

INTERACT-BIO DIALOGUE SUMMARY: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND STAKEHOLDERS

Mainstreaming Nature-based Entrepreneurship as tool to achieve the potentials of Nature-based Solutions



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INTERACT-Bio
Integrated action on biodiversity



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1. Framing the context

In the first semester of 2020, the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications (MCTIC), the Center for Management and Strategic Studies (CGEE) and co-created by the European Union-Brazil Sector Dialogues project promoted the third edition of the International Seminar on Nature-based Solutions, focusing on the theme “The challenge of water and the cities”. The event had the objective to promote discussions on how to face the urban challenges using NbS and improve resilience and quality of life in cities. The seminar reunited representatives of various countries as well as many local and regional leaders, like mayors and governors. Academics, Non-Governmental Organizations and the private sector were also present.

For this dialogue, ICLEI participated in a panel entitled “Women Focused on Nature-based Solutions”, showcasing how INTERACT-Bio contributed to include the narrative of NbS on urban planning mechanisms and also highlighting the role of women in the development of this scenario. There was also a workshop entitled “Nature-based Entrepreneurship in Brazil”, facilitated in partnership with the Connecting Nature project, whose objective was to help small and medium businesses that work with NbS to better understand their role in supporting cities to achieve their social, economic and environmental potential.

This dialogue contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets), which seeks 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 —, 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.

2. Emerging themes

2.1. Women Focused on Nature-based Solutions

The panel focused on showcasing the work done by women in Brazil and around the world. For this goal, five specialists were invited to present their work for mainstreaming NbS in the Brazilian context. Here, ICLEI was able to introduce the INTERACT-Bio project and how it contributed to include the NbS on urban management

and planning, as well as highlight the role of women in the development of this scenario. The panel aimed to promote discussions on how to face urban challenges through solutions from nature, in search of better quality of life and climate resilience.



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2.2. Nature-based Entrepreneurship in Brazil

2.2.1. Workshops' highlights

The session started with an introduction of NbS, its different types and the importance of talking about entrepreneurship and NbS. Next, the concept of Nature-based Entrepreneurship (NbE) was presented and followed by a brief discussion about the challenges faced and the drivers by NbE in Brazil. Then, a video about NbS cluster in Malaga, Spain, was presented. Malaga experiences via the cluster with increasing knowledge and supporting local NbE, showcasing solutions to the public and private sectors, supporting collaboration and networking opened a new discussion and reflection on a potential Brazilian NbE Cluster, showing that there is interest for such a cluster and recognition of its potential in the region.

During the workshop CGEE introduced the Innovative Observatory for Sustainable Cities (OICS). Through a virtual platform, The OICS seeks to map and disseminate innovative urban solutions, contextualized to the national territory. In this sense, NbS are highlighted in the observatory's research.

2.2.2. Implementation barriers

During the discussion, the participants pointed out a few barrier for implementing NbS. The first was the absence of research materials in undergraduate and graduate courses, thus impacting in the lack of professionals and experts in the themes. Consequently, there is also a lack in specialized companies to offer these products/ services as well as a lack of monitoring techniques.

Another reason that impacts negatively the progress of the implementation of NbS is the absence of a legal incentive and regulatory NbS framework. Without proper legal measures to encourage and promote alternative solution, the pursuit for profit to the detriment of nature will continue to be a standard in businesses. The lack of public inclusion to discuss the topic and the generated impacts was also mentioned as a barrier.

2.3. Partnership with CGEE

The dialogue ended with the announcement of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the intention of establishing a collaboration among ICLEI European Secretariat, ICLEI South American Secretariat and the Center for Strategic Studies and Management (CGEE). The purpose was to set a common framework for cooperation amongst the parties to jointly promote NbS. The institutions seeked to provide governments, civil society and enterprises the support to create a more sustainable and resilient urban future.

2.4. How can ICLEI help to take action?

The current climate crisis opens up new opportunities for implementing NbS. With new projects being implemented, we will be able to evaluate NbS impacts and benefits in the long-term. This will also raise the amount of qualified information and guidance regarding NbS, enabling the promotion and upscaling its implementation in the Brazilian context.

This dialogue was also a great opportunity for strengthening bonds with the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication (MSTIC), as well as showcasing the project's goals and main deliveries to the international public. It also enabled ICLEI to increase awareness of NbEs and their economic, social and ecological values.



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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

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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