



## 2023 TOP 100 GOOD PRACTICE STORY

**Title:** *RESTINGA PRESERVED, OUR COAST PROTECTED.*

**Destination, Country:** Municipality of Navegantes, State of Santa Catarina, Brasil.

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**Category:** ☐ Destination Management ☐ Weather and Environment ☐ Prosperous Communities  
☒ Nature and Landscape ☐ Culture and Tradition ☐ Marketing

**The Story in a single image:**

The urban area mixes with the natural beauties of the coast in Navegantes, which thanks to the preservation of its vegetation manages to maintain a wide strip of sand so that everyone can enjoy the beach.



**Abstract:**

With the population growth and urbanization, the city of Navegantes began to face a problem seen in many big cities: the reduction green areas. The problem was noticed especially on the shore, as the reduction of vegetation caused erosion in various parts of its beach. Seeing the potential risks in





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the future if the situation persisted, Navegantes decided to act. The city began a long process of recovering

the vegetation along its shoreline, and started the program “Restinga Preservada, Nossa Orla Protegida” (*Restinga Preserved, Our Coast Protected*), to continue the work of environmental education and preservation of the environment, allowing the central urban region to coexist with the coast in a sustainable way.



## Good Practice Story:

### Destination Description

#### *Brief History of the destination.*

Privileged by nature, the city of Navegantes was born facing the sea and was soon colonized by Azoreans. It is 92 kilometers from the capital of the state of Santa Catarina, Florianópolis. It has a hospitable people and boasts one of the most beautiful resorts in Santa Catarina, with one of the largest areas of *restinga* preserved in an urban area in Brazil and numerous tourist attractions. Highlights include the River Lighthouse, with ships arriving and departing daily, the International Airport, and the 11 kilometers of uninterrupted shoreline, accompanied by a boardwalk and bike path. Its beaches, today preserved, receive vacationers and tourists from all over the country and abroad during the season. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Navegantes is visited by thousands of faithful throughout the year. Carnival attracts countless numbers of revelers for its brilliance, animation and luxury. The city is also known for keeping its Azorean roots, being one of the largest fishing centers in Latin America, keeping fishing as one of its main economic activities. To further boost tourism and economic development, the municipal government has been investing in infrastructure, sustainability and beautifying the city.

### Issues Faced

#### *Questions/problems solved with the Story of Good Practices.*

Navegantes is a prosperous city in Santa Catarina, with currently 88,655 thousand inhabitants, (IBGE2022) geographically privileged for its more than 11 continuous km of beach, located on the left bank of the *Itajaí-açu* River, the largest river on the east side of the State.

The municipality conquered its political-administrative emancipation from Itajaí in 1962, being, therefore, a very young city. But the history of its formation dates back to the last decades of the 1700s. From the records of researchers Édson d'Ávila and Didymea Lazzaris de Oliveira, it is known that "the left side of the *Rio Grande de Itajaí*, or the other side of the Itajaí river, was the territory where the first white man settled in the Itajaí Valley".

The municipality, which at the beginning lived only from agriculture and artisanal fishing, has grown surprisingly in recent years and today has the largest fishing center in Santa Catarina and the 3rd in Latin America, in addition to standing out for its strong shipbuilding industry. 15 years ago, it received the installation of the first private port in Brazil. It has transport routes leading to all national territory, as it is connected to two federal highways (BR 101 and BR 470), in addition to having the Ministro Victor Konder International Airport in its territory.

This growth caused the green areas of the municipality to decrease proportionally. Another fact that made the municipality take immediate measures to preserve its *restinga* was global warming and the significant advance of sea level. With undertows at various points where the *restinga* was scarce and the dunes non-existent, the sea advanced into the city, destroying the decks installed on the seaside avenue on several occasions.

The loss of vegetation makes the beach and the dune more susceptible to erosion caused by winds and waves, making it difficult to restore these environments after storm surges. This exposes the beach to serious problems, such as the carrying of sediments onto the sidewalks, clogging of storm sewers, high risk of erosion (coastline retreat), which can have severe consequences such as the destruction of private buildings and public property.

The preservation process began in 2012, with the removal of buildings in non-building areas and the replacement of exotic plants by native vegetation, in compliance with the Conduct Adjustment Commitment Term dated 11/29/2002. Since then, Navegantes has been carrying out the environmental recovery of the permanent preservation area, through projects that helped to contain the compaction of the sand and bring back the native vegetation that fixes the dunes on the edge,

with great success in the Center – still to be carried out a project for the Gravatá neighborhood – in addition to the installation of ecological walkways that avoid trampling on sandbanks vegetation, with a focus on sustainability.

### Applied methods, steps and tools

*Implemented solutions to address sustainability issues or issues.*

Several actions were implemented to save the *restinga* and the entire environment involved. With the removal of constructions on the dunes, recovery of native vegetation and over the years, the dunes have returned to form on our shore. Booklets were also made available on the website of the Municipality of Navegantes talking about environmental awareness and the preservation of the *restinga*.

Laws and decrees were created for the preservation of the *restinga*.

The Environmental Institute of Navegantes (IAN), in December 2021, launched the “*Restinga Preserved, Our Coast Protected*” Program, with the aim of raising awareness of the ecological importance of *restinga* vegetation. The program also carried out work focused on environmental education with students in the city, fostering collective awareness about preservation.

