

23rd URBIO newsletter – April 30th, 2013

Dear colleagues,

With the first newsletter for 2013 we send the following information:

1 Invitation for URBIO 2012 Publication

The URBIO 2012 editorial board of Haripriya Gundimeda, Norbert Müller, Charles Nilon and Glenn Stewart encourages all participants of URBIO 2012 to publish your presentation from URBIO 2012 as a chapter in a peer-reviewed book. At the moment we are in contact with different international publishers who are interested in publishing the book.

The outline of the book can be seen in Annex A in the attached PDF.

Chapters received will be reviewed by two reviewers and a member of the editorial board with a goal of completing the review process by 1 July 2013.

Your manuscripts should be submitted as a single file to nilonc@missouri.edu not later than 15 May 2013. Please follow strictly the instructions for authors (Annex B).

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact Charles Nilon.

You'll find the Invitation and the Annexes A & B in the attached file "[URBIO2012 Invitation Book.pdf](#)".

2 URBIO Workshop 2013 – Towards a Global Research Agenda for Urban Biodiversity, Ecosystem services and Design (or the “Plan of Action”)

The Headquarters of URBIO, the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), and ICLEI will organise a workshop for URBIO Advisory members, CBO contributors and representatives of ICLEI. The aim is to detect the research needs for the “Plan of Action”.

The results of the workshop will be presented at the SURE conference in Berlin in July 2013 and next URBIO conference in 2014 in South Korea, in order to discuss the research needs in a broader forum. First results of this dialogue will be brought to COP 13.

The workshop will take place in Erfurt, Germany, at the Headquarters of URBIO at the University of Applied Sciences Erfurt from 22 July to 23 July 2013.

Background and questions of the Workshop:

The CBD "Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020" established a program for facing the challenges of urbanisation and biodiversity loss (CBS 2010).

A primary goal of our URBIO workshop in July — with which the SCBD has a special interest — is the creation of a global and regional research agenda for urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design. Additional topics for our workshop include: a map of the

necessary scientific fields and skills needed for effective work in urban biodiversity; monitoring and measurement tools for urban ecosystem services and footprints; policy and governance instruments for sub-national and local action (linking all levels of government); urban studies on fragmentation and connectivity; and design considerations of urban biodiversity.

Main Questions are:

- What are our main research needs in urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and sustainable design?
- What useful knowledge is currently available and what are critical knowledge gaps?
- What information do decision makers in government and other sectors need from researchers and experts now? How can we learn what decision makers need to know?

You'll find more information about the workshop at www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio

3 German UN Decade on Biodiversity Competition

Since June 2012 the secretariat of the German UN decade on biodiversity awards a prize to projects intended to help the German public focus more strongly on the issue of “biological diversity” with all its facets. Anyone who fosters biological diversity by conserving or making sustainable use of it, performing research or engaging in communication activities can take part. In 2012 the focus topic of the UN Decade is “Enjoying diversity – Nature time as leisure time”. Exemplary contributions to other aspects of biological diversity will also be accepted. The competition runs continuously from 8 November 2011 until the end of 2020.

Source and further information: <https://www.un-dekade-biologische-vielfalt.de>

4 Upcoming Conferences

Future Megacities in Action – May 14th-16th, 2013 in Hamburg, Germany

Future Megacities in Action will highlight good practice examples of energy and climate efficient urbanisation from Asia, Africa and America, set against the European background. It will feature the results of the research programme “Future Megacities” funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research since 2005: technical, social and economic solutions developed by participating bilateral and trans-disciplinary research teams for and with cities. It will also present innovative approaches taken in other cities that stand out in their efforts towards achieving greater sustainability. The conference aims to address an audience made up of representatives from all sectors of urban development...

Please read more about this conference at <http://www.future-megacities-2013.org>

"Urban Biodiversity: A Value to Appreciate" – May 21st-23rd, 2013 in Montréal, Canada

This upcoming May, the Ville de Montréal will be hosting the meeting of the Advisory Committee of Cities of the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity related to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This meeting is held within the framework of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity. The event will take place around the International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22) and in the context of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020).

