



CIUDADES POR LA NATURALEZA

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



Orla Piratininga Park

Niteroi, Brazil

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Background

MAIN CHALLENGES:

- Transformation of an inhospitable area into a large garden that purifies the water draining into the Piratininga lagoon and offers a more pleasant environment for the residents' leisure time.

CITY PROFILE

- 130,000 km²
- 500,000 inhabitants
- Located in the Metropolitan Region of Rio de Janeiro.



Approach



- Construction of a public park to restore the Piratininga lagoon and clean up its surroundings, while building recreational facilities for the population.
- Nature-based solutions are being implemented: 35,000 m² of filtering gardens (wetlands);
- 3.6 kilometers of ditches;
- 70,000 m² of Atlantic Forest connectors and wetlands;
- 7,911 trees.
- Start of works: October 2021, an innovative project included in the Sustainable Ocean Region Program ().
- (www.prosustentavel.niteroi.rj.gov.br).

Methodology



The Orla Piratininga Park has two distinctive characteristics:

- It was designed and implemented using systems thinking in its management process.
- It uses bioengineering techniques to enhance local biodiversity.

The project is being carried out by the Municipality of Niteroi, through the Sustainable Ocean Region Program Team, linked to the Municipal Department of Works and Infrastructure.

The works are financed with municipal public funds from a loan from the Andean Development Corporation.

Outcomes



- The local population has enjoyed the area communally, regardless of their social class. Some of the residents had been excluded because they lived in marginal neighborhoods.
- There has been a significant increase in avifauna, reptiles and amphibians, and the gardens have been used for breeding species.
- Residents have noticed a reduction in disease-causing mosquitoes.
- The continuity of the Park is assured because it is politically important to the Mayor, residents have already taken ownership of the Park, and scientific research is being stimulated at the universities.
- The challenge is that the project applies innovative techniques, which requires creating solutions for every unexpected situation.

Lessons learned

- The key elements for the good outcome of the practice are: political will of the mayor; multidisciplinary team working interdisciplinary; intensive commitment of the management team; involvement of residents and environmentalists.
- Considering the difficulties encountered in this project, in future similar experiences it is essential to improve the executive project, taking into account the specific environmental and social conditions of the region in which it is carried out.
- To inspire similar practices, it is essential to disseminate the knowledge created from the experience of applying nature-based solution techniques, as well as the ecosystem services produced.

