

INTERACT-BIO DIALOGUE SUMMARY: NATURE'S BENEFITS

Mainstreaming nature into urban planning: The local government and private sector imperative

11 November 2020 | Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



INTERACT-Bio

Integrated action on biodiversity



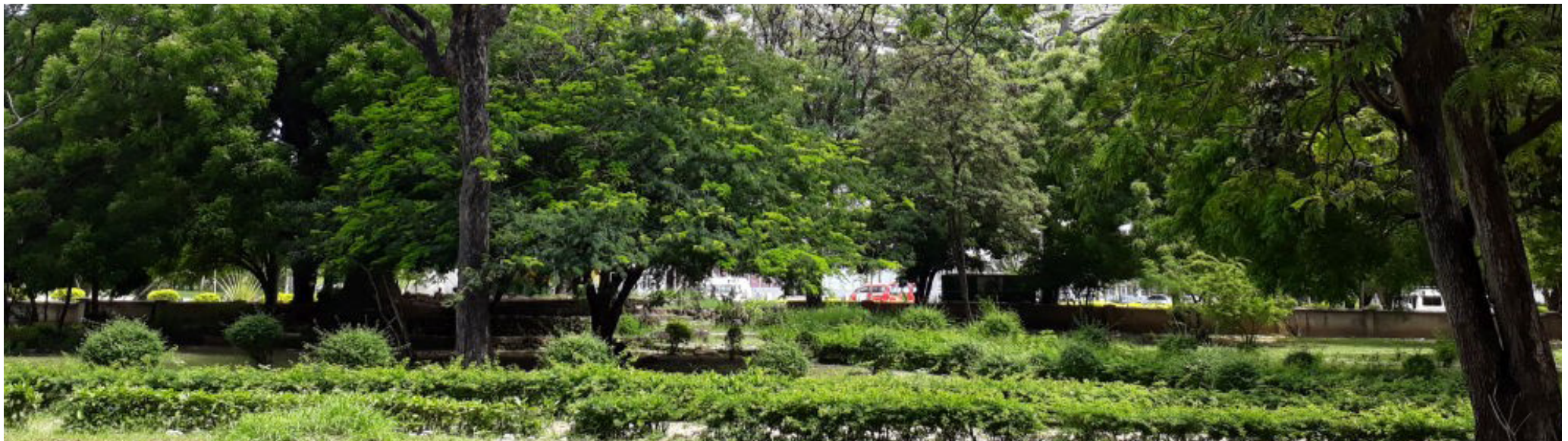
1. Framing the context

INTERACT-Bio is a shortened term for 'Integrated sub-national action for Biodiversity': Supporting implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) through mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives across City-Regions. The project focuses on the promotion and enablement of the mainstreaming of biodiversity management between national governments and city-regions. Historical decisions by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the global biodiversity targets. Aichi Biodiversity Targets have motivated these efforts. Going forward, sub-national government biodiversity action will support the aspirations and targets set out in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Long Term Approach to Mainstreaming biodiversity.

The INTERACT-Bio project is implemented through the International Climate Initiative (IKI), funded by Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

One aspect of the INTERACT-Bio project was to develop a sub-national-level investment case for urban nature. Making progress in advancing urban nature requires capacity and financial investment. One of the needs identified