Download flyer with more info here:

http://archive.iclei.org/fileadmin/template/project_templates/localactionbiodiversity/user_upload/LAB_Files/Flyers/Urban_Biodiversity_130416_17h03.pdf

7th ICON LA International Conference "Water landscapes and urbanization: design, ecology and management" – June 5th-7th, 2013 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

The main objective of this international scientific conference is to raise the attention and awareness among scientists, urban planners, hydrologists, ecologists, professional landscape architects, city administrations and other appropriate stakeholders, about water landscapes in urban environments. The focus will be on the understanding of modern and heritage water landscapes, evaluation of its ecological and cultural values, visions of blue infrastructures and mitigation of consequences of globalization and climate change.

Further information at <http://www.icon-la.org>

"Climate Change and Nature Conservation in Europe – An ecological, policy and economic perspective" – June 25th-27th, 2013 in Bonn, Germany

Joint European Conference held by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the European Network of Heads of Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA). Climate change is already affecting Europe's ecosystems. We can expect potentially severe effects on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in the future. These challenges need to be met by appropriate action despite uncertainty about the timing and magnitude of possible climatic changes. This European conference will bring together experts from science, policy and practice to highlight and debate the importance of adapting to climate change in conservation from an ecological, policy and economic perspective, and showcase successful conservation partnerships across Europe.

Find out more at <http://www.eclareon.com/en/ccnce>

56th Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS 2013) – June 26th-30th, 2013 in Tartu, Estonia

The main theme of IAVS 2013 is "Vegetation patterns and their underlying processes". Sessions are planned to address innovative theory, methodology and application of vegetation ecology over a range of spatial and temporal scales. Particular focus will be on processes and drivers behind vegetation diversity and dynamics, both in natural and cultural landscapes. The symposium will address patterns and processes concerning natural undisturbed vegetation, as well as under conditions of changing anthropogenic impact.

Please read more at <http://iavs2013.ut.ee/>

Conference on invasive species in urban areas in Europe – September 05th, 2013 in Gland, Switzerland

The conference is organized by IUCN and its Invasive Species Specialist Group with support from Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). Main aim is to bring together European, national and local governmental representatives and experts to raise awareness and exchange knowledge and best practices that contribute to solutions that reduce the risk of invasive species in urban areas. In advance of the conference IUCN will be collecting knowledge and experiences from European cities and urbanised regions to combat invasive species...

Learn more about the conference and how to participate via reading the attached "[IUCN Conference information.pdf](#)" and "[IUCN Template for case studies IAS in urban areas.pdf](#)"

You can also download the announcement and the template for case studies from our website among the menu point "Other upcoming conferences".

BiodiverCities Conference "The nature of things to come - Biodiversity Conservation in a Changing Climate" – September 9th-11th, 2013 in Joondalup/Perth, Australia

The City of Joondalup in collaboration with the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Centre is pleased to present the official dates for the 2013 BiodiverCities Conference. This three day conference will be held at the Joondalup Resort, Perth, Western Australia. The program will feature group discussions, field trips and presentations from environmental experts addressing biodiversity conservation in a changing climate. Topics covered will be:

- Managing impacts of climate change
- Assessing and managing coastal vulnerability
- Partnerships to enhance biodiversity
- Community education and public participation
- Biodiversity for carbon sequestration
- Integration of biodiversity into the urban landscape

Full program and registration details will be released soon

Please read more at <http://swccnrm.org.au/events/biodivercities-conference/>

43rd Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland: "Building bridges in ecology – linking systems, scales and disciplines" – September 9th-13th, 2013 in Potsdam, Germany

The meeting aims at strengthening the scientific basis for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation based on a mechanistic, scale-crossing understanding of past and current patterns, processes and functions of biodiversity and reliable predictions of future dynamics. Following the bridging theme of our meeting, the conference will be in parallel to the annual meeting of the German Society for Limnology (DGL) with a selected number of joint keynotes and sessions. The conference will also have a session on "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of Urban Habitats".

To acquire further information please check out http://www.gfoe-2013.de/index.php?cat=show_start

5 New Literature

Atlas of the flora of Berlin, Germany (in German language)

Seitz, B., Ristow, M., Prasse, R., Machatzi, B., Klemm, G., Böcker, R. & Sukopp, H.; 2012; Natur+Text; 537 pages; ISBN 978-3-942062-08-4

The Atlas of the flora of Berlin is the recent conclusion of the more than 20 years of floristic mapping of all wild vascular plants of this city. It is a further essential contribution to the natural history of this world wide best investigated city in terms of ecology. More than 150 people contributed voluntarily to the flora. About 2500 taxa (species, subspecies, varieties and hybrids) have been found, 1900 local raster maps show the distribution of almost every vascular plant species. Additionally, the maps show changes in distribution of species, through analysis of historical data from herbaria and literature. The maps section is accompanied by richly illustrated texts on Berlin's landscape, history of floristic science and conservation of plants. For future studies, the protection and conservation of Berlin's plant diversity this atlas is an essential background. The atlas is available in German language only but can be warmest recommended to all urban botanists.

