

UNP+ Case Study: Paris

How Paris connects biodiversity, social justice and urban design through joined-up governance

As one of the UNP+ **Lighthouse Cities**, Paris plays a leading role in integrating nature across every layer of urban policy and planning. Through its **Biodiversity Plan and Bioclimatic Urban Master Plan**, Paris demonstrates that ecological restoration in cities is not only about green spaces but also about fairness, cooperation and innovation. The city's experience shows how **breaking down silos** and **embedding biodiversity in all strategies** can drive **lasting systemic change**.



Challenges

- Fragmented responsibilities:** Not every municipal plan in Paris has a designated department or an allocated budget. This makes it unclear who leads on biodiversity actions and reduces accountability.
- Competing policy agendas:** Different departments often pursue divergent goals – for example, transport priorities may conflict with greening ambitions. Limited urban space and funding create trade-offs between departments.
- Complex policy landscape:** Paris has a large number of plans and interaction points between them. Mapping how policies overlap or contradict one another is a demanding task currently under way.
- Unequal participation:** Vulnerable groups are under-represented in online consultations such as [Décider Paris](#), meaning that engagement does not always reach the city's most marginalised residents.

Enabling Factors

- Paris established a **Comité Biodiversité** bringing together elected officials, city departments and NGOs working on various topics. This “silo-busting” approach fosters shared ownership and learning.
- Paris uses a **wide variety of methods** - from online consultations and guided biodiversity walks to creative citizen projects. It tailors its **engagement tools to fit each situation**, acknowledging that no single co-creation method works for all communities or projects.
- High-level commitment** from the Mayor and senior officials **provides the authority needed to coordinate across departments**.
- The city's **main environmental strategies** - like the [Bioclimatic Urban Master Plan](#) and [Biodiversity Plan 2025–2030](#) - explicitly **name the stakeholders responsible** for implementation.

Good Practices

- Integrated urban planning:** Paris aligns its [Biodiversity Plan 2025–2030](#) with the binding [Bioclimatic Urban Master Plan](#) to reinforce environmental and social goals.
- Equitable access to nature:** The new Biodiversity Strategy focuses on environmental justice, prioritising underserved neighbourhoods to guarantee that every Parisian benefits from urban nature.
- Citizen empowerment:** Programs like [Permit to Plant](#) give residents hands-on roles in boosting biodiversity.
- Interdepartmental cooperation in practice:** Major greening projects, like the [Catalonia Square Urban Forest](#), are co-delivered by multiple departments - proving that collaboration can overcome differing agendas and deliver shared success.

Key Learnings

- Embedding biodiversity within all municipal strategies** maximises impact and resilience.
- Continuous **political support** and **clear responsibility** lines are vital for coordination.
- Social justice** and equal access to green spaces must be **central to nature planning**.
- Empowering citizens** through **visible participation** builds ownership and long-term care.