

SUMMARY

A Path to Sustainable Urban Development



Parks and historical sites in Viet Nam are major tourist draw cards but need careful management and protection. Photo credit: ADB.

Hue City in Viet Nam rolled out an action plan for urban development that targets environmental protection, improved livability, and new economic opportunities.

Overview

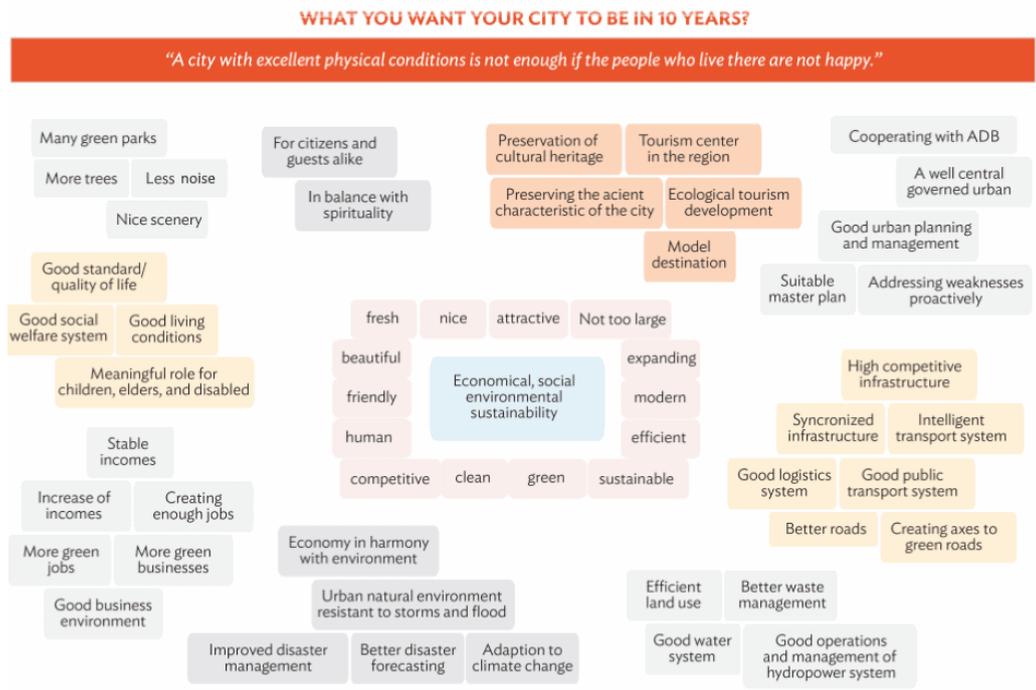
Making cities environmentally sustainable, livable, and economically viable is one of the great challenges of our times.

Hue City in Viet Nam aspires to become a world-class tourist destination and to increase tourist numbers from current levels of over 2 million a year, with the bulk of visitors drawn to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Citadel and Imperial City sites.

These sites need significant rehabilitation and improved linkages to maximize their potential, while the city itself suffers from poor water quality, air pollution, and flooding during rainy months. The urban sewerage network covers only about 30% of the population, while Hue City also lacks a safe hazardous waste disposal site, and needs to expand its limited water treatment plants.

The city authorities believe tourism can drive the development of services such as lodging; food and

beverage; culture and entertainment; and handicrafts; and in combination with health care and education can grow and strengthen the services sector overall. Services, not manufacturing, is seen as the economic base of the future Thua Thien Hue city.



Source: Participants of the Visioning Exercise.

In response to these challenges, Hue City has adopted a new GrEEEn cities approach to urban planning and development that brings together measures to protect and sustain the environment, ensure the livability of the city, and to generate new economic opportunities.

An action plan based on the GrEEEn cities three “Es” formula (environment, economy and equity) has now been drawn up with technical assistance support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It lays out step-by-step measures to achieve Hue’s sustainable urban development goals.

Key Findings

The GrEEEn Cities Action Plan outlines three key initiatives to achieve the following goals:

- urban environment improvements;
- enhancing the tourism experience; and
- developing sustainable transport solutions.

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

ACTION	YEAR					COST (US\$)	ANTICIPATED BENEFITS
	1	2	3	4	5		
Initiative 1. Improve the urban environment							
Develop wastewater collection and treatment system						300,000,000	Cleaner surface water bodies → public health and tourism  
Rehabilitate ponds and canals						22,200,000	Less flooding, great resilience, property values ↑   
Improve the Citadel drainage system						9,500,000	Less flooding, great resilience 
Develop the landfill in Huong Binh						10,000,000	Cleaner environment → public health  
Develop energy-efficiency street lighting						2,500,000	Lower greenhouse gas emissions 
Improve city-wide water quality monitoring						1,000,000	Higher capacity to manage water quality  
Promote Low Impact Development						200,000	Less flooding, greater resilience  
Initiative 2. Enhance the tourism experience							
Expand the range of tourist activities						300,000	Tourist growth and economic multiplier effects  
Plan the redevelopment of strategic areas in Citadel						1,000,000	More tourists, property values ↑  
Develop new crafts market in Thuy Xuan						5,000,000	Longer tourists stays 
Expand “Hue by night” offering						3,000,000	Tourism growth and economic multiplier effects  
Develop more nonmotorized transport in the Citadel						To be determined	Lower greenhouse gas emissions per kilometer travelled   
Initiative 3. Develop sustainable transportation in newly expanded Hue city							
Develop peripheral parking facilities						4,100,000	Less congestion, more livable   
Build new roads to green districts						70,000,000	Faster growth of service industries  
Promote bicycle use in the city center						To be determined	Increased investment, more tourism  
Develop new tram line						To be determined	Lower greenhouse gas emissions per kilometer travelled  

 Economic Benefit  Environment Benefit  Equity Benefit

Source: Asian Development Bank.

