

22nd URBIO newsletter – December 10th, 2012

Dear colleagues,

Two months after our third URBIO conference in Mumbai and the COP 11 in Hyderabad you receive our new URBIO newsletter with the following information for you:

1 3rd URBIO conference in Mumbai 8th–12th Oct. 2012: Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation successful completed

Our 3rd URBIO conference on Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, which took place as a side event to COP11 at Mumbai, India from 8th to 12th October 2012, is successful finished. Hopefully all our friends and colleagues of URBIO we have met there made it home safe and well! Especially for all those who could not travel to Mumbai, we'll provide some information on the conference and its results.

During the 3rd URBIO conference (<http://www.hss.iitb.ac.in/urbio2012/>) over 200 scientists and practitioners from more than 25 countries discussed the challenges for cities in the future in more detail. Six keynotes analysed the influence of climate change and natural disasters on urban ecosystems, the economy, urban design and human health; and presented the first global assessment on the impact of urbanization on biodiversity and ecosystem services: The Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (<http://www.cbd.int/en/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/cbo>), where several members of URBIO are involved. In 22 scientific symposia we discussed in depth the influence of urbanization on food production, security and human health as well as on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Strong emphasis was given to questions of how to embrace all actors (local governments, citizens, corporations, etc.) in urban design and management to solve these problems in a sustainable and resilient way and make our cities fit for the future.

We therefore again want to express our heartfelt thanks to Prof. Dr. HariPriya Gundimeda and her staff of organisers and helpers for making such a wonderful conference happen! Also, we want to thank all participants for interesting presentations and posters, as well as lively discussions and inspiring conversations!

As result of the conference the Mumbai Declaration URBIO 2012 was adopted by the delegates at the last conference day. It was then brought to and presented at the City & Subnational Biodiversity Summit (<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=lab>) on Tuesday, 16th October 2012 in Hyderabad, India by Prof. Dr. HariPriya Gundimeda. The Mumbai Declaration URBIO 2012 is also available online on our website (http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/documents/mumbai_declaration_urbio_2012.pdf).

2 Results of the URBIO Advisory Board meeting during the 3rd URBIO conference in Mumbai on 9th October 2012

During URBIO2012 an URBIO advisory board meeting was hold, the following five topics were discussed. Its results in brief you can read here:

CBO & Research Agenda

Thomas Elmqvist gave a short overview about the progress on the CBO I (more on CBO in paragraph 4 below). Oliver Hillel from the CBD had sent a message to the advisory board of URBIO and with his impulses the necessity of a research agenda was found. Essential results of this topic were fixed in the Mumbai Declaration URBIO 2012.

The suggestion was made to organize an URBIO workshop before URBIO 2014 to discuss the research needs in urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design.

Publication of URBIO results

The advisory board discussed how the publication of presentations at the URBIO conferences could be done in future. Alternatives found were:

- Publications of single papers in different journals
- Special issues in a specific journal
- An own regular URBIO publication

The latter was favoured, because in contrary of specialised journals it would keep continuity in the URBIO work and could easily include all our disciplines of research, planning, design and management of the green environment.

To find a fitting solution a preliminary editorial board was set up, consisting of Charles Nilon (chief organiser publications), Haripriya Gundimeda (URBIO conference chair 2014), Norbert Müller and Glenn Stewart.

Preparation of URBIO2014

Prof. Dr. Tong Mahn AHN from the Dept. of Landscape Architecture & Rural Systems Engineering, Seoul National University, Korea has accepted to prepare URBIO 2014.

After discussion the main theme of the conference should be “Cities and Water”. Proposals for conference themes/sessions were:

- Stream restoration in urban areas
- Research agenda on urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design
- Technology transfer and capacity building mechanisms for bio-efficient cities
- Urban resilience studies

Norbert Müller and Haripriya Gundimeda will hold the contact with Tong Mahn AHN on preparation of URBIO 2014. The head office will keep you updated.

