



# Wildlife corridors

## Environmental restoration of Escobar district in Buenos Aires.



### Objectives

#### Overall goal:

- Restore and reconnect wildlife corridors in Escobar district to give food and shelter to pollinators.

#### Specific goals:

- Create wildlife corridors in all the towns of the Escobar district and add the community's gardens with native plants in an online collaborative map with georeferencing, photos, and descriptions.
- Improve large spaces of biodiversity and pollinators' capacity to pollinate the big municipal agroecological vegetable gardens of the district.

### Description of citizen participation

Citizen participation consists of many tasks. Citizens receive training every month on topics related to wildlife corridors, native species, and environmental restoration. Citizen participation also consists of seed collection and exchange among neighbors for the creation of seedlings in different garden centers of native species around Escobar. In the same way, butterfly gardens and tiny native forests are created in the public squares of the district, the port of Escobar on the Paraná Delta, and every sidewalk where there are urban trees. By taking part in these activities organized by the municipality, citizens can take the following things to their homes: seedlings they made from native plants, butterfly shelters with native plants, native trees, seeds for agroecological gardening, aromatic plants for insects, compost made with pruning waste done at the municipality, pots made with processed ecobricks, or plantable pencils, that is, everything allowing citizens to grow and take care of species at their gardens at home. Thus, another instance of citizen participation involves identifying and georeferencing native species at private home gardens, contributing to the creation of a collaborative map on which urban wildlife corridors are rebuilt.

### Type of citizen science project

- Collaborative project: Citizens participate in data collection and analysis.

#### Participating parties.

- University professors
- Researchers
- Activists
- Argentine Ministry of Social Development
- Argentine Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
- University of Buenos Aires (UBA)
- National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA in Spanish)
- Ciervo de los Pantanos National Park
- Fundación Temaikèn [Temaikèn Foundation]

**Status.** In progress.

**Time frame.** 08/13/2021 - N/A.

**Frequency of project execution.** Uninterruptedly.

**Participation period.** Sustained over time.

**Scope of the initiative.** Local (city, province).

**Geographic scope.** Escobar district (Buenos Aires).

**Project development members.** It has been developed with the co-  
collaboration of both scientist and participants without formal training.

**Number of participants.** From 1001 onwards.

#### Action/s involving citizen participation.

- Data collection
- Phenomenon monitoring
- Solution planning
- Solution deployment

#### Technological device/tool required.

- Mobile phone for georeferencing of native plants.

**Recruitment methods.** Through social media, mass media, and mailing.

**Replicability.** The model was developed in the municipality of Escobar and Ciervo de los Pantanos National Park in Campana, Buenos Aires. The project was launched at the Argentine Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development as a model to be replicated under forest fire emergencies in the provinces of Misiones and Corrientes, together with Parque Nacional and Fundación Temaikèn.

**Scalability.** Continuous; more and more neighbors participate by helping with native plant cultivation and tree sponsorship; schools are helping by having their wildlife corridors at their institutions; environmental activists take part by exchanging seeds, among other things. As of August 2022, more than 140 schools enrolled in the program have had butterfly gardens at their establishments. Other citizen science activities are also being carried out at Reserva Natural Educativa [Educational Nature Reserve] in Ingeniero Mashwitz, Buenos Aires.

**Open access to data.** On the Escobar district website:  
[www.escobar.gob.ar/biocorredores](http://www.escobar.gob.ar/biocorredores).

**Feedback.** The creation of wildlife corridors can be followed in real time as they appear on the collaborative map.

#### Linkage with state agency/government.

- National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET in Spanish)
- School of Agriculture / University of Buenos Aires (UBA)
- National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA in Spanish)
- Ciervo de los Pantanos National Park

**Institutional funds.** Project's own funding sources. INTA. Parque Nacional de los Pantanos. Fundación Temaikèn [Temaikèn Foundation].

**Awards/distinctions.** No.

**Comments.** -

#### Knowledge areas/disciplines (OECD)

**NATURAL AND EXACT SCIENCES** / Biology  
**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES** / Agricultural biotechnology  
**SOCIAL SCIENCES** / Communication and media

#### Leaders.

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