

LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY

A SERIES OF LOCAL CASES



City of Curitiba, Brazil

BioCity Programme: mainstreaming biodiversity

SUMMARY: Curitiba's BioCity Programme combines public and private initiatives in an effort to contribute to the global target to reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The BioCity Program aims to halt the rapid rate at which cities develop, which can affect natural areas, destroy ecosystems, fragment natural spaces and often drives species to extinction.

Biodiversity & Biodiversity Management in Curitiba

BioCity Programme: Integrating biodiversity in urban planning

This groundbreaking "BioCity" program on urban biodiversity, launched by the City of Curitiba, constitutes a leading example of urban planning that takes into consideration biodiversity-related issues. The BioCity programme aims to make a significant contribution to the recovery of biodiversity at the local and international levels.



Curitiba's high rises have been designed to be integrated with open space and nature

The BioCity Programme comprises 5 main projects related to:

1. Reintroduction of ornamental indigenous plant species within the city, aiming to promote knowledge and familiarity with the region's indigenous flora;
2. Establishment of conservation units, with the active participation of civil society;
3. Preservation of water resources, through the Strategic Plan for Revitalizing the Barigui River Basin;
4. Tree planting of indigenous species in the city; and
5. Air quality/mobility and transportation, through the Green Line Project which aims to create a major transportation corridor with special lanes for bicycles and pedestrians as well as a linear park.

Reintroduction of ornamental indigenous plant species

This project, as part of the BioCity Programme, aims to promote knowledge and familiarity of indigenous plants with the reintroduction of the region's indigenous flora, thereby redeeming Curitiba's plant diversity.

Important actions include:

- studies and surveys to identifying potential species for reintroduction;
- the joint creation, with the Museum and the Botanical Gardens, of a Study Greenhouse to promote reproduction and reintroduction of indigenous vegetation;
- developing incentives for the public to use indigenous species in private spaces.

Involvement in international initiatives

At the initiative of the Mayor of Curitiba, Carlos Alberto Richa, a meeting on “Cities and Biodiversity: Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target” was held in March 2007 in Curitiba. At the event, the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity was adopted which reaffirmed the urgency to engage local authorities in the implementation of the objectives of the UN Convention on Biological

Diversity and its 2010 biodiversity target. www.cbd.int

Curitiba's Green Line Project

The Green Line Project aims to link areas of the city which are currently separated by a federal highway, through the creation of a major transportation corridor with special lanes for bicycles and pedestrians, as well as a linear park, taking into consideration important environmental concepts.

For more info on this project, contact:

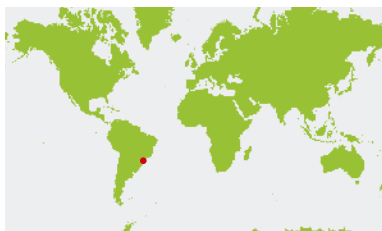
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Public Conservation Unit at Tingui Parque: this 380 000m² unit is one of the 30 parks in Curitiba that represent the conservation of native species.

In addition, the document announces the formation of a Steering Committee, comprising the City of Curitiba (Brazil), the City of Montreal (Canada), the City of Bonn (Germany), the City of Nagoya and the City of Johannesburg (South Africa). This Steering Committee aims to bring together existing initiatives and to encourage cities to reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

City contacts & profile



The **CITY OF CURITIBA** has the largest population and the largest economy in Southern Brazil. It has a population of 1.7 million inhabitants, spans an area of 430.9 km², and has a population density of about 4 inhabitants/km². 17.9% of the City of Curitiba is classified as “green area”.

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LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY is a global urban biodiversity initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with IUCN. This pilot project of 21 cities around the globe focuses on the key roles that local governments play in conserving the world's biodiversity and retaining the relationship between people and nature. See: www.iclei.org/lab; lab@iclei.org

COUNTDOWN 2010 is a powerful network of more than 600 partners working together towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Each partner commits additional efforts to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss. The secretariat – hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – facilitates and encourages action, promotes the importance of the 2010 biodiversity target and assesses progress towards 2010. See: www.countdown2010.org

CITIES & BIODIVERSITY is an initiative of local governments and UN agencies to increase awareness on the relevant role of cities and towns for conserving and managing biodiversity. See: www.iclei.org/biodiversity

THE “CITIES & BIODIVERSITY CASE SERIES” is started in 2008 on the occasion of the UN CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) 9 in Bonn/Germany in May 2008. Funding is provided by UNEP, with co-funding from ICLEI, IUCN and the City of Bonn. The case descriptions are compiled by the “Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB)” project team in the ICLEI Africa Secretariat and ICLEI's International Training Centre.

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