

Integrated Urban Planning in the GreenCityLabHuế Project

Approaches and Challenges

Information on the city of Huế, Thừa Thiên Huế Province

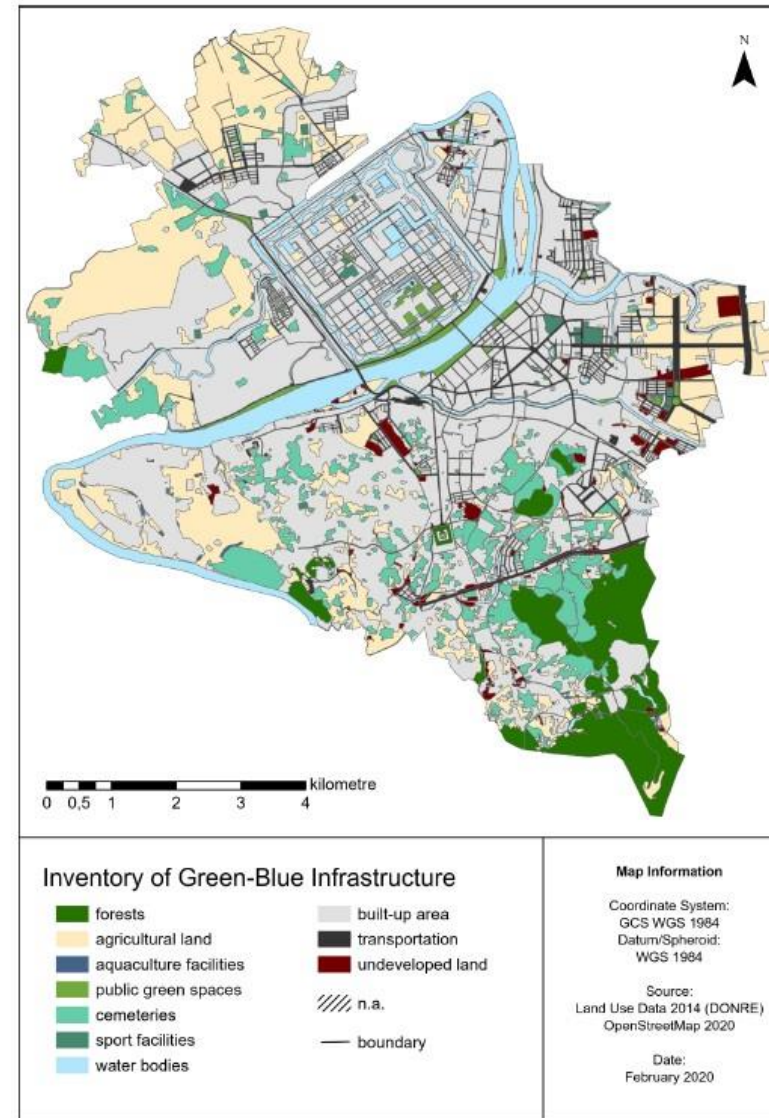
- centre of economy, culture and politics of the Thừa Thiên Huế Province
- one of the oldest urban areas in Vietnam
- Being the former capital of Vietnam from 1802 to 1945 under the Nguyen Dynasty, Huế City is regarded as the national centre of culture, religion and education.



Location of the Thua Thien Hue Province in Vietnam and administrative boundaries of the Thua Thien Huế Province (Nguyen 2017 modified by HUB).

Information on the city of Huế, Thừa Thiên Huế Province

- located in the transitional climate zone, featuring characteristics of a tropical humid monsoon climate
- Trends indicate generally warmer conditions and increasing total precipitation for the region
- greenest city in comparison with other cities in Vietnam, high density of public green spaces per person (12.9 m²/person)
- Huế experiences a trend of rural repopulation and urbanisation
- has become one of the most densely populated cities in Vietnam with approximately 5,076 person/km²
- Due to the rapid urbanisation and population growth, the ratio of green space has been declined significantly



The GreenCityLabHuế

Overall Objective: increase and strengthening of social and ecological resilience in Huế and its surrounding province by promoting nature-based solutions (NBS) and green-blue infrastructure (GBI)

