

RIO+ ACTION REPORT

2016-2017



WORLD CENTRE
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rômulo Paes de Sousa

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2017 was the most productive year of the UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+ Centre). Along with releasing two new documentaries and two electronic policy guides, RIO+ participated in and coordinated eight international activities (two in NYC, one in Maputo, one in Medellin, one in Paris and three in Brazilian cities), targeting action to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



UNDP Kazakhstan



The RIO+ team also contributed to moving the 2030 Agenda forward in several other countries besides USA and Mozambique, including in Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Cape Verde, South Africa, Botswana, France, Germany, Russia, China, Georgia, and Kazakhstan. The partnership between RIO+ and ICLEI led to the organization of two workshops in 2017 on localization of the SDGs - one in São Paulo, Brazil and one in Medellin, Colombia. The workshops convened technical and political representatives of cities (including mayors), as well as key partners, to discuss local implementation of the 2030 Agenda. RIO+ participated in the Summit of Local Powers and Sustainable Development, a meeting with leaders and mayors of local municipalities in the island country of Cabo Verde. The high-level summit convened more than 100 people representing all the city halls and chambers of city representatives. With the support of the Centre for Integrated Studies and Projects for Sustainable Development, a local partner, RIO+ provided training on the SDGs to a group of ten high school students in the Young Journalist pilot project. In October, the RIO+ and the Young Journalists released a compilation of the articles that were written as a part of the project's blog. RIO+ partnered with various strategic actors to trigger and strengthen youth-led initiatives towards the implementation of the SDGs. One example is RIO+'s partnership with UN Influx and the SDG Action Campaign, in which a Global Hackathon was held in nine cities around the Globe to brainstorm solutions specific to SDG challenges faced by each city. The winners presented their projects at the General Assembly in NYC.

The RIO+'s Music to Advance Sustainable Development project made significant advances, with the production and launch of a documentary BXD - *Baixada Nunca Se Rende*. The documentary is a narrative of how the 2030 Agenda is much closer to citizens' everyday lives than it may first appear. The 64-minute film, primarily produced in Belford Roxo, one of the most violent cities in the world, brings to its viewers a powerful message of inclusion, resilience, and civil engagement for a better world. The documentary has been screened in 5 countries and 3 continents, including screenings in UNDP offices in China, and Kazakhstan; learning sessions with UNDP Innovation Teams in Georgia and Kazakhstan; and public-screening events in Cabo Verde, Mozambique and Kazakhstan. The Documentary was also presented in two film festivals in NYC and in Sofia (Bulgaria).

Despite the political transition, which produced an intense turnover across the Brazilian ministries, the RIO+ Centre maintained a set of joint activities with the Brazilian government including:

The sixth meeting of the Negotiating Committee – Principle 10 took place on 20 to 24 March 2017 in Brasilia. The purpose of this meeting was to resume negotiations of the regional agreement using, as a basis for discussion, the fifth version of the text compiled by the Presiding Officers, which includes the language proposals sent by countries. The meeting was organized by ECLAC, Brazilian Government and RIO+.

In November, in coordination with UNDESA and Fiocruz (Ministry of Health), RIO+ co-organized the International Consultation on Science, Technology and Innovation in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Health-Related Goals in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting convened social actors from academia, private sector, civil society, and the public sector to respond to the questions formulated by the 10 Member Group and United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs about how to engage the public-health sector and other relevant stakeholders in an inter-sectoral high-level collaboration on Science, Technology and Innovation to accelerate the implementation of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

RIO+ released its Planning Tools for Urban Sustainability: Mapping of Initiatives and Methodologies publication, a global mapping of the main tools and approaches being used to advance sustainable development in cities. The study identified over 50 innovative tools developed by international organizations, the private sector, city networks, and municipal governments around the world. The publication was globally launched at the Summit of Local Powers and Sustainable Development in Ilha do Sal, Cabo Verde, in July 2017. Also in 2017 and in partnership with the UNDP Regional Service Centre in Africa and the Africa Risk Capacity, the RIO+ developed and launched the Methodological Guide to Design an Adaptive Cash Transfer (ACT). The ACT Methodological Guide provides sustainable development practitioners and stakeholders with information on the process and tools used to channel climate finance into cash transfers. The guide was released on 24th November 2017 and was shared with UNDP offices worldwide.





In conjunction with documentarist Ricardo Gomes, the RIO+ has co-produced *Baía Urbana* (Urban Bay), a documentary that demonstrates the active marine life in Rio's Guanabara Bay. The documentary had its international launch in New York City in June 2017. The global launch took place as a UNDP side event at the first ever UN Ocean Conference in New York City. In the same period, the Columbia University hosted the presentation of the *Urban Bay* documentary at the School of Engineering. In November of the current year the film was awarded in the Serra da Estrela Film Festival (Portugal). The RIO+ Centre has worked with UK's Sunscious Limited in the development of an app to enable citizens to get together to implement local actions towards the SDGs. Its beta version is now being implemented in collaboration with universities and partners in Rio de Janeiro as well as in Italy, USA, and Ecuador. Developed in a collaborative fashion with no costs for UNDP, WeApp Heroes has the potential to revolutionize citizen action for the SDGs and will be a powerful tool for UNDP Country Offices worldwide. UNDESA has agreed to support the dissemination of the application.

The RIO+ Centre has become a hub for the production and distribution of innovative and creative products, packaged in contemporary expressions that brings with them the message of sustainable development.

We see the future as a great opportunity to develop the tools and gather the people that will help us to turn the 2030 Agenda into a reality for every single person, leaving no one behind.



THE RIO+ CENTRE: NARRATIVE, MISSION & VISION

The RIO+ Centre is a legacy of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and was set up to keep the commitment to sustainable development alive, both in action and ideas.

Since its inception, the UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+ Centre) has had the mission of catalyzing the transition towards equitable and sustainable development through policy analysis, advocacy, and broad-based dialogue. Operating under the overall goal of achieving sustainable development for all, particularly for excluded citizens, the RIO+ Centre inspires policies and practices that lead to environmental, social, and economic justice for a more sustainable world.

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer the world a vision of a future we want: a sustainable and resilient world that integrates and balances the three dimensions (economic, social, and environmental) of sustainable development. As a legacy of the Rio+20 Conference, where the process to define the goals as a blueprint for sustainable development first

began, the RIO+ Centre uses the SDGs as the main thread that weaves through all its work and actions.

The RIO+ Centre is one of UNDP's six Global Policy Centres, playing a role in supporting the organization's work on implementing the 2030 Agenda, providing methodologies and substantive inputs as well as direct country support, on request. While RIO+ has a global mandate, it shares the Global South's experiences in sustainable development, promoting South-South cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. By supporting governments' proactive role in appropriating sustainable development paradigms and implementing coherent policies, as well as by fostering citizens and civil society in their role as advocates and watchdogs, the RIO+ Centre works to implement commitments to sustainable development and achieve an equitable and just planet.

