

## 18<sup>th</sup> URBIO newsletter – revised version December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear colleagues,

We apologize to have sent you an incomplete version of the newsletter on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and now provide you with the corrected version:

### 1 Second announcement of the 3. URBIO Conference

*“Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”*  
in Mumbai, India from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012

We are happy to have for our 3. URBIO Conference Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary <http://www.cbd.int/secretariat/es/> as patron and the head of UNEP’s Green Economy Initiative, Pavan Sukhdev <http://pavansukhdev.com/about/> as first keynote speaker.

The second call for papers for URBIO2012 in Mumbai, India featuring conference themes and important deadlines is available. You will find it with this newsletter and at the new conference website <http://www.hss.iitb.ac.in/urbio2012/>. Please distribute the call for papers further and take the opportunity to submit your abstract online for URBIO2012 as detailed at the conference website.

### 2 URBIO personal issues - guest researcher at the URBIO office in Erfurt

The URBIO head office invites post doc students or other scientists **with own funds** to work for one year as guest scientist at the head office in Erfurt Germany. You will work together with URBIO chair Norbert Müller especially in all URBIO issues at the interface between research and the CBD as well as in his current urban biodiversity research and lectures.

We will provide you with a workplace in our Biodiversity group at the University of Applied Sciences in Erfurt, for further information see <http://www.fh-erfurt.de/lgf/la/lehrende/prof-dr-norbert-mueller/persons/>. Please be aware that we have no own funds but can offer you very interesting work.

### 3 Second Meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity, in Bonn, Germany, from 4 to 6 September 2011

We had a very interesting and constructive meeting in the wonderful City hall of Bonn with fruitful discussions and the official launching of the preparation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook I.

A Memorandum was signed in Bonn on September, 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 between the Stockholm University / Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Convention Secretariat to work together to produce the first edition of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO-1). CBO will be a global initiative that will combine science and policy, where scientists from around the world will analyse how urbanization and urban growth impacts biodiversity and ecosystems, delivering key messages on the conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources to decision makers. It will be submitted to the second Summit on Cities and Biodiversity to be held in Hyderabad, India on 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012, just prior to the High Level Segment of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### **4 Third Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index**

The Third Expert Workshop on the Development of the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) was held in Singapore from 11 to 13 October 2011. The workshop was organized in close consultation with the members of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, an open platform of cities, city networks, United Nations agencies and NGOs. It was a very productive workshop, because a lot of results were generated: the scoring of the indicators of the CBI was finalized; the roadmap of the contribution of the CBI to COP 11 and other global events (e.g. World City Summit 2012) was discussed; the involvement of additional cities to implement the CBI was organized; the inputs to the first edition of the City Biodiversity Outlook were defined.

#### **5 URBIO on the IALE World Congress in Beijing in August 2011**

URBIO held an advisory board meeting and had organized 2 sessions on the 8th IALE World Congress "Landscape Ecology for Sustainable Environment and Culture" in Beijing (People's Republic of China), August 18-23, 2011. Now you'll find the results of the advisory board meeting and the presentations of the URBIO session 1 and session 2 on our website.

For more information and the download of the presentations please visit <http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/URBIOatIALE2011.php>.

If you have questions and or comments about the presentations, we encourage you to discuss them in our URBIO forum

[http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/URBIO\\_forum.php](http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/URBIO_forum.php).

#### **6 European Capitals of Biodiversity 2011 lead the way towards 2020 targets**

Montpellier (France), Hannover (Germany), Szentes (Hungary), Kremnica (Slovakia) and Puebla de Sanabria (Spain) honored as "European Capitals of Biodiversity 2011"

Five European municipalities were crowned with the title “European Capital of Biodiversity 2011” in an award ceremony in Brussels on November 24th. **Janez Potočnik**, Commissioner for the Environment, handed over the certificates to the winners.

Read more: <http://www.capital-biodiversity.eu/>

## 7 Upcoming Conferences

- Resilient Cities 2012 – 3rd World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change – May 12th -15th 2012 in Bonn, Germany

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and the City of Bonn are pleased to announce the new edition of the Resilient Cities congress series, the annual global forum on urban resilience. They are now officially opening the call for contributions for the 2012 congress and welcome proposals for presentations, panels, workshops, posters and co-events. The submission deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.