In addition, the burrowing owl, which inhabits the *restinga*, was chosen as the city's symbol animal.

Also 34 plaques were installed next to the walkways that give access to Navegantes beach with information, a code of conduct and a QR Code for accessing digital information from the “*Restinga Preserved, Our Coast Protected*” Program.

### Key success factors

*Critical elements that led to the successful resolution of the problems.*

The Municipality of Navegantes and Portonave (Private Port of Navegantes) carried out a joint project, started in 2016, working on the Environmental Recovery and Revitalization of the Seafront of Navegantes Coastline, with a project that combined the preservation of the environment and the improvement in quality of life of residents and tourists. The investment, which reached more than R\$ 12 million at the time, included the recovery of native vegetation, the construction of decks and ecological walkways, a sports square, a bike path and lighting along the Seaside Avenue.

### Lessons learned

*Challenges faced in the implementation of Good Practices and their solutions.*

The main challenge is to maintain the preservation of the *restinga* even with the gradual growth of the city of Navegantes. Continue motivating civil society and public bodies in the development of environmental protection actions.

### Achievements and Results

*Direct and indirect results of the Good Practice.*

The actions carried out, such as the removal of buildings, over the years promoted the natural recovery of the dunes at various points along the coastline, in previously degraded areas, today we can see the dunes covered by vegetation. With the preservation of the fauna and flora on the shore, and the gradual recovery of the dunes, the advance of the sea in the city in periods of undertow was avoided. The “*Restinga Preserved, Our Coast Protected*” Program, prepared by the Environmental Institute of Navegantes (IAN), also operates in the landscape and environmental recovery of Navegantes Coast in the Gravatá neighborhood in an extension of 220.00 meters, divided into two stretches with 110 00 meters, in order to create an alternative for improving the landscape and environment of the place, promoting the beautification of the beach, together with the reduction of urban pests and environmental awareness of the importance of the *restinga* in its natural environment.



As part of the program, the Pilot Project for the Landscape and Environmental Recovery of Gravatá was also created, in which students from the city participated in this environmental education program planting 1,000 seedlings of sandbank species and over 2,000 seeds, collaborating for the ecological enrichment of the sandbank of Navegantes coast.

### Tips for other destinations

*Your suggestions or recommendations for other destinations facing the same issues or implementing similar solutions*

Firstly, awareness must come from public managers, private initiative and organized civil society in thinking about the preservation of the waterfront. Then invest in initiatives that preserve the environment such as projects to maintain the dunes, *restinga* and animals that live in this environment. Campaigns for the population to embrace the cause and commit to caring for and preserving the local environment.

### Additional acknowledgments and references

*Recognition and awards received for Good Practices and evidence.*

In 2016, FUMAN (former Navegantes Environmental Foundation, current Environmental Institute of Navegantes) classified it as the second largest *restinga* in an urban area in Brazil

<https://fb.watch/keoH0rRSgM/?mibextid=Nif5oz>

Booklet available on the Navegantes City Hall website talks about environmental awareness and the preservation of the *restinga*

<https://www.navegantes.sc.gov.br/arquivos/downloads/1696>

Other environmental programs developed in Navegantes

<https://www.navegantes.sc.gov.br/programas-ambientais>

Article that circulated in a City Newspaper (Jornal nos Bairros), about the Preservation of Burrowing Owls in the *restinga* of Navegantes..

<https://jornalnosbairros.com.br/wp/2021/06/instituto-inicia-programa-de-preservacao-da-coruja-buraqueira-em-navegantes/>

Report in the local newspaper, where it reports that the construction of ecological footbridges guarantees accessibility for wheelchair users and people with physical disabilities in Navegantes.

<https://jornalnosbairros.com.br/wp/2011/02/passarelas-ecologicas-dao-acessibilidade-para-cadeirantes-a-praia>

Launch of the program “Restinga Preserved, Our Coast Protected”

<https://www.navegantes.sc.gov.br/noticia/17057/programa-restinga-preservada-nossa-orla-protegida-e-lancado-pelo-ian>

Environmental Institute of Navegantes, promotes environmental action in the *restinga* for students

<https://www.navegantes.sc.gov.br/noticia/19203/ian-promove-acao-ambiental-na-restinga-para-estudantes>

Navegantes beach recovery project has been developed since 2010

<https://www.navegantes.sc.gov.br/noticia/11310/projeto-de-recuperacao-da-praia-de-navegantes-ja-e-desenvolvido-desde-2010>

Article (2016) reports the partnership between the public sector (City Hall) and the private sector (Portonave) where they deliver revitalization works on the coast of Navegantes.



<https://www.navegantes.sc.gov.br/noticia/10230/prefeitura-e-portonave-entregam-obras-de-revitalizacao-da-oria-neste-sabado-06->

Feature: Environmental Institute of Navegantes promotes action on the Landscape and Environmental Recovery Project in the Gravatá neighborhood

<https://penhaonline.com/instituto-ambiental-de-navegantes-promove-acao-do-projeto-de-recuperaao-paisagistica-e-ambiental-do-gravata-nesta-sexta-feira-08/>

Link for Pictures: <https://we.tl/t-g3hY50SRmZ>

