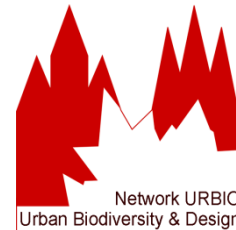


The Mumbai Declaration - URBIO 2012

This declaration was submitted during the 3rd International Conference of the Network **UR**ban **BIO**diversity and Design
URBIO 2012 "Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change
Adaptation and Mitigation"
08 – 12 October 2012, Mumbai, India



Mumbai, India, 12 October 2012

1 Preamble

Urbanization is a major driver of global biodiversity loss and climate change. Now, in the beginning of this century, one of the main challenges will be to find innovative ways that urban ecosystems can reduce the ecological footprint and minimise vulnerability.

The theme of the 3rd URBIO conference 2012—Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation—represents one of most essential challenges for life on earth. Because cities are laboratories of innovation they have the potential to reconnect sustainable and liveable growth with best practices in effective natural resources management. The economies of scale, the concentration of decision-making power, the combination of skills and cultures that coalesce in a city, and the unique technological resources that are at the disposal of urban citizens make it feasible for these solutions to appear and to be replicated at a much larger scale.

The Rio + 20 Conference recently pointed to a dire need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for prosperous urban life while keeping nature as a partner. Or in the words of the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon: "if cities are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economic, social and environmentally sustainable societies".

2 Outcomes URBIO 2012

During the 3rd URBIO conference over 200 scientists and practitioners from more than 25 countries discussed the challenges for cities in the future in more detail. Six keynotes analyzed 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. 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.

Challenges related to climate change are particularly complex, and despite the fact that the world is becoming increasingly urban, the ways in which cities influence and are influenced by climate change have been considerably less explored than other areas of research on global warming. Given the current trajectory of emissions of greenhouse gases we will still, even with concerted action, experience more frequent and intense heat waves, drought, storms, floods, and sea-level rise. Cities are poised to bear the brunt of these effects, as they contain more than half of humanity in some of Earth's most vulnerable locations along coasts and rivers. At the same time, cities contribute 60–70 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, cities, and urban biodiversity and ecosystem services in particular, can and should play important roles in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

We therefore support:

- a) The launch of the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook (CBO) Policy and Plan of Action as a welcome opportunity to make clear the world-wide state of research on the influence of urbanization on biodiversity. It helps to demonstrate gaps in our knowledge and explore opportunities for further joint collaboration among scientists, urban planners, designers, policy makers and citizens.
- b) The 10 Cities and Biodiversity Outlook key messages:
 1. Urbanization is both a challenge and an opportunity to manage ecosystem services globally
 2. Rich biodiversity can exist in cities
 3. Biodiversity and ecosystem services are critical natural capital
 4. Maintaining functioning urban ecosystems can significantly enhance human health and well-being
 5. Urban ecosystem services and biodiversity can help contribute to climate-change mitigation and adaptation
 6. Increasing the biodiversity of urban food systems can enhance food and nutrition security
 7. Ecosystem services must be integrated in urban policy and planning
 8. Successful management of biodiversity and ecosystem services must be based on multi-scale, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder involvement

9. Cities offer unique opportunities for learning and education about a resilient and sustainable future
10. Cities have a large potential to generate innovations and governance tools and therefore can—and must—take the lead in sustainable development.

3 Challenges for the future

To match the challenges for the future it will be necessary to do the following:

- a) We must identify crucial knowledge gaps in the insights from the Cities and Biodiversity Outlook and develop a global research agenda on urban biodiversity, ecosystem services and design: that is, an implementation plan for scientists and stakeholders to match the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) “Plan of Action” adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) through decision X/22 in Nagoya in 2010. This will complement similar initiatives from cities, sub-national governments, parties and international agencies, and contribute to an improved array of local implementation mechanisms for the CBD’s Strategic Plan and its 20 “Aichi” targets.
- b) We should seek collaboration with other initiatives on long-term ecological research sites to establish a network of “Long-Term Social and Ecological Research Sites” in urban areas throughout the world.
- c) Science should have an essential and complementary role in the efforts of cities and local authorities. Scientific priorities should be informed by dialogue with public interests and community engagement. We should join forces to create more realistic plans for a sustainable and resilient future, coordinating and encouraging the actions of municipalities. We should collaborate to set sustainable standards for green economies, infrastructure, planning and design.
- d) We must better synchronize and coordinate the financial efforts for biodiversity between parties, states and local authorities.
- e) We must seek new funding sources for strengthening global environmental change research. In particular we should seek to develop a sustainability science targeting urban challenges regarding ecological footprints and stewardship of natural resources. We must create integrated funding strategies that recognize the central role of sub-national and local authorities.

4 Integrative conclusions

The “CBD Plan of Action on Sub-national governments, cities and other local Authorities on Biodiversity 2011 – 2020” and the solutions outlined at RIO+20, lay out crucial steps to halt the global loss of biodiversity and ensure that all our cities are green, liveable and prosperous places.

As a community of urban biodiversity and design professionals we will support further CBD initiatives on cities and biodiversity by:

- a) Sharing our knowledge and commitment through this conference and into the future.
- b) Promoting urban biodiversity and sustainable design through continuing dialogue with the CBD, linking future URBIO Network meetings with future COP meetings.
- c) Holding our next URBIO conference in 2014 in the Republic of Korea.
- d) Working in collaboration with the CBD on a plan for regular updates to the CBO, delivering assessments of the most recent and relevant science that supports urban planning and design.

On behalf of the:

The 3rd International Conference of the Network **UR**ban **BIO**diversity and Design **URBIO** 2012 “Urban Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation” 08 – 12 October 2012, Mumbai, India.

Prof. Dr. Haripriya Gundimeda (Organiser of URBIO 2012) and Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller (President of URBIO)

The Mumbai Declaration URBIO 2012 is available on the web www.hss.iitb.ac.in/urbio2012/,
www.fh-erfurt.de/URBIO, www.cbd.int



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