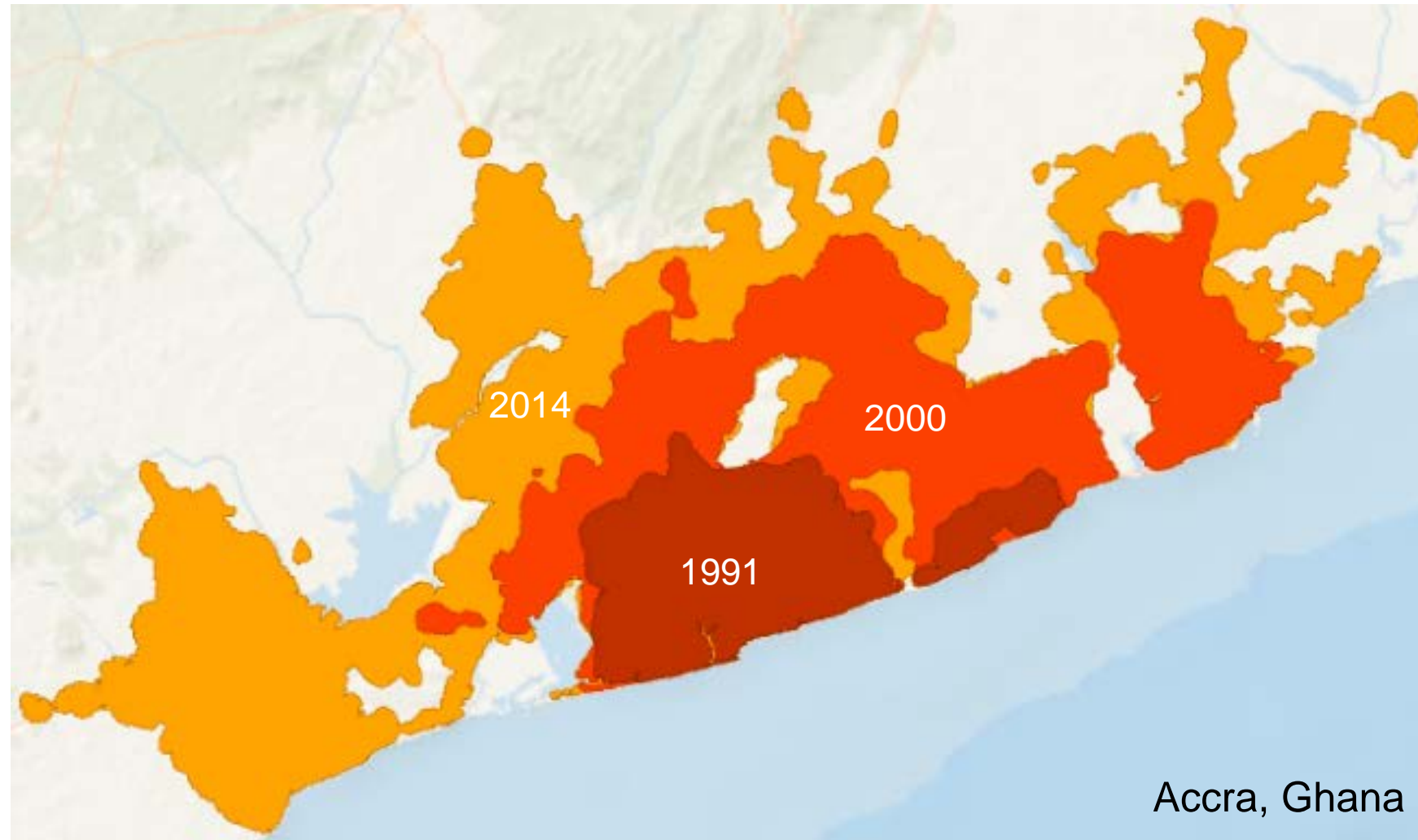


# Notes on the Urbanization of Our Planet



Professor Shlomo Angel, New York University

Presented at the Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration, hosted by the UN Population Division, UNDESA, United Nations, New York, 7-8 September 2017.

# The Urbanization Project

The Year 2100

Declining urban growth rates

Urban population will stabilize by 2100

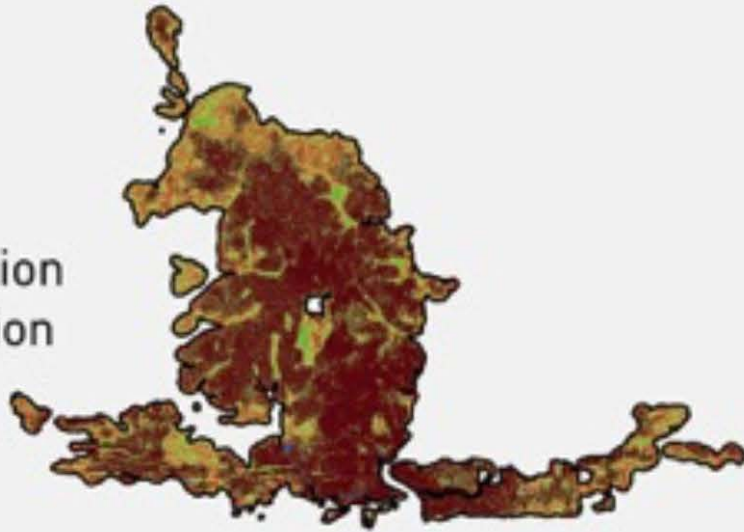
On the doubling of the urban  
population since 1959