At the heart of the RIO+ Centre's work is the conviction that innovative and creative approaches are fundamental in achieving ownership of the 2030 Agenda and the future we want for all, including those traditionally marginalized or left out of development progress. In 2017, RIO+ has made distinct progress in achieving this, solidifying its role as an institution that engages the public in these conversations. The RIO+ Centre has also continued convening various actors and stakeholders to host effective discussions on sustainable development in addition to producing useful tools and resources to achieve the SDGs and leave no one behind.

OUR WORK

The RIO+ Centre operates under the overall goal of achieving sustainable development for all – particularly excluded and marginalized citizens. We inspire policies and practices that lead to increased social, economic, and environmental justice as the basis of sustainable development.

Our mission is to catalyze the transition towards equitable and sustainable development through policy analysis, advocacy, and broad-based dialogue that leads to action. The RIO+ Centre supports governments' proactive role in appropriating sustainable development paradigms and implementing coherent policies, as well as citizens and civil society in their role as advocates and watchdogs for the implementation of sustainable development commitments. To achieve this, our work focuses on:

1. Producing analysis and develop tools that identify drivers and barriers to the adoption of equitable and sustainable development pathways and inspire action on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Convening broad-based dialogue and action on the design, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development, bringing together national and international players, including central and subnational governments, the private sector, citizens and civil society organizations in the Global North and South.

3. Leveraging Brazil's capacity and experience in sustainable development to inform and support international efforts towards the implementation of the SDGs, facilitating both South-South and North-South collaboration and increasing the role of the Global South in multilateral fora.

FEATURED STORIES

Arts and Culture: The Needed Ingredient in Triggering Change and Leaving No One Behind

Cultivating ownership of the SDGs and including individuals in achieving sustainable development is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. Without the support of the world's citizens, we will not fulfill our objective of a sustainable and resilient world where no one is left behind. Key to achieving this ownership is to increase involvement and connect the SDGs to people's everyday lives. Informal and creative forms of engagement, particularly through arts and culture, can offer effective methods of getting the 2030 Agenda's message into the lives of the world's citizens. By inspiring people who are traditionally marginalized to use culture as a means to trigger sustainability and translating the messages of sustainable development into music and art, we can reach millions of citizens- an immeasurable gain for the 2030 Agenda.

As a part of the RIO+ Centre's work in involving people in the 2030 Agenda, RIO+ has embedded creative and innovative approaches across its work, developing methodologies that explore art and culture to popularize, communicate, and ensure accountability. The Centre has committed to the pledge of "Leaving No One Behind" by crystalizing a legacy of participatory

development, working closely to non-traditional groups, and using creative ways to include local, often stigmatized, populations. Given the RIO+ Centre's home base of Rio de Janeiro, the Centre sees much potential in using the city's rich culture and including those that are often marginalized into the discussion to promote and engage people in the global sustainable development agenda.

The RIO+ Centre's Music to Advance Sustainable Development project has made significant advances in 2017, with the production and launch of a documentary, #BXD-Baixada Nunca Se Rende or #BXD- Baixada Never Gives Up, on the music collective formed last year with help from RIO+. The network of musicians and artists represent over 90 bands and groups from Baixada Fluminense, a marginalized urban region in the Rio de Janeiro area, and produce musical content that brings the SDGs closer to ordinary citizens. The documentary, produced by Juliana Spinola and Christian Tragni is a narrative of how the 2030 Agenda is much more relevant to citizens' everyday lives than what people imagine. Grounded on the fact that music, art, and culture have always been instruments of resistance used by marginalized groups, the 64-minute film,

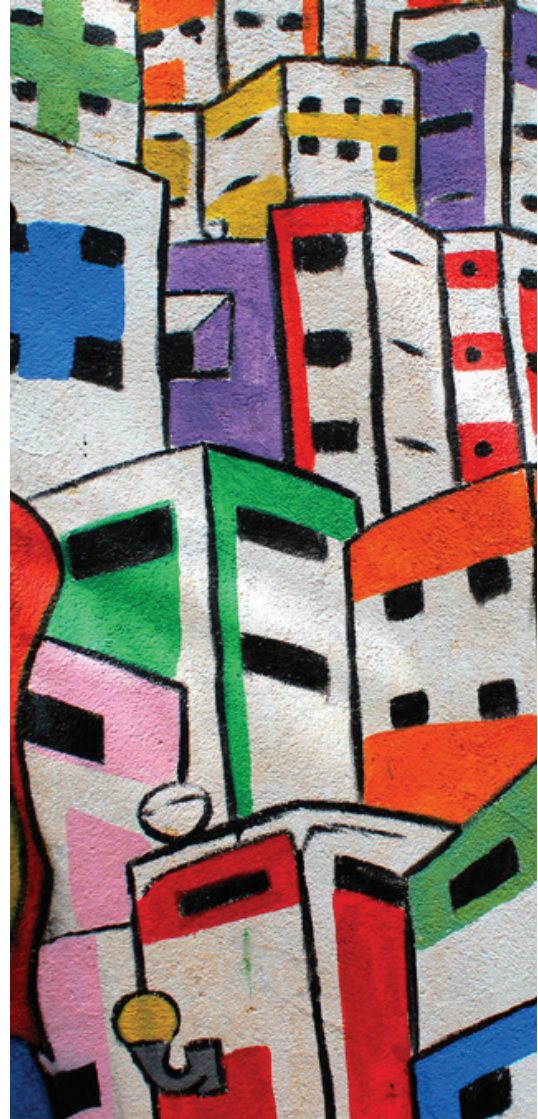
primarily produced in Belford Roxo, one of the most violent cities in the world in the 1980s, brings to its viewers a powerful message of inclusion, resilience, and civil engagement for a better world.

The Music to Advance Sustainable Development project has the potential create synergies among musicians, artists, cultural producers, ordinary citizens, and even public institutions at all levels, and has already produced transformative art using sustainable development as a foundation. Unprecedented musical compositions about people, the planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships—the 5 P's of the 2030 Agenda—were created and disseminated globally, being transmitted on radio stations around the world. Live shows featuring the musicians and their songs on sustainable development have enchanted more than 1,000 spectators in Brazil, and a promotional CD with seven tracks have demonstrated that it is possible to produce art that gains the attention of the local population and sends a message for change simultaneously.