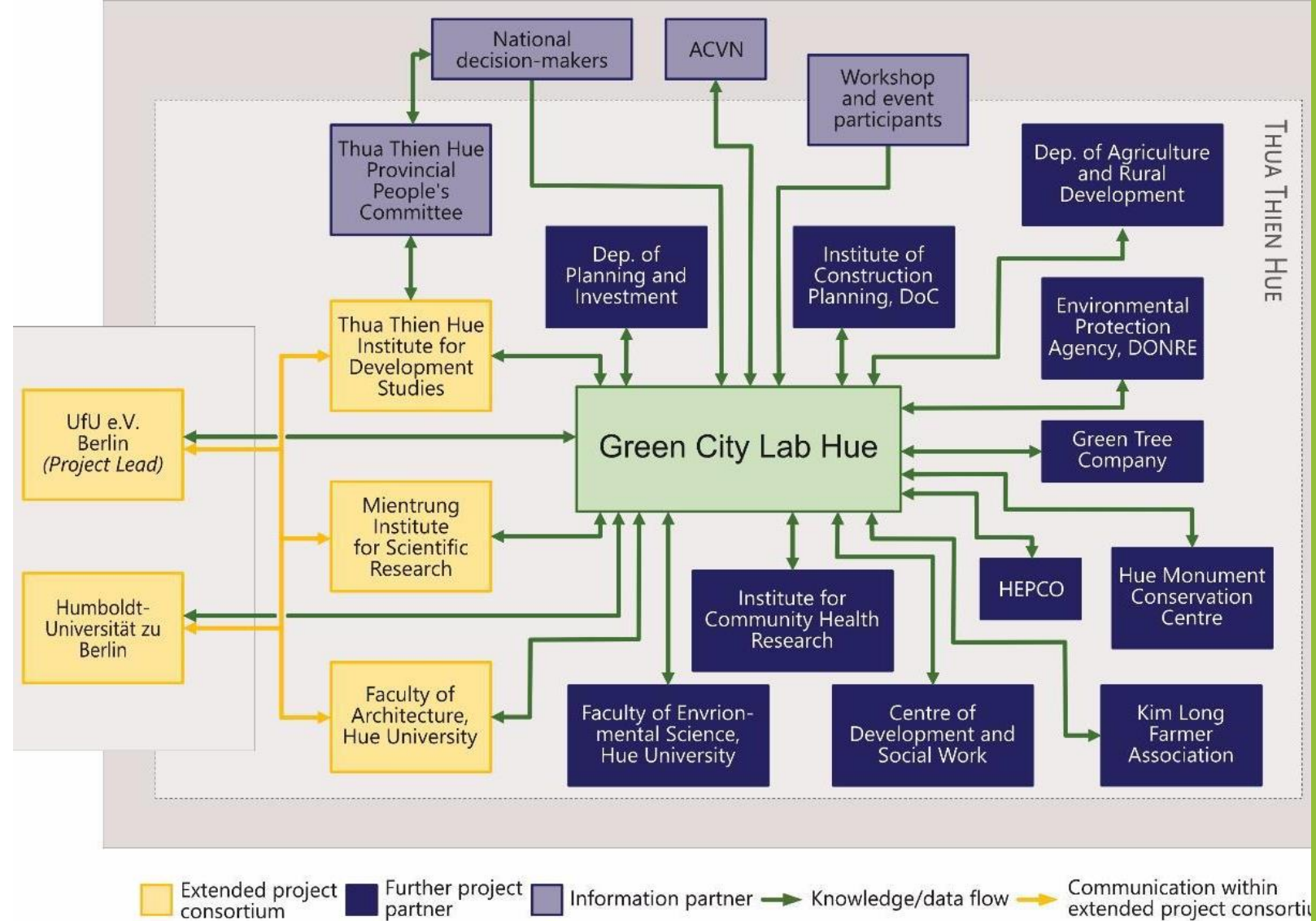
- model the implementation of potential land-use changes and NBS/GBI and assess their impacts
- capacity building, education, and promotion of co-learning, co-creation, and co-production processes according to the Urban Lab (UL) Approach
- development of a city-wide vision including specific proposals for a green and sustainable urban development



The Urban Lab (UL) Approach

Method of integrative urban development applying new administrative processes through cooperation and participation

- **Initiating social learning processes:** the complexity of urban systems requires researchers, citizens, practitioners and decision-makers to learn from each other and from experiences made (**Co-Learning**)
- **"Opening" of the political-administrative system:** cooperation of local governments with other urban stakeholders to exploit the intellectual, creative and social potential of the people of a city in order to find innovative solutions to challenges (**Co-Creation**)