On tripling the present areas of cities  
by 2100

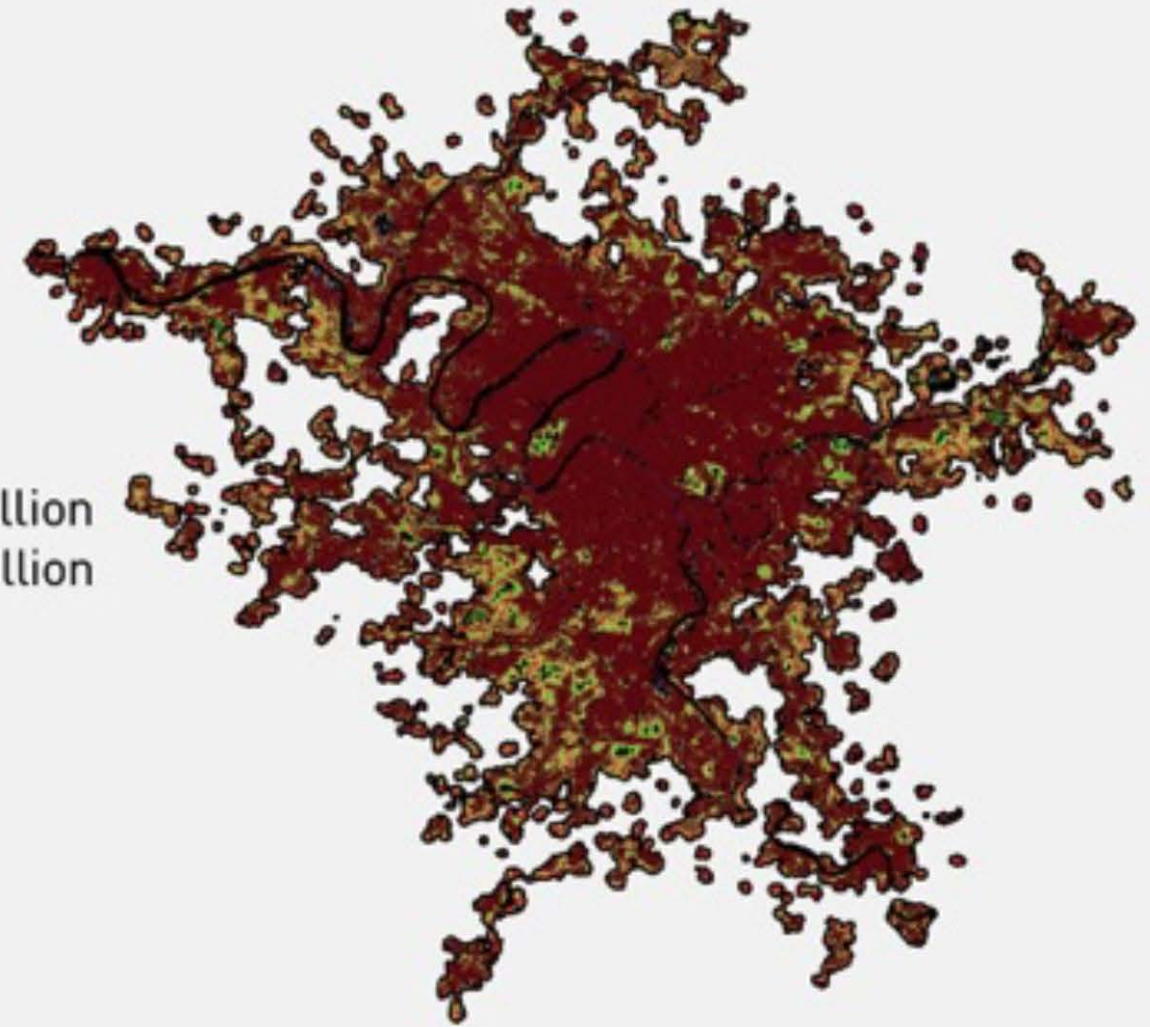
# Explaining urban extents



**Lagos, Nigeria, 2015**  
Population: 11.4 million  
City GDP: US\$58 billion



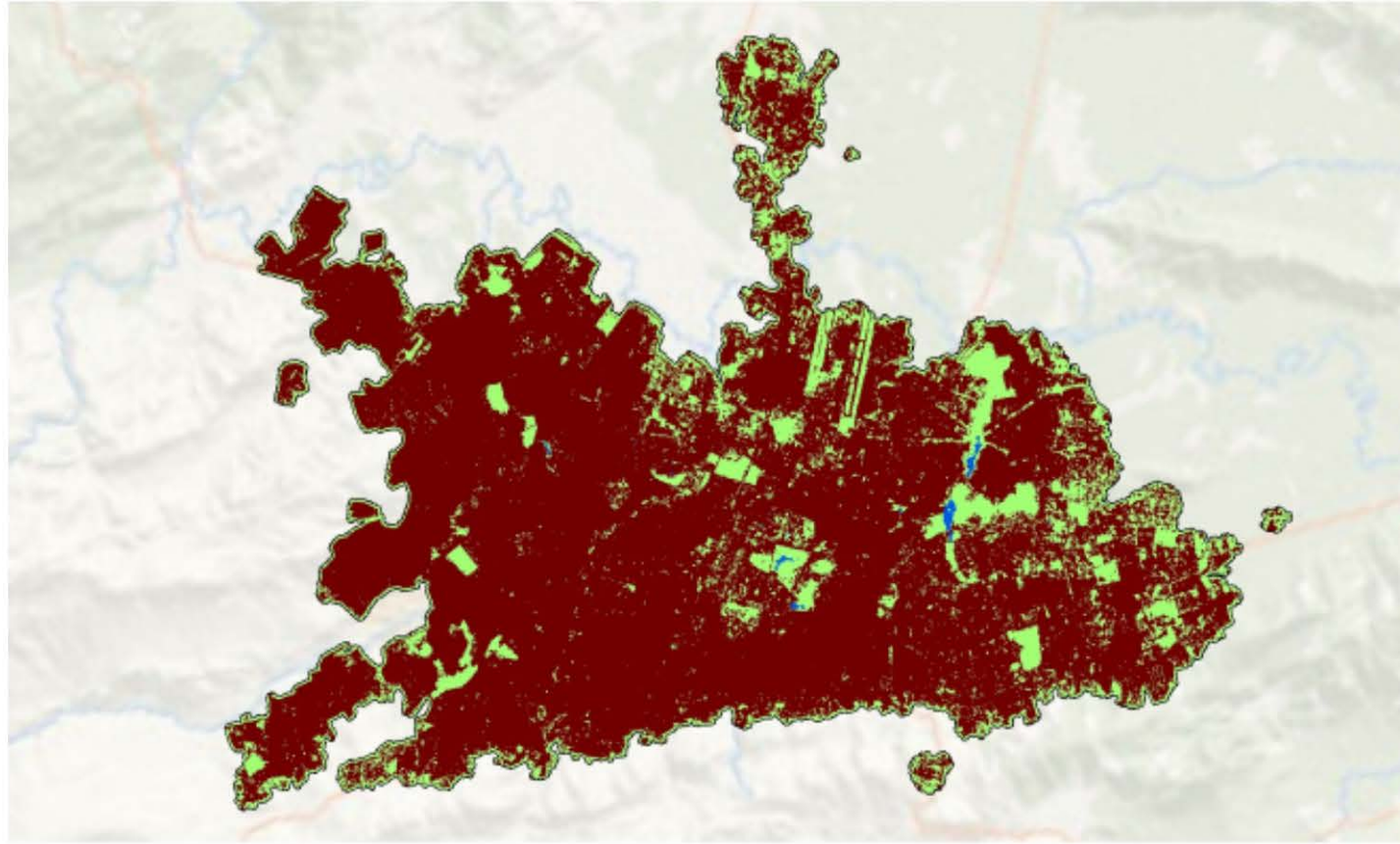
**Paris, France, 2015**  
Population: 11.2 million  
City GDP: US\$557 billion



In 2015, Paris, France, had almost the same population but 10 times the GDP as that of Lagos, Nigeria. As a consequence, the urban extent of Paris was 3.5 times that of Lagos.