Publisher's website: <http://www.naturundtext.de/shop/flora-fauna/der-berliner-florenatlas.html>

Ecological System – Selected Entries from the Encyclopedia of Sustainability Science and Technology

Leemans, R. (ed.); 2013; Springer; 309 pages; ISBN 978-1-4614-5754-1

Earth is home to an estimated 8 million animal species, 600,000 fungi, 300,000 plants, and an undetermined number of microbial species, of which an estimated 75% have yet to be identified. Interactions between these species and their physical environment are known to an even lesser degree. At the same time, the earth's biota faces the prospect of climate change, as well as a human population growth by two billion by 2045. This book provides comprehensive coverage of the scientific and engineering basis of the systems ecology of the earth in 15 detailed, peer-reviewed entries written for a broad audience of undergraduate and graduate students as well as practicing professionals in government, academia, and industry. The methodology presented aims at identifying key interactions and environmental effects, and enabling a systems-level understanding even with our present state of factual knowledge.

Publisher's website: <http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/ecology/book/978-1-4614-5754-1>

All the best from Erfurt
Norbert Müller

President URBIO

Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller

<http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio>

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

April 2013

Invitation for URBIO 2012 Publication

Dear participants of URBIO 2012 in Mumbai

The URBIO 2012 editorial board of Haripriya Gundimeda, Norbert Müller, Charles Nilon and Glenn Stewart encourages you to publish your presentation from URBIO 2012 as a chapter in a peer-reviewed book. At the moment we are in contact with different international publishers who are interested in publishing the book.

Chapters received will be reviewed by two reviewers and a member of the editorial board with a goal of completing the review process by 1 July 2013.

The outline of the book (Annex A) follows this invitation (see below).

Your manuscripts should be submitted as a single file to nilonc@missouri.edu not later than 15 May 2013. Please follow strictly the instructions for authors (Annex B).

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact me. On behalf of the URBIO 2012 editorial board

Charles Nilon

Annex A

URBIO 2012 Publication: Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change– Results of the Third International Conference on Urban Biodiversity and Design

Editors: Haripriya Gundimeda, Norbert Müller, Charles Nilon, Glenn Stewart

Introduction: Haripriya Gundimeda, Norbert Müller, and Mahito Kamada

Section I: Cities and Change

Introductory Chapter: Urban change ecology: Impacts of catastrophes and global warming on biodiversity and design (Glenn Stewart)

Additional Chapters: Papers from Vulnerability of Urban Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health; Urban Water Ecosystems; Land use Change, Ecology, and Food Security; Mitigation, Adaptation and Biodiversity Parallel Sessions

Section II: Cities and Conservation

Introductory Chapter: Cities grow where water flows, but does our urban future have room for biodiversity? (Madhusudan Katti)

Additional Chapters: Papers from Status and Trends in Biodiversity; Knowledge, Values, and Biodiversity Conservation; Urban Bird Conservation; Urban Green Spaces; and Best Practices for Urban Biodiversity Management Parallel Sessions

Section III: Assessing Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Introductory Chapter: Cities and Biodiversity Outlook – An assessment of global urbanization, biodiversity, and ecosystems (Thomas Elmqvist)

Introductory Chapter: Green Economy (Pavan Sukhdev)

Additional Chapters: Papers from Urbanization, Cities and Biodiversity; Ecosystem Dependence and Valuation of Ecosystem Services; Sustainability and Tools for Evaluation; Indicators and Approaches for Promoting Sustainable Cities; Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Parallel Sessions

Section IV: Biodiversity and Design

Introductory Chapter: The Green Leap: A holistic approach to designing and managing urban development's for biodiversity (Mark Hostetler)

Introductory Chapter: Conservation of open spaces (P.K. Dass)

Additional Chapters: Papers from Local Biodiversity Practices; Green Infrastructure and Design I; and Green Infrastructure and Design II Parallel Sessions

Conclusion: Cities, Biodiversity, Design, and Change: Haripriya Gundimeda, Norbert Müller, Charles Nilon, Glenn Stewart

Mumbai Declaration

Annex B

Instructions for Authors. Please follow the style used by *Urban Ecosystems*.

