Mapping human presence on Earth
The Global Human Settlements Layer (GHSL)
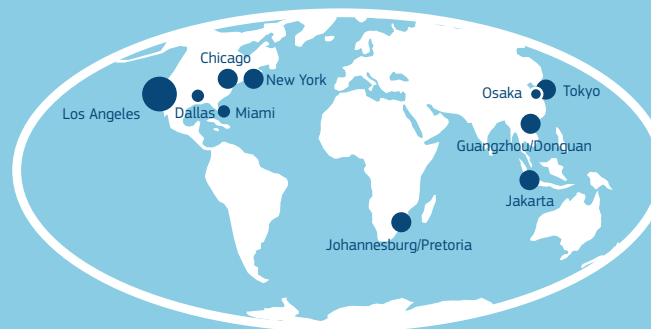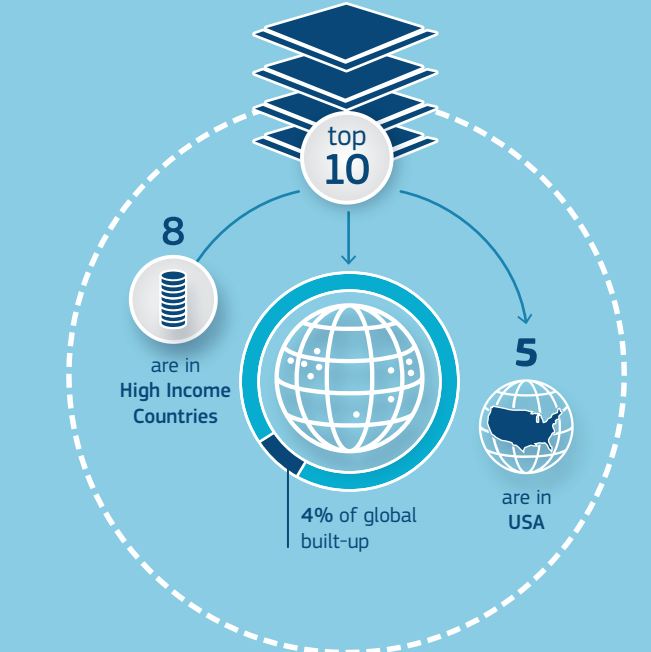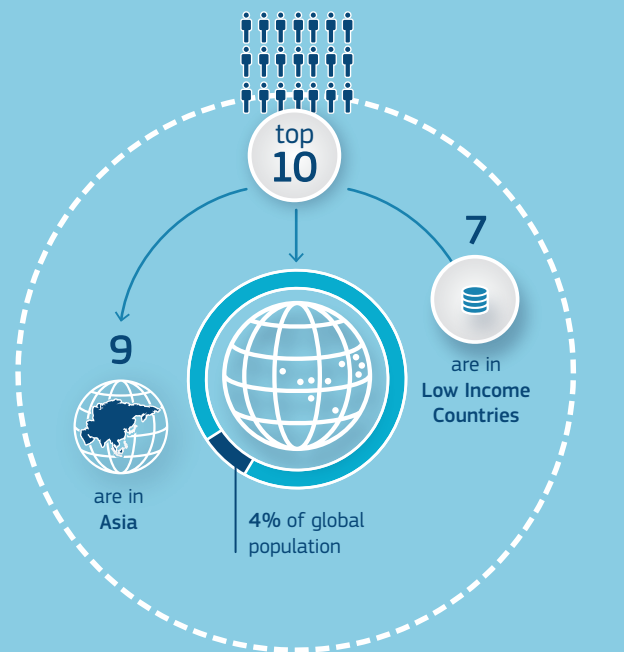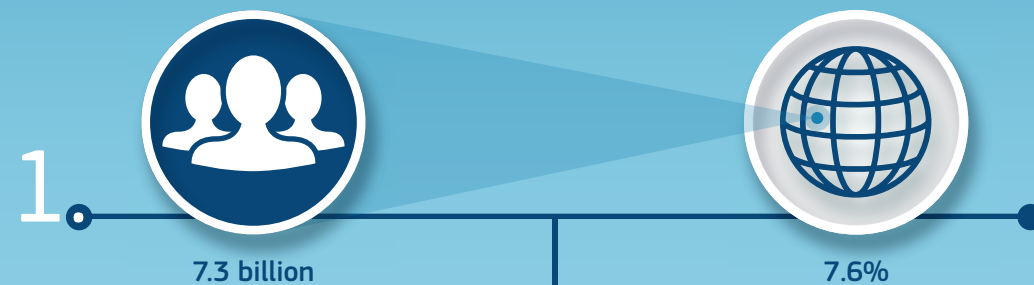*Key messages from the Human Planet Atlas*