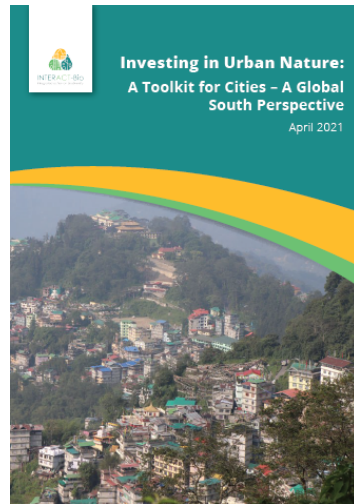
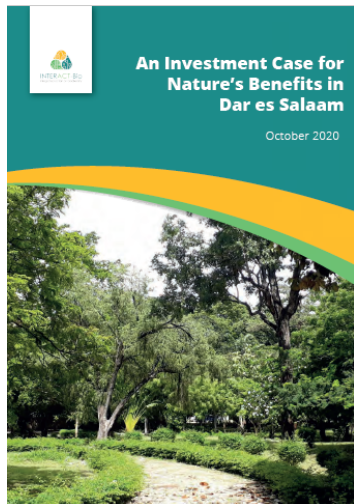
through the project included the formulation of an approach to developing an investment case that could be utilised by other cities to attract multiple sources of funding for nature-based solutions in an urban environment. Thus, the Investment Case for Nature in Dar es Salaam was set up to develop a costed value proposition for an urban nature case and an institutional model for governing the investment funds associated with the most feasible nature-based solution in Dar es Salaam City. The choice of potential investment projects was guided by the nature-based solutions highlighted in the [Thematic Atlas](#) for nature's benefits in Dar es Salaam. The investment case project is also closely aligned with the goals as set out in the [Dar es Salaam Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan \(LBSAP\)](#) which was recently (November 2022) adopted by the Dar es Salaam City Council.



2. Methodology for the Investment Case

In 2019, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa Secretariat commissioned I and M Futureener Advisors Pty Ltd (Futureener Advisors) and MCA Urban and Environmental Planners (MCA) to develop the business case for investment in urban nature-based solutions in Dar es Salaam, as one of the major outputs of the INTERACT-Bio Project.

To develop the investment case, exploratory dialogues were conducted with Dar es Salaam City Officials and with several private sector actors to test the acceptability of a number of nature-based concepts and governance mechanisms for investment. The investment case was then developed through a technical process of describing the value proposition and proposed governance system, as well as costing the proposition.



The investment case for nature's benefits in Dar es Salaam can be accessed [here](#).

The methodology for developing the Dar es Salaam investment case was summarized in the form of a toolkit which was further enhanced by lessons and examples from a range of global South experiences. For the full methodology access the document here: [Investment case toolkit](#)

3. Dialogue for investing in nature

This investment case dialogue forms part of a series of dialogues that serves as a vehicle for promoting and strengthening biodiversity mainstreaming. Furthermore, these dialogues are intended to bring together national, sub-national, local and private sector actors for a vertically and horizontally integrated dialogue on the importance and benefits of biodiversity conservation as well as providing an opportunity for knowledge sharing and information exchange on the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in urban settings.

The investment case dialogue was hosted in November of 2020 as an online event and took place in the Local Climate Solutions (LoCS) Congress in partnership with Rwanda, the city of Kigali and RALGA, the local government association of Rwanda. It was held as the second session for Connecting nature, climate and finance: An investment Case for nature's benefits in Dar es Salaam - a major coastal city in Tanzania.

The dialogue was facilitated by ICLEI Africa/ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, as part of the INTERACT-Bio project, and it followed a panel discussion format whereby the conversation was framed by a few guiding questions. The investment case document was shared with all panelists prior to the LoCS Conference.

Panelists were chosen to represent the INTERACT-Bio project, the Dar es Salaam City Council, the private and business sectors in Dar es Salaam and Tanzania and organisations concerned with supporting and streamlining investment in urban nature.

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In the investment case dialogue the panelists consisted of :

Introduction and presentation of:



Moderator: Ms Kobie Brand
Deputy Secretary General: ICLEI
Regional Director: ICLEI Africa



Martin Jansen van Vuuren
Managing Director of the advisory firm I and M Futureener Advisor Pty Ltd.

Panel 1:



Santina Benson Executive
Director: CEO Roundtable of Tanzania

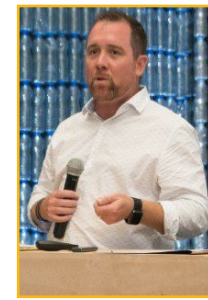


Tania Hamilton
Director: Nabaki Afrika Ltd.
Director: Nipe Fagio Ltd.

