

**Lead Institution:**

TARU Leading Edge Pvt. Ltd.

**Partner Institutions:**

Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC),  
Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI)

**Project Summary:**

Surat known as “Diamond city or Textile city”, located on river Tapi is India’s 12<sup>th</sup> and Gujarat’s 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous city with a population of 4.4 million. Surat lies in the flood plain area and there are a number of creeks in southern west part of city. Rapid industrialization with heavy migration from various parts of India and merger of villages due to extension of city limits results in to almost doubling of the population in a decade.

Repetitive floods, high population density, lack of safe and adequate water supply, river side location, changing rainfall pattern, socio demographic structure, and rapid industrial development activities of Surat city are highly conducive (*suitable temperature and humidity*) to increase the disease burden (*vector borne and water borne*). While these complex problems require integrated solutions, earlier to the establishment of SCCT there used to very limit platforms for collaboration and deliberations for developing integrated solutions.

With the intention to address the above problems, SCCT has been established under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 in Surat city to engage in policy advocacy regarding urbanization and climate change, to assess urban growth scenarios and to advise local government on sustainable habitat development.

Surat City



**Objective:**

To establish an institution within the city which

- 1) Is sustainable beyond the ACCRN project period
- 2) Can provide sustainable and neutral platform which could bring key institutions together to identify integrated solutions for complex urban problems
- 3) Has support from national, state and community institutions
- 4) Acts as a neutral entity which can include technical experts and public at large within the decision making process.
- 5) To facilitate capacity building and to develop urban climate change resilience
- 6) To support and to undertake interventions that increase resilience of vulnerable communities which are impacted by urbanization and climate change
- 7) To spread awareness about techniques, technology and practices related to urbanization and climate change

## Committee:

SCCT has representatives from institutions including Centre for Social Studies (CSS), Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), Irrigation department, Gujarat State Disaster management Authority (GSDMA), academic institutions and technical experts from the city.

## Key Achievements:

Some of the key achievements so far include:

- Networking with local institutions and subject experts to address climate change and its impact is an effective mechanism to assess and critically analyse their working practices and learn how to change their patterns of decision making.
- Inter departmental convergence in terms of information, knowledge sharing and technical support
- Advocacy within key government departments for consider climate change as a criteria for future developments
- Managed to convince Surat Municipal Corporation to allocate a budget of 10 Million Rupees for climate change related activities.

The Trust is also spearheading two key interventions within the city

- 1) End to End Early Warning System (EWS): This intervention involves setting up an End-To-End Early Warning System to reduce the intensity of floods and resultant flood damage in Surat city. EWS will help provide timely flood information to city administration.
- 2) Urban Health and Climate Resilience Centre (UHCRC): UHCRC is first of its kind dedicated research centre to work on urban health and building climate change resilience. The centre is expected to improve urban health management through evidence-based research, improved surveillance, and the development of operating procedures among city lifeline services departments.

## Organisation Details:

**TARU Leading Edge Pvt. Ltd** is a private research consultancy organization with an expertise is primarily in six core sectors: Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change, Governance & Institutions, Natural Resource Management, Social Development, Urban Development, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene. Within these sectors we undertake policy analysis, strategy development, action research, programme design, project management support, assessments and evaluations.

**ACCCRN** was launched in 2008 and is funded by The Rockefeller Foundation as part of their 9-year initiative aimed at building Climate Change Resilience. Climate change resilience is the capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function at an acceptable level. Simply, it is the ability to survive, recover from, and even thrive in changing climatic conditions. ACCCRN works at the nexus of climate change, vulnerable and poor communities, and urbanization.

