

24th URBIO newsletter – September 16th, 2013

Dear colleagues,

With the second URBIO newsletter for 2013 we provide you the following information:

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

The CBD "Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020" provided options for national governments and their partners in implementation for facing the challenges of biodiversity loss from the urban perspective.

To support this “Plan of Action” the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) asked the International Network URBIO to develop a research agenda for the necessary scientific fields and skills needed by local governments.

The workshop was organised by URBIO, SCBD & ICLEI, supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with funds from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), and hosted by the University of Applied Sciences Erfurt.

The discussion was based on existing studies, the findings of the CBO and the needs of local governments. Main Questions were:

1. What information do decision makers and managers in governments and other sectors need to support biodiversity?
2. What knowledge is currently available in the cities and what are critical knowledge gaps?
3. What are our main research needs in urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design that would be of use to local authorities?
4. How can we communicate our knowledge to decision-makers?

The URBIO workshop was an initial step towards a global research agenda. The Presentations and results are now ready for view and download on the URBIO website: http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=136

We are currently building up a commentary section at the website and notify you when ready. If you wish to comment or make suggestions beforehand, please do not hesitate to email us to urbio@fh-erfurt.de.

The discussion between scientists, practitioners and citizen representatives will also continue during the next URBIO conference and City Biodiversity Summit in 2014 in South Korea. Afterwards the results of our dialogue will be brought to the 12th Conference of the Parties of the CBD (CBD COP 12) in South Korea in 2014.

2 International URBIO Conference 2014 "Cities and Water" from October 09th to 11th, 2014 in Songdo Incheon, Republic of Korea

Our 4th URBIO conference will take place in Songdo Incheon in the Republic of Korea from October 9th to 11th, 2014, parallel to the first half of the CBD COP12.

It will be organised by Prof. Dr. Nam Choon Kim (Dankook University), the President of the Korean Society of Environmental Restoration Techniques (KOSERT), under the supervision of KOSERT and the International Consortium for Landscape and Ecological Engineering (ICLEE).

The title of the conference will be "Cities and Water", the following sessions have already been proposed:

- 1. Stream restoration in urban areas
- 2 Research agenda on urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design
- 3 Technology transfer and capacity building mechanisms for bio-efficient cities
- 4 Urban resilience studies
- 5 Landscape design for biodiversity

The first announcement of the conference is under progress, it will be send as soon as it is available.

3 CBO Launch in New York (USA) and Brussels (Belgium) in October 2013

The CBO will be officially launched in October 2013 in New York (USA) and Brussels (Belgium).

In New York the launch is included in the official programme of the World Habitat Day celebration on the 4th of October. It will be highlighted at a press conference during lunch, and then again in the panel debate in the afternoon where Harini Nagendra, the lead author of the India and Bangalore assessments, will participate. Finally, an introduction of the CBO to the WHD participants by Thomas Elmqvist will conclude the day's official programme.

The CBO will then be launched in Brussels on October 10, during the European Week of Cities and Regions. Ms. Charlina Vitcheva will be representing the European Commission, along with additional speakers. Programme details are forthcoming.

4 Project "Companies and Biodiversity – near-natural design of factory premises"

Companies should use near-natural design for green spaces on their factory premises to foster biodiversity via helping animals and plants to find habitats. This is main goal of a new project of the Heinz Sielmann Foundation, Lake Constance Foundation and the Global Nature Fund; supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) within the National Programme for Biodiversity of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

The Project "Companies and Biodiversity – near-natural design of factory premises" calls out to companies of all branches of trade and industry. At least twenty companies shall do a "biodiversity check", highlighting the impact of biodiversity on the companies' decision making. Up to ten companies will then be chosen to receive support in their planning and realisation of the near-natural design of their factory premises.

Aims of the project are to create a handbook for near-natural design for companies, based on the "biodiversity checks" and the experiences with the ten supported companies. Also a concept for long term counselling and certification of companies with near-natural factory premises will be done. Furthermore the project will show how to implement biodiversity in environmental resources management systems like EMAS and ISO 14001 better. The projects results will be presented in summer 2016.

Read more at (in German language only):

www.bmu.de/N50301/ and <http://www.biologischevielfalt.de/bundesprogramm.html>

5 Upcoming Conferences and Seminars

Resilient Cities Webinar Series 2013 kicks off soon

The 2013 edition of the Resilient Cities Webinar Series is currently in preparation. Five webinar sessions on key themes from the Resilient Cities 2013 congress will be presented by congress speakers. The series will begin in September and continue through November.