The music collective has been impressively represented in exclusive art circles, reaffirming the RIO+ Centre's commitment to engaging citizens through music and culture. For instance, the #BXD- Baixada Never Gives Up documentary was screened at an elite literary arena in Paraty, in the state of Rio

de Janeiro, at what was the International Literary Festival of Paraty (FLIP). With the support of RIO+, artists from Baixada Fluminense spoke at FLIP in July 2017, sharing their insights on the 2030 Agenda principle of “Leave No One Behind,” and demonstrating that social inclusion can only be achieved when those that are truly left behind are given a voice.

The BXD- Baixada Never Gives Up documentary was also exhibited at the renown Chelsea Film Festival in New York City in October 2017, further giving a voice to the marginalized peripheral communities of Rio de Janeiro on the global level. The festival empowers the work of risk-taking storytellers and helps discover and develop independent artists and audiences around the world. In a special film session organized by UNDP and Chelsea Film Festival in celebration of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, a discussion with the #BXD- Baixada Never Gives Up film producers and singer/music collective member Iolly Amancio at UN Headquarters in New York City also took place three days after the screening of the film at the festival. This tangible progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda is a great achievement for the RIO+ Centre, the United Nations, and for the marginalized communities usually left out of development discussions.



Sustainable Cities and Their Environments

As former UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon stated, cities are where the battle for global sustainability will be won or lost. According to the UN, over half of the world's people now live in cities and by 2030, that number is projected to grow to 5 billion people.

Much of this growth will take place in Africa and Asia. In Latin America, 90 percent of the population will be living in towns and cities by 2050, with Brazil and the Southern Cone possibly reaching this level by 2020. Violence and insecurity are major issues in Latin America fueled by some of the deepest entrenched inequality and social exclusion in the world. Out of its 588 million citizens, 111 million Latin Americans live in slums characterized by precarious access to basic services such as health, education, water, and sanitation. As countries urbanize, development challenges tend to grow, putting stress on land, air, and water resources, all of which disproportionately affect poor and excluded groups and impede further human and economic development.

Yet, as the level of government closest

to the people, cities have been the engines of economic growth, creativity, and innovated public policies, pushing through action on health and the environment. They are fundamental to addressing the various challenges of sustainable development and have been recognized in the SDG framework with a goal (SDG 11) dedicated to “Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable.” As cities are often a microcosm for the world as a whole, achieving SDG 11 will lead to implementation of various other goals. In 2017, RIO+ has continued to foster sustainable cities, triggering dialogue and developing tools and partnerships to support local governments and citizens alike to transform their



communities into sustainable cities and deliver the 2030 Agenda.

In partnership with Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and as a follow up to the 2016 Habitat III Conference in Ecuador, in 2017, the RIO+ Centre organized and hosted workshops in São Paulo, Brazil and Medellin, Colombia, convening technical and political representatives of cities, as well as key partners, to discuss local implementation of global sustainability agendas. The objective of the workshops, which had participation of the Programa Cidades Sustentáveis in Brazil and the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy in Colombia, was to discuss and draft a roadmap for implementation at the local level, identifying barriers and enablers, necessary policy frameworks, relevant partners, and developing a common vision for the way forward. Officials from local governments in both countries participated in exercises to identify good practices of integrating global sustainability frameworks into local policies and to understand the tools and factors that can help prioritize this type of planning.

RIO+ is also working with its partners from academia, NGOs, and governments to narrow the science-policy interface through the development of methodologies



and tools that catalyze and facilitate the localization of the SDGs. For instance, RIO+ globally released its Planning Tools for Urban Sustainability publication this year at Cape Verde's Local Leaders Summit, a high-level meeting to strengthen coordination on localizing sustainable development. The publication (which is also available in Portuguese) maps out over 50 tools used for sustainable urban planning, identifying the gaps that exist in trying to harmonize the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of planning sustainable urban development.

In July, the RIO+ Centre was invited to present the history of the 2030 Agenda, as part of a capacity building session on the SDGs for the city of Rio de Janeiro's "Líderes Cariocas" program. The "Líderes Cariocas" is an initiative of the Rio de Janeiro's City Hall to prepare a strategically selected group of staff, from different sectors, to receive training and best practices to improve management and occupy leadership positions. Individuals in local governments that can champion the SDGs are essential to ensuring that these goals are integrated into policies and programs. By helping the city of Rio to create SDG champions, the RIO+ Centre brings the 2030 Agenda a step closer towards implementation.

City Environment Nexus: Urban Bays

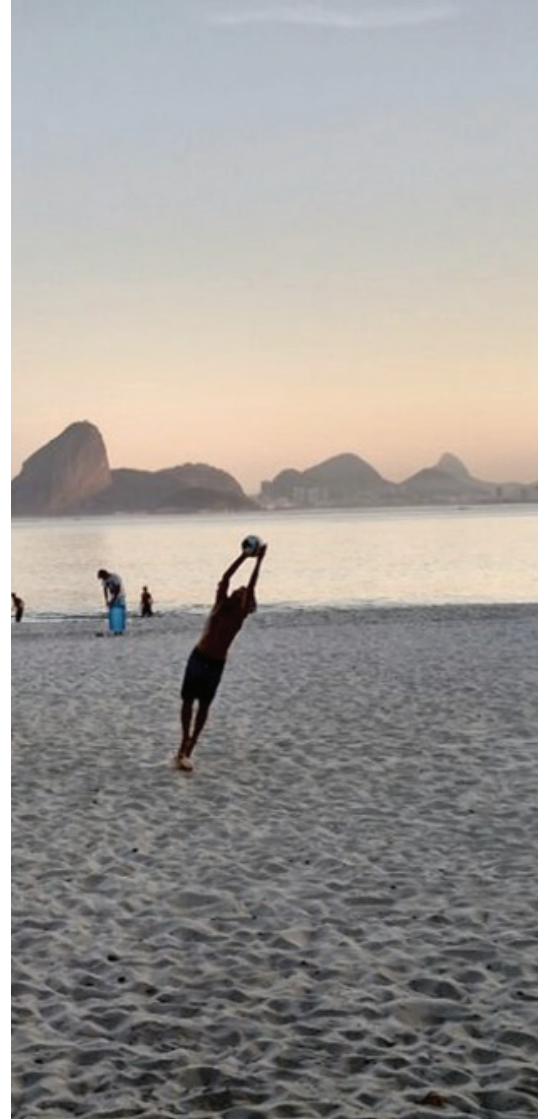
Even though oceans cover more than 70 percent of the planet and over one-third of the world's population lives within 100 km of the coast, their role in the wellbeing of the planet is relatively unfamiliar, and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) is likely to be the hardest goal to achieve due to limited knowledge about the ocean. Yet considering that much of the urbanization set to take place by 2050 will be in coastal cities, an understanding of the role of urban oceans, seas, and bays in sustainable development is key to the successful implementation of SDG 14. Marine ecosystems and their resources, despite being the basis of many livelihoods within cities as well as source of socio-ecological wellbeing, are at risk from many threats that can be attributed to urban life. Bays and harbors in particular have historically attracted human settlements and economic activity, providing ideal geography and resources for urban development that, in turn, put

pressure on local ecosystems. The waterways surrounding these urban areas and coastal cities are often regarded as simply being industrial areas with little association to environmental and social dimensions, resulting in further abandonment of these natural ecosystems.

