

la maraña

Mid Year Report

2026

Participatory design for the sustainable development of Puerto Rico.



Let's talk about community infrastructure.

The first semester of 2026 has been of vision and long term development. Each project confirms that sustainable development does not apply universal formulas, but requires a profound understanding of each place based on their resources, society and natural systems. For this reason we continue promoting initiatives at three different scales. At the community level, we continue to support the transformation of abandoned schools in the community centers of Luquillo and

Yabucoa. At the municipal scale, reforesting and strengthening capacities along Urbe Apie and Caguas municipalities to mitigate heat island effect. At the national level we are studying how technological tools contribute to democratizing information and promoting participation. This labor responds to our goal of creating a Puerto Rico where we have the tools, knowledge and capacities to participate in an informed manner and influence effectively in the decisions that form our futures.



**Since 2014,
36 community
infrastructure
projects have
been driven.**

la maraña is a puertorican organization that works at the intersection of participatory design, community planning and the sustainable development of the territory. We accompany communities, organizations and other allies in the processes to understand, design and collectively manage the territories they inhabit. More than executing projects, la maraña facilitates spaces where people actively participate in the identification of necessities, decision making and the forming of strategies to transform their environments.

Mission

Dream of a Puerto Rico where communities lead the design and management of the spaces we (co) inhabit.

Vision

To promote imagination and participatory design as tools to promote the sustainable development of our communities.



Co Design+ Management

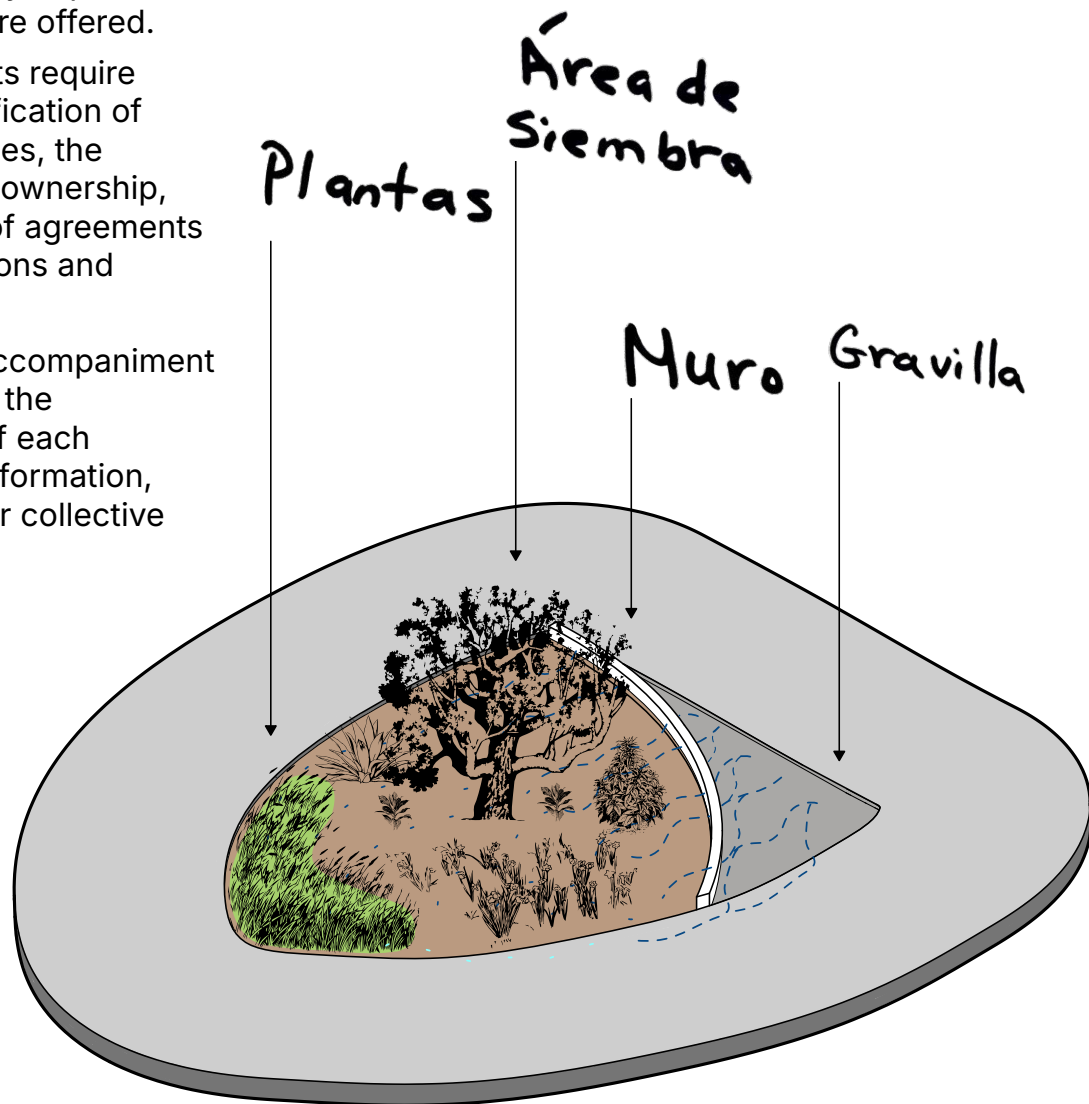
Through surveying, we collectively defined **community infrastructure** as the physical, social, economic and environmental resources that **promote the wellbeing, social cohesion and quality of life.**