1. Text Formatting

Manuscripts should be submitted as a Word document.

- Use 12-point Times New Roman font for text.
- Use italics for emphasis.
- Use the automatic page numbering function to number the pages.
- Do not use field functions.
- Use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar.
- Use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables.
- Use the equation editor or MathType for equations.
- Save your file in .doc format

2. Paper Format

Title Page

The title page should include:

- A concise and informative title
- The name(s) of the author(s)
- The affiliation(s) and address(es) of the author(s)
- The e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers of the corresponding author

Abstract

Provide an abstract of 150 to 250 words.

Keywords

Provide 4 to 6 keywords which can be used for indexing purposes.

Introduction

Methods

Results

Discussion

Literature Cited

3. Citations

Cite references in the text by name and year in parentheses. Some examples:

- *Perecarpus indica* is a dominant tree species in Jakarta (Arifin and Nakagoshi 2011).
- Lock (2000) studied the breeding birds of Hong Kong.
- Recent review papers have studied patterns of biodiversity in cities (Werner and Zahner 2009; Nilon 2011; Muller et al 2012).

4. Literature Cited

The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text. Do not use footnotes or endnotes as a substitute for a reference list.

Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last names of the first author of each work.

Journal article

Arifin HS, Nakagoshi N (2011) Landscape ecology and urban biodiversity in tropical Indonesian cities. *Landscape and Ecological Engineering* 7:33-43

Book

Gilbert OL (1989) *The ecology of urban habitats*. Chapman and Hall, London

Book chapter

Zipper WC, Guntenspergen GR (2009) Vegetation composition and structure of forest patches along urban-rural gradients. In: McDonnell MJ, Hahs AK, Breuste JH (eds) *Ecology of cities and towns: a comparative approach*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 274-286

Online document

Berlin Environmental Atlas (2012) Biotope types. Data base: Urban and Environmental Information System (UEIS) Berlin Department for Urban Development and the Environment.
<http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/umwelt/umweltatlas/ei508.htm>. Accessed 11 January 2013

Dissertation

Lock NY (2000) *The ecology of urban birds in Hong Kong*. Dissertation, Hong Kong University

4. Tables

Tables should follow the Literature Cited section of the manuscript, with one table per page, in the order in which they are cited in the manuscript.

- Cite tables in the text in consecutive numerical order.
- Number tables using Arabic numerals.
- Each table should have a descriptive title explaining the content and components of the table.
- Previously published material that is included in a table should be cited by referencing the original source at the end of the table title.
- Footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters and included beneath the table body. (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data)
- Footnotes relevant to significance values and other statistical data should be indicated by asterisks and placed beneath the table body.

5. Figures and Illustrations

Figures and illustrations should be placed after tables, with one figure per page in the order in which they are cited in the manuscript.

- Cite figures in the text in consecutive order as Fig. 1, Fig 2, etc.
- Number figures as Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.
- Each table should have a descriptive title.

6. Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted as a single file to nilonc@missouri.edu

Dear colleagues and partners,

IUCN will organise a **conference on invasive species in urban areas in Europe** on the 5th of September 2013. This conference will take place at the IUCN Global Headquarters in Switzerland (Gland). Attached you will find more details about the event and the draft agenda.

Local and regional authorities can play a key role in helping address the risks associated with biological invasions and can contribute to raising awareness among decision-makers and citizens. The main aim of this conference is to bring together European local governmental representatives and experts to exchange knowledge and best practices that contribute to solutions that reduce the risk of invasive species in urban areas. It will serve to inform the competent authorities in Europe who are responsible for implementing action to control, manage and prevent the invasive species to enter the environment, with scientific knowledge and expertise as well as guidance and examples.

In advance of the conference IUCN will be collecting **knowledge and experiences from European cities and urbanised regions to combat invasive species**. Attached you will find the template designed for gathering case studies.

Therefore, I would like to ask your help in identifying cities and local and regional governmental representatives or trade associations (horticulture, pet industry, farming, transport, ports, airports) and other key stakeholders in Europe, who are interested and familiar with this topic, and who we can ask to provide case studies. Based on the information we receive, the representatives of these cities, institutions and regions will be invited to the conference to benefit from exchange of knowledge and best practices and a selected group will be offered the opportunity to present their experiences as part of the plenary segment of the event.

