



**INTERLACE**

RESTORING URBAN ECOSYSTEMS  
RECUPERANDO ECOSISTEMAS URBANOS

# Urban Governance Atlas

## *Policy Pathways for mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions in cities*

Natalia Burgos Cuevas  
Ecologic Institute

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[interlace-project.eu](https://interlace-project.eu)



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# Creating enabling conditions: Unpacking NBS policy frameworks

- Ambition to mainstream NBS into urban planning and policies
- Policy instruments /governance as critical enablers or barriers to adoption
- Shift from ,government‘ to ,governance‘
- Lack of specific and proven local policy instrument examples ... *until now!*





# Urban Governance Atlas (UGA)

A collection of more than **250 policy instruments** supporting nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration



Aims to:

- Foster **ecologically coherent, inclusive planning** for urban ecosystem restoration and green space planning
- **Inspire global action** through good practice instruments, including lessons learned
- Represent **diverse contexts** (institutional/geographic) – bottom up & top down

**Easily searchable by different criteria!**





# UGA functionalities

## Instrument pages

### •Objectives & Context

- Aims and challenges addressed
- Link to NBS and ecosystem restoration
- Relevance to specific (peri-)urban areas

### •Governance & Implementation

- Initiating body and instrument design
- Targeted actors and implementation approach

### •Financing

- Funding sources and budget
- Additional financing details

### •Results & Evaluation

- Achieved outcomes and impacts
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

### •Insights & Integration

- Good practice characteristics
- Success factors and lessons learned
- Integration into broader policy frameworks
- Related instruments

### •References

- Data sources and interview references

## The London Urban Forest Partnership

EN ES



The London Urban Forest Partnership launched in 2020 as a city-wide network of organisations that collaborate to protect, manage and enhance the UK capital's trees and woodlands. The partnership is comprised of organisations with a strategic interest in London's trees and woodlands and includes representatives of public and private sector as well as charities. The partnership meets quarterly to share information and data, help inform tree related programmes in London and promote the benefits of the city's urban forest. In 2020, the partnership published a London Urban Forest Plan which sets out its priorities for action and provides the framework to guide the work of the partnership.

OVERVIEW

GOVERNANCE

FINANCING

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND IMPACTS

SOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

REGION:  
EU

COUNTRY:  
United Kingdom

CITY:  
London

CITY POPULATION:  
8,982,000

TIMELINE:  
2020

LAST UPDATED:  
6 Sep 2023

In a nutshell...

# Urban Governance Atlas (UGA)

A collection of more than **250 policy instruments** supporting nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration

**250**  
good practice  
policy  
instruments

Co-created  
by more than  
**48**  
Organisations

Featuring  
examples from  
**41**  
countries

Available in  
& **English**  
**Spanish**

**4** instrument  
types:

1



**Legislative, regulatory, strategic:**  
usually binding laws and regulations as well as strategies that set visions and strategic goals – overall: **47% of all instruments**

2



**Agreement-based or cooperative:**  
instruments in which the government and/or involved actors jointly and on a voluntary basis decide to behave in a certain way – overall: **23 % of all instruments**

3



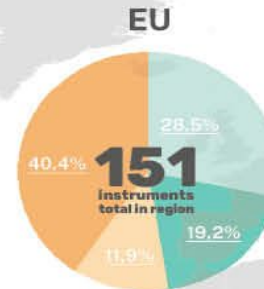
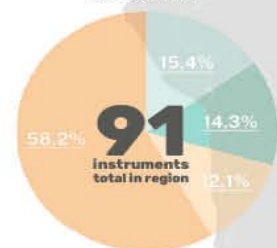
**Economic and fiscal:**  
instruments that influence market mechanisms through for instance disincentives, incentives, payments, subsidies, financing mechanisms and market-based instruments – overall: **18 % of all instruments**

4

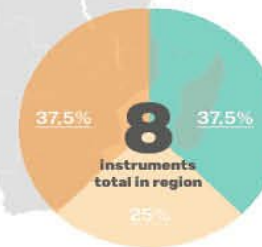


**Knowledge, communication and innovation:**  
try to influence behavior by disseminating information to actors or involving actors in critical processes in innovative ways to inspire voluntary behavioral changes – overall: **12 % of all instruments**

**CELAC\***  
\*(Community of Latin American and Caribbean States)



**Other regions**



- Agreement-based or cooperative instrument
- Economic and fiscal instruments
- Knowledge, communication and innovation instruments
- Legislative, regulatory and strategic instruments



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<https://www.interlace-project.eu/>  
<https://interlace-hub.com/>

Find out more about the methodology, findings, and how to contribute a new policy instrument at:



