



# Inclusive Water Resilience Accelerator Fund

São Paulo, Brazil



**C40's Inclusive Water Resilience Accelerator Fund (IWRAF) is supporting an environmental education training programme to help residents of four low-income areas – Parque Novo Mundo, Pinheirinho D'Água, Jardim Lapenna, and Jardim Pantanal – become active environmental educators within their communities.**

They will then be supported to catalyse environmental change by disseminating their knowledge and learnings about water resilience across the wider community. The project's educational activities are tailored to the specific water challenges faced by these communities, fostering a sense of local empowerment and ownership.

## What challenge did the project address?

São Paulo is working to advance climate resilience across the city, with a particular focus on low-income

areas that are more susceptible to climate risks. Among these risks are the increasingly intense challenges of water insecurity and flooding. The city has identified environmental education projects as a fundamental means to raise awareness, to build knowledge about some environmental problems and possible solutions, to develop attitudes and skills for actions in the territories, and to mobilise communities in the fight to mitigate the causes – and adapt to the consequences – of climate breakdown.

## What did the city achieve?

The project represents a partnership between C40's Inclusive Water Resilience Accelerator Fund (IWRAF) and a number of São Paulo's municipal departments: the Department of Planning and Efficiency; the Department of International Relations; the Department of Government; and the Department



Credit: Pé de Feijão

of Environmental Affairs and Forestry, through its educational arm, Open University for Environment and Culture of Peace (UMAPAZ).

Initially, four community educators participated in an UMAPAZ training course covering topics such as “Adaptations of existing buildings in sustainable technologies in the use of water and energy”; “Sewage: Quality standards, treatment, and challenges”; “Water: Quality, safety, and pollution standards”; “Participatory diagnosis”; “Climate emergencies and cities”; “Urban afforestation”; “Oceanic waters and the relationship with urban waters”; and “Nature-based solutions”; among others. These participants then developed a programme of educational activities tailored to the needs and interests of their own communities, combining their learnings from the training with their deep local knowledge.

In total, the educators will deliver around 30 hours of educational activities to 80 community members over a three-month period. Focusing on awareness raising and knowledge building, the training will encourage transformative community actions to build resilience to climate-induced water challenges. It will equip participants with skills in environmental monitoring, knowledge dissemination, climate communication, and problem-solving. The training concludes with an on-the-ground environmental action in collaboration with

the wider community, fostering a sense of collective responsibility for sustainable water management.

At the end of the training programme, the 80 participants will graduate as Environmental Monitoring Agents and be encouraged to act as multipliers and catalysts of positive environmental change in their communities.

### How did the Fund advance equitable water resilience?

- The training programme equips low-income community members with the knowledge and skills to better address and respond to local water challenges, such as poor water quality, water insecurity, flooding, solid waste accumulation, and illegal dumping.
- The newly trained Environmental Monitoring Agents are empowered to disseminate knowledge and best practices around sustainable water and sanitation practices, acting as “multipliers” by generating positive behaviour changes in the community.
- São Paulo now has a model for building water resilience through community-based environmental education, which can be replicated across different communities and groups.



Credit: EcoUniversidade

Visit [C40's website](#) for more information about the Inclusive Climate Action (ICA) Cities Fund.