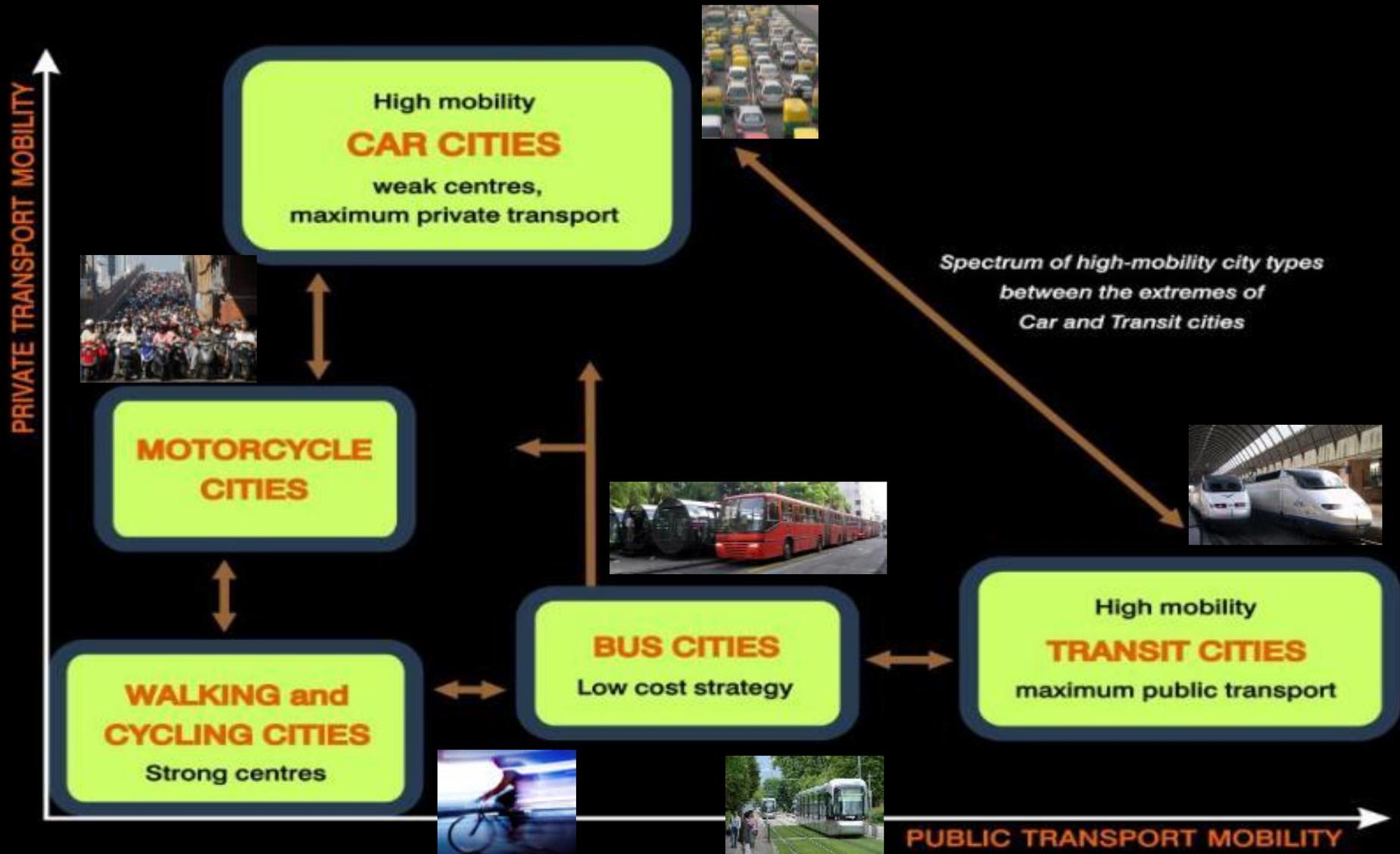
Community and citizen-led initiatives.

