

INTERACT-BIO DIALOGUE SUMMARY: BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND METROPOLITAN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP II

Mainstreaming ecosystem services as a tool for urban sustainable development

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INTERACT-Bio
Integrated action on biodiversity



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1. Framing the context

Nature provides ecosystem services that are essential for the quality of life in cities. In this sense, learning about ecosystem services helps to understand and recognize the benefits of nature in urban areas, thus encouraging restoration and conservation of natural landscapes as well as the inclusion of biodiversity in local development and urban planning. Considering this, the city of Campinas, together with 19 other cities of the Metropolitan Region of Campinas (RMC), started a project called Reconecta-RMC, that sought to reconnect and restore important ecosystems fragments throughout the metropolitan region and protect its biodiversity.

Thereby, ICLEI, together with UFZ, facilitated a workshop entitled “Biodiversity, ecosystem services and metropolitan management” in Campinas. This dialogue is the first part of this set of events and had the objective to present ecosystem services - and its benefits - to decision makers and stakeholders.. The event hosted numerous local representatives from the municipalities, state and universities, as well as national agencies, like IBAMA and the Ministry for the Environment. The workshop’s objective was to work on and develop the four main points defined in the previous Reconecta-RMC event:

- Restoration of Permanent Protected Areas (APP)
- Animal protection
- Enhancement of existing Conservation Units (UC)
- Creation of new Protected Areas

This dialogue contributed to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets), which aims to raise awareness of biodiversity values and its integration into management, development and urban and territorial planning process. It is also aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), specifically with goal 11 - to make cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable — and with goals 14 and 15 - to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

2. Emerging themes & lessons learned

2.1. Degraded areas

Through the exercises, the workgroups were able to map out the priority ecosystem services and strategic activities for each country of the Metropolitan Region. During the activity they mapped public and private degraded areas and systematize the demand and efforts needed for the restoration of those ecosystems. The groups also identified the necessity to encourage alternative restoration techniques, such as implementation of agroforestry systems, as well as enhance inspections, employee training, environmental education and the establishment of dialogue with groups and organizations that already work on restoration.



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2.1. Incentives and tools

In order to achieve the goals on restoration of degraded areas, a few key points were brought up during the dialogue. One of them was the payment for environmental services, an important tool to stimulate people to preserve and restore green areas and that can be applied both in urban and rural environments.

To implement this policy it is necessary to establish which activities will be considered, who are the relevant actors and financiers and how will be defined the priority areas. There are actors that can work on monitoring those areas, such as universities and public agencies, like EMBRAPA, ANA and SMA-SP. Also there are actors who can provide financial aid, such as SABESP, SANASA and Fundos de Meio Ambiente.

Other key point is about how to provide enough material and seedlings for the restoration projects. It was identified the necessity to include local plant nurseries in the action plan and guarantee that they can cooperate with one another to meet the demand of the actions. There was also the suggestion to include farmers and prison complexes in the production and maintenance of seedlings.

2.2. Taking action

The workshop allowed participants to better understand the current situation and the possibilities of each municipality. After the exercises, the groups were able to define priority areas and key points that can act as a starting point for including biodiversity in the planning processes.

Together with the results from the prior workshop held in June 2017, this event provided enough information to design a connectivity area map for the Metropolitan Region of Campinas. It was also possible to delimit guidelines for implementing that connectivity area, focusing on the restoration and conservation of ecosystems and the cooperation between local, regional and national actors.

2.3. How can ICLEI help to take action?

The main difficulties addressed were the lack of systematized information and databases that stored information about geography and biodiversity. Communication and cooperation between the different actors could also be improved.

Therefore, ICLEI can work to improve cooperation between actors and assist the connection among cities and regional leaders. The organization can also support with technical information to assist the decision makers. Finally, ICLEI is able to give financial support for demonstrative projects, to show that it is economically possible to include biodiversity into planning and development.



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3. Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implications

Going forward, the dialogue and the points raised can be viewed through the Post-2020 lens, specifically in point 5 of ICLEI's 10 Point Framework, which promotes the creation of an enabling environment that supports the mainstreaming of the multiple social and health benefits of nature at the local and subnational levels to improve the quality of life and resilience of communities, enhance social cohesion and lead to financial benefits and savings for both individuals and governments. In addition, Point 3 promotes the creation of an enabling environment for significantly increased private sector investment and development aid in nature-based solutions at local and subnational levels, as they are closer to the mainstreaming sectors and best positioned to build and sustain functional and resilient ecosystems and urban-rural linkages. In this regard, both points highlight the necessity for the issues raised in this dialogue to be addressed, as their resolution can prove to be hugely beneficial to Brazil and the Post-2020 agenda.

INTERACT-Bio project at a glance

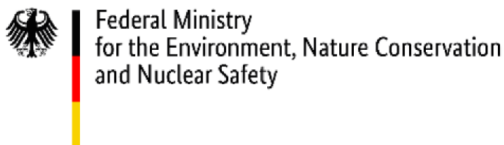
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Local Governments
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