

UNP+ Case Study: Barcelona

How Barcelona integrates nature, people and planning through its Urban Nature Plan

Barcelona is a UNP+ **Lighthouse City** and a successful model for how to develop an **Urban Nature Plan** (UNP) - a framework that helps cities bring nature into their communities and improve quality of life. The city is pioneering the integration of biodiversity, climate action and public space design. Barcelona's **Plan Natura 2030** shows how collaboration between different departments, inclusive participation and clear environmental targets can ensure that urban greening is both effective and equitable.



Challenges

- Many plans, many priorities:** Barcelona is working simultaneously on multiple nature and climate strategies - the [Nature Plan](#), [Tree Plan](#), [Climate Plan](#) and [Play Plan](#). Although they all aim to expand greenery, aligning their actions and budgets is complex.
- Fragmented responsibility:** Responsibility for implementation is shared between different municipal departments (biodiversity, projects, parks and gardens). Without a central coordinating team, ownership and accountability can become diluted.
- Coordination across departments and agencies:** While the involvement of many districts, departments and agencies brings expertise, it also complicates monitoring and project delivery.
- Stakeholder coordination:** With over 100 participants contributing to Plan Natura across 10 workshops, managing input and maintaining engagement required significant effort.

Enabling Factors

- A **steering committee** comprising representatives from the Biodiversity, Green Participation, Projects and Green Space Conservation departments **ensures coordinated planning**.
- Urban nature is integrated into key city strategies**, including the [Tree Plan](#), the [Climate Action Plan](#), the [Urban Agriculture Strategy](#) and the [Hands-on Green Participation programme](#).
- The **shared goal of all these strategies** is to create 1 m² of new green space per resident by 2030 (around 160 ha in total).
- Citizen input on biodiversity priorities** was gathered through well-structured workshops and the Decidim platform, which supported meaningful participation.

Good Practices

- Formal participation framework:** Barcelona's Citizen Participation Regulation (2022) requires participatory processes for major municipal plans, thereby institutionalising co-creation.
- Inclusive co-production:** The Plan Natura 2030 was co-created with city departments, researchers, NGOs and citizens, and included scientific input from CREAM, ICO and ISGLOBAL.
- Clear leadership and accountability:** Each action in the Natura Action Plan has a lead department and assigned agents, ensuring transparent responsibilities.
- Social justice integration:** The 'Green Model' identifies neighbourhoods with limited green space and allocates investment to reduce environmental inequalities.

Key Learnings

- Integrating biodiversity goals** into **all urban strategies** maximises the benefits.
- Clear structures** and mandates **ensure continuous** and effective **participation**.
- Mapping access to green spaces** helps **deliver** social and environmental **justice**.
- Setting measurable targets** provides a **unifying vision**.