

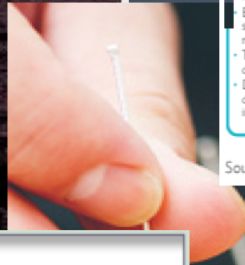
# The city as a sponge

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Land Use Planning Specialist

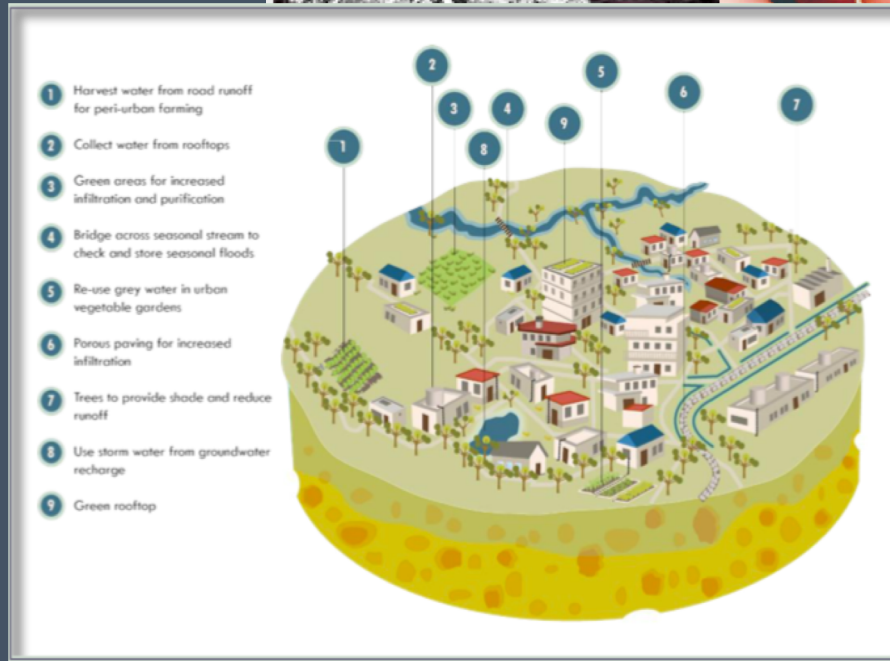
TA 9634-REG: Strengthening Integrated  
Flood Risk Management

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# Urban design and ecological imperative

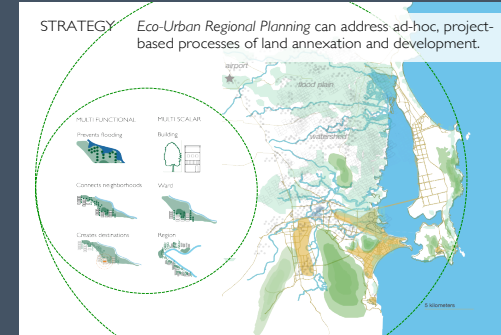


Source: Asian Development Bank.



# Soaking it up: embracing floods through urban and structural design

High Tech



Medium Tech



Low Tech



Small Scale

Medium Scale

Large Scale

An aerial photograph of a city landscape. A wide river flows through the center, surrounded by lush green parks and wetlands. In the background, a dense urban area with numerous high-rise apartment buildings is visible under a cloudy sky. The text 'WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM' is overlaid in the top left, and a large title banner is at the bottom.

WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM

# Pioneers For Our Planet

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/08/sponge-cities-china-flood-protection-nature-wwf/>

# Sponge Cities



- Est 2015
- 30 pilot cities
- 3 year implementation
- USD 2.5 billion
- Complementary



- Power of demonstration
- Technically supported
- Incentivizes through public funds



- Funding model: capital, PPPs, O&M
- Time pressure
- Lack of experience
- Weak implementation
- Limited in scale



- Inefficient cooperation
- Lack of public participation
- Window dressing

As green areas account for 70% of the Yangtze River Beach Park, the local environment is improved and carbon sequestration increased (photo by Sustainia)

# From principles and practice, to reality in DMCs

- Seductive?
- It all looks so logical and simple – but can it really work?
- Who wins and losses from this process?
- If you were return to your governments and say “I’ve been thinking, there’s a good idea ....”

