**I-Tree Action Plan**

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**Action Plan or Project Title:**  Measuring the benefits of Urban Oases

**Name of city and geographic area Involved:** La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

**Action plan or project objective – What Issue will you address:**

The City of La Paz is located in the state of BCS with high temperatures and the highest water stress at the national level, adding to this the increase in population, gray infrastructure and the lack of public spaces with vegetation, are the main challenges that presents the city. To combat these challenges and increase the resilience of our region, we created, in alliance with Ecology Project International Y Urbaneria, the Urban Oasis (UO): they are multifunctional spaces for the use and enjoyment of the population. Which provide benefits for our city through green infrastructure and native vegetation. They are also spaces for learning, fun, awareness and participation.

To enhance this project and take it to the next level, the I-Tree tools could be integrated as follows:

* Find potential areas for new urban oases
* Have monitoring indicators and impact of native vegetation in urban oases,
* With the results promote the creation of these spaces in various areas of the city, and in turn disseminate with the population and authorities the importance and benefits of native vegetation in the urban area.

**Key i-Tree tool(s) to be used:**

* I-Tree data base
* I-Tree canopy
* I-Tree Eco

**Brief description of plan, activity or project idea:**

**Stage 1**: With the use of I-tree canopy, calculate the tree cover, impervious area, roads, and bare soil area in the city of La Paz, to later detect the areas with the greatest bare soil, which would be potential areas to establish OU.

**Stage 2:** Verify that the native species that are part of the urban oases are integrated into the I-Tree Data Base, taking into account our already published vegetal palette. In the event that a species is not found in the Data Base, request the support of the I-tree team to integrate it or find a substitute for that species when registering it in I-tree Eco.

**Stage 3:** Through the use of I-tree Eco, carry out a complete inventory for each urban oasis that is created at the beginning of its installation and subsequently every 2 years, to make a comparison of the state and growth of the vegetation over time, based on while comparing the benefits provided by a newly created UO and one that has been developed and captured water.

To carry out this third stage, training workshops would have to be held for volunteers, allies and authorities for the use of data formats, the mobile data collector and the adequate measurement of the parameters. In addition, the support of an expert in native vegetation would be required to identify the species of the enumerated individuals through the plant palette.

In addition, it would be very valuable to translate into Spanish the graphic manual for the measurement of parameters that was provided to us during the I-Tree Academy.

**NOTE:** To date **we have** one UO in the area of ​​the main building of the La Paz city hall and 1 is projected in the population of La Ventana and 1 in SJC for the year 2022.

**Key partners & others who will assist (If any):**

* Urban Oasis partners:
  + Ecology Project International Mexico
  + Urbaneria
* Town hall staff
* USFS IP
* Young volunteers (Californios Verdes)
* HUB La Paz
* Academic specialist in native vegetation

**What resources are needed and what are anticipated challenges:**

**Necessary resources:**

* Time management and planning
* Financing
* Volunteers

**Challenges:**

* Restrictions due to COVID and new variants
* Absence of species in the data base
* Change of authorities every 3 years and rotation of volunteers

**Describe any related outreach or engagement opportunities, ideas or efforts:**

* One of the main pillars in the OU project is citizen participation, therefore integrating a tool like i-tree eco that promotes the practice of community science is perfect to involve the community and create a sense of ownership in these spaces.
* To detect a greater number of allies in this project, the results of the Stew-Map planned to be developed in 2022 for the city of La Paz could be used.