

# High-Level Seminar on Sustainable Cities 29 September 2020

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# Seventh Asia-Pacific Urban Forum 2019 (15-17 October 2019)



## **Key priorities & follow-up:**

- **65 countries (30 ESCAP), with over 5000 participants.**
  - **Launched the “Future of Asian and Pacific Cities Report 2019”.**
  - **Organised jointly with UN-Habitat, Government of Malaysia**
  - **Focused on sustainable planning, urban climate resilience, new technologies, and infrastructure financing.**
  - **Establishment of the “Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization”**
- **Going forward, enhanced work on sustainable urban development.**







1. Plan the foundations of a sustainable future. All cities must strengthen their capacities, adopt inclusive planning processes and develop long-term spatial and investment plans that effectively consider urban growth, quality-of-life goals, resource implications and smart approaches.



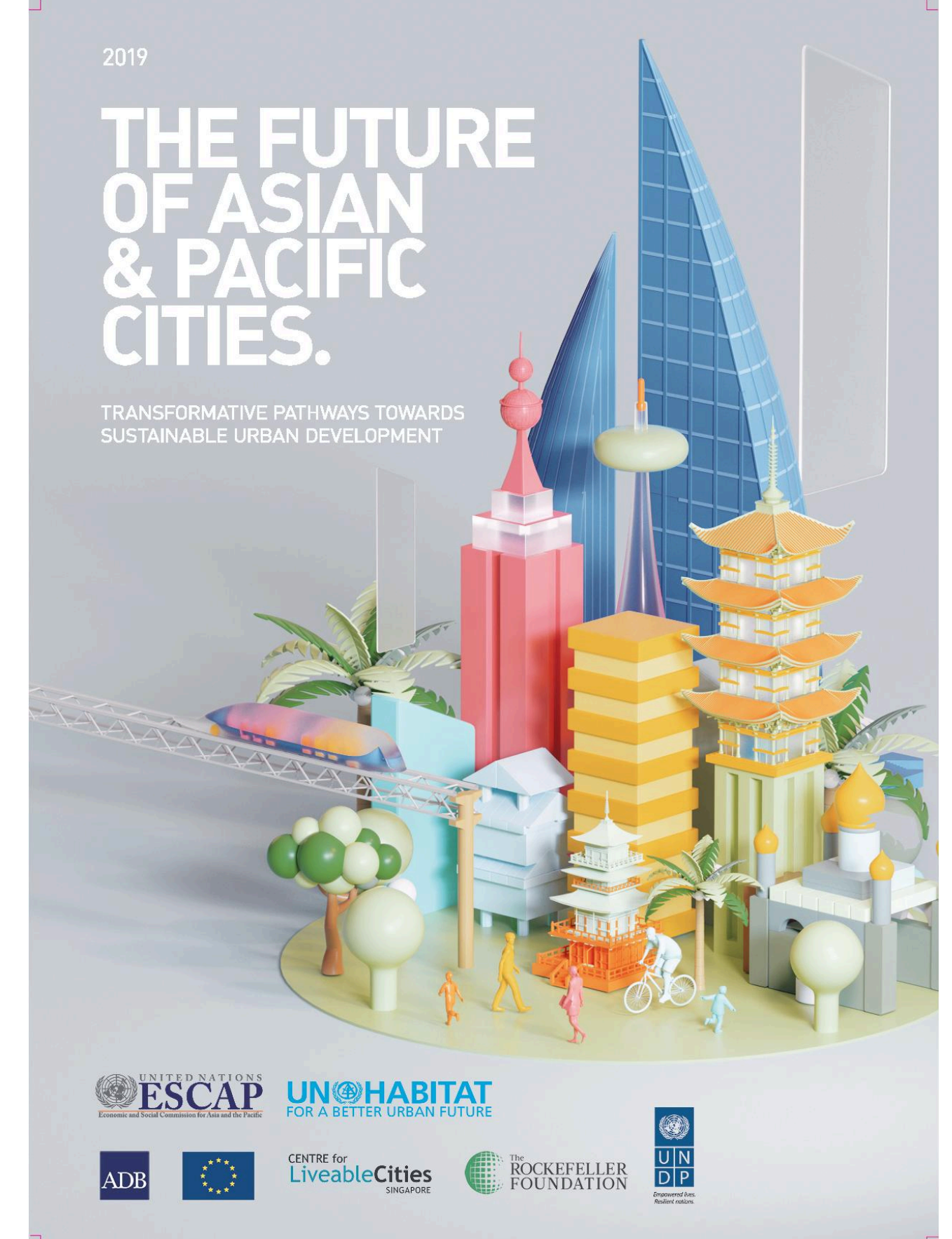
2. Guard against future risks. To ensure sustainable growth and development, it is critical that cities adopt resilience strategies that break down governance siloes to improve policy efficacy, provide opportunities to scale up nature-based infrastructure solutions, and engage the creativity of the urban poor as solution providers to guard against potential shocks and stresses, including natural disasters.



