

Biodiver_City Project

Establishment of Interurban Biological Corridors

The challenge

The metropolitan region of San José (GAM for its acronym in Spanish) is the largest urban agglomeration and with the highest population density in Costa Rica. With an area of 2,044 km², which represents 4% of the total area of the territory, GAM hosts a population of approximately 2.6 million people, which is equivalent to more than half of the country's total population.

Despite being the center of the most important economic activities in Costa Rica, urban development is little controlled, which causes evident negative effects for the health and well-being of the urban population: floods, lack of recreational spaces and noise, water and air pollution.

In response to this problem, the interurban biological corridors (CBI) were born to create a large network of natural green areas. The Biodiver_City Project works with CBIs Río Torres and María Aguilar, located along important rivers of the GAM and surroundings.

The project works together with multiple relevant actors, such as the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE), the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) with its National Program of Biological Corridors (PNCB), local governments, ministries and public institutions related, local CBI committees, NGOs, urban initiatives and the private sector among others, in order to contribute to the transformation of San José into a green city in a participatory and inclusive manner, connect urban ecosystems and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants.

By order of	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) of Germany within the framework of the International Climate Initiative (ICI)
Region	Costa Rica
Counterpart	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE)
Duration	11.2018-10.2021

Objective

The initiative seeks that interurban biological corridors and the benefits that nature brings to urban life are considered in the planning and management of spaces in the GAM.

Key actors and beneficiaries

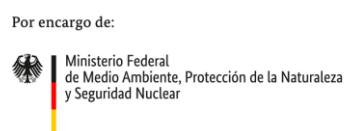
The project supports public institutions and key private actors to incorporate the benefits of nature in urban planning. The beneficiaries are the population groups in the GAM and especially those who live directly in the interurban biological corridors and who depend on their ecosystem services.



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Strategic axes

In order to contribute to green spaces and guarantee their benefits at an ecological, economic and social level for the habitants of the GAM, the project works in 3 components:

1. Strengthening capacities and framework conditions at the GAM level: It is necessary to adjust the planning and management instruments developed within the framework of the PNCB for rural biological corridors to an urban context. At the same time, it is important to link these instruments with existing urban planning tools.

For this, multi-stakeholder dialogue is promoted in order to develop strategies, guidelines, regulations and tools to integrate the concepts of biodiversity and benefits of nature for urban life.

2. Strengthening implementation and cooperation capacities at the 2 CBI level:

The project focuses on strengthening the planning, implementation and coordination capacities of the SINAC platforms, the 7 municipal administrations, local committees and other relevant actors in the selected interurban biological corridors.

3. Communication and knowledge management:

There is a lack of awareness of the value and importance of biodiversity for urban development and human well-being. The ecological integrity and conservation of ecosystem services of interurban biological corridors are also threatened by inhabitants who do not manage green spaces in a sustainable way.

Effective communication and knowledge management tools are required for the dissemination of these concepts and experiences, as well as the sensitization of decision makers and the urban population regarding important issues.

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Benefits of nature for urban life

Nature contributes in many ways to the people who live in the city. All cities depend on interconnected ecosystems, so it is important that nature and its benefits to human life are integrated into urban planning.

At a time when citizens demand more and more spaces that improve their quality of life, the Biodiver_City Project develops actions that involve multiple stakeholders to protect biodiversity in the GAM and preserve the natural systems on which we depend.

Some benefits that nature provides to urban life are: climate regulation, air quality, drinking water, prevention of erosion, pest control, energy, food, feeling of belonging, recreation and transit area for wildlife among others.



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