

An aerial photograph of the Khajuraho Temples in Madhya Pradesh, India. The temples, with their intricate carvings and multiple tiers, are nestled within a dense, vibrant green forest. The background shows rolling hills covered in similar foliage under a clear blue sky. The text 'THE UNESCO HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE APPROACH' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters at the top of the image.

# THE UNESCO HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE APPROACH

**ORCHHA & GWALIOR**  
Madhya Pradesh, India

## Proposed actions:

1. Undertake a full assessment of the cities' natural, cultural and human resources and needs;
2. Use participatory planning as well as stakeholder consultations to decide on conservation aims and actions;
3. Assess the vulnerability of urban heritage to socio-economic pressures and impacts of climate change;
4. Determine an acceptable level of change to both the cultural and natural environments;
5. Balance social and economic development with conservation;
6. Integrate urban heritage values and their vulnerability status into a more comprehensive framework of city development;
7. Prioritize policies and actions for conservation together with development, including good stewardship;
8. Establish the appropriate (public-private) partnerships and local management frameworks;
9. Develop mechanisms for the coordination of the various activities between different actors (from the UNESCO Kit- New Life for Historic Cities);



A  
**UNESCO**  
&  
**Government of Madhya Pradesh**  
project



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The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board requested that the UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office advise on the development and protection of two historic cities: Gwalior and Orchha. The central issues concern their unique urban and cultural heritage so that future development plans can retain not only their character, but also that this character can serve as an asset for further sustainability and the well-being of their citizens.

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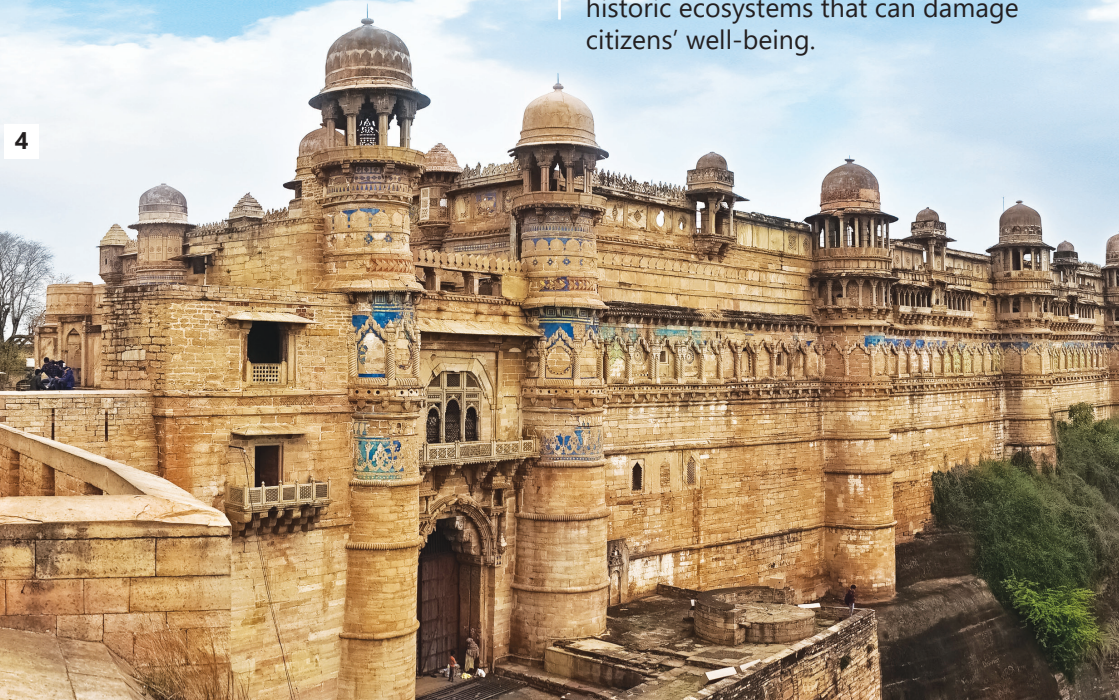
## BACKGROUND

Today, more than half of humanity – 3.9 billion people – lives in cities.

By 2050, cities will host 2.5 billion more dwellers, making the world almost 70% urban.

Indian cities face an unprecedented level of urbanization and will need to absorb 416 million more inhabitants by 2050 (UN World Urbanization Prospects).

These dramatic shifts often result in rapid and uncontrolled infrastructure and private development, which takes place at the expense of natural and historic ecosystems that can damage citizens' well-being.



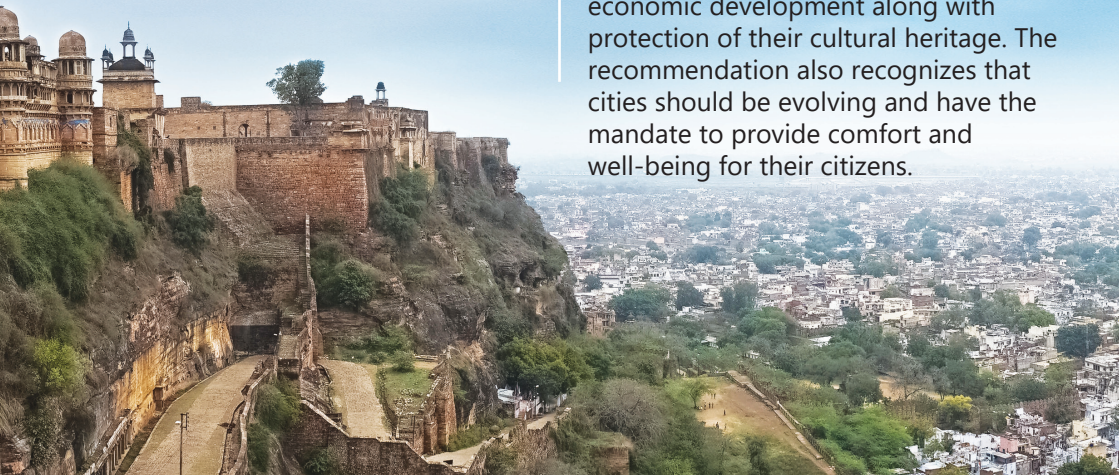


Cities have become one of the most important focuses for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG) through creating sustainable urban development policies and initiatives to make their cities greener, more resilient and bring well-being to their citizens.

To this end, UNESCO encourages leaders in cities to take inspiration from their rich pasts and cultural diversities rooted within their historic cities rather than create uniformed and standardized vision for modern cities with high rise skylines in concrete jungles.

The UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape was established to guide cities that are willing to develop their cities by preserving their history along with their unique features embedded in their intangible and tangible cultural heritage.

Therefore, the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape should be understood as a tool to help historic cities to realize the potential of their past legacy, most visibly manifested in built heritage. This recommendation seeks to balance the needs of contemporary urban socio-economic development along with protection of their cultural heritage. The recommendation also recognizes that cities should be evolving and have the mandate to provide comfort and well-being for their citizens.



The Sustainable Development Goal 11(SDG) relates to sustainable cities and makes it clear that culture has an essential role to play in realizing sustainable urban development, particularly through protecting and safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage.

## DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

### SOCIAL STRUCTURES

### INFRASTRUCTURE

### PUBLIC SPACES

### URBAN STRUCTURES

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Urban heritage constitutes a key resource in enhancing the livability of urban areas. It fosters economic development and social cohesion in a changing global environment.

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**BUILT HERITAGE**

**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

**CULTURAL PRACTICES**





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