Please read more at:

<http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/resilient-cities-hub-site/webinar-series/webinar-series-2013/>

RegioResources 21: A cross-disciplinary dialogue on sustainable development of regional resources – September 18th-20th, 2013 in Catania, Italy

RegioResources 21 started in 2011 to establish a permanent cross-disciplinary dialogue on sustainability features in planning, decision and policy making on multiple scale levels. The conference series intends to provide an overview on the most recent questions and innovative solutions and to facilitate the intellectual exchange and methodological transfer between different disciplines involved in regional resource management, planning, decision making and policy support.

Further information at <http://regioresources21.eli-web.com/>

Tagung "Biodiversität und Klima – Vernetzung der Akteure in Deutschland X" (Conference "Biodiversity and Climate – Networking of Stakeholders in Germany X") – October 8th-9th, 2013 in Vilm, Germany (conference in German language only)

Der voranschreitende Klimawandel stellt eine wachsende Bedrohung für die biologische Vielfalt und die davon abhängenden menschlichen Gesellschaften dar. Der engen Verknüpfung und der gegenseitigen Beeinflussung von Biodiversität und Klima wird national und international in Wissenschaft und Politik eine immer größere Bedeutung beigemessen. Um Aktivitäten zum Thema „Biodiversität und Klima“ zu präsentieren und allgemein bekannt zu machen, veranstaltet das BfN seit 2004 jährlich an der

Internationalen Naturschutzakademie Insel Vilm die trans- und interdisziplinäre Tagung "Biodiversität und Klima – Vernetzung der Akteure in Deutschland".

Die Tagung dient in erster Linie der Vernetzung und dem fachwissenschaftlichen Informationsaustausch, aber auch der verstärkten Koordinierung laufender und zukünftiger Projekte zum Thema „Biodiversität und Klima“ im deutschsprachigen Raum.

Erfahren Sie mehr über diese Tagung unter:

http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/ina/2013/2013-Tagungsankuendigung_Biodiv_Klima-Vernetzung.pdf

Urban Forestry in Transition – Addressing the needs of changing societies – October 09th-11th, 2013 in Tartu, Estonia

Many countries and societies in Europe and elsewhere are in transition, for example in terms of economy, socio-demographics and political systems. Together with pressures of urbanisation and urban densification, but also urban shrinking in some cities, these changes have major impacts on urban forests and urban forestry. This international conference will address how urban forestry needs to be adapted within transitional societies, for example in terms of changing governance and management approaches. It will also study the contributions of urban forestry to cities that are more resilient and provide a high quality of life.

Please read more about this conference at <http://pk.emu.ee/urbanforestry/>

Urban Environmental Pollution 2013 Asian Edition – Creating Healthy, Liveable Cities – November 17th-20th, 2013 in Beijing, China

Following the success of the Urban Environmental Pollution 2012 (UEP2012) conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the organisers are pleased to announce an Asian edition of the conference – **Urban Environmental Pollution 2013 (UEP2013)** to be held in Beijing, China in November 2013. The conference aims to provide an international forum to explore the urban environment and how we can begin to create a healthy and liveable environment in cities.

Get more info here: <http://www.uepconference.com/>

Second European Conference on Regions and Biodiversity – Local action for biodiversity: the role of regions – November 19th-20th, 2013 in Brussels, Belgium

The ECNC- European Centre for Nature Conservation and UNEP are pleased to announce the second European Conference on Regions and Biodiversity: “Local action for biodiversity: the role of regions”. The purpose of this conference is to address the role sub national governments can play in initiating, stimulating and supporting local biodiversity initiatives by citizens, NGOs and other stakeholders, in partnership with local and regional governments. It will bring together representatives of regions and local authorities in Europe, as well as other interested stakeholders and governments.

The highlights of the conference:

1. Implementation of Green Infrastructure and nature restoration;
2. The role of citizen science to monitor the state and trends in biodiversity and drivers of biodiversity change;

3. Biodiversity communication, education, public awareness;
4. Implementation at local levels of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – TEEB.

More information, full program and registration details will be released soon at:

<http://www.regionsandbiodiversity.eu>

2014 Green Infrastructure Conference: Green Infrastructure & Water Management in Growing Metropolitan Areas – January 14th-16th, 2014 in Tampa (Florida), USA

Purpose of Conference is to engage researchers, engineers, planners, government policy makers, and other stakeholders in developing options and solutions that result in wider implementation of green infrastructure practices to manage stormwater in our growing metropolitan regions. Conference themes are as follows:

1. Defining the range of benefits of green-infrastructure practices;
2. Identifying barriers to implementing these practices;
3. Evaluating options and opportunities for funding, financing and valuing green infrastructure; and
4. Developing practical actions that government, communities and others can take to promote greater implementation of green infrastructure to address urban stormwater.