8.

Urban Centres
(High Density Clusters with more than 50k inhabitants)

The 10 most populated urban centres

The 10 urban centres with the biggest built-up area

top **10**

9 are in **Asia**

7 are in **Low Income Countries**

4% of global population

top **10**

8 are in **High Income Countries**

5 are in **USA**

4% of global built-up

Population in million of inhabitants (2015)
- 40 - 50 million
- 30 - 40 million
- 20 - 30 million

Guangzhou/Donguan · Shanghai · New Delhi · Tokyo · Cairo · Mumbai · Manila · Kolkata · Jakarta · Dhaka

	Population
1 Guangzhou/Donguan	46,038,426
2 Cairo	37,839,851
3 Jakarta	36,398,769
4 Tokyo	33,744,544
5 New Delhi	27,634,561
6 Kolkata	26,865,342
7 Dhaka	24,833,278
8 Shanghai	24,669,234
9 Mumbai	23,413,134
10 Manila	22,448,173

Built-up in sqKm (2015)
- 4.000 - 5.000
- 3.000 - 4.000
- 2.000 - 3.000

Chicago · New York · Los Angeles · Dallas · Miami · Osaka · Tokyo · Guangzhou/Donguan · Jakarta · Johannesbourg/Pretoria

	Built-up (sqKm)
1 Los Angeles	4,734
2 Tokyo	3,874
3 Jakarta	3,867
4 Guangzhou/Donguan	3,666
5 New York	3,540
6 Chicago	3,523
7 Johannesbourg/Pretoria	3,170
8 Dallas	2,469
9 Miami	2,427
10 Osaka	2,357

Today 7.3 billion people live and work in only 7.6% of the global land mass

1.

7.3 billion

7.6%

Built-up area

Th km²
900 800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 0

1976 1990 2000 2015

x 2.5
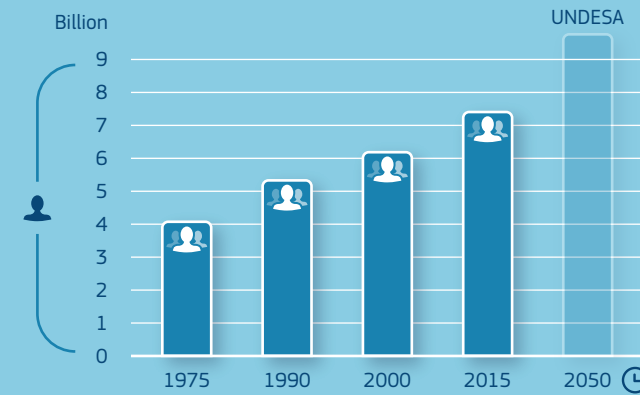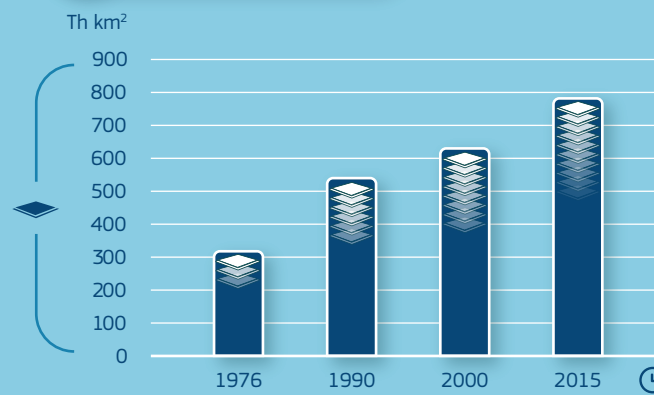
In the last 40 years built-up area increased by approximately 2.5 times

Population

Billion
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

1975 1990 2000 2015 2050

9.7 UNDESA

x 1.8

In the last 40 years population increased by 1.8 times

2

The dynamic of population and built-up increase have very strong regional differences

x 3
40 years
x 4

x 1
40 years
x 2
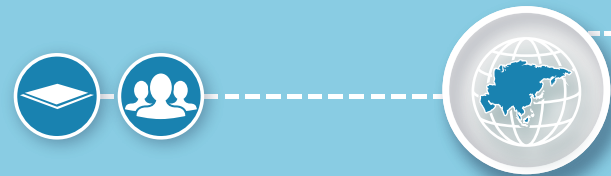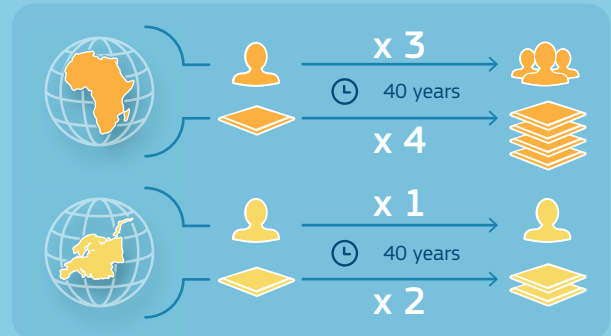
Asia is by far the most populated continent and has since the year 2000 also the biggest amount of built-up areas

Growth of population and built-up

1000 km²
Built-up

300
250
200
150
100
50
0

0   1   2   3   4   5
Billion Population

Oceania | Africa | Latin America & Caribbean | Northern America | Asia | Europe

years   1975   1990   2000   2015

3

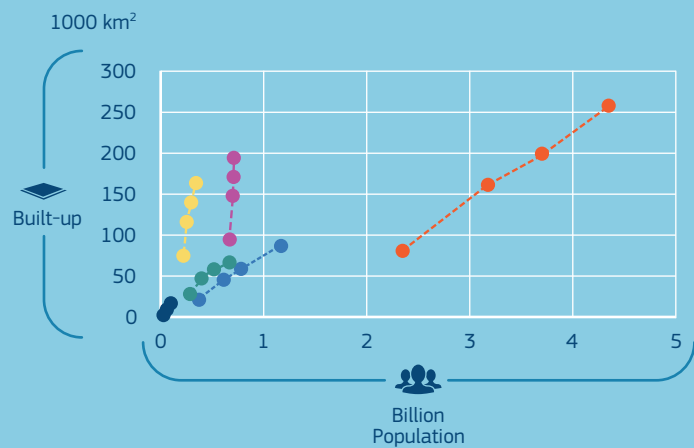**Great inequalities between rich and poor in built-up space per capita**
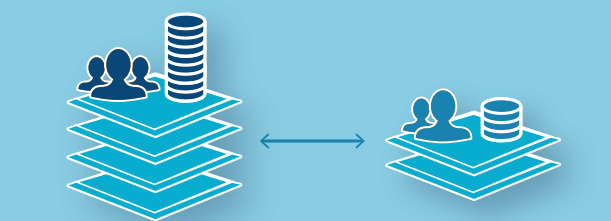
The High Income Countries (HIC) have increased the available built-up area per capita.
The built-up area per capita in Low-Middle Income Countries (LMC) and Low Income Countries (LIC) is only less than one quarter of that of HIC
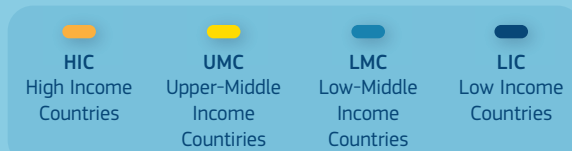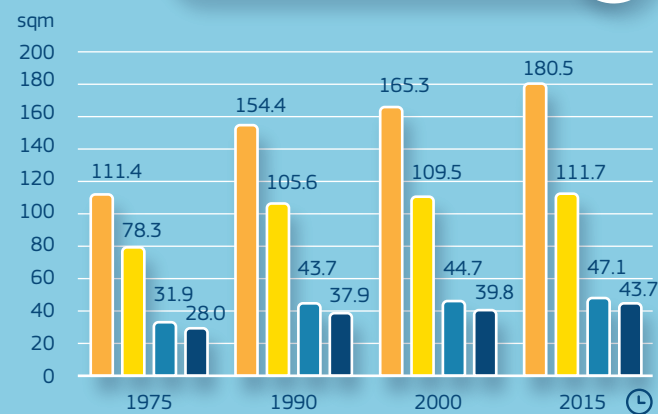
Built-up area per capita in different income groups

