

25th URBIO newsletter – October 29th, 2013

Dear colleagues,

This URBIO newsletter is an anniversary letter. For the 25th time we send the URBIO newsletter from Erfurt with information on urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design. URBIO is an open worldwide scientific network for education and research with the aim to promote urban biodiversity and design through a continuing dialogue with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Within the CBD programmes URBIO is the scientific initiative of the Major Group "Local Authorities". The network was founded in 2008 during the first URBIO conference in Erfurt (http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/httpdocs/content/images/DSC_0637.JPG).

Since then the URBIO network Headquarters have been in Erfurt, Germany. In order to foster the scientific exchange between researchers, practitioners and stakeholders the network holds contact with various international networks, organises international scientific conferences and workshops prior to the COP meetings (Conference of the parties to the CBD), maintains a website and distributes newsletters send regularly to the network members from the network Headquarters. Since its foundation, the URBIO network has held three conferences: URBIO2008 during May 2008 in Erfurt/Germany, URBIO2010 during May 2010 in Nagoya/Japan, and URBIO2012 during October 2012 in Mumbai/India. In the moment we are already preparing the 4. International Conference, which is, in the tradition of URBIO, hold as site event to the next COP meeting in Korea (see below).

Today our main field of work – biodiversity and sustainable design and planning of urban areas – has risen to an important topic in the international environmental policy and URBIO is holding over 1000 scientists, stakeholders and practitioners from the whole world.

On behalf of the URBIO Advisory Board and personally I want to express my acknowledgements to all who worked with us and who supported the idea of our network. Special acknowledgements go to the colleagues, institutions and governments who made it possible to organize the important international URBIO conferences in Nagoya and India. I am also grateful to all the numerous funders **exemplarily I want to mention those who** supported the work at the URBIO headquarters in Erfurt over the last years: The University of Applied Sciences Erfurt, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), and the Ministry for Construction, Development and Media of the Free State Thuringia (TMBLM).

I am looking forward for further fruitful collaboration!

Norbert

Read now about the news:

1 Book launch at 10th October in Brussels of the scientific foundation of the City and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO): *Urbanization, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities*

It was a pleasure for me to represent the URBIO network on this event which was organized by IUCN and SRC as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities. Very inspiring presentations were made by Thomas Elmqvist – the scientific editor of the book –, delegates of IUCN and ICLEI as well as representatives of the cities of Nantes (Green capital 2013), Amsterdam and Brussels.

On behalf of the URBIO community I want to express my deepest compliments to Thomas Elmqvist and his team for this wonderful book. This scientific foundation of the City and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO) is **the world's first global assessment on the relationship between urbanization and biodiversity loss**. The book was produced by Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) together with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in partnership with UN-Habitat and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and has involved more than 200 scientists worldwide. Many members of URBIO have contributed to the book which is published by Springer as an open access book – that means you will have free access to all papers!

Find out more about the publication at:

<http://www.cbobook.org>

Please find the hardcover book here:

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

And please use this link **to download the books chapters as PDF for free:**

<http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-94-007-7088-1/page/1>

2 First announcement for the 4. International URBIO Conference 2014 "Cities and Water" from October 09th to 11th, 2014 in Songdo Incheon, Republic of Korea (updated)

As already announced in the last URBIO Newsletter 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 COP 12.

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 – Conservation, Restoration and Biodiversity", the following subthemes have already been proposed:

1. Water and Green Infrastructure
2. Restoration of urban wetlands
3. Urban Resilience
4. Law and Policy for urban biodiversity
5. Participation and Collaborative works for urban biodiversity
6. Green welfare and Biodiversity
7. Business and Biodiversity

Further themes were suggested by the URBIO advisory Board:

8. Research agenda on urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design – see last URBIO Newsletter
9. Technology transfer and capacity building mechanisms for bio-efficient cities
10. Landscape design for biodiversity

The conference website is now open and the first announcement and the call for sessions will launch within the next week.

To visit the conference website please use: <http://www.urbio2014.kr>

Please save the date!

3 Urban areas and biological invasions: what can cities do about it? Results of the IUCN conference on Invasive Alien Species in Gland, Switzerland available online

IUCN has brought together key actors from all over Europe at a conference aiming to exchange knowledge and best practices to reduce the risk of invasive alien species (IAS) in urban areas.

