

IUC Urban Cooperation Action Plan (U-CAP) Summary

City:	Surat	Rotterdam
Province, State, Department...:	Gujarat	Netherlands
Country:	India	Netherlands
Population:	5.5 million	0.6 million
Size (km²)	326	324
Period of cooperation	15 th March 2018 - November 30 th , 2020	
Cooperation Themes:	<i>Development of Water Plaza in Surat</i>	
Related <u>SDGs</u> and <u>Urban Agenda</u> topics:	<p>The initiative will directly contribute to sustainable development goals number 6 and 13.</p> <p>The area of cooperation is mainly related to climate adaptation and sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions.</p>	



<p>Key <u>focus</u> of cooperation themes:</p>	<p><i>Main focus is ground water recharge through a pilot water plaza and facilitation of community gatherings and interactions by providing a common space for social, sports, cultural and religious activities (e.g., Ganesha Idol Immersion).</i></p>
<p>Key <u>challenges</u> of cooperation theme:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with different departments and stakeholders can lead the way to appropriate and complete solutions. Taking a holistic approach to challenges can result in significant cross-sectoral benefits. Instead of looking at problems in silos, try connecting the different elements of a system so that you can approach it as a whole. • Replication of Rotterdam Benthemplein Water Plaza. Principle idea is replicated regarding flood mitigation and water resilience. Changes in functionalities are incorporated based on local context. • Don't underestimate the importance of communication. Being in contact on a regular basis is the best way to understand how your partners think and work. • It takes time to establish a basis for collaboration and to agree on actions to take. Start as early as possible in terms of kicking off the cooperation. • As a result of the distance, and also because of differing cultural backgrounds, it takes time for cross-border partners to get to know each other. That's difficult to do from a far - face to face visits can speed up the process.
<p>Main <u>objectives</u> of cooperation as described in the U-CAP:</p>	<p>The main objective of this project is to improve water resilience by creating a pilot water plaza in the Singapore neighbourhood in the north zone of Surat. The purpose is to store excess water during the monsoon season. During the dry season the area will be utilized as a recreation and community gathering point.</p>
<p>Short description of main <u>activities</u> and key <u>outputs</u> (e.g. pilot projects):</p>	<p>To create the water plaza the following activities will be carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare customized design of water plaza considering Surat context, water management and community role. • Allot land for water plaza. • Identify financing options.
<p>Expected <u>results</u> and <u>benefits</u>:</p>	<p>Expected Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plaza will contribute to the storage or recharge of excess rainwater from an approx. area of 2.21 km². Also, this plaza will contribute to flood control, reduction of losses and damages, and improvement of the city's resilience.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This water plaza will encourage interactions among young people, promote physical activities, increase awareness for water conservation, and overall strengthen the social fabric. <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved water management.• Flood control.• Ground water recharge.• Conversion of the plot (i.e., dump site) to a community recreation area.
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For further information (including access to the full U-CAP), please contact:

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