

Co-creation of Nature-based Solutions

Bogotá, Colombia

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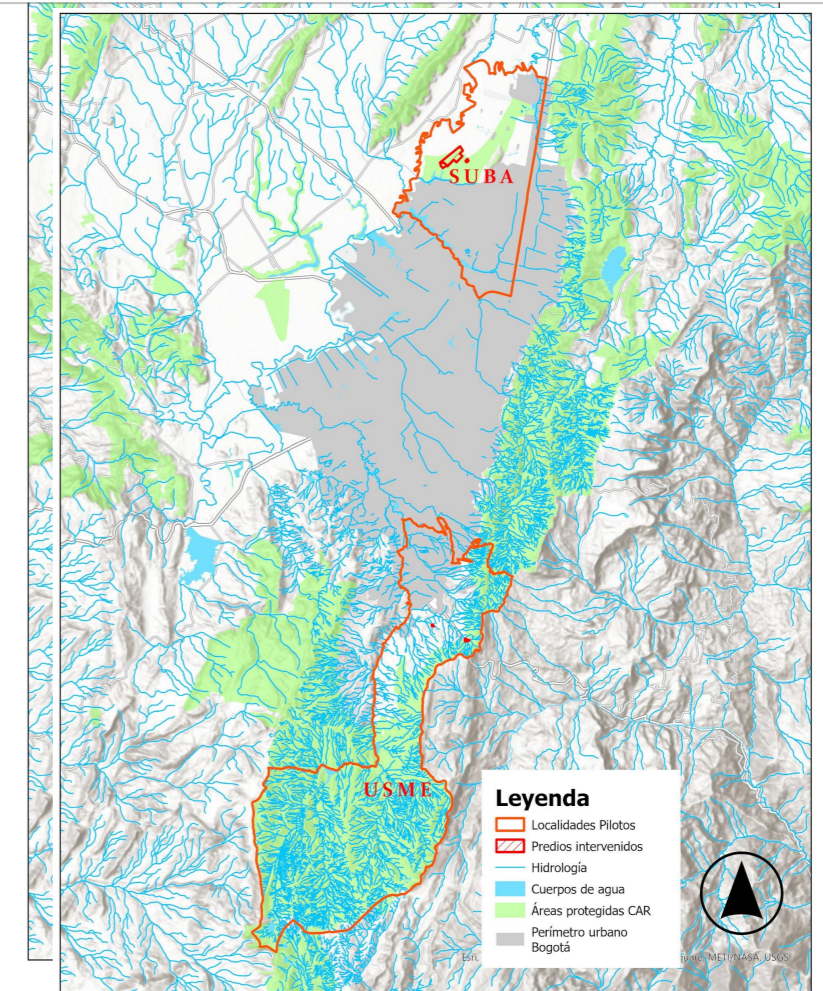
Background

MAIN CHALLENGES:

- Urban sprawl over natural and rural areas.
- Degradation of ecosystems affected by formal and informal expansion, mining and agriculture.
- Threats from city edges to rural identity and livelihoods.

BOGOTÁ'S PROFILE

- Population: 7.91 million inhabitants, 2,600 meters above sea level, on the Colombian Andes.
- Socio-hydric territories on the urban edges of Suba (wetlands) and Usme (aqueduct).
- Areas with great ecological, social and economic pressures; in addition to the urban threat.



Approach



What are they doing?

- Environmental classroom for environmental training and management.
- Initiatives, experiments and community pacts for ecological restoration.
- Proposals to improve water quality.
- Low-impact infrastructure to consolidate the areas and favor social appropriation processes.

What was your starting point?

- 2020/1 - Start of the project. Phase 1 (Diagnosis and planning)
- 2022/3 - Environmental Classroom and others. Phase 2 (Design and implementation)
- 2023/4 - Measurement and socialization of results. Phase 3



Methodology



- Living Laboratory: association of community, public, private and academic actors.
- Co-creation from diagnosis, design, implementation and measurement of NBS. Exchange of knowledge, collective construction and foresight exercises.
- The communities of La Requilina and El Uval in Usme, neighbors of Bosque Las Mercedes in Suba and schools in the areas are involved.
- The project is led by the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, the Humboldt Institute and the Botanical Garden of Bogotá.
- Funded by the Horizon 2020 Program of the European Union. The member institutions provide technical and human resources. The community contributes human resources for specific activities.



Outcome



- Relationships between local communities and their territories have been strengthened, valuing the environmental and social importance of ecosystems such as urban wetlands, native forests, and water sources.
- Restoration processes aimed at increasing ecosystem services have been initiated.

Next steps:

- Advance initiatives and measurements.
- Propose a management model for the sustainability of the interventions.
- Share lessons learned with other communities and local authorities of the rural-urban border.
- Scale up to public policy for managing the edge, sustaining rural life, and addressing urban sprawl.

Lessons learned

- Involving communities in decisions about interventions in their territory strengthens ownership and improves the achievement of objectives, despite the need for more time and effort.
- Recognizing and linking the processes led by local communities in their territories and their perspectives on the NBS is crucial.
- The pilots serve as a form of co-creation and a test bed for replicating NBS actions at different levels: local, regional and national.
- Perhaps the biggest challenge has been and remains land ownership, which has delayed some initiatives, and hindered others.
- A pending task for the NBS in Colombia is to achieve greater integration in public policies, particularly in urban and rural planning.

