

CLEVER CITY QUITO

ABOUT QUITO

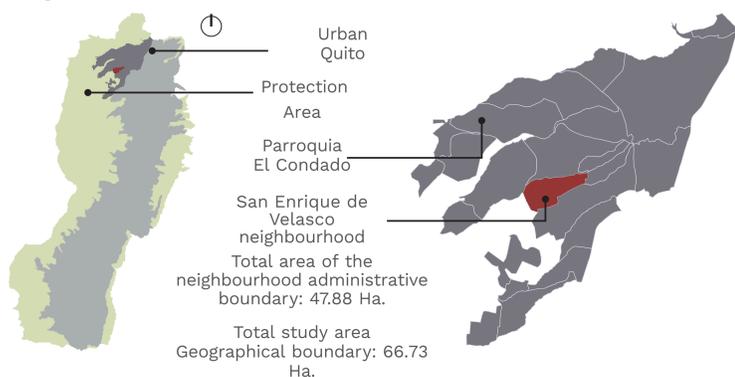
At 2,800 meters above sea level, Quito is one of the highest capital cities in the world. The city sits amid volcanoes and deep valleys. Quito was named a World Heritage Site in 1978 not only for its architecture, but also due to its dramatic landscape and its biological diversity. At the same time, this cultural and natural wealth is threatened by a variety of environmental, economic, and social challenges.

The Metropolitan District of Quito has a population of 2.6 million (2017) with a density of 5400 inh/km². The city presents high levels of biodiversity derived from the richness of climates and landscapes given by its location. Ranging from high altitude mountains to humid subtropical areas, the city hosts nearly 18000 registered plants, 112 species of mammals and 542 species of birds (2016).

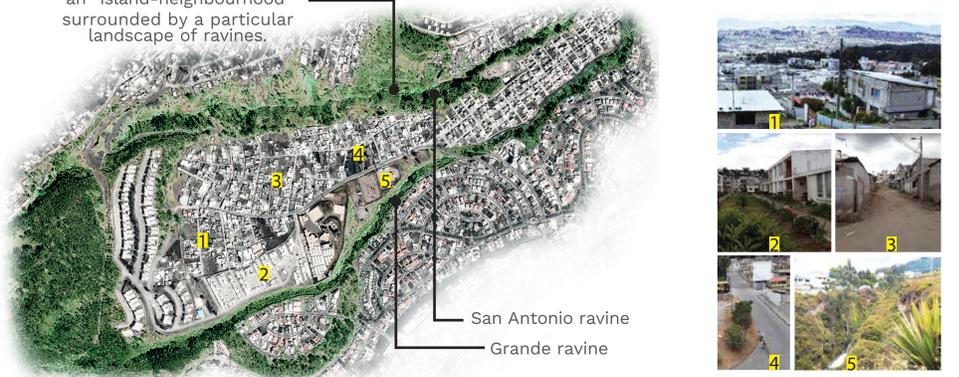
This diverse and vibrant environment offers a privileged opportunity for the Metropolitan District of Quito to enhance NBS projects by becoming an urban laboratory that merges both social and environmental issues.

ABOUT SAN ENRIQUE DE VELASCO NEIGHBOURHOOD

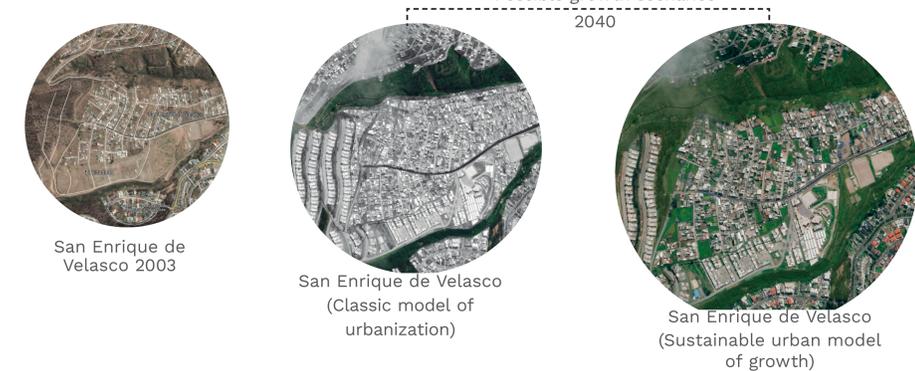
Neighbourhood with a high level of environmental degradation. Urban area totally deprived of vegetation although the site benefits from a great natural landscape with its surrounding ravines. Urban quality is low, built structure is incomplete and mobility is chaotic. The local community is well organized but suffers from segregation and unemployment.