Panel 2:



Abbas Kitogo
Practice Specialist: UNDP. Energy, Climate Change and Extractives. BIOFIN Tanzania



Eric Dickson
Senior Urban Specialist: World Bank. Urban Resilience Programme, Tanzania



Rafael Moser
UN Capital Development Fund: Climate Finance. Tanzania.

Panel 3:



Abdon Mapunda
Head of Department of Environmental Conservation and Solid Waste Management. Ilala Municipal Council

Synthesis:

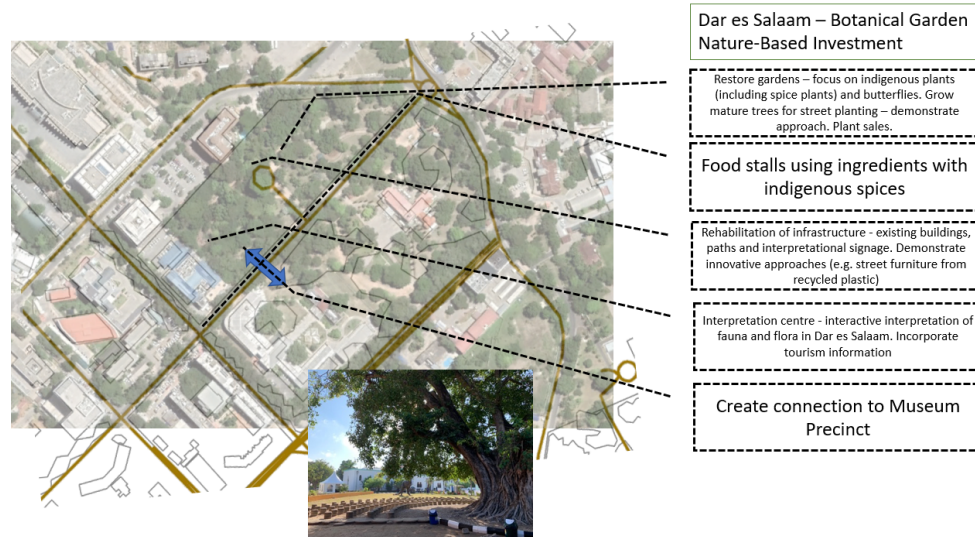


Augustin Berghofe
Researcher and scientific advisor: Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany

4. Emerging themes & lessons learned

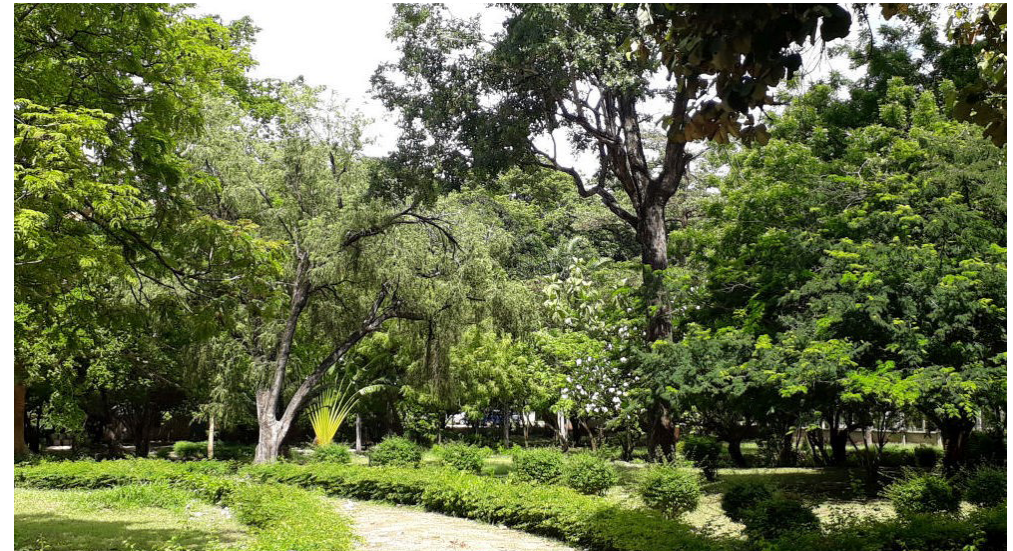
4.1. What is the project?

