



International Network for Urban Biodiversity and Design

The Scientific Partner of the UNCBD Major Group 'Local Authorities'

URBIO Newsletter

URBIO Highlights

Dear Colleagues

Greetings!

We are now gearing up for our next conference after the successful conference in Panama city, Egypt will be hosting the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP14) in 2018. As has been the convention, we shall plan our 6th URBIO conference in Egypt. However, we shall communicate to you in case of changes. It depends on whether we could find active partners.

The broad theme of our next conference would be "Food security and Urban Biodiversity". The broad theme of the conference is very important, in view of the Sustainable Development Goal, which calls for Sustainable Food security. Urban Biodiversity would have a major role to play in achieving the sustainable food security. Please send any ideas regarding the main themes and subthemes by the end of May 2017 as we plan for our next conference.

URBIO Network as a registered Society

URBIO is not officially registered as a society. Some members of our community have expressed the feeling that registering URBIO as a society is important to bring more visibility as well as plan more activities in future. We can as a registered body play more important role. We have prepared tentative bylaws and we shall register the society in due course of time, the modalities of which are being worked out. The registered members would have some benefits – e.g. reduced registration fees at our URBIO conferences, undertake activities as part of open network on Future Earth, preparing large network projects, be part of the envisaged workshops and capacity building programs etc. Please circulate this to your networks far and wide and please join as soon as possible.

URBIO Membership Drive

This is a membership drive to form a new society called Urban Biodiversity & Design (URBIO - see <http://www.urbionetwork.org/home/#>). The initial membership drive lasts for one month and membership fee is \$30 for regular members and \$15 for students. For those that pay for membership by June 13, 2017, as an incentive, will receive an extra discount beyond the regular membership discount for the URBIO conference in 2018. You become an official member of URBIO when you pay the fees. Membership fee is on an annual basis. However, because we are starting up the society, people paying their fees in 2017 are actually paying also for the entire year of 2018 (in addition to 2017). Here is a link for online payment. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urbio-society-membership-drive-tickets-34522102538> (Click on the green button that says tickets to pay for membership dues). The reason we are doing Eventbrite is because we need an online method to collect money through credit cards both domestically and internationally.

Thank you for your kind cooperation and we look forward to your kind support.
-URBIO advisory Board

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URBIO Network Presidium

Nam Choon Kim - URBIO Secretary General

Glenn H. Stewart - Vice President Urban Biodiversity & Ecosystem services

Maria Ignatieva - Vice President Landscape Design & Urban Planning

Peter Werner - Deputy Vice President Urban Biodiversity & Ecosystem services

Mahito Kamada - Deputy Vice President Landscape Design & Urban Planning

Chantal van Ham - Deputy Vice President Communication & Participation

URBIO Network Senior Advisors

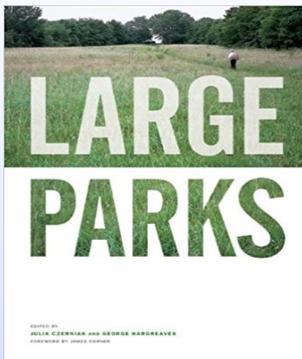
Thomas Elmqvist; Yukihiko Morimoto; Norbert Müller; Charles H. Nilon

URBIO Network Advisory Board

Tong Mahn Ahn ; Pippin M. Anderson ; Lena Chan ; Sarel Cilliers ; Oliver Hillel; Mark E. Hostetter; Sangjun Im; Keitaro Ito; Ryo Kohsaka; Ian MacGregorFors; Andre Mader; Mark McDonnell; Choong-Hyeon Oh; Shela J. Patrickson; Troy Pickard; Robbert Snep; Wayne C. Zipperer



A review of Large Parks, edited by Julia Czerniak and George Hargreaves. Princeton Architectural Press, New York.



In *Large Parks*, Julia Czerniak and George Hargreaves present eight essays by leading scholars and practitioners that engage large urban parks in depth as complex cultural spaces, where key issues of landscape discourse, ecological challenges, social history, urban relations, and placemaking are writ large. From historic parks such as New York's Central Park and Paris's Bois de Boulogne to contemporary projects such as Toronto's Downsview Park and Staten Island's Fresh Kills, to newly unveiled and yet-to-be-built projects such as Ken Smith's ambitious plans for the Orange County Great Park, *Large Parks* highlights the complexities and unique considerations that go into designing these massive and culturally significant works.

