

I spent three very interesting, exciting months in Colombia. Thanks to my very nice and open colleagues of the Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt in Bogotá I could experience how academics and professionals in Colombia work on the conservation of biodiversity. The field of activity of my internship mainly consisted of examining perceptions of biodiversity of various UN institutions. These global actors are crucial for the discourses on sustainable urban development and influence the statements of all stakeholders. Therefore, by analysing documents of institutions like UN-Habitat, the World Urban Forum and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Instituto Humboldt gains important input for preparing strategies and discursive contributions on urban biodiversity. This task demanded knowledge and skills from both my Bachelor's studies in Social Sciences and my Master studies in Spatial Development and Natural Resource Management. Such, I could bridge the two parts of my academic training. Apart from this task, I participated in various meetings with Colombian ministries to prepare new sustainable development goals for Colombia. Furthermore, I attended an event to exchange knowledge and experience on ecological urban development organized by the Colombian and the German Embassies. All together, it was very enriching to get to know perspectives and main focuses of Colombia regarding biodiversity and sustainable urban development. I gained insight in the way Colombian academics and political actors work and was surprised that the work- and lifestyle of well-trained Colombians does not differ much from those of German academics. Additionally, living three months in a chaotic, crowded metropolis like Bogotá was an exhausting but very interesting experience, especially for anyone who works on issues of urban development.