Protecting cities against the challenges of climate change and extreme weather

Megacities cover less than 0.2% of the Earth’s land area but are home to one person in every ten on the planet. Most urban dwellers live in developing countries, often in informal settlements vulnerable to hazards such as air pollution, heatwaves and flooding. As climate change increases the frequency of environmental hazards, cities must find new ways to adapt to protect the lives of urban populations.

Focusing on Shanghai and Hangzhou in the Yangtze River Delta region in China, the CSSP China project has produced new tools to help urban planners and decision makers assess and mitigate the risks, providing a foundation for services to support climate and weather resilient economic development and social welfare.

Strong relationships between the project partners and departmental authorities enabled the team to deliver influential policy briefings and work closely with local authorities directly involved in the municipal governments’ climate policy making process. The Shanghai Municipal Government has included the team’s policy recommendations in its 2017-2035 Master Plan and the implementation planning of the 13th Five Year Plan. This work enabled Chinese partners to better understand and adopt suitable UK experiences in climate service and risk assessment related to community, economy, health, large infrastructure and the environment.