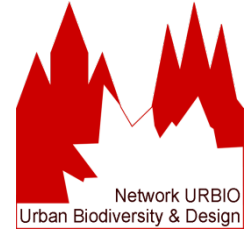




The Incheon Declaration - **URBIO** 2014

This declaration was submitted during the 4th International Conference of the Network **UR**ban **BIO**diversity and Design
URBIO 2014 “Cities and Water”
08 – 12 October 2014, Incheon, Korea



Incheon, Korea, 11 October 2014

1 Preamble

The challenges of urbanisation are profound, but so too are the opportunities, and solid scientific knowledge on biodiversity conservation and the value of nature for society and the economy is critical for addressing these challenges. The 4th URBIO conference, “Cities and Water – Conservation, Restoration and Biodiversity” focussed on water as a key resource for life on the planet exploring this with respect to biodiversity and its incorporation in urban planning and design.

2 Outcomes URBIO 2014

During the 4th URBIO conference over 400 scientists and practitioners from 20 countries presented research findings and discussed the challenges and solutions for the sustainability of water ecosystems in cities. Protecting biodiversity in cities and ensuring sustainable functioning of ecosystems and their services can make cities more resilient by reducing the risk of natural disasters, increasing human well-being, and improving the quality and supply of water and other natural resources. Investment in wetland and water management and restoration can support adaptation to climate change through landscape design and management practices that integrate urban biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Participation and collaboration between the URBIO network and all relevant stakeholders is necessary to ensure the effective uptake of scientific knowledge in practice and implementation of sustainable urban development. In order to support cities and local authorities in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets interaction between the scientific community, urban managers, planners, the private sector, policy makers, and citizens needs to be strengthened. It is especially important to gain an understanding of the needs of local authorities to make this transition to urban sustainability through informed decision-making. There is a need for a strong legal and policy framework to make this a reality. An important focus of every URBIO meeting is to include and build capacity among young scientists and practitioners.

3 Challenges and opportunities for the future

Based on the above outcomes the following challenges for the future must be addressed:

- a) Science should have an essential and complementary role in the planning and design of cities and providing critical information for local authorities in reaching the Aichi targets. Scientists and planners need to work together to create more realistic plans for a sustainable and resilient future, across multiple scales within municipalities.
- b) We need to collaborate to establish best practices for green economies, infrastructure, planning and design.
- c) We must develop a “Global Research Agenda on Urban biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Design” that would inspire scientists and stakeholders to create knowledge that would illuminate the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) “Plan of Action” and its 20 “Aichi” targets. We will continue to collaborate with ICLEI and ICLEI’s Cities and Biodiversity Centre to meet the needs of local authorities, focussing on improving communication between practitioners and researchers, as well as adapting scientific results into tangible guidance, tools and resources for cities.
- d) Conservation and restoration of ecosystems should be implemented to sustain urban biodiversity facing over-exploitation, habitat loss, and climate change. We should contribute to public policy and share knowledge and experience relevant to Local Bio-Diversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAPs).

- e) Scientific research on urban design and management practices should be translated into tools that can be used to develop and evaluate planning scenarios. We should establish collaborations between ecologists and planners to develop linkages between ecological data and planning tools.
- f) We will seek out and support other relevant international networks who support our mission.
- g) We will assist in the development of targets and indicators in the UN led process of Sustainable Development Goals relevant for urban areas.
- h) We will strive to raise funds for global environmental change research needs and create integrated funding strategies that recognize the central role of sub-national and local authorities.
- i) We will strive for a systematic and improved dialogue between scientists, land managers, city officials, civil society, and other city builders.
- j) We must establish practical methods to incorporate people's participation and collaboration in designing urban nature.

4 Integrative conclusions

The "CBD Plan of Action on Sub-national governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020" was endorsed by the Parties to the CBD and proposed a 2015 sustainable development agenda, laying 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 and relevant conferences and gatherings.
- b) Promoting urban biodiversity and sustainable design through continuing dialogue with the CBD and its partners, linking future URBIO Network meetings with future CBD COP meetings, as well as Biodiversity Summits for Local and Subnational Governments.
- c) Linking this Incheon Declaration and the "Gangwon/Pyeongchang Resolution on Cities and Subnational Governments for Biodiversity", which makes reference to the URBIO Conference 2014 and includes some key points from the 2014 URBIO Conference.
- d) Working in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and ICLEI on a global research agenda, delivering assessments of the most recent and relevant science that supports urban planning and design.
- e) Holding our next URBIO conference, titled "Cities, Biodiversity and Health", in Mexico in 2016, parallel with CBD COP 13.

On behalf of the:

4th International Conference of the Network URban BIOdiversity and Design URBIO 2014 "Cities and Water" 08 – 12 October 2014, Incheon, Korea.

Prof. Dr. Namchoon Kim (Organiser of URBIO 2014) and Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller (President of URBIO)

The Incheon Declaration URBIO 2014 is available on the web

<http://www.urbio2014.kr>, www.fh-erfurt.de/URBIO, www.cbd.int

