Municipality of Valongo

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

25 November 2026

Chapter 1

Profile overview



About

Overview

Population size

Portugal

Country

Europe and the Middle East

Region

José Manuel Pereira Ribeiro, Mayor of Municipality of Valongo

Head of government

Platform engagement statistics

9

Actions made on the Action Platform

Achievements

Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile
34% complete

Frontrunner profile
40% complete

Star profile
0% complete

The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile
0% complete

Frontrunner profile
0% complete

Star profile
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



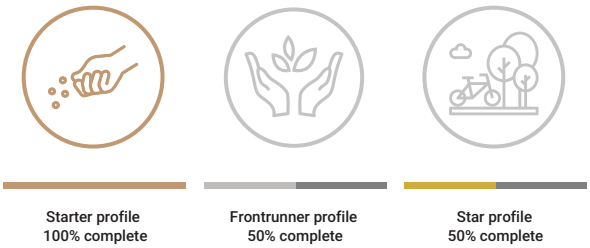
Starter profile
0% complete

Frontrunner profile
0% complete

Star profile
0% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile
100% complete

Frontrunner profile
50% complete

Star profile
50% complete

Chapter 2

The Action Platform



The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.

Action area 1

Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:

Protect, connect and restore ecosystems

Commitment Made:

Conserve and restore fauna and flora

Reduce the urban heat island effect by working with nature

Description of how city is taking action

With the elaboration of Valongo's Municipal Plan for Climate Action a diagnosis was made that allowed to identify the urban heat islands in the municipality, with the schools being one of the most sensitive areas. In order to reduce the effect of heat islands and create cooling areas and natural ventilation corridors, Valongo Municipality is implementing projects to increase the green areas and the green cover within the urban areas, specifically the implementation of a network of Urban Tiny forests, Urban vegetable gardens and the implementation of the project "Every street with a tree", which aims to plant trees and create green infrastructures in every street of the municipality.

Baseline:

Currently, the total green cover in the city is **58,53**%, of which **47,51**% is tree cover and **11,02**% is covered by other types of vegetation (for example grass, or green roofs). This helps to reduce the urban heat island effect and enhance people's health and wellbeing.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Target:

With the elaboration of Valongo's Municipal Plan for Climate Action a diagnosis was made that allowed to identify the urban heat islands in the municipality, with the schools being one of the most sensitive areas. In order to reduce the effect of heat islands and create cooling areas and natural ventilation corridors, Valongo Municipality is implementing projects to increase the green areas and the green cover within the urban areas, specifically the implementation of a network of Urban Tiny forests, Urban vegetable gardens and the implementation of the project "Every street with a tree", which aims to plant trees and create green infrastructures in every street of the municipality.

Last update: 26 June 2024

Increase the use of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation

Description of how city is taking action

River requalification using nature-based solutions in order to rehabilitate and stabilize river margins, rehabilitate degraded banks, decrease the impacts of flooding and increase the ecosystem's resilience. For instance, the Leça River crosses the municipalities of Valongo, Maia, Santo Tirso and Matosinhos and has been considered one of the most polluted rivers in Europe, due to polluting discharges from industry and agriculture. Recognizing the importance of preserving this watercourse, in 2016 we began to investigate solutions at a local level to restore this watercourse using nature-based solutions, including infrastructures such as leisure areas and natural amphitheatres Forest management, mainly through the work done in collaboration with the Porto Mountain Park Association, with a major focus on forest fires prevention, biodiversity protection, requalification of water courses and carbon sinking.

Baseline:

Currently, the city's climate change action plan and disaster risk reduction plan **incorporate** ecosystem-based approaches.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Target:

River requalification using nature-based solutions in order to rehabilitate and stabilize river margins, rehabilitate degraded banks, decrease the impacts of flooding and increase the ecosystem's resilience. For instance, the Leça River crosses the municipalities of Valongo, Maia, Santo Tirso and Matosinhos and has been considered one of the most polluted rivers in Europe, due to polluting discharges from industry and agriculture. Recognizing the importance of preserving this watercourse, in 2016 we began to investigate solutions at a local level to restore this watercourse using nature-based solutions, including infrastructures such as leisure areas and natural amphitheatres Forest management, mainly through the work done in collaboration with the Porto Mountain Park Association, with a major focus on forest fires prevention, biodiversity protection, requalification of water courses and carbon sinking.

