

Risk Habitat Megacity

¿Sostenibilidad en Riesgo?



Strategies for Sustainable Development in Megacities and Urban Agglomerations

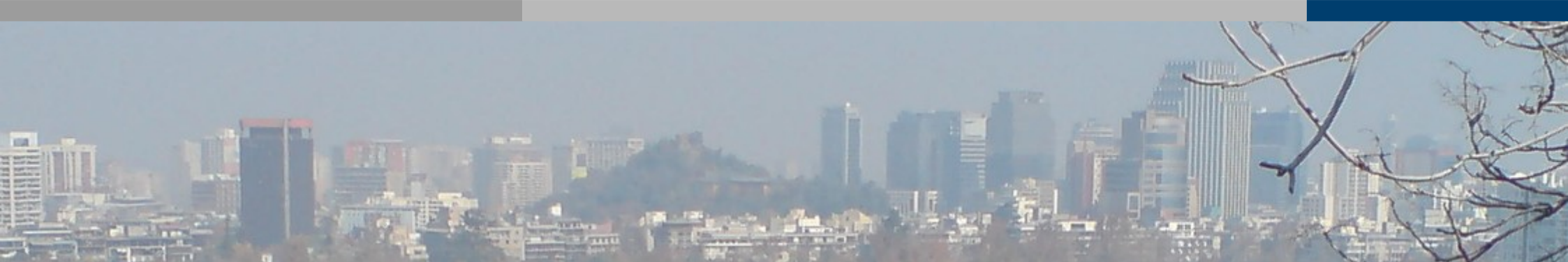


Photo: Annemarie Ebert

Why Research for Megacities?

Mega-urbanization is critical for global change. Their scale, the speed of transformation and their worldwide connectedness places megacities at the centre of the challenges for global sustainable development.

Megacities are laboratories of change, anticipating trends that are not yet well understood. They are spaces of opportunity as engines of economic growth. At the same time, the development of mega-agglomerations produces a multitude of risks and dangers.

Mega-urbanization opens the field for scientific-technological co-operation and entails opportunities to advance international efforts to enhance urban sustainability on a global scale. Research on urbanization can serve as a driver towards establishing co-operation with scientifically strong and economically capable partners.

Geographic Focus

- Megacities in Latin America as the most urbanized and inequitable developing world region
- The Metropolitan Region of Santiago de Chile as 'anchor city' and pilot case for the initial phase of research (2007 – 2010)
- Transfer of the interdisciplinary research concept to other megacities in Latin America in a second phase (2010-2013)

Research Concept

The research plan adopts an interdisciplinary and integrative research approach that combines basic theoretical and conceptual considerations with empirical and application-oriented analysis.

