

Follow up to the UNHA Resolutions Action plan and Roadmap to 2025

Resolution on Biodiverse and Resilient Cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning

[\(HSP/HA.2/Res.4\)](#)

Version 1 – [28 September 2023]

This Roadmap has been prepared by the UN-Habitat Secretariat to reflect on the resolution on Biodiverse and Resilient cities (HSP/HA.2/Res.4), adopted at the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly on 09 June 2023. The Resolution was championed by Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Pakistan, Peru, Singapore and Uruguay and adopted by acclamation. This Action Plan will be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, during the course of implementation of the resolution.

Overview of resolution

The resolution promotes the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning through the establishment of an open-ended international expert advisory group, production of a toolkit on urban development, building governments' capacities, identifying investment options, developing pilot projects, and fundraising.

Requests for UN-Habitat

- Promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning and management, alignment at all levels of government, and income-generating opportunities
- Establish an open-ended international expert advisory group to produce a toolkit by compiling examples of best practices, assessing guidelines, identifying needs of people in vulnerable situations, and compiling innovative methodologies
- Build capacity in biodiversity in urban planning through technical assistance and guidance
- Assist member states and United Nations specialized agencies in identifying options for investment
- Assist member states and United Nations specialized agencies in developing pilot projects and programmes
- Articulate links with the New Urban Agenda
- Submit the toolkit to the Executive Board
- Convene a group of financial institutions to support implementation
- Explore fundraising options
- Report to the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly.

Requests for Member States and other actors

All indirect through UN-Habitat (e.g. for governments to build capacity, identify options for investment, and develop pilot projects and programmes; for financial institutions to implement policies favouring more biodiverse cities). Member States are encouraged to financially contribute for the implementation of the resolution.

Relationship with prior and existing mandates, resolutions (Governing Council, GA, UNHA, etc)

General Assembly resolution 77/167 encourages relevant organizations to integrate nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches into their strategic planning across sectors.

The Global Biodiversity Framework Target 12 is for Parties to improve the quantity and quality connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban areas by both conservation and planning. Resolution 23/17 encourages Governments to promote urban development patterns that reduce urban sprawl and ecological footprint and undertake coordinated action to promote cities and biodiversity as part of their sustainable urban development strategies.

In addition, the Ministerial Declaration of the second session of the UN Habitat Assembly underlines the importance of “exploring just urban pathways for environmental action and sustainable consumption and production and ways in which integrated and participatory urban climate action, measures to curb waste and pollution, and biodiversity action can be strengthened through the relevant global, regional and local initiatives that enhance the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change” (paragraph 13b).

Implementing the resolution through the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-25

The resolution will be implemented through UN-Habitat’s Domain of Change 3 on climate action and urban environment which dedicates one outcome (3.2) to improved resource efficiency and protection of ecological assets, with associated sub-dimensions of planning, increasing green areas, water ecosystems, and biodiversity. Accordingly, the SIDA Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) for biodiversity in 2023 includes as a work package ‘cities and nature: planning for the future along a spectrum of ecological preservation, conservation, restoration, and creation’.

Fundraising strategy and key opportunities

Co-champions of this resolution will be consulted to help mobilize both recurring and one-time funds for this resolution. Member States will need to contribute more for its implementation. Indirectly, a small amount of existing funding for urban biodiversity work will provide for four months of a P3 for activities that will contribute to the production of a toolkit. The scalability model budgets for one full-time P4 for this resolution, should additional Foundation funds be secured. Meanwhile, a ROLAC proposal for a project funded by CAF would function as a precursor to these pilots by linking local priorities to SDGs and establishing a pipeline for future projects. The PBI is attached as an annex.

Challenges or gaps foreseen in the implementation of the Resolution

Staffing to oversee the implementation of this resolution has been included as ‘Package 4’ in the scalability model for additional fundraising for the Foundation. However, this is not yet confirmed. Soft-earmarked technical cooperation funding is being sought for additional one-time, normative components. XB from several funds and IFIs is now being explored as a potential source of financing for technical capacity building and pilot projects, although this will be difficult to apply toward the recurring costs of this resolution (e.g. advisory board).

Roadmap for implementation of the Resolution including timelines (indicate if time-bound or open-ended)

The timeline for the implementation of this resolution is most open-ended, though draft toolkit is to be presented to the Executive Board at its last session of 2024 and the Executive Director is to report to the third session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly on the status of the implementation of the resolution as a whole. Already SIDA PCA for biodiversity is funding an agreement of cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania/McHarg Center to begin some of the tool development for planning along a spectrum of ecological preservation, conservation, restoration, and creation.

Focal point and contact

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Annex – Programme Budget Implications Summary (as of after UNHA2)

Relevant Subprogramme(s)	Budget Category	Total Resources	Existing Resources	Net total
Recurrent Resource Requirements (Annual)				
SP1 (20%), SP2 (20%) and SP3 (60%)	Post Costs	241,858	-	241,858
	Non-Post Costs	145,195	-	145,195
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	10,000	-	10,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	-	-	-
	<i>Travel</i>	123,250	-	123,250
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	11,945	-	11,945
	Subtotal, Recurring Resource Requirements	387,054	-	387,054
One-Time Resource Requirements				
SP1 (20%), SP2 (20%) and SP3 (60%)	Post Costs	385,317	-	385,317
	Non-Post Costs	958,020	-	958,020
	<i>Documents, Meetings and Services</i>	295,000	-	295,000
	<i>Consultants</i>	263,400	-	263,400
	<i>Travel</i>	382,100	-	382,100
	<i>Other Operating Expenses</i>	17,520	-	17,520
	Subtotal, One-Time Resource Requirements	1,343,337	-	1,343,337
Grand Total		1,730,390	-	1,730,390