Co Design+Management

This programmatic area accompanies leaders, communities and grassroots organizations in the co-creation of community infrastructure. Through this space design, planning and management tools that facilitate knowledge exchange and strengthen the necessary capacities for project implementation are offered.

We recognize that all projects require a contextual analysis, identification of human and financial resources, the attention to legal aspects of ownership, as well as the construction of agreements through complex conversations and participatory processes.

From this area we provide accompaniment geared towards recognizing the necessities and resources of each community facilitating the information, tools and support needed for collective decision making.



“ We participated 5 years ago in the LAB. la maraña accompanied us during the process of answering questions about what we needed and how to resolve it through imagination, and until the implementation of the project that today we know as Huerto Feliz.”

Zeus Omar, Executive director of Urbe Apie.

Hostos Frente al Mar

In collaboration with the Yabucoa municipality, a second pavement removal phase was conducted to amplify the space destined for the new community garden of the school. During this phase, 2,806 cubic feet of asphalt were removed.



Oasis Comunitario

For the fifth consecutive year, we opened the call for the Participatory Design Lab (LAB), an initiative that accompanies communities to dream, design and implement projects for their sustainable development. After receiving 20 applications, we visited 12 preselected projects and chose Proyecto Integración Comunitaria San Isidro (PICSÍ) for this cycle.





Landscape + Food

“ I have noticed an incredible change; it is truly something beautiful... **The future is this; sowing.** We return to what we were before, eating from our backyard”.

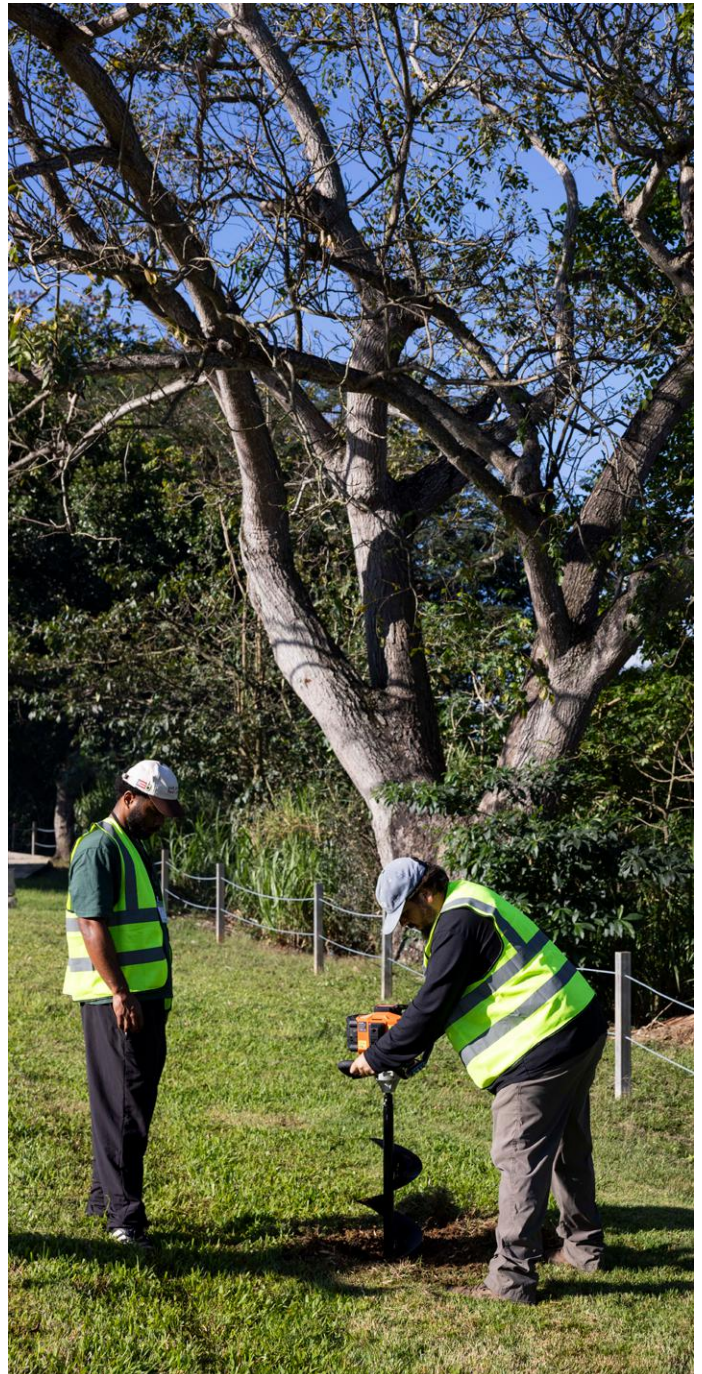
— Ángela Díaz, Caguas Norte II Resident
Association President.

