



Nature Action Agenda

# BiodiverCities by 2030

In collaboration with:



El futuro  
es de todos

Gobierno  
de Colombia







# Context

Cities, suburbs, and the global infrastructure system have a **devastating impact on nature**, affecting nearly a third of threatened species.

**44% of global GDP in cities** (\$31 trillion) is estimated to be **at risk of disruption from nature loss** and urban expansion is undermining nature's critical contributions to society - such as air quality, flood and drought prevention, and food security.

A nature-positive transition for cities is needed to:

- **Reverse the existing negative impact** of cities on nature
- Make cities **more hospitable to nature** and wildlife
- **Reimagine the relationship** between cities and the surrounding areas

We must **transform our cities**, ensure they operate in harmony with nature offer urban dwellers healthy, resilient and prosperous lives.



# Vision

Accelerating **nature-positive cities, or BiodiverCities**, that live in harmony with nature and its biodiversity so that every urban activity leaves the earth enriched and not depleted.

BiodiverCities by 2030 **drives change by:**



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Establishing and mainstreaming  
the concept of nature-positive  
urban development



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Catalyzing multi-stakeholder  
cooperation to make cities  
engines of planet-compatible  
economic growth, resilience and  
well-being





# Current impact



Curating the [Global Commission](#) of experts on BiodiverCities by 2030



Insight Report [“BiodiverCities by 2030: Transforming cities’ relationship with nature”](#)



Orienting systems approach decision making via the [Transformation Map](#) on BiodiverCities



Scouting and supporting [a community of innovators and entrepreneurs](#) enabling the transition to nature-positive cities



Socializing the concept at milestone events and through op-eds such as:

- ✓ [Urban Transformation Summit 2021](#)
- ✓ UNEA Cities and Nature Summit
- ✓ World Cities Day 2021
- ✓ WEF Annual Meeting, [COP26 Live](#) & [Sustainable Development Impact Summit](#)



# Global Commission of Experts



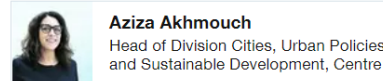
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



NATURVATION  
cities - nature - innovation



THE URBAN UNIT  
Urban Sector Planning & Management Services Unit (Pvt.) Ltd.  
P & D Department, Punjab



**Aziza Akhmouch**  
Head of Division Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, Centre



**Kathy Baughman McLeod**  
Senior Vice-President; Director, Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation



**Sir Philip Campbell**  
Editor-in-Chief, Springer Nature



**Masatoshi Funabashi**  
Researcher, Sony Computer Science Laboratories Inc



**Jonny Hughes**  
WCMC Chief Executive Officer, United Nations Environment Programme -



**Bernice Lee**  
Hoffmann Distinguished Fellow for Sustainability; Director, Research,



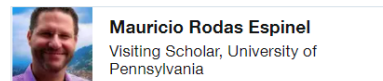
**Maria Cecilia Londono**  
Co-Chair, GEO-BON; Senior Researcher, Instituto de Investigación



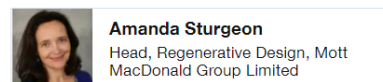
**William McDonough**  
Adjunct Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,



**Elizabeth Mrema**  
Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity



**Mauricio Rodas Espinel**  
Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania



**Amanda Sturgeon**  
Head, Regenerative Design, Mott MacDonald Group Limited



**Abul Kalam Azad**  
Special Envoy of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Presidency,



**George Patrick Richard Benson**  
Global Shaper, Vancouver Hub



**Lena Chan**  
Senior Director, International Biodiversity Conservation Division,



**Juan Nicolas Galarza**  
Vice-Minister of Environment and Territorial Planning, Ministry of the



**Jyrki Katainen**  
President, SITRA (Finnish Innovation Fund)



**Jennifer Lenhart**  
Global Lead, WWF Cities, WWF Sweden



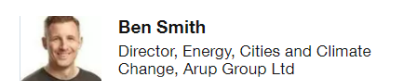
**Mohammad Omar Masud**  
Chief Executive Officer, The Urban Unit, Government of Pakistan



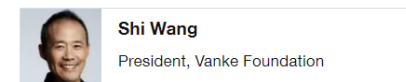
**Timon McPhearson**  
Director and Associate Professor, Urban Systems Lab, The New School



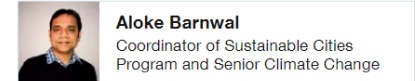
**Yu Kongjian**  
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**Ben Smith**  
Director, Energy, Cities and Climate Change, Arup Group Ltd