Find out more at <http://patel.usf.edu/patel-center/2014-green-infrastructure-conference/>

5th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaption: Resilient Cities 2014 – June 1st-3rd, 2014 in Bonn, Germany

The 2014 Resilient Cities congress is tentatively scheduled for 1 - 3 June, 2014 and will be held in Bonn, Germany. Submissions for the ICLEI's 2014 Resilient Cities Congress is open from Thursday, 12 September 2013 until the deadline of 30 November 2013! Proposals will be accepted for presentations, panels, workshops, posters, Reality Check Workshops, and co-events.

Please see the conference website for more information: <http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/bonn2014/resilient-cities-2014-home/>

Large Parks in Large Cities: Visions and Governance in the context of green infrastructure, ecosystem services and landscape analysis – September 2nd-4th, 2015 in Stockholm, Sweden

The aim of the conference is to highlight large parks in metropolitan areas and to discuss their importance and role in the future, taking into account the enormous development of townscapes that is foreseen. We will also discuss status, protection and maintenance – in short the governance of large parks in large cities. This will be done within the context of overall green infrastructure, ecosystem services and sustainable cities. Large parks at the same time constitute a basis for understanding the landscape in which the city is set. Another goal is to create a network of people working with large parks around the world.

Please read more and find the first call at <http://www.largeparks.se/>

6 New Literature

IDB2013 booklet: "Natural Solutions for Water Security" available at the CBD website

Water is essential for life. No living being on planet Earth can survive without it. It is a prerequisite for human health and well-being as well as for the preservation of the environment.

The theme Water and Biodiversity was chosen to coincide with the United Nations designation of 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation. Water and Biodiversity is the theme for International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) in 2013. Designation of IDB 2013 on the theme of water provides Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the public at large the opportunity to raise awareness about this vital issue, and to increase positive action. Coincidentally, the period 2005-2015 is the International Decade for Action 'WATER FOR LIFE'.

Download at the CBD website: <http://www.cbd.int/idb/2013/>

Urbanization, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities – A Global Assessment

Elmqvist, Thomas; Fragkias, Michail; Goodness, Julie; Güneralp, Burak; Marcotullio, Peter J.; McDonald, Robert I.; Parnell, Susan; Schewenius, Maria; Sendstad, Marte; Seto, Karen C. & Wilkinson, Cathy (eds.); 2013; Springer; 755 pages; ISBN 978-94-007-7087-4

- The world's first global assessment of the effects of urbanization on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Presents the latest state-of-the-art of urbanization, and identifies crucial knowledge gaps that need to be bridged
- Develops a new theoretical framework for urban sustainability and resilience
- The book's nineteen chapters include global, regional and local perspectives and can be read together or as stand-alone texts
- Of relevance for researchers as well as policy makers and urban planners

Publisher's website: <http://www.springer.com/life+sciences/ecology/book/978-94-007-7087-4>

Urbanization and Sustainability – Linking Urban Ecology, Environmental Justice and Global Environmental Change (Series: Human-Environment Interactions, Vol. 3)

Boone, Christopher G. & Fragkias, Michail (eds.); 2013; Springer; 201 pages; ISBN 978-94-007-5665-6

Urbanization and Sustainability: Linking Urban Ecology, Environmental Justice and Global Environmental Change stems from a 2009 workshop on linking ecology, environmental justice, and global environmental change that the editors organized for the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), an international scientific initiative that catalyzes and coordinates research on the human dimensions of environmental change. The book addresses key themes of the Urbanization and Global Environmental Change Programme, a core project of the IHDP.

The book draws together three major themes: Global Environmental Change, incorporating a range of interactions between societies and ecosystems; Urbanization, because urbanization processes will drive and respond to challenges of environmental change; and Justice, because the most vulnerable members of society bear a disproportionate burden of the ill effects of environmental change and urbanization.

The editors proceed from the proposition that sustainability means more than surviving – it is about envisioning a desirable, plausible future and working towards that goal.

Publisher's website: <http://www.springer.com/environment/book/978-94-007-5665-6>

Proceedings of the 4th Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation (Resilient Cities 2013) available online

The proceedings feature new research and case studies on urban resilience. The papers explore key themes of the 2013 congress in more depth, such as water security, multi-stakeholder collaboration, green growth, risk assessment, and coastal cities at risk. The authors are renowned experts in their respective fields who were chosen to speak at the congress and elected to publish an article in the online proceedings.

Please visit for download: <http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/index.php?id=772>

All the best from Erfurt
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"Urban Biodiversity and Design" edited by Norbert Müller, Peter
Werner & John G. Kelcey. publ. 2010 by Wiley-Blackwell 626 p.

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