

Dear readers,

This newsletter captures our latest initiatives & insights, and exciting updates from across our sustainable transport community. Dive in to discover how we accelerate the transformation of transport systems and services towards inclusive, healthy, green and resilient solutions for people and the planet!

New Round of NDCs – Raising Transport Ambitions

Transport accounts for [21.9% of global CO2 emissions](#), highlighting the urgent need for action. To meet the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C target, transport emissions must be [reduced by at least 59% by 2050](#) compared to 2020 levels. On top of that, the sector is already grappling with around [USD 15 billion in climate-induced damages](#) every year, emphasising the critical need for strong resilience and adaptation measures.

With the critical ongoing submission of the new NDCs (NDCs 3.0), we're delighted to share our [Five-Point Plan for Transport in New NDCs](#). Our guidance, building on SLOCAT’s earlier recommendations and [WRI's ground-breaking work](#), offers concrete strategies for countries to boost their transport commitments.



Key recommendations include:

1. **Set ambitious transport emission reduction targets.** High-income nations, responsible for half of global transport emissions, must lead by establishing robust, measurable targets aligned with achieving net-zero by 2050.
2. **Accelerate the shift to energy-efficient and fossil-free transport.** Develop comprehensive regulatory frameworks, invest in sustainable infrastructure such as public transport, cycling, and rail, and provide incentives for adopting zero- and low-emission vehicles.
3. **Secure transport assets by enhancing resilience and adaptation.** Integrate resilience strategies into national climate plans, prioritising risk assessments and infrastructure upgrades to enhance preparedness against disruptions.
4. **Redirect finance to sustainable transport initiatives.** Reallocate public and private funds, phase out fossil fuel subsidies, and mobilise climate finance to support technology transfer and build systemic resilience.
5. **Prioritise people-centred climate action in transport.** Implement inclusive frameworks that ensure equitable outcomes and address socio-economic impacts through training programs and social protection measures.

Countries like Switzerland (41% emission reduction by 2035), Singapore (metro expansion, active mobility), Lesotho (climate-proof roads), Saint Lucia (EV infrastructure), the UK and South Africa (just transition frameworks) exemplify positive leadership.

For detailed guidance and inspiring examples, including specialised recommendations, and both general and mode-specific guidelines from key sustainable transport actors, explore our [comprehensive NDC Library](#).

Discover our Five-Point Plan
for Transport in New NDCs

COP30 President Calls for Unity and Action in the Climate Crisis

As preparations for COP30 intensify, [the recent letter from André Aranha Corrêa do Lago](#), the COP30 President-Designate serves as a crucial moment for reflection and actions. His message strongly reaffirms the shared values of humanity, solidarity, resilience, and international cooperation, as essential drivers for advancing climate action. At a time when global multilateralism faces severe challenges, the letter counters political fragmentation by summoning a renewed "alliance of peoples" against the common threat of climate change, echoing the formation of the United Nations 80 years ago in the aftermath of World War II.

A central theme of the letter is the need to transition from negotiation to implementation. The COP30 President-Designate recognises the progress made under the Paris Agreement but urges nations to align their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with the 1.5°C target. He warns against "the banality of inaction," emphasising that climate change is no longer a distant scientific concept, it has arrived at our doorsteps, affecting economies, health, and livelihoods.

Furthermore, he calls for a global "*mutirão*", a collective effort grounded in indigenous wisdom and social cooperation, to drive a just transition, mobilise financial flows, and ensure that climate ambition translates into tangible, equitable outcomes for all.

Importantly, the [President's letter](#) aligns closely with SLOCAT's advocacy priorities for transport ahead of SB62 and COP30. It highlights the [First Global Stocktake \(GST\)](#) outcomes, adopted at COP28, as a foundational reference for international cooperation, emphasising accelerated emission reductions in road transport and a just, equitable transition from fossil fuels. Countries should closely reflect GST outcomes in their new NDCs, ensuring ambitious yet realistic transport actions.

Past COP Presidencies have consistently affirmed the need for capacity building, and COP30's intention to sustain this momentum towards practical implementation is promising. The COP30 President stresses enhancing developing countries' capacities in investment strategies, bankable projects, and stakeholder engagement for NDC and NAP implementation. The Letter emphasises shifting from ad hoc reporting to systematic, government-led transparency processes. A dedicated COP30 initiative on transport capacity-building would strongly signal the shared public-private responsibility and urgent collaboration required for sustainable transport.

