

Towards Resilient Cities in Guatemala



Country:
Guatemala



Implementing Agency:
IUCN



Executing Agency:
FUNDAECO and Defensores
de la Naturaleza



Focal Point:
Ministry of Environment and
Natural Resources (MARN)



Project Overview

GEF-8 Sustainable Cities Integrated Program

Integrated urban planning, biodiversity, nature-based solutions and climate resilience in Guatemala.



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

Catalyze sustainable urban transformation through integrated urban planning, biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions (NbS), and climate resilience.



MAIN INVESTMENT COMPONENTS

1. Urban planning, strategies and policies.
2. Urban green and resilience investments.
3. Knowledge, monitoring and local capacity building.



NAMES OF PARTICIPATING CITIES

Huehuetenango; Mancomunidad Gran Ciudad del Sur; Municipality of Guatemala City; Municipality of Amatitlán; Municipality of Fraijanes.



IMPLEMENTATION CONTEXT

The project advances from approval to Year 1 operationalization, linking territorial planning, biodiversity monitoring and investment preparation.



GEF GRANT

US\$3.87 million

programmable



CO-FINANCING

US\$20.58 million

reported 2025



DURATION

48 months

start-up 2026



The project combines territorial planning, biodiversity action and urban investment readiness to generate multiple benefits.



Implementation Status

The project moved from approval and validation to operational start-up



Key shift:

2025 focused on project approval;

2026 focused on operationalization and implementation readiness.

Status in 2026



Execution agreements under preparation



Year 1 work plan prepared



Annex 2 budget formulation advanced

Immediate Priorities: Next 6–12 Months

Three immediate priorities will enable Year 1 implementation

1



Finalize start-up architecture

Conclude execution agreements and consolidate the Year 1 work plan and Annex 2 budget structure.

2



Activate territorial priorities

Launch the Amatlán POT route and consolidate the Huehuetenango territorial work pathway.

3



Initiate monitoring and knowledge systems

Advance the monitoring approach, citizen platform and community of practice with implementing partners.



Expected short-term results



Operational alignment among partners



Ready-to-launch Year 1 activities



Clear territorial focus



Stronger basis for implementation and reporting



Main Challenges and Support Needed

The next phase requires coordinated implementation support



Main challenges



Coordinating multiple institutions

Alignment among UICN, MARN, implementing partners and municipalities remains essential.



Moving from approval to execution

Budgets, agreements and technical routes must translate into action.



Avoiding fragmentation

Monitoring, planning and investments must remain integrated.



Preparing investments responsibly

Future pilots require careful technical, territorial and institutional preparation.