sqm

200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0

1975: 111.4 78.3 31.9 28.0
1990: 154.4 105.6 43.7 37.9
2000: 165.3 109.5 44.7 39.8
2015: 180.5 111.7 47.1 43.7

HIC High Income Countries | UMC Upper-Middle Income Countries | LMC Low-Middle Income Countries | LIC Low Income Countries

180,5 HIC   **43,7 LIC**

Square metres per inhabitant

4

We are much more urbanised than what we think

Urbanisation in 2015

Rural 15%
Towns and suburbs 33%
High Density City Centres Population 52%

3.8 billion people

85% urban population

5

Access to energy is still very unequal

90%
20% of global population
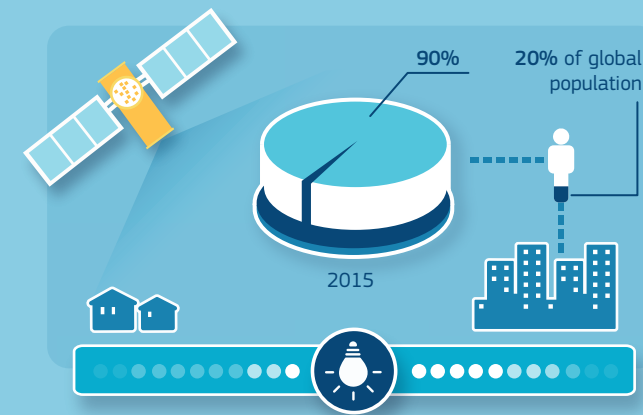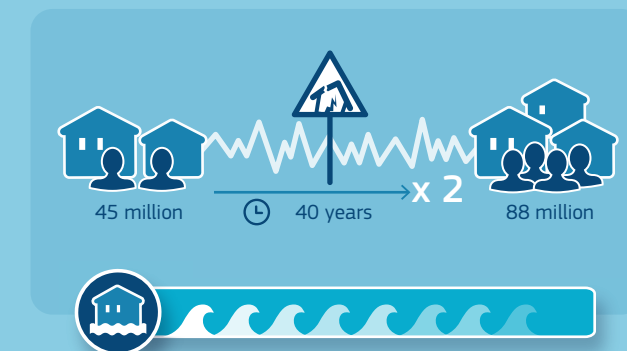
2015

In 2015, 90% of the night light observed from space was emitted from urban areas that host only 20% of the global population

6

Globally, city centres are becoming **greener**

1990   2015

+ 25%

7

Global exposure to disasters has increased

45 million   40 years   x 2   88 million

GHSL

The most complete and consistent, global, free and open dataset on human settlements – from the village to the megacity

Satellite imagery → Built-up, green areas, night lights

Census data → Population

http://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu