



BOGOTÁ

PILOT 2. Northern Border (NB)



CONEXUS

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PILOT 2. Northern Border (NB)

Start date: September 2020

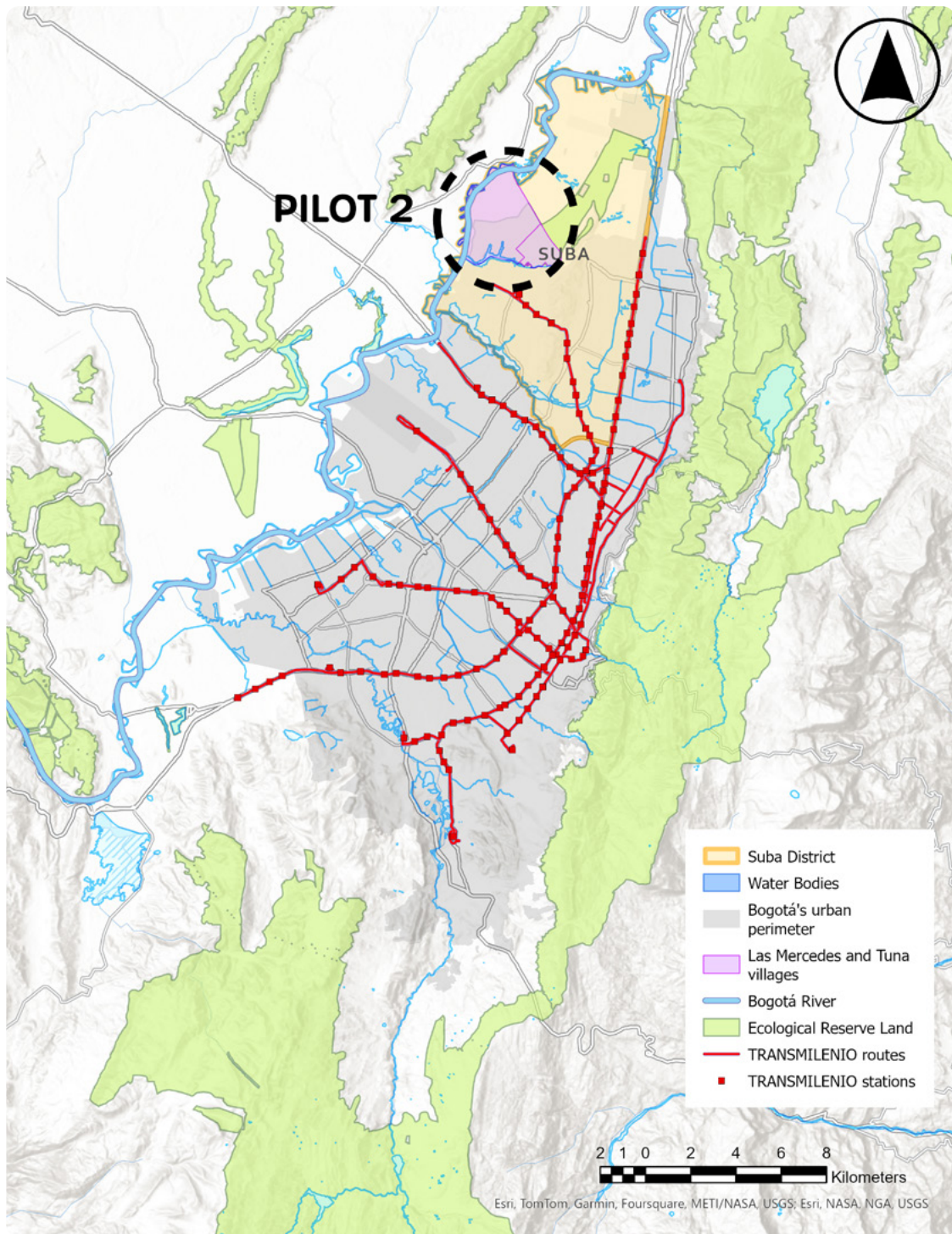
End date: July 2024

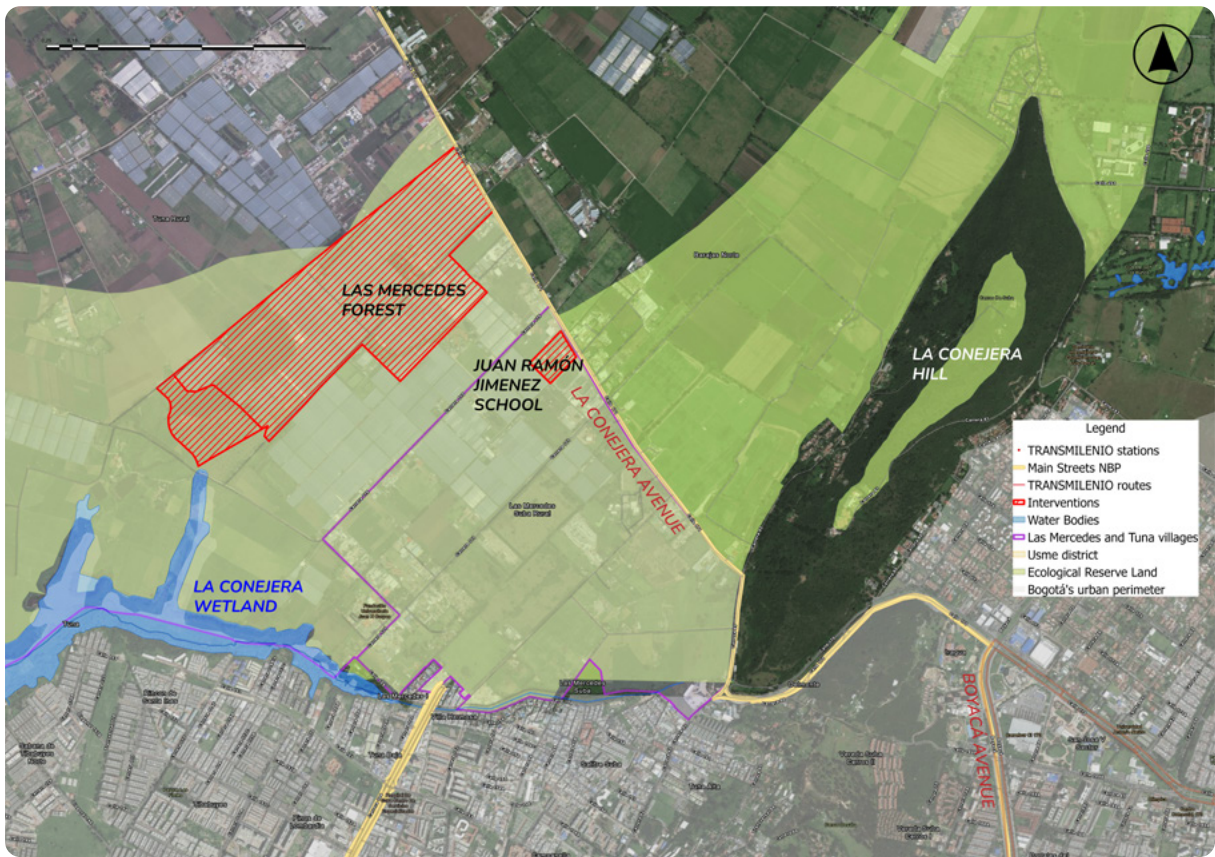
What and Where?