Urban densities are in decline

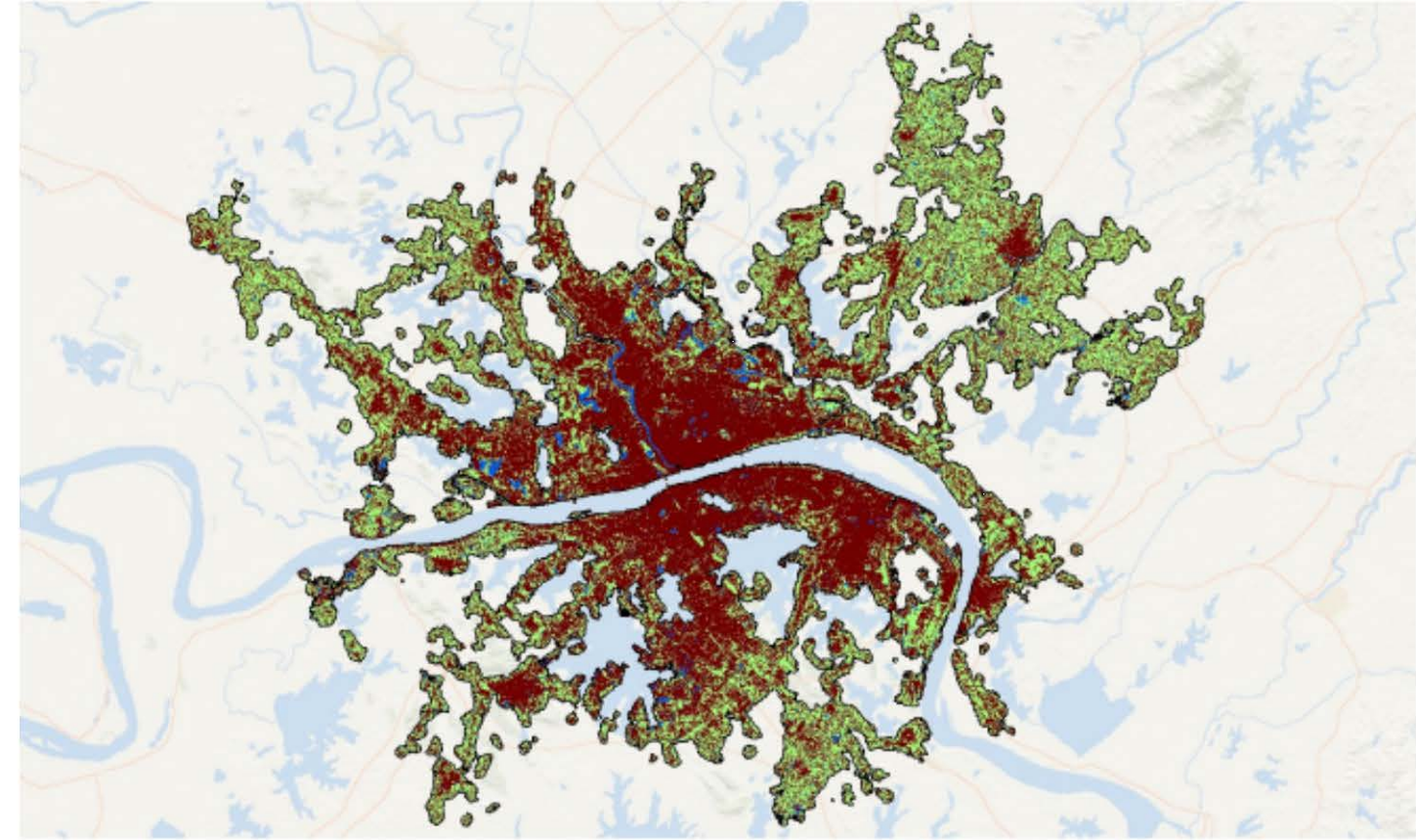
One-third of the urban extents of  
cities remains open space



Bogotá, Colombia  
2010

0 3 6 9 12 km

- Built-up area
- Open space
- Urban Extent



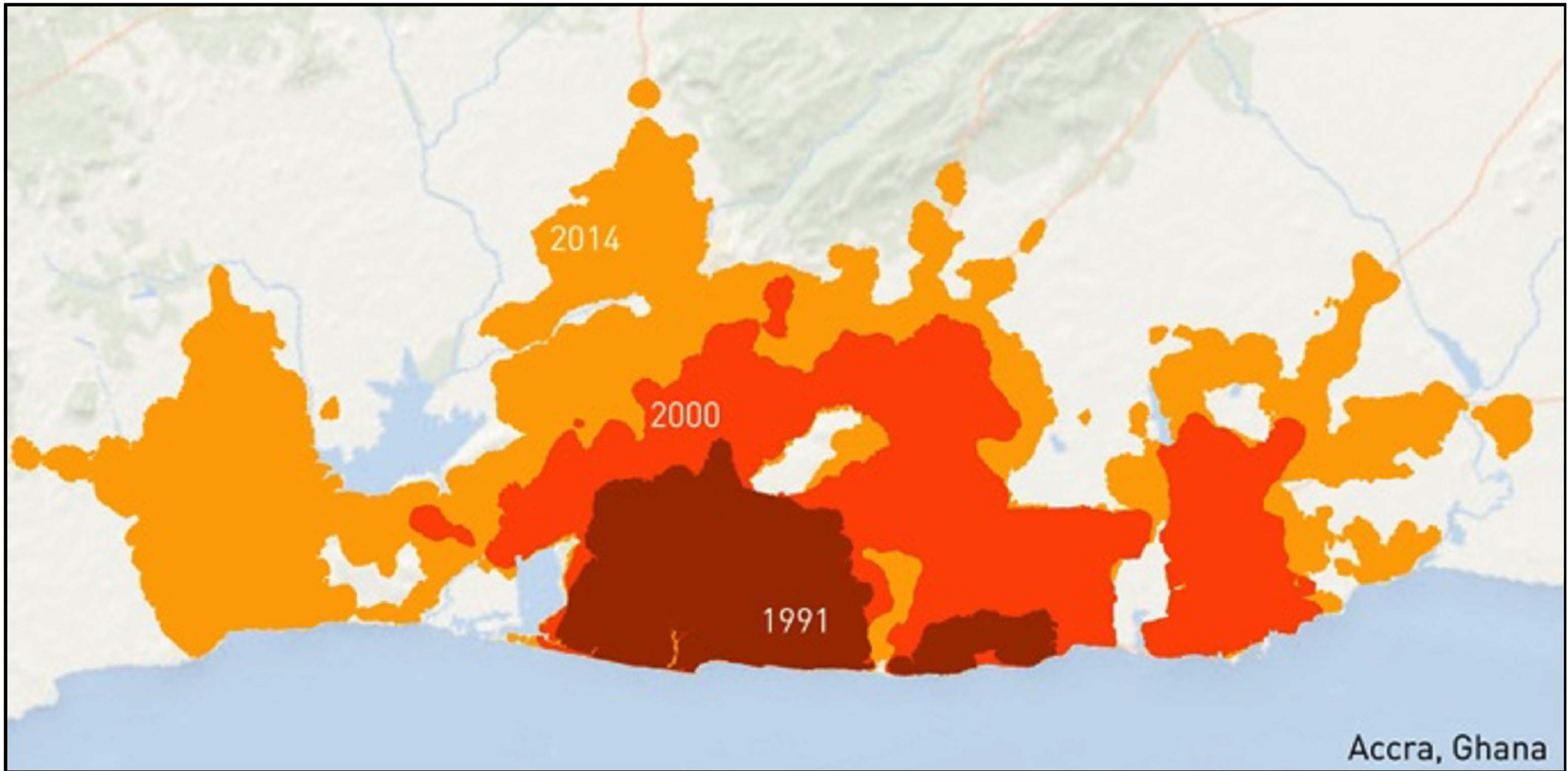
Wuhan, China  
2013

0 8 16 24 32 km

- Built-up area
- Open space
- Urban Extent

There are significant variations in saturation levels among cities. Bogotá, Colombia, had a saturation level of 80% (left); Wuhan, China (right) had a saturation level of 56% in 2013.

