



EMERGING AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES INITIATIVE | LATIN AMERICA & THE CARRIBEAN

Urbanization is occurring at a rapid pace in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Already the second-most urbanized region on the planet, LAC has gone from a 62% urbanization rate in 1980 to 81% in 2011 and is expected to reach 89% by 2050. This process happened in a disorderly manner and without adequate planning, creating daunting challenges, especially by causing carbon-intensive urban sprawl and placing the urban poor in marginalized areas most vulnerable to disaster risk and climate change. The Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI) seeks to address these challenges by developing planning tools like greenhouse gas inventories and risk maps as well as action plans to put cities in Latin America and the Caribbean on a sustainable pathway that includes low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

Key facts

- Over 50 million people live in the 55 cities where the initiative is active. More than 10 million of these people are poor.
- 30 ESCI cities have developed action plans that include activities to reduce their carbon footprint and vulnerability to climate change.
- 28 ESCI cities have developed climate vulnerability assessments, greenhouse gas mitigation studies, and urban growth scenarios.
- Many of the climate-relevant projects proposed in the action plans are already underway in ESCI cities, including upgrading storm drainage networks, expanding bus rapid transit systems, creating green corridors for storm water retention, and creating control systems that help reduce flood risk.

More information

Digital assets are available for download at: <http://bit.ly/1MExrNR>

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