

## CASE STUDY

# Pla Natura Barcelona

**Pla Natura  
Barcelona**

2021–2030

*“We want to improve our citizen’s wellbeing and to foster citizen engagement in urban ecology”*

Margarida Parés, Biodiversity Programme Manager at the Barcelona City Council



## PROFILE SNAPSHOT

Website	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/11703/122958">http://hdl.handle.net/11703/122958</a>
Social channels	 @BCN_Ecologia
Country	Spain
Main sector	Public
Uforest thematic discipline	Urban landscape planning
Stage of development	Implementation



By increasing 1 square meter of urban greenery per citizen by 2030 (160 hectares in total).



By duplicating participants in nature activities since 2019 (120.000 in total), and by creating 40 new projects for the urban community agriculture programme Mans al verd (Green fingers).



By activating the ecological criterion in urban management.



By building 10 biodiversity shelters, and by gaining up to 100 hectares of flora and fauna habitats.





## START-UP

The Pla Natura Barcelona (Barcelona Nature Plan) is a **10-year plan** to improve and increase green spaces and biodiversity in Barcelona by 2030. As a **public initiative** by the Barcelona City Council, it gives continuity and upscales **the Plan del verd i de la biodiversitat 2020** (Green spaces and biodiversity plan) and complements the **Pla Clima** (Climate Plan) in execution since 2018. Following the Barcelona Climate Emergency Declaration of 2020, it pivots on three areas: 1. conservation, 2. increase and 3. value dissemination of green spaces and biodiversity. Transversely, this plan aims at working through knowledge and governance.

### THE PLA NATURA BARCELONA'S GOALS:

- **Goal #1:** Increase green infrastructure to maximise services related to climate change adaptation and citizen access to urban nature.
- **Goal #2:** Conserve and foster biodiversity by protecting species, improving habitats and habitat connectivity.
- **Goal #3:** Activate the ecological management of resources, natural heritage and the green urban areas with citizen and biodiversity health in mind.
- **Goal #4:** Increase knowledge, enjoyment, and protection of urban nature, and both enable and promote citizen engagement in nature conservation.



## INITIATIVE MODEL

### MAIN ACTIVITIES:

#### What does the Pla Natura Barcelona do?

- Use the **Carta del verd i de la biodiversitat** (Technical chart for green spaces and biodiversity) when developing projects related to urban and green planning (with indications related to, e.g., soil quality, spacing between trees, olfactive and sound-proofing characteristics, etc.).
- Create new green spaces and restore existing ones.
- Integrate the ecological management of resources, natural heritage and the natural urban environment.
- Promote citizen's engagement in public nature conservation.

### BENEFICIARIES:

#### Who benefits from the Pla Natura Barcelona's activities?

##### 1. Barcelona's citizens:

- Those sporadically participating in nature activities and sessions.
- Those with a strong commitment to urban nature.

##### 2. Over 1000 organizations that have signed the Barcelona + sostenible agreement:

<https://www.barcelona.cat/barcelonasostenible/ca>

### PROMOTION:

#### What is Pla Natura Barcelona's promotion strategy?

Through the Barcelona City Council's communication channels and teams:

- Specific teams for citizen participation, communication, environmental education, training, etc.
- District nature centres and departments.
- Citizen participation sessions.
- High priority, annual city campaigns.
- Information boards in public parks.
- Social media, newsletters and websites.

### GOVERNANCE:

#### How does the Pla Natura Barcelona implement its activities?

- Fostered by the Urban Ecology Councillor and the Head of Environmental and Urban Services of the Barcelona City Council.
- Executed and coordinated by the Pla Natura biodiversity team.



## FINANCES:

### What are the Pla Natura Barcelona's main resources?

- **Public financing** by Barcelona City Council.
- **Individual budget** for each of the Nature Plan's city projects related to Mobility, Environment, Urbanism or Housing.
- **Annual, fixed budget** for the Pla Natura biodiversity team pilot projects, knowledge projects, innovation projects and any project no other team can carry out.

## POLICY AND STANDARDS LEADING THE INITIATIVE:

- EU political recommendations and Next Generation requirements.
- Barcelona City Council guidelines:
  - Bones pràctiques de jardineria a Barcelona: conservar i millorar la biodiversitat (Best practice gardening guidelines for the conservation and improvement of biodiversity).  
<https://bcnroc.ajuntament.barcelona.cat/jspui/handle/11703/101466>
  - Arquitectura i fauna urbana (Architecture and urban fauna).  
<https://bcnroc.ajuntament.barcelona.cat/jspui/handle/11703/115906>
  - Carta del verd i de la biodiversitat (Technical chart for green spaces and biodiversity).



## UNIQUENESS

### What makes the Pla Natura Barcelona a one-of-a-kind project?

- **An integrated, global approach to nature:** compared to other plans that underline the concept of "biodiversity", the Pla Natura Barcelona refers to **nature as a whole** and not only for the city, but also for the globe.
- **The project blueprint:** the plan includes 100 projects with implementation details that guarantee commitment.
- **A multidisciplinary creative process:** the plan has been created collaboratively by different areas inside the Barcelona City Council, with over 1200 people working together.



## EXPECTATION

By **2025**, 10 top-priority projects will be concluded. In 5 years, the Pla Natura Barcelona aims at:

- Reaching other areas inside the Barcelona City Council: Culture, Education, Sports, Social Services and Districts.
- Expanding its focus to the outskirts of the city, for example in the Besòs and Llobregat rivers, the Collserola mountain range and the sea.

For **2050**, Barcelona envisions itself with green infrastructures that are functional, accessible, interconnected and linked to the metropolitan green network.

### What does the Pla Natura Barcelona need to be successful?

- Fixed, non-fluctuating financial resources
- Trust in the technical capacity of the city to greenify itself

### What are today's main challenges?

The main barrier is represented by the need **to add green spaces where it is actually needed**, and not only where there is the opportunity. Today, 4 out of 10 districts in Barcelona have less than 10 square meters of green spaces per citizen. This is particularly challenging in heavily-built districts with narrow streets, where there is no space for planting. In this context, green solutions - such as green roofs and vertical balconies - depend on **citizens' commitment** and require **creativity** and **original thinking**.

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