Urban extents tripled in area during  
the 1990-2015 period



The population of Accra, Ghana increased four-fold between 1991 and 2014. Its urban extent grew eightfold.

The share of the population living in  
cities

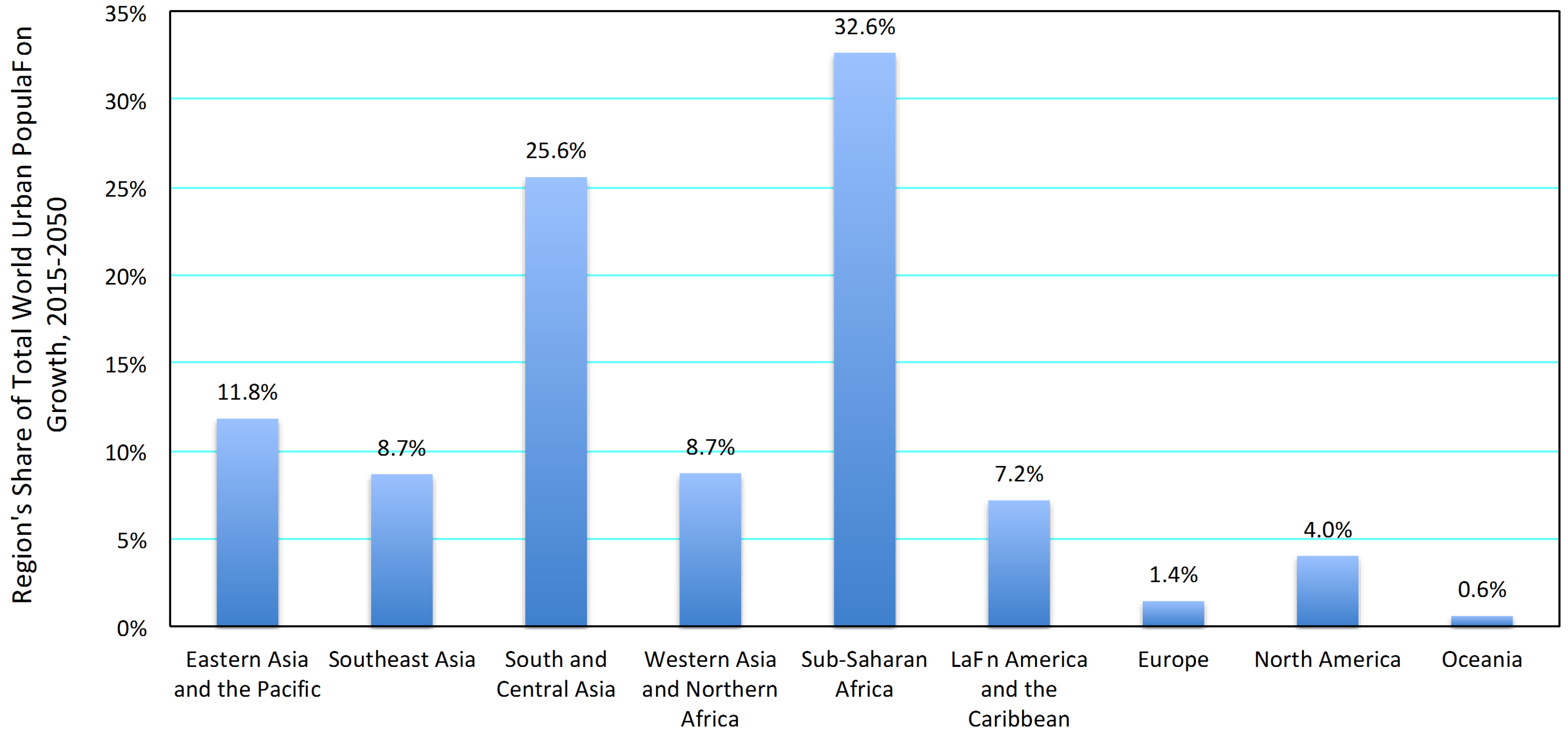
The share of the urban population in  
less developed countries



Urban population growth, 2015-2050

The 18-to-1 ratio

Two regions will absorb 60% of urban  
population growth to 2050



The share of each world region in the world's urban population growth between 2015 and 2050, now estimated at 2.38 billion.

Explaining the share of the population  
living in cities

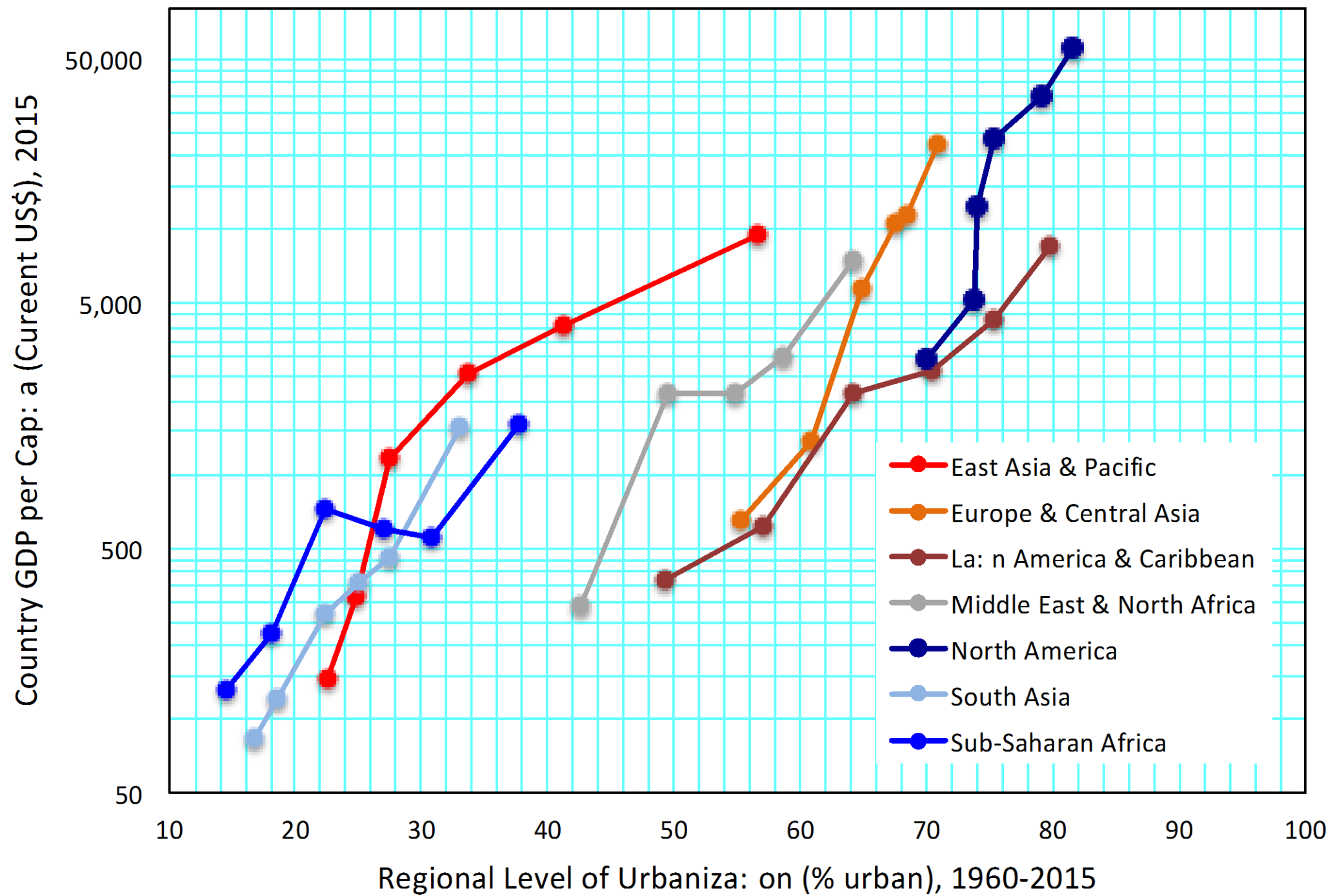
GDP per capita and the level of  
urbanization



The relationship between the level of urbanization and the level of economic development in 143 countries that had more than one million people living in urban areas in 2015.

