

04.08.2014

Panaji takes a critical look at planning for low emission development

On 11-18th of July, 2014, an ISOCARP expert visited Panaji, India, to help the City Corporation revise its strategic planning documents and integrate low emission development principles in the spatial planning framework. Panaji is the second city to receive technical assistance in urban planning under the Urban-LEDS project.

The City of Panaji, the capital of the State of Goa, has been working actively with ICLEI to ensure integration of sustainability and climate change resilience principles into its urban development strategy. One of the challenges the Corporation of the City of Panaji faces is aligning a number of strategic planning documents to guide urban growth and development in the decades to come. These, all produced by different agencies, characterized by different time horizons, level and scope of planning, fail to create an effective, streamlined and integrated planning framework with a clear vision for future development and urban sustainability. This challenge is faced by many cities around the globe.



In the process of preparing its second generation City Development Plan, the Corporation requested technical assistance from ICLEI and UN-Habitat. This is to focus on reviewing the urban planning work that has already been undertaken, aligning existing plans, integrating various initiatives and, importantly, strengthening and streamlining the low emission development and broader sustainability aspect of its planning framework. A robust and visionary City Development Plan is also necessary for Panaji to make the best use of the federal monies under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) of the federal Ministry of Urban Development.



To assist the City with this task, ICLEI and UN-Habitat have jointly selected Mr. Simon Montague, an accredited ISOCARP expert with over 30 years of professional experience in spatial planning. During his first mission to the City, the expert met with the City Commissioner, Mr. Sanjit Rodrigues, the Mayor, Mr. Surendra Furtado, and a number of other high-level state and city officials and local community representatives. The city officials have expressed their hopes and aspirations to turn Panaji into a world-class city with a robust local economy. Fruitful discussions of the concrete development challenges faced by the City have helped to contextualize the requirements of the assignment and better target the planned assistance.



On its way towards the low-emissions future, Panaji has already achieved outstanding results in waste management: its 4-way waste collection and recycling system is exemplary in the region. There are many opportunities to be explored to build on this leading example, also linked to the urban planning dimension. For example, the City is keen to explore low emission strategies in local energy, green infrastructure development and transportation.



Future steps include suggested revisions to the hierarchy and the structure of existing planning documents with substantial input from the interested departments and stakeholders. Scenarios of future urban growth and development, as well as additional low emission strategies will be proposed to and discussed in depth with the Corporation.

