

C40 URBAN NATURE ACCELERATOR

**How cities are becoming
greener and more resilient**

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2023 Report

**C40
CITIES**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was created in collaboration with officials in the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator signatory cities, C40 funders, and C40 staff. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the report and the actions that are driving forward immediate and inclusive climate solutions to achieve the commitments of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator. For further information on the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, please check out the accelerator [webpage](#).

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FOREWORD

Much has changed since the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator was launched in 2021 to make cities greener, healthier and more resilient, as many C40 cities re-emerged from COVID-19 lockdowns. Unfortunately, cities worldwide have experienced increasing impacts of climate breakdown. Alarming, 2023 was the hottest year on record, with record-breaking heat waves in cities on every continent, including Chennai, Melbourne, Milan, Phoenix, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, and Sydney. Meanwhile, record-breaking rainfall and significant storms hit cities like Buenos Aires, Delhi, Dhaka, eThekweni, Guadalajara, Quito, and Sydney. On a positive note, there was a landmark global commitment to protect and enhance nature through the ratification of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022, which includes a target to increase nature in cities.

We have seen huge progress from signatory cities towards the targets of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator in the last two years. As illustrated in this report, cities are making major investments to expand nature and increase access for residents. Quezon City has added 63 new parks since joining the accelerator in 2021, while Guadalajara opened 28 new urban gardens in 2023. Athens has incorporated the ambitious targets of the accelerator into its Climate Action Plan, and cities globally including Dhaka North, Freetown and Delhi are embarking on ambitious tree planting initiatives and generating good green jobs in the process. In Bogotá alone, 60,653 jobs were created in relation to nature-based interventions. Many cities, such as Barcelona, Toronto, and

Paris, are recognising the pivotal role of balanced ecosystems in adapting to the changing climate and actively working to strengthen biodiversity. Their strategies engage communities in conservation efforts and promote a collective and shared responsibility for urban nature.

While challenges persist, the innovative approaches and collaborative initiatives showcased by the signatory cities demonstrate their resilience and determination to lead the way towards a greener, more sustainable future. I want to thank these mayors and their cities for their leadership and commitment to increase and enhance nature in their communities.

I am proud of how C40 has supported cities to achieve these commitments. Since this Accelerator was launched, we have convened city officials in over 20 in-person or virtual workshops to share best practices, discuss common challenges, and seek peer review of their work. We have supported cities to prepare projects to be funded and financed. We have produced research and case studies on urban rewilding and launched pilots for cities to explore 15-minute city projects and policies to help make nature accessible to all.

I congratulate signatory cities on their exciting, creative work to build resilience through nature, and look forward to seeing how city efforts expand and develop in the future.

Mark Watts
Executive Director of C40

INTRODUCTION

As cities rapidly expand worldwide, the pressure on the natural environment intensifies. By 2050, over 800 million people will be at risk of sea level rise, over 650 million people will be at risk of lack of water security, and 1.6 billion city residents will face extreme heat. Insufficient green and blue spaces and poor urban planning put cities at risk of becoming ecological deserts, where quality of life is reduced, and ecosystems are at threat. Nature serves as crucial infrastructure, safeguarding cities from climate hazards and promoting the physical and mental health of residents. Evidence shows that equitable access to nature provides significant and measurable benefits to both people and the environment, protects public health, and builds more inclusive economies. Roughly half of the world's annual GDP – US\$ 44 trillion – is moderately or highly dependent on nature. In addition, 395 million jobs could be created by 2030 through nature-based investments. Clearly, the socio-economic advantages of prioritising nature are significant.

The C40 Urban Nature Accelerator was launched in 2021 to help mayors set meaningful targets to increase and enhance nature in their cities, to reduce climate risk and vulnerability, support wider ecosystem services, and make green and blue space equitably distributed and publicly accessible. Since 2021, 41 cities have committed to making their cities greener and more climate resilient. This entails defining locally appropriate solutions and understanding that accessible, inclusive green and blue areas are key components of sustainable and successful urban

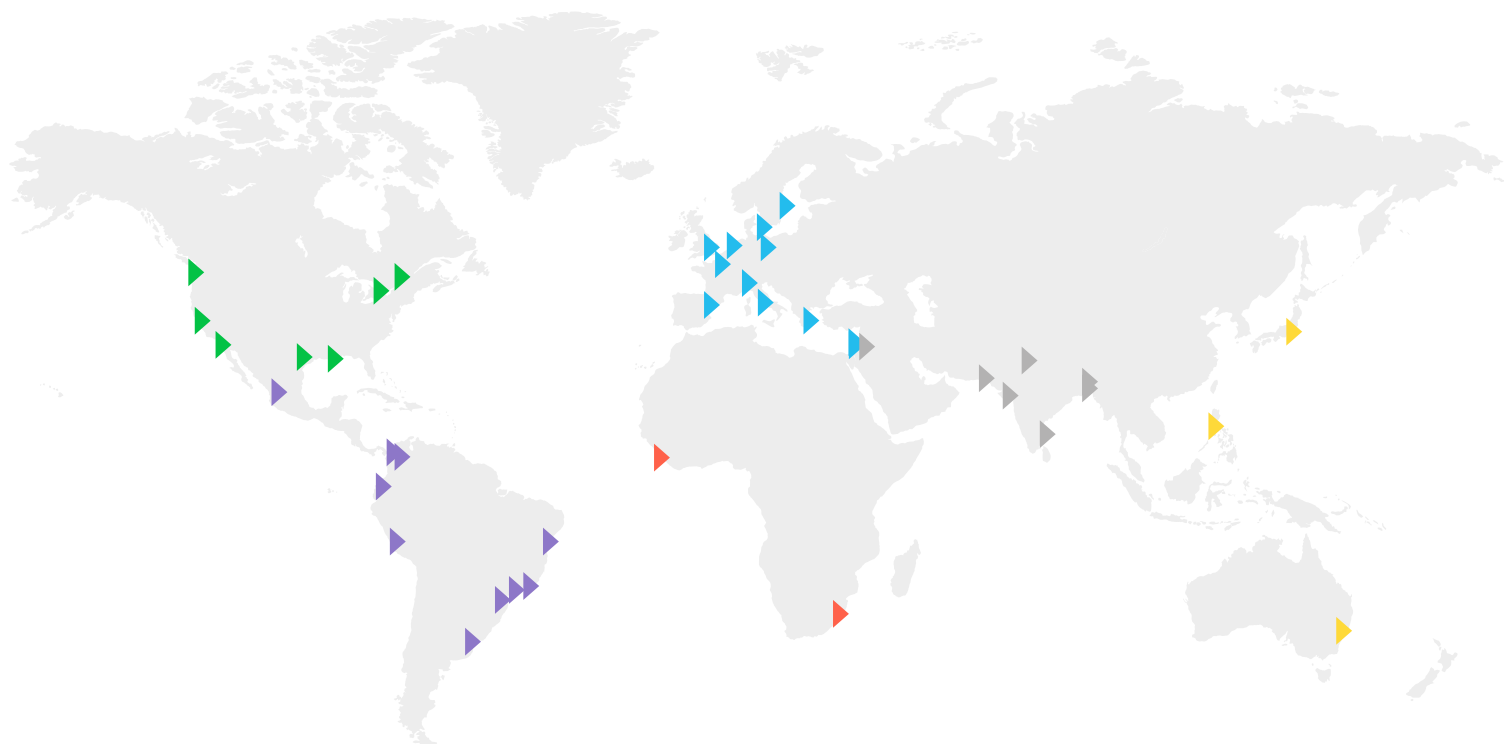
planning. C40 cities are demonstrating that green spaces and nature-based infrastructure play a vital role in tackling the effects of climate breakdown and promoting physical and mental health. However, as the climate crisis escalates, more needs to be done.

Within two years of signing the accelerator, cities committed to:

- Make nature goals public
- Develop support and skills building programmes for green jobs
- Develop a process for involving marginalised communities
- Map current and expected climate risks and vulnerability
- Conduct gap analyses and mapping to show where new greening is needed and opportunities for existing green spaces
- Accelerate action to address governance barriers to implementation
- Mobilise access to investments and resources that support the accelerator targets
- Publicly report progress

This report provides a snapshot of the progress 34 of the 41 signatory cities have made since they joined the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, and summarises next steps planned towards providing healthy and sustainable living environments for all.

SIGNATORIES



- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| ▶ Amman | ▶ Dhaka North | ▶ Milan | ▶ San Francisco |
| ▶ Austin | ▶ Dhaka South | ▶ Montréal | ▶ São Paulo |
| ▶ Athens | ▶ eThekwni | ▶ Mumbai | ▶ Seattle |
| ▶ Barcelona | ▶ Freetown | ▶ New Orleans | ▶ Stockholm |
| ▶ Berlin | ▶ Guadalajara | ▶ Paris | ▶ Sydney |
| ▶ Bogotá | ▶ Haifa | ▶ Quezon City | ▶ Tel Aviv-Yafo |
| ▶ Buenos Aires | ▶ Karachi | ▶ Quito | ▶ Tokyo |
| ▶ Chennai | ▶ Lima | ▶ Rio de Janeiro | ▶ Toronto |
| ▶ Copenhagen | ▶ London | ▶ Rome | |
| ▶ Curitiba | ▶ Los Angeles | ▶ Rotterdam | |
| ▶ Delhi NCT | ▶ Medellín | ▶ Salvador | |

PROGRESS OVERVIEW

Two years on from the launch of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, there are now 41 signatory cities which pledged to achieve quantitative targets by 2030, by either:

PATHWAY 1:

Amount of Nature

Increase the overall amount of nature to reach **30-40%** of the total built-up city surface area

PATHWAY 2:

Access to Nature

Ensure **70%** of the city population has access to a green or blue space within 15 minutes

Signatories also agreed to meet certain commitments within two and five years of signing. This report takes stock of where cities are in their journey to meet the 2030 targets and explores the ways cities have met their two-year commitments.

For each pathway, around half of signatory cities have already met their 2030 targets. Some cities (around ten) have not been able to measure and report on the quantitative targets. One clear challenge cities face is in monitoring and evaluating the amount of and distribution of nature in their cities. Despite this and other challenges, most cities met their commitments in the last two years, including Athens, which embedded the accelerator targets into their climate action plan; and Delhi NCT, which aims to raise green cover from 23% to 25% in two years.

Over half of the cities have established or expanded tree planting programmes that engage with residents to plant trees in their communities, either through volunteers or through job training programmes that provide planting skills. Through Bogotá's *Mujeres que Reverdecen* (Women Who Re-Green) programme, over 20,000 people have been trained in urban agriculture since 2021, and over 60,000 people have been employed in jobs linked to adaptation, with a focus on women of diverse backgrounds including heads

of households, unemployed young women, Black, Indigenous and women of colour, survivors of violence, carers, elderly and LGBTQIA+ women.

