

# Cities4Forests



# About

Connecting cities with **faraway**, **nearby** and **inner forests** around the world for people's wellbeing, climate resilience, water management and biodiversity.

**#Cities4Forests**

# Over 50% of Humanity Now Lives in Urban Areas... with expected growth towards 70% by 2050. (Source: United Nations)

To make our urban habitats more liveable and climate-resilient, **Cities4Forests** is bringing together cities to better conserve, manage, and restore forests: including ‘**inner**’ urban forests, parks and natural areas; ‘**nearby**’ forests and green corridors, supplying clean water, jobs, and recreation; and ‘**faraway**’ forests helping to address deforestation and keep climate change in check.



## 3 Levels + 3 Activities

**Cities4Forests** aims to catalyze political, social, and economic support among city governments and urban residents to integrate the **inner**, **nearby** and **faraway** forests into city development plans and programs.

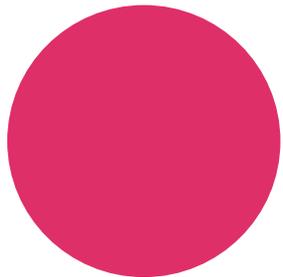
**Cities4Forests** supports **peer-to-peer learning**, and provides **technical assistance** to align policies and local action, and **communicates the benefits of forests to citizens and residents**.



## 4 Main Themes

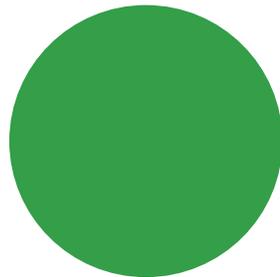
Cities4Forests revolves around 4 main themes related to meta-level topics:

### LIFE



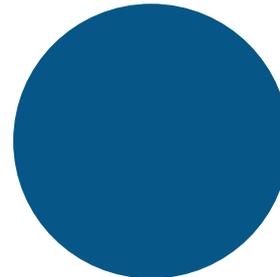
Health

### SPECIES



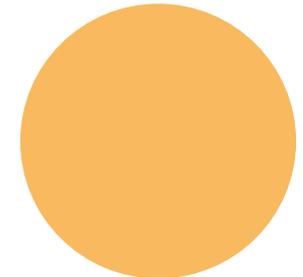
Biodiversity

### ESSENCE



Water

### PLANET



Climate

# The UN Sustainable Development Goals:

Cities4Forests engages the public and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on the following:



# Cities

**Cities4Forests** is a voluntary coalition involving mayors' offices—and supported by other subnational agencies such as public water utilities and offices of sustainability—from around the world.

**An estimated 2 out of 3 people will live in a city by 2050.**

Public policies and procurement practices of cities—as well as the values, votes, and consumption patterns of citizens—have a great potential to decide in which kind of cities we live in. They can support green infrastructure, the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of forests. In many ways, cities depend on forests - and can do a lot to support them.



1. Accra, Ghana
2. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3. Aguascalientes, Mexico
4. Amman, Jordan
5. Antalya, Turkey
6. Antananarivo, Madagascar
7. Auckland, New Zealand
8. Baltimore, USA
9. Belo Horizonte, Brazil
10. Bogotá, Colombia
11. Brussels, Belgium
12. Cali, Colombia
13. Campinas, Brazil
14. Culiacán, Mexico
15. Detroit, USA
16. Dublin, Ireland
17. Eugene, USA
18. Greater Manchester, UK
19. Haifa, Israel
20. Honolulu, USA
21. Jakarta, Indonesia
22. Johannesburg, South Africa
23. Kigali, Rwanda
24. King County (WA), USA
25. Kochi, India
26. León, Mexico
27. Lin'an, China
28. Little Rock, USA
29. Los Angeles, USA

30. Mérida, Mexico
31. Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara, Mexico
32. Mexico City, Mexico
33. Nairobi, Kenya
34. New York City, USA
35. North Little Rock, USA
36. Oakland, USA
37. Oslo, Norway
38. Philadelphia, USA