If you have any suggestions for cities, local and regional governments or other actors to approach concerning this issue, and could provide me with their **contact details**, I would be pleased to invite them to share their experiences.

In advance of the conference, we will compile a publication with case studies for dissemination to the participants of the conference and other interested parties. This information will also be shared on the IUCN European website (www.iucn.org/europe) and the website of the IUCN Invasive Alien Species Specialist Group (<http://www.issg.org/>).

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and in case you would be interested in staying informed of the preparations for the conference or in participating, please let me know.

Thank you very much for your support and looking forward to hear your advice!

With kind regards,

Chantal

Chantal van Ham

European Programme Officer

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
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Tel. +32 2739 0312; Fax +32 732 9499;

www.iucn.org



Conference on invasive species in urban areas in Europe, organized by IUCN and its Invasive Species Specialist Group with support from Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Background

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are animals and plants that are introduced accidentally or deliberately into a natural environment where they are not normally found. Invasive alien species (IAS) pose a significant threat to biodiversity in the EU, and this threat is likely to increase in the future unless robust action is taken at all levels to control the introduction and establishment of these species and address those already introduced. IAS cause some € 12.5 billion worth of damage each year in the EU.

Although the challenges posed by IAS are common to many Member States, with the exception of legislation concerning the use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture there is currently no dedicated, comprehensive EU policy to address them. The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 proposes filling this gap with a dedicated EU legislative instrument which could tackle outstanding challenges relating inter alia to IAS pathways, early detection and response and containment and management of IAS.

Metropolitan areas are particularly vulnerable to invasive alien species, due to the amount of commodities arriving or passing through for trade and commercial activities – which are the key pathways for IAS - and the characteristics of the urbanized landscape, which is highly manipulated and close to several managed and natural ecosystems. Urban areas may also act as a “source” of IAS into other environments, because of citizens being the ultimate recipients of the international wildlife trade of non native plants and animals (e.g. see gardening and pet trade). The consequences of such trade is that non-native animals and plants are either accidentally or intentionally released (or dumped) in the urban environment (e.g. American sliders in fountains and ponds, exotic squirrels in parks, ornamental plants and lawn clippings and weeds in green areas, including diseases and pathogens harmful to both citizens and wildlife in general) from where some species might further spread into other adjacent habitats. Specific problems that invasive species pose in urban areas are allergenic e.g. Ambrosia, impact on monuments e.g. Ailanthus and impact on health e.g. Tiger mosquito, impact on landscape e.g. Red palm weevil.

On the other hand, the urban environment – thanks to the presence of major cultural centers, like museums, universities, zoological and botanic gardens, etc.) - can play a key role in helping to address the risks associated to biological invasions by contributing to raise awareness to citizens and decision makers on the issue.

Recognising the increasingly serious problem of invasive alien species in Europe, the Commission is currently working on a dedicated legislative instrument on Invasive Alien Species which is due to be developed by 2012. This is one of six key objectives of the [EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy adopted in May 2011](#): *By 2020, Invasive Alien Species and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS.*

The EU highlights the following important aspects in relation to invasive alien species:

- Invasive alien species pose a major and fast growing threat to native biodiversity in Europe.
- Plants and animals that find their way into new, unfamiliar habitats, can overwhelm native flora or

fauna and damage the environment. These organisms are known as 'invasive alien species'.

- They also have a social and economic impact, for example on human health, fisheries, agriculture and food production.
- More trade, tourism, and transport of goods across borders have accelerated their spread.
- The costs related to the impact of invasive alien species in the European Union is estimated to be at least €12 billion a year.
- The EU has recently put forward proposals for a Europe-wide strategy to combat invasive species.
- Early detection and rapid response is vital: it is much easier and more cost-effective to tackle incoming species before they become established.
- Raising awareness among the public about invasive species is a condition to win this battle.