The New Urban Agenda from Habitat III commits to “giving particular consideration to urban deltas, coastal areas, and other environmentally sensitive areas, highlighting their importance as ecosystems’ providers of significant resources for transport, food security, economic prosperity, ecosystem services, and resilience.” Moreover, because the connection between urban areas and ecosystem health is so definite, implementing SDG 14 in coastal cities can also contribute to achieving many other SDGs, including SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Based in Rio de Janeiro, the RIO+ Centre finds itself in an exceptional place to explore the interface between cities and marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Rio de Janeiro’s intense convergence of natural environments, poverty, and inequality make it emblematic of the conventional

challenges of sustainable development. The city’s iconic Baía de Guanabara (Guanabara Bay) is one example, facing some of the same developmental decisions and concerns that afflict other global coastal cities. As such, in 2017 RIO+ is further exploring the nexus between cities and the environment, continuing projects relating to achieving and integrating SDG 11 and 14, particularly using creative approaches to popularizing and mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda.

In a partnership with Brazilian biologist and documentarist Ricardo Gomes, in 2017 the RIO+ Centre co-produced Baía Urbana or Urban Bay, a documentary that demonstrates the marine life that still exists in Rio de Janeiro’s Guanabara Bay despite negative attention relating to its pollution. The partnership with Gomes, who is a local sustainability champion, is an example of the RIO+ creative approach to achieving the SDGs, using visual art to ignite engagement, discussion, and ownership of the SDGs, in this case, SDG 14 in cities. Diving alone to obtain the footage, Gomes uses his extraordinary images to connect people on land with the vibrant life in the bay, calling to protect this life before it is too late. The documentary brings scenes of rich biodiversity to the urban

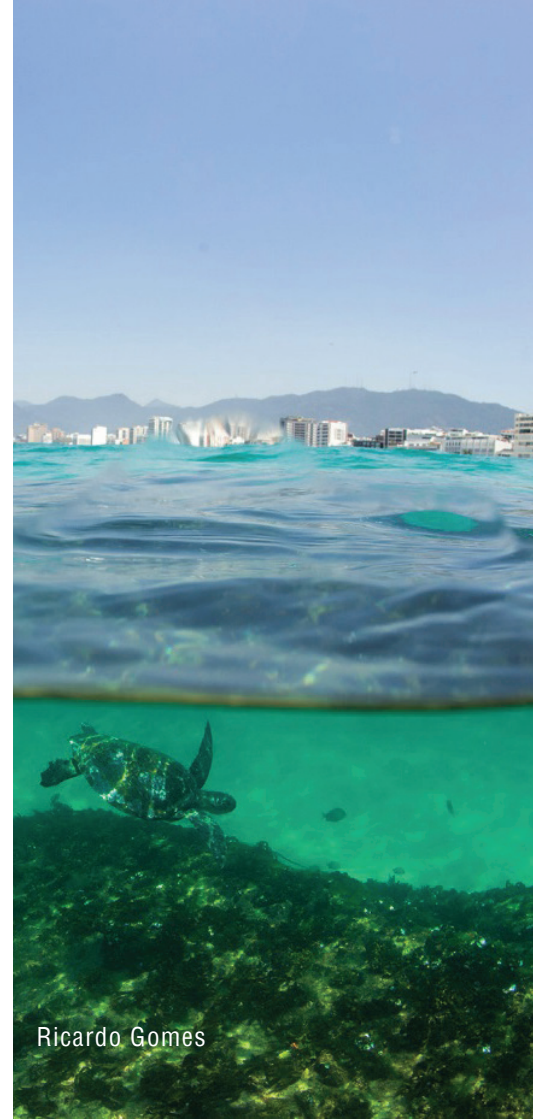


public, highlighting that an incredible world lives right off the city's edge (a recognition that is vital to action) and surprising most everyone who relates the Guanabara Bay to being void of life. Before the documentary's avant-première at the International Human Rights Film Festival in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and its global launch in New York City in June 2017, the documentary had already reached 10 million people through media. The national launch of Urban Bay in Brazil took place in September as a special session of the Filmambiente environmental film festival in a screening at Espaço Itaú in Rio de Janeiro, with a showing of over 130 people.

The message in the Urban Bay documentary is global: the issues that affect the Guanabara Bay can be seen in cities all over the planet, making Urban Bay relevant around the world. Moreover, Urban Bay demonstrates the impact one determined citizen can have in bringing attention to global issues with local settings: a narrative applicable everywhere and essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda. As such, the RIO+ Centre took the opportunity presented by the first-ever UN conference dedicated to oceans and the implementation of SDG 14 that took place in New York City in June 2017 to host a global launch of

the documentary. In a UNDP side event of the UN Ocean Conference, the RIO+ Centre brought together policymakers, practitioners, and civil society for an official global screening of Urban Bay in New York City on 7 June 2017. The screening began with brief presentations from Layla Saad (RIO+ Centre Deputy Director), Magdy Martínez-Soliman (UNDP Assistant Secretary-General), and Ricardo Gomes. Martínez-Soliman pointed out that “protecting marine environments in one of five key targets in the global agenda that fall into the urgent reversal category together with combating climate change, reducing waste, reducing inequality, and limiting slum populations.” Australian musician, youth icon, and UNDP Ocean Advocate Cody Simpson, also supported the screening, closing the event with words on the value of the Urban Bay documentary for ocean conservation.

In order to bring more public and academic participation to the achievement of SDG 11 and 14 and to bring more technical views into the discussion, in 2017 the RIO+ Centre established a partnership with Columbia University. Columbia engineering professor Kartik Chandran,



Ricardo Gomes



Ricardo Gomes



Ricardo Gomes

who works to find technical solutions to the issues that face many global coastal cities, is familiar with the Guanabara Bay having visited Rio de Janeiro and developed a note for the bay's treatment. As a part of this partnership, Columbia University hosted RIO+ in June 2017 for a screening of the Urban Bay documentary at the school's engineering school in New York City. It provided an open space for community members to get involved in a global topic that is yards away from the campus, while also presenting an exciting occasion for students to get involved, particularly as it is these students, future academics, policymakers and sustainable development practitioners, that will be responsible for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The screening of the documentary at Columbia was followed by a discussion with Layla Saad, Ricardo Gomes, Nik Sekhran (UNDP Director Sustainable Development), and Dr. Kartik Chandran on cities, urban natural ecosystems, and individuals' role in sustainable development, recognizing the similarities between New York City and Rio de Janeiro.

