

iFOREST

INTERNATIONAL
FORUM
FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABILITY
& TECHNOLOGY

SIDE EVENT



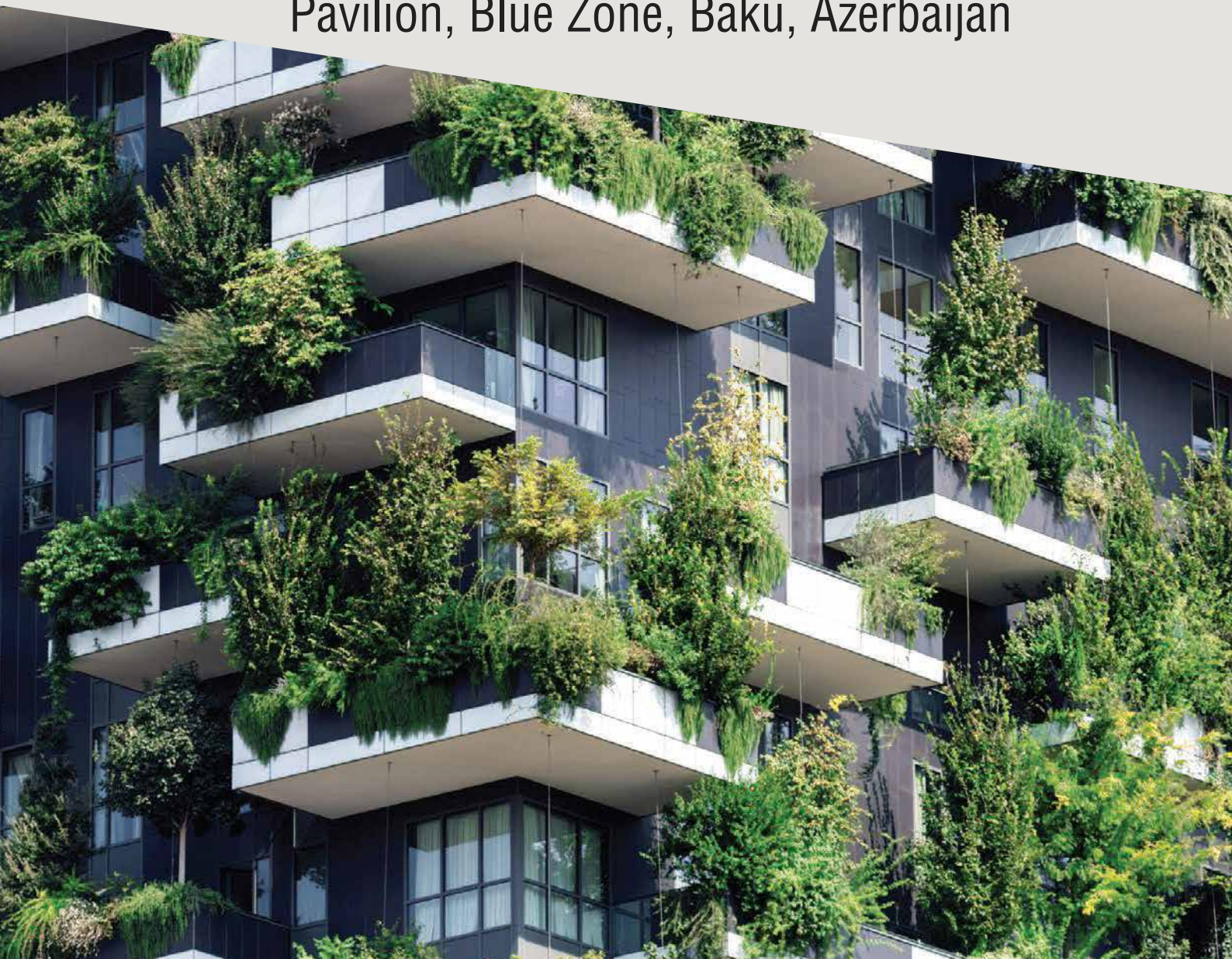
COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

INTEGRATED HEAT AND COOLING ACTION PLAN FOR CITIES

Twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties
(COP29) to the UNFCCC

Wednesday, 20th November 2024 | 13:45 to 14:45

G-24, Regional Climate Foundations (RCF)
Pavilion, Blue Zone, Baku, Azerbaijan



Background and Objective

With global mean temperatures steadily rising since the pre-industrial years and surging to record levels each year, heat waves have increased in intensity, occur more frequently, endure for longer periods, and impact geographical areas that were previously unaffected. This phenomenon is further exaggerated in the cities which encounter higher temperatures than surrounding rural areas due to the urban heat island effect.

With the increasing temperatures, cooling has become essential to human health, food security, and economic productivity. However, with increased demand and better access alongside the rising temperatures, higher levels of cooling are resulting in increased emissions, further exacerbating climate change and leading to even more cooling demand.

To address this dual challenge of extreme temperatures and rising cooling demand, several cities have developed Heat Action Plans to protect their citizens and the economy from severe heat impacts. Simultaneously, several countries have developed National Cooling Action Plans to focus on long-term sustainable cooling solutions.

This iFOREST side event will delve into this critical issue, analysing the existing policy initiatives in these sectors, identifying the gaps, and proposing a new comprehensive framework for addressing both heating and cooling in cities. The discussion will further focus on sharing insights and lessons from experts across different countries, identifying the evolving needs, developing strategies to overcome implementation hurdles, and discussing the necessity of a global programme to support cities.

Key themes to be discussed

- Need for an integrated heat and cooling plan for cities: developing urban resilience
- Opportunities for accelerated action through multilevel governance: current initiatives at sub-national level
- Global best practices for adaptation, resilience, and mitigation against extreme heat
- Impact of extreme heat on health and productivity
- Adoption of passive cooling strategies for a cooler future
- Importance of buildings sector in improving thermal comfort: Focus on net zero, decarbonisation, and energy efficiency
- Pathways to integrating nature based solutions into urban infrastructure design: learnings from different cities

Session Agenda

13:45 – 13:55	Context Setting and Opening Remarks by Ms Mandvi Singh, Director – Programme Development, iFOREST
13:55 – 14:35	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nithi Nesadurai, Director and Regional Coordinator of Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) • Mr Pramod Kumar Singh, Senior Director – Research & Programmes, Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE) • Mr Sanjay Seth, Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Vice President & Chief Executive Officer, Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council • Ms Victoria Santos, Energy and Industry Manager, The Institute for Climate and Society (iCS) <p>Session Moderator: Ms Mandvi Singh, Director – Programme Development, iFOREST</p>
14:35 – 14:45	QnA