



Chennai is the fourth largest metropolitan city in India and is the capital of Tamil Nadu. It owes its origin to the English East India Company which established a trading port on the east Coast. Thus Chennai became the military land administrative centre of the region and later on developed into a metropolis with many spheres of economic activity.

Chennai is located on the eastern coast of India. It enjoys a tropical maritime climate with occasional cyclones originating in the Bay of Bengal during the north-east monsoon. The city covers 172 square kilometres and has a population of 3.9 million. The CMA is 1172 square kilometres with a population of about 6 million. Almost 55% of the working population are employed in the informal sector where wages are low. Many of the urban and environmental problems in Chennai are due to rapid population growth, the consequent intensification in the built up areas of the city and a spontaneous expansion of the urban area into the rural fringe. The high population density has placed a great strain on the available infrastructure, and poses a major problem for the environment.

The Sustainable Chennai Project (SChP) has identified priority environmental issues through a consultative process involving representatives from various public and private organisations. Several community based demonstration projects are being implemented to illustrate that sustainable solutions can be achieved if the community themselves are involved, in association with NGOs, CBOs and other implementing agencies. As a pioneering effort the SChP has also initiated a study in development of indicators for measuring the success of the environmental planning and management process. The indicators have been identified at process, project and physical levels. Measuring progress at the process level focuses on the adoption of the fundamental principles of SChP. Measuring progress at the project level tracks immediate objectives and outputs. Measuring progress of the physical level involves monitoring improvements in the physical environment, economic efficiency and social equity due to the SChP process.

Main Dates

- October 1995** Sustainable Chennai Project initiated
- June 1996** Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) established under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu
- 1996** Consultative Group meetings held. Reports prepared by the Facilitators of the Consultative Group on Urban Infrastructure, Economy and Urban Poverty Landuse Planning & Development
- 1997** Action Committees and Working Groups set up to address the prioritised issues
- September 1997** City Consultation Workshop,
- January 1998** One day Technical workshop on "Improving Solid Waste Management in City Poor and Peri-urban Areas"
- July 1998** One day Technical workshop on "Reduction of Traffic Congestion and Improving Air Quality"
- 2000** 17 Community Based Demonstration (CBD) Projects implemented. Coastal Zone Management Authority constituted.
- 2001** Flood Alleviation Project formulated. Environment Division formed in CMDA. UNDP funding for Schp comes to a close.
- 2002** Community Based Environmental Development Projects (CBED) formulated as upscaled activity of SCP. Air quality Management programs by the Pollution Control Board using the tools from UN Habitat. Major awareness campaigns on use of plastics, emissions, environmentally important issues. Marina Beach Development Plan prepared by CMDA .
- 2003** Upscaling of Scp initiative and national replication through All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIIISG) and Government of Maharashtra under anvil by the UN Habitat with C2C Exchanges with Chennai planned.



Priority issues

- Traffic network - congestion on roads
- Inadequate water supply
- Sanitation, particularly in the poorer areas of the city and the peri-urban areas
- Pollution of waterways
- Pollution by chemical and leather industries
- Air and noise pollution
- Inadequate housing especially affordable housing for the low income sector
- Coastal erosion and intrusion of sea water

Action Committees and Working Groups

Better liquid waste management and improvement of waterways

- Improving sewage network
- Restoring the waterways
- Improvement of Storm water drainage system

Reduction of traffic congestion and improving air quality

- Maximising existing infrastructure investment
- Modal split
- Improvement of air and noise quality

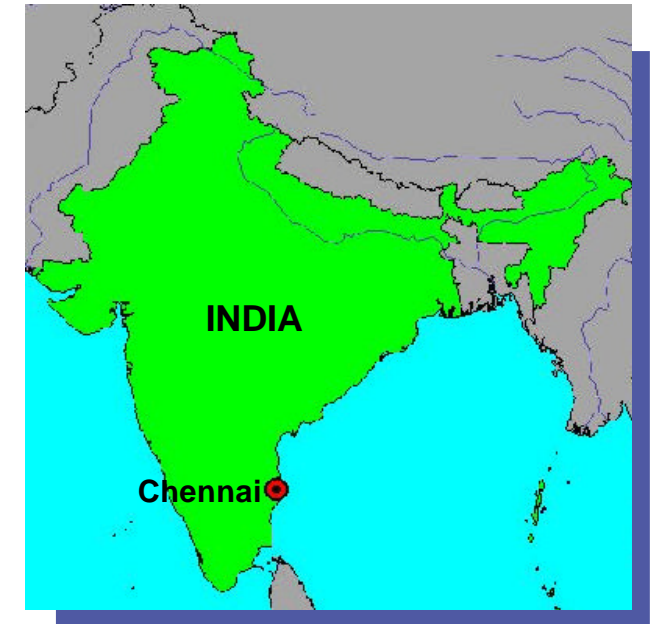
Improving solid waste management in the poor areas of the city and in peri-urban areas

- Improving primary level collection of liquid and solid waste
- Improving secondary collection of solid waste
- Strengthening the solid waste disposal system
- Encouraging a recycling network



The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is the implementing agency of the project on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Chennai



Bilateral and multilateral partners

Chennai is the only City participating in the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) in South Asia, and is funded by the UNDP. UN-HABITAT is the Technical assistance agency and the CMDA is the implementing Agency for the Sustainable Chennai Project (SChP). The project period was originally proposed as October '95 - September '97 and subsequently extended till May 2000.

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