The investment case presents an argument for the rehabilitation of the existing but neglected Botanical Garden in the city centre of Dar es Salaam. Phase I of the investment case includes the restoration and addition of indigenous plants (and including exotic spice plants) based on a landscape master plan, interpretive signage, garden furniture from recycled plastics, as well as new exhibits including a butterfly exhibit, local vendors selling local food, an interpretation centre, nursery and composting facility. The rehabilitated Botanical Garden will be supported by an educational program and a marketing and communication strategy which include various related events such as art exhibitions and musical concerts.



The project identifies potential linkages with the adjacent museum.

The second phase of the project comprises the planting of mature, indigenous trees to create a Green Corridor along major roads leading out from the Botanical Garden. The green corridor will link various existing markets and will improve the walking conditions in this area of Dar es Salaam. This improvement will be realised by providing nature-based benefits such as providing shade for residents and tourists alike, reducing the temperatures in the built up city centre, improving the air quality through carbon sequestration, preventing soil erosion, promoting pollination and improving the aesthetic appeal of the city and thereby encouraging recreation and tourism. As part of the dialogue held at the LoCS Conference, the investment case was presented to the City and the private sector upon which it attracted a seed funding commitment from one local business as well as offers from partners to assist in strengthening the bankability of the investment case.



4.2. Why invest in the Dar es Salaam botanical garden?

This project proposes to build on existing green infrastructure and has the ability to:

- Connect the community of Dar es Salaam with its natural heritage; Serve as a nursery for some of the mature trees and spices to be planted in the second phase of the project (i.e. the Green Corridor);
- Serve as base for the educational program on the benefits of the Green Corridor;
- Serve as a model for a public private partnership;
- Provide maximum benefits to both local residents and tourists in the shortest amount of time; and
- Serve as a case study and base for the proposed Green Corridor project



The map above shows where, in the proposed phase II Corridor Project, trees will be planted along specific streets, creating corridors and along the edges of the botanical gardens which will serve as a model for the green development. Beside the aforementioned benefits, this will also support the idea of a walkable city.

4.3. What was the outcome of the dialogue?

During the dialogue, panelists agreed that the investment case is a sound foundation to attract funding and inspire action. Panelists also expressed areas where the investment case could be strengthened to make it more attractive to funders and investors as well as attract greater government support:

