



BUENOS AIRES

PILOT 1. Breathe – Respirar



CONEXUS

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Start date: April 2020

End date: August 2024

What and Where?

Location:	Buenos Aires.
NBS type, and habitat/s:	to be created or restored: Habitats: schoolyards. NbS: Bioremediating living fences, green classrooms, edible gardens, biodiverse gardens, small urban forests of native/phytoremediating plants, eco-literacy. Ecosystem services: Cultural (recreational value/environmental education/connection with nature) and regulatory (climate regulation, air filtration, rainwater slowdown, noise pollution mitigation, temperature reduction, thermal regulation).
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Management & maintenance:	The initial maintenance of green schoolyards is carried out by our team, but through workshops where management techniques are shared, we seek to involve the educational community to generate future self-management. Additionally, government collaboration is considered essential in this process, increasing the potential of renaturalized schoolyards as green classrooms.



Map

The city of Buenos Aires is located in the UTM zone 21S.
Within this zone, we can find:

- **Bernabe Marquez School,**
located at -34.48904327696789, -58.55648546722264
- **Escuela Primaria Común N° 03 – Angela M. de Caviglia,**
located at -34.63436473277316, -58.48119176604057
- **Escuela N°3 D.E. 7 “Primera Junta”,**
located at -34.61616652429541, -58.433440521040836



Why?

STRENGTHS

- Improvement of air quality in schoolyards
- Promotion of children's health and well-being
- Increase in biodiversity in urban environments
- Use of green classrooms as a learning enhancement
- Social cohesion benefit from the use of green spaces
- Forming new generations with environmental commitment and awareness

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of knowledge about the health benefits of green spaces
- Lack of green spaces in schoolyards
- Easy exposure of children to air pollutants
- Limited academic research on NbS in primary education

OPPORTUNITIES

- Support and collaboration from the local community
- Raising awareness about the importance of the environment and improving the school environment
- Potential to scale the program to other schools
- Projection of a network of green schoolyards in the future
- Creation of green jobs, changing the perspective on gardening work

THREATS

- Possible resistance due to lack of knowledge from the community
- Budget and resource limitations
- External conditions that could hinder project development
- Lack of public policies supporting green infrastructure interventions



When?

The project, which began in 2019, aims to maintain its long-term continuity, especially since the school community has embraced it as their own. Collaboration with Conexus ensures ongoing development and continuous improvements in implementing green barriers and biodiversity gardens in the re-naturalization of schoolyards. This long-term vision reflects our commitment to sustainably addressing psycho-socio-environmental challenges and working collaboratively to achieve lasting positive results.

How?

The project focuses on identifying and overcoming obstacles to implement green barriers in schoolyards in Buenos Aires. To achieve this, formal and informal, multisectoral and transdisciplinary collaborations are established. Potential intervention schools and site-specific characteristics are evaluated, followed by the co-production and installation of green barriers in three schools as living laboratories. Comprehensive research is conducted to assess the effectiveness, multifunctionality, and co-benefits of green barriers, with air quality and biodiversity monitoring, while developing preliminary standards to support their inclusive construction. Additionally, the project emphasises sustainability and community ownership, highlighting aspects of learning in and with nature.



So what?

The project for implementing green barriers in schoolyards aims to improve air quality and create healthier, more conducive learning environments. By integrating natural elements into the built environment, it promotes a connection with nature, increases urban biodiversity, facilitates site bioremediation, and raises awareness about the importance of preserving urban ecosystems. In summary, the project seeks to generate a long-term positive impact on the health of the school community and the environmental sustainability of the city. Additionally, the project includes gathering and analyzing data on various indicators such as biodiversity, air quality, and psychological impacts. These indicators will help assess the effectiveness of the interventions and provide valuable insights into the benefits of green barriers in schoolyards.





Project Partners



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