More detailed information can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/brochures/invasive_green.pdf

Existing knowledge, initiatives, action in Europe

- Assessment to support continued development of the EU Strategy to combat invasive alien species. Final Report for the European Commission. Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) – http://www.ieep.eu/assets/759/IEEP_report_EU_IAS_Strategy_components_costs.pdf
- Towards an early warning information system for invasive alien species (IAS) threatening biodiversity in Europe - <http://www.nobanis.org/files/Tech-5-2010-Invasive-alien-species.pdf>
- Taking into account opportunity costs when assessing costs of biodiversity and ecosystem action - http://www.ieep.eu/assets/797/FinalReport_OpportunityCostsBiodiversityAction.pdf
- Nobanis – European Network on Invasive species - <http://www.nobanis.org/>
- DAISIE - <http://www.europe-aliens.org/default.do;jsessionid=CE07DCC18F4FEEA7F5FDE596E9B73F98>
- Handbook of Alien Species in Europe - <http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-1-4020-8280-1#section=126069&page=20&locus=66>
- EEA indicators on invasive alien species (SEBI) - <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/invasive-alien-species-in-europe/invasive-alien-species-in-europe/>
- IUCN guidelines for the prevention of biodiversity loss caused by invasive alien species - http://www.issg.org/pdf/guidelines_iucn.pdf
- Global Invasive Species Database - <http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>
- Invertebrates associated with invasive alien organisms - <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/news/events.cfm>

Aim of the conference

The main aim of this conference is to bring together European, national and local governmental representatives and experts to raise awareness and exchange knowledge and best practices that contribute to solutions that reduce the risk of invasive species in urban areas.

It will serve to inform the competent authorities in Europe who are responsible for implementing action to reduce the impact of invasive species, with scientific knowledge and expertise as well as guidance and examples.

Considering the diversity of participants to this event, it presents an excellent opportunity to strengthen partnerships to facilitate sharing of lessons-learned, transfer of best practices, raise awareness for and enhance the benefits for local governments and cities for investing in the control, prevention and management of invasive species.

Thematic focus and structure of conference

The conference will offer an interactive forum for discussion, knowledge sharing, networking and action. In a plenary set-up, the following themes will be addressed:

- The occurrence of invasive alien species in urban environments, key pathways and impacts
- European cities and as privileged centers for information campaigns and awareness raising initiatives on IAS issues (impact, costs, management, etc.) targeting the general public, stakeholders, policy and decision makers, etc
- Strategies for preventing the release/escape of invasive alien species in urban environment
- Options for implementing an early warning and rapid response system in Europe
- Establishment of networks encompassing different taxa and countries for monitoring the occurrence and spread of IAS in urban environments
- Best practices to eradicate/control invasive alien species in European cities
- The role of an EU policy framework to combat invasive alien species
- Engagement of civil society in reducing the risk of invasive species in the urban environment

Target audience

Scientists, representatives from governmental entities, non-profit organizations, business and any other person or party involved in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management are invited to participate and share ideas, experience and best practices.

Role of IUCN

The IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) aims to reduce threats to natural ecosystems and the native species they contain by increasing awareness of invasive alien species, and of ways to prevent, control or eradicate them.

The ISSG promotes and facilitates the exchange of invasive species information and knowledge across the globe and ensures the linkage between knowledge, practice and policy so that decision making is informed. The two core activity areas of the ISSG are policy and technical advice, and, information exchange through our online resources and tools and through networking.

Draft agenda

Conference Invasive alien species in urban areas in Europe

5 September 2013, IUCN Global Headquarters, Gland, Switzerland

9.30 Welcome by Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt and Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

9.50 Opening speech – Director General IUCN

10.00 Invasive species in Europe – European Commission

- A serious threat to Europe's biodiversity (main impacts)
- EU legislative instrument in place (requirements)

10.20 Invasive species in urban areas - IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group

- What the main impacts of IAS in cities
- Examples of damages caused by IAS in cities
- Which are these species?

10.40 Economic costs of invasions in cities

- What are the costs of invasions in cities
- Presentation of cost for different cities

11.00 Coffee break

11.20 How to combat invasive species in urban areas

- Explain what the best known approach to combating IAS in cities is (e.g. three-stage hierarchical approach - prevention, early detection and eradication, and long-term control and containment).

11.40 Existing measures to combat IAS in cities: examples from cities

- Explain the approach that 4 cities have taken to combat IAS

13.15 Lunch

14.30 The need to involve stakeholders to combat IAS in cities

- Explain why stakeholders from a large number of sectors need to be informed and involved
- Provide examples e.g. why the private sector, companies play a role etc...

14.50 Making Invasive Alien Species understood by citizens

- How the media can help in spreading the message and what would be the best ways to present the problem to the general public to increase awareness and mobilize action.

