



CIUDADES POR LA NATURALEZA

Repensando los vínculos urbano-rurales para las personas y la biodiversidad

Participatory & active social management for the protection of strategic ecosystems and urban nature

Envigado, Colombia

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Socio-environmental background

- From a participatory and socio-environmental perspective, the Municipality of Envigado has been characterized for having specific groups interested in the defense of environmental issues, critical, proactive and with an important sense of belonging to the natural resources and the territory.
- Committees
- Community Action Boards
- Environmental Collectives and NGOs
- Municipal Environmental Board
- Ecozones
- Community aqueducts
- Educational institutions
- Citizens interested in environmental issues



Approach



The Secretary of Environment of the municipality of Envigado focuses strategies to promote conservation and naturalization of the territory in an active and strong way supporting the development of experiential actions and connection between citizens and their natural environment for the recognition of natural ecosystems and their biodiversity which allows their appropriation and participation managing actions in an integrated manner.

Challenges:

Achieve greater awareness of the importance of protected areas, SILAPE as a conservation strategy.

Involve different population groups in the identification and recognition of the environmental, water and biodiversity wealth.

Encourage active and more empowered participation in the implementation of actions and solutions based on nature.

Innovate in youth participation processes that allow interaction between different age and population groups.

Continue to increase the motivation and participation of the community in the "Envigado Florece" strategy.

Promote greater community participation in land use planning.



Methodology



What is being done?

- A comprehensive strategy is built according to the realities and potential of the territory that recognizes as a starting point to solve environmental weaknesses and restore or improve nature with actions identified by the community, the municipality and other stakeholders in a participatory and inclusive manner.
- City tours with the communities to recognize and value the environmental wealth.
- Implementation of planting (trees, functional gardens) and renaturalization in public urban areas, promoting the change from hard to soft floors, through the community and collectivity.
- Celebrations of classic environmental days
- Implementation of artistic nature murals
- Development of extracurricular activities in educational institutions that promote knowledge and appropriation of biodiversity, protected areas and water resources (Guardians of the Ayurá, SILAPE Kids, drawing contest My River, My City and Me, Literary Waters).

Result: We highlight the recognition of Envigado's Local System of Protected Areas as a key strategy.

High levels of sense of belonging for urban trees and green areas through the implementation of functional gardens.



Outcomes



- Urban Renaturalization: The creation of 286 new gardens.
- Delivery of 127,125 plant units that make it possible to improve the urban environment.
- This provides people with greener and healthier environments, contributing to the well-being and quality of life of the community.
- Citizen participation: The different projects have sought to promote citizen participation, which implies a significant empowerment of the community.
- The construction of the Biodiversity Policy seeks to continue seeking to implement participatory actions, strengthening the active participation of citizens in the planning and sustainable development of their environment.
- Increase of Green Areas: The creation of new gardens contributes to the increase of green areas, promoting biodiversity by providing additional habitats and ecological corridors for local fauna.

Lessons learned

- The incorporation of participatory actions with the community is fundamental for land use planning and the creation of citizen science models, highlighting the importance of involving the community in key environmental decisions, thus strengthening citizen participation.
- Improving ongoing communication with the community can strengthen environmental awareness and maintain an active interest in the project over time.
- Implementing a long-term monitoring system to assess sustainability and evolving impacts could provide valuable data for future initiatives.
- Integrating a more robust environmental education strategy not only in schools but also with communities could enhance environmental understanding and awareness, contributing to more informed and sustainable participation.