Last update: 26 June 2024

Promote integration of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches into urban infrastructure maintenance & development.

Description of how city is taking action

The Municipality of Valongo plans to install green structures on municipal buildings, particularly on roofs and front walls. These structures play an important role in regulating temperature and retaining water, contributing directly to improving the environment and the comfort of the building, while also contribute to increase biodiversity in urban spaces. In terms of the requalification of Leça river, the municipality plans to build natural amphitheaters, on the riverbanks. These infrastructures can be used for cultural and leisure activities such as concerts, plays, outdoor conferences or simply to be a place where the community comes closer to the rive

Baseline:

Currently, the city has policies/regulations that encourage the inclusion of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches into the design of new infrastructure development projects and into the maintenance of existing infrastructure across the city.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Target:

The Municipality of Valongo plans to install green structures on municipal buildings, particularly on roofs and front walls. These structures play an important role in regulating temperature and retaining water, contributing directly to improving the environment and the comfort of the building, while also contribute to increase biodiversity in urban spaces. In terms of the requalification of Leça river, the municipality plans to build natural amphitheaters, on the riverbanks. These infrastructures can be used for cultural and leisure activities such as concerts, plays, outdoor conferences or simply to be a place where the community comes closer to the rive

Last update: 26 June 2024

Increase the carbon sequestration potential of urban nature

Description of how city is taking action

Increasing the potential for carbon sequestration, combined with the preservation of native species, has always been a priority for the Municipality of Valongo. In order to keep this goal, the Municipality has been carrying out voluntary reforestation actions, with 6 actions between January 2023 and June 2024 that resulted in the planting of approximately 1,300 native trees and shrubs such as oak trees, lime trees, hawthorn trees and cork oaks. Actions to raise awareness and control invasive species are also being carried out. The Municipality of Valongo intends to implement a network of Urban Tiny Forests, free of chemicals and fertilizers, being an area of dense forest that concentrates various native species and contributes to the preservation of biodiversity. These areas, implemented in an urban environment, contribute to increasing carbon sequestration and also include the educational aspect of an outdoor classroom. In addition, the Municipality is working on the implementation of a project called “Every Street with a Tree”, aiming to plant trees in every street of the municipality, or create green infrastructures like green rooftops and flowerbeds in streets where there is no possibility of having a tree.

Baseline:

The city currently has tree cover of 47,51% which contributes to carbon sequestration and biodiversity and, provides benefits to people.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Target:

Increasing the potential for carbon sequestration, combined with the preservation of native species, has always been a priority for the Municipality of Valongo. In order to keep this goal, the Municipality has been carrying out voluntary reforestation actions, with 6 actions between January 2023 and June 2024 that resulted in the planting of approximately 1,300 native trees and shrubs such as oak trees, lime trees, hawthorn trees and cork oaks. Actions to raise awareness and control invasive species are also being carried out. The Municipality of Valongo intends to implement a network of Urban Tiny Forests, free of chemicals and fertilizers, being an area of dense forest that concentrates various native species and contributes to the preservation of biodiversity. These areas, implemented in an urban environment, contribute to increasing carbon sequestration and also include the educational aspect of an outdoor classroom. In addition, the Municipality is working on the implementation of a project called “Every Street with a Tree”, aiming to plant trees in every street of the municipality, or create green infrastructures like green rooftops and flowerbeds in streets where there is no possibility of having a tree.