Fig. 1: Conceptual Framework

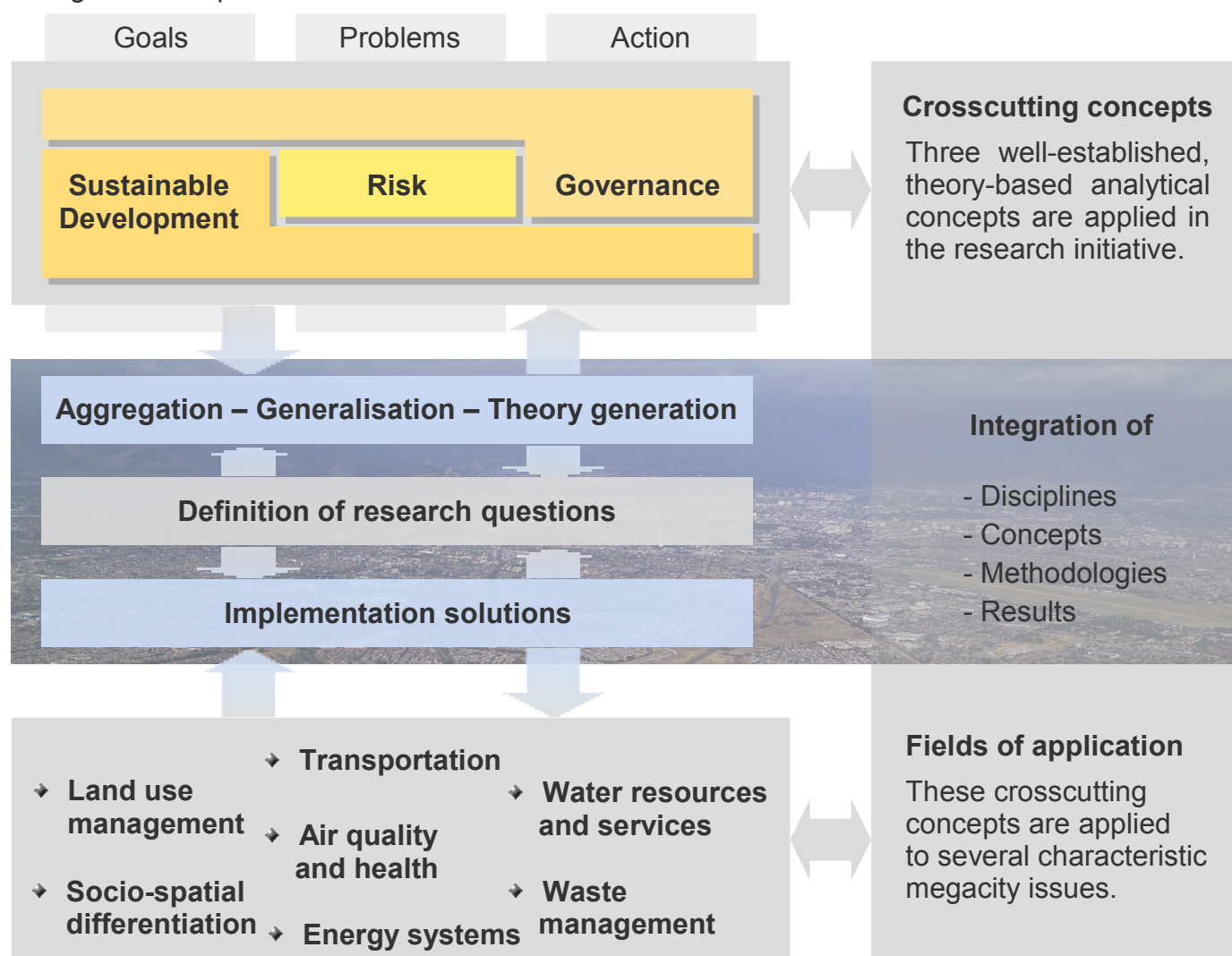
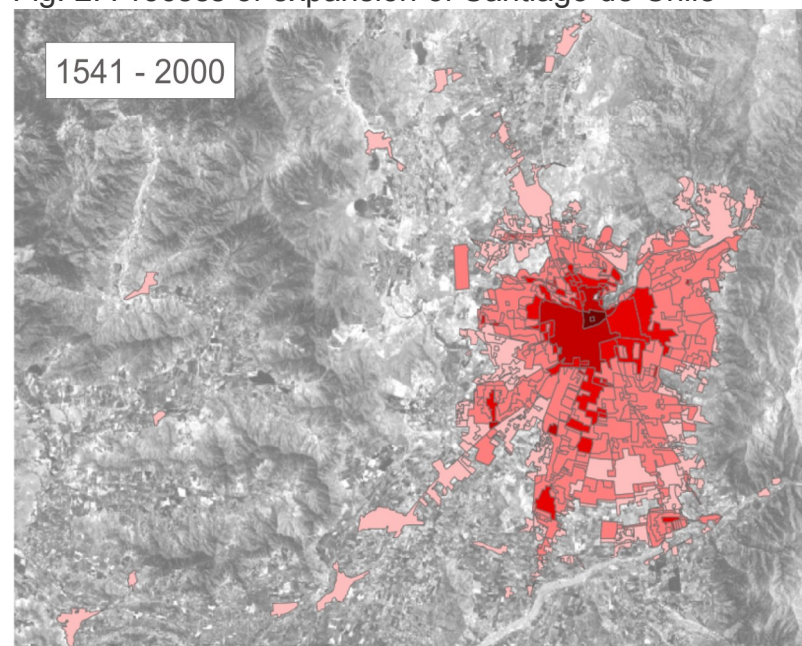


Fig. 2: Process of expansion of Santiago de Chile



Background image: Landsat 7 ETM from 26/12/1999

Goals of the research

The initiative will

- Contribute to the specification of sustainability objectives for the future development of megacities;
- Assess characteristic risks, their driving factors and consequences in megacities;
- Design strategies and instruments for risk management as key tools for sustainable urban development and
- Build a platform for continuous learning and application in order to integrate academic research and practice.

Further information:

www.risk-habitat-megacity.org

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