15.10 Break-out sessions

- Prevention (e.g. preventing the introduction of IAS into cities and spread in the countryside).
- Early detection and eradication (preventing the establishment of IAS and wider spread)
- Long-term control and containment (control measures to prevent further spread)

17.10 Presentation of conclusions from breakout sessions and recommendations

17.40 Final remarks (IUCN)

17.50 Reception



Template for case studies: Taking action to reduce the impact of invasive alien species in urban areas in Europe

Recognising the significance of benefits of strengthening collaboration in support of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and management at the local level, cities, local and regional authorities and other urban actors have a critical role to play in implementing national and international biodiversity targets.

Highlighting the major threats that invasive alien species pose to native biodiversity in Europe, in advance of the conference on invasive species in urban areas, in September 2013, IUCN will compile an overview of case studies that showcase approaches to control, manage and eradicate invasive alien species or to prevent their introduction and establishment in urban environments in Europe. We welcome examples from other parts of the world as well.

In this context, urban environment is defined as: land covered by artificial surfaces (e.g. for residential areas, industrial and commercial sites). This is the geographic area cities and towns as well as their surrounding areas which are drawn upon for the provision of goods and services.

This questionnaire aims to collect knowledge, experience and examples of approaches to reduce impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity at the local level from a diversity of stakeholders, such as local and regional authorities, scientists, trade associations, NGOs and other civil society groups. If you have questions, or would rather have a telephone interview instead of filling out the information yourself, please contact: Chantal van Ham, e-mail: chantal.vanham@iucn.org or tel. +32(0)2 739 0312

IUCN will compile the case studies in a publication to be disseminated to the participants of the conference and other interested parties. It will be made available on the IUCN European website (www.iucn.org/europe), as well as the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group website (www.issg.org/).

A selection of case studies will be presented during the conference in September and speakers invited to share their knowledge and practices will receive reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs. Participants to the event will be reimbursed for accommodation and local travel to and from the venue.

The information you will provide will only be used for publication purposes and dissemination after your approval.

Thank you very much in advance for your collaboration!

Country

City or region

Contact person

Contact details

Photo as illustration of the case study: please send along with your filled out form (format jpg)

Please use the space you need below each of the boxes to describe all aspects highlighted below and add any publications or information materials that you consider relevant to this particular study as separate attachments or weblinks

Background – description of the historical and geographical context of the development of the invasive species targeted for this case study, pathways for entry, the type of environment in which this particular invasive alien species entered and how it developed over time and types of ecosystems or human activities affected by it

Problems and challenges - description of the problems that result from this particular example of invasive alien species and the challenges in relation to biodiversity, ecosystem services, economic activities, human health etc. that are being faced in the near and long-term future

Scope and size of impact – data on the quantity and impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity (e.g. amount of species in relation to number of indigenous species, % of loss of indigenous species or habitats, type of ecosystems affected, impacts on human health, economic damages as a result of the impact of the invasive species)

Approach and activities - *approach and activities developed to address problems related to invasive alien species (e.g. prevention, early detection and rapid eradication, long-term control and containment). Please distinguish between measures carried out as a result of a voluntary approach and measures formally undertaken as required by mandatory rules and existing legislation.*

Constraints and obstacles- *analysis of main constraints and obstacles faced when tackling the problem of invasive alien species: e.g. limited funds, no/ineffective mechanism of early detection in place, no/ineffective legal tools to prohibit import, lack of clarity on roles/responsibilities, no competent agency for control/eradication, no/ineffective legal tools to prohibit trade/possession, limited ability to detect new invasions, technical constraints and/or lack of expertise, legal obstacles to control/eradication*

Social dimension – *The role of citizens and their reactions to the measures taken, the involvement of stakeholders, such as civil society groups or trade associations and the role of communication activities in support of measures to reduce the impacts of invasive alien species.*

Results - *outcomes of the approach and activities pursued in relation to the objective of reducing the impact of invasive alien species*

Lessons learned – *advice on strategies and approaches to reduce the risk of invasive alien species, sharing of best practices from experiences gained in dealing with the issue*

Costs and funding sources - *what are the costs for action to combat invasive alien species, how have the above described activities been financed (funding sources) and which % of the budget available for nature conservation in your institution or organisation is allocated to tackling invasive alien species*

References – *links to information sources that provide more in-depth understanding about the case study and can serve as learning material for others facing similar challenges*

With support from:



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