Beyond the two year commitments, cities made substantial investments in nature, particularly through innovative approaches. Quezon City is boldly advancing urban farming with its University Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation, experimenting with various urban farming models suitable for different parts of the city. Cities have also dedicated or secured new funding for nature; Copenhagen and London committed around US\$ 7 million each for biodiversity projects, and San Francisco secured US\$ 14 million for tree planting and climate resilience projects. Cities worldwide embedded nature targets and goals into local climate action plans, strategies, and master planning processes. Cities including Toronto, Los Angeles and Lima passed new legislation or updated existing legislation to require nature in new development or protect or enhance local ecosystems.

However, cities face challenges in dedicating funds to nature and persuading national or multilateral funds to support nature-based solutions. Cities are also searching for the best ways to set nature targets, link outputs with outcomes, and monitor and evaluate progress. Finding space for nature when the availability of land is scarce, and competition is high is a barrier. Cities have found that maintaining nature is difficult, both in terms of ensuring sustained funding for the labour and time required, and the availability of water for nature.

C40 is looking forward to working alongside and supporting these 41 cities over the coming years to find ways to overcome these challenges to increase and enhance nature that reduces climate risk and vulnerability, supports wider ecosystem services, and is equitably distributed and publicly accessible, by 2030.

DATA ANALYSIS

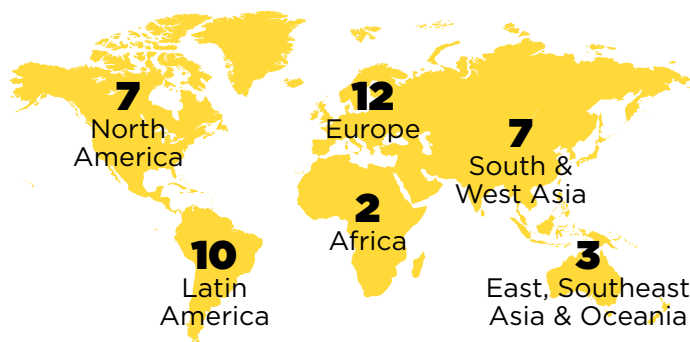
Total number of signatory cities



41

Signatory cities have committed to the Urban Nature Accelerator

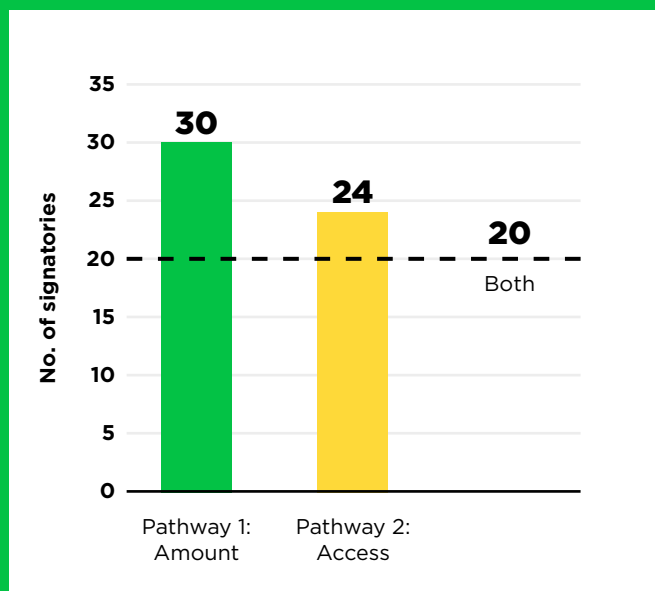
Number of signatory cities by region



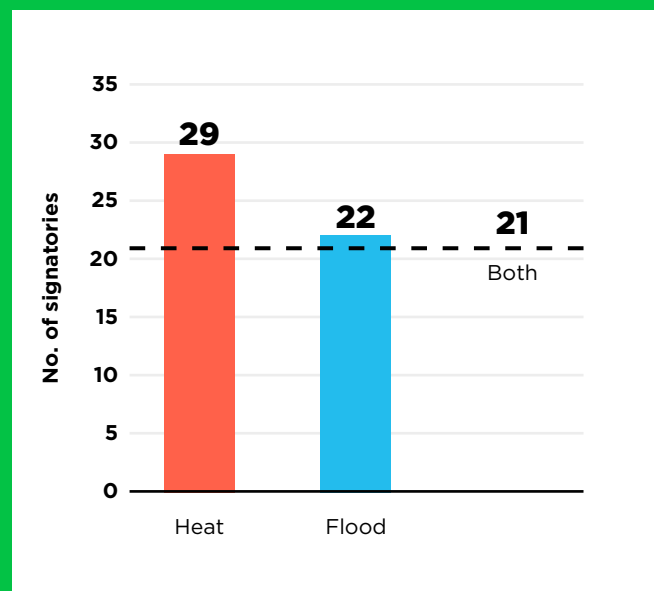
Number of signatory cities reporting on this cycle: 34

During this reporting cycle, cities reported quantitatively and qualitatively on their progress to become greener and more resilient. Some cities could not provide quantitative data. However, the information collected shows a wide array of actions implemented for the achievement of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator commitments and targets.

► Signatories per pathway

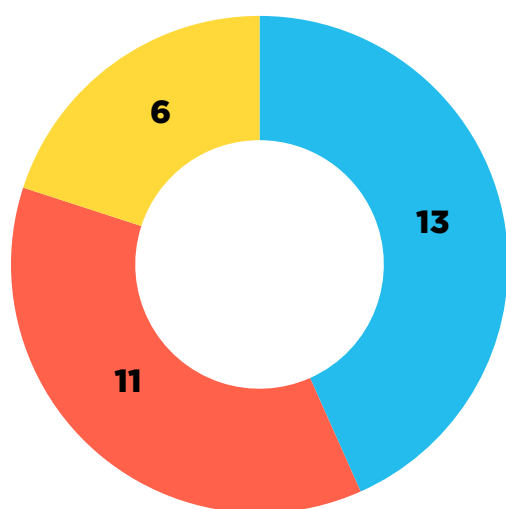


► Pathway 1: Number of cities per risk focus



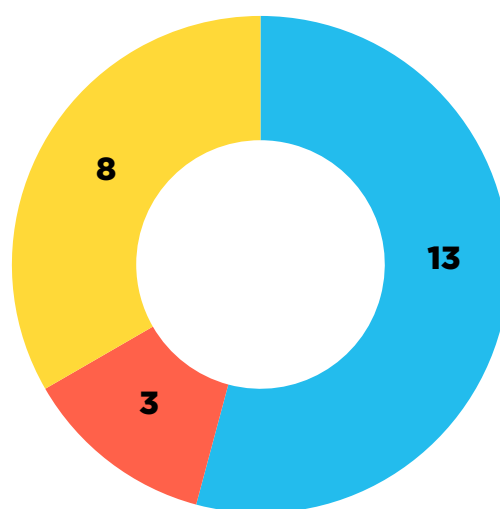
Nearly 60% of cities chose to pursue both pathways, but pathway 1 was the most popular, with 83% of cities choosing to focus on increasing the total cover of green and blue space. Most signatory cities identified both heat and flooding as main climate drivers for their work on nature.

► Pathway 1 achievement status



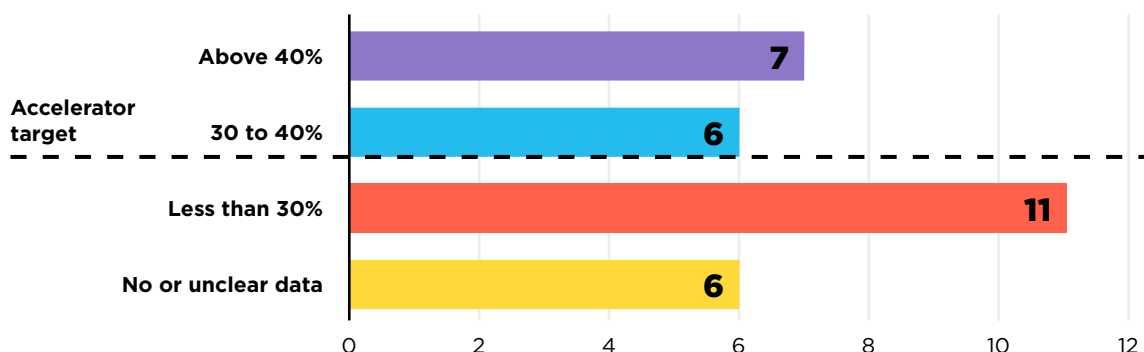
- ▶ Meeting pathway 1
- ▶ Not yet meeting pathway 1
- ▶ No or unclear data shared

► Pathway 2 achievement status

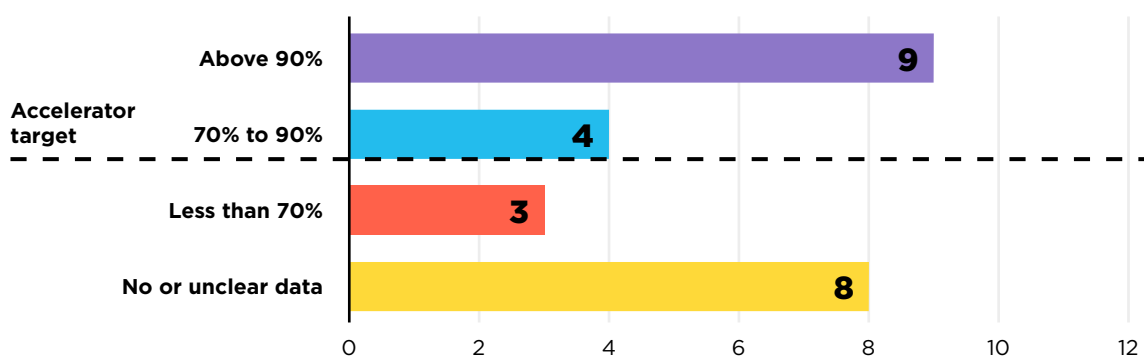


- ▶ Meeting pathway 2
- ▶ Not yet meeting pathway 2
- ▶ No or unclear data shared

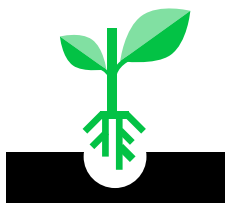
► Pathway 1 signatories vs amount of nature of the total built-up city surface area



► Pathway 2 signatories vs percentage of population with access to a fit-for-purpose green or blue public space within 15 minutes or less



Key actions cities are taking to become greener and more resilient



21

UNA signatory cities have implemented tree planting or biodiversity programmes, many involving local communities.

Guadalajara is working towards being Mexico's 'tree city' and is seriously investing in tree planting. In 2022 and 2023, they planted over 45,000 trees in areas that lack urban nature or that are the hottest, and have introduced 20 new green corridors, which add new trees, greenery and cycle lands to public roadways. And through urban acupuncture they are encouraging residents to plant trees on their own properties.



13

UNA signatories have implemented major projects such as parks, green corridors and other interventions to strengthen biodiversity and urban greening.