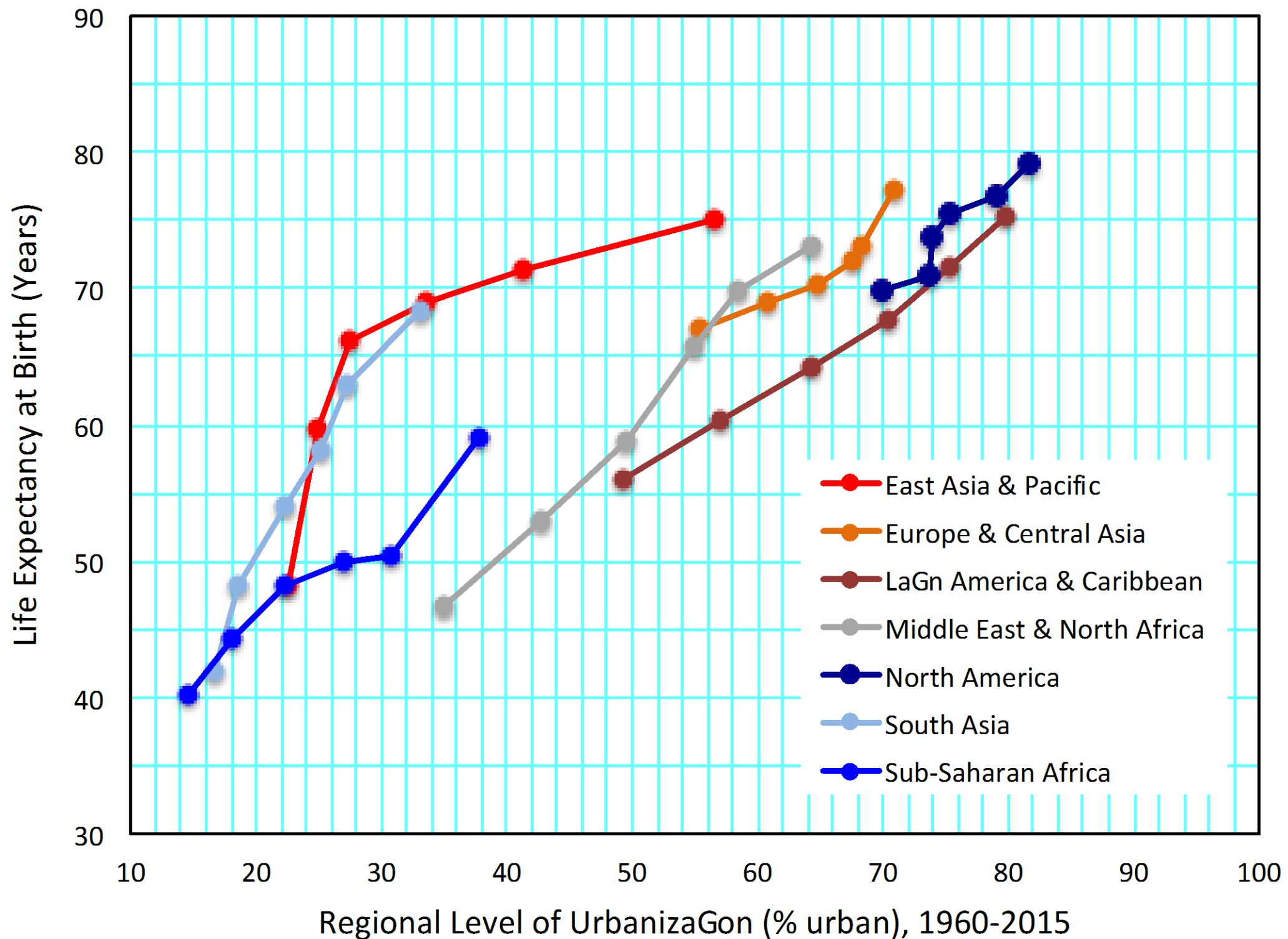
# Urbanization and economic development





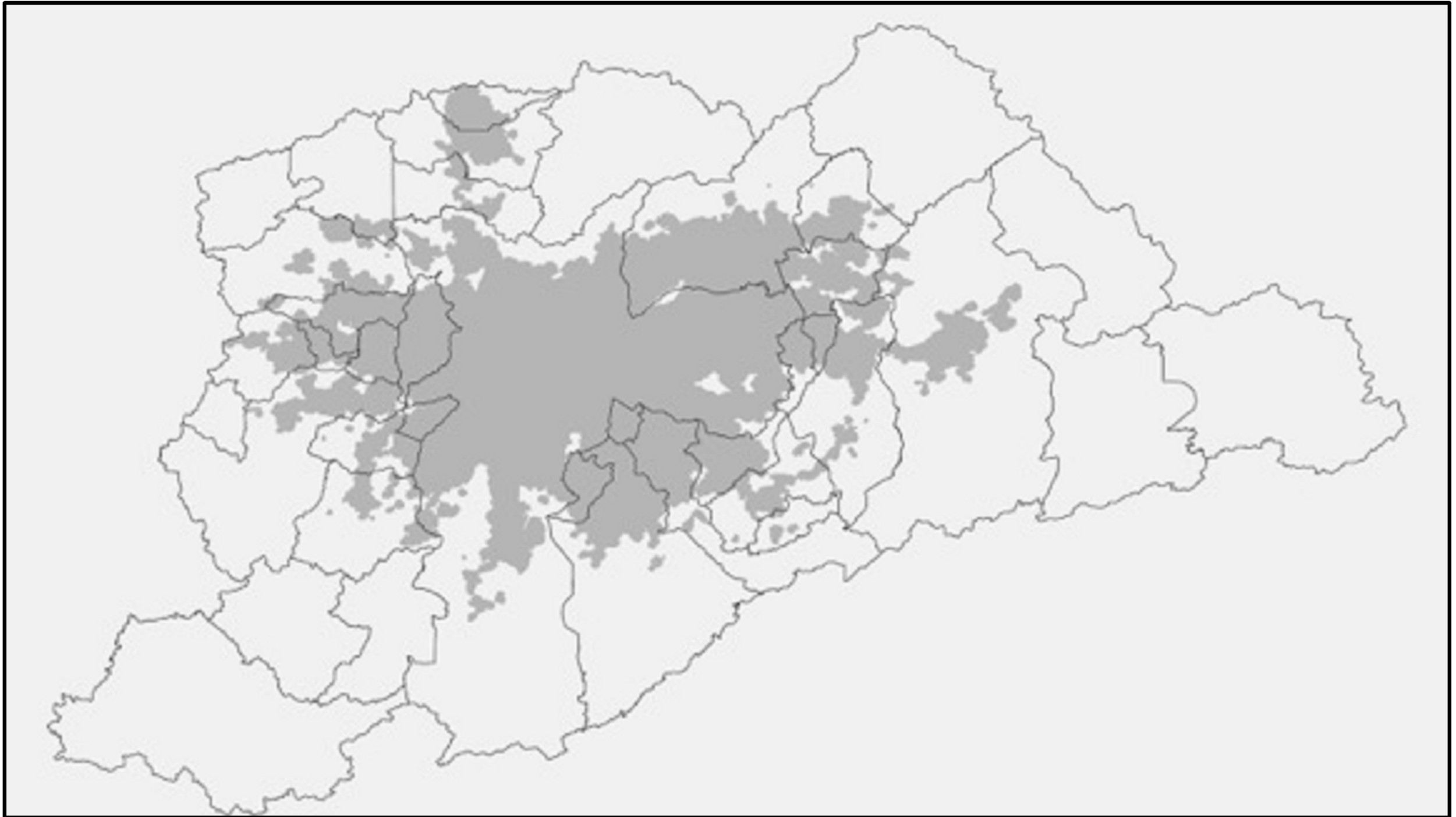
The relationship between the level of urbanization and the level of economic development in 7 world regions over time, showing values for six dates: 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2015.

