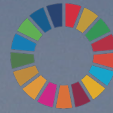


NATURE4CITIES

Nature-based Solutions in 13 Cities in Latin America & the Caribbean
2021-2024



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Improving the sustainability of 13 cities in Latin America and the Caribbean through the design of nature-based urban development strategies and climate adaptation solutions



Providing training to officials from 13 cities to build climate resilience by integrating nature-based solutions into urban planning policy and legal frameworks



Fostering engagement and partnerships, especially with the private sector, to develop finance strategies and investment pipelines for urban nature-based solutions for adaptation and mitigation

PROJECT TITLE:

INCREASING RESILIENCE THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICAN CITIES (NATURE4CITIES LATAM)

EXECUTING ENTITY:



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES:



Wageningen Environmental Research (WENR)



Practical Action - Peru

KEY TARGETS:

13

City-level nature-based plans for urban adaptation and mitigation to climate change

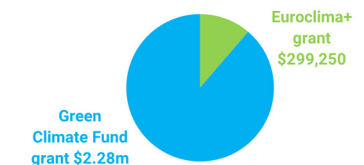
13

Financial guidelines to support investment in climate action

7

Project concept notes developed for the participating countries

FUNDING:



INTRODUCTION

- Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is the second most urbanized region in the world, with more than 8 out of 10 inhabitants living in urban areas, many of which face immense risks due to climate change.
- Nature4Cities, a project funded by the Green Climate Fund and Euroclima+, seeks to build the capacity of city governments to identify opportunities for nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Nature-based solutions are “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits” (UNEA 5.2 Resolution).
- The project is being implemented in 13 cities (see Project Location)

TECHNOLOGIES & METHODS

- Nature4Cities is helping decision-makers identify opportunities for **nature-based solutions (NbS)** for climate adaptation and mitigation in the 13 target cities.
- A key early step is to conduct **climate vulnerability assessments** to identify crucial areas or ‘hotspots’ for urban nature-based solutions for adaptation and mitigation through a participative process, including the use of a gender-sensitive approach, greenhouse gas inventories, and socio-environmental indicators.
- Assessments are also being undertaken to develop **strategies to overcome common barriers** to nature-based solutions, such as non-existent land-use plans, policy and legal framework gaps, limited financial resources, and a lack of awareness and capacity.

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- Extreme weather events and hurricanes affect Guatemala, Honduras, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic, damaging crucial infrastructure, destroying homes, and taking lives.
- Many of the countries targeted by this project have been subject to major flooding events, which are expected to worsen if adaptation measures are not taken.
- Drought is increasingly a challenge in Panama and Uruguay, but especially so in Honduras and Guatemala where much of the population still depends on rainfed agriculture for their main source of income and food security.
- These challenges are exacerbated by urban growth and rampant deforestation, which lead to greater loss and damages in urban areas during storms, as there is increasingly less vegetation available to absorb rainwater and hold soil in place.

PROJECT LOCATION



The project is being implemented in 13 cities – Santo Domingo (Ecuador), Camaguey and Manzanillo (Cuba), Guatemala City (Guatemala), La Lima and El Progreso (Honduras), Bocas del Toro, Colón, Arraján and the municipal area of Boquete, Dolega and Gualaca (Panama), Santiago de los Caballeros (The Dominican Republic), and Rivera and Durazno (Uruguay).

- Nature4Cities is designing strategies, consultation platforms and guidelines to **engage the private sector** in identifying opportunities for **sustainable finance mechanisms** and establishing or strengthening related investment pipelines, all the while integrating them in local development plans.
- Additionally, 7 concept notes are being developed to **scale up the implementation of NbS** for adaptation and mitigation in urban areas based on the results of the project.

RESOURCES

- [Climate adaptation resources](#)
- [Project website](#)

Building Knowledge on Nature-based Solutions

Nature4Cities is facilitating knowledge-sharing efforts on urban NbS strategies with:

- A regional platform (online) and community of practice;
- A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC);
- 7 technical experience exchanges (online);
- 15 audio-visual products (2 from regional level and 13 at city level);
- Private sector engagement guidelines;
- Regional guidelines for the design of a M&E framework for urban NbS;
- An online tool to identify NbS for adaptation and mitigation based on the urban carbon footprint.

CONTACTS

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