Parques del río Norte Medellín

The C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF) supports the City of Medellín with preparing a complex infrastructure project aiming to improve the city's resilience.

With this project, the city has the overall objective to improve the rate of public green space per capita while using nature-based solutions; also, to reduce the risk of riverbank erosion and to improve urban drainage; therefore, improving the quality of life of citizens.

The project builds on a pilot in the city centre and targets the northern part of the city, along the river; in 3 districts which are largely inhabited by low-income communities with informal neighbourhoods and a high rate of female-headed households. As the neighbourhoods are characterised by informal tenure and construction, inhabitants are exposed to higher risks of flooding and landslides,

Objectives and expected benefits

The "Parques del Río Norte" project will not only improve the public green space rate per capita, but the expected benefits are far-reaching – from decreasing city-wide flood risks and climate induced hazards trough nature based solutions to improving air quality, decreasing urban heat, and leading to establish environmental and ecological networks within the city that build linkages between inhabitants and the Medellín River.

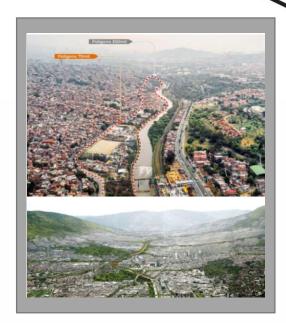
Additionally, it has the potential to create new financing and operational models for urban adaptation projects; and to create a good practice example of how cities can address the increasing challenge of managing extreme weather events through 'soft infrastructure' measures.



The project is located along the riverside between the lowest income housing districts with around

390.000 inhabitants who will enjoy from having a public space rate

of 1,7 m2 to 3,8m2



Implementing agencies

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Parques del río Norte Medellín

Status of the project

The project is included in the city's development plan; and its implementation is divided into 3 phases. The 1st one consists of the development of 26.000m2, the second consists of 44.000m2, and the third phase consists of additional 230.000m2 which will be up scaled from the first two phases. Summing up a total of 300.000 m2 within "Parques del Río Norte".

The technical assistance from Medellín was successfully completed, and the city is provided with the project's risk analysis, environmental and social impact study, equity and inclusion study, financial model and business case, communication strategy, and a suggested governance structure; finally, a typology of recommended nature-based solutions and the cost-benefit analysis of these.

In addition to the mentioned studies, the technical assistance leaves a trained technical team prepared to develop similar projects, which was trained through all the knowledge activities carried out during the last two years of cooperation.

It is noteworthy that the project serves as a model for future initiatives and has the potential to serve as an example of the positive impact that NbS can have in addressing urbanization challenges in densely populated and rapidly expanding cities.



The project has a Social Internal Rate of Return of **28.67%**, indicating social and environmental viability.

With the CFF contribution the city gained experience implementing nature-based solutions understanding how they can be used for other sites along the Medellín River.

Then, there is large potential to upscale and replicate project components along the Medellín riverside, as well as for other cities in similar conditions.

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