



Green Infrastructure – Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable and Resilient Cities Conference, 4-7 April 2017

Side –event by Deltares and IUCN : Nature-based solutions in urban areas - Showcasing success stories from Europe and beyond

Cities are characterised by dynamic social-ecological interactions. While urban areas present a major environmental challenge, for example by driving habitat conversion and CO2 emissions, they can also play an important role in conserving and restoring ecosystems, and promoting sustainable development.

In order to raise awareness of the value of nature for people, society and the economy and upscale Nature-based Solutions (NbS), it is essential that state of the art knowledge and science are used to implement European and global frameworks such as the Europe 2020 goals, the Urban Agenda for the EU, the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Better information-sharing amongst the urban development sector, the environmental community and policy makers, and increased support for multi-disciplinary, mutually beneficial partnerships, is key to achieving these targets and promoting Nature-based Solutions.

One of the best ways to convince decision makers, politicians, business representatives, policymakers, and others of the opportunities provided by NbS is to draw on real-life examples to demonstrate the potential socio-economic benefits they can bring. To that end, this side-event will highlight successful examples and best practices that showcase how nature-based solutions can be effectively implemented and mainstreamed across sectors and policy areas, and encourage interactions between representatives from science, policy, business, practice and civil society.



Plenary round-table facilitated by Deltares and IUCN: Mobilizing financial and political support to implement Nature-based Solutions for urban sustainable development

In order to make large-scale implementation of Nature-based Solutions credible and viable, new partnerships between governments, NGOs, conservationists, scientists, urban planners, entrepreneurs and financial actors need to be established. Each partner holds a vital piece of the puzzle—the knowledge, the tools, the resources—that need to be brought together to implement NbS successfully. This means that the understanding of how natural infrastructure can complement engineered infrastructure and how it can be integrated into urban planning should be central in the interaction between scientists and other stakeholders to develop joint solutions for upscaling NbS.

Scaling up NBS also requires a new financial system which recognizes nature’s enormous contribution to global economic growth and incorporates the full cost of generating wealth. This means bringing the world of nature conservation together with the financing and urban development sectors.

This high-level round-table on “Mobilizing financial and political support to implement Nature-based Solutions for urban sustainable development” will focus on the political and economic arguments for implementing Nature-based Solutions in cities. It will also explore the technical side of mobilizing financial investment to upscale NbS.

The round-table will start by setting the scene by reflecting on the outcomes of the side-event. This will be followed by a series of thought provoking statements by the speakers, and a lively, moderated discussion on the social, economic and political benefits of Nature-based Solutions and the opportunities for mobilising innovative financing in Europe and internationally. Conference participants and in particular those who joined the side event, will be encouraged to take part in the debate.



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