



UN-HABITAT

Agenda item 9:

Status of the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/4 on biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning

Executive Board of UN-Habitat: Second session for the year 2024
4 to 6 December 2024

Introduction

- **Objective:** Update on operational paragraphs 6 and 7 of Resolution 2/4, addressing:
 - Links between biodiverse and resilient cities and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).
 - Status of the toolkit for urban development promoting biodiversity and resilience.
- **Challenges:** Implementation hindered by limited funding.

Thematic Review

- **Key Issues:** Urban expansion leads to significant biodiversity loss, with 290,000 km² of natural habitat projected to be lost by 2030.
- **Trends:**
 - Urban land consumption outpaces population growth.
 - Loss of biodiversity threatens 44% of global GDP in cities.
 - All GBF targets are off track.
- **Solutions:** Integrating peri-urban preservation, ecological corridors, and ecosystem-based approaches is critical.

Status of OP6: Links to the New Urban Agenda

Alignment with NUA

- Focus on biodiversity preservation/conservation and ecosystem services to deliver NUA's transformative commitments, including preventing sprawl and the loss of fragile ecosystems
- Mainstream global frameworks and UN resolutions

Progress

- Development of the 'BiodiverCities' project in collaboration with CAF for Mesoamerica
- Co-organized and participated in the biodiversity webinar series of the Environmental Management Group
- Corporate brochure for COP16 Biodiversity on Urban Biodiversity and Hotspot Stoplight

Going forward

- Discussions with EMG/UNEP underway on a new Issue Management Group on Biodiversity subtopic on land use change

Status of OP7: Toolkit for Biodiverse and Resilient Cities

Challenges

- Need for spatial tools to anticipate and guide urban growth – especially in resource-constrained areas
- Assigning biodiversity value and promoting cross-jurisdiction cooperation

Progress

- **Hotspot Spotlight Tool:** tested in 4 metropolitan regions and ground-truthing in 7 high-risk municipalities of San Jose Metro Area
- **City-Wide Public Space Assessment Tool:** piloted in 2 municipalities in San José Metro Area and new biodiversity layer under development
- **Advocacy: EMG, CBD COP16 and WUF12** promote biodiversity in urban contexts.

Going forward

- **Knowledge Products:**
 - Nature-Based Solutions Toolkit
 - Urban-Rural Linkages Primer (UNCCD COP16)
- **Hotspot Spotlight:** Integration with other UN-Habitat planning tools: Our City Plans & SDG Cities Resource mobilization for Phase II

Status of OP7: Toolkit for Biodiverse and Resilient Cities

Next steps for Hotspot Stoplight - Phase II

- **Ongoing resource mobilization:**
 - Brazil: State of RJ (25 municipalities), collaboration with MMA (MoU) and GIZ Brazil on the Green and Resilient Cities Programme (potential 38 metro areas), T18 Development Account proposal (focused on analysing and developing capacity in affected municipalities in RS and Asunción, Paraguay)
 - Discussions with SDG Cities in applying the tool in Finland – 10 municipalities participants of the declaration of the cities to halt nature loss and enhance biodiversity
 - Discussion with GEF into incorporating into their Knowledge Platform
- **Deepening and Scaling-up:** considerations of development assessments at regional level, including resource sheds and ecological corridors

Thank you!

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