Landscape+Food

During this semester, the Community Forestal Service sowed 100 trees and held 9 workshops with Barriada Morales, Caguas Norte II, San Antonio and Condado Moderno. We included students from three public schools in Barrio Pueblo.

Along with our arborist, 1,000 trees were inventoried to evaluate their state. We also capacitated seven community leaders in urban tree management to promote environmental care. Aside from this we rehabilitated the plant nursery for Huerto Feliz, in Urbe Apie, one of four spaces focused on growing trees for Barrio Pueblo, Caguas.

To support this labor and to mitigate extreme heat, we created an alliance with Caribbean Climate Action Network (CCAN) and installed air and temperature monitoring sensors in real time. The goal is to replicate this system in other communities.





MAIALUETA



CON SUS HOJAS PUEDES
HACER ALCOHOLADO

10 Sembrados

ACHIOTE



Colorante
Tintura

The people in Caguas want to plant:

Matabuey ylang-ylang

Maga Aguacate

Higüera Carambola

Guayacán Pana

Guaraguao Laurel

Flamboyán Jobillo

Ausubo Roble

Gandul

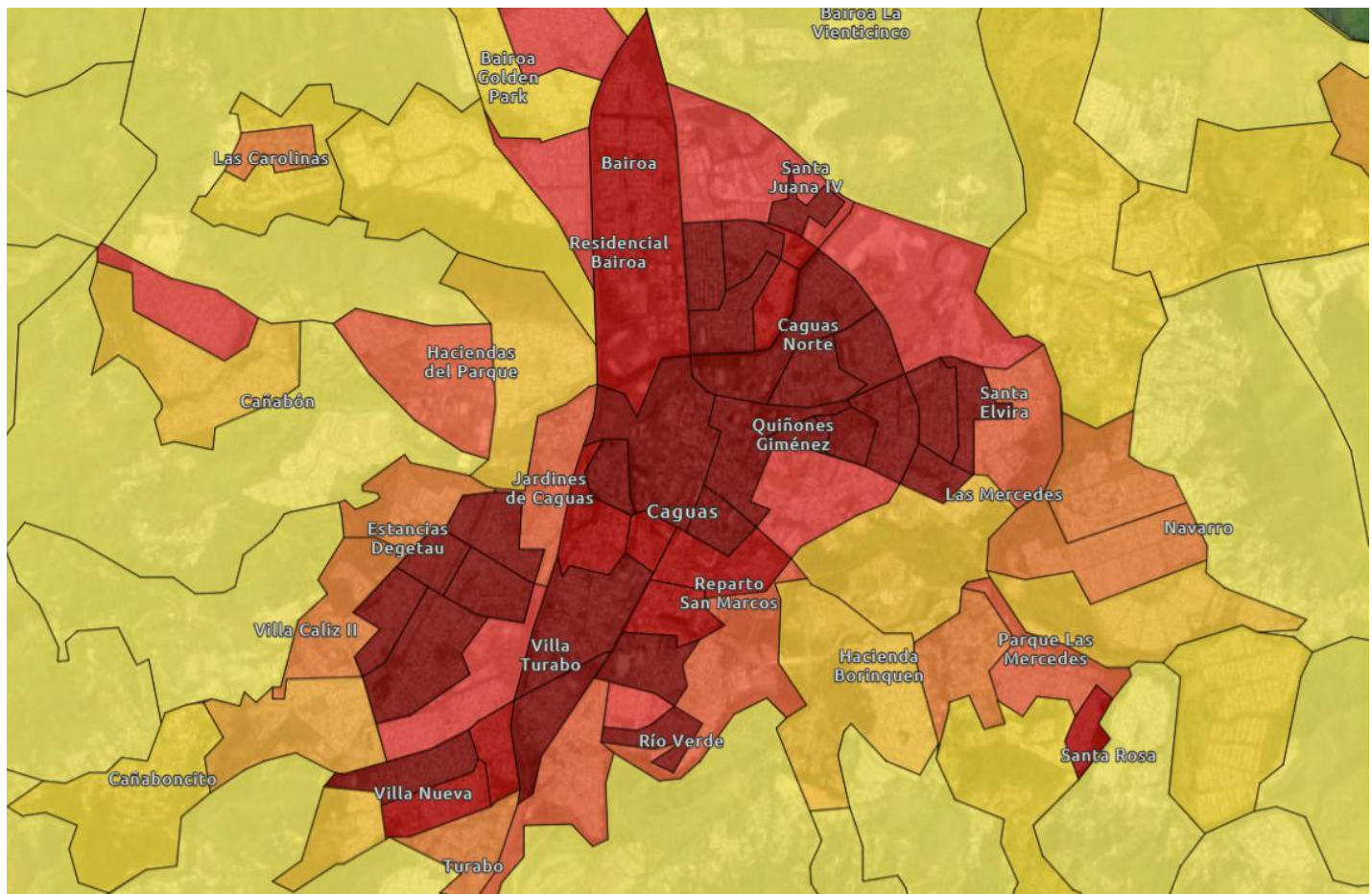
Malaguetta
Malaguetta

Neem

Quenepa

Ceiba

Malaguetta



Heat Index Map, Treecanopy.US, 2026

“I can tell you why; I am 72 years old and can compare before and now. Compared with 30 years ago, I have noticed that the heat is much more intense... I do not expose myself to the sun because I will be dehydrated. Anyone can dehydrate with this wild heat”

— Barrio Pueblo, Caguas Resident



Alliances

“ Organizations like **la maraña** are crucial in the task of reminding us that the only sustainable progress is one designed within the communities and is thought from **collective wellbeing** ”.

— Mayra Díaz Torres, Board of Directors.

Building Bridges

We continue to strengthen our alliance strategy and positioning la maraña's work to exchange, learning and collaboration spaces. Among them, Placemaking Week Latin America in México City, the 3rd Puerto Rico and Virgin Island encounter about Extreme Heat, Urban Tree Management Congress in Caguas and the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Red de Acción Colaborativa del Caribe, held in St. Thomas along the Public Health Graduate School of Medical Sciences Campus.

