

NbS Examples Submitted by ICLEI to the Intergovernmental Consultations on Nature-based Solutions

ICLEI South Asia's example is Yamuna Biodiversity Park in New Delhi: Developed by the Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems, University of Delhi, it applied the ecosystem-restoration approach. Through ecological restoration, 457 acres of flood plains along Yamuna River were restored from salt pans to hosting three storeyed pristine riverine forest communities. Its success is highlighted by a leopard living there for two weeks, before being relocated by the Forest Department. Based on this example, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has issued guidelines on developing biodiversity parks along the flood plains.

ICLEI South Asia promotes mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in several cities in India and Bangladesh. In Kochi City, Kerala, India, a site-specific evaluation of the ecosystem services provided by mangroves was conducted. Based on the findings, an investment case for mangrove protection and restoration was developed.

ICLEI East Asia's example focuses on the Sponge City Programme that China initiated in 2014 to address urban water management and resilience. The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development selected 30 pilot cities to implement sustainable urban water management approaches to resolve urban waterlogging, water storage and discharge, water quality, and urban heat island effects. As the Programme matured, the pilot cities incorporated sponge city planning approaches into their long-term urban and sustainable development plans. The Programme brings nature back to cities by applying blue-green design concepts, which have been successfully mainstreamed as part of the city's spatial planning and urban design, changing the "concrete urbanisation" paradigm in China.