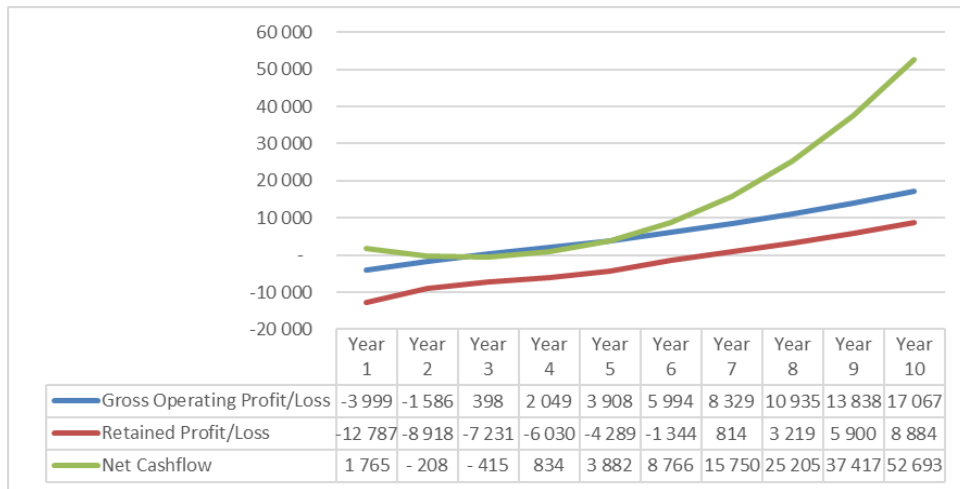
- The ecosystem services to be provided by the botanical garden upgrade should be more descriptive and emphasised;
- The links between ecosystem services enhancement and climate mitigation and adaptation should be articulated and emphasised. Funders and investors are typically well versed in climate issues and risks and climate financing but not as well acquainted with the benefits of and mechanisms associated with funding urban nature. Climate risk mitigation can be a good entry point for biodiversity investment;
- The national government should be brought on board much more strongly as a partner in the urban nature investment case process, as they are an important role player in endorsing and supporting sub-national actions;
- The business sector would like to see clearer governance processes in both local and national governments, in terms of easements for business investments in urban nature, such as tax breaks. The business sector in Dar es Salaam is extremely eager to support urban nature, but the lack of clarity on easements is said to be the single most important obstacle to private and business sector investment in urban biodiversity.
- Applications to funding streams for urban nature will benefit from explicit statements about the focus areas where the investment case project is likely to support the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) for the city. A clear connection with the LBSAP will strengthen the investment case, since the LBSAP is linked to Tanzania's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) which in turn responds to global biodiversity targets as set by agreement of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. For example, the investment case can expand to show how investment in the botanical garden upgrade will support the five focus areas of the LBSAP, namely: awareness raising and building capacity, maintain and expand green spaces, improve livelihoods through green infrastructure initiatives, protect and restore nature and contribution to waste management in the city.

4.4. How much will this cost?

The funding requirement for this project is estimated at **US\$120 289** including pre-opening expenses and working capital. There is an estimation of 42 000 visitors to the botanical garden per annum.

These funds can come from the following potential private sector economic instruments:

- Cash donations
- Donations in kind
- Contribution of skills and expertise
- Potential public sector economic instruments:
- Concessions on tax, water and electricity payments



Due to the estimated visitor numbers and the capital required there are retained losses at the beginning of the project, but those are accounting losses such as depreciation.

4.5. Benefits

The benefits of the project were considered and it was found that the benefits for the project would/could be an increase in tourism; increase in recreational activities for residents; providing education and awareness of the importance of biodiversity, through the awareness campaign; the conservation and rehabilitation of indigenous plants; the potential to utilise plants for medicinal purposes and develop pharmaceutical products; the ability of plants and trees to reduce the temperature in the inner city; the ability of plants and trees to improve the air quality in the inner city; the utilisation of the compost facility to restore soil fertility; the creation of a safe habitat for pollinators such as insects and birds; the potential to inspire arts, culture and design by creating a biodiversity oasis in an urban environment; the improvement in the mental health of residents; and the increase in land values of surrounding properties.

4.6. Risks

The potential risks evaluated for the project is as follows: lack of stakeholder buy in; cost estimates higher than initially estimated; income and demand projections lower than initially estimated; Inability to obtain funding; decline in support of project once established and operational; lack of required skills to rehabilitate and operate the project; and potential for vagrants using the upgraded space and vandalism.

4.7. The role of ICLEI

This dialogue highlighted the importance of the investment into nature. It would appear that ICLEI can assist in the development of a strategy, possibly constructing or facilitating forums for deeper discussions around investments and also assisting with the improvement of the investment case. ICLEI could also perhaps engage more pertinently with the national government to highlight the necessity of Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and why conserving and investing into biodiversity is vitally important in cities.

INTERACT-Bio project at a glance

Full title: Integrated subnational action for biodiversity: Supporting implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans through the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives across city-regions

Funded by: The INTERACT-Bio project is funded through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) implemented by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Climate Action (BMWK) in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, and the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

Project duration: Seven years - January 2017 to April 2024

Project countries: Brazil, India, Tanzania, China, South Africa and Colombia

Supported by:



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