

Key Recommendations for National Governments

Based on our upcoming Policy Brief on Urban Nature Restoration

Author: Paola Lepori, Almut Ballstaedt (ICLEI Europe)

Reviewers: Philipp Walter; Kassia Rudd; Anna Bruen (ICLEI Europe); Anahita Rashidfarokhi; Erik Andersson (University of Helsinki)

This summary contains key recommendations for national governments on how to support cities and regions in implementing Article 8 of the [Nature Restoration Regulation](#). It is based on findings from the UNP+ project – the full policy brief will follow shortly.

Key Recommendations for National Governments

The following recommendations are intended to support national governments in enabling LRGs implement Article 8 effectively.

1. **Clarify LRG roles** in the NRPs, and support them with technical and financial guidance.
2. **Promote regional cooperation** by establishing task forces to address cross-boundary issues such as water management and ecological connectivity, while fostering collaboration between urban and rural areas.
3. **Develop national financing frameworks** that enable cities to access EU and national funding sources, as well as adopt innovative financing tools to support urban nature restoration and long-term management.
4. **Standardise key terminology and monitoring indicators** across UNPs to support measurable progress, enhance comparability, while improving public communication on the benefits of nature restoration.
5. **Support participatory governance** by embedding meaningful community engagement opportunities in urban nature planning, implementation and management processes.
6. **Ensure equitable processes and outcomes** through reforms in housing, land use, and taxation policies.
7. **Facilitate data sharing** and **capacity building** to improve local monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management of urban nature.
8. **Develop national guidelines** that articulate how UNPs contribute to achieving restoration targets, while allowing flexibility for cities to address specific local conditions.

Key Recommendations for National Governments

Based on our upcoming Policy Brief on Urban Nature Restoration

9. Take full advantage of the available **EU resources** to address the challenges faced by LRGs
 - a. **EU expert and working groups**, such as the European Biodiversity Platform (EUBP) NRR sub-expert group, and the EUBP Working Group on Green Infrastructure, offer avenues for dialogue among representatives of public authorities at EU, national and local levels, civil society organisations, and NGOs to clarify conceptual and implementation challenges and exchange knowledge and best practices.
 - b. The **Technical Support Instrument** (TSI) helps national authorities design and implement reforms that support the achievement of top EU priorities. As such, it can be mobilised to address capacity gaps at LRG level.¹

¹ At the moment of writing, the TSI priorities for 2026 are not yet available. These are selected on the basis of needs identified across Member States and linked to top EU priorities the Member States are in the process of implementing. Please visit <https://reform-support.ec.europa.eu/> for more information.