



INTERACT-Bio is a four-year project, running from 2017 to 2020 and designed to improve the utilization and management of nature within fast-growing cities and the regions surrounding them. It aims to provide expanding urban communities in the Global South with tools for managing nature-based solutions so that they can enjoy the associated long-term benefits.

The project will enable governments at all levels – from local to national – to integrate their efforts for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into core subnational government functions, such as spatial planning, land-use management, local economic development and infrastructure design. The various project interventions will also allow cities to report specifically in line with their Local and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and thereby support the attainment of global aspirations such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The project will support city-regions to understand and unlock the potential of nature to provide essential services and new or enhanced economic opportunities, within their specific local context, while simultaneously protecting and enhancing the biodiversity and ecosystems on which these services and opportunities depend. In so doing, these actions will support the participating city-regions in pursuing a more resilient and sustainable development path.

INTERACT-Bio is being implemented in **Brazil, India** and **Tanzania**.

INTERACT-Bio was launched at CBD COP 13 in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016, and progress on the project will be showcased at the upcoming CBD COP 14 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November this year. Final outcomes of the project will be communicated at CBD COP 15, to be held in Beijing, China, in 2020.



Download our 'Value of Nature in Urban Life' poster, an illustrated poster showing the many diverse gifts nature provides to people in cities: www.cbc.iclei.org/value-nature-urban-life

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INTERACT-Bio

BRAZIL



Integrating nature into metropolitan regional planning

The INTERACT-Bio project in Brazil is already successfully achieving one of its core missions: to support city-regions in applying an ecosystem services approach when undertaking regional planning.

In **Campinas**, INTERACT-Bio has found a favorable political environment to support the preparation and implementation of a multifunctional connectivity area comprising all 20 municipalities within the metropolitan region. This is being done through an already established program, *Reconecta RMC*, which aims to recover and conserve regional fauna and flora through ecological corridors.

In a series of technical workshops, conferences and meetings organized in partnership with ICLEI, Campinas has offered contributions to the discussions on the *Integrated Urban Development Plan* (PDUI, in Portuguese), the regional urban development strategy which is currently being prepared. A methodological notebook, which supports the prioritization of areas for biodiversity connectivity and the implementation of corridors according to the ecosystem services they offer, along with other technical products, such as maps, have been accepted as inputs for the development of the Plan.

The metropolitan region of **Belo Horizonte**, which comprises 34 municipalities, has selected – as its intervention concept for the project – the recovery of degraded green areas through the implementation of agroecological systems, enhancing food security, while connecting development planning to nature. Last May, during the National Meeting of Agroecology, which took place in the city, ICLEI signed a cooperation protocol in order to enhance agroecology in the metropolitan area of Belo Horizonte.

A regional workshop and seminar, *Nature-based Solutions and Urban Biodiversity*, engaged local representatives from over 20 municipalities in **Londrina** to discuss their priorities. The focus was on water

and how to adapt to water-related extreme events, such as floods and erosion.

All three Brazilian city-regions within INTERACT-Bio have also joined the recently launched *CitiesWithNature* initiative, demonstrating their leading role in mainstreaming nature into their development strategies.



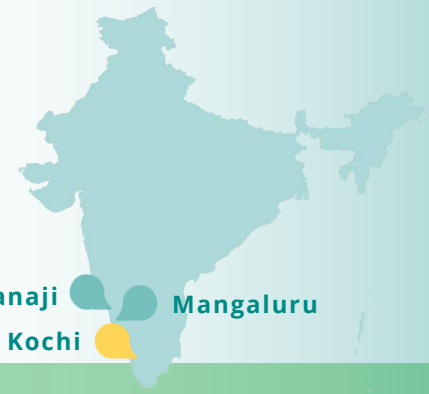
Environment Secretary of Londrina, Roberta Queiroz, presents during the opening session of the *Nature-based Solutions and Urban Biodiversity* regional workshop, alongside Mayor Marcelo Belinati.

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INTERACT-Bio

INDIA



Capacity building and high-level support strengthening project outcomes

Panaji
Kochi
Mangaluru

With wide-ranging high-level support for the project and extensive awareness raising and capacity building, INTERACT-Bio is achieving tangible outcomes in India.