Category	Subcategory	Examples
Legislative, regulatory and strategic instruments (LRSI)	dedicated strategy or plan	NbS, green infrastructure, or green space strategy or plan
	sectoral or overarching strategy or plan	adaptation, biodiversity, circular city, smart city strategy or plan; masterplan; integrated plans
	urban planning mechanisms	spatial (zoning), infrastructure or socio-economic development plans; green space factor restrictions on development of green areas; scoring; land use plans
	standards	green public procurement standards
Knowledge, communication and innovation instruments (KCII)	communication / awareness raising	targeted educational programs; certification (labelling) or ranking; awareness raising campaigns
	knowledge and innovation	communities of practice; living labs; creating workshops; pilots; constructing business cases
Economic and fiscal instruments (EFI)	disincentives	taxes and charges/fees, tariffs; trading of permits for using a resource or trading
	payments, subsidies, incentives	subsidies or payments to landowners/ private actors for practices; public financing/grants
	financing mechanisms / market-based instruments	'green finance' or debt-based instruments; payments for ecosystem services (PES); public-private-partnerships (PPP)
Agreement-based or cooperative instruments (AbCI)	direct engagement of citizens / multistakeholder collaboration	citizen science programmes, participatory budgets, neighbourhood development plans, community management of green spaces on public lands, community asset transfer
	joint regional planning/ action	inter-municipal exchange platforms



# Examples of policy instruments supporting participation and/or co-governance

## Legislative, regulatory, and strategic



Paraná's Water Basin Committees

The city of Paraná is the capital of the Entre Ríos province in Argentina and located on the eastern shore of the Paraná River. As a...

## Economic & fiscal



### Participatory Budget - Wrocław

The city of Wrocław, Poland has been running a participatory budgeting program (Wrocławski Budżet Obywatelski) since 2013. Participatory...

## Agreement-based or cooperative



### Public-community agreement between the Urban Forest Network and the Mayor's Office of Cali, Colombia

The agreement is created for the generation of knowledge that contributes to key decision-making processes for environmental management in...

## Knowledge, communication & innovation



### "Strasbourg grows" educational materials and awareness raising - Strasbourg

Launched in 2017, the "Strasbourg grows" programme ("Strasbourg ça pousse") supports residents in urban greening/...



# Showcasing 4 types of policy instruments



## Knowledge, communication and innovation:

try to influence behavior by disseminating information to actors or involving actors in critical processes in innovative ways to inspire voluntary behavioral changes – overall: 12% of all instruments



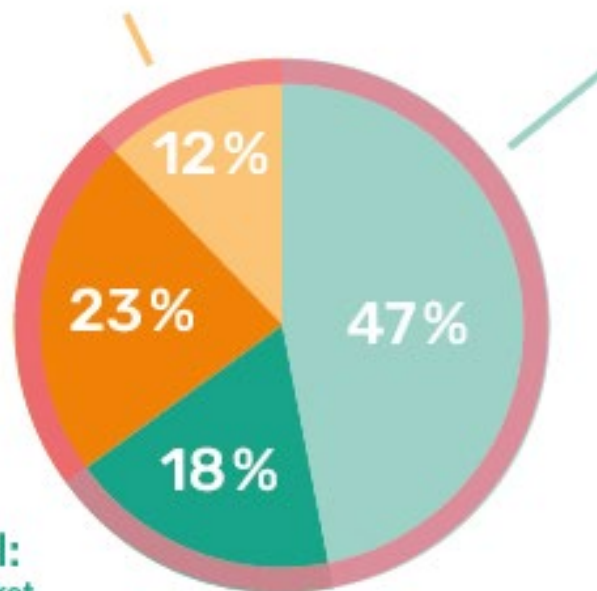
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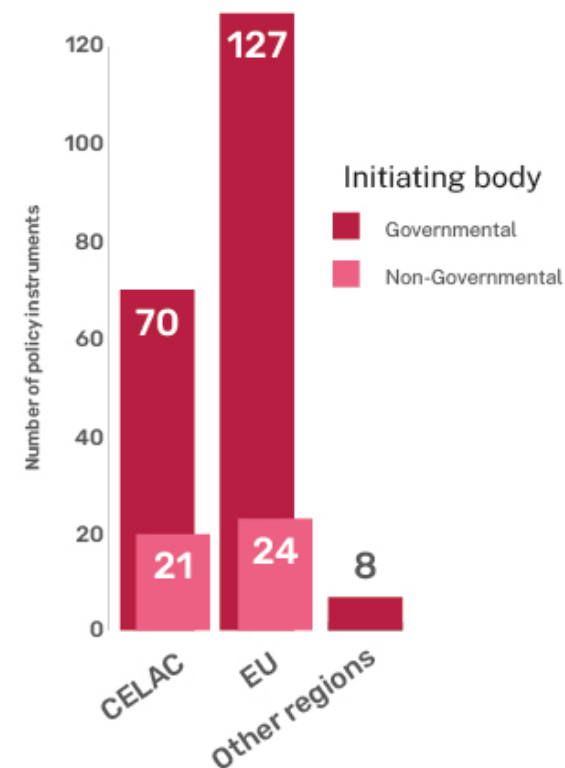


## Economic and fiscal:

instruments that influence market mechanisms through for instance disincentives, incentives, payments, subsidies, financing mechanisms and market-based instruments – overall: 18% of all instruments

