

# Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and  
Comprehensive  
Post-2012 Global  
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009  
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008  
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007  
UNFCCC COP 13

**LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION – A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES**

## Manaus, Brazil

### Living in harmony with the Amazon Rainforest

**STORY IN SHORT:** Seventy percent of native forests are protected in Manaus. This includes the two largest urban forests in Brazil. One of them is the Adolpho Ducke Botanical Garden, which has the world's largest number of species with more than 2,500 catalogued species. The city of Manaus has recognized the rainforest's importance for both the city and the world and taken actions to protect it.

### Encouraging the maintenance of urban forests

The city is 11,401 square kilometres and about 70% of its native forests are protected by Environmental Protected Areas, Sustainable Development Reserves, Public and Private Reserves, as well as parks and green areas. 96.2% of Manaus' area is rural and only 3.8% is urban. The city of Manaus has specific legislation that encourages the creation of Private Reserves of Natural Heritage (RPPNs) in urban areas in order to conserve biological diversity and for the development of scientific, cultural, educational, recreational and leisure activities.

#### Urban Corridors

The city of Manaus is also working to create urban corridors for the preservation of riverside areas and integration of forest fragments through the urban corridors in order to maintain and increase the flow of wild fauna and flora. Linking parks and forests will also allow residents of Manaus to enjoy the benefits of living in a green environment.

#### Georeference Forest Study

For the reconstruction of the city's scenic landscape, the Municipality of Manaus is beginning a georeference study of the existing trees in the public and urban space of the Amazonian capital. People or enterprises that preserve trees in public space will receive benefits from the city.



Riverside urban forest in Manaus  
© City of Manaus

### Every global decision must have local action!

*Mayor Amazonino Mendes states, "We, people from the Amazon, left being spectators and became actors in the environment conservation process. We want what is natural: that every global decision must have local action!"*



Riverside urban forest in Manaus  
© City of Manaus

## Encouraging fruitful investments

The Forest Bank will produce and distribute native fruit tree seedlings to the population. In 2009, 200 seedlings were distributed to the population in order to be planted in the backyards of homes. To preserve mature trees, the Forest Bank supports the transportation and replanting of species that need to be displaced by entrepreneurial ventures or other type of intervention. Urban forestation helps reduce urban heat islands and contributes to the conservation of native biodiversity.

## Involvement in international initiatives

Representatives of Local Governments of the Amazonian Region Countries met in Manaus from the 7th to the 10th of October for the „Amazonian Summit of Local Governments“. The initiative, led by the city of Manaus and the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM), with the support of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and FLACMA, which represents local governments in Latin America, discussed the inclusion of the native forests of the Amazon as mechanisms for mitigating climate change.

The “Fórum Permanente de Governos Locais da Amazônia para Mudanças Climáticas e Desenvolvimento Sustentável” (Permanent Fórum of Amazonian LG for Climate Change and Sustainable Development) was created during the Amazonian Summit of Local Governments. The Forum will promote the exchange of experiences and solidarity between governments, allowing power and propositional character to be recognized by the international community and national governments.



Manaus is located in the heart of the Amazon in Brazil

## City profile & contacts

Manaus is the capital of the state of Amazonas, Brazil, located at the heart of the biggest tropical forest in the world. With a population of 1.8 Million inhabitants, it is the most populous city in the Amazonas. The city has a major role on the mobilization of local governments for the inclusion of the Amazon region in the international negotiations on climate change. Manaus does that by means of the environmental benefits it provides the world when it implements carbon sequestration initiatives.

**Name:** Mr Marcelo Dutra

**Department:** Environment and Sustainability Secretariat

**Email:** marcleo.dutra@pmm.am.gov.br

**Website:** www.manaus.am.gov.br



[www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap](http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap)  
E-mail: [climate-roadmap@iclei.org](mailto:climate-roadmap@iclei.org)

The local stories are produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with the cities described. They shall enrich the knowledge on local action as contribution to the Local Government Climate Roadmap, a joint activity of local government associations and networks towards COP 15.

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