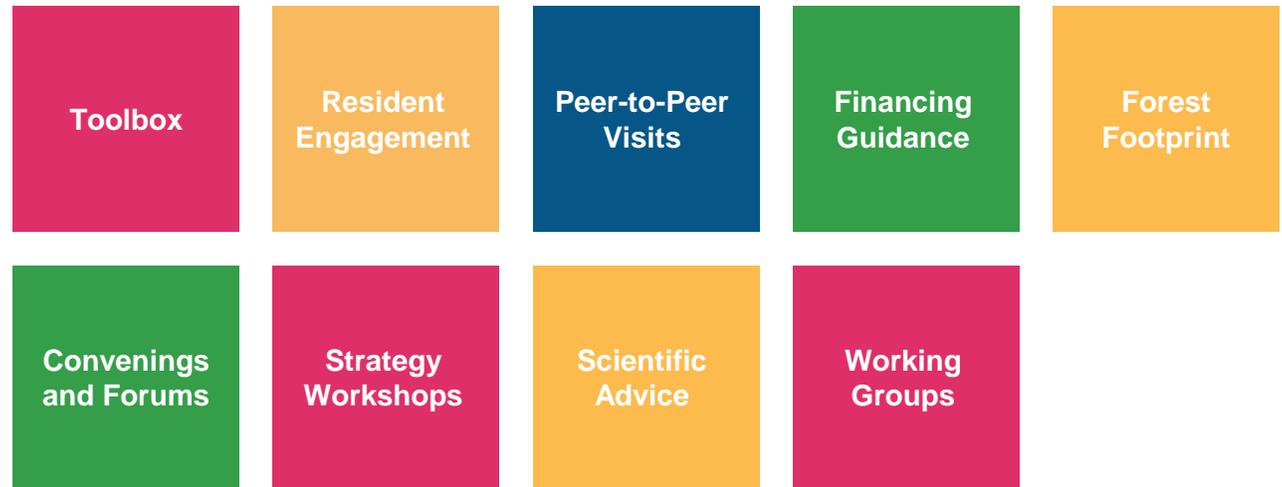
39. Portland (OR), USA
40. Quito, Ecuador
41. Raleigh, USA
42. Sacramento, USA
43. Salem (OR), USA
44. Salt Lake City, USA
45. Salvador, Brazil

46. São Paulo, Brazil
47. Seattle, USA
48. Skopje, Macedonia
49. Toronto, Canada
50. Vancouver, Canada
51. Vienna, Austria
52. Washington, D.C., USA



Founding cities share an aspiration to help reduce deforestation, restore forests (including more trees in cities), and manage forests more sustainably. Our goal is to amplify best practices and extend the city-forest relationship globally.

## Cities4Forests offers the following benefits:



# Forests

Connecting faraway, nearby and inner forests with cities around the world.

# How Forests Sustain Cities

**Trees and forests are immensely valuable to cities and their residents.**

**Trees and forests provide multiple health benefits, sustain water resources, help to combat climate change, and protect global biodiversity.**