Advisory board changes

President Norbert Müller expressed his deep gratitude to Mahito Kamada - Secretary General 2010-2012 - for his dedication to the URBIO Network. In the tradition of the network Haripriya Gundimeda was nominated as next Secretary General from 2012 -2014. In front of the Mumbai conference Norbert Müller had asked the recent Advisory Board who will be able to continue the work and also for proposals for new members. He presented the following list, which was accepted by all:

- **Müller, Norbert** (University of Applied Sciences Erfurt - Erfurt, Germany), organiser URBIO 2008, President and Head office URBIO 2008-2014
- **Gundimeda, Haripriya** (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay - Mumbai, India) organiser URBIO 2012), Secretary General URBIO 2012-2014
- **Ahn, Tong Mahn** (Seoul National University - Seoul, South Korea), organiser URBIO 2014
- **Chan, Lena** (National Biodiversity Centre - Singapore)
- **Cilliers, Sarel** (North-West University - Potchefstroom, South Africa)
- **Elmqvist, Thomas** (Stockholm University - Stockholm, Sweden)
- **Hillel, Oliver** (Secretariat of CBD - Montreal, Canada)
- **Hostetler, Mark E.** (University of Florida - Gainesville, USA)
- **Ignatieva, Maria** (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences - Uppsala, Sweden)
- **Kamada, Mahito** (University of Tokushima - Tokushima, Japan), Secretary General URBIO 2010-2012
- **Maddox, David** (Sound Science/The Nature of Cities - New York, USA),
- **MacGregor-Fors, Ian** (Instituto de Ecología, A.C. - Xalapa, Mexico)
- **McDonnell, Mark** (Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology - Melbourne, Australia)
- **Morimoto, Yukihiro** (Kyoto University - Kyoto, Japan), Organiser URBIO 2010
- **Nilon, Charles** (University of Missouri - Columbia, USA)
- **Werner, Peter** (Institute for Housing and Environment - Darmstadt, Germany), Organiser URBIO 2008
- **Pickard, Troy** (Mayor of the City of Joondalup - Joondalup, Australia), ICLEI representative, represented in Mumbai by **Russell Galt**
- **Snep, Robbert** (Urban-Rural Interactions Landscape Centre/Alterra - Wageningen, The Netherlands)
- **Stewart, Glenn** (Lincoln University - Christchurch, New Zealand)
- **Zipperer, Wayne** (USDA Forest Service - Gainesville, USA)

During the meeting further members were suggested for the advisory board, as well as other URBIO members showed interest and offered help. The head office will keep you updated.

Further development of URBIO network

Until December 2014 the German government is funding the scientific work of Norbert Müller at the URBIO headquarters in Erfurt. To continue the URBIO work after 2014 it will be necessary to get funds again. The future of the new seat of the URBIO headquarters and president will depend on which country will be able to fund the URBIO work after 2014.

3 CBO Launch

The Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO) where some of our fellow URBIO members are involved, has been launched successfully at the COP 11 in Hyderabad, India. The CBO represents the first global assessment of the links between urbanisation, biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Already completed is the CBO Action and Policy, which contains a summary of the global assessment and the 10 key messages of the CBO for conservation and sustainability of urban development. You can download it at <http://www.cbd.int/en/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/cbo/cbo-action-and-policy-executive-summary>.

Up to now, are available online nearly half of the core chapters of the CBO Scientific Analysis and Assessment, among them the chapter on urban biodiversity and design. Visit to read and for download <http://www.cbd.int/en/subnational/partners-and-initiatives/cbo/cbo-scientific-analysis-and-assessment>. After a scientific review the complete CBO will also be published as printed book.

For comments, corrections and additions please contact the responsible authors of the appropriate core chapter or the project coordinator for the Scientific Analyses and Assessments Julie Goodness (julie.goodness@gmail.com).

4 Upcoming Conferences

“Greening European Regions – Biodiversity as a Boost for Local and Regional Economy” – December 12th, 2012 in Oisterwijk, The Netherlands

The event will bring together participants from all over Europe, working in the field of biodiversity at local and regional levels, to contribute to the implementation of biodiversity policies and objectives in the field. The Conference will be about informing, exchanging and networking about the practical delivery of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their vital contribution to a greening of the local and regional economies.

Further information at <http://www.regionsandbiodiversity.eu/node/10>

2nd GreenNet conference “How to push the implementation of the European Green Belt by landscape policy instruments?” – February 19th-20th, 2013 in Vienna, Austria

The European Green Belt as an ecological network has a unique natural and cultural heritage with an emotional human and political history, meaning and power. It is a corridor with many biodiversity hotspots and connects 24 European countries and valuable landscapes. The conference will be searching for answers from the European landscape

policy, an exchange of landscape policies between the European partner countries in light of a common environment and landscape policy as well as for awareness raising for the European Green Belt, ecological networks and biodiversity.