Quezon City developed a total of 63 parks between 2021 and 2023. In addition, the Parks Development and Administration Department is targeting the development of 11 urban green corridors along waterways, two of which have already been completed and one, the Madison Linear Park, is under development.



14

UNA signatory cities have updated their local plans and development strategies, and/or have delivered biodiversity strategies to enhance the quality and quantity of nature in their urban areas.

In 2022, Milan adopted the 'Air and Climate Plan (PAC)'. In order to improve resilience against heat and flooding, the plan promotes the implementation of several actions, including depaving areas, increasing green areas, planting trees and establishing nature-based solutions (NBS) in public spaces and schools.



9

UNA signatory cities have developed programmes leading to the creation of green jobs that relate to urban nature.

As part of developing Toronto's Green Streets programme, the City of Toronto has partnered with two local Employment Social Enterprises to hire and train individuals from local Neighbourhood Improvement Areas or those experiencing barriers to employment, for the maintenance of bioswales, pollinator gardens and other green spaces that are critical to increase the neighbourhoods' climate resilience and biodiversity.



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CITY PROGRESS SUMMARIES

The following section of this report contains progress and action summaries that were self-reported by each of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator signatory cities. The city summaries showcase past, present, and future actions the city is undertaking to achieve the implementation milestones of the Accelerator.



SIGNATORY CITIES IN

AFRICA



ETHEKWINI

SOUTH AFRICA

Over the past two years, eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality has been actively engaged in a comprehensive array of initiatives to enhance biodiversity in the city. eThekweni has consistently reported on the state of biodiversity in the city, initiated the revision of its biodiversity strategy, and continuously updated its Systematic Conservation Assessment. An essential aspect of this effort is the submission of a funding proposal to the UN Environmental Programme for Ecosystem Restoration, showcasing eThekweni's commitment to global environmental initiatives. The city is also tackling its main challenges, which include water insecurity and flood risk, through transformative approaches with the adoption of the Transformative Riverine Management Programme.

In a bid to promote local awareness and engagement, eThekweni has undertaken initiatives such as preparing its Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (D'MOSS) awareness pamphlet in the local language and publishing a guide highlighting locally indigenous plants beneficial for gardens and supporting local fauna. An achievement by the city in environmental education comes in the form of a short documentary on forest restoration. Furthermore, eThekweni Municipality has prioritised the management of open spaces through the updated Durban Metropolitan Open Space System and the implementation of large-

scale ecosystems management programmes. Regular reporting on biodiversity in the city reflects eThekweni's commitment to transparency and accountability in its ongoing efforts to foster a resilient and biodiverse urban environment.

Chumisa Thengwa

Deputy Head: Biodiversity Management
Department, eThekweni Municipality

"eThekweni Municipality, and the City of Durban, are located at the centre of a global biodiversity hotspots and have developed the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (D'MOSS) through the Systematic Conservation Assessment to guide land use planning and the prioritisation of protection, management and restoration of natural habitats.

We are implementing large scale environmental management programmes within D'MOSS. The programmes focus on training, business development, and the management of natural assets, which creates employment and capacity building. Hence, these urban nature accelerator interventions for protecting and managing key ecosystems are seen as a way for building resilience to climate change."



FREETOWN

SIERRA LEONE

Under the leadership of C40 Co-Chair Mayor of Freetown Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, Freetown embarked on a bold initiative known as the #FreetownTheTreeTown campaign. In 2021, the city secured US\$ 1.8 million from the World Bank and Global Environment Facility to implement the campaign, aiming to plant, digitally track and grow 567,000 trees to reduce the risk of floods, landslides, coastal erosion and extreme heat, while fostering biodiversity and creating good green jobs.

In response to a gap analysis on climate action and resilience in local planning, Freetown City Council established a multi-sectoral Environment and Climate Change Committee and Climate Action and Disaster Risk Management Unit in 2021. This initiative aimed to integrate climate action across all council functions, supporting the development and delivery of climate and disaster management actions, including urban nature interventions. A two-way communication channel between the council and frontline communities was established and plans to integrate a youth council to strengthen climate governance capacities were set in motion.

Freetown's efforts were recognised in 2022 when the city was awarded first prize in the Bloomberg Global Challenge, receiving US\$ 1 million. The city then developed a Natural Capital Investment Strategy and partnered with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to conduct a natural capital valuation. Additional funds from the World Bank were allocated for the creation of green jobs focused on tree maintenance, employing up to 500 community

growers. As of December 2023, 977,000 trees have been planted, over 1,000 green jobs created, and approximately US\$ 3.25 million mobilised.

In 2024 Freetown aims to achieve its 1 million tree milestone and plans to plant, track and grow an additional 10 million trees by 2030 as part of the city's adaptation goals outlined in the climate action strategy. To secure the necessary financing, the city is finalising its natural capital valuation and investment thesis, with expectations to enter the carbon market through third-party partnerships in 2024-25.

Eric Hubbard

Technical Advisor, Environmental Management Department, City of Freetown

"The C40 Urban Nature Accelerator has been essential in supporting Freetown to set, measure, and achieve its urban nature goals through the continuous management of multi-level governance that impact land-use planning and green growth in the city, the co-design and build-out of resilient networked ecological infrastructure that reduces risk and vulnerability in the most climate-vulnerable urban landscapes, creating green jobs that builds a regenerative relationship between people and nature, and sourcing patient and sustainable financing which is critical to meeting urban nature goals in Freetown and all other cities, particularly in Africa and the Global South."



SIGNATORY CITIES IN

EAST, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OCEANIA



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QUEZON CITY

PHILIPPINES

Since Quezon City signed the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator in July 2021, the city has been working to increase its green spaces in partnership with various stakeholders. The city has planted an additional 12,315 trees, bringing the total to 15,243 as of June 2023. Ornamental plants increased by 76,827 during the same period. Through the city's community-based 'Joy of Urban Farming' programme, about 1,500 orientation sessions were conducted with around 109,000 attendees, who were given over 176,000 vegetable kits for them to start their own vegetable gardens. The number of urban farms is now 754 in a total land area of 381,650 square metres, with 18,850 urban farmers running these spaces.

Additionally, Quezon City has embarked on two projects in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. One of them is the Madison Linear Park, funded by the private sector through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with a target completion date of mid-2024. Quezon City is working to promote walkability and active mobility by linking the city's major parks and increasing the number of green spaces. The city is constructing an Elevated Landscaped Promenade to link the Quezon Memorial Circle, a 16 hectare park located in the middle of the city, to the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, a protection area declared by the national government. The Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Management Board granted clearance to the city for this construction, and the city is completing the documentary requirements to begin the project.



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SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA

Over the past two years, Sydney has undertaken a thorough review of key strategies to strengthen nature in the city, including the Greening Sydney Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan, and Tree Management and Donation Policy. This comprehensive process involved target development, the introduction of new online interactive technology and story maps, community consultations, and final adoption by Sydney Council. Simultaneously, the city has developed a new Tree Species List which, informed by the latest climate and plant science, ensures that trees planted today are well-suited to thrive in the evolving climate conditions.

In the coming year, a primary focus for Sydney is the re-measurement of the canopy and green cover across the city, which stands at 19.8% and 30.8% respectively. This routine action, conducted every two years, serves as a crucial tool for performance assessment. The resulting data is comprehensively analysed to identify new risks or areas that require improvement, thereby facilitating strategic planning for sustainable urban development.



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TOKYO

JAPAN

In Tokyo, biodiversity conservation has been improved with the revision and publication of a Tokyo Biodiversity Strategy in April 2023. This plan underscores Tokyo's commitment to the sustainable use and preservation of biodiversity. Volunteer organisations play a pivotal role in executing conservation activities in designated areas aimed at protecting and restoring valuable natural spaces. To expand and strengthen community engagement, Tokyo is undertaking collaborative efforts with local volunteer organisations as a key initiative, making conservation activities accessible even to inexperienced participants in order to find and retain new volunteers. This initiative not only fosters conservation but also allows urban residents to directly experience the benefits of these activities and the allure of nature. In 2022, the number of participants in nature experience activities, particularly in conservation areas, reached an impressive 28,841 individuals.

Aligned with the 2030 goal of 'realising nature positivity' outlined in the regional strategy, Tokyo has implemented initiatives rooted in the Tokyo Metropolitan Biodiversity Regional Strategy Action Plan. This action plan serves as a comprehensive guide, summarising the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's initiatives and goals. By seamlessly integrating these strategies, Tokyo aims to create a positive impact on nature, encouraging sustainable practices and fostering a deeper connection between urban residents and the natural environment. Tokyo's Metropolitan Government publishes an Annual Report on its [website](#) and regularly updates information on the progress of these initiatives.



SIGNATORY CITIES IN

EUROPE



ATHENS

GREECE

Since joining the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator in 2021, Athens has made progress in becoming greener and more resilient. Two of the three goals in the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP), launched in 2022, are targets of the accelerator. Athens also participated in the EU funded programme REACHOUT, producing climate adaptation tools and maps to help Athens identify the most vulnerable areas to climate breakdown, and prioritise them for adaptation action. The city also finalised its Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan. To address the issue of extreme heat in the city, Athens introduced a Chief Heat Officer role, and ran heat campaigns and actions while it worked on restoring and managing most of its green spaces and parks through allocated funding.

In a decisive move to implement nature-based solutions and green corridors, Athens successfully finalised tender documents for four projects under the European Investment Bank's Technical Assistance within the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF). The city also secured funding and finalised the designs for the creation of 215,000 square metres of green space in the Elaionas area and initiated the 'Adopt a Tree' programme, a recognised community engagement initiative now in its successful two-year run. Looking ahead, Athens plans to finalise designs for the Elaionas area park and initiate detailed work on its Double Regeneration Programme. Efforts include

creating climate tools through the Horizon 2020 REACHOUT programme, implementing nature-based solutions in five new metro station squares, boosting land acquisition for green space creation, and addressing walkability barriers in public spaces through the Urban Accessibility Plan.

Elissavet Bargianni

Head of Resilience & Sustainability
Department, City of Athens

"Athens, a densely built and densely populated capital city, has adopted both of the accelerator commitments as its main adaptation goals of our updated Climate Action Plan. We are thrilled to be able to measure and quantify our progress on the accelerator through our participation in the EU funded projects that we run and getting input from C40 Cool Cities Network cities to elaborate. We have been working tirelessly to combat heat, especially in areas that need it the most and increase awareness, create synergies and eventually manage to upgrade and increase green public spaces and green corridors, at the city centre, neighbourhood and metropolitan level at the same time. Creating a greener, healthier and more equitable environment for all is our ultimate goal."



BARCELONA

SPAIN

Barcelona has achieved several goals in fostering urban sustainability and biodiversity in the last two years. The city has implemented advanced ecological management practices to preserve and enhance its green spaces. Barcelona has created four biodiversity sanctuaries and has progressed on its aim to remove chemical herbicides from the management of green public spaces. The city has also strategically deployed 'Mans al Verd' or 'Hands on Green', a programme aimed at promoting a collaborative management model of the city's green infrastructure. The initiative makes it possible for residents to take co-responsibility in the promotion and care of green spaces and biodiversity. The programme organises and promotes community initiatives and offers concrete proposals so all city agents can play an active role through different actions, ultimately strengthening social cohesion.