(<https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2017/03/27/large-parks-complete-cities/>)

Review of draft guidelines to support the subnational implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans

In an initiative supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Secretariat and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) have been cooperating on the development and dissemination of guidelines to support the subnational implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including by integrating strategies and action plans at different levels of government. In response to the Notifications 2015-075 and 2016-037, 60 respondents from 30 Parties offered input to the development of the guidelines. Furthermore, at the margins of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, ICLEI convened a consultation held on 9 December 2016 with 28 participants from 17 countries to review and gain feedback on the guidelines being developed.

(<https://www.cbd.int/subnational/draft-guidelines>)

Submit your projects for the Green Building & City Solutions Awards 2017

Construction professionals or urban planning specialists are invited to apply to the contest with buildings and solutions contributing to the fight against climate change.

(<http://www.iclei.org/details/article/submit-your-projects-for-the-green-building-city-solutions-awards-2017.html>)

Restoring the connection between forests and human health

Forests play a crucial role in supporting our mental and physical health, yet this is often overlooked within health strategies, education programmes, and in everyday human lifestyles. In the 2017 Spring Issue of REVOLVE Magazine, Chantal van Ham and Helen Klimmek from the IUCN European Regional Office explore the numerous benefits and services provided by forests, and the need to recognise these within health strategies and programmes.

(<https://www.iucn.org/news/europe/201703/restoring-connection-between-forests-and-human-health>)

Discovering the secrets of successfully implementing nature-based solutions in cities

IUCN and Deltares hosted a side-event and roundtable session during the conference “Green Infrastructure: Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable and Resilient Cities”, which was held from 4-7 April in Orvieto, Italy. This conference was organised by the COST Action FP1204 project “Greeninurbs”, coordinated by the IUCN Member and brought together around 400 experts from Europe and around the world. The main objective was to show how a transdisciplinary approach to urban planning, based on the provision of ecosystem services, can make future cities more resilient and sustainable.

(<https://www.iucn.org/news/europe/201704/discovering-secrets-successfully-implementing-nature-based-solutions-cities>)



17.05.2017 - 19.05.2017, Renewable Cities' Global Learning Forum 2017; Vancouver, Canada
Join at Global Learning Forum 2017 to participate in a solutions-focused dialogue on the transition to 100% renewable energy in cities. Leaders from local governments, the private sector, utilities, and the NGO and research communities will gather to engage and learn in Vancouver, British Columbia from May 17-19, 2017.

(<http://www.renewablecities.ca/dialogues-projects/global-learning-forum-2017>)

02.06.2017 - 14.06.2017, Embrace the Water; Gothenburg, Sweden.

The conference Embrace the Water aims at gathering urban planners and water professionals from around the globe in order to share experiences and projects on the opportunities and threats of water in modern, sustainable and innovative cities. The conference contributes to celebrating the Gothenburg 400 year's jubilee, and to the IWA Cities of the Future programme.

(<http://www.embracethewater2017.com/>)

27.06.2017 - 29.06.2017, Biodiversity and Health in the Face of Climate Change Challenges, opportunities and evidence gaps, Bonn/Germany; Co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe;

This joint European conference in Bonn will bring together experts from science, policy and practice to highlight and discuss the importance of biodiversity's contribution to human health in the face of climate change. In this context health is considered in its physical, psychological and social dimension, including socio-environmental equity. The aim of the conference is to increase knowledge, share experiences and foster nature-based solutions to meet the challenges of climate change and health issues.

