

What is urban and peri-urban forestry?

Urban and peri-urban forestry (UPF) is an integrated, interdisciplinary, participatory and strategic approach to planning and managing forest and tree resources in and around cities to maximize their contributions to the livelihoods and well-being of urban communities.

Why is UPF important?

UPF helps ensure the sustainability of urban communities by:

- increasing resilience to extreme climatic events
- producing food, woodfuel and timber
- removing air pollutants and storing carbon
- providing shade and saving energy
- conserving and increasing local biodiversity
- improving physical and mental health
- creating jobs and increasing income
- providing opportunities for recreation and education.



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Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Urban and peri-urban forestry

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FAO initiated the **Urban and Peri-urban Forestry Programme** in the early 1990s to assist member countries in implementing UPF policies and management actions to increase the socioeconomic and environmental sustainability of urban development.

FAO is committed to promoting UPF globally by putting information within reach, sharing policy expertise, providing a meeting place for nations, and bringing knowledge to the field.

FAO's main areas of UPF-related work are:

- Technical assistance to countries
- Awareness raising
- Networking
- Knowledge sharing



Technical assistance

FAO assists countries in implementing UPF effectively by supporting technical cooperation projects and publishing guidelines and handbooks aimed at guiding city administrators and other urban stakeholders in the design, planning and management of urban forests to meet present and future needs. FAO has supported and implemented UPF field projects in Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of the Congo and Niger.

Awareness raising

FAO helps raise awareness on the importance of UPF by organizing dedicated events, participating in thematic conferences, and developing and disseminating UPF-related communication material.

Networking

FAO provides nations with neutral meeting places in which to discuss UPF-related policies and issues. For example, it coordinates the *Silva Mediterranea Working Group on UPF* and convenes regional meetings such as the *Asia Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting*.

Knowledge sharing

FAO supports the sharing of knowledge and information on UPF through the *Trees for the Cities* online discussion platform and other forums, and the development of technical documents such as the UPF module in the *Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox*.