Barcelona has outlined ambitious plans for the upcoming year that align with the goals of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator. The city is set to further improve its ecological management of green areas, emphasising the protection and conservation of fauna, particularly species protected by law. Barcelona's commitment extends to the establishment of the Barcelona Biodiversity Observatory, a pioneering initiative that will serve as a comprehensive hub for monitoring and safeguarding the city's diverse ecosystems.

Moreover, the city aims to create actionable and impactful awareness campaigns highlighting the positive effects of green urban infrastructure on the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Coloma Rull Sabaté

Head of the Biodiversity Programme, Parks and Gardens of Barcelona, Urban Services and Public Space Maintenance Department, City of Barcelona

"The Biodiversity Programme team is currently responsible for the implementation and development of the Natura Barcelona 2021-2030 Plan. The plan is a strategic and participatory instrument that defines and plans the objectives and commitment of the municipal government in relation to increasing the city's green infrastructure, the conservation of biodiversity, and how residents understand, enjoy, improve and care for urban nature."

The accelerator's objectives are aligned with the objectives of the plan. To achieve them, governance is essential, both at the level of internal coordination between different departments and directorates of the city council, and at the level of resident involvement and participation."



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BERLIN

GERMANY

Berlin is actively improving the quality of its green spaces and public areas. This is reflected in Berlin's Climate Action Plan, Berliner Energie- und Klimaschutzprogramm 2030 (BEK 2030), which is an overarching strategy for all measures in the field of mitigation and adaptation. Recently, the city updated its Urban Development Plan (StEP) Climate 2.0, a spatial planning instrument for climate-conscious urban development. In line with this, the adoption of the Berlin Community Garden programme and the continuation of the Berlin Mixed Forest programme were major steps. The city has also redesigned and upgraded several green and open spaces, including cemeteries, that have been adapted to be resilient to the impacts of climate breakdown. Berlin has also secured funding for the establishment of a trial and demonstration garden for climate-adapted plants. The continuation and expansion of funding for green roofs and façades was possible through the Green RoofPLUS programme.

In 2024, the city will embark on the Berlin Urban Nature Pact, demonstrating its dedication to collaborative efforts in cultivating a greener urban environment. Berlin remains steadfast in the continuation of its mixed forest programme and the Berlin City Tree Campaign, a project that started over a decade ago and aims to redress the negative balance in planting and caring for new urban trees. Additionally, the city will launch the implementation of the Blue Pearls for Berlin project, through which 30 prioritised small bodies of water that can no longer fulfil their ecological compensation or habitat function are to be renaturalised and ecologically upgraded. The city is gearing up for a series of measures in the realm of blue-green infrastructure, sustainable green space development, and rainwater management, collectively contributing to a more resilient and ecologically balanced urban environment.



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COPENHAGEN

DENMARK

In an effort to strengthen biodiversity in the city, Copenhagen has launched a biodiversity strategy for 2022–2050. This strategy aligns with the Urban Nature Strategy 2015–2025, and was crafted with input from approximately 13,000 residents, organisations, and city partners. The strategy is delineated across four thematic areas: preserving and enhancing existing biodiversity, fostering new biodiversity within the city, promoting knowledge and education about nature and biodiversity, and encouraging voluntary community engagement. It underscores the connection between adaptation – particularly to flooding – and biodiversity. The city has also defined a new baseline on desired distances to green areas.

For 2024, the city council has approved a budget with DKK 50 million (US\$ 7.3 million) earmarked for the implementation of the biodiversity strategy and action plan. The city plans to develop a monitoring programme and the preparation of a baseline of Copenhagen's biodiversity. In addition to this, the city will begin promoting biodiversity in building and construction projects, will continue to screen and map biodiversity, and will allocate resources to the evaluation of these actions in a cross-departmental effort.



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HAIFA

ISRAEL

The City of Haifa has made progress towards achieving its commitments through several actions, such as planning and installing green roofs and functional roofing systems in community centres. It has also completed an ecological connectivity survey and an urban forestry plan to better shape its urban nature interventions. Haifa has also developed a website to map watercourses that remain dry, except during periods of rainfall (known as wadis) in the city. One-off projects, such as the Saadia Wadi restoration project, have been implemented to improve the ecosystem conditions in the area. To improve long-term sustainability, the city has approached participatory processes on urban nature through collaborative work with the community in several neighbourhoods.

In 2024, Haifa plans to continue updating its ecological connectivity survey, while augmenting the number of green roofs and functional roofing systems as integral components of urban policy initiatives. The city also expects to start the implementation of nationally funded urban forestry and tree planting programmes, while engaging in activities related to wadis maintenance and community partnership. Additionally, specific environmental restoration projects, such as the Saadia Wadi restoration initiative, are set to be implemented.



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LONDON

UNITED KINGDOM

London is working to halt and reverse biodiversity decline. In March 2022, C40 Co-Chair Mayor of London Sadiq Khan committed £4 million (US\$ 5.1 million) to support 19 Green and Resilient Spaces. A London Rewilding Taskforce was also established to assess opportunities for rewilding in the city, which were included in a [report](#) released in March 2023. The Mayors Rewild London Fund, one of several mayoral funds to enhance green and blue spaces, has so far awarded £1.45 million (US\$ 1.84 million) to 41 projects over the past two years and will award a total of £700,000 (US\$ 889,000) to around 20 projects, starting in January 2024. These initiatives focus on enhancing 100 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and restoring 350 hectares of wildlife habitats. A notable achievement

includes the reintroduction of beavers in Ealing in October 2023, marking their return to West London after a 400-year absence.

London is also actively working on a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, slated for publication in 2025, featuring a map with identified nature sites and opportunity areas. To ensure these efforts translate into green jobs, Parks for London has developed a London Tree and Woodland Skills Survey 2023 Report. This report sheds light on the challenges experienced by arboriculture and urban forestry professionals in Greater London regarding skills, recruitment, and retention, while also outlining next steps for sector organisations to explore and drive forward.



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MILAN

ITALY

Milan is advancing its C40 Urban Nature Accelerator commitments through several actions at different scales. The city has strengthened its planning frameworks through the approval of an Air Climate Plan and Adaptation Guidelines with the aim to make the city greener, cooler and more liveable, as well as the launch of the City's Master Plan revision process. A requalification project for the areas around the Lambro River has also been planned, while two roads – via Pacini and Guido da Velate – saw the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). Participatory processes to improve areas that are vulnerable to climate breakdown have progressed in Milan, for instance through the European Commission's CLEVER Cities project. As part of the project, Milan has engaged the community in a co-design process to tailor a suburban green area in via

Giambellino 129. Through the same grant, a 40-hour training course was organised for architects on the design of nature-based solutions in 2023. Other funds are being used to plant trees and shrubs in the Bovisa district to help clean up contaminants, also known as phytoremediation, and for the requalification and maintenance of the existing green areas.

In 2024, Milan plans to strengthen the resilience of communities vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis through the C40 Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods programme. The city is also working to identify an Ecosystem Services Assessment tool and to define an integrated approach for the planning and design of depaving interventions. This is expected to lead to an increase in the number of greening interventions in public spaces.



Ilaria Giuliani

*Chief Resilience Officer, Urban Resilience Department
Director, Green and Environment Department, City of Milan*

> What is your role within the city, and what actions have you been involved in with your team that make you proud?

I'm the Chief Resilience Officer and the Director of the Urban Resilience Department for the city of Milan. The department is composed of around a 15 person team, both internal staff and consultants, and it's included within the bigger department Green and Environment.

I believe that the resilient approach isn't about new tools, but a new perspective – one that views crises, like COVID or energy shortages, as opportunities for creative problem-solving. I think resilience isn't just about

delivering solutions, but it's a journey of listening and adapting and that's how we tried to 'implement' urban resilience.

> What inspires you in the work you do to improve nature and biodiversity in your city in order to achieve the commitments of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator?

Thanks to collaboration with other departments, the urban resilience department is in charge of the implementation of the adaptation strategies, [nature-based solutions], forestation, depaving, suds, all actions that contribute to the urban quality of public spaces.

The way the city transforms itself adapting to climate change and in the perspective of the environmental transition, modifying its specific urban features is the most inspiring part of our job.

> What impact has your work had on the quality of life of your city's residents, and what does this mean to you?

Working in the field of adaptation and resilience means preventing critical situations for citizens in the future. Anticipating possible risks and dealing with them is the most powerful contribution a civil servant can offer, especially within the framework of the environmental transition.



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PARIS

FRANCE

Paris has implemented a series of measures in line with its C40 Urban Nature Accelerator commitments. Adaptation is prioritised in the ongoing revision of the city's climate plan, with a key principle being the protection of the most marginalised segments of the population. Initiatives like the Heat Islands (*Ilots de Fraîcheur*) programme have been instrumental to ensure 99% of residents are within seven minutes of cooling spaces during the day, with 60% accessibility at night. Over 1,200 of these islands, including 530 green spaces, provide Parisians with vital refuge and can be found in an [online map](#) that is available to the public.