# Urbanization and public health



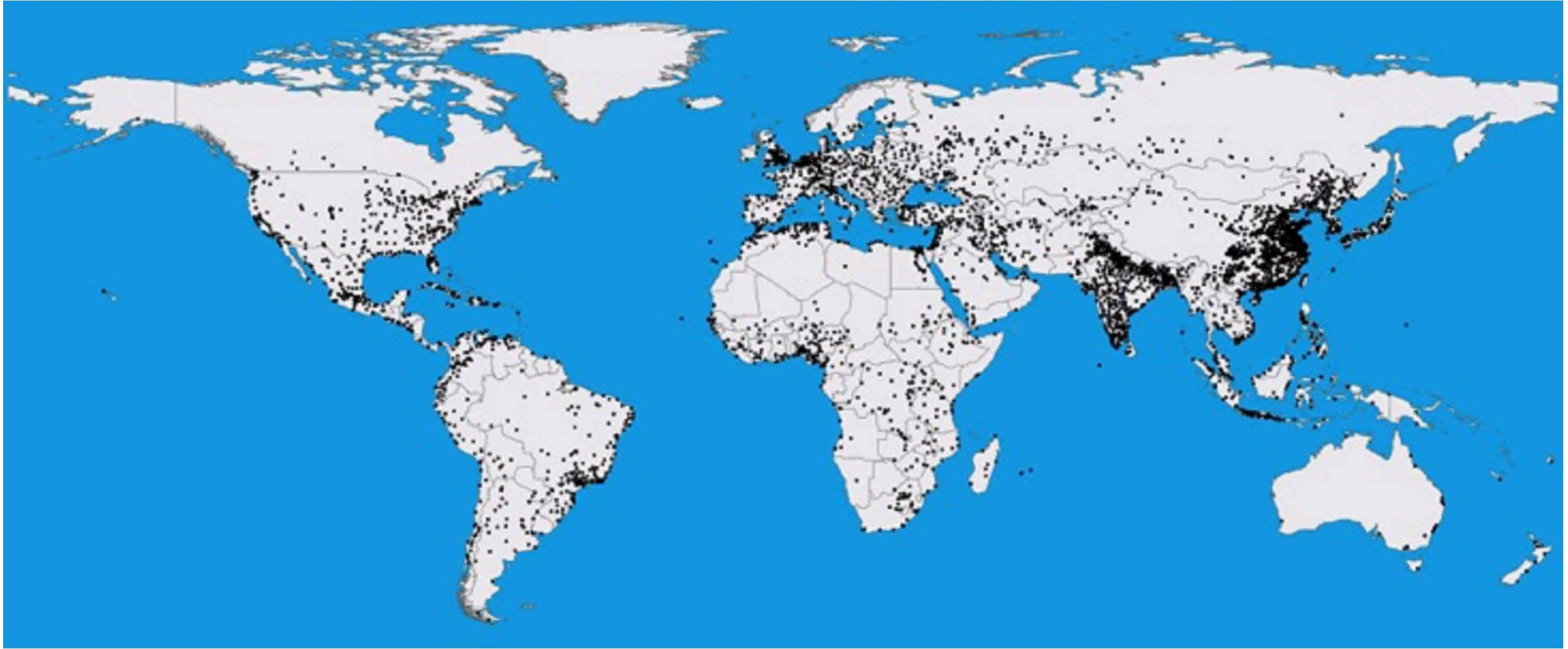
The relationship between the level of urbanization and life expectancy at birth in 7 world regions over time, showing values for six dates: 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2015.

What is a city?



The contiguous built-up area of São Paulo, Brazil, in 2014, stretching across 31 municipalities, is considered by our definition to be a single city.