Scaling up climate finance, particularly through the "Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T," is another COP30 priority. Given transport's rapidly growing emissions and significant funding gaps, dedicated climate finance is vital for low-carbon, resilient transport systems in developing countries. The Roadmap should explicitly promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and structured actions for a just sectoral transition.

Finally, COP30's focus on the [Just Transition Work Programme](#) underscores sustainable transport's crucial role in enhancing resilience, reducing inequalities, and supporting vulnerable nations. Ensuring transport's transition to net-zero emissions is inclusive will foster equitable societies and broader socio-economic opportunities.

Climate Weeks 2025

The first Climate Week of 2025 is confirmed to take place from 19 to 23 May in Panama City. This strategic event bridges technical discussions with practical implementation ahead of key UN climate meetings (SBs) and COP30. It offers a critical platform for advancing ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), mobilising climate finance, implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and progressing on transparency frameworks. Sustainable transport stakeholders are invited to actively engage, share transformative solutions, and build strategic collaborations.

Charting a Collective Path for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport

The [first ever United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport](#) will be an opportunity to enhance the understanding of transport's crucial role in driving resilient economic growth, and enhancing social inclusion and quality of life in a liveable planet. This UN Decade can also accelerate efficient solutions, resources and partnerships to advance sustainable, inclusive and resilient transport globally.

SLOCAT aims to serve as one of the initiatives that assists the United Nations in developing and implementing the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport. In 2025 we are contributing a “roadmap” for transforming transport systems and services, which is aimed aimed as stakeholder input in support of the ongoing preparations of the UN Implementation Plan of the UN Decade.

Set for release in June 2025, the “roadmap” will outline concrete yet non-prescriptive critical milestones that need to be achieved in transforming transport systems and services, the key actions required to achieve them, and the actors responsible for their implementation.

The SLOCAT-WRI Think Tank Session on the [UN Decade of Sustainable Transport](#) (2026-2035), held alongside [Transforming Transportation](#) in Washington, D.C., was one in a series of multi-stakeholder convenings to co-develop the “roadmap” for transport transformations.

A multi-stakeholder workshop co-organised by [SLOCAT](#), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ([FCDO](#)) and Canada's International Development Research Centre ([IDRC](#)), in collaboration with [FIA Foundation](#), Kühne Climate Center ([KCC](#)) and World Resources Institute ([WRI](#)) in London, on 31 March-1 April 2025 will contribute to the development of a first draft “roadmap” for transforming transport systems and services, and an ideas paper on possible international initiatives for multi-stakeholder collaboration aligned with the goals of the UN Decade. Iteration of drafts and wider consultation beyond the participants of this workshop are planned in the second quarter of 2025

New Insights from the Transport Decarbonisation Index: Data & Policy Guidance

We are thrilled to announce a [new scientific publication](#) in MDPI Sustainability introducing the [Transport Decarbonisation Index \(TDI\)](#), a collaborative effort between SLOCAT, UEMI, Lew Fulton, Jacob Teter, and Pierpaolo Cazzola, a team of experts working under the UK-funded [High Volume Transport \(HVT\) programme](#). The TDI offers low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) a structured framework to assess their transport sustainability across 30 indicators and eight dimensions.

Recent global discussions underscore the necessity of transforming the transport sector to align with climate goals and sustainability targets of the Paris Agreement. This new scientific study fills a critical knowledge gap by offering LMICs a systematic,

data-driven approach to measure transport sustainability, linking performance metrics to targeted policy guidance.

[Pilot-tested in 12 LMICs](#) (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), the TDI identifies policy strengths, gaps, and opportunities. For example, Sri Lanka's strong performance highlights ambitious governance, renewable energy policies, and public transport initiatives, demonstrating the TDI's practical utility.

Key benefits of TDI:

- **Data-Driven Overview:** Provides comprehensive insights into decarbonisation efforts including emissions, technology adoption, and public transport availability.
- **Benchmarking and Learning:** Encourages mutual learning without “naming and shaming”, promoting collective efforts and best practices.
- **Policy Inspiration:** Offers tailored recommendations for strategic actions such as electric vehicle incentives, public transport enhancements, and fossil fuel subsidy reforms.
- **Alignment with Climate Goals:** Directly supports the implementation of Paris Agreement targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), facilitating integrated socio-economic and environmental improvements.

A critical finding is that data gaps persist, particularly regarding freight transport and informal services. Enhanced data collection and harmonisation are vital for maximising the TDI's potential impact.

Explore how the TDI helps countries.