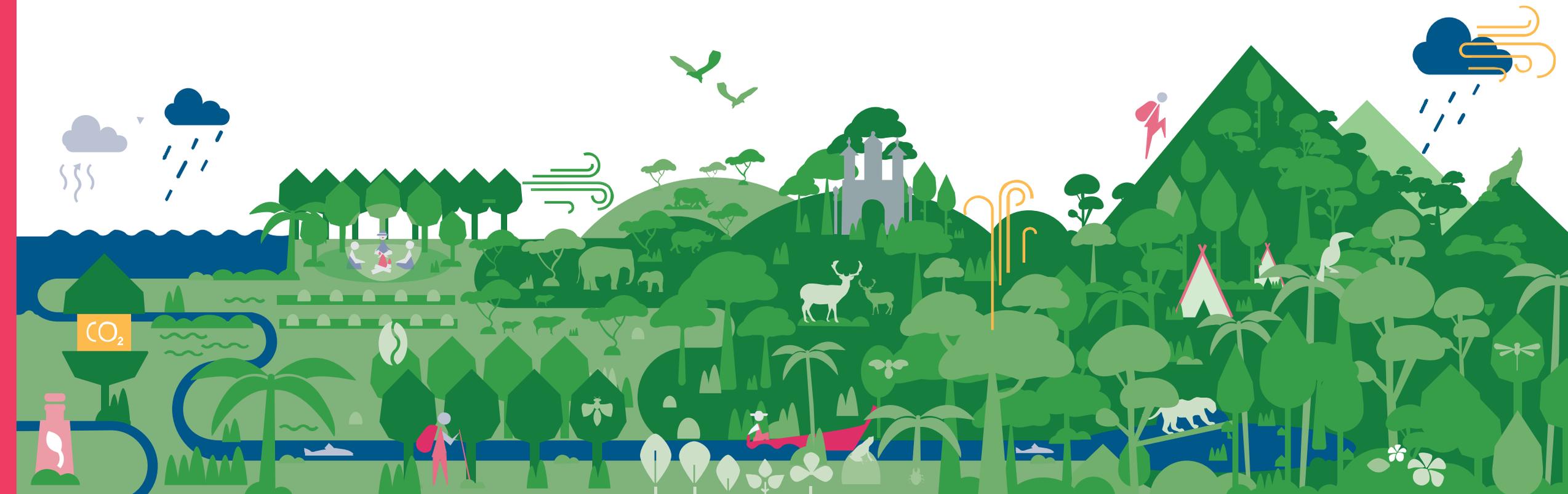
Natural areas, parks, trees and plants within cities – the **“inner” forests** – provide clean the air, offset heat islands (and lower energy bills), and enhance human health and urban wildlife.



Green corridors and belts, nature parks and trees in watersheds surrounding cities – the “**nearby**” forests – contribute to cleaner air and drinking water, reduce flooding, and offer an escape from hectic urban life.



Along with oceans, tropical forests and rainforests – the **“faraway” forests** – sequester the largest amounts of carbon dioxide, generate rain for the world’s farm belts, provide a wealth of useful forest products, and host the majority of the world’s land-based biodiversity.



# 2018 Launch

Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS), San Francisco

# Cities4Forests

**Launched at #GCAS18 with 50 founding cities across 6 continents pledging to conserve, manage and restore forests around the world.**

**GLOBAL  
CLIMATE  
ACTION SUMMIT**

13 September 2018

 [www.cities4forests.com](http://www.cities4forests.com)

2018 Launch | GCAS

“The city of São Paulo is proud to be part of Cities4Forests and will measure efforts to conserve and enlarge green spaces. Urban forests contribute to the regulation of humidity and temperature, air quality control, health and lifestyle of citizens...”

Mayor Bruno Covas,  
of **São Paulo, Brazil**

“Auckland and Cities4Forests are united in a common goal: recognizing the wide range of measurable benefits forests provide in making our lives healthier, happier and more gratifying.”

John Mauro, Chief  
Sustainability Officer of  
**Auckland, New Zealand**

“We are proud to be a city that is fighting to restore, protect, and utilize forests – to the benefit of our citizens, environment, and economy.”

Mayor Takele Uma Benti,  
of **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



# Cities4Forests

2018 Launch | In the press

The launch of **Cities4Forests** was covered by local and global media, as well as organizations promoting sustainability issues related to cities and forests.



# Founding Partners & Funders

### PILOT PROJECTS

“Cities4Forests addresses the greatest challenge of our times: reconciling our relationship with nature so that future generations can live in a cleaner and healthier world.”

Scott Francisco  
Founder of **Pilot Projects**

### REVOLVE

“Cities4Forests addresses the greatest challenge of our times: reconciling our relationship with nature so that future generations can live in a cleaner and healthier world.”

Stuart Reigeluth  
Founder of **REVOLVE**



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE

“Cities have invisible footprints on faraway forests that most people aren't aware of. The commodities that we consume - timber, paper, palm oil, beef, soybeans – can be responsible for destroying forests. And the benefits that forests provide to cities are underappreciated too.”

Frances Seymour  
Distinguished Senior Fellow at  
**World Resources Institute**

**Cities4Forests** is supported by global, regional, and local partners that believe in promoting the importance of inner, nearby, and faraway forests.

## GLOBAL



## REGIONAL



# Cities4Forests

Co-represented by Pilot Projects, REVOLVE  
and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

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