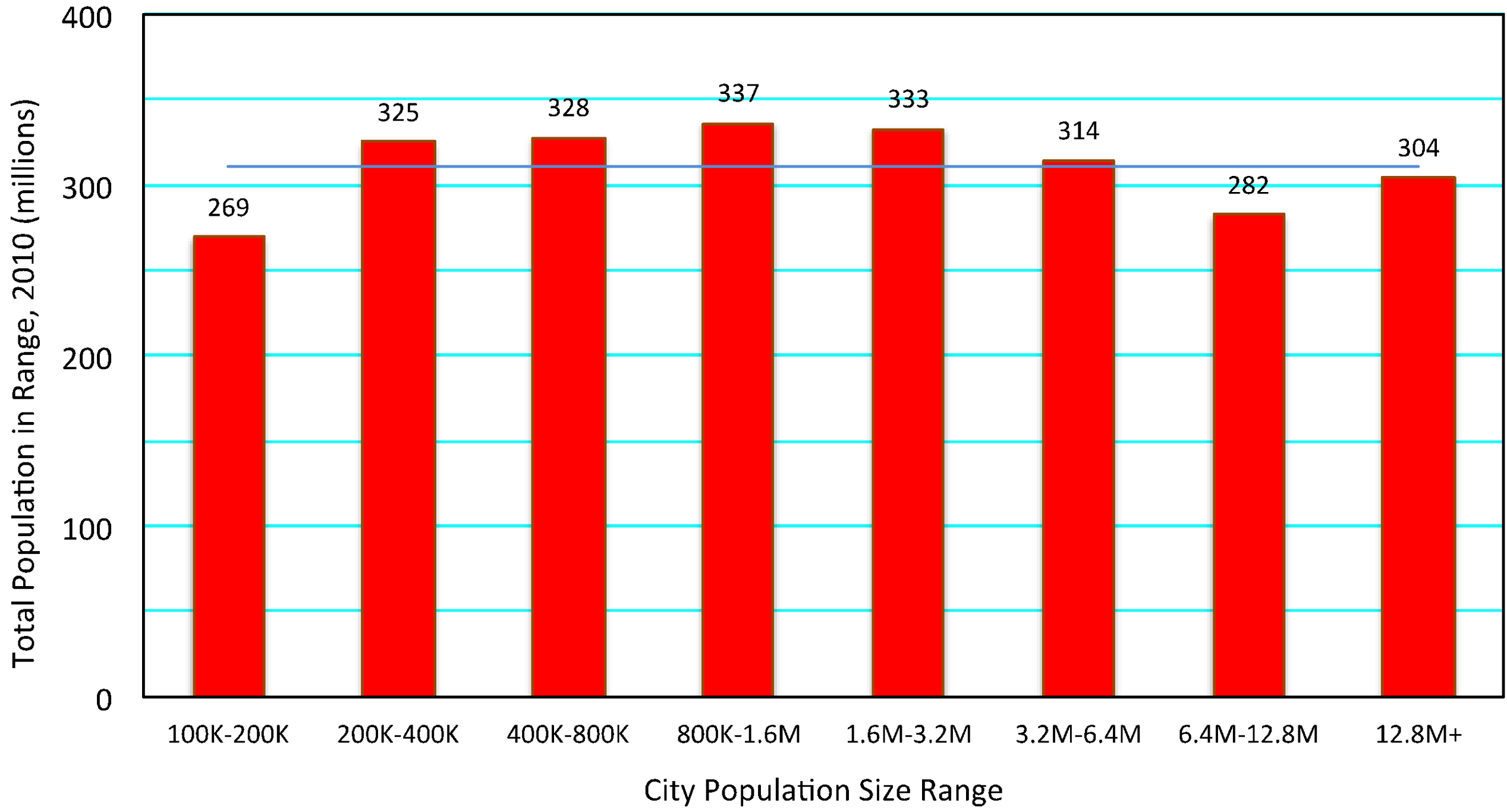
The universe of cities



The 2010 universe of cities, containing all 4,231 cities that had 100,000 people or more in 2010.

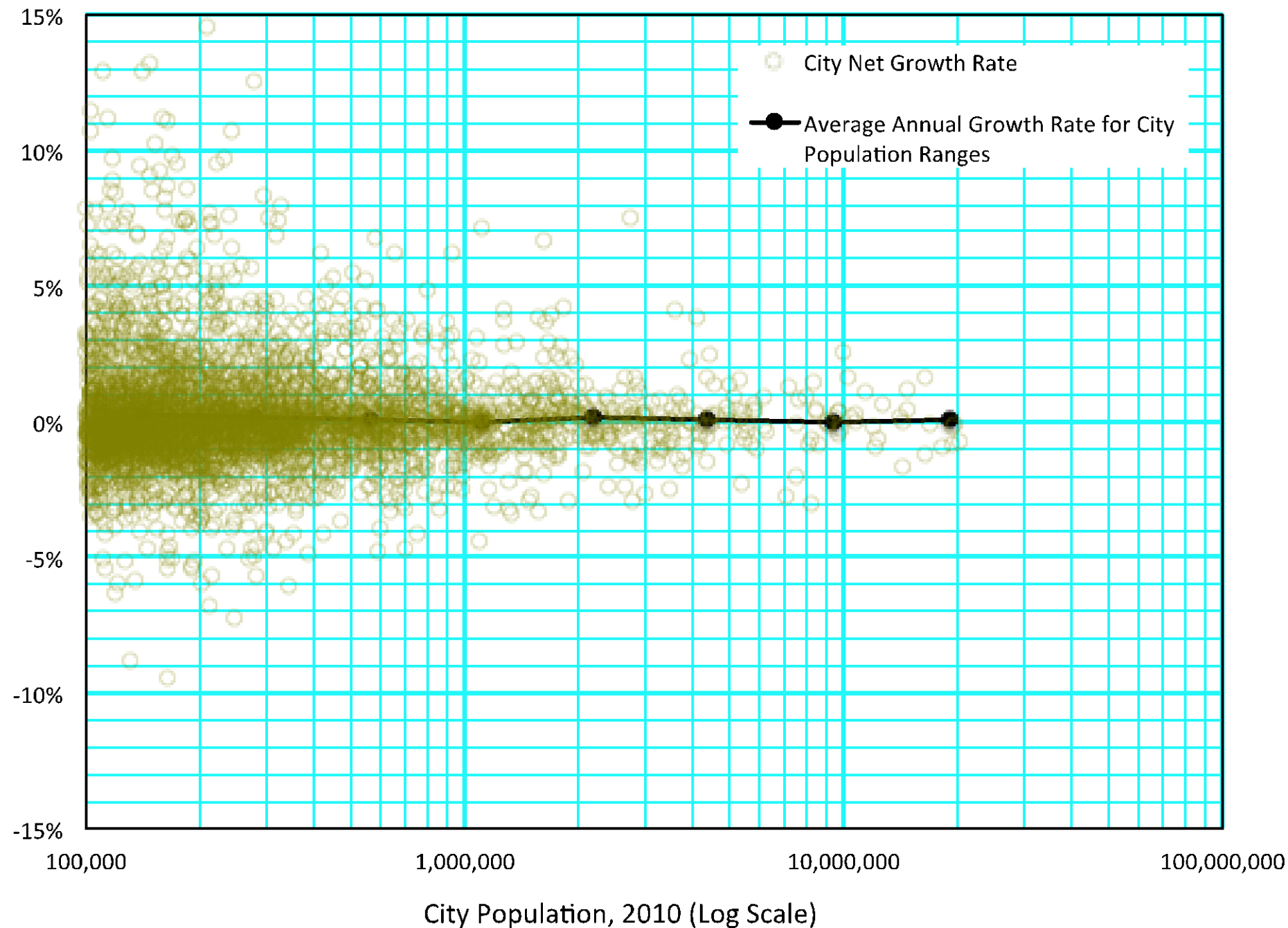
All city-size ranges contain similar total  
populations