**Shi Wang**  
President, Vanke Foundation



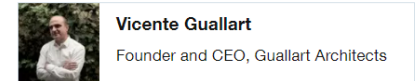
**Alope Barnwal**  
Coordinator of Sustainable Cities Program and Senior Climate Change



**Harriet Bulkeley**  
H2020 Smart Cities and Communities Lead, Durham University



**John E. Fernandez**  
Professor and Director, Environmental Solutions Initiative, Massachusetts



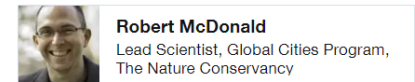
**Vicente Guallart**  
Founder and CEO, Guallart Architects



**Emani B.V. Kumar**  
Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI - South Asia



**Adriana Lobo**  
Chief Executive Officer, Mexico, World Resources Institute



**Robert McDonald**  
Lead Scientist, Global Cities Program, The Nature Conservancy



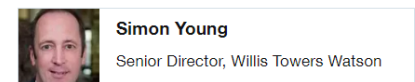
**Mphethi Morojele**  
Founder and Owner, MMA Design Studio



**Michael Pawlyn**  
Founder and CEO, Exploration Architecture



**Lauren Sorkin**  
Executive Director, Global Resilient Cities Network



**Simon Young**  
Senior Director, Willis Towers Watson



# Insight Report – *BiodiverCities by 2030: Transforming Cities' Relationship with Nature*

## ① Cities' relationship with nature

Rapid expansion of the built environment has proven detrimental for cities' natural ecosystems, denting economic prospects and necessitating a systemic transition in urban development.



BiodiverCities by 2030: Transforming Cities' Relationship with Nature 7

## ② Making the economic case for BiodiverCities

A potential \$589 billion investment opportunity for NbS for infrastructure and land-sparing interventions in cities awaits in 2030, paving the way for nature-based urban transformation.



BiodiverCities by 2030: Transforming Cities' Relationship with Nature 14

## ③ Enabling cities to live in harmony with nature

A nature-positive model of urban development requires a systemic shift in governance, spatial (re)integration of nature, and investment mobilization.



BiodiverCities by 2030: Transforming Cities' Relationship with Nature 24

### Enabling cities to live in harmony with nature Three systemic shifts towards a nature-positive urban development



#### Systems approach to urban governance



#### Spatial (re)integration of nature



#### Investment mobilization for NbS



Read key messages [here](#)





# Next steps



Raising **policy ambition** and **business engagement** at global and regional levels



Catalysing **leadership** and influencing **system change** to integrate nature in urban planning, policies and investments



Strengthening **enabling environments** for nature-positive interventions in cities



Partnering with cities to **pilot solutions** for nature-positive interventions



Supporting and promoting BiodiverCities **innovation** across sectors



# BiodiverCities Innovation Challenge



## BIODIVERCITIES CHALLENGE TOP INNOVATORS

Idas Valley Community	Bitagreen
Resilio/City of Amsterdam	Hot Heart
Santuario de Aves	Latitudo 40
The Natural History Consortium	Trees for Cities
Fundación Parque Jaime Duque	PopUP Forest
Institute of Marine Sciences	Living Seawalls
Husqvarna Urban Green Space Index	Sanergy Limited
SEED Next Generation Living	



INSTAGRAM: @KASAS

[Translate](#) [Original](#) ▼

## Transforming cities into hubs of biodiversity and nature-positive living

Global call for innovative solutions that are enabling cities to become nature-positive and fulfil their potential as engines of equitable and sustainable development, resilience and well-being.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

The [cohort of top-innovators](#) joined a 4-month accelerator programme tailored to scale up their impact