4. Mobilize financing to invest in sustainable urban solutions. Local governments must access or adopt innovative investment tools, such as land value capture instruments, PPPs and environmental user fee models.



3. Capitalize on frontier technologies to develop people-centred smart cities. City leaders must develop smart cities road maps across different urban systems that capture the innovation of technological entrepreneurs, bridge the digital divide, support smart mobility



*Planning lays a foundation*

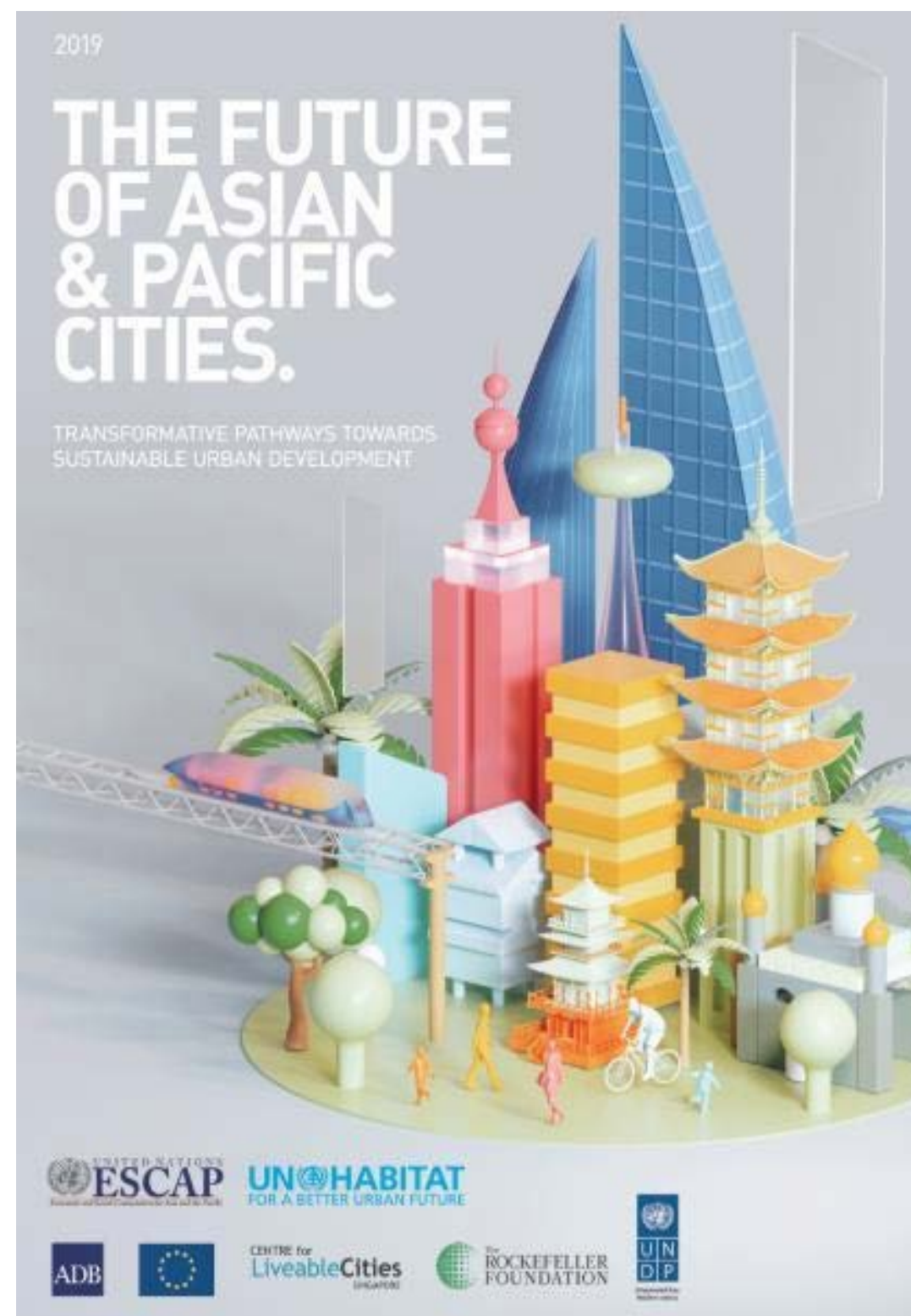
*Resilience guards against future risk*

***A sustainable urban future occurs when***

*Smart cities deploy the best technologies for the job; and*

*Financing tools help pay for it all.*





# The future of urban & territorial planning





## The future of urban & territorial

Integrate sustainability and quality-of-life targets into urban planning to future-proof public and private investment in cities

Co-produce with citizens urban planning solutions that align technological investment with adequate local government capacities

Identify specific urban regeneration and growth strategies that optimize urban-rural and city-region collaborations that spur sustainability and investment







# The future of urban resilience





Scale up the use of  
nature-based solutions and  
resilient infrastructure in  
integrated urban and climate  
change planning

Understand the informal  
economy and support urban  
poor groups to be change  
agents for implementing city  
resilience actions

Create and strengthen  
partnerships to bring more  
attention and resources to  
long-term urban resilience  
strategies that break siloes  