Over the past year, the RIO+ Centre has also brought SDG 14 to the local public in Rio de Janeiro by supporting civil society organizations in events relating to the Guanabara Bay. For instance, in July the Baía Viva civil society movement, the association of the residents of the Paquetá Island MORENA and the organization committee of the Guanabara Festival of Culture, Environment and Action invited RIO+ Centre to participate in a panel discussion on "Environmental Sanitation and Risks to the Public Sanitation of the Island of Paquetá." RIO+ addressed the potential contribution of the 2030 Agenda towards a common path for the sustainable development of the coastal and island municipalities in the Rio de Janeiro, acknowledging the role of the protection of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems in and around Guanabara Bay, while also encouraging all local stakeholders to join the global community in its efforts to secure our natural ecosystems. One year after the Olympic Games that took place in Rio in 2016, the RIO+ Centre, committed to its role in reinforcing the dialogue

on a sustainable future for cities, participated in the daylong event “Rio 2016+1: Where are we and where are we heading to?” on the status of Rio de Janeiro a year after the global games. The event, co-organized by the Goethe Institute, Carioca Center of Design (CCD)/ Institute Rio World Heritage, and the Baía Viva civil society movement brought awareness of the state of the Guanabara Bay, which specifically received much promises of treatment leading up to the Olympic Games. RIO+ Centre was invited to speak briefly on the 17 SDGs and the Centre’s effort to include the 2030 Agenda into the ‘Agenda for the Health of Guanabara Bay’, a document elaborated by various local institutions, associations and partners of the Baía Viva movement with the purpose of contributing to public policy discussions for the post-megaevent future of the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro.

In 2017, RIO+ has been represented in local meetings, and conferences relevant to water resources management issues in Rio de Janeiro with the purpose of registering principal concerns and identifying local actors in governance of the

Guanabara Bay. The Centre also helped in convening academics, local government officials, NGOs, and other actors on the question of the Guanabara Bay in a closed round table event that took place in May 2017.

The RIO+ Centre concluded 2017 with a university film circuit of the Urban Bay documentary, organizing screenings of the film in universities and academic settings around the state of Rio de Janeiro. On 25 September 2017, in partnership with the Department of the Public Policies and Strategies for Development at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (PPED-IE/UFRJ), the RIO+ Centre organized a RIO+ Talk on Sustainable Solutions for the Urban Bays and the 2030 Agenda at the auditorium of the Institute of Economy. The RIO+ Talk was held in lead up to the national launch of the Baía Urbana film, which took place 27 September 2017 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As part of the PPED-IE/UFRJ Weekly Research Seminars and the Urban Bay film circuit in universities of Rio de Janeiro, the RIO+ Talk screened a clip of Urban Bay, followed by inputs on the role of coastal and marine ecosystems in sustainable development from producer Ricardo Gomes, Guido Gelli, Director of Environment and Technology department at the Rio de Janeiro

Botanic Garden Research Institute, and environmental economist and PPED-IE/UFRJ professor Carlos Eduardo Frickmann Young. The conversation also featured an open discussion with the students and invited guests (over 60 participants attended) on biodiversity, oceans, and the 2030 Agenda. In late-October, the RIO+ Centre partnered in screening a cine-debate parallel event at the VIII Brazilian Seminar on Protected Areas and Social Inclusion (SAPIS) at the School of Law at the Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) in Niteroi. Following



Ricardo Gomes



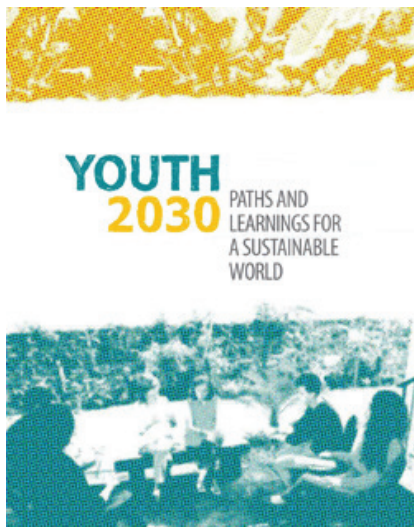
the seminar, the documentary was screened to the National Science and Technology Week at UFF on 27 October.

The documentary was also shown in Portugal at the Cine Eco Seia Portuguese Language Feature Films Competition in mid-October; and at the Opening Ceremony of the 1st National Seminar on Combating Ocean Waste (organized by the Ministry of the Environment, UN Environment, and Universidade de São Paulo's Instituto Oceanográfico) that took place in Rio de Janeiro on 6 November 2017. Urban Bay will be screened at the renowned Museu do Amanha (Museum of Tomorrow), situated on the Baía de Guanabara, in February 2018.

Addressing sustainable development through good urban policies has been identified as a strategic dimension of achieving the new global frameworks. This must not only focus on urban terrestrial policies, yet should also include policies related to marine management. To catalyze action on marine ecosystem in cities, the RIO+ Centre has produced a set of recommendations for coastal cities, particularly those located on naturally formed bays, on the synergies of marine management and urbanization. Highlighting development conflicts and decisions and using the case of five coastal megacities situated on bays, the policy brief brings attention to the importance of urban green and blue spaces in achieving the 2030 Agenda, as well as public participation, integrated planning, and governance.

FEATURED STORIES

Engaging Youth for Achieving the Future They Want



There are currently 1.2 billion young people in the world. By 2030, the number of youth worldwide is projected to grow by seven percent, to nearly 1.3 billion. The majority of these young people live in developing countries, facing daunting challenges and poor economic, social, and environmental conditions with limited access to education, training, and employment. Yet youth also bring an optimistic look at the world as well as bright ideas needed to change the pathways of development. The UN has long recognized that young people are a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic growth, and innovation. Countries have agreed to

implement 17 SDGs and achieve a sustainable planet by 2030, but it is the next generation that will be inheriting this world, as well as the responsibility for designing tangible solutions and initiatives to realizing these SDGs. It is their livelihoods and futures that are the most at stake and as such, it is their engagement and familiarity of the collective challenges our world faces that is vital to creating effective responses.

Because youth participation is vital for any form of societal transition, harnessing the potential of youth as agents for positive change at both the local and global level is



CONJUVE (National Youth Council)

a central pillar of RIO+'s strategy for accelerating the transition to sustainable development. By supporting youth-led initiatives in civic engagement and connecting such initiatives with the global 2030 Agenda, the RIO+ Centre works to create ownership and integrate the SDGs into relevant discussions. The Centre also engages youth in discussions on the SDGs, strengthening their voice and representation in the political sphere to bring fresh perspectives and improved methods of addressing sustainable development.