For further information, please visit: <http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/bonn2012/>

- IEES/ZHAW Symposium 2012 – Eco-Cities and Ecological Engineering: New solutions through transforming traditional ways of thinking – 26th-28th January 2012

Our world is approaching a phase where several resources will become scarce at the same time. The wealth and well-being of coming generations will depend on us being able to adapt our economies to the finite world that our planet actually is. Transforming today’s cities into sustainable eco-cities will be necessary. Ecological engineering offers a holistic approach, a wide spectrum of possible solutions and a wealth of business opportunities. It might well become one of the key factors in this transformation process. Major obstacle against this transition: conventions and paradigms in the minds of planners, engineers, architects and politicians. This symposium actively addresses these barriers and searches for ways - based on existing positive examples - to proceed beyond them.

Please find more information and registration at:

<http://www.iunr.zhaw.ch/de/science/iunr/weiterbildung/tagungen/details/news/iees-zhaw-symposium-2012.html>

## 8 New Literature

- Within the TEEB study is now available the following title, produced by André Mader, Shela Patrickson, Elisa Calca´terra and Jacques Smit:

"The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity TEEB Manual for Cities: Ecosystem Services in Urban Management"

You can download it at: [http://www.teebweb.org/Portals/25/Documents/TEEB\\_Manual\\_for\\_Cities\\_Ecosystem\\_Services\\_for\\_Urban\\_management\\_FINAL\\_2011.pdf](http://www.teebweb.org/Portals/25/Documents/TEEB_Manual_for_Cities_Ecosystem_Services_for_Urban_management_FINAL_2011.pdf)

- The proceedings of the ELCA Research Workshop – Green City Europe (24th May 2011), including contributions of URBIO members, is available for download at the website of European Landscape Contractors Association:

[http://www.elca.info/en/Green\\_City.aspx](http://www.elca.info/en/Green_City.aspx)

- New Book: "Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature Into Urban Design and Planning"

Timothy Beatley

Human beings have an innate need to connect with the natural world (the biophilia hypothesis) - any vision of a sustainable urban future must place its focus squarely on nature, on the presence, conservation, and celebration of the actual green features and natural life forms. A biophilic city is more than simply a biodiverse city, says Beatley. It is a place that learns from nature and emulates natural systems, incorporates natural forms and images into its buildings and cityscapes, and designs and plans in conjunction with nature. In *Biophilic Cities* Beatley not only outlines the essential elements of a biophilic city, but provides examples and stories about cities that have successfully integrated biophilic elements--from the building to the regional level--around the world.

Read more at: <http://www.springer.com/environment/sustainable+development/book/978-1-59726-986-5>

- New Book: " Sustainability in America's Cities Creating the Green Metropolis"

Editor: Matthew I. Slavin

"Sustainability" is more than the latest "green" buzzword. It represents a new way of viewing the interactions of human society and the natural world. *Sustainability in America's Cities* highlights how America's largest cities are acting to develop sustainable solutions to conflicts between development and environment. As sustainability rises to the top of public policy agendas in American cities, it is also emerging as a new discipline in colleges and universities. Specifically designed for these educational programs, this is the first book to provide empirically based, multi-disciplinary case studies of sustainability policy, planning, and practice in action. It is also valuable for everyone who designs and implements sustainability initiatives, including policy makers, public sector and non-profit practitioners, and consultants.

Read more at: <http://www.springer.com/environment/sustainable+development/book/978-1-61091-028-6>

- New Book: "Singapore Biodiversity: An Encyclopedia of the Natural Environment and Sustainable Development"

Editors: Peter K. L. Ng & Hugh T. W. Tan

This first comprehensive guide to nature in Singapore sums up almost 200 years of natural history study in Singapore, charts the rise of the nature movement in the nation and gives suggestions for sustaining this rich biodiversity into the future. The spectacular diversity of the life found in Singapore is described in over 1,500 alphabetical entries for virtually every known group of the more than 40,000 species of flora and fauna found here, and is illustrated with more than 2,000 photographs, maps, tables and charts.