Location:	The pilot is located in the rural area of the northernmost district of Suba. Specifically, around La Conejera Wetland and Las Mercedes Forest.
NBS type, and habitat/s to be created or restored:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restoration: Contributing to ecological restoration and landscaping in private school.• Management: Wetland species and environmental education to improve management for wetland's surrounding areas. Also contributing to restoration knowledge with native species.• Creation: Design and implementation of pollinator gardens and living fences.• Environment and NBS capacity building: Raise awareness and knowledge building among communities and local actors, around environment, NBS and climate change mitigation.
Ecosystem services:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulating: Pollination and invasive species regulation• Cultural: Aesthetic values (landscaping), education, well-being, and heritage resignification.
Management & maintenance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local school Liceo Juan Ramón Jimenez is responsible for monitoring and maintenance of living fences and pollinator garden.



Map





Why?

Urban sprawl has significantly affected freshwater ecosystems and human-nature relationships in the northern border of the city. This area contains the last remaining native forest in the city and the biologically rich La Conejera Wetland. Although these ecosystems are protected and belong to the Wetland District Ecological Parks (PEDH) system, the changing uses, pollution and reduction in perceived value and social appropriation of natural spaces in the nearby area calls for strategies to strengthen people-nature connection. Actions aim for fostering closer interactions for knowledge appropriation processes, heritage, and nature appreciation, benefiting wellbeing along with ecological conservation goals.



	Strengths Positive internal factors to build upon	Weaknesses Negative internal factors to overcome
Opportunities External factors that can give and advantage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities interest in continuation of contemplation and education activities. • Local school commitment to management and education processes involving NbS intervention. As a member of "Red de Colegios Cerros de Bogotá", it can promote NbS amongst other schools of the area. • Alliances with the education sector created positive relationships that can allow new projects to be developed in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bogotá Botanical Garden should maintain management and engagement with Las Mercedes, regardless of administrative changes. • Improvements should be made to enhance community's interest and engagement with visitor infrastructure (e.g. meeting and sanitation facilities). • Currently, there are no resources or alternative financing sources to continue actions.
Threats External factors that represent risk or can affect negatively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further strengthening the appropriation of the Las Mercedes area by communities and continue with strong institutional presence of the Botanical Garden of Bogotá to avoid change in land use as an external risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botanical Garden restoration programmes and "Centro de Pensamiento Ambiental" in Las Mercedes should be continued by new administrations. • Liceo Juan Ramón should remain committed to increase environmental actions and maintain CONEXUS interventions, involving the students to guarantee continuation of processes.



When?

Preparation activities started in early 2021. NbS planning and co-design went on from 2021 to 2022, and NBS interventions in 2023 and 2024. Educational workshops have been implemented in 2023 and 2024. Lastly, monitoring activities will be carried out until project's completion in August 2024.

How?

Nature with people:

- Environmental workshops involving activities for recognition and appreciation of local biodiversity, as well as emphasizing nature's role in human's well-being.
- Restoration NbS were implemented with pollinator gardens and living fences as well as monitoring of effects on local biodiversity increase. In this way, children are encouraged to enjoy improved outdoors spaces and better value natural capital.

New organisational structure/governance:

- Diversity in participant attendance to workshops also presented an opportunity for creating new relationships and social bonds, as well as a chance to discuss governance issues and barriers for citizen participation and community's role in ecosystem conservation

Long-sighted perspectives:

- A prospective workshop served to foster knowledge exchange and discuss possibilities for a future where development was oriented to nature-people's harmonious coexistence.
- Students were involved in learning programmes to recognise wetland species, participate in planting and pollinator monitoring to realise NbS potential for bringing back nature in cities and services for human wellbeing. In this way, children could potentially act as ambassadors for heritage and nature protection.
- NbS restoration actions could serve to inspire more initiatives and upscaling of NbS actions for ecological connectivity and educational programmes promoting Wetland's conservation and improvement.





Birding workshop in Las Mercedes Forest.
Source: Ingrid Novoa, 2023



Pollinator Garden in NB school.
Source: Humboldt Institute, 2024

So what?

To improve provision of ecosystem services and contribute to the Wetland's resignification as a public asset and socio-cultural heritage good as well as ecological restoration practices for this ecosystem.



Project Partners



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