

Contributors analyzed urban natures ranging from Montería and Mompox (riverside cities) to real estate practices in Milan and Villavicencio. Their analysis included a circular green hotspot in Amsterdam, planetary health diets in Quezon City and Copenhagen, a pan-European toolbox to manage blue environments, a comprehensive methodology to value the benefits of urban trees in Medellín, a food security approach based on green roofs in Rio de Janeiro, and practical applications to advance biodiversity in the public space in the Chinese “sponge-city” of Shenzhen.

BiodiverCities by 2030 is a joint initiative of the World Economic Forum and the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, championed by the Government of Colombia. This initiative aims to support city governments, businesses and citizens, to enable cities to live in harmony with nature by 2030.

To achieve this vision, BiodiverCities pledge to deliver on five commitments:

1. TO HEAL URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

BiodiverCities build reciprocal relationships with their surroundings – protecting the ecosystems they interact with and the natural resources they depend on, and regenerating biodiversity on a regional scale.

2. TO EMBED BIODIVERSITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BiodiverCities seek to maximize the value biodiversity can bring to urban environments and citizens through its multiple services and benefits – from climate resilience, to health and prosperity.

3. TO MAKE NATURE A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

BiodiverCities draw on natural capital to develop new ventures and technologies, while embracing innovative models centered on biodiversity, such as bio-economy, biomimicry and circularity.

4. TO ADOPT NATURE-POSITIVE GOVERNANCE

BiodiverCities promote shared responsibility and ‘two-way’ governance of urban nature – where new alliances with civil society and the private sector drive actions that not only nurture biodiversity, but also improve social equality and living standards.

5. TO PROMOTE A NEW MINDSET THROUGH NATURE

BiodiverCities invest in nature as a catalyst for a renewed sense of citizenship, and cultivate a mindset where cities are seen as homes to all species, not only humans. They promote sustainable behaviors through education programmes, civic campaigns and nature-sensitive urban design.

Making it real - Three enabling environments to achieve BiodiverCities by 2030

The achievement of these commitments will depend on actions, tools and instruments aimed at the spatial integration of nature, the integration of nature for urban investors, as well as the measurement of the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

→ This book introduces the foundations of the BiodiverCities vision and offers an overview of meaningful practices, tools, and guiding principles to advance biodiversity in cities.

BIODIVERCITIES

BY 2030

TRANSFORMING CITIES WITH BIODIVERSITY



18 TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS TO DESIGN, LIVE AND ENJOY CITIES IN HARMONY WITH NATURE BY 2030

BiodiverCities offers a truly *transformative* vision of the city in which human beings can live, work and evolve in harmony with their environment based on principles of biodiversity and sustainability. The merit of this publication is that it also tackles "how" this transformation can take place and, through in-depth analysis of case studies, the specific institutional changes required to make this happen.

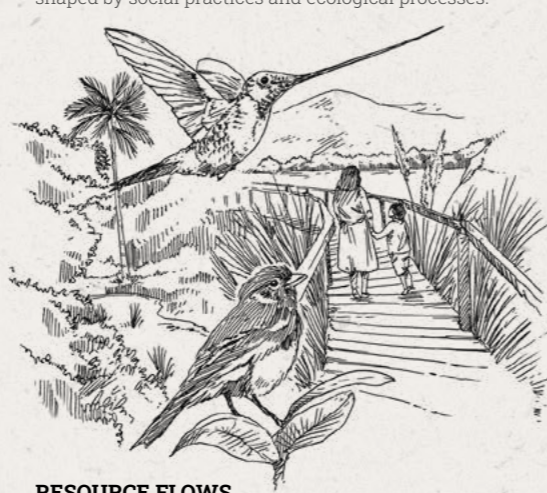
In what follows, we propose a set of transformative actions grouped in six dimensions to initiate (and navigate through) change toward cities in harmony with nature by 2030. System transformation implies change across all those dimensions.

We hope these actions speak to and inspire sub-national governments, national authorities, the international community, business, finance, and society in general to imagine the future cities we want to live in -and make them happen.

Maria Angelica Mejía and Juan David Amaya-Espinel, editors.

VALUES, BELIEFS, AND WORLDVIEWS

- ➔ Transforming academic disciplines, planning instruments, and human perceptions reinforcing the idea of cities as a threat to biodiversity.
- ➔ Promoting cities as hubs of positive interactions between ecological, social, and technological systems.
- ➔ Approaching cities as socio-ecological systems shaped by social practices and ecological processes.



RESOURCE FLOWS

- ➔ Developing a new urban economy based on biodiversity and equitable distribution of its benefits.
- ➔ Diversifying financial instruments, incentives, and aids to incorporate biodiversity in urban planning.
- ➔ Encouraging the creation of natural capital funds and NbS projects.

NORMS AND REGULATIONS

- ➔ Harmonizing social and economic demands with the maintenance of ecosystems and biodiversity.
- ➔ Addressing the human footprint that extends beyond cities.
- ➔ Promoting planning processes that overcome the dichotomy between grey and green infrastructure.



ROLES AND ROUTINES

- ➔ Embracing the Urban Commons – they include material resources such as parks, community gardens, streets, abandoned buildings, and intangible aspects such as culture, public services, and community bonds.
- ➔ Promoting experimental spaces implying the creation of platforms for new interactions.
- ➔ Instead of doing more, we need to do less. It is important to let nature reconquer urban spaces.

INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE FLOWS

- ➔ Promoting citizen engagement in generating biodiversity information (eBird, iNaturalist, etc.).
- ➔ Supporting platforms help spread good ideas and practices.
- ➔ Ensuring that local reports demonstrate the value of maintaining and recovering biodiversity.



POWER RELATIONS

- ➔ Approaching cities as a space for distributed agency.
- ➔ Promoting a shared vision of the city based on principles of equity and well-being.
- ➔ Acting to reduce gaps around the distribution and access to the benefits from biodiversity.