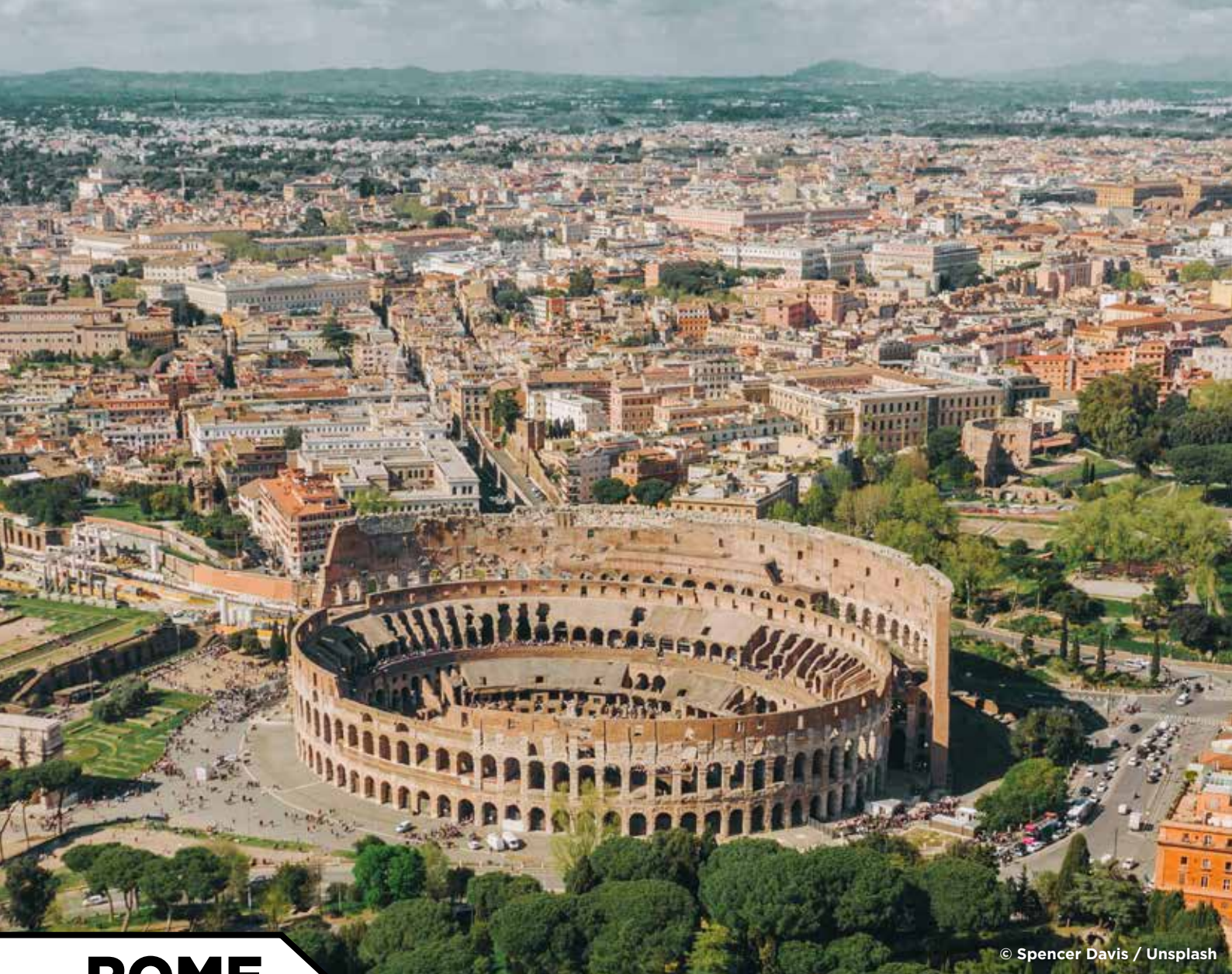
In 2023, Paris welcomed 74 new or renovated green spaces, enhancing the city's commitment to providing accessible and sustainable recreational areas. Paris boasts 80 green streets, emphasising the integration of nature into urban infrastructure, exemplified by the transformation of 130 [courtyards into oases](#) by 2023 to promote greenery and community wellbeing, and the establishment of new wetlands. Eau de Paris facilitates cultivable land at water catchment points, signing long leases with farmers committed to organic or sustainable crops, significantly expanding organic farming hectares. Paris is also working on improving its tree canopy cover by implementing the Tree Plan 2026. This includes the planting of 64,000 trees out of the targeted 170,000, with an updated canopy index to be available soon. In addition to this, the continued commitment to zero pesticide use is exemplified by the green transformation of all cemeteries, accompanied by meticulous management plans.

The Local Urban Plan (PLUv) at the public enquiry stage aims to increase protected green spaces, safeguard noteworthy trees, enhance wooded areas, and establish new planning rules to preserve and enhance greenery. A forward-looking plan includes financing 30 new cool islands for social housing by 2023, contributing to climate resilience and social wellbeing.

Philippe Jacob

Head of Biodiversity and Animals in the City Division, Green Spaces and Environment Department, City of Paris

"With its biodiversity plan, Paris is working to ensure that nature in the city is an essential component of the vitality of the ecosystem, for the benefit of all living things. Every day, my job is to preserve the 2,800 wild species – flora and fauna – that make up Paris' natural heritage. I'm working to reinforce this biodiversity, in particular by developing ecological corridors, to make the future bioclimatic local urban plan as beneficial as possible, and to make Paris a garden city. I'm also working to ensure that Paris has a positive impact within its borders and in its zone of influence, at every scale of its territory. With my colleagues, we are planting many trees in public spaces to strengthen the canopy index and limit urban heat islands. Nature is our ally, a powerful accelerator of wellbeing in the city."



ROME

ITALY

Rome published an investment plan for its green areas in December 2022, which laid out over 60 different initiatives to be completed by the end of 2023 after a total investment of approximately €69 million (US\$ 75.2 million). The implementation status can be monitored by residents through an online [interactive map](#). National funds have been allocated for the implementation of five pilot projects for climate adaptation, including a linear reforestation project for ecological reconnection, micro-forestation and shading structures for 11 pre-schools, as well as depaving works.

Rome has continued its urban afforestation work through several projects which will plant more than 490,000 trees and 3,100 shrubs by 2026. The city has also progressed the construction of new green areas in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. In July 2023, Rome approved the [Tiber River Master Plan](#), which envisages a coordinated set of enhancement measures. The aim is to have an overall and coordinated vision of the interventions for a total of €45 million (US\$ 49 million) of planned investments for the construction of equipped parks, extended and renewed cycle paths, and enhanced and secured archaeological areas. The first interventions will be five projects to restore the river banks, making them accessible to residents, and adapt spaces to the impacts of climate breakdown, reducing the impact of heat waves.



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ROTTERDAM

THE NETHERLANDS

Rotterdam's urban green infrastructure has been substantially improved through the successful implementation of the Rotterdam Goes Green programme. Meeting its goal, the city added 20 hectares of greenery between 2018 and 2022. Notably, six hectares of green roofs were constructed during this period, contributing to the city's sustainable development. Additionally, 22 green-blue schoolyards were successfully established, fostering eco-friendly environments for educational institutions. In order to boost climate action at all levels, the city continues to provide subsidies to residents and private owners to create green roofs, depave their gardens and enhance biodiversity.

Plans for the coming years include the execution of 50 climate adaptation projects, the creation of 40 hectares of bee landscape, the addition of 20 more hectares of greenery, and the transformation of 15 squares into green and blue spaces, as outlined in the Green Agenda for 2022-2026. The total investment for these initiatives is estimated to be €57 million (US\$ 62.8 million). Rotterdam is also actively working on realising seven significant urban public space projects, which are expected to contribute an additional 16 hectares of parks and green spaces to the city by 2028.



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STOCKHOLM

SWEDEN

Stockholm has focused its work on improving understanding of the city's infrastructure and needs. The city successfully completed the mapping process to identify existing green infrastructure and improvement needs, providing substantive input to prioritise parks and urban improvement measures and ultimately meet targets in the city action plan for biodiversity. Stockholm also conducted a city-wide mapping of heat islands, accompanied by an in-depth analysis to identify heat-sensitive functions, particularly around essential facilities such as day-care centres. Significant efforts have also been directed towards achieving major targets in enhancing biodiversity and recreational values in Vårbergstoppens landscape park.

Stockholm has planned initiatives to further strengthen its commitment to nature conservation in 2024. This includes training programmes for the city's operations and procured contractors engaged in the area. The city also aims to continue the implementation of Sustainable Urban Forests (SÅF), a strategic framework designed to enhance green infrastructure at the city district level.



TEL AVIV - YAFO

ISRAEL

Over the past two years, Tel Aviv-Yafo has integrated binding standards for natural infrastructure, ecological continuity, stormwater management, and high infiltration requirements into its statutory plan. The city also initiated three permeable pavement pilots and constructed two blue roofs for sustainable water management, mandating an 80% green and blue coverage of roof areas in new constructions. Alongside the city's Urban Forest Programme, Tel Aviv-Yafo is conducting an urban nature survey to establish the city's nature database. The city set ambitious tree planting targets for 2030 – 100,000 new trees, planting over 10,000 trees in 2022 and an additional 8,000 trees by October 2023. The city also completed the last 2 km of its coastal park and introduced three new nature sites to enhance green spaces. Tel Aviv-Yafo actively distributed local plants and seeds to around 400 private building courtyards annually while also providing trees for residential building plantings.

Tackling governance challenges, Tel Aviv-Yafo spearheaded a Regional Nature Climate Resilience Convention, fostering collaboration among all 12 mayors of the Dan Region for effective climate adaptation. Moving forward, the city plans to establish a Regional Administration for Nature Climate Resilience, create a database for city forest and nature resources, and develop community training in ecology and nature preservation. These actions will likely ease the implementation of other interventions, such as conducting a coastal Climate Risk and Vulnerability assessment, rewilding a section of the Ganey Yehoshua park, developing a new Linear Park in the northern city area, launching the A Tree for Every Child Project, and formulating a Utility Roof plan with guidelines.

Michal Nahari

Agronomist, Garden and Landscape Department, Tel Aviv-Yafo

"For the past 12 years, I have been promoting and protecting urban nature in Tel Aviv-Yafo.

In my role, I am responsible for establishing, restoring and maintaining nature sites in the city.

It is impressive to see all the city's activities and policies to preserve and protect urban nature, to be part of all units that bring change and make nature part of everyday life in the city.

I am proud of what we do. Every year in the fall we sow wild seeds, plant wild plants and plant local trees in dozens of sites.

We encourage environmental protection in the residents' yards as well. In this way we maintain connectivity between nature sites in the city and between sites located outside the city.

The restoration and maintenance of the ecosystem directly impacts the quality of life of the city's residents. It is gratifying to see animals that live in these sites. I'm in constant learning, and was excited to learn that it is possible to address urban nature from the point of view of a young child."



SIGNATORY CITIES IN

LATIN AMERICA



BOGOTÁ

COLOMBIA

Bogotá has shown its commitment to enhancing nature in its urban environment through the formulation of the Public Policy for Climate Action 2023-2050, which aligns with the city's land use management plan. The city has also advanced land protection and proactively expanded its tree cover, with an additional 5,882 plants since joining the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, and a total of green and permeable surfaces of 20.6%, which is 1.3% over the 2021 baseline. Moreover, Bogotá has improved guidance to residents and stakeholders by updating its technical guide to green infrastructure and introducing a catalogue of plant species for green roofs and vertical gardens.

This comprehensive approach also involves the implementation of the *Mujeres que Reverdecen* or Women Who Re-Green programme, an initiative through which economically and socially marginalised women receive a conditional cash transfer, training and employment in exchange for their work to regreen city areas. This programme has trained women in the restoration and maintenance of ecosystems, agro-ecological gardens,

and improvement of vegetation cover and nurseries. It provides work opportunities in the control and management of exotic species and the maintenance of gardens and orchards. The programme targets women of diverse backgrounds including heads of households, unemployed young women, Black, Indigenous and women of colour, survivors of violence, carers, elderly and LGBTQIA+ women. This is an example of how inclusive climate action recognises the intersection between gender and other layers of discrimination, which create barriers to accessing green and dignified employment. Over 20,000 people have been trained in urban agriculture since 2021, and over 60,000 people have been employed in jobs linked to adaptation.

In 2024, Bogotá aims to increase green spaces in critical areas for climate resilience and risk protection through the upcoming District Development Plan. Additionally, the city will continue to implement ongoing programmes and will generate a catalogue of the most suitable species for the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).



Diego Rubio

*Director of Environmental Management,
Secretariat of Environment of Bogotá*

> What is your role within the city, and what actions have you been involved in with your team that make you proud?