Following the recent publication of a compilation of case studies on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in urban areas, IUCN held a conference where some of these studies were presented and discussed. As metropolitan areas are particularly vulnerable to IAS and serve as entry pathways, the key objective of the event was to analyse the issue of IAS from an urban perspective to understand the challenges which cities face and present solutions.

Read the whole story at:

<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/?13708/Urban-areas-and-biological-invasions-what-can-cities-do-about-it>

Find more recent info on invasive species in the latest IUCN Europe Newsletter:

http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/resources/newsletters/newsletter2/european_october2013.cfm

4 Upcoming Conferences and Seminars

Searching for more upcoming conferences, workshops and events about Urban Ecology, and/or Urban Biodiversity and Design? Visit the URBIO website's conferences page: http://www.fh-erfurt.de/urbio/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25&Itemid=129

If you have got any new dates you wish to share with your fellow URBIO colleagues – don't hesitate to send them to urbio@fh-erfurt.de! We'll put them up on the conference page and announce them through the next newsletter.

Expert Workshop "Ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation: barriers and success factors to its implementation" – November 17th-20th, 2013 in Vilm, Germany

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), in cooperation with the Ecologic Institute, is organizing an expert workshop on “Ecosystem-based approaches to

mitigation and adaptation: barriers and success factors to its implementation.” The workshop will take place on 17–20 November 2013 in Vilm, Germany. The conference will be held in German language only. Registration closes on 25 October 2013, but early registration is recommended as space is limited.

The draft program and online registration form can be found at the following link:
http://www.bfn.de/0603_kalender.html?&no_cache=1&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1%5Bqlist%5D=4&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1%5Buid%5D=3&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1%5Bcid%5D=2278&tx_blitzcalendar_pi1%5Bcmd%5D=single

For further information, please write to umsetzungsprojekte@ecologic-events.eu

World Urban Forum 7: "Urban Equality in Development – Cities for Life"–April 5th-11th, 2014 in Medellin, Colombia

The Seventh Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF7) will take place in Medellin, Colombia, from 5 to 11 April 2014. Held every two years, the Forum is an important event on the international calendar bringing together a wide range of participants from around the world to discuss key urban challenges facing the world today.

Please read more at: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=767>

3rd BiodiverCities Conference – Rescaling: natural parks and the city – April 7th-9th, 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa

This event proposes an opportunity for collective reflection on relationships between city and nature, through the showcase and exchange of experience and strategies for sustainable management of protected areas in changing urban contexts, from both Northern and Southern perspectives. In an explicitly comparative undertaking, this event brings together managers both of protected areas and of the cities they intersect, contributing to a community of urban nature researchers and practitioners. This year's conference will focus on issues of scale in urban park management and policies.

Find out more about at: <http://english.upa-network.org/74,91,0/BiodiverCities.html>

IENE 2014 – Life for a greener transport infrastructure– September 16th-19th, 2014 in Malmö, Sweden

For the 4th time, IENE invites scientists and engineers, practitioners and stakeholders, students and decision makers to discuss and develop solutions for a safer, environmentally friendly and ecologically sustainable transport infrastructure.

IENE 2014 Life for a greener transport infrastructure puts emphasis on the greening of transport infrastructure. This is in reference to a wiser use of marginal infrastructure habitats that favours biodiversity and certain ecosystem services, as well as in respect to a more permeable and safer infrastructure for both animals and humans, but it also relates to more efficient and innovative mitigation that minimises the direct impact on wildlife by e.g., habitat loss, disturbance and pollution.

Further information at: <http://iene2014.iene.info/>

5 New Literature

You have any new book, paper, pamphlet or other publication you deem interesting for your fellow URBIO colleagues? Please send them to urbio@fh-erfurt.de and we will distribute them with our next newsletter.

Urban Ecology: Experiences from Latin America – Spanish only (original title: Ecología Urbana: Experiencias en América Latina)

MacGregor-Fors, Ian & Ortega-Álvarez, Rubén (eds.); 2013, ISBN: 978-607-00-6869-0

A new urban ecology book with focus on Latin America has been published recently and can be downloaded at the website of INECOL (Mexico) for free. It is in Spanish only, but the editors are planning on working an English translation.

To download the book as PDF visit: http://www1.inecol.edu.mx/libro_ecologia_urbana/

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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.)