The Urban Lab (UL) Approach in the GreenCityLabHuế Project

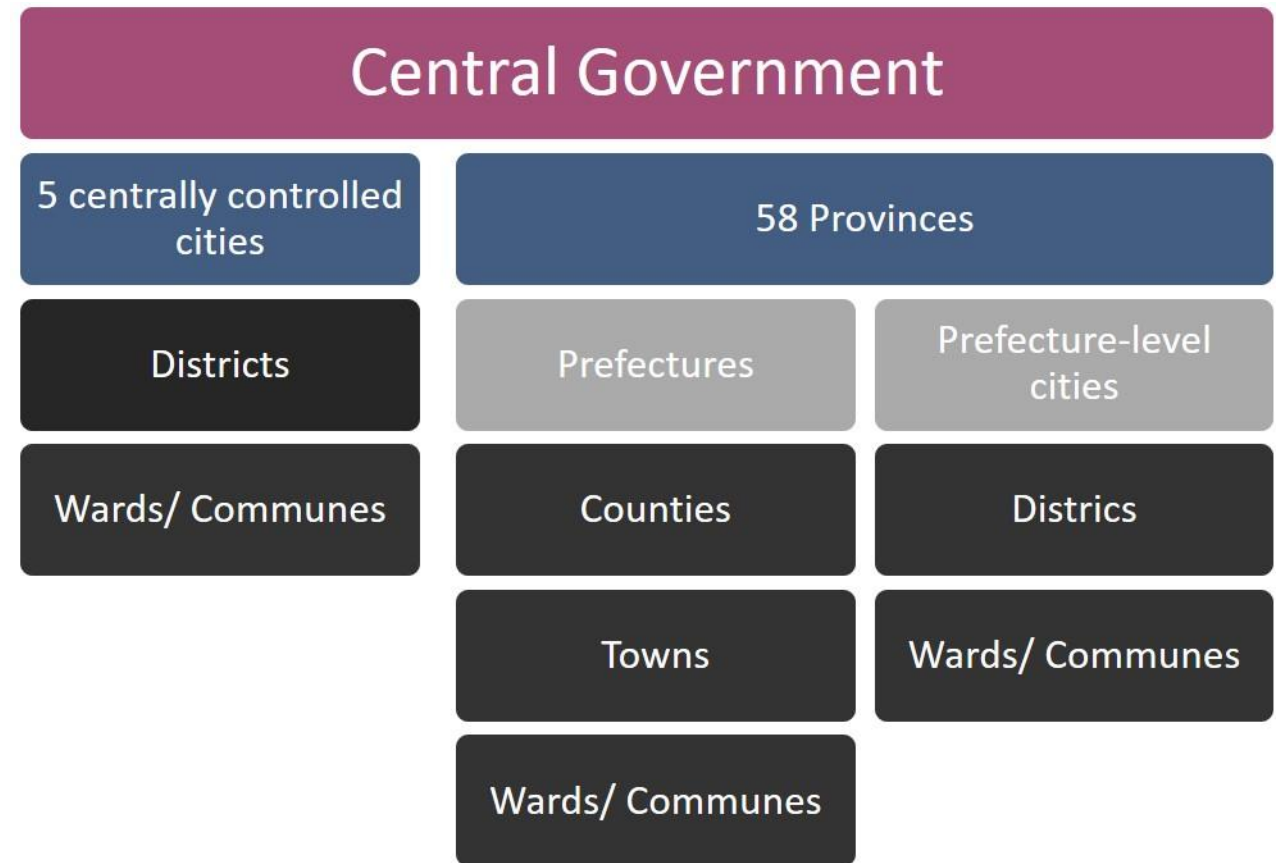
- **Scenario Development:** Stakeholders discuss potential future urban developments regarding GBI. Based on their inputs narratives for future GBI development and scenarios are developed
- **Information and Learning Space:** venue for information, open exchange, and learning on NBS and GBI, including an exhibition and practical “showcases” of GBI interventions as “real-life laboratories”
- **Series of public participatory events:** creating a dialogue and cooperation with citizens and representatives of civil society groups on the development of GBI
- **Series of round tables with decision-makers and key stakeholders:** Continuous council of selected key persons identifying leverage points for the integration of NBS the demands, ideas and visions from the public into current and future urban developments

Creation of an active network of relevant stakeholders for the development of a city-wide vision on GBI