RIO+ has delivered a series of innovative and creative projects to increase ownership of the SDGs through involving youth and civil society. One of such projects is the Young Journalist program that the RIO+ Centre, which had begun in 2016 during the Olympic Games, promoting

the SDGs and increasing the voice and activism of youth in relation to the 2030 Agenda. With the support of local partner CIEDS (Centre for Integrated Studies and Projects for Sustainable Development), the RIO+ Centre provided training on the SDGs to a group of ten high school students from various low income neighborhoods in Rio who participated in the pilot project. The Young Journalists interviewed hundreds of athletes, coaches, international correspondents, visitors, and local residents, producing and featuring stories that relate the Olympic Games to sustainable development and the SDGs. Building on last year's initiative, this year in September the RIO+ Centre and the Young Journalists will release a compilation of the articles that were written as a part of the project's blog. The compilation will also include pieces written exclusively for the publication by the young journalists, explaining the context behind the program's activities and why

In 2017, the RIO+ Centre brokered various strategic partnerships to trigger and strengthen youth-led initiatives towards the implementation of the SDGs.

“ this pioneer project is relevant to their lives and to the city of Rio de Janeiro. RIO+ has also promoted youth civic engagement in realizing the SDGs by inserting the global goals into existing platforms and their agendas. For instance, at the National Junior Enterprises Conference (ENEJ) in August this year, the Centre conducted the Youth4GlobalGoals workshop to over 200 students on the relevance of youth participation in the implementation of the SDGs at the local and global level. The conference is the largest meeting of junior enterprises in the world, uniting thousands of university students from all over Brazil every year (this year with over 3,200 youth participants) to discuss the role of the Brazilian Junior Enterprise Movement in developing skilled and impact-oriented future leaders. The Brazilian Student Association (BRASA) is another network that RIO+ is acting to engage this year, by participating in one of their flagship activities, the European Leadership Summit (EuroLeads), in Paris this October. The theme of this year’s conference, which will gather over 200 Brazilians studying across Europe, being the SDGs and 2030 Agenda,



RIO+ will deliver a practical workshop at the summit, highlighting the importance of youth and innovation in achieving the global goals.

In an opportunity to open the floor to young people and their perspectives, the RIO+ Centre also participated in the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy's first Inter-Policy School Summit, an event organized and run entirely by students and intended to change the way ideas are formed and exchanged. Questioning the adequacy of conventional policymaking, the summit brought together 30 students from 11 universities in the U.S. (including students from 16 different nationalities) to come up with new solutions that address a question of particular importance in leaving no one behind: legal recognition of indigenous rights and deforestation. In addition to supporting in designing the questions and gathering relevant resources in the lead up, the RIO+ Centre presented the keynote speech at the summit and acted as mentor during the sessions, challenging students to keep in mind the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs as they formulated their solutions.

In 2017, the RIO+ Centre brokered various strategic partnerships to trigger and strengthen youth-led initiatives towards the implementation of the SDGs. One example is RIO+'s partnership with UN Influx and the SDG Action Campaign, in which a Global Hackathon was held in nine cities around the globe to brainstorm solutions specific to SDG challenges faced by each city. The winners in each group presented their projects at the General Assembly in New York.

RIO+ has also joined the Federation of Industries from the State of Rio de Janeiro (FIRJAN), one of the leading public institutions in Brazil in innovation, and city hall's Rio Institute of Human Patrimony (IRPH) to launch the LivingLab2030, an initiative to promote youth solutions for city and development planning. The first LivingLab2030 event took place in June with city representatives from the Districts of Creativity (DC Network) meeting in Rio to discuss the theme of "making cities for people." RIO+ and its partners launched an open call for academia, students, and civil society to present their innovative solutions to build better cities for people, where the winners presented their projects to the DC Network.

In addition to engaging young people in the implementation of the SDGs, in 2017 the RIO+ Centre's own young team members have also been directly involved in increasing youth's participation in global governance and sustainable development by acting as youth representatives in various events worldwide. In July, a member of the RIO+ Centre attended the Youth BRICS Forum that took place in Beijing, China as a part of the Brazilian delegation. The forum gathered youth representatives from the five BRICS countries to debate and foster youth participation in national and international policymaking. At the end of the forum, the youth delegation delivered a document with their key concerns, which included the lack of investment in youth and the importance of sustainable and equitable development (with the SDGs as the means

to achieve this). The final document will be presented to BRICS county leaders at the official summit in September. RIO+ team members are doing their part in sharing sustainability, as can be seen by the publication and release of the book *Sustainability Made Simple: Small Changes for Big Impact*, a book written by one of RIO+'s young colleagues. In June, UNDP BPPS hosted a Brown Bag Lunch event for the author in New York City, where she spoke with UNDP colleagues about the new book, sustainability's relevance to UNDP's mission, and bringing the SDGs and UNDP's work into people's own homes.

The RIO+ Centre was also represented at the Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance (YICGG) in July which took place this year in Astana, Kazakhstan as part of the EXPO Astana 2017. A RIO+ team members was one of the three Brazilian youth delegates who submitted a project proposal for 'BeGreen', a new action-oriented social media app that actively promotes green ideas and connects a network of ecologically-minded people, equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and connections to enhance sustainable projects in their communities.





Photo UNV HQ

RIO+ will be represented at the XIX World Festival of Youth and Students organized by United Nations Volunteer Programme, the Russian Association of Volunteer Centers (AVC), and the National Youth Council of Russia this October in Sochi, Russia. The festival is the largest event celebrating international youth cooperation, bringing together more than 20,000 young people from 150 countries. One of the Centre's United Nations Volunteers (UNV) will attend on the behalf of RIO+ to engage with student and civil society organizations during debates

and hands-on activities that address the importance of youth engagement for sustainable development. Interacting with youngsters from all over the world, RIO+ will establish new connections and find common ground on how to apply the SDGs into action counting on innovative approaches and partnerships. Beyond a great celebration of youth engagement, the event will promote a real call-to-action from the voices of youth about the future that we want by 2030 and beyond.

FEATURED STORIES

SP4SD: Leveraging the Latin American and African Experiences

The 2030 Agenda was created to tackle the rising poverty and inequality that exists within and among countries, emphasizing its intergenerational nature. Social protection initiatives, by targeting the ones further behind via focused policies, are a key tool to achieve the Agenda's objectives. Latin American countries experimented much with social protection in the 2000s, and one of the key findings is that these policies can support sustainable development when the economic, social and environmental integrated components are ingrained in the process.