Read more at: <http://www.singaporebiodiversity.com/>

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year!**

We hope to see you in Mumbai, India, best wishes from Germany and Japan

Norbert and Mahito

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*(Please be aware that some of the [links](#) may not be working anymore.)*

# **3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of Urban Biodiversity and Design**

**URBIO 2012**

**Mumbai, India**

**8<sup>th</sup> Mon. -12<sup>th</sup> Fri. October 2012**

***Main Theme: Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation***

## **SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International conference of Urban Biodiversity and Design (URBIO 2012) is being organized by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and will be held in Mumbai, India from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif - Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, India are the patrons of this conference.

URBIO is an open worldwide scientific network for education and research that aims to promote biodiversity in the urban context through a continuing dialogue with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Partnership on Local Action for Biodiversity. To implement the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 of the CBD in the urban context, URBIO 2012 will be held before CBD-COP 11, planned for Hyderabad in October 2012, and will feed into its deliberations, as well as into the Second City Biodiversity Summit.

## **Conference Themes**

We look for submission in the following broad themes.

### **1) Vulnerability of Urban ecosystems and biodiversity and its management**

Urban ecosystems have an important function as habitat corridors for flora and fauna and are extremely vulnerable due to various economic factors, climate change and natural factors. Some of the impacts can be loss of species and microbes, changes in species composition, reduction in resilience to pests, increase in invasive alien species, changes in species composition, degradation of urban water bodies, increase in floods, heat waves etc impacting the health, economy and welfare of urban dwellers. The symposium looks for papers on the vulnerabilities and their impacts on human well-being and ecology.

### **2) Role of Urban biodiversity and ecosystems in mitigating climate change**

Urban biodiversity plays a crucial role in mitigating climate change. Urban green cover has a significant potential to absorb carbon dioxide, regulate air quality, improve the microclimate, reduce the heat etc. Management of these green spaces significantly improves the quality of urban life. Some local authorities in different parts of the world have adopted good management practices like encouraging green vegetation, designing urban development plans with minimum impact on biodiversity, zoning, developing green infrastructure etc. The session seeks to explore how the local bodies or local governments can manage their urban ecosystems so as to mitigate climate change

### **3) Tools and Indicators for measuring urban sustainability**

Cities which succeed in promoting growth without compromising the quality of environment and socio-cultural environmental are deemed sustainable. We need indicators to measure whether we are moving towards it and also to provide information to policy. Some descriptive indicators, performance indicators and thematic indicators already exist. Some examples of indicators relevant to biodiversity include global climate indicator, environmental quality indicators, city biodiversity index, ecological foot prints, carbon footprints, green public space and heritage indicators etc. We look for papers on indicators and tools applied in the context of urban biodiversity

### **4) Role of Green Infrastructure and design**

Green infrastructure and green design has ample potential to conserve biodiversity in an urban setting and offers possibilities to combat and adapt to climate change. We call for papers which explore how green infrastructure and design can generate win-win scenarios.

### **5) Role of Innovative financial mechanisms in biodiversity conservation/climate change mitigation/adaptation**

The session would look into the scope, potential benefits and constraints for innovative financial mechanisms like the payment for ecosystem services, REDD plus mechanisms, biodiversity offsets, green infrastructure bonds, environmental fiscal reforms, green budgets, eco-budgets, certification and labeling, business biodiversity partnerships etc that can help raise finances to achieve the targets in the context of urban biodiversity and climate change.

We also accept submissions relating to various issues with urban biodiversity.

#### **CONFERENCE DEADLINES**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> April 2012</b>	Deadline for paper, session and poster abstract submission
<b>15<sup>th</sup> May 2012</b>	Author notification
<b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2012</b>	Deadline for early bird registration
<b>15<sup>th</sup> August 2012</b>	Deadline for registration for papers to be included in the program
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September 2012</b>	Deadline for upload of full papers to conference website
<b>8<sup>th</sup> October 2012</b>	Conference Begins

Further details including registration details, conference venue, field trips, accommodation, etc will be announced on the conference web-page [www.hss.iitb.ac.in/urbio2012](http://www.hss.iitb.ac.in/urbio2012) from 15th November 2011.

HariPriya Gundimeda

**Chair of the Organizing Committee, URBIO 2012**

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