The INTERACT-Bio project in India is being implemented in the cities of **Kochi, Panaji** and **Mangaluru**, which were selected in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India. In order to ensure smooth implementation, the MoEFCC has established a project steering committee, headed by the Additional Secretary of the Ministry. This committee also has representatives from the State Biodiversity Boards of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa, City Corporations of Kochi, Panaji and Mangaluru, National Biodiversity Authority and ICLEI South Asia.

In the past year, extensive awareness raising and capacity building activities have been carried out in Kochi. One-to-one interactions with a wide array of stakeholders, including city officials, city councillors, researchers, NGOs, scientists and the media, have been undertaken to understand the existing status of natural resources and the ecosystem services provided by the same. The findings from these discussions were presented in a workshop where all stakeholders participated. This workshop led to the identification of the critical ecosystems in Kochi – mangroves and back waters. An ecosystem service scoping analysis of these ecosystems has also been carried out.

The cities of Panaji and Mangaluru have also been participating in the project, with the City Corporation of Panaji and State Biodiversity Board of Goa taking part in the workshops organized in Kochi. Natural asset maps for these two cities have also been developed, along with an assessment of the baseline situation carried out through the detailed scoping report.

With the aim of promoting biodiversity conservation among schools in Kochi, awareness raising activities, including a

lecture series, painting competition and quiz competition, have been carried out with school children. These have been very well received by the both the students and teachers. A pictorial handbook of trees of Subhash Bose Park in Kochi has been prepared to communicate the significance of biodiversity to citizens.

Understanding the significance of urban biodiversity, Kochi Municipal Corporation has made budgetary provisions (approximately INR 220 million or c.a. € 2.7 million) for several initiatives on biodiversity conservation in their annual budget for 2018-19. Activities planned include development of an action plan for Vembanaad Lake and the back waters, supporting conservation of mangroves, promoting roof top gardens, development of a *Peoples' Biodiversity Register and City Biodiversity Index*, and establishment of butterfly gardens in selected schools within the city.



Stakeholders participating in group activities to identify critical ecosystems in Kochi.

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INTERACT-Bio

TANZANIA



Scoping and mapping to locate and protect nature's benefits

The INTERACT-Bio project team has completed technical scoping in Tanzania and co-produced a value-adding methodology and tool that can help cities make informed decisions about managing and investing in green open space and green and blue infrastructure, as well as guide land use and development planning.

During February 2018, the Tanzania INTERACT-Bio team (ICLEI and UFZ) completed a technical scoping exercise with the project cities, **Dar es Salaam**, **Moshi** and **Arusha**. Officials from each of these cities identified natural assets in their city and the associated ecosystem services, and then linked these to prioritized environmental issues. In this way, it is possible to investigate how nature-based solutions can be used to solve urban problems.

Arusha prioritized issues related to flooding of settlements, poor water quality and insufficient sewerage capacity in informal areas. Ecosystem services that could mitigate these problems were identified as moderation of extreme events; and erosion prevention and maintenance of soil fertility (mainly outside the city).

Moshi identified water supply and catchment issues, water pollution associated with agriculture, air pollution and the need for improved green space management as their biggest environmental problems.

During technical scoping, Dar es Salaam City prioritized waste, coastal issues and the need for more strategic planning of green open space. The latter gave rise to the idea of producing a *Thematic Atlas for Dar es Salaam*. This atlas addresses a number of major urban environmental themes, such as urban heat, the need for improved green space planning and management, flooding, nature-based livelihoods, air quality and urban biodiversity. Each theme is represented on a map showing the reality for Dar es Salaam.

Each map is accompanied by a brief interpretation and discussion of the theme at the global and city scale, as well as policy recommendations, crafted with significant input from city officials. All information is based on current scientific literature combined with insights from city officials and other stakeholders, including local NGOs, universities and consultants. The atlas will be printed towards the end of August 2018 and distributed to various government departments so as to promote broader cross-sector co-operation and guide implementation of sustainability measures in the city-region.



Discussing the thematic atlas and coastal management planning with planning official, Mr. Said Swalehe, from Kigamboni Municipality in Dar es Salaam.

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