I am the Director of Environmental Management at the Secretariat of Environment. The main role of the Secretariat for the Environment in recent years has been to promote and mainstream the different components of sustainability and climate action in the agenda of different departments. For example, we have prioritised the ecosystemic connection between the eastern hills and the city's water bodies such as wetlands and the Bogotá River. This aims to increase biodiversity, fight climate threats such as heat islands, reduce surface runoff and therefore the risk of flooding, and increase climate resilience. In addition, this ecosystem connection approach contributes to our goals of increasing green area coverage per resident. Thus, the role of Bogotá's Secretariat of Environment has been to prioritise this agenda in the different public policies and investment projects of the other departments.

> What are you looking forward to achieving as we move toward the 2030 accelerator targets?

Within this agenda, one of the main objectives is to promote the consolidation of the city's strategic ecosystems with a community-based approach. To this end, the actions of the Secretariat and, in particular, of the Office of Participation, Education and Localities, are fundamental in order to continue strengthening capacities in the understanding of sustainability and climate action and how each citizen, company and public entity has a fundamental role in the consolidation of the city greening.



> What impact has your work had on the quality of life of your city's residents, and what does this mean to you?

The main impact that has been achieved in recent years is to have been able to position in the medium-term agenda through Bogotá's Land Use Plan (POT) several conditions and determinants that will allow city projects to incorporate elements of climate resilience as a fundamental determinant in the structuring of these projects. These conditions for increasing green areas, consolidating and increasing densities in terms of trees, and caring for native and endemic flora and fauna in the city in the medium term will continue to be consolidated with these clear rules of the game that have been set out in the POT Bogotá Reverdece 2022-2035 and in all the regulatory decrees and resolutions that already establish these conditions so that the public and private sector can guide their investment with a strong emphasis on sustainability.



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BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA

Since committing to the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, Buenos Aires has updated its Urban Tree Master Plan and created ten new Green Streets in different neighbourhoods of the city. To date, the city has introduced 40,000 square metres of new absorbent surface area and 833 new trees, a third of them in neighbourhoods that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate breakdown, including Barrio 20, Barrio Playón de Chacarita, and Barrio Rodrigo Bueno. Through the International Climate Initiative's Transformative Urban Coalitions (IKI-TUC) project, Buenos Aires has achieved the development of new green spaces in Barrio 20, conducting participatory workshops with residents to enhance biodiversity and vegetation in the neighbourhood. Recently, the city started monitoring environmental temperature and humidity in Barrio 20.

The upcoming year holds significant plans for the enhancement of Buenos Aires' public space, with key highlights including an update of the city's urban green infrastructure diagnosis. This involves the introduction of a new Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) healthiness index and other vegetation indices to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the city's green spaces. As part of the Comprehensive Redevelopment Plan (PIRU) for Barrio 20 and Barrio Playón de Chacarita, a substantial addition of 3,602 square metres and 1,144 square metres of new green space is slated for implementation respectively. Furthermore, under the umbrella of the IKI-TUC project, a targeted green infrastructure intervention is set to unfold in Pasaje 20 in Barrio 20, contributing to the city's ongoing commitment to fostering sustainable and resilient urban landscapes in areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate breakdown.



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CURITIBA

BRAZIL

Curitiba has significantly bolstered biodiversity protection by revising its Sectoral Plan for Environmental Development and Biodiversity Conservation. The city has created three new conservation units and established five Municipal Natural Heritage Reserves in 2022 and 2023. Curitiba has also started drafting a Municipal Biodiversity Conservation Policy, as well as regulations on the control of invasive exotic plant species in the municipality. A draft to propose legislation on Payment for Environmental Services (PES) is also underway. To strengthen accountability, the city took a pivotal step in 2022 to establish the Planclima Committee. This committee oversees the implementation,

monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and revision of the Curitiba Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan.

Since the launch of the city's 100 Thousand Trees project in 2019, Curitiba has planted more than 400,000 trees and conducted a digital public survey on public tree planting on roads as part of the preparation for the Municipal Urban Tree Planting Plan. The launch of agroforestry activities in Parque dos Tropeiros, at the Cidade Industrial de Curitiba neighbourhood, marked the first stage of the upcoming *Fazenda Urbana* (Urban Farm) – the second to be introduced to the city.



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GUADALAJARA

MÉXICO

Guadalajara's urban nature progress is intricately tied to the creation of green corridors, urban agriculture, and the improvement of public spaces – all of which are priorities for the city. Between 2022 and 2023, the municipal government planted over 45,000 trees through its Plantation Programme, using its innovative green agriculture strategy. This approach targets specific areas lacking in green spaces, addressing urban heat islands and fostering permeable green spaces. A noteworthy investment of MX\$ 49 million (US\$ 2.8 million) allowed the development of the Paseo Rio Atemajac linear park, impacting 27,000 residents. This project involved strategic reforestation led by a team of biologists, agronomists, environmental engineers, and arborists. In the past year, Guadalajara also introduced 20 new green corridors, including the expansion of Paseo Alcalde. This initiative transformed a road into a lively public space featuring cycle lanes, greenery, and new trees.

Guadalajara's Municipal Development and Governance Plan has integrated climate action as a central focus, positively impacting various sectors within the municipality. The city is committed to training gardeners and foresters in tree care and management techniques, thereby creating employment opportunities. Guadalajara actively promotes urban orchards, fostering communal spaces for agricultural activities and environmental preservation. Currently, there are 28 new urban orchards with 2,500 people. Moreover, in 2023, the 'Árboles de 10' (Trees of 10) project was launched, involving schools and students in the restoration of green spaces on their premises. In 2024, Guadalajara aims to consolidate its position as México's tree city, targeting the planting of 24,000 new trees annually, while further encouraging involvement from residents in the restoration of green spaces.



Erika Alejandra Fregoso Cuenca

*Head of the Sustainability Area, Environment Directorate,
City of Guadalajara*

> What is your role within the city, and what actions have you been involved in with your team that make you proud?

The sustainability team seeks to mainstream climate action in all areas of the municipality of Guadalajara; from the development of technical tools, data analysis and monitoring, to communication and training of public servants and residents in general. We also provide tools for other teams to integrate and materialise sustainability, as well as monitoring the evaluation of results.



> What inspires you in the work you do to improve nature and biodiversity in your city in order to achieve the commitments of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator?

The tangible and transcendent impact on the quality of life of city residents. We know that by increasing green areas and urban trees, we are benefiting the health of our residents too.

> What have you learned from another city official (either in your own city or another city) that has changed the way you approach your work?

I am sure that the Mayor of Bogotá has inspired many of us to implement climate solutions in every action of the city, and to understand that all public work must integrate mitigation and adaptation criteria and thereby advance climate goals.

> What impact has your work had on the quality of life of your city's residents, and what does this mean to you?

Our work has had a significant impact on planning and implementation. Our progress is visible in the city's greener streets, in people walking through cleaner and shaded spaces, and especially the increased use of these spaces in people's daily activities.





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LIMA

PERU

Since 2019, the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MINAM), the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (Sernanp), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has been actively engaged in safeguarding the ecosystems of its hills, preserving their biological diversity, and protecting associated cultural heritage. In January 2022, shortly after joining the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, the city approved measures to strengthen the conservation of ecosystems in the Province of Lima. These measures, aimed at enhancing coordination between the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima (MML) and district municipalities, focus on promoting the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of the city's ecosystems.

In December 2022, the city approved the Master Plan of the Regional Conservation Area Sistema Lomas de Lima 2022-2026. This plan provides a comprehensive management framework for the Regional Conservation Area, outlining the general policy and strategic objectives for the first five years of management, developed through participatory processes. Lima is moving forward in line with its commitment to conserve and manage green areas, contributing to their creation, protection, valuation, and sustainability.



RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro has progressed on several fronts to increase the quantity and quality of its green spaces across the city, mainly through the construction of three large parks. Construction of the Susana Napolini Park began in September 2022, and is one of the key goals of Rio de Janeiro City Hall's strategic planning. Spanning around 77,000 square metres, this park is designed to benefit both the local area and the broader Metropolitan Region. It features bioswales with gardens and vegetation designed to capture rainwater and prevent flooding during storms. The park includes an 11,200 square metre forest with native Atlantic Forest species, while a vegetable garden and an orchard area offer residents opportunities to learn about land management and food cultivation. Another spot for biodiversity will be the 234,000 square metre Cesário de Melo Park, home of 1,100 trees in an area of approximately 34,000 square metres. Landscaping will maintain the original species, creating protected islands where visitors can contemplate nature.

Increasing access to a quality environment and offering thermal comfort to those who live in places considered to be heat islands are some of the objectives of the Nise da Silveira Municipal Urban Park in Engenho de Dentro. Work on the approximately 79,000 square metre site has already begun and, in addition to the installation of railings to surround the green space, a 5,800 square metre forest will be built. To guide all of the aforementioned interventions, the city recently prepared and published the Catalogue of Nature-based Solutions for Open Spaces, which helps public authorities select types or devices of nature-based solutions that can be incorporated into open public spaces projects, integrating into a network of green infrastructure for cities.



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SALVADOR

BRAZIL

Salvador publicly outlined its nature-related objectives in its Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change Plan (PMAMC). One key aim is to achieve 36 square metres of green area per resident by 2032, accompanied by a commitment to expanding universal access to green spaces. To realise these goals, the city has undertaken initiatives such as establishing new parks and green spaces, coupled with extensive tree planting of native species in public areas, encouraging residents to embrace their natural surroundings.

Salvador has adopted nature-based solutions in public buildings and incentivised their integration into private developments through the Green Urban Property Tax (IPTU) programme. This strategic approach seeks to promote sustainable urban development and enhance the overall green infrastructure of Salvador. Additionally, a dedicated working group has been formed to assess the impacts of rising sea levels on the Municipality of Salvador, reflecting a proactive stance toward strengthening the community's resilience to the climate crisis. By addressing the challenges associated with environmental sustainability and climate adaptation, Salvador is actively contributing to the broader goals of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator.



SIGNATORY CITIES IN

NORTH AMERICA



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AUSTIN

UNITED STATES

The City of Austin has significantly improved the quantity and quality of its green spaces since joining the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator. The city updated and publicly shared its tree canopy analysis, setting a target of achieving 50% canopy cover by 2050. To support this goal, Austin established a local tree nursery to grow climate-ready trees and achieved the reforestation of nearly 60,000 square metres (14.71 acres) of floodplain by planting 11,405 saplings. Volunteer efforts played a pivotal role, with 12,155 trees planted at 10 events during the fall of 2021 and winter of 2022. Ready, Set, Plant! events engaged a total of 838 volunteers and facilitated 3,368 hours of volunteer work, including 5,000 trees given to community members to plant.

Austin's Community Garden Programme, an initiative to help groups start new community gardens and support existing ones on city owned land, has also continued to grow. It currently has 30 community gardens on city land including senior gardens, a food forest and teaching gardens.

In addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by the climate crisis, Austin has also updated Water Forward, its 100-year integrated water resource plan. Through this strategic initiative,

the city is studying the creation of Aquifer Storage and Recovery by purchasing land above stored water to protect it. Recognising the importance of stormwater management, the city has established 119 publicly and privately maintained rain gardens along city streets, effectively mitigating the impacts of storms and contributing to sustainable water management practices in the Right of Way.

Marc Coudert

Climate Resilience & Adaptation Manager
Office of Resilience, City of Austin

"Within the Austin City Limits, the heartbeat of a city finds its rhythm at outdoor music festivals, along waterfront trails, in neighborhood parks and backyard BBQs. Our commitment to the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator means a commitment to vibrant ecosystems where both humanity and nature flourish together. Through thoughtful design, sustainable planning, and a commitment to green infrastructure, Austin can cultivate a harmonious balance between the built environment and ecosystem services... music and BBQ also helps."



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LOS ANGELES

UNITED STATES

Since joining the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator in 2021, the City of Los Angeles has successfully implemented urban nature initiatives. Key achievements include the completion of the LA Biodiversity Index baseline measurement in 2022. This resulted in the LA Biodiversity Index Baseline Report, offering recommendations for enhancing biodiversity goals. Additionally, the city developed LA Biodiversity Guidelines, which provide valuable insights into incorporating biodiversity into urban environments both at the city and county levels. Los Angeles' Urban Nature Guidebook was published in August 2023, spotlighting 20 native plant gardens, greenways, natural parks, and wildlife reserves across the city with the aim of inspiring the transformation of additional sites into biodiverse habitats. The annual LA Bioblitz Challenge engaged over 1,000 individuals in documenting local biodiversity through the iNaturalist app. In 2023, the challenge expanded with nearly 27,000 observations made of 2,700 species.

The city's dedication to wildlife habitat preservation was recognised through its certification and recertification as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation between 2021 and 2023, encompassing over 1,400 certified residential yards, schools, and common areas. The city's proposed Wildlife Ordinance, approved by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee in June 2023, signifies a crucial step toward balancing development with wildlife habitat needs.

The City of Los Angeles has planted over 80,500 new trees and secured US\$ 25 million in funds from various sources to grow its urban forest. Collaborating with Los Angeles County on the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) Community Engagement process, the city is actively shaping the future of its urban forest with workshops, neighbourhood engagement, and ongoing efforts towards UFMP completion in 2025. These collective endeavours underscore Los Angeles' commitment to creating a biodiverse, resilient, and nature-rich urban landscape.



Michelle Barton

*Green Infrastructure Policy Manager,
Office of Mayor Karen Bass, City of Los Angeles*

> What is your role within the city, and what actions have you been involved in with your team that make you proud?

I serve as the Green Infrastructure Policy Manager in the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, bringing over 10 years of environmental leadership to the City. I am a seasoned advocate for nature-based solutions, and I played a pivotal role in developing the groundbreaking “LA Biodiversity Index Baseline report” and the “LA Biodiversity Guidelines,” showcasing my commitment to biodiversity conservation. I have elevated the City’s biodiversity work via global venues, like Biodiversity COP15, and have shared biodiversity best practices with cities and organizations across the world. Throughout my career, I have championed common sense climate initiatives, like community composting and equitable growth of the urban forest, that make Los Angeles

greener and more livable for all. As a collaborative force, I engage stakeholders and experts on policies, and programs, like the “Healthy Soils Strategy for the City of Los Angeles” to create a more sustainable, resilient Los Angeles.

> What inspires you in the work you do to improve nature and biodiversity in your city in order to achieve the commitments of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator?

I love inspiring Angelenos to learn about the amazing biodiversity we have in the City of Los Angeles. Many residents are surprised to learn that the City of LA is in a global biodiversity hotspot and that we have thousands of native species of plants and animals, many of which are endemic to the region. It is inspiring to see people start to appreciate our biodiversity and take action to protect and steward it.

> What have you learned from another city official (either in your own city or another city) that has changed the way you approach your work?

The City of Los Angeles has secured hundreds of millions of dollars through locking arms with state and federal partners as we continue to urgently lead on climate. Building on the work of former Mayors Antonio Villaraigosa and Eric Garcetti, Mayor Bass has been able to deliver progress toward building a greener Los Angeles. Connecting with City leaders from San Francisco, Denver, and Montréal that are also providing climate leadership has served as a reminder that while we might use different vocabulary or approaches, we are all united in our efforts to create more livable, sustainable cities for humans and wildlife. As solutions can take many forms, it is inspiring to learn how other municipalities are approaching the dual challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss and work to apply best practices in the City of LA.



NEW ORLEANS

UNITED STATES

New Orleans has continued to make progress towards achieving the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator targets with a focus on equity and inclusion. The city secured US\$ 4 million in bond funding, earmarked to expand tree planting and green spaces through a four-year initiative which began in 2022. The inaugural phase involved planting 1,165 trees, signifying a significant step in enhancing green spaces citywide. An additional US\$ 8 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service was secured in September 2023. This funding is strategically allocated to bolster the urban canopy in underserved areas, specifically targeting regions with less than 10% canopy coverage. A portion of the grant will also contribute to the expansion of green infrastructure and the development of forestry workforce programmes, with work anticipated to begin in 2024, spanning a five-year period.

In 2023, local non-profit organisation SOUL (Sustaining Our Urban Landscape) and the City of New Orleans released the New Orleans Reforestation Plan, which outlines neighbourhoods in the city with low canopy coverage. Highlights include five reforestation pilot projects in low canopy neighbourhoods across the city. Furthermore, New Orleans is in the process of securing additional federal funding with a focus on concrete removal and reforestation in the underserved Central City area. Additionally, the city actively supports grassroots initiatives by distributing a second round of grants to neighbourhood groups and non-profit planting partners in October 2023, with an average grant size of US\$ 20,000 and a total funding pool of US\$ 225,000. In a collaborative effort, New Orleans joined the Smart Surfaces Coalition in July 2023, aligning with ten other major U.S. cities to embark on a multi-year project aimed at cooling urban areas through innovative solutions like reflective roofs and pavements, green roofs, solar energy, porous pavements, rain gardens, and trees.



SAN FRANCISCO

UNITED STATES

Over the past two years, the City of San Francisco has implemented a range of initiatives, including the development of comprehensive [Biodiversity Guidelines](#) and the completion of environmental projects such as the opening of Tunnel Tops Park in the Presidio and the Quartermaster Reach wetland restoration. San Francisco has also demonstrated a commitment to workforce development and native plant revegetation projects, exemplified by the creation of a City Street Tree Nursery and stormwater wetlands. The city has secured substantial funding, including US\$ 14 million from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to plant 3,500 street trees, contributing to climate resilience and green job creation. As part of the efforts to mainstream nature, the city set up [Reimagining San Francisco](#), an inter-organisational impact

collaboration. The group brings together diverse stakeholders at the local, state and federal levels to secure funding and implement projects aimed at enhancing local nature and ensuring equitable access for all residents.

Key plans for next year involve installing native plant pollinator gardens at public housing sites, daylighting a portion of Yosemite Creek, establishing a baseline for biodiverse green space, and launching a biodiverse greening grant programme with initial funds earmarked for environmental justice communities. Additionally, there are plans for the permanent closure of the southern portion of the Great Highway, facilitating coastal dune restoration and bolstering climate resilience efforts.



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SEATTLE

UNITED STATES

In Seattle, 99% of households reside within a 10-minute walk of accessible green or blue spaces designed to meet various needs. The city is actively striving to enhance the quality, functionality, and equitable distribution of these spaces while addressing vulnerability to climate breakdown. Seattle's urban nature goals across multiple plans and programmes encompass aspects such as tree canopy expansion, park accessibility improvements, and increased stormwater management through green infrastructure. Over the past two years, Seattle has achieved milestones, including the establishment of a Green New Deal Oversight Board comprising 19 community members. The city has incorporated a climate action component into the ongoing update of its 2035 Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, there has been an updated assessment of the tree canopy, accompanied by the implementation of a new tree replacement ordinance.

Seattle has also expanded its green footprint by acquiring over 25 acres of new parkland, contributing to the city's commitment to accessible natural spaces. A significant boost to this effort came in the form of over US\$ 13 million secured for tree planting initiatives in underserved areas. This initiative has not only enhanced the urban environment but has also led to the creation of numerous jobs within city departments. Furthermore, Seattle successfully secured US\$ 1.8 million to expand the Youth Green Corps, a commendable green job training programme designed for the city's youth population. Also, the city recently joined the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Generation Restoration collaboration to enhance urban ecosystem restoration efforts and will be expanding initiatives to improve habitat throughout the city.



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TORONTO

CANADA

Since joining the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator, Toronto has undertaken several initiatives to enhance its environmental sustainability and green infrastructure. Toronto's sustainable design requirements for new developments, the Toronto Green Standard Version 4, was approved in July 2021, prioritising green infrastructure and requiring new public streets to incorporate 'green' elements. This was followed by the approval of Official Plan policies in June 2022, adding four new Environmentally Significant Areas and introducing a new category of 'contributing areas' to the natural heritage. Toronto is also partnering with American Forests to develop a Tree Equity Score Analysis and secured a new ten-year contract with Forests Ontario to ensure a sustainable supply of native trees and shrubs. Toronto was also recertified as a Bird Friendly City under Nature Canada's Bird Friendly City Certification Programme.

To address environmental inequities, the city launched the Growing Green Streets pilot, specifically targeting marginalised populations through capital projects for green infrastructure. The city also established a new work and learn programme called GreenforceTO, which recruits and trains individuals from equity-deserving communities in green infrastructure maintenance. Furthermore, teaming up with Toronto Nature Stewards, the city successfully trained 800 volunteers for invasive plant removal, contributing to biodiversity preservation. The InTO the Ravines partnership with Park People has been instrumental to continue providing annual training sessions for communities to learn about and actively contribute to the protection of ravines, one of Toronto's most important natural assets and one of the largest ravine networks in the world.



SIGNATORY CITIES IN

SOUTH AND WEST ASIA



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CHENNAI

INDIA

The Chennai Smart City, operating under the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has undertaken comprehensive efforts to enhance the city's green infrastructure. Eight parks have been renewed, featuring more greenery, native plants, and features to retain rainwater. The city has prioritised accessibility and social engagement by incorporating resting areas, shelter, and disability-friendly infrastructure. Two sensory parks have been specifically designed to engage children in nature, incorporating edible plants, tactile sculptures, braille signage, and playful water features.

Chennai Smart City has restored 32 water bodies and begun the implementation of vertical gardens in dense urban areas. This strategic approach aims to compensate for the loss and pollution of ancient water bodies, contributing to local livelihoods and biodiversity. Furthermore, the ongoing Chennai Urban Farming Initiative (CUFI) utilises rooftops and vacant urban spaces to scale up vegetable gardening. The initiative

aims to create a climate-positive, green, and inclusive resilience-building programme. By developing a sustainable local food supply system, CUFI improves access to healthy food for residents, employs innovative farming solutions, and ensures economic benefits for low-income neighbourhoods while contributing to the city's greenery and cooling.

