



CITIES PLANNING RETREAT 2024

OVERVIEW

From April 22-26th, several managers and members of the Cities Executive Team gathered in The Hague for our annual Planning Retreat to deliberate on pivotal subjects, including the scaling our work, the progression of our programmatic strategy and growth of our fundraising initiatives. The overall tone of the retreat was positive, and the in-person time was well received. The dialogues buzzed with energy, and the inquiries posed were insightful, acting as the catalyst for ongoing, synergistic collaboration across the network.

In the following sections, you will find a curated summary of key insights and action items from the retreat, alongside pertinent reference links and audiovisual recordings of selected sessions. The insights gleaned from this gathering are not merely confined to this document; they are intended to be woven into future dialogues and the overarching trajectory of our growth. Please note that these are internal WRI materials; please contact Matt Kessler-Cleary, or Maribel Lora, before sharing any slides, recordings or notes externally.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Advancing the new strategy:** The in-person retreat was much needed and welcomed to help advance the new strategy and explored concrete goals on how to deliver on our strategic priorities: Deep Dives, Reimagining Public Transport, Integrated Climate Action, Urban Water Resilience in Africa, and REHOUSE.

- **Focus on 3 pillars:** Our program pillars of Livable Neighborhoods, Climate Resilience and Connective Mobility are developing and allowing for deeper engagement across geographies.
- **Collaboration is necessary:** In-country transitions require dedicated work to strategize and operationalize, which in turn requires institutional collaboration.
- **Flexible resources are vital:** Our flexible funding enables our technical teams to explore new ideas, and to sustain long-term relationships with local, regional and national-level stakeholders.



Group picture taken at the Parliament House in the Hague.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Alignment:** Focus on aligning our resources to our strategic objectives.
- **Increase partnerships:** Strengthen local-global partnerships within, and across, strategic pillars and priorities.
- **Share our story:** Build cohesive and clear narratives to aid in fundraising, external engagement and internal collaboration.
- **Pursue research:** Identify next big research initiatives for WRI Ross Center—multi-sectoral, multi-geographic.



Practicing safe bike riding.

Box 1 | Resources

1. [2024 Cities Planning Retreat Takeaways and Action Items.pptx](#)
2. [PPT Presentations- Day 1-4:](#)
 - a. Day 1 (WRI Ross Center past, present, future; Focusing on Country Transitions, Delivering WRI's New Strategy, Climate Resilience workshop)
 - b. Day 2 (Scaling our Work, Livable Neighborhoods, Partnering with WRI Europe, Connective Mobility workshop, Deep Dive workshop)
 - c. Day 3 (Reimagining Public Transport, Integrated Climate Action, Elevating Research, Data and Learning, Fundraising Strategy)
 - d. Day 4 (Road to COP30/ External Engagement, Managing Organizational Growth & Financial Health)
3. [2024 Planning Retreat PrepBook Vo.pptx](#)
4. [Session Recordings on TCFL \(Den Haag Planning Retreat\)](#)
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