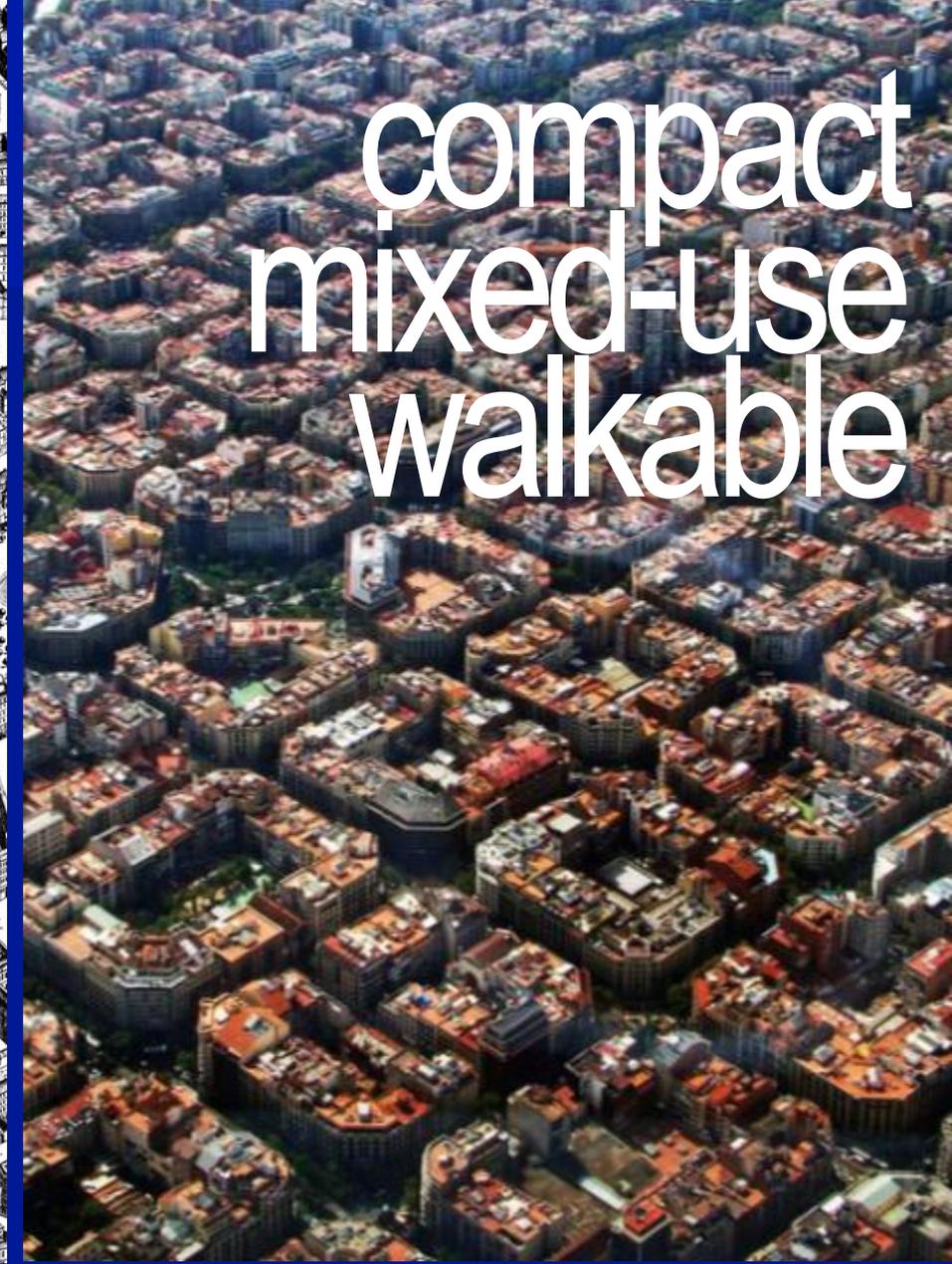
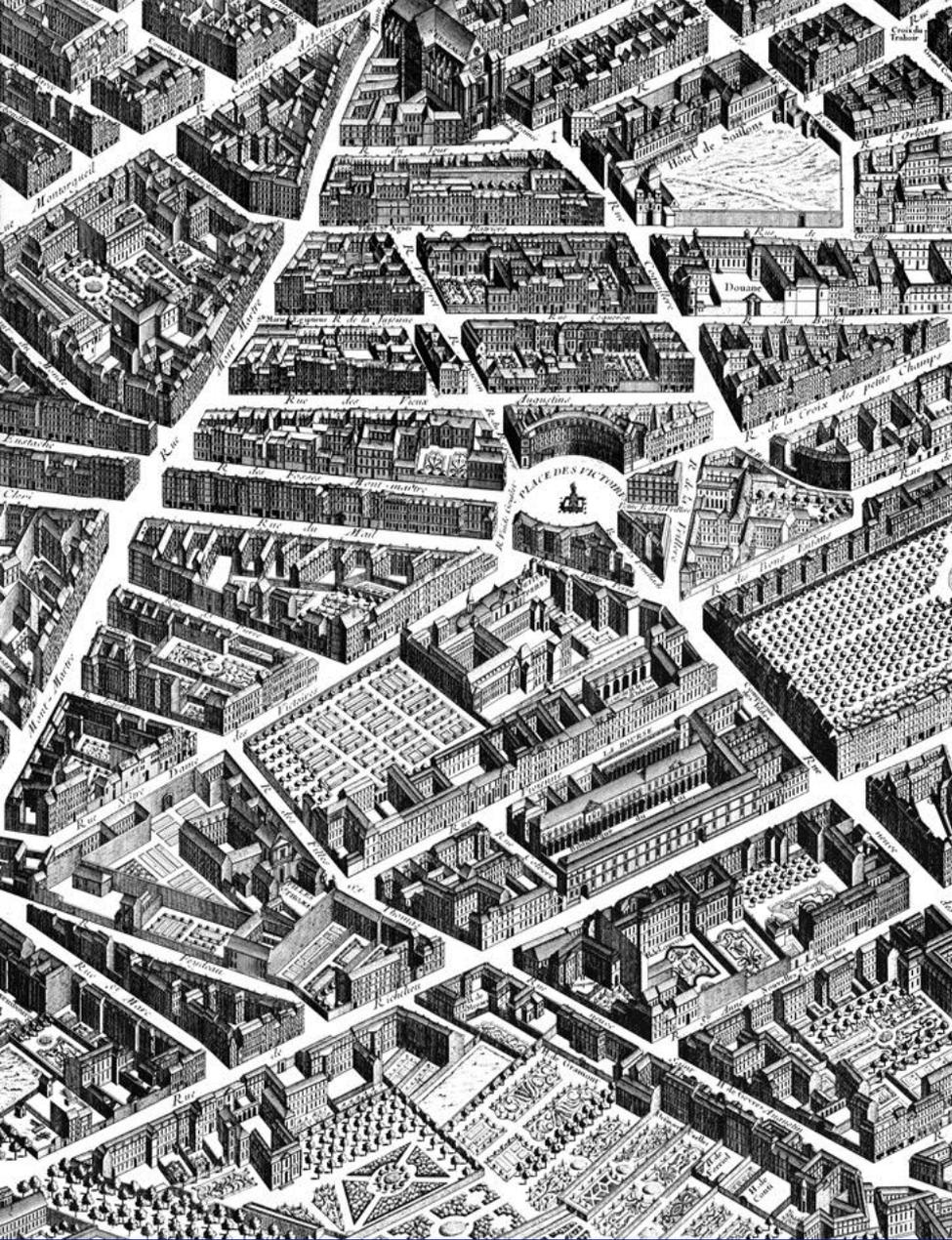
Need for excellent participation processes.

But: how to improve community participation and decision making?

**It's always easy to engage some,
but very difficult to engage all!**

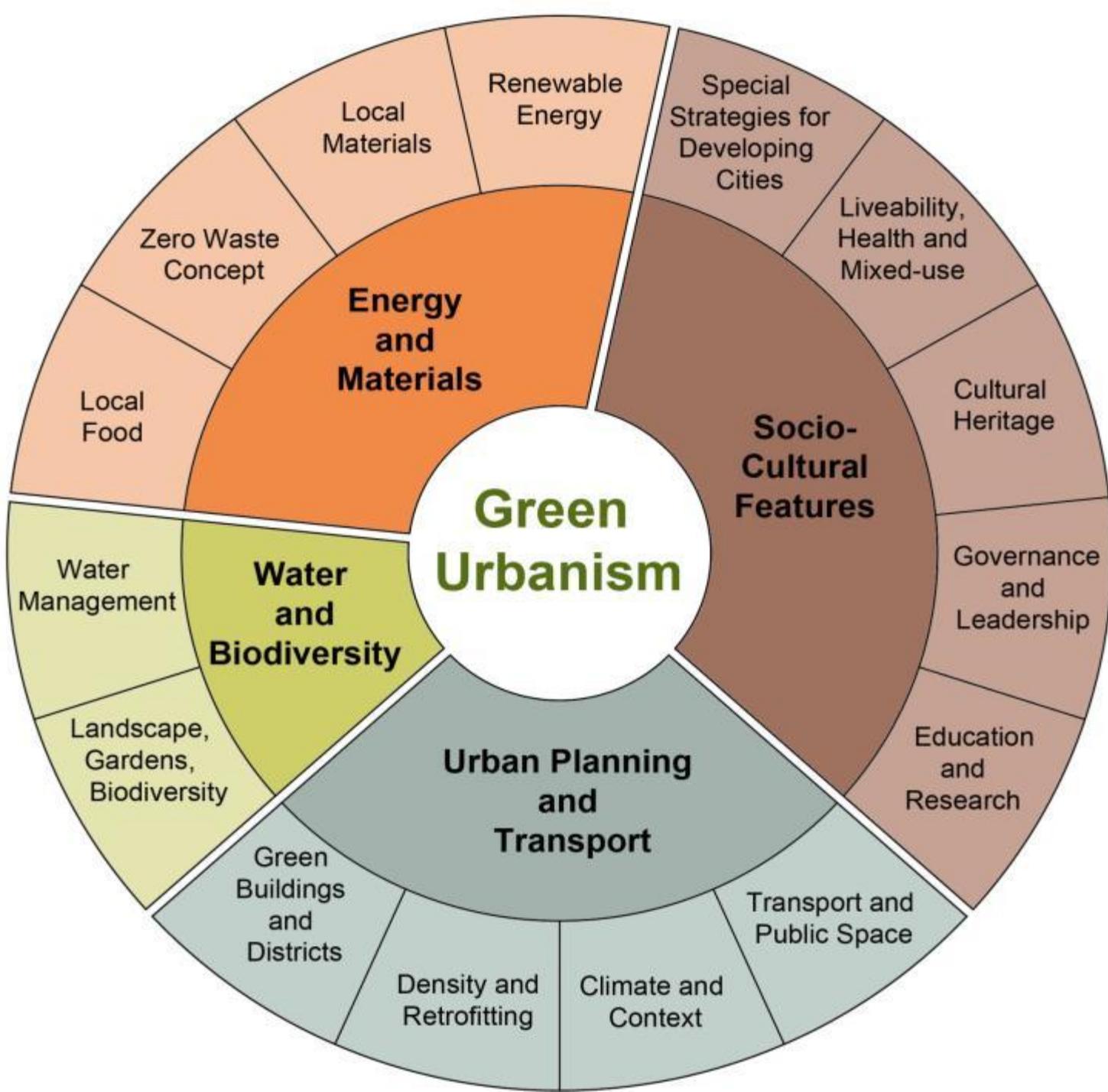
Alternative urban plans affect people, transport, place, cost, energy use and pollution