Call for Applications: SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport Programme

SLOCAT and the [Volvo Research and Educational Foundations \(VREF\)](#) are now accepting applications for the fifth cohort of the Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport programme. This initiative is designed for young professionals and scholars, particularly those from Africa, or those focusing on Africa, who are passionate about sustainable transport, climate change and sustainability.

Participants will gain experience in global policy discussions, enhance their networks, and develop skills crucial for evidence-based policy advocacy. The programme runs from May 2025 to December 2026. [Interested applicants are invited to apply by 4 April 2025](#) and submit the required information and documents.

We're now on Bluesky!

We're diversifying our communication channels to strengthen our community connections and amplify critical discussions on sustainable transport. Bluesky is emerging as a vibrant platform for scientists, transport enthusiasts and NGOs, aligning perfectly with our mission. [Follow us on Bluesky](#), share our content, and let's collectively spark urgent conversations about building an equitable and fossil-free transport future!

Bluesky presents a promising opportunity to showcase partner achievements, amplify voices, and foster constructive debate within and beyond our sustainable transport community. If you haven't joined Bluesky yet, we warmly invite you to participate and help expand our reach and impact.

Follow Us!

Insights from Greenpeace – Affordable Public Transport

Greenpeace released their new podcast episode [of SystemShift](#), dedicated to transport and explained to us what this episode is about in their latest blog article on SLOCAT's website. "[From Madrid to Delhi, making public transport cheaper improves lives](#)", highlighting global initiatives making transport affordable and accessible.

Successful examples include Spain's upcoming integrated transport pass in 2026, Germany's widely popular climate ticket, and India's groundbreaking free bus travel schemes for women in cities like Delhi and Bangalore.

Affordable public transport significantly improves economic opportunities, social equity, and sustainability. For instance, the German climate ticket increased long-distance train journeys [by over 30% and reduced car use by nearly 8%](#), saving billions in climate costs annually. In India, free bus travel has empowered women economically, though safety concerns persist, underscoring the need for integrated approaches combining affordability with safety and accessibility.

Explore these inspiring global initiatives and the ongoing advocacy for sustainable, equitable transport systems by visiting the Greenpeace article on our blog and listening to the latest SystemShift podcast.

News from our community

- **ITDP - Advancing E-Buses:** Successful e-bus deployment requires more than just vehicle procurement, it demands strategic charging infrastructure and operational planning. ITDP's new Advancing E-Buses Guide offers best practices on battery technologies, charging strategies and decision-making frameworks to ensure cost-efficient, scalable electrification.

- **REN21 Reboot Campaign'**: Showcases communities leading a global shift to renewables. Explore how diverse stakeholders are pushing for a more equitable, affordable energy future.
- **SafetyPin report**: "Women in Transport-Based Gig Work in South Asia" examines the challenges and opportunities for female gig workers in the transport sector.
- **Smart Freight Week 2025**: Taking place 18 - 20 March in Amsterdam, this event brings together global leaders in freight decarbonisation. Attendees will explore cutting-edge solutions, network with industry experts and drive meaningful collaborations for sustainable logistics.
- **TUMI online course: Exploring the World of Electric Buses: Advancing Zero-Emission Public Transport**: Join a free, 6-week course on electric bus technology and sustainable mobility, starting 24 February 2025, with a registration still opened.
- **WRI - Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship 2025** : Offering up to \$10,000 for young researchers in sustainable transport and energy efficiency. Apply by 15 April 2025.
- **UITP Summit in Hamburg (15–18 June 2025)**: Join over 10,000 participants at the world's foremost public transport event, featuring the latest innovations and policies.
- **UNEP Sustainable Mobility Newsletter**: Subscribe to the new UNEP Newsletter, the first edition highlights electric 3-wheelers in Tanzania, Uganda's emissions project and Rwanda's ban on petrol motorcycles.
- **UN DESA - Sixth Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference** on 27–28 May 2025 in Copenhagen, register for this high-level forum co-convened by UN DESA, UNFCCC and Denmark.
- **VREF & ITF Paper**: Explores how labour impact assessments can improve working conditions in Africa's informal transport sector.
- **Walk 21**: Submit your abstract to be part of the Walk21 Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities in Tirana, Albania, 6-10 November 2025.



SLOCAT accelerates the transformation of transport systems and services towards inclusive, healthy, green and resilient solutions for people and the planet.

SLOCAT provides collaborative data and evidence-based knowledge, action initiatives, political strategies, dialogue, and strategic communications. This helps build collective thought leadership and advocacy at the crossroads of transport, sustainability, climate and social justice issues. SLOCAT emphasises all land transport modes with universal analyses and actions, especially for low- and middle-income countries.



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