(<https://www.ecbcc2017.com/european-conference-on-biodiversity-and-climate-change-ecbcc/home/>)

12.07.2017 - 14.07.2017, ECOCITY World Summit; Melbourne, Australia

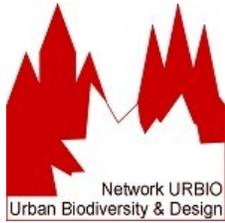
In July 2017 Melbourne will host the ECOCITY World Summit. The focus will be *Changing Cities: Resilience and Transformations*, highlighting the need to deploy expert knowledge – academic, professional, civic – to make cities resilient in the face of rapid change. Melbourne has been lauded as the world's most liveable city, but is not immune to the challenges facing all cities. The ECOCITY World Summit 2017 will harness the expertise and develop the networks needed to create a world of ecocities.

(<https://www.ecocity2017.com/>)

24.10.2017 - 26.10.2017, Nature based solutions: From Innovation to Common use, Tallinn, Estonia

The conference "Nature-based Solutions: From Innovation to Common-use" addressing to nature-based societal functions between science, business, society and politicians planned as a flagship conference under the Estonian presidency of the EU Council and will be taking place on 24-26 October 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia.

(<http://oppla.eu/nature-based-solutions-conference-tallinn>)



Articles

URBIO Headquarter

IIT Bombay, Powai,
Mumbai - 400 076, India.

Prof. Dr. Haripriya Gundimeda

Tel: 022-2576-7382/7350
Fax: 91-22-2572-3480
gharipriya@gmail.com

www.urbionetwork.org

Partners



EKLIPSE has just published the report from its first request from policy makers for synthesizing available knowledge. The resulting report *Nature-based solutions to promote climate resilience in urban areas – developing an impact evaluation framework* is now available online. This report is the outcome of a request from the European Commission DG Research and Innovation to develop an assessment framework to evaluate the multiple benefits, disservices, trade-offs and synergies of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS). The main purpose of the request is to apply this framework to H2020-funded NBS demonstration projects for increasing urban resilience to climate change. (http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/nbs_report)

Impact of Biological Invasions on Ecosystem Services, M. Vilà, P.E. Hulme (Eds.) Series: Invading Nature - Springer Series in Invasion Ecology, Vol. 12

The book presents an analysis of the ecological, economic and social threats posed by the introduction and spread of non-native species. It provides a comprehensive description of impacts of non-native species from all five kingdoms of life across all ecosystems of the world. New insights into the impacts arising from biological invasions are generated through taking an ecosystem services perspective. This work highlights that management of biological invasions is needed not only to sustain biodiversity and the environment, but also to safeguard productive sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as to preserve human health and well-being. (<http://www.springer.com/in/book/9783319451190>)

Parks are a huge asset, and we need to value them for the 21st century
Our green spaces are shrinking, despite all the benefits they give us. If we want to save them, we need to value the ecosystem and health and wellbeing services they offer. (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/feb/14/parks-being-lost-need-value-recognised>)

Career Opportunities

**Head of Science and Policy
Ramsar Convention Secretariat
The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
(Ramsar)
Headquarters, Gland, Switzerland**

(<https://hrms.iucn.org/iresy/index.cfm?event=vac.show&vaId=1512&lang=en>)

**Summer Botanist
Position in urban Biodiversity at the
University of Minnesota
Ecological society of America**

(<http://cas.umw.edu/biology/2017/03/29/summer-botanist-position-urban-biodiversity-university-minnesota/>)

**Principal Programme Mgmt. Officer
United Nations
Environment Programme
MONTREAL**

(<https://careers.un.org/lbw/jobdetail.aspx?id=71924>)

About Us

The URBIO network (URban BIOdiversity and Design) is an open worldwide scientific network for education and research to promote the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in urban areas. Within the CBD programmes, URBIO is scientific advisor for the Major Group "Local Authorities" and partner of the "Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity". Currently the Network has 1121 members from 62 countries (November 2014). To foster the scientific exchange between researchers, practitioners and stakeholders the network organizes international scientific conferences and workshops as side events to CBD-COP meetings, maintains a website, distributes a quarterly newsletter to the network members and collaborates with various international networks. Since 2008 the URBIO network has held four conferences: URBIO2008 during May 2008 in Erfurt/Germany, URBIO2010 during May 2010 in Nagoya/Japan, URBIO2012 during October 2012 in Mumbai/India, URBIO2014 in October 2014 in Incheon/Korea and IFLA-URBIO 2016 in Panama City.