

Beat the Heat: Nature for Cool Cities Challenge

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Cool Coalition partners are challenging cities to beat the heat with nature**
 - UNEP, SEforAll, RMI, WWF, Mission Innovation and WRI, among others, are today issuing a challenge to cities to scale up the use of nature-based solutions to cool vulnerable populations, deliver cleaner air, and lower emissions
- Cities are invited to **take the pledge**: to increase or enhance the proportion of **nature-based cooling solutions** by 2030, with demonstrable progress by 2025
- Pledges should be backed by commitments to implement. Partners are releasing a **playbook** to guide implementation action
 - By working together and with public commitments, we can take the first step of **raising much-needed awareness** of how nature can cool our cities
- For fast-growing cities in developing countries, we know there will be **obstacles** to implementing the pledge, including channeling the **resources** to deliver
- That's why at COP27, we are also **calling for partnerships** to deliver a prize to enable cities in the developing world to make the commitment and implement the necessary steps to realize the benefits of nature-based solutions for cooling
- **"We call on all cities and municipalities to join this challenge"** - **Niklas Hagelberg**, Global Climate Change Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme
- The **first pledge** was taken by the **Governor of Homa Bay County in Kenya**: Her Excellency Gladys Wanga, announced her participation in the challenge and commitment to integrate nature-based solutions into the county's affordable housing program



Niklas Hagelberg, Global Climate Change Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme



Her Excellency Gladys Wanga, Governor of Homa Bay County in Kenya



Wednesday, 16 November 2022
09:00 – 10:00 am EET
SDG7 Pavilion, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt



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- Developing new **financial facilities** to make financing more **city-friendly** is key to enabling cooling nature-based solutions.
- "I ask the whole world to invest the money used in conflicts in climate change instead, to **save the whole world from heating**" - **Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam**, Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh
 - **Heat** in the cities in Bangladesh is **unbearable**, even in winter. **Awareness** and a **campaign** to promote nature-based solutions like rooftop gardens are needed.
- The role of **biodiversity** in implementing nature-based solutions in cities is not just about the quantity, but also the **quality** of the trees. Landscape architects are professionals needed in every city to ensure nature is part of planning.
 - "To pick the right nature, you have to pick the right professional to work on it, and the right solution" - **Kotchakorn Voraakhom**, Landscape Architect and Chief Executive Officer, Porous City Network
- "Cities can incorporate nature-based solutions as a **cross-cutting issue for urban planning** and foster **cross-departmental coordination** to implement them" - **Mauricio Rodas**, Former Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, Senior Fellow, Arsht-Rock, Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania
- COP28 will most likely be the **Cooling COP**
 - **Axum Teferra**, Associate Director, Clean Cooling Collaborative believes the work of **Chief Resilience/Heat Officers** is key to raise more awareness about nature-based solutions for cities and cooling generally



Panel speakers:

- **Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam**, Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh
- **Mauricio Rodas**, Former Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, Senior Fellow, Arsht-Rock, Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania
- **Axum Teferra**, Associate Director, Clean Cooling Collaborative
- **Kotchakorn Voraakhom**, Landscape Architect and Chief Executive Officer, Porous City Network



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