

Interested in working in India?

Cities Fit for Climate Change (CFCC)

Seeking for students to write their Master Thesis

Background

The global project 'Cities Fit for Climate Change' (CFCC) implemented by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) cooperates with various partners internationally and in Germany and in particular in its three partner countries India, Chile and South Africa.

The project aims to strengthen cities as actors of sustainable development. They are responsible for the development of integrated, resilient and low carbon instruments for sustainable urban development. In the process these instruments will facilitate a Climate Proof Urban Development Model, which promotes a new urban design and actions to a more integrated urban development management. With this promotion of new actions, the project supports innovative approaches for urban planning and makes cities "fit for climate change". Thus, dealing with climate change should become an integrated and strategic part of urban development. Existing projects, plans, programmes, strategies, as well as combined investments should increasingly mainstream climate change to become more resilient and adaptable preparing the ground for future low carbon plans, programmes and strategies.

Lessons learned from existing projects of resilient and low carbon urban development will be analysed during the project. The three partner cities Chennai, eThekweni and Santiago de Chile are being supported in the improvement of their climate proofing strategies and their own financing possibilities. Furthermore, the experiences are being shared at international meetings and conferences.

The project supports the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) process and contributes to the implementation of the 'New Urban Agenda', the international agreement of the Habitat III process. The project is guided by the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities as well as by the Memorandum of Urban Energies.

In Chennai, the project is currently planning to organize activities around a stretch of the Buckingham Canal which is one of the major waterways flowing through the city. This part of the project is undertaken with the local NGO Environmental Foundation India which is specialized in the restoration of water bodies. The idea is to restore the selected stretch of the canal and create an attractive public space that will upgrade the surrounding neighbourhood.

Chennai is a fast growing city with about 8 million inhabitants. The Buckingham Canal is heavily affected by the growth of the city. The selected stretch of the Buckingham Canal is so far south of the city but in an area that is rapidly urbanising. So the task will be to develop ideas or strategies how to develop and keep this stretch of the canal and mainly its environment a green, public facility for recreation and more.

In order to proceed with the implementation of the Buckingham Canal project, CFCC is currently looking for ideas on how to design the area around the canal.



Objective

The CFCC team is looking for interested master students to write their thesis in cooperation with the project. The focus of the thesis should be the development of ideas on how to design public space around the selected stretch of the Buckingham Canal in a climate-friendly way.

During the field visit the student should work closely with the GIZ Technical Advisor stationed in Chennai by providing weekly updates through one-to-one meetings. Furthermore, the student is expected to regularly update the CFCC team based in Bonn via Skype. The main activities during the field visit in Chennai include:

- Conducting desk research
- Meeting government stakeholders to understand their role in the canal and land management as well as the already existing plans around the canal
- Meeting civil society groups and NGOs
- Meeting and interviewing the residents around the identified stretch of the canal to document the dynamics of public interaction with the ecosystem around the canal
- Meeting and interviewing educational and research institutions on their role and perception in the improvement of the canal through integrated urban development principles
- Developing Scenarios for approaches to keep or make this space open and a public amenity for its surrounding inhabitants.
- Developing exemplary approaches how to design an inner-city open space around and along the canal
- Presenting the findings during the field visit and a set of first ideas to the local stakeholders

Pre-requisites

The applicant should have an academic background in either urban planning, architecture or geography. Furthermore, the applicant should have proven knowledge of the topic of climate change.

Application Process

Interested students are asked to send an email to Ms. Amina Schild (amina-laura.schild@giz.de) including a brief motivation letter, a CV, a transcript of records and a very rough outline of the master thesis idea by July 31st.

Timeline

Deadline of application: 31st July

Interviews will take place sometime in August

Communication of results: 31st August

Field visit in Chennai: October-November (minimum of six weeks)

Remuneration

Selected students will receive 1000€ to cover the travel and accommodation costs for their stay in Chennai.

Responsible

Dr. Daphne Frank, Head of Project Cities Fit for Climate Change (daphne.frank@giz.de)