The RIO+ Centre is helping to share best practices developed in Latin America by helping the UNDP Service Centre for Africa in coordinating the Social

Protection for Sustainable Development (SP4SD) project with the African Union. This project will lay the foundations for a database that will enable policy makers in Africa to better understand the situation in their countries and design policies that are aligned with their reality and oriented to achieve sustainable development. As a part of its mandate, in 2017 the RIO+ Centre convened actors, sparked dialogue, and contributed with technical guidance to enhance the capacities of regional and national institutions in designing and coordinating the delivery of social protection policies that leave no one behind.

At the end of 2016, the Republic of Mauritius revised its social security policy to increase the effectiveness of its programs. The results placed the country as leading the implementation of the most comprehensive social protection policy in Africa. UNDP (Country Office, Regional Service Centre for Africa and RIO+) was the leading UN agency to support the country's initiative. The effort, part of the Mauritius Marshall Plan Against Poverty, encompasses new strategies to reduce unemployment, strengthen programs to fight poverty and inequality, promote corporate social responsibility, increase social security to vulnerable population, and improve standards of living of vulnerable population with emphasis on providing good quality public housing. RIO+ provided support in the development and review of the Marshall Plan, interacting with government officials, including partners such as the Ministry of



Social Integration and Economic Empowerment, and the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, and civil society. The Minister of Finance and current Prime Minister was also consulted about the objectives of the policy revision.

The RIO+ Centre has played a key role in convening multilateral institutions and top scholars to fight poverty in Africa, while also increasing the UNDP's role and recognition in the area of social protection. Specifically, RIO+ in a joint initiative with UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa has designed and implemented a project called the "State of Social Protection" in Africa. The project brings together the African Union Commission (AUC) with other UN agencies that have solid experience in the subject (ILO, UNICEF, and UNECA) as well as renowned academic specialists, such as Stephen Deveraux (UK Institute of Development Studies), Armando Barrientos (University of Manchester), and Marius Oliver (Northwest University - South Africa) in the implementation of social protection

policies in Africa. The objectives of the project include:

Assist the AUC in monitoring progress of the African Union's Agenda 2063's First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023, by providing harmonized data on social protection indicators every two years aligned with the monitoring framework of the AUC Become an advocacy tool for advancing social protection in Africa in line with the Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda Inspire African countries to improve their social protection systems by learning of what others do and encourage countries to participate in the South-South exchanges within the UNDP project SP4SD Africa.

Address a research and literature gap by presenting a comprehensive overview of social protection in all countries in Africa. RIO+ has participated in meetings and workshops to coordinate the project, including in the presentation of the project to African Union representatives in April, which took place in Algiers. The main results and findings of the research will be published in early 2018 as the very first compendium on Social Protection in Africa.

RIO+ Publications and Resources

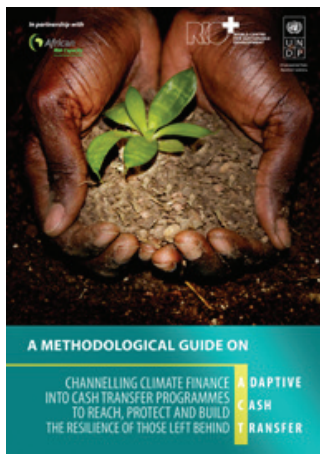
A part of RIO+'s work in moving forward the transition towards sustainable development is the production of analysis and tools to help guide this transition, specifically to identify drivers and barriers to the adoption of sustainable development pathways. In 2017, the RIO+ Centre has produced a combination of policy reports as well practical guides of implementation, to aid practitioners, policymakers and other interested parties in contributing to a more sustainable world.



Planning Tools for Urban Sustainability: Mapping of Initiatives and Methodologies

LAURA HILDEBRANDT.

As a part of its work on sustainable cities and localizing the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the RIO+ Centre has mapped out the various tools and resources supporting sustainable urban development around the world. Planning Tools for Urban Sustainability examines the growing range of tools and initiatives developed by cities, city coalitions, think tanks, universities, NGOs, multilaterals, and the private sector, to learn of the different approaches and how they guide urban development. The study explores over 50 innovative tools developed by developed by international organizations, the private sector, city networks, and local governments globally to support integrated sustainable development planning at the municipal level.



Methodological Guide to Designing an Adaptive Cash Transfer (ACT)

AMATH PATHE SENE, ROSALY BYRD.

In working to provide governments and partners ways to integrate policies and plans across sectors and thus achieve the inextricably connected SDGs, the Methodological Guide to Designing an ACT incorporates environmental and climate considerations into social cash transfers to build resilience of the most vulnerable populations and leave no one behind. The Guide provides sustainable development practitioners and stakeholders with information on the process and tools used to channel climate finance into cash transfers in what the RIO+ Centre has coined Adaptive Cash Transfers.



UNRCO Moz



Sustainability Made Simple: Small Changes for Big Impact.

ROSALY BYRD, ROWMAN AND LITTLEFIELD PUBLISHERS | LAUREN DAMATES

Designed for those interested in learning more about sustainability yet recognizing that the topic can be overwhelming, Sustainability Made Simple walks readers through small, actionable steps anyone can take to reduce their environmental impact, bringing the SDGs into readers' homes. The book, which touches on global issues such as deforestation, climate change, and water and air pollution— all of which are challenges the SDGs seek to address— guides individuals in making easy changes to minimize their contribution to these global environmental challenges. By sharing inspiring stories already being taken by regular people, Sustainability Made Simple also demonstrates that sustainability is not about giving things up, but rather about making our lives, communities, and society better.





Toolkit - Creative Approaches to Leave no one Behind (Forthcoming 2018)

The publication features RIO+ Centre's three pilot projects (Music to Advance Sustainable Development, Sustainable Semester and Young Journalists) presented as case studies and navigates through the RIO+ Methodology to help development practitioners use creative ways to leave no one behind and achieve the 2030 Agenda





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Working Paper: Agenda 2030 e América Latina: Desafios a Implementação

MARCIO PONTUAL AND ROMULO PAES.

The RIO+ was invited to deliver a presentation on the 2030 Agenda for the “Congresso do Futuro” seminar, organized by the Brazilian National Congress, and held in Brasilia in December 2016. A support text prepared for that event was launched this year: it explains the long-time relationship between Sustainable Development and Latin America and the important role of parliamentarians, as policy makers, in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The paper will be released in September.

Working paper: STI as Catalyst to Implementation of 2030 Agenda

MARCIO PONTUAL AND ROMULO PAES.

The role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) as a catalyst to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is examined in a working paper to be released by the RIO+ Centre later this year.