We also participated in the «Ocean Justice in an Era of Equity and Environmental Rollbacks» panel, as part of Upwell 2.0, thanks to the invitation of Green 2.0. We were also recognized by The Courageous Project, along other community and social justice organizations in the United States for our leadership and impact.

We continue building bridges and bring our Puerto Rican experiences to dialogue and action spaces on a national and international level.



“Ocean Justice in an Era of Equity and Environmental Rollbacks” panel, as part of Upwell 2.0.



3rd Puerto Rico and Virgin Island encounter about Extreme Heat



Urban Tree Management Congress, Caguas



The Courageous Project, Washington, D. C.

“ We will continue to work closely with la maraña because their vision is a model for how organizations and our movement should be working over the terrain”.

— Adriane Alicea, Green 2.0. Executive director

“ Puerto Rico needs organizations like la maraña because they promote a change that is born from the communities. Their world strengthens the spaces where people can collaborate, innovate and create solutions that respond to Puerto Rico real needs”.

— Camille Rivera de Jesús, Board of Directors.



Invest in Community Infrastructure!

On behalf of the team at la maraña, we want to thank the support that you have given us throughout the years to continue to strengthen the community infrastructure that forms the country. Throughout volunteering, collaboration and financial support you have made possible to create collective solutions, strengthen leadership and implement projects that consolidate the social, ecological and financial fabric, creating real opportunities for those of us who live here.

Today we want to invite you to continue to cultivate a sustainable Puerto Rico along with us and continue to strengthen initiatives that respond to the futures imagined by the communities we work with.

Your contributions make possible the purchase of tools and basic materials for community brigades, grant capacity building and provide financial support for the development of sustainable community spaces through the Participatory Design Lab.

Thank you for believing in our work and for walking along la maraña in building a fairer, participatory and sustainable Puerto Rico.



la maraña

And, how do YOU dream of a sustainable Puerto Rico?