## Supporting Partners





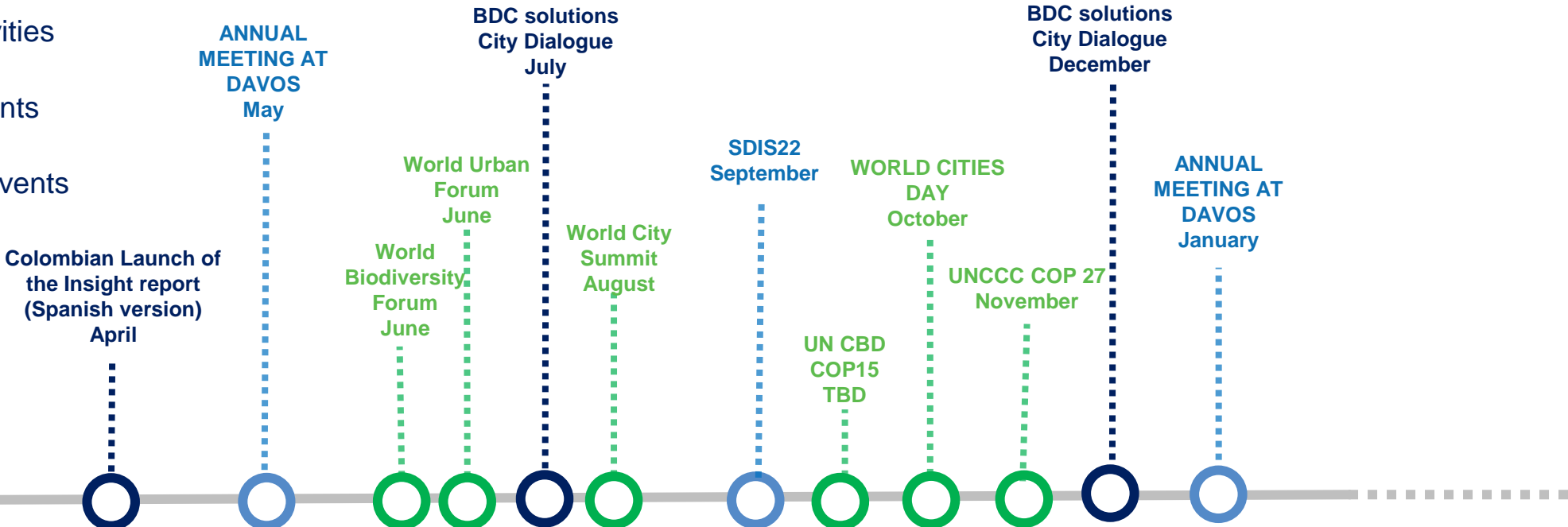
# Timeline

 BDC activities

 WEF events

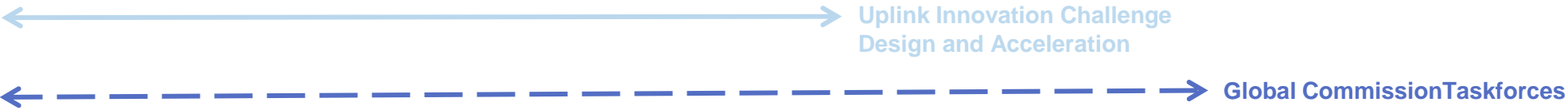
 External events

Key Events



2022

2023





# Thank you



[natureactionagenda@weforum.org](mailto:natureactionagenda@weforum.org)