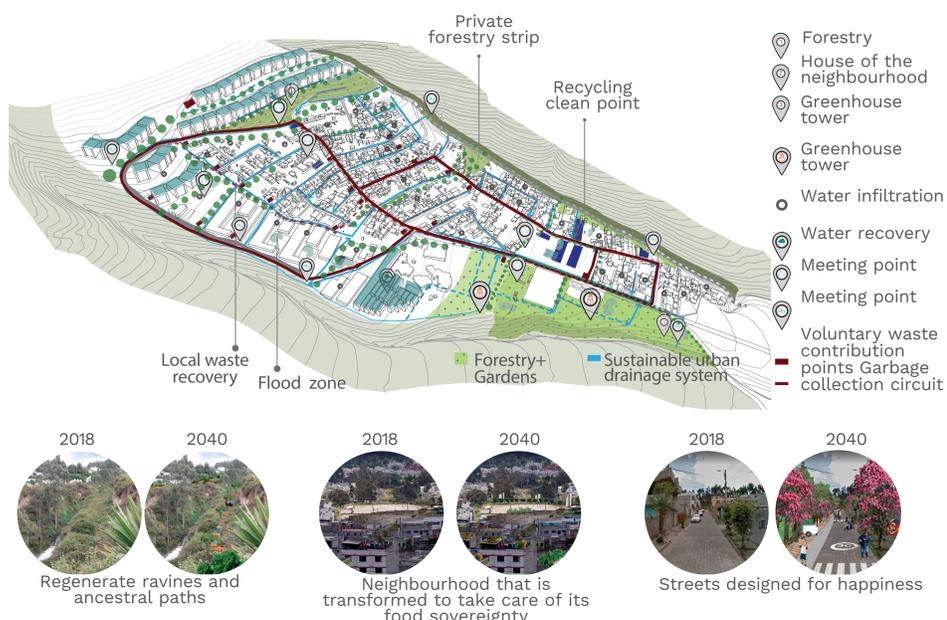
San Enrique de Velasco is an "island-neighbourhood" surrounded by a particular landscape of ravines.



URBAN GROWTH SCENARIO



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: FIRST IDEAS



CLEVER CITIES PLANS

Due to its designation as Ecuador's capital city, its geographic position, and its tangible and intangible heritage, Quito has an economic, ecological, and cultural role to play on the world stage.

Urban expansion has had a detrimental effect on the environmental and the city's ecology. All of these actions exacerbate the stresses on the different ecosystems, contaminate water sources and networks, and put the city's capacity to supply ecosystemic services at risk (MDMQ, 2015). Its territory contains immensely rich valleys and mountains as well as conservation corridors that are part of the Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena bioregion, one of the planet's biodiversity hotspots. As a result of their biological, cultural, and social assets, these areas meet the conditions needed for sustainable development opportunities in Quito.

In Quito, inadequate mobility is one of the main chronic stresses, reflected mainly in the quality of service, measured by its accessibility, quality, and use of public places; transfer time, coverage, environmental impacts due to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and decline in air quality. The city's disorganized growth hinders the efforts of the municipality to address its citizens' demands for access to services, including transportation.

In relation to land management, the city's unregulated growth affects its functionality and increases its vulnerability to natural threats, such as earthquakes, landslides, and wildfires. Given the city's topography, many informal settlements are located in areas with nonmitigable risk, such as slopes or gorges. Many of these areas do not have access to public utilities, infrastructure, and equipment, making them prone to violence and unsafe conditions. Given the demographic growth forecasted for these areas in the coming decades, the construction of safe habitat needs to be a priority.

As a result of the above, the city is facing challenges in urban planning with insufficient access to public transport, green corridors and public green areas being built up. The rapid rate of the city's growth translates into social inclusion and economic development issues. Therefore as the only non-European fellow city in the project, Quito's involvement will provide insights to the challenges and opportunities faced in implementing nature-based solutions.