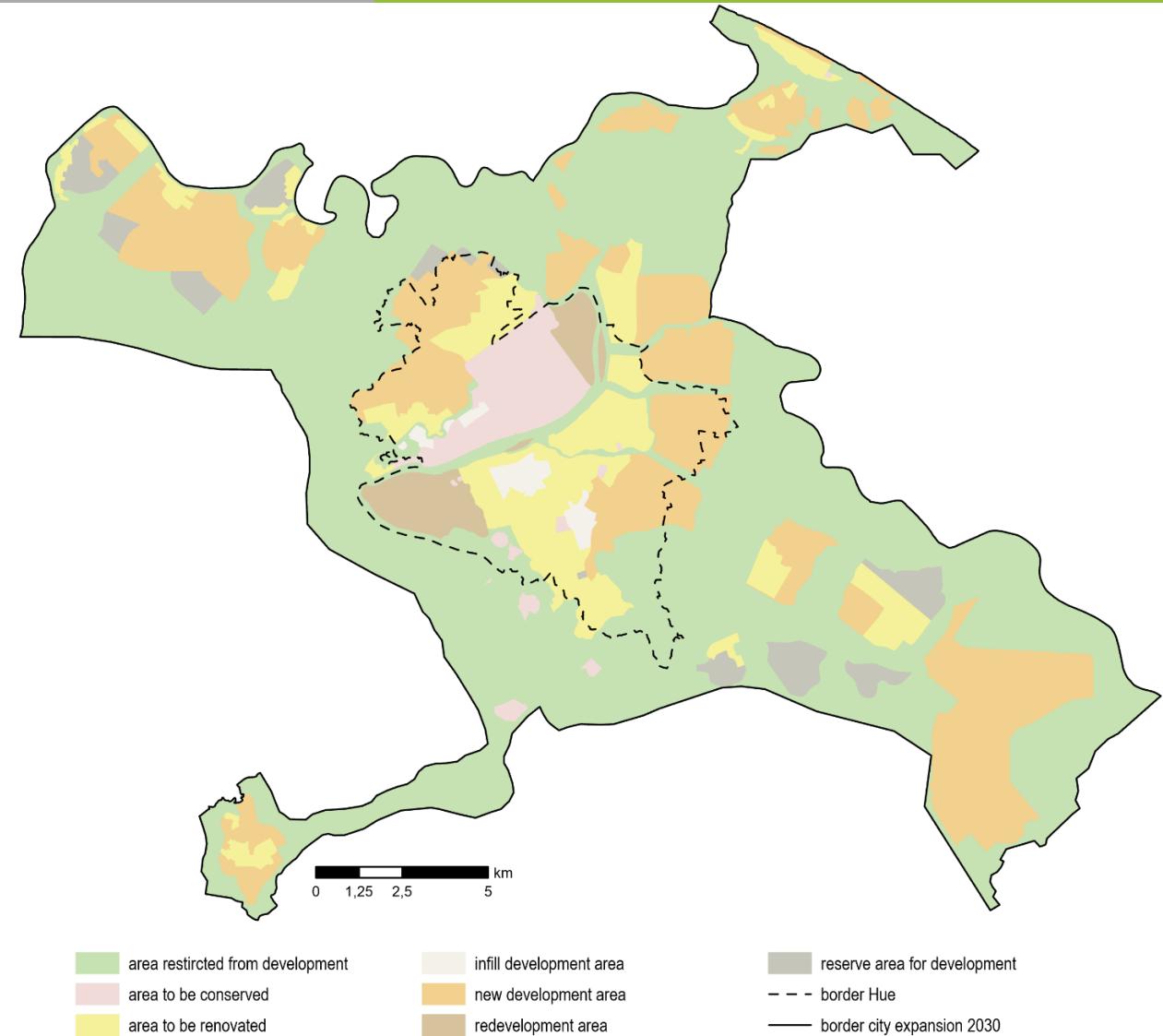
Challenges: Traditionally Hierarchic Planning System in Viet Nam

- Viet Nam has a three-tiered system of local government
- Urban centers are classified into 6 Grades, including Special Grade and Grades I, II, III, IV and V
- the Viet Nam Socio-economic Development Plan is made by the Ministry of Planning and Investment, and the Spatial Plan is made by the Ministry of Construction
- Their implementation takes place from top to down along the hierarchical planning system
- Cities have to mainstream their local plans and project with the national plans and programs



Challenges: Lack of financial resources, coordination and awareness

- Huế is classified as a non-central city and hence is generally not receiving much funding from the national government
- the provincial and city budget for environmental matters is very limited
- “green projects” have been mainly funded by international donors
- Aim of making Huế a central government city, including enlargement of the city through the incorporation of surrounding communities
- lack of coordination between different departments and stakeholders
- Generally low level of awareness about climate change and environmental issues among the stakeholders
- Participation of citizens is performed on a rather low level



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Thank you!

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