Last update: 26 June 2024

Reduce other types of pollution, such as solid waste, air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution

Description of how city is taking action

Celebration of the European Week for Waste reduction and of the European Mobility Week, with awareness actions, workshops and conferences for the general population. Composting workshops aiming to raise awareness towards the importance of composting and capacitate the population. Mobile Ecocenter that aims to promote the selective collection of various waste that we all have at home and don't know what to do with, such as CDs and DVDs, light bulbs, batteries, packaging contaminated with paint residues and other products, unpackaged paper, small household appliances, toner and ink cartridges and cork stoppers. The Mobile Ecocenter travels around the different parishes to make this collection. Collection of large waste - Valongo offers its residents a free collection service for large household objects that are no longer in use.

Recycling is giving + is a project which combines the selective collection of waste with the solidarity aspect, as this campaign will convert part of the commercial value of waste into goods, in favor of social solidarity institutions in the region, Selective collection of green waste - in a joint initiative with LIPOR, Valongo is promoting the free selective collection of green waste in the municipality. This service available to residents living in homes with gardens/green areas. Selective Collection of used clothing and footwear - installation of containers throughout the parishes of the Municipality. Operation 5 Star Restoration- a project developed by the Municipality of Valongo in partnership with LIPOR, since 2008, which promotes the selective collection of food waste in catering establishments. Regarding the reduction of air pollution, the Municipality of Valongo has developed and implemented the Action Plan for Sustainable Urban Mobility in Valongo, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in terms of transport. *NOTE: The amount of waste disposed in landfills identified in the Baseline is not just for Valongo Municipality, but it is a sum of the waste generated by all eight municipalities managed by LIPOR.

Baseline:

Currently, the amount of waste disposed of in landfills within the region is **6305,18** tonnes per person per year.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Commitment Made:
Manage invasive alien species

Commitment Made:
Control Pollution

Increase protected areas

Description of how city is taking action

Created in 2017, based on the cooperation of the three municipalities of Gondomar, Paredes and Valongo, the Parque das Serras do Porto's main objective is to safeguard the landscape and heritage, with a view to promoting joint policies for tourism, leisure, entertainment, training, employment, inclusion, sustainability, innovation, competitiveness and internationalization of the economy, as well as the enhancement of major agro-forestry activities. This area, with a total of 59.74 km2, 11.24 km2 of which belong to the Municipality of Valongo, is currently an important green lung for the Porto region.

Baseline:

In our city there are **38,85** areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, which include protected areas. The protected areas currently cover **11,39 square km**.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Target:

Created in 2017, based on the cooperation of the three municipalities of Gondomar, Paredes and Valongo, the Parque das Serras do Porto's main objective is to safeguard the landscape and heritage, with a view to promoting joint policies for tourism, leisure, entertainment, training, employment, inclusion, sustainability, innovation, competitiveness and internationalization of the economy, as well as the enhancement of major agro-forestry activities. This area, with a total of 59.74 km2, 11.24 km2 of which belong to the Municipality of Valongo, is currently an important green lung for the Porto region.

Last update: 21 June 2024

Increase connectivity between natural areas

Description of how city is taking action

Ecological corridor – It makes the connection between the city and the Mountains, specifically to the Regional Protected Landscape of Porto Mountain Park. This corridor allows the visitors and users to know the geological history of the territory, the archaeological heritage connected to roman gold mining, biodiversity and rural traditions. Escadaria Cuca Macuca - a structure that allows pedestrian access from the city to the mountain, culminating in a viewpoint on the summit of the Serra de Santa Justa. Along its 2 km length, visitors can see a geological area, mining cavities, forests of native species, the park of the chapels of Santa Justa and S. Sabino and, finally, enjoy the viewpoint that allows them to see the coastline. In addition to the leisure aspect, this structure also makes it possible to observe, to know and preserve the important historical and natural heritage, contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions and sustainable mobility.