between national, state and  
local actors

Utilize big data sources  
to connect communities, cities  
and regions and to improve  
local government  
technological literacy





# The future of smart & inclusive cities





## The future of smart & inclusive cities

Improve smart city governance across urban systems, institutions and actors to overcome inequalities and make more informed and integrated planning decisions

Encourage technology firms to become more civic minded and create sustainable smart city solutions with social enterprises

Adopt cybersecurity safeguards in both digital and physical urban infrastructure development planning

Develop smart mobility investment plans that prioritize sustainable urban mobility options for citizens

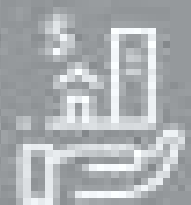
Expand viable smart city funding mechanisms by enabling cross-sector sustainable partnerships and business matching platforms





# The future of urban finance





## The future of urban finance

Scale up public-private partnerships and community schemes to transition to localized housing finance solutions

Adopt land-linked financing mechanisms that leverage urban growth to build people-centred urban infrastructure

Introduce congestion-charging and environmental user fees to improve urban air quality



2019

# THE FUTURE OF ASIAN & PACIFIC CITIES.

TRANSFORMATIVE PATHWAYS TOWARDS  
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT



UNITED NATIONS  
**ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

ADB



CENTRE for  
**LiveableCities**  
SINGAPORE

THE ROCKEFELLER  
FOUNDATION

UN  
DP  
Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.