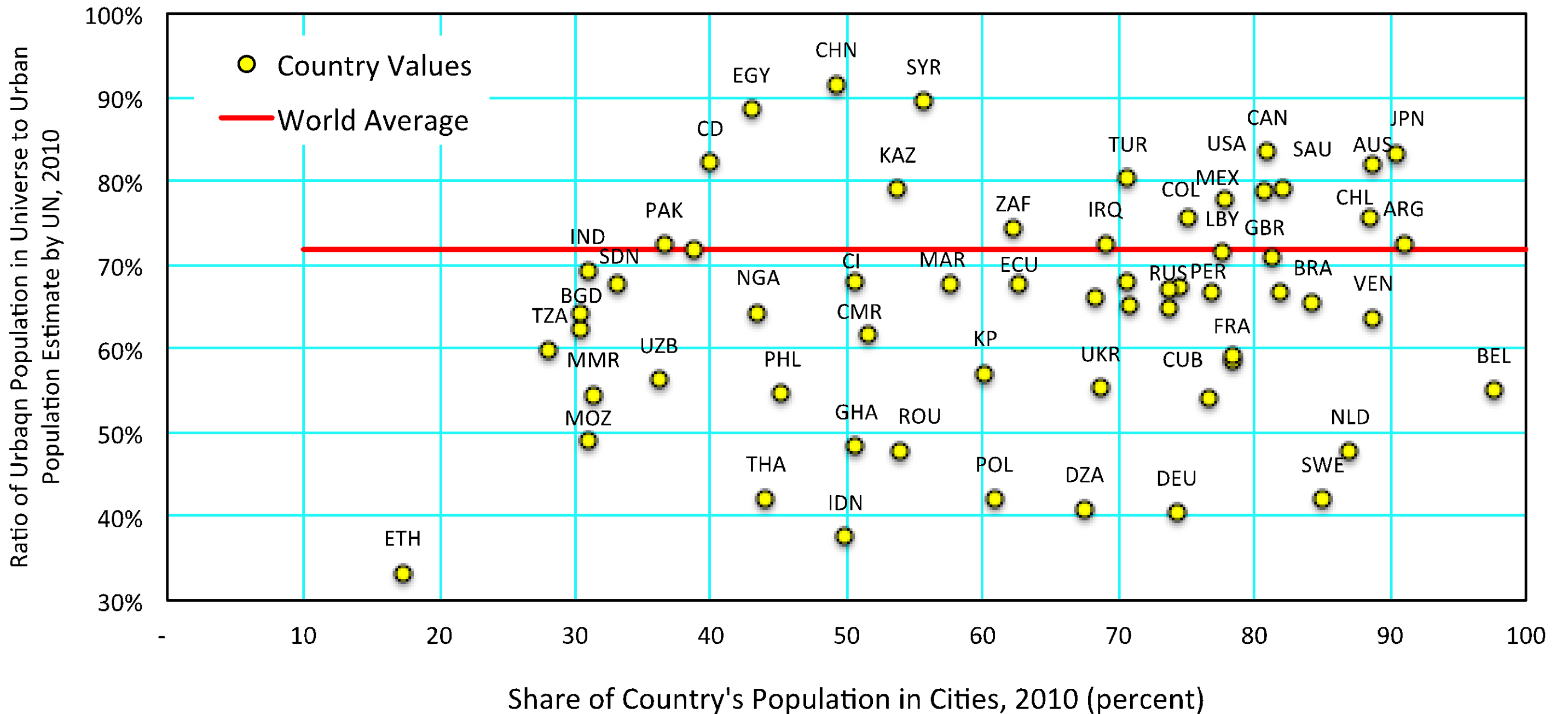
The 4,231 cities in the 2010 universe of cities, arranged into size ranges, with the higher limit of a range twice the population size of the lower limit, showing that all ranges contained similar total populatio

Cities of different population sizes are  
growing at the same rate



Individual city population annual growth rates, net of the national average city population growth rates, for all 4,231 cities in the universe of cities for 2000-2010, and the average annual population growth rate for different city population ranges for the same period.

There are discrepancies between  
country definitions of 'urban'



The ratio of the urban population in cities of 100,000 or more in 2010 and the UN Population Division estimate of the total urban population in the country for 61 larger countries that had 10 or more cities of 100,000 people or more in 2010, arranged by country level of urbanization in 2010.

Explaining differences in what  
constitutes 'urban'

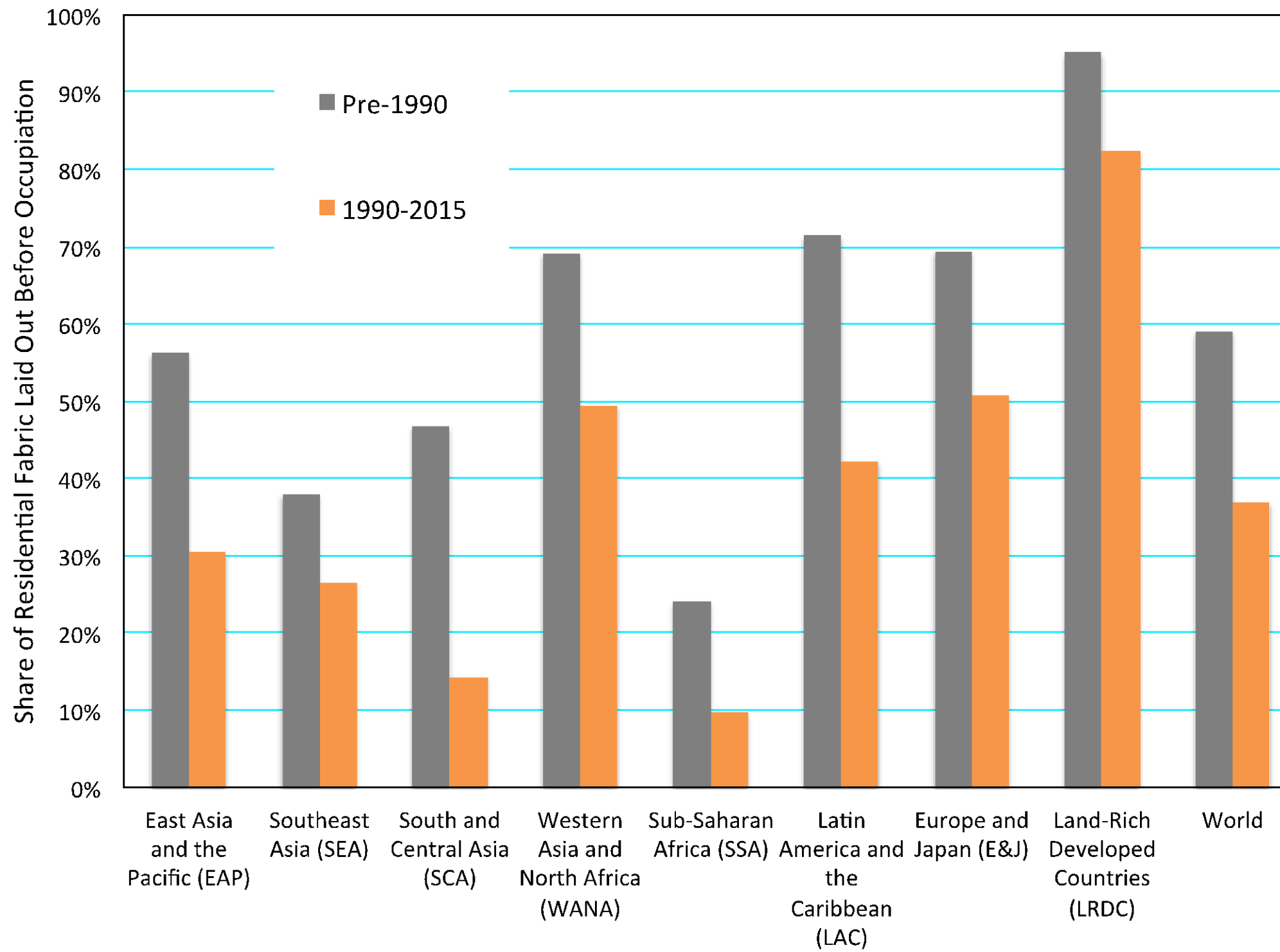
Shifting the focus from 'people' to  
'land for people'

The Urbanization Project is both  
inevitable and desirable



The risks that the Urbanization Project entails are asymmetrical

Preparations for urbanization are  
falling behind



The shares of residential fabrics laid out before occupation in the pre-1990 areas (gray) and in the expansion areas (orange) by world regions, 2015.

Urbanization without fear

Thank you!