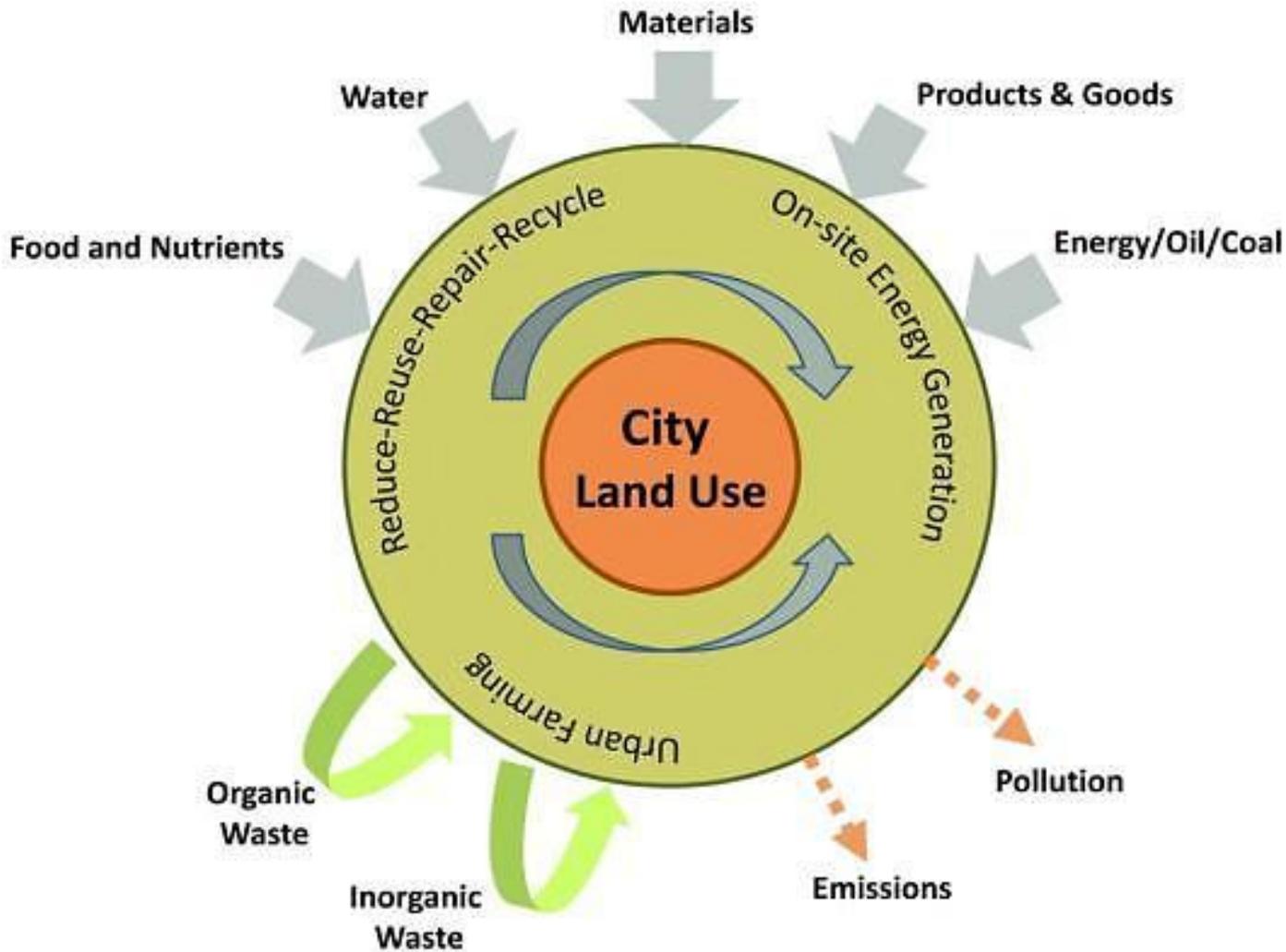
compact
mixed-use
walkable

traditional urbanism = ecological urbanism



The 15 Principles of Green Urbanism (Lehmann, 2008)