Looking ahead, the Greater Chennai Corporation is actively developing 57 sponge parks, investing INR 76.7 million (over US\$ 900,000) to mitigate flooding in low-lying areas. These parks serve as water reservoirs during heavy rainfall to reduce flooding risks, recharge groundwater levels, and enhance urban permeability. At the same time, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is building a climate park in Kilambakkam, spanning nearly 17 acres. With its recreational facilities, cultural highlights, and an emphasis on urban ecology, the park is expected to reduce the city's emissions and align with its broader sustainability goals.



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DELHI NCT

INDIA

Since joining the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator in early 2022, the city has focused its efforts on increasing its green cover. Delhi NCT has set an ambitious goal to raise green cover from 23% to 25% in the city over the next two years, starting with a mega plantation drive that launched on 26 February 2023. This campaign aims to plant 5.2 million trees and shrubs, showcasing the city's substantial commitment to sustainable urban development. In order to determine the success rate of the saplings already planted in Delhi NCT as part of the tree planting programme, a third-party audit will be conducted.

Delhi NCT has also implemented a Green Delhi mobile app to help residents take an active role in protecting their city's natural resources. Users can fill in complaints on waste, air or noise pollution, as well as sign up for tree planting events. The app has registered nearly 73,000 complaints with an 86.7% resolution rate, indicating the city's proactive stance in addressing environmental issues. Moreover, the city is actively devising a hotspot action plan, utilising a mobile van equipped with instruments to survey various areas and provide Source Apportionment (SA) at 13 identified hotspots.



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DHAKA NORTH

BANGLADESH

Dhaka North committed to the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator in March 2022, and has since made significant progress. Accomplishments include citywide tree plantation and canopy enhancement, the development of inclusive public spaces, and the restoration of canals to promote biodiversity. Seven parks and open fields have been established within Dhaka North City Corporation, with plans underway to appoint 100 gardeners for tree maintenance. Under the ambitious 'Zero-soil' initiative, the city is planning its first Miyawaki forests, through which it aims to plant and track 200,000 trees to enhance tree and shade equity. The initiative has made progress in roadside plantations and informal settlements, totaling 5,500 trees.

Dhaka North City Corporation is actively developing plans for cool zones and cooling centres. The city is also in the process of creating a master plan for an urban forest, a strategic move to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11, 13, and 15 – focused on sustainable cities, climate action, and life on land, respectively. To ensure the health of the lush green spaces, a comprehensive plant health care strategy, an onsite watering system, and a dedicated gardening team were set up and implemented by the city in collaboration with Shakti Foundation.



Farzana Bobi

Urban Planner, Dhaka North City Corporation

> What is your role within the city, and what actions have you been involved in with your team that make you proud?

As an Urban Planner of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), my role involves shaping the development and organisation of urban areas. I have been involved in different activities including land use planning, infrastructure development, community engagement in planning, public space management planning and more.

My main responsibility is to plan the city in a systematic and modern way, keeping the future demand and development in mind. I feel a craving to do something sustainable for the benefit of the community.

I was engaged in a project to transform a vacant space into a dynamic public space for low-income and migrated communities. The project was successfully implemented and they are enjoying the space vibrantly. It makes me proud that I am serving the people and working to ensure the livability of the city.

Recently, DNCC has started the project of landscaping and tree planting in the city, where I am working as a core team member. In my office, I am the focal person of the Climate Action Plan. Sometimes I arrange workshops about the plan to motivate my colleagues to take action against the climate crisis. By doing these, sometimes I feel this amazing work is helping to save the world for future generations.

> What inspires you in the work you do to improve nature and biodiversity in your city to achieve the commitments of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator?

With input from residents, the Urban Planning Department of DNCC has prepared a plan: Local Area Plan and Feasibility Study for Short-term Measures for Newly Included 18 Wards of Dhaka North City Corporation. In this plan, participatory rapid appraisal, focus group discussions and resident consultation were conducted to ensure the location of resident-centric services like parks, playgrounds, slaughterhouses, graveyards and open spaces, as well as the blue networks plan etc.

Last year, we activated a public space in the Mirpur area by engaging the local ward councillor with local residents. Now the public space is managed by a resident committee under the consultation of the Urban Planning department of DNCC. A collective working approach to commitment for sustainability, ecological balance in biodiversity, and the wellbeing of urban communities always makes me enthusiastic.



> What have you learned from another city official (either in your own city or another city) that has changed the way you approach your work?

When I think about the Bangladeshi cities, I feel our problems are more or less the same. So collective efforts and awareness are required to come up with solutions.

For example, Rajshahi is a city located in the northern part of my country. Other parts of the country have been suffering from extreme heat, and have taken measures to tackle the problem of changing the landscaping of the city.

We met them and arranged a lesson learning workshop and are now beginning pilots based on what we learned. I also attended C40's excellent Managing Heat with Nature workshop in Paris, where I learnt how the city manages their landscape. After returning to the office, I talked with our landscaping team about planting indigenous plants, which is urgently required to develop the biodiversity of the city. I am always learning from innovative approaches, sustainable practices, and community engagement strategies that are being implemented in other cities. The Heat Action Plan and Climate Action Plans of Indian cities that are available online are also a source of learning for me.



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MUMBAI

INDIA

The municipality of Greater Mumbai, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), is actively engaging in the improvement of public spaces by maintaining 1,068 plots – made up of gardens, playgrounds, and recreation grounds. The city has declared 800 acres of urban forest as protected area, and nearly 64 mini forests have been developed under the Urban Forest Project. BMC has also developed vertical gardens on pillars and underneath bridges at 22 locations across the city, and continues the refurbishment of Morya Talao and Bhoir Talao lakes, along with the construction and upgrade of more than ten parks. Community engagement was fostered through the Green City initiative to engage residents in greening public and private spaces.

In 2024, Mumbai plans to allocate INR 1.8 billion (US\$ 21.6 million) for the development of urban gardens, reflecting the city's commitment to enhancing public green spaces. The implementation of the Development Plan 2034 will involve acquiring lands for green infrastructure, emphasising the creation of playgrounds and gardens. Green buffers will be strategically developed along high-traffic corridors, contributing to improved air

quality and biodiversity. The city has also set the ambitious goal of planting 100,000 trees using ecologically sustainable practices while developing 14 new urban forests, built using Miyawaki Techniques.

Minesh Pimple

Deputy Municipal Commissioner,
Environment Department, Brihanmumbai
Municipal Corporation

"In Mumbai, our committed endeavours in nature-based solutions, urban greening and blue-green infrastructure development serve as effective climate change deterrents. Weaving and promoting blue-green infrastructure in urban fabric not only creates a resilient metropolis but also a transformative barrier against climate impacts such as flooding and high pollution levels. We are sculpting a cityscape that supports offsetting carbon emissions in the local area and leveraging the co-benefits of our climate actions to make Mumbai a greener, healthier city."

BARRIERS TO ACHIEVE THE COMMITMENTS

Cities have identified several challenges in achieving their nature goals. Despite the geographical spread of the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator signatories, there are many common barriers.

The main challenge is the scarce financial resources cities have to work on nature, and limited options to tap into national or multilateral funds to implement nature-based solutions that can complement or substitute traditional grey infrastructure projects. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in the United States is a major step forward to expanding tree canopy in cities and shows the power of national investment in nature.

Cities also find silos and lack of cross-departmental cooperation, a barrier to embedding nature in infrastructure projects from the start. Fostering collaboration across different departments is foundational and a key opportunity to achieve more coherent nature infrastructure projects and ensure they contribute to delivering equitable impacts and a just transition.

Cities are looking for support with defining key indicators and monitoring, which are vital for strengthening accountability, measuring equitable impacts and further planning. Methodologies for measuring the accessibility of green public spaces, particularly for communities most at risk from climate impacts, are paramount. Developing robust metrics and tools in this regard is essential for creating urban environments that are inclusive and cater to the wellbeing of all residents.

Improving green and permeable spaces is also a matter of land availability and urban planning. A significant challenge many cities face –

particularly the densest cities – is related to the lack of vacant lots to be developed as green public spaces, and the limited options they have to increase permeability in a context where sealed surfaces prevail. Furthermore, density can be greater in low income neighbourhoods, making equitable access to green spaces a challenge. Cities have been doing work on depaving, but in many cases policy changes need to be made to scale up this approach and ensure it benefits all.

Certain cities have found that lack of water for nature is an emerging issue, one that has worsened with the climate crisis. Cities need to deploy alternative water resources, improve the soil, and select the most suitable species in the short and long term to address the biodiversity, health and heat crisis. Advanced technological solutions can't always be implemented due to high costs and scale, putting at risk the survival of the entire greening system, which is often already impacted by deforestation linked to urban development.

Finally, maintaining nature once it is planted is another common challenge. Some cities have developed initiatives to engage civil society, charities and the private sector to preserve green assets accessible to the public, such as squares, playgrounds and trees. Coordination and close collaboration with multiple stakeholders have been highlighted as a key tool to address this issue, as well as leverage the green job-creation and skills-building opportunities that can drive increased access to income and improved quality of life in underserved neighbourhoods. Overall, this and other challenges can be linked to the lack of awareness and understanding of the importance of nature in cities at all levels of government, and the co-benefits that nature interventions can create.

CONCLUSION

Cities are making significant progress towards improving quality of life for their residents through the protection, enhancement and incorporation of nature and biodiversity into the urban ecosystem.

Inspiring and ambitious actions such as revitalising urban areas through the creation of parks, creating public facing performance dashboards, developing and running participatory budgets, implementing green and blue carbon strategies and tax exemptions, creating green roof competitions to subsidise costs, and developing biodiversity strategies to guide action implementation, are just some examples of the huge range of opportunities and mechanisms cities have for accelerating action.

The remarkable efforts showcased in this report have led to the creation of good green jobs, highlighting the multiple benefits and spill over effect of nature-based solutions. Some cities have moved one step forward and are working to ensure that the workforce distribution between men and women is even, and that the wage gap is non-existent. Training and other capacity building activities continue to strengthen

the engagement of local governments in the sustainable delivery of green and blue solutions.

Cities highly value the opportunity to share knowledge through in-person and virtual peer-to-peer meetings and continue to request opportunities to discuss innovative approaches to fund, advance and maintain nature interventions.

Through C40's adaptation networks, namely the Cool Cities Network, Water Security Network, and Urban Flooding Network, and the recently launched Water Safe Cities Accelerator, C40 will continue to advocate for urban nature climate solutions that deliver inclusive and equitable impacts. Network activities will continue helping cities connect with potential donors, partners, and stakeholders who share an interest in promoting nature-based solutions and urban sustainability. With a focus on increasing regionalisation, C40 commits to providing contextually appropriate technical assistance, while sharing lessons learned from cities around the globe. Nature breathes life into our cities, and cities are already helping to make that happen.