Support requested



Peer learning on urban biodiversity and NbS



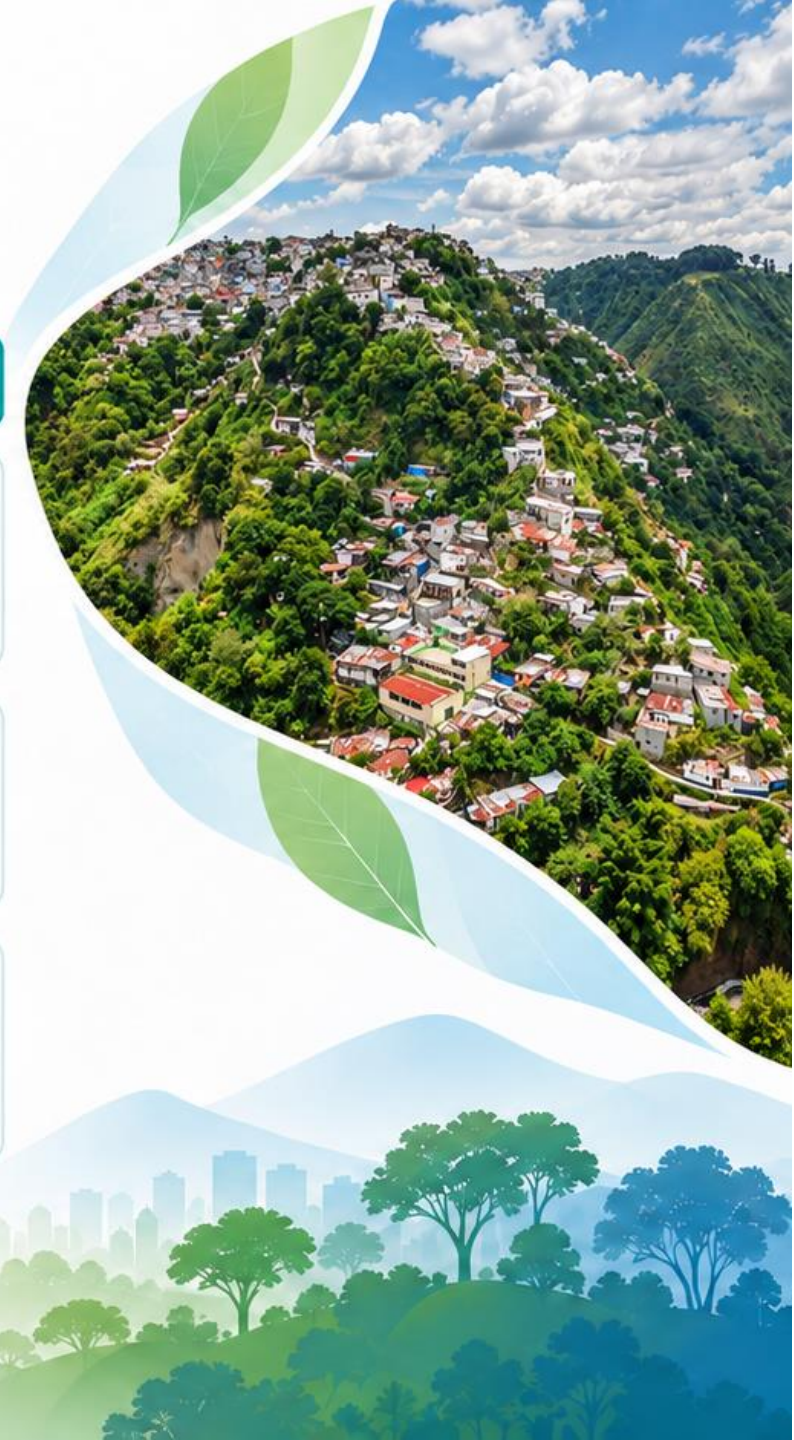
Practical tools for indicators and monitoring systems



Exchange on urban green finance and implementation models



Guatemala is moving from project design to implementation readiness; international exchange can accelerate the quality of this transition.



Where GPSC and Partners Can Add Value

Select up to 3 areas and specify the support needed



☐ Technical assistance



☐ Peer-to-peer learning



☒ **Knowledge products / toolkits**



☒ **Training / capacity building**



☐ Expert advisory support



☐ South-South exchange



☒ **Financing / private sector engagement**



☐ Monitoring & evaluation



☐ Communications & visibility



☐ Other: _____

COBERTURAS Y USOS DEL SUELO ARBÓREOS Y ÁREAS POTENCIALES DE EXPANSIÓN URBANA

SIMBOLOGÍA

- Red vial primaria
- Limite Depto. de Guatemala
- Limites Municipales

Cobertura y usos en las áreas potenciales de expansión

- Bosque de coníferas
- Bosque latifoliado
- Bosque mixto
- Café
- Café y aguacate
- Espacio con vegetación escasa (tierras desnudas y degradadas)
- Otros cultivos permanentes arbóreos
- Plantación de conífera
- Plantación de latifoliada
- Vegetación arbustiva baja (matorral y/o guamil)
- Árboles dispersos
- Cuerpos de Agua

Proyección del mapa: GTM (Datum WGS1984)
Base Cartográfica del IGN, INE, SEGEPLAN.
Fuente: IGN (2010), MAGA (2020) WorldPop Hub (ONU), 2024.
Fecha de edición: Febrero, 2025.



fondo
para el medio
ambiente mundial
INVERTIMOS EN NUESTRO PLANETA

1:360,000

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Km.