To improve the urban environment, the plan details the following measures:

- Creation of a sanitation credit scheme for low-income households to help them cope with the costs of constructing toilets, septic tanks or latrines, and for connecting to the piped wastewater network.
- Development of stormwater, wastewater and solid waste treatment facilities, complemented by a community awareness program.
- Resettlement program for informal settlers (700 households) living along the walls of the citadel.
- Establish public-private partnerships to develop “green” districts with standards set for energy efficiency and water conservation.

To strengthen the tourism experience:

- Revise and improve the regulatory framework for the protection and development of the citadel.

To improve and develop sustainable transport services:

- Public transport companies will be encouraged to develop low impact tram services to and from the city center and to “green” districts.

To successfully implement the measures, the action plan highlights the need for:

- strong partnerships and inputs from stakeholders at all levels;
- strengthening local government capacity for strategic planning and the rollout of agreed measures; and
- development of a performance monitoring and evaluation framework including a citizen's community scorecard for rating service providers.

The plan sees the following outcomes/results:

- Strengthened and increased tourism, increased job opportunities, and improved real property values.

The action plan is designed to be scalable; flexible and equitable; and ensures that the cumulative benefits for the city are far greater than the benefits of each single action.

TABLE 8: PROPOSED INDICATORS BY INITIATIVES

NO	INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION OF INDICATOR	DATA SOURCES AND REPORTING MECHANISMS	ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS
Economic Competitiveness				
1	Initiative 2	Tourism GDP as a share of city GDP (%)	Government statistics, decrees and reports	Assumption Central and provincial governments continue to support the city's development as a regional growth center
2	Initiative 2	Tourism employment as a share of total employment (%)	Survey	
3	Initiative 2	Tourist inflow to Hue (% change)	Provincial reports and economic statistics	
4	Initiative 3	City GDP (% change)	Monthly status and project progress report	Risks None
5	Initiative 3	Area of parking facilities in the city (% change)	Monthly status and project progress report	
Environment				
6	Initiative 1	Flood water containment capacity achieved through pond and canal rehabilitation (cubic meters, % change)	Monthly status and project progress report	Assumption None
7	Initiative 1	Change in untreated domestic wastewater inflows into surface water bodies (%)	Monitoring data from DONRE of province	Risks Occurrence of extreme floods
8	Initiative 1	Solid waste disposed in the Huong Binh landfill as a share of all waste collected (%)	Monthly status and project progress report	Assumption None
9	Initiative 1	Quality of Huong River water leaving the city (parameters)	Monitoring data from DONRE of province	Risks None
10	Initiative 1 & 3	Annual change to greenhouse gas emissions (tons per capita)	Monitoring data from DONRE of province	
Equity				
11	All initiative	Unemployment level (%)	Government statistics, decrees and reports	Assumption None
12	All initiative	Poverty rate in the city (%)	Provincial reports and economic statistics	Risks None

GDP = gross domestic product, DONRE = Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Note:

Initiative 1: Improve the urban environment

Initiative 2: Enhance the tourism experience

Initiative 3: Develop sustainable transportation in newly expanded Hue city.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

Resources

Asian Development Bank. 2014. *Hue GrEEEn City Action Plan*. Manila.

Related Links

GrEEEn Solutions for Livable Cities: A Sustainable Urban Future for Southeast Asia

Enabling Green Cities: An Operational Framework for Integrated Urban Development in Southeast Asia

Summary: An Action Plan for Green Growth in Viet Nam's Vinh Yen City



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Sonia Chand Sandhu, an environmental engineer and climate resilience and sustainability specialist, has 23 years of international development experience in environmental sustainability, resilience, and integrated institutional solutions for management of multisector infrastructure operations at ADB, the World Bank (South Asia and Africa), and in the private sector. At ADB, she led the GrEEEn Cities Initiative for secondary cities in Southeast Asia for balanced urban transformation and developed innovative knowledge solutions for climate resilience in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

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Ramola Naik Singru supports ADB's urban sector development with a focus on integrated development for Livable Cities. She co-led the preparation of the framework for National Urban Assessments and the Inclusive Cities toolkit under ADB's Urban Operational Plan 2012-2020, and co-led ADB's GrEEEn Cities Initiative in Southeast Asia to develop GrEEEn City Action Plans. Ms. Singru is interested in engaging with people to take ownership for shaping their cities, and exploring the interface between urban development, urban-rural linkages, and regional integration.

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