

INTERACT-BIO DIALOGUE SUMMARY: CONNECTIVITY AREA OF CAMPINAS

Communicating results of cooperation between different actors

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INTERACT-Bio
Integrated action on biodiversity



1. Framing the context

In 2017, the city of Campinas has envisioned the Reconecta-RMC, a program that aims to create a connectivity area in its Metropolitan Region by joining important ecosystem fragments, thus protecting local biodiversity, promoting gene flow, enhancing ecosystem services and securing water and food supply. With the support of ICLEI, through the interact-Bio project, the bodies of different government spheres of the 20 cities in the region, plus their civil representatives, prepared an Action Plan to implement the connectivity area.

The Action Plan, its methodology and strategies were developed considering six pillars: urban afforestation, linear parks, ecological corridors, wildlife, regulation and communication. Each pillar has goals and objectives that are directly linked to at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reinforcing the regional commitment to the Global Agenda.

After four years working together to create this Action Plan, ICLEI organized a webinar to officially launch and publicize the document that will work as a guideline for the metropolitan region. The event was attended by the mayor of Campinas, representatives from the cities, Agemcamp (Campinas Metropolitan Agency), state and national agencies, such as State Secretary of Infrastructure and Environment and Ministry of Environment, as well as WRI as ICLEI partner institution. It was also streamed on Youtube, therefore many people and civil organizations could attend remotely.

This dialogue contributes directly to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets), which seeks to promote awareness of biodiversity values and integration into development and planning processes. It is also aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically with goal 6 - to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation by restoring natural habitats and regulating human settlements-, goal 11 - to make cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable-, goal 12 - to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns by implementing agroforestry initiatives-, goals 14 and 15 - to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems-, and goal 17 - to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



Mayor of Campinas, Dário Saadi, signing a term of commitment to work towards the success of the Action Plan for implementing the connectivity area in the RMC

2. Emerging themes & lessons learned

2.1. Plan of Action for implementing the Connectivity Area

A brief history about the creation of the Action Plan was presented, reinforcing the fact that it was a collaborative project that had participation of all city governments, state and national representatives, as well as universities and civil society to decide the priority areas and ecosystem services of interest that would be part of the Connectivity Area. Another important aspect is that the Connectivity Area was integrated into RMC Integrated Urban Development Plan (PDUI, in portuguese) that is being elaborated, since it is considered a strategic area for sustainable development of the metropolitan region.

The methodology for implementation was also presented during the event. The strategies for implementing the Connectivity Area are supported by six pillars, each of which aligns with at least one of the SDGs:

- Urban forestry: considered a key-aspect for connecting green areas within the city and adjacent areas.
- Linear parks around water flows: aims to protect rivers from erosion and prevent floods in surrounding areas.
- The ecological corridors aim to connect habitat fragments, enabling genetic flow and animal migration.
- The pillar about wildlife seeks to provide better living condition for wild animals in urban areas.
- Regulation objective is to guarantee legal support for the implementation of the Plan.
- Finally, the communication pillar works toward enhancing the coordination and cooperation between all actors and representatives involved in the implementation of the connectivity area.

2.2. Cooperation and innovation

Most speeches featured in the event mentioned the importance of regional articulation promoted by local governments for restoring ecosystems and preserving biodiversity. It is known that by protecting green areas is possible to mitigate problems that cities usually needs to deal with, such as floods, water shortages and other climate issues that has negative effect on human welfare. Protecting green areas and promoting connectivity between fragments also benefits biodiversity by enabling genetic flow among wild populations. Therefore, Campinas and the metropolitan area cities took an important step to enhance people's wellbeing as well as guarantee the preservation of ecosystems and regional biodiversity..

Other important theme mentioned was the cities will to work for biodiversity and incorporate innovative projects and actions to achieve their goals. This open minded attitude enhanced the relation and partnership between the actors involved in the process and allowed the use of a methodology that analyses the best cost-benefit options, thus improving the efficiency of the actions toward the implementation of the connectivity area.

2.3. Multiplier effect

The Metropolitan Region of Campinas has been a pioneer in Brazil when it comes to integrating biodiversity into planning and development processes. Back in 2016, Campinas was the first city to create a Municipal Plan for Environment (Plano Municipal do Verde). Later, in 2017, Campinas reached out for neighbor cities in order to expand the initiative to the metropolitan region, thus creating the program Reconecta-RMC. The positive impact created by this regional cooperation and the start of the implementation of the connectivity area can be seen as an example and inspiration for other cities and metropolitan regions to adopt actions toward integrating biodiversity into metropolitan management.

2.4. How can ICLEI help to take action?

The plan is the guideline for the implementation of the Connectivity Area in the RMC. Therefore, it is fundamental to track the progress of the implementation of the connectivity area in Campinas and the other metropolitan area cities. Also, ICLEI can offer technical support to the cities as they need. As already stated, this plan can only work through cooperation, and ICLEI can also take part in promoting dialogues and other events, where representatives and local actors can exchange knowledge and share solutions that they developed during the execution of the plan.

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

Full title: Integrated subnational action for biodiversity: Supporting implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans through the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives across city-regions

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