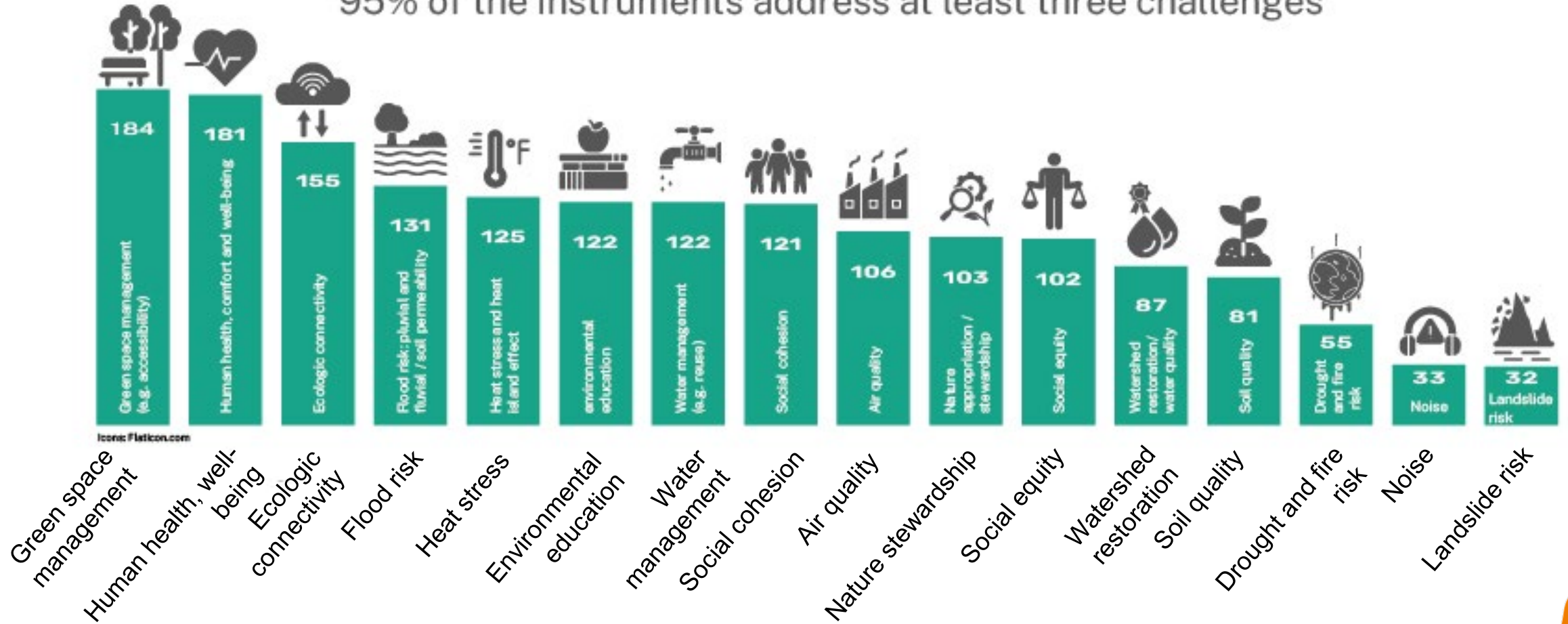


Global distribution and initiating body



## Challenges addressed

95% of the instruments address at least three challenges





## *Some final reflections...*

### **Rich information enabling multifaceted analysis:**

Deeper insights possible by analyzing governance, finance, innovation, and inclusivity dimensions.

- Most policy instruments are top-down (legislative, regulatory, strategic), leaving room for more bottom-up approaches.
- High potential to combine tools, especially communication, innovation, and cooperative mechanisms.

- Provides a framework to analyze policy instruments and how they integrate NBS and ecosystem restoration
- Provides inspiring examples on how to move towards more inclusive NBS action and justice outcomes
- Highlights the diversity of instruments and their application across contexts
- Supports cross-regional learning by showcasing innovative responses to similar challenges



### ***Personal lessons learned***

- It's both a technical and leadership task: build trust, offer guidance, and make time to be available
- Design matters—bring in creative minds, as it's often underestimated
- Reviewing practices takes time and commitment—don't underestimate it! It's hard to keep the momentum, but I'm so glad to be here sharing this with you!

# Dive into the UGA

## Urban Governance Atlas



## *Further resources*

- Davis, M., Burgos Cuevas, N., and Gvein, M.H. (2024). "Transforming ambition into action to catalyse nature-based solutions: Insights from 250 good practice policy instruments." *Nature-Based Solutions*, 6, p. 100171. doi:10.1016/j.nbsj.2024.100171.

Contact:

Natalia Burgos Cuevas

[natalia.burgoscuevas@ecologic.eu](mailto:natalia.burgoscuevas@ecologic.eu)

McKenna Davis

[mckenna.davis@ecologic.eu](mailto:mckenna.davis@ecologic.eu)





[mckenna.davis@ecologic.eu](mailto:mckenna.davis@ecologic.eu)

[natalia.burgoscuevas@ecologic.eu](mailto:natalia.burgoscuevas@ecologic.eu)

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