<https://www.weforum.org/biodivercities-by-2030/home>



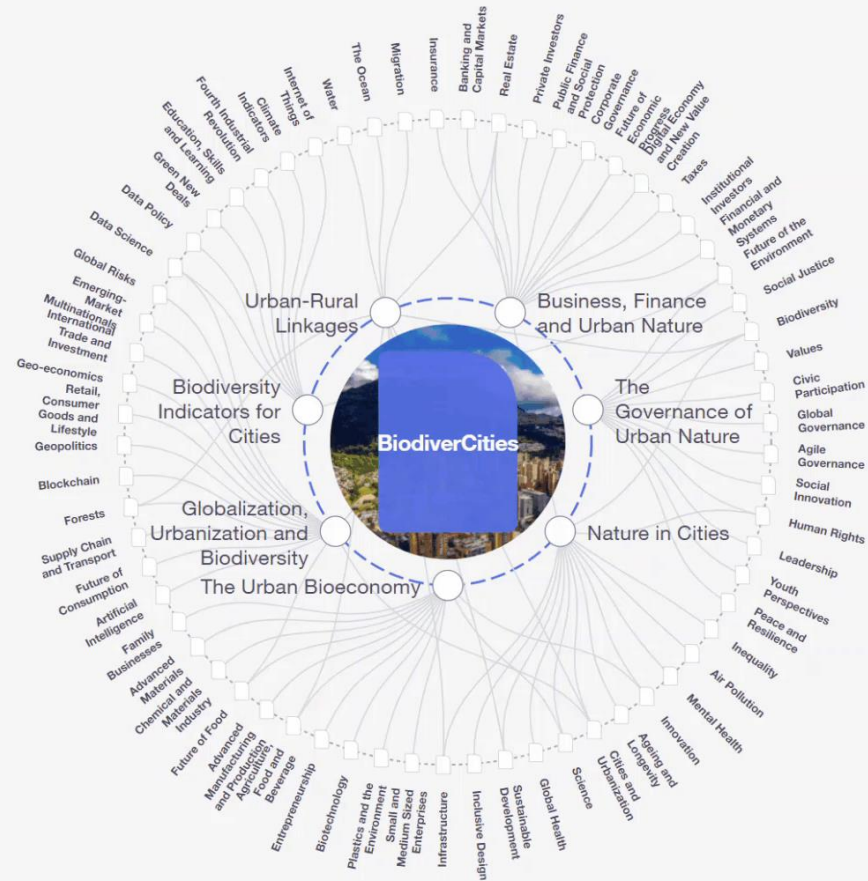


# Annexes





# BiodiverCities Transformation Map



Nearly 70% of the global population is expected to live in cities by 2050, up from just 30% in 1950 - creating an urgent need to explore the nexus between urban growth and resilience, energy use, and biodiversity. The concept of BiodiverCities springs from the fact that healthy biological diversity should be a core element of civic space and urban development. As hubs for innovation, cooperation, inspiration, and economic growth,

[Read more](#)

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## Briefing



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## Dialogue



Embed

Interactive, dynamic data visualisation for presenting information related to BiodiverCities and its interdependencies with other relevant topics. Visit the map on the Forum [Strategic Intelligence Platform](#).





# Op-Eds published on the WEF Agenda

## A new initiative could make cities more biodiverse: Here's how



Cities of the future should protect nature and improve the wellbeing of their citizens. Image: Unsplash

27 Jun 2021

**Berge Brende**  
President, World Economic Forum

**Ivan Duque**  
President of Colombia, Office of the President of Colombia

This article is part of the **The Davos Agenda**

- Over half the world's population lives in cities, which are responsible for 75% of global carbon emissions.

Read more [here](#).

## How to measure the ecological performance of cities so people and nature can thrive



A restored naturalised stream runs through Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park in Singapore's City in Nature, providing numerous nature-based benefits and ecosystem services.

Image: National Parks Board.

06 Nov 2021

**Jonny Hughes**  
IUCN Urban Alliance Chair and WCMC Chief Executive Officer, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

**Lena Chan**  
Senior Director, International Biodiversity Conservation Division, National Parks Board

- We are now an urban animal – 68% of humanity will live in urban areas by 2050.
- Addressing the health of nature in cities is key to our well-being and prosperity.
- The IUCN Urban Nature Index and the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity have been created to help mayors, city leaders and communities achieve a nature-positive future by

Read more [here](#).

## How to reimagine our cities as hubs for biodiversity conservation and climate resilience



Green spaces in cities help offset climate changes and provide physical and mental well-being for their citizens. Image: Unsplash/Sergio Sala

05 Jun 2021

**Mauricio Rodas Espinel**  
Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania

**Lena Chan**  
Senior Director, International Biodiversity Conservation Division, National Parks Board

Biodiversity – all living organisms, including plants, animals and microorganisms – is essential for human existence. Yet when we think about biodiversity, we rarely picture a city in our minds. Nature has often been associated as purely a feature of rural landscapes, when in fact urban areas are home to a myriad of ecosystems and natural wealth, harbouring rich biodiversity. We are embedded in nature and yet we know very little about it.

Read more [here](#).

## This is why we need to put nature at the heart of urban development



A new competition is calling for innovations that bring nature back into our cities. Image: Pixabay

04 Nov 2021

**Marina Ruta**  
Community and Project Lead, BiodiverCities, Climate Initiatives, World Economic Forum

**Silje Dittelsen Zanni**  
Community Success Lead, Nature-Based Solutions, UpLink, World Economic Forum

- Between now and 2050, our planet will welcome an additional 3 billion people, and nearly 70% of this global population will live in cities.
- As cities expand faster than at any point in history, so does their ecological footprint and impact on nature loss and climate.

Read more [here](#).

## How to make our cities greener, healthier, wilder and fairer



Reconnecting people with nature could make cities even more critical to biodiversity. Image: REUTERS/Regis Duvignau

05 Aug 2021

**Ben Smith**  
Director for Energy and Climate Change, Arup Group



- By 2050, 68% of the world's population is expected to live in a city;
- Rapid urbanization threatens biodiversity, but cities can be critical spaces to address this with solutions that, crucially, reconnect people with nature;
- The World Economic Forum, is collaborating with the Government of Colombia on

Read more [here](#).

## If the world's 1 million municipalities were nature-positive, we could tackle climate change



The botanical gardens in Curitiba, Brazil, a leader in green city design. Image: Wikimedia

11 Nov 2021

**Elizabeth Mrema**  
Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

This article is part of the **Forum COP26 Live**

- Designing, building and managing cities to be nature-positive is a key component of the

Read more [here](#).