

Cities supporting global biodiversity – recognition and responsibilities.

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Introduction

Cities are now widely recognised as being unique and complex ecosystems.

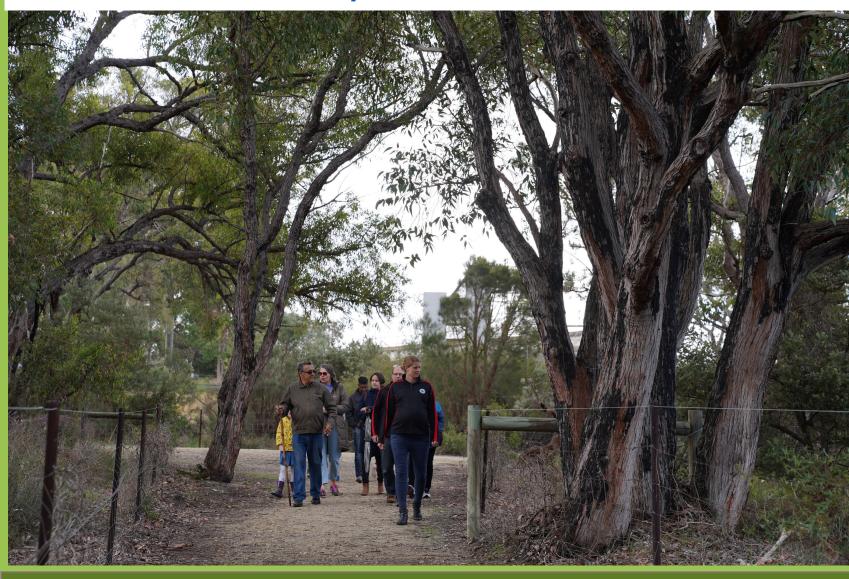
International news in November and December 2022 focussed on the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to the UNFCCC in **Sharm el Sheik (COP27)** and to the CBD **Montreal (COP15)** where global leaders made **commitments to address climate change and biodiversity**. Recognising that cities are at the forefront of climate change and that biodiversity is **a highly significant economic and political issue**, political leaders were challenged to reach agreement on a Global Biodiversity Framework for an **all of society approach** to halt biodiversity loss and restore nature.

Case study: Victoria Park, Australia

Act Local, Contribute Global to World Biodiversity Conservation

Finalist: Living Green for Biodiversity
AIPH World Green City Awards
2022...

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Key themes

- The South western region Western Australia is one of 36 global biodiversity hotspots
- Biodiversity hotspots represent only
 2.4% of the earth's surface, yet are
 home to 60% of plant species
- Significant population growth anticipated in the region

City challenges

- City canopy cover is only 10%, goal is 20%
- Urban heat island effect is significant
- Urban infill is preferential to urban sprawl

Actions and outcomes

- Introduction of a tree policy for provision, planting and retention of trees on private land and street verges
- Cross-agency collaboration enables establishment of ecological corridors
- Storytelling as a means to engage hearts and minds of residents

Reasons for biodiversity loss

The main reasons for biodiversity loss in cities:

- Habitat destruction
- Extreme urban climatic conditions
- Air, water, soil and light pollution
- Introduction of invasive species
- Fragmentation and connectivity loss
- High natural resource use in cities
- Limited green space in urban landscapes
- Loss of connection with nature leading to disinterest

Case study: Bogotá, Colombia

Reverdecer Bogotá

Winner: Living Green for Biodiversity
AIPH World Green City Awards
2022.

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AIPH Green City Briefings 2022-23



Photo Botanic Garden of Bogotá image bank

Key themes

- Enhancing conditions for existing plants and nature
- Transformation of habitats and spaces
- Creating awareness about consumption of resources
- Promoting appreciation of all forms of life

City challenges

- Food insecurity leading to health problems in vulnerable sectors
- Poor air quality due to pollution
- Water quality deteriorating
- o Increased crimes in derelict landscapes

Actions and outcomes

- Creation of 5 agro-ecological routes linking self-sustaining gardens
- Urban and peri-urban agriculture supported with funding and skills
- Community gardens promote improved social conditions
- Local food production reduces waste
- Resurgence of traditional methods for pest and disease control
- 144 plant species investigated for medicinal, food and industrial use

Leading cities support biodiversity

Biodiversity enables provision of the ecosystem services that sustain healthy urban environments.

Living Green for Biodiversity is one of the categories in the AIPH World Green City Awards.

Entries are now open for 2024 edition





Case study: Paris, France

Getting everyone involved in Greening the City

Finalist: Living Green for Biodiversity
AIPH World Green City Awards
2022.

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Key themes

- Reliance on key entities with an interest in addressing urban habitats
- Developed multiple Action Plans to make the city greener, more favourable to biodiversity, and promote urban agriculture

City challenges

- Paris is the most dense city in Europe
- Are around Paris is highly urbanised
- Less intensive management of public spaces to accommodate nature is unpopular and perceived as failure

Actions and outcomes

- Motivation for citizen involvement:
 49.5% to increase nature in cities and
 40.2% for pleasure of gardening
- Area under urban agriculture tripled from 2014-2020
- Success has inspired other cities

Contact information

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