#BXD - Baixada Nunca Se Rende

Produced in partnership between the UNDP RIO+ Centre and Brazilian marine biologist/documentarist Ricardo Gomes, Urban Bay examines the marine life that exists under Rio de Janeiro's iconic Guanabara Bay, a bay that has been shadowed in negative global attention during the Olympic Games in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. Despite popular thought that the bay is inhospitable, Ricardo Gomes shows that there is a diverse world of marine life in Rio de Janeiro's bay, although we do not know how long this resiliency will last. Directed and produced by Ricardo Gomes. Supported by UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+ Centre).



Baía Urbana

Baía Urbana shows the potential of music and the arts to transform the reality of Baixada Fluminense, RJ, one of the most violent metropolitan regions in the world. Directed by the Brazilian documentarist Juliana Spinola and the Italian documentarist Christian Tragni, the film tells the world the story of the first collective of artists and musicians from Rio de Janeiro peripheries supported by UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development, the open group of musicians Baixada Nunca Se Rende. Produced in January and February 2017 in Belford Roxo, Nova Iguaçu and Duque de Caxias, the film is part of the pilot project “Music to Advance Sustainable Development”, which translates the concept of sustainable development into concrete actions at the local level. It will serve as a basis for the development of a new methodology of citizen engagement for the UNDP offices in 166 developing countries.

RIO+ IN THE MEDIA

As one of our goals is to raise awareness and attract civil society's attention to achieving sustainable development and the SDGs, the RIO+ Centre's work has focused largely on bringing the issues to the general public. As a result, the RIO+ Centre has received major coverage in the news and other media throughout 2015 and 2016. Traditional media (print and TV) was a key ally to strengthen outreach and advocacy, allowing the RIO+ Centre to reach out to influential stakeholders as well as to the general public. In 2015-2016, the RIO+ Centre's TV presence reached out to almost 70 million viewers in Brazil, with a focus on the urgency of shifting the development paradigm towards sustainable development and having citizens as active players for the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The RIO+ Centre has also strengthened its social media presence, focusing on crowdsourcing audiovisual content generation with the support of youth leaders and grassroots sustainable development advocates. This section presents some key articles, interviews and TV programmes that have led to a major increase in the RIO+ Centre's visibility and the impact of its work as a UNDP Global Policy Centre.

6,000 millions

viewers of RIO+ Centre news

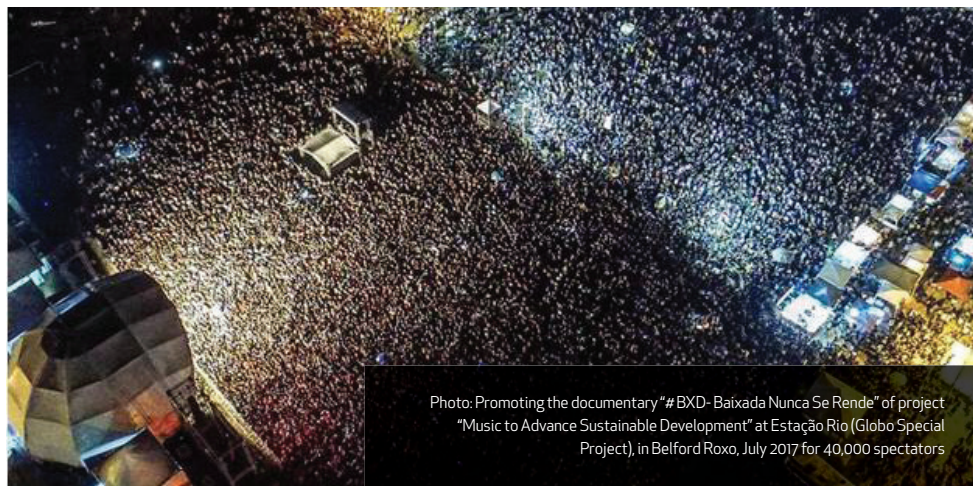


Photo: Promoting the documentary "#BXD - Baixada Nunca Se Rende" of project "Music to Advance Sustainable Development" at Estação Rio (Globo Special Project), in Belford Roxo, July 2017 for 40,000 spectators

RIO + IN NUMBERS

IN MEDIA CHANNELS

Sputnik – 11 May

Xinhua - 24 January

EBC – 21 January

UOL – 16 February

Revista Publicittà – 19 January

EXTRA/Globo – 04 February

BRICS Youth Forum – July

.unique visitors **751.479**

News of Terra on 20 July with

.unique visitors **746,682**

Urban Bay

.unique visitors **7.370**

News of ONU BR on 31 May with

.unique visitors **3,685**

LivingLab2030

.unique visitors **112.366**

Portal Fator Brasil on 30 June with

.unique visitors **31,033**

Planning Tools for Urban Sustainability

.unique visitors **7,859**

ONU BR on 19 July with

.unique visitors **3,685**

Semester of Sustainable Development

.unique visitors **7,370**

ONU BR on 27 March with

.unique visitors **3,685**

Social Protection

.unique visitors **5,318**

ONU BR on 22 November 2016 with

unique visitors **4,223**

MUSIC TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

.unique visitors **6,607,181**

News of UOL on 16 February with

RIO + CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS 2017





MAY 2017
Launching Documentary BXD Nunca se Rende at Cine Odheon Theatre. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



MAY 2017
Launching Documentary BXD Nunca se Rende at Cine Odheon Theatre. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



MAY 2017
Launching Documentary BXD Nunca se Rende at Cine Odheon Theatre. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



MAY 2017
RIO+ team at Pre-Launch Documentary BXD Nunca se Rende at Cine Odheon Theatre. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



JUNE 2017
Launching Report Social Protection for Sustainable Development SP4SD



JULY 2017
Actor Lázaro Ramos in Campaign for SDG's in Paraty at the Internacional Literary Fair of Paraty (Flip 2017)



JULY 2017
Campaigning at the Streets of Paraty



JULY 2017
Campaigning at the Streets of Parat



JULY 2017
Campaigning at the Streets of Parat



AUGUST 2017
BRICS Youth Forum, Beijing China



AUGUST 2017
EXPO Astana Kazakhstan.



SEPTEMBER 2017
Workshop About SDGs for Rio de Janeiro's Municipality's public staff



OCTOBER 2017
Chelsea Film Festival New York



OCTOBER 2017
Chelsea Film Festival, New York



NOVEMBER 2017
Workshop M4SD Mária de Castro. UNResident Coordinator in Mozambique receives gift from UN Volunteer DeniseSilveira in Maputo. Photo_ UNRCO Moz



NOVEMBER 2017
Photo_ UNRCO Moz



NOVEMBER 2017
Workshop M4SD in Maputo Photo_ UNRCO Moz



DECEMBER 2017
Screening Documentary BXD Nunca se Rende at Centro Cultural Donana, Belford Roxo, Rio de Janeiro.

www.riopluscentre.org

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