# Urban Air Pollution

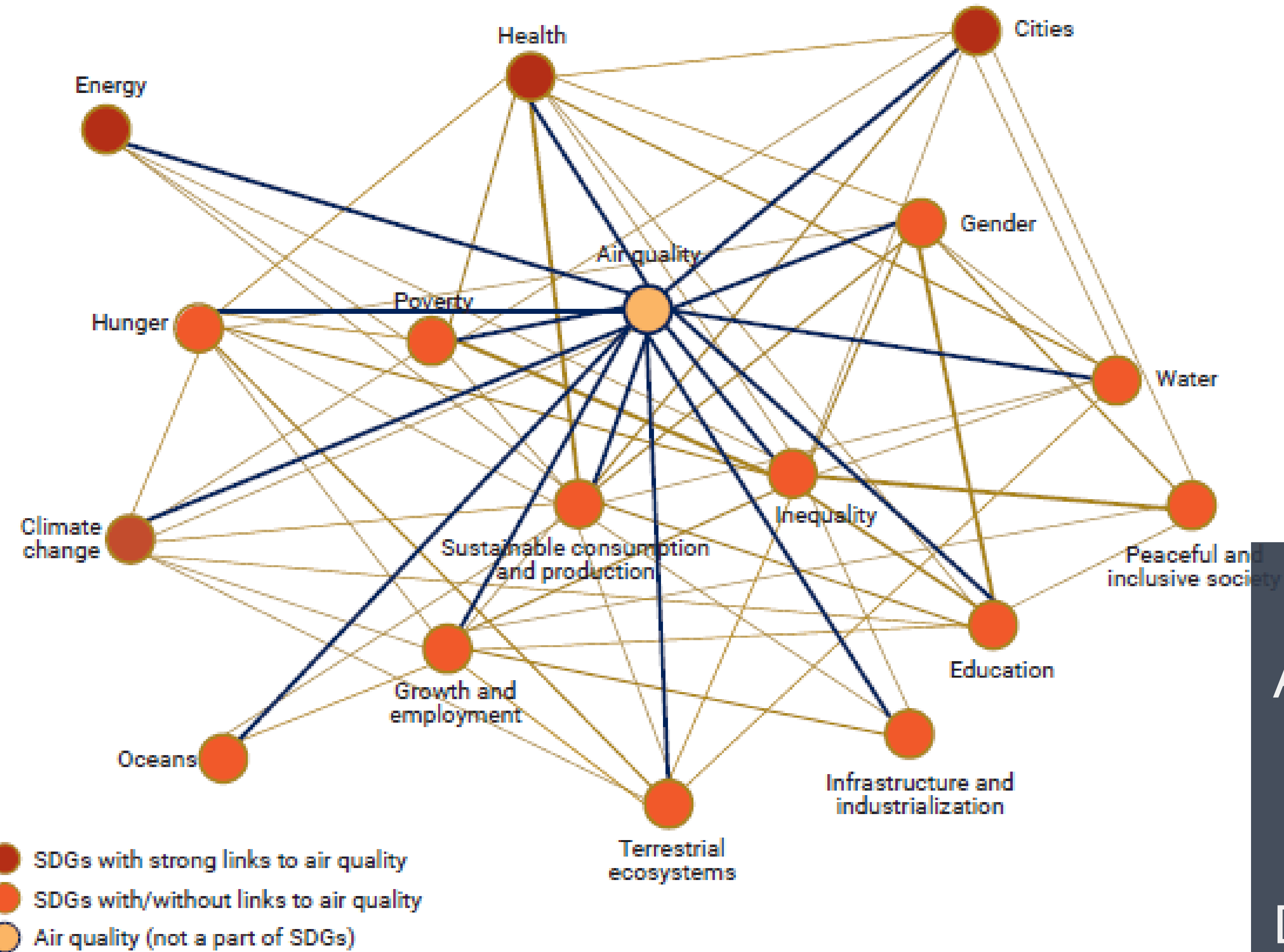
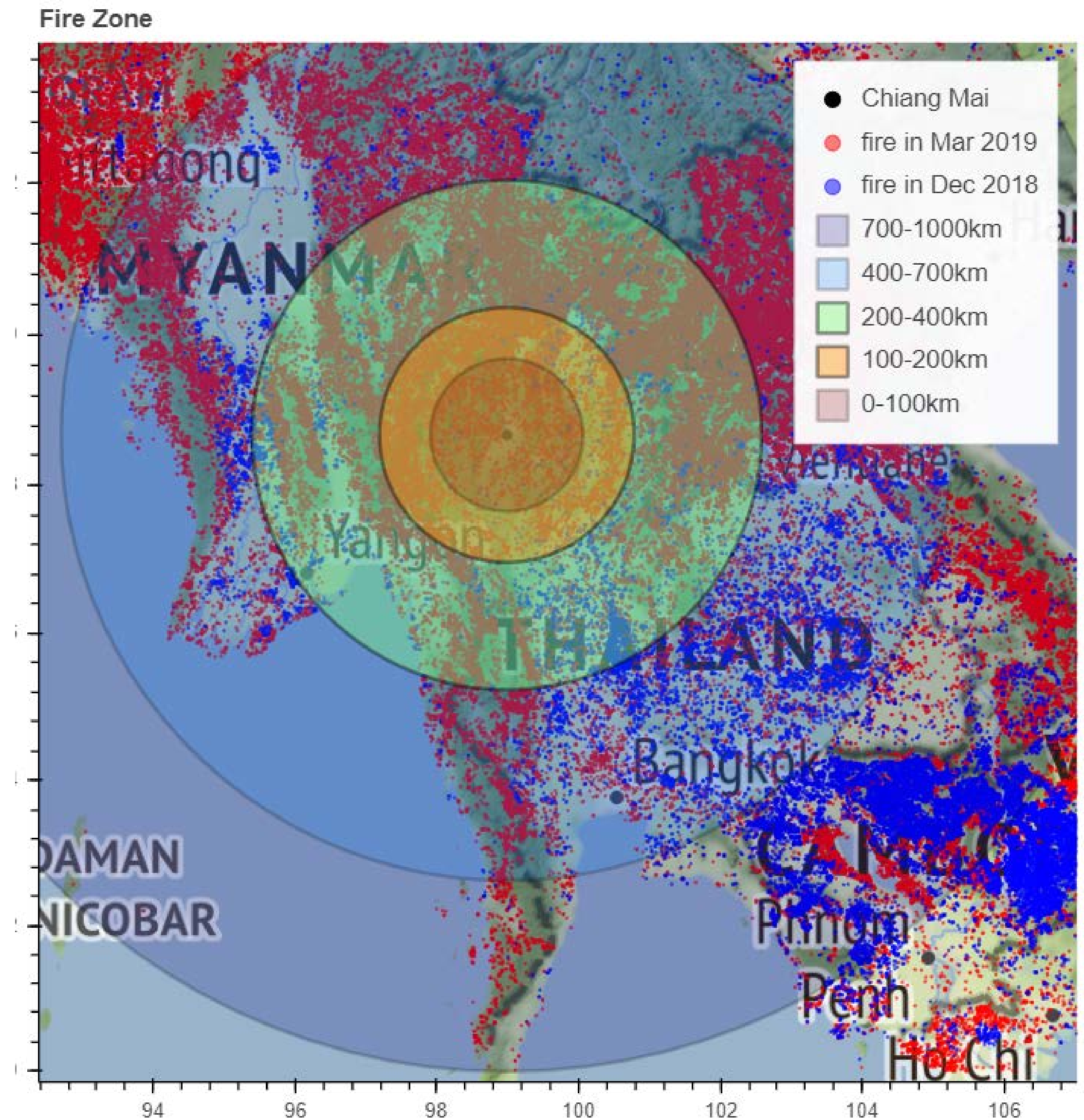


FIGURE 1.25: LINKS BETWEEN AIR QUALITY AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Source: modified from Le Blanc 2015

Air quality has links to achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals

# Consideration of Transboundary Effects of Hotspots





# Summary

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Remote Sensing Empowers Science-Driven Policy

Innovative uses of integrated data sources is needed

International Cooperation is needed to provide clean air for all

# THANK YOU!

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