

Build4People Project

Work Package #6: Sustainable Urban Transformation Research Approach

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RATIONALE & BACKGROUND

Cambodia has been witnessing highly-dynamic urbanization in the recent past.

However, its current urban development path is considered multidimensionally unsustainable because it goes along with carbon intense growth - particularly in the building sector, economic fragmentation and social segregation, environmental degradation, strains on infrastructure, lack of affordable housing, insufficient public service delivery, etc. All this is leading to a less livable urban environment.

Within our project we want to analyse and to explore innovative pathways towards a sustainable urban transformation. We define this as long-term purposive and vision-led systemic change.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Transitions Theory seeks to (a) understand & anticipate transitions, and (b) explore ways to advance transitions (Loorbach et al., 2017).

We will apply two core conceptual frameworks for analysis:

- Multi-level perspective on transition (niche, regime, landscape) (Geels, 2005)
- Multi-phase concept of transition (predevelopment, take-off, acceleration, stabilization) (Chang & Lu, 2017) and adapt them to the Cambodian Context, considering aspects of informality, external dependency, inclusivity and the politics of „just transitions“ (Swilling 2016, Hansen et al 2018, Sengers & Raven 2014, Wiczorek 2018, Noboa & Upham 2018).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How can people-centred governance-approaches be identified that could (potentially) initiate and support a sustainable urban transformation of Cambodia and increase the urban quality of life?
- What are the incumbent routines / practices, powers, interests, discourses, and regulations that create path dependencies in Cambodia building sector?
- Which drivers and barriers for a sustainable transition can be determined and is there potential for (social) learning?
- How can the identified approaches then be applied to strengthen or initiate transformative change towards urban sustainability in Cambodia?

OBJECTIVES

The Work Package „Sustainable Urban Transformation“ has a two-tier approach of scientific analysis and of actively supporting change in Cambodia:

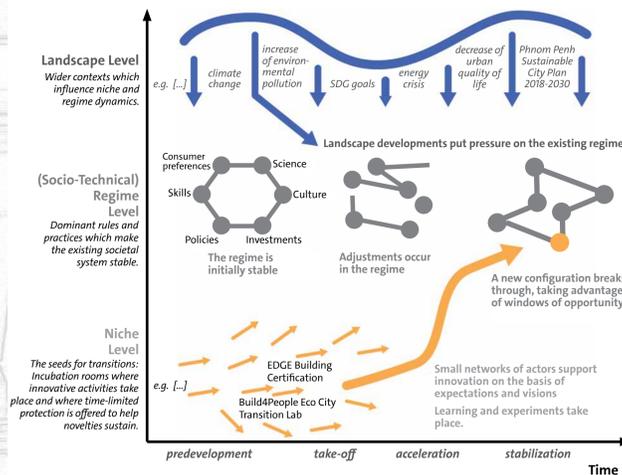
Analytical Level

- Assessment of the current urban governance system and transition dynamics
- Conceptualization of a governance approach that initiates and supports transformative change towards urban sustainability and improvement of urban quality of life

Normative / Prescriptive Level

- Implementation of explorative governance experiments
- Support transformative change towards urban sustainability and towards the realization of the SDGs, particularly SDG11

MULTI-LEVEL AND MULTI-PHASE PERSPECTIVES

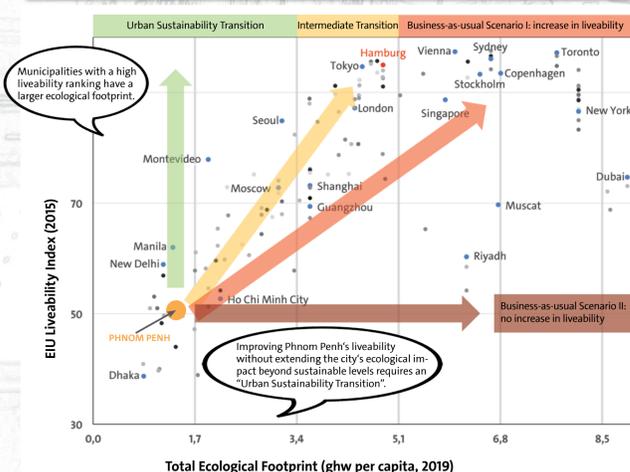


SOURCE: ADAPTED FROM THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, 2017.

MILESTONES OF THE DEFINITION PHASE

- Implementation of extensive qualitative analysis
- Co-implementation of the quantitative Build4People household survey investigating urban quality of life
- Conceptualization of pathways towards a sustainable urban transformation with a focus on the transition of the building sector
- Baseline Report: Analysis of the current governance system and transition dynamics
- Baseline Report: Measuring urban quality of life from a transition perspective
- Coordinating the Green School Demonstration project in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Preparation of a solid theory-based proposal in regard to RD-phase

POTENTIAL PATHWAYS OF TRANSITION



SOURCE: OWN GRAPH, BASED ON EIU 2015 & WORLD FOOTPRINT NETWORK 2019.

OUTLOOK

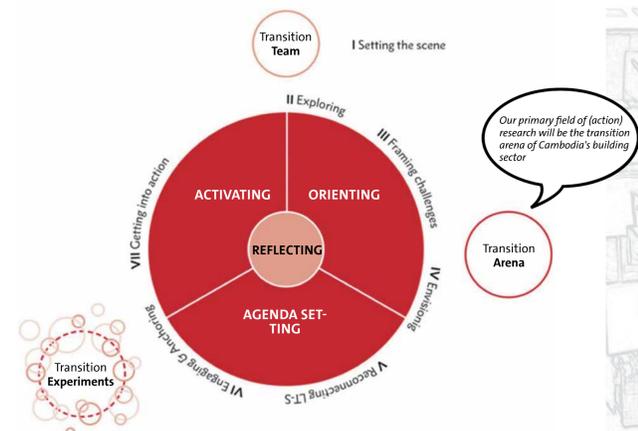
Based on our previous analysis we will further conceptualize and explore urban governance patterns.

Our aim is to influence speed and direction of transition towards sustainability with a focus on the building sector.

Thereby, we will draw on approaches of:

- Transition Management (Loorbach et al., 2017) with instruments such as:
 - visioning, backcasting, transition labs (i.e. Build4People Eco City Transition Lab), and
- Strategic Niche Management (Raven et al., 2010, Schot & Geels 2008) with its focus on key niche processes such as:
 - learning, network building & expectation dynamics, as well as the development of niche-regime relations.

URBAN TRANSITION MANAGEMENT PROCESS



SOURCE: ROORDA ET AL., 2017.

Original title of the graph: The transition management process structure including the four types of interventions in transition management

CONTACT: WP #6 "SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSFORMATION"

HAMBURG UNIVERSITY • Department of Human Geography • Bundesstraße 55 • 20146 Hamburg • Germany
 WP LEADER: Dr. Michael Waibel (michael@build4people.org)
 WP RESEARCH ASSOCIATE: Ravi Jayaweera M.A. (ravi.jayaweera@uni-hamburg.de)
 LOCAL RESEARCH PARTNER: Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)
 ASSOCIATED RESEARCH PARTNER: Cambodian Development Resource Institute (CDRI)



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WP#6 LEADER



BUILD4PEOPLE PROJECT LEADER