Please find the announcement at http://www.fh-erfurt.de/call_for_paper-GreenNet.pdf

50th IFLA Congress “Shared Wisdom in an Age of Change”– April 10th-12th, 2013 in Auckland, New Zealand

IFLA 2013 will be a celebration twice over. The 2013 Congress is the 50th IFLA congress and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of NZILA in New Zealand. The theme will focus on knowledge sharing around the increasingly challenging issues facing our local and global environments in an age of considerable and frequently dramatic change. It will provoke thought as to how we as the landscape profession can and should participate in the shaping and management of the future.

Read more at <http://www.ifla2013.com/>

14th annual International Conference on Digital Landscape Architecture – June 06th-08th, 2013 in Bernburg & Dessau, Germany

The focus of the upcoming Digital Landscape Architecture Conference 2013 is Collaboration and Transdisciplinary Planning and Design. It will be held in Bernburg at the Kurhaus Conference Center and at the Campus in Dessau, partially in the Bauhaus. The DLA 2013 will include presentations, exhibitions of vendors, poster sessions and hands-on workshops. Excursions and social events will take place at the Bernburg Cloister, the Bauhaus Dessau and the Woerlitz Gardens.

Please find out more at <http://www.kolleg.loel.hs-anhalt.de/landschaftsinformatik/dla-conference.html>

26th International Congress for Conservation Biology “Connecting Systems, Disciplines and Stakeholders” – July 21st-25th, 2013 in Baltimore/Maryland, USA

The effective maintenance and restoration of Earth’s biological diversity requires an integrated approach to conservation. Only through the integration of systems, disciplines, and stakeholders can we effectively slow and reverse the continued loss of biodiversity. ICCB 2013 will foster integrative approaches to conservation while showcasing the need for integration in conservation.

To acquire further information please check out <http://www.conbio.org/mini-sites/iccb-2013>

1st SURE Congress “Progress in urban ecology and ecological challenges in urban development” – July 25th-27th, 2013 in Berlin, Germany

Why holding a SURE Congress? Urban ecology has matured over the past decades and has become an organized and modern discipline. Enough research and application in urban ecology is occurring to justify an international congress that is independent of other conferences. In the past 10 years, smaller symposia and conferences have been held...

To read more visit <http://www.society-urban-ecology.org/index.php/meetings/urban-ecology-world-conference-2013-in-berlin>

5 New Literature

Corporation 2020

Pavan Sukhdev; 2012; Island Press; 296 pages; ISBN 978-1610912389

There is an emerging consensus that all is not well with today's market-centric economic model. Although it has delivered wealth over the last half century and pulled millions out of poverty, it is recession-prone, leaves too many unemployed, creates ecological scarcities and environmental risks, and widens the gap between the rich and the poor. Corporation 2020 presents new approaches to measuring the true costs of business and the corporation's obligation to society. From his insightful look into the history of the corporation to his thoughtful discussion of the steps needed to craft a better corporate model, Sukhdev offers a hopeful vision for the role of business in shaping a more equitable, sustainable future.

Publisher's website <http://islandpress.org/ip/books/book/islandpress/C/bo8690807.html>

L'étalement urbain en Suisse - Impossible à freiner? Urban sprawl in Switzerland - unstoppable?

Christian Schwick, Jochen Jaeger, René Bertiller & Felix Kienast; 2012; Haupt Verlag AG, Switzerland; 216 pages, ISBN 978-3-258-07721-5

Urban sprawl in Switzerland has never been as bad as it is now - yet it continues to grow apace. Between 1951 and 2002 alone, it doubled. This development is breathtaking. Prime farmland is disappearing forever, and landscapes that should be protected are losing their unique aesthetic. The long-term consequences are alarming. To express the scale of urban sprawl in figures, four new metrics were applied to Switzerland for the period 1935-2002. The results show that today's settlement trends clearly contradict the goal of sustainability, enshrined in the federal constitution since 1999. There is urgent need for action.

Publisher's website <http://www.haupt.ch/verlag/NATUR/Gesamtverzeichnis/Umwelt-Oekologie/L-etalement-urbain-en-Suisse-Impossible-a-freiner-Urban-sprawl-in-Switzerland-unstoppable.html>

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Norbert Müller

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