Baseline:

Currently, the connectivity between natural areas, including protected areas and OECMs, is **4,8 hectares**, measured as effective mesh size.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Target:

Ecological corridor – It makes the connection between the city and the Mountains, specifically to the Regional Protected Landscape of Porto Mountain Park. This corridor allows the visitors and users to know the geological history of the territory, the archaeological heritage connected to roman gold mining, biodiversity and rural traditions. Escadaria Cuca Macuca - a structure that allows pedestrian access from the city to the mountain, culminating in a viewpoint on the summit of the Serra de Santa Justa. Along its 2 km length, visitors can see a geological area, mining

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Last update: 21 June 2024

Maintain or increase the diversity of native species

Description of how city is taking action

In order to maintain and promote local biodiversity, the municipality of Valongo carries out a number of annual actions to plant native species and control invasive alien species, thereby creating habitats capable of sustaining and promoting biodiversity. These actions are always accompanied by specialized teams from different institutions and associations, such as Parque das Serras do Porto, CRE.Porto and Corredor Rio Leça.

Baseline:

Currently, **191** native vascular plant species, **53** native bird species and **378** native butterfly/moth species and **40 native mammal species** occur within the city boundaries. Of these, **6** native vascular plant species are threatened, **11** native bird species are threatened, **0** native butterfly/moth species are threatened, and **10 native mammal species** are threatened.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Target:

In order to maintain and promote local biodiversity, the municipality of Valongo carries out a number of annual actions to plant native species and control invasive alien species, thereby creating habitats capable of sustaining and promoting biodiversity. These actions are always accompanied by specialized teams from different institutions and associations, such as Parque das Serras do Porto, CRE.Porto and Corredor Rio Leça.

Last update: 21 June 2024

Identify and assess priority invasive alien species

Description of how city is taking action

Every year, the municipality of Valongo carries out various actions to control invasive exotic species, both with volunteers and with teams of sappers and specialists. Currently, the greatest efforts are being made to combat species of the genus Acacia, Hakea sericea, Phytolacca americana and Fallopia japonica. Volunteer actions were always accompanied by specialised teams from different institutions and associations, such as Parque das Serras do Porto, CRE.Porto and Corredor Rio Leça. In order to promote knowledge of these species, literature was also created and some were part of exhibitions about local biodiversity in which the public had the opportunity to get to know some of them

Baseline:

Currently, the city **has** assessed which invasive alien species occur in the city jurisdiction, **has not** assessed the distribution of invasive alien species in the city, and **has** assessed the impacts of invasive alien species in the city.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Target:

Every year, the municipality of Valongo carries out various actions to control invasive exotic species, both with volunteers and with teams of sappers and specialists. Currently, the greatest efforts are being made to combat species of the genus Acacia, Hakea sericea, Phytolacca americana and Fallopia japonica. Volunteer actions were always accompanied by specialised teams from different institutions and associations, such as Parque das Serras do Porto, CRE.Porto and Corredor Rio Leça. In order to promote knowledge of these species, literature was also created and some were part of exhibitions about local biodiversity in which the public had the opportunity to get to know some of them

Last update: 21 June 2024

Commitment Made:
Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Other commitments under this action area

Protect, connect and restore ecosystems

Manage invasive alien species

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Action area 2

Use nature sustainably

Other commitments under this action area

Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species

Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry

Promote people's access to green and blue spaces

Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions

Other commitments under this action area

Mainstreaming biodiversity values

Sustainable production and consumption

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

Chapter 3

Nature Pathway



Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



I. Analyze

1. Commit & mobilize

No uploads or resources have been linked

2. Research & assess

No uploads or resources have been linked

3. Set Baseline

No uploads or resources have been linked

II. Act

4. Develop strategy

No uploads or resources have been linked

5. Detail & finance projects

No uploads or resources have been linked

6. Implement & monitor

No uploads or resources have been linked

III. Accelerate

7. Integrate & collaborate

No uploads or resources have been linked

8. Review & upscale

No uploads or resources have been linked

9. Advocate & inspire

No uploads or resources have been linked

Chapter 4

City Biodiversity Index



City Biodiversity Index

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

Native biodiversity in the city

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points

Municipality of Valongo has not started on this biodiversity index section

Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points

Municipality of Valongo has not started on this biodiversity index section

Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points

Municipality of Valongo has not started on this biodiversity index section

Chapter 5

Tools & resources



Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.

Municipality of Valongo has not yet posted any tools and resources



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