Minimized Inputs



Minimized Outputs

Zero Waste ... Zero Landfill ... Zero Incineration

15 Principles,
1 City

Integrated approach to slum upgrading and slum improvement

- H. Lefebvre (1968): “Mobilisation from below”
- UNESCO “The Right to the City”
especially for women, children, elderly

Urban citizenship

Political leadership with long-term vision

Core problem: lack of tenure (ownership) and land supply.

Forced evictions, e.g. Favela clearing in Rio now.

A “New Deal for the Urban Poor”?

- 1. Improving basic living conditions, safety and service delivery, building small-scale new infrastructure.**
- 2. Empowering community, social inclusion, housing tenure.**
- 3. Building partnerships (public/private partnerships).**
- 4. Education and health programs, develop capacity, social protection and health insurance for urban poor.**

What can urban leaders and policy makers do?

Urban poor communities need access to:

- **Affordable public transport, in walking distance.**
- **Affordable and adequate housing, close to jobs.**
- **Not 'Smart City' - but low-tech, robust, simple solutions for a better preparedness for disasters, less vulnerable to urban flooding, heat waves, water contamination.**

Adapt strategies appropriately, to different cultural contexts



Zero waste initiative, Matale (Sri Lanka) – 70% of waste is organic.
Returning nutrients to the soil, produce fertiliser from organic waste



Summary

1. Housing tenure (ownership) and affordability:

We need new economic loan models for low income home owners; e.g. micro-financing.

2. Climate policies need to focus on the most cost-effective solutions, because green policies will be sustainable only if they are economical viable.

We need to focus on R&D to create innovations that bring down the price of new technologies.

Summary

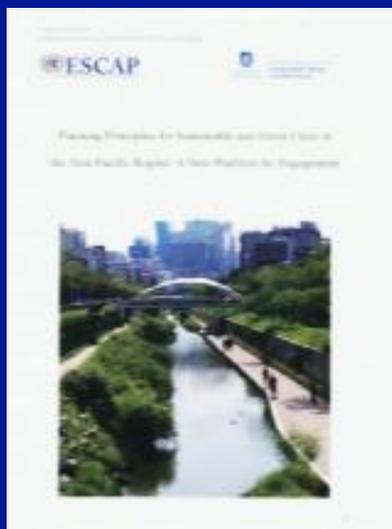
The careful sustainable transformation of informal urban settlements is crucial to maintain

- existing diversity
- create equity and social inclusion
- ensure affordability of suitable housing
- ensure access to public space, green and affordable public transport.

Integrating the principles of *green urbanism* is key to sustainable urban development and resilience strategy.

Launching a new UN ESCAP document

Planning Principles for Sustainable Green Cities in the Asia-Pacific Region (2013)



**Invite you to the Workshop tomorrow morning,
8.30am to 11am**

**‘Sustainable Planning for Eco-City Development in Asia and
the Pacific’**

Draft document available – we re asking for your feedback

Please attend the workshop and give us your feedback.

**Send your comments by 01 December 2013,
to Ms Brenna Foster : communication@citynet-ap.org**



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China-Australia Centre for Sustainable Urban Development

CAC_SUD Centre

www.unisa.edu.au/china-australia



UniSA

Zero Waste SA Research Centre for
Sustainable Design
and Behaviour

sd+b Centre

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Urban
Development for Asia and the Pacific

UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Urban Development

www.slab.com.au

Thank you.

You can contact me anytime.
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