10 REASONS TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR CITY

1 Ensure the quality of ecologically relevant areas.

Protected green areas and water bodies are extremely important as they offer several ecosystem services. By preserving biodiversity in cities - creating, for example, linear parks and green corridors - we encourage the gene flow between areas and the maintenance of these very important ecosystems.

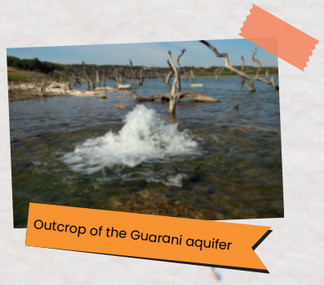
Serra do Guararu - Guarujá

2 Improve air quality.

Due to the intense use of fossil fuels in automotive vehicles, air quality is a point of attention in cities. Biodiversity can help improve air quality by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and releasing oxygen, reducing the incidence of respiratory problems such as asthma.

3 Ensure higher quality and availability of water in aquifers and reservoirs

By preserving biodiversity in cities, we reduce asphalted areas and increase permeable stretches. As a result, rainwater is able to penetrate the soil and gradually reach aquifers and reservoirs. Still, the roots reduce the amount of sediments and impurities that arrive in the reservoirs functioning as a natural filter.



Outcrop of the Guarani aquifer

4 Reduce the risk of erosion and protection from landslides.

Degraded areas that have lost their vegetation cover are exposed and vulnerable to the direct action of rain and strong winds. These meteorological events impoverish the soil through leaching, displace sediments and destabilize slopes, increasing the risk of landslides. By preserving biodiversity in risky places, we reduce these impacts and guarantee better soil quality and stability.

5 Minimize the risk of extreme events.

Biodiversity is extremely important for climate regulation. The roots of the plants allow greater water infiltration in the soil and help retain moisture in the soil over time, and the transpiration of the leaves helps in the formation of rain clouds and increases the humidity of the air. These factors, among many others, contribute to avoid extreme events such as droughts, fires and floods.

Drought in Northeastern Brazil

6 Promote sustainable urban food systems

Several animals, mainly insects such as bees, are responsible for pollination. This process guarantees the production of fruits, seeds and other foods that can be consumed by both wild animals and people. Thus, pollination ensures the sustainability of agroforestry, green belts and urban gardens, essential to feed the large number of people living in cities.

Bees are responsible by pollination

7 Greater vector control of zoonoses and poisonous animals.

By preserving biodiversity, we also preserve trophic chains. In this way, predatory animals can control the population of animals that present risks to human health. For example, fish are predators of mosquito larvae and skunks are known to prey on scorpions.

8 Promote thermal comfort.

The presence of biodiversity, especially trees with leafy tops, promotes milder temperatures and greater air humidity, ensuring thermal comfort and a greater sense of well-being.

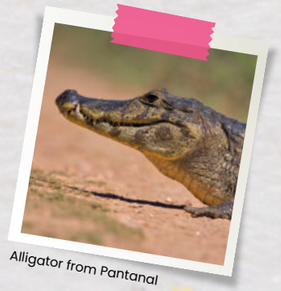
Jequitibá

9 Promote quality of life and wellness.

We know that outdoor activities and living with other people are essential to human development and well-being. Therefore, by preserving biodiversity, we enable the creation of safe and healthy spaces for such leisure and social activities.

10 Raise awareness about coexistence with other living beings.

Currently more than 50% of the world population lives in cities. It is also in this space that decisions that directly impact our daily lives occur. Therefore, it is important to promote an environment of harmonious coexistence with biodiversity in order to reinforce its importance for human well-being.



Alligator from Pantanal

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability