

REGREEN: "Fostering nature-based solutions for equitable, green and healthy urban transitions in Europe and China"



REGREEN
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Dear REGREEN followers!

This newsletter is the third newsletter from REGREEN addressed to both experts and non-experts and the general public to provide updates on our progress. This 3rd issue provides - in parallel to the project website - information on the latest news, reportings, upcoming events and other issues of interest.

REGREEN update – overview

By Marianne Zandersen/AU, December 2021. Photo: Parc des Beaumont, Montreuil. Gwendoline Grandin

REGREEN is now slightly more than half-way. Despite Covid lock-downs, partial openings and different regulations across Europe and China, a multitude of activities, research and outreach is happening. Below you'll find an overview of latest activities from REGREEN that you can read more about in this 3rd Newsletter.

[more](#)





REGREEN Field trips to NBS sites in Paris region

By Marc Barra, Institut Paris Region, Regional Biodiversity Agency. Translation: Marianne Zandersen, AU.

The Regional Biodiversity Agency of Paris region (ARB îdF, part of l'Institut Paris Region) is one of six Urban Living Labs in REGREEN. ARB îdF hosted the fifth REGREEN project meeting from September 13 to 17, 2021. Due to Covid restrictions, only the field trips could take place in Paris region while the project meeting was held purely online.

Themes for the field trips included flood expansion zone, parks under ecological management, wasteland, green roofs, and restored ecosystems. Several field visits were organized over the 3 days.

[more](#)

REGREEN Podcast

By Stine Casparij Kondrup & Marie Yvonne Dahlfelt, INTUGREEN.

As part of work package 8 Innovation and impact creation, [Intugreen](#) has launched the REGREEN Podcast. A podcast-series that explores the concept of Nature-based Solutions (NBS) and how NBS can help accelerate the transition towards equitable, green, and healthy cities in Europe and in China.

The aim of the REGREEN Podcast is to disseminate the knowledge and activities within the work packages and Urban Living Labs of the REGREEN project.

The REGREEN podcast was launched in August 2021, and four episodes have so far been released on [regreen-project.eu](#).

- Episode 1: Bringing nature to everybody
- Episode 2: ULL Aarhus - water challenges and afforestation projects
- Episode 3: Nature-based solutions and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Episode 4: ULL Paris Region - the Seine, the Eiffel Tower and the restoration of biodiversity (Original French version as well as dubbed version in English)

[more](#)



REGREEN

A podcast series about
nature-based solutions

THE REGREEN FACT SHEETS - FROM START TO FINISH



REGREEN

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

SDGs are incorporated in the cases depicted in all the fact sheets.



Image: Biotope City/Wien / GREENPASS

Regreen fact sheets - showcasing inspiring NBS from across Europe

By Roger Roca Vallejo & Daniela Rizi, iCLEI. Map by Julius Knopp, UFZ.

Showcasing inspiring examples of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) from cities around Europe to serve as a reference on NBS planning and implementation can be a common practice in some European projects. However, a description of the process to obtain the necessary data is not usually included in the final output. This differentiates REGREEN's fact sheets, as we show the process that was pursued to get to the end result! The fact sheets showcase 13 inspiring NBS applied case studies, covering the following topics: Biodiversity (two fact sheets: [1](#), [2](#)), Governance (two fact sheets: [1](#), [2](#)), [Health and Wellbeing](#), [Education](#), [Water Quality Improvement](#), [Flood Mitigation](#), [Noise Mitigation](#), [Heat Mitigation](#), [Air Quality Improvement](#), [Business Activation](#) and [Urban Design Elements](#). A guide range of NBSs case typologies are covered; such as green roofs, restoration projects, urban forests or artificial wetlands.

[more](#)

REGREEN Nature Solutions Platform launched

By Josip Beber/ZEZ.

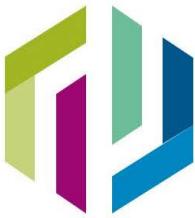
The REGREEN [Nature Solutions Platform](#) is now launched. It offers an innovative view of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and REGREEN activities. The platform shares insights, knowledge, and experience on NBS to SMEs, NGOs, cities, schools, and other interested communities. It is also an [aggregator of projects](#) where NBS owners can gain insights on crowdfunding and connect to possibilities of funding for their NBS. Citizens can get inspiration from existing NBS projects to invest and support the implementation of more Nature-based Solutions. Later on, Nature Solutions Platform will host an online decision support tool. This functionality will enable and support decision-making to implement NBS solutions with an outlook on REGREENs activities, and taking into account various dimensions of NBS (technology, socio-cultural, political, institutional, educational, economic, and business).

Living with Nature in Cities

Find out how harmony between nature and urban areas can bring healthier and more pleasant living in urban areas and offer resilience against climate change impacts such as extreme heat events or floodings.



Contact Us 



EUROPEAN URBAN RESILIENCE FORUM

Malmö, 19-20 October 2021

REGREEN At the EUROPEAN URBAN RESILIENCE FORUM 2021

By Vasileios Latinos, ICLEI Europe and Stine Kondrup, INTUGREEN.

The European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) has become widely known as the leading European platform for discussing climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and urban resilience, but also taking further the legacy of the Resilient Cities Congress series (which run from 2010 to 2019). This year, the EURESFO21 was hosted by the city of Malmö in Sweden, known for its pioneering climate measures and projects, with a specific focus on blue and green infrastructure.

[more](#)

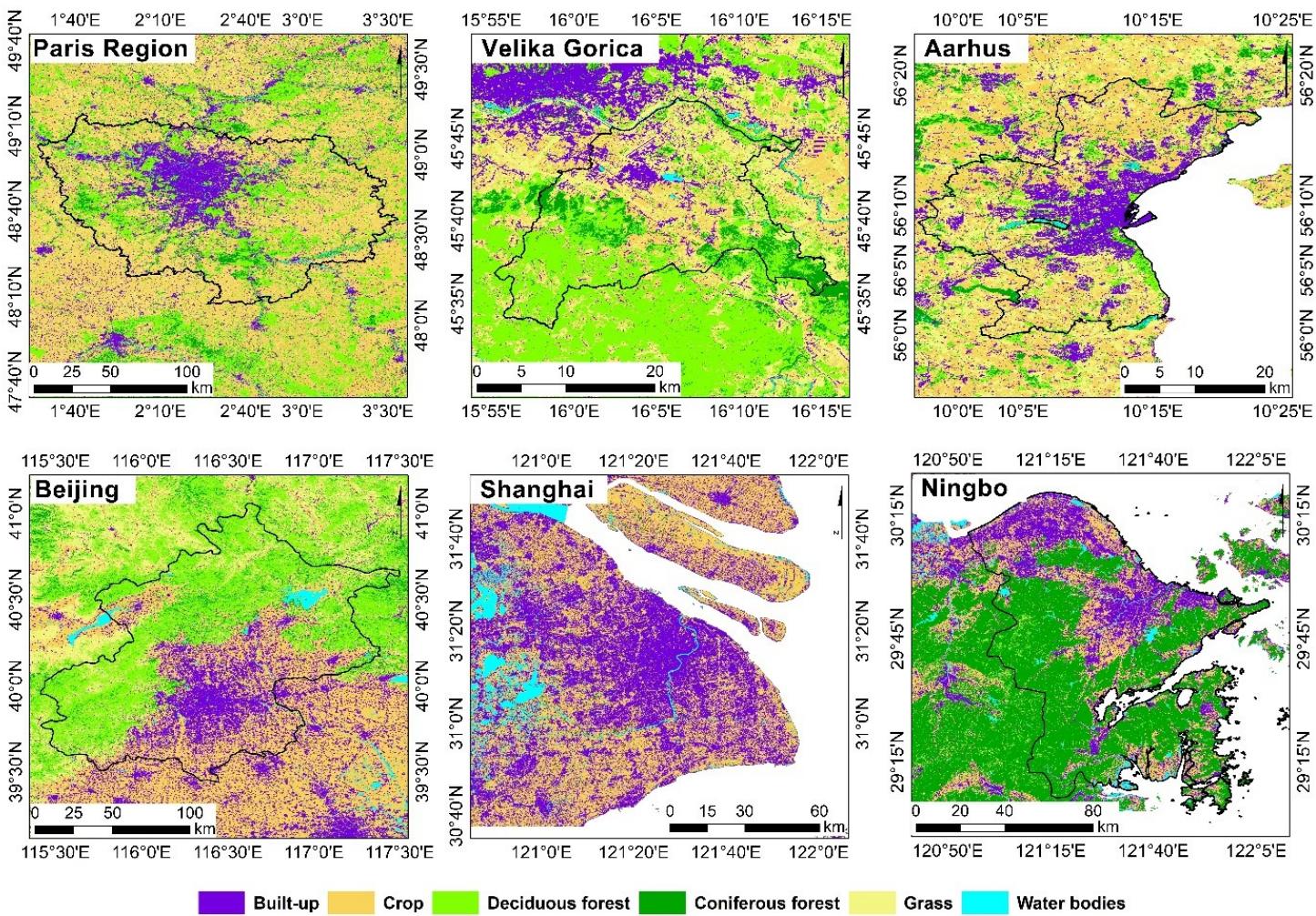
Video on urban wetland that combines flood risks, ecosystem protection and improves living conditions for citizens

By Marc Barra, IPR.

In order to mitigate the flood in the Vignois district in Gonesse (95), the SIAH (Syndicat Intercommunal d'Aménagement Hydraulique) of Croult and Petit Rosne has created a flood expansion area with a capacity of 55,000 m³. This urban wetland combines flood risk reduction, ecosystem protection and improved living conditions for citizens. ARB îdF collaborates with the SIAH, the Office for Insects and their Environment and the naturalist office EcologIE in order to carry out ecological monitoring of plants, butterflies, odonata, orthoptera, bats, birds, micromammals and plant-pollinators interactions. This video presents the characteristics of the floodplain and gives the first trends concerning the species observed. It is part of the communication by the SIAH as well as the programs carried by the ARB îdF: Territories committed to nature, Life ARTISAN, and H2020 REGREEN.

See the entire movie please click [here](#).





ES features mapping for the 6 ULLs at 3 different spatial scales

By Ellen Banzhaf/UFZ, Wanben Wu/Fudan University & Julius Knopp/UFZ.

To understand the major urban driver land cover/land use we undertake mapping at various scales and at different points in time. The central purpose of this scale-dependent monitoring is to capture ecosystem service features over time and in as great detail as possible.

At the urban scale of 30 meters ground resolution, we mapped land cover / land use over time to compare the urban dynamics among the 6 ULLs. This mapping product over decades is enabled by the long-term Landsat series, freely available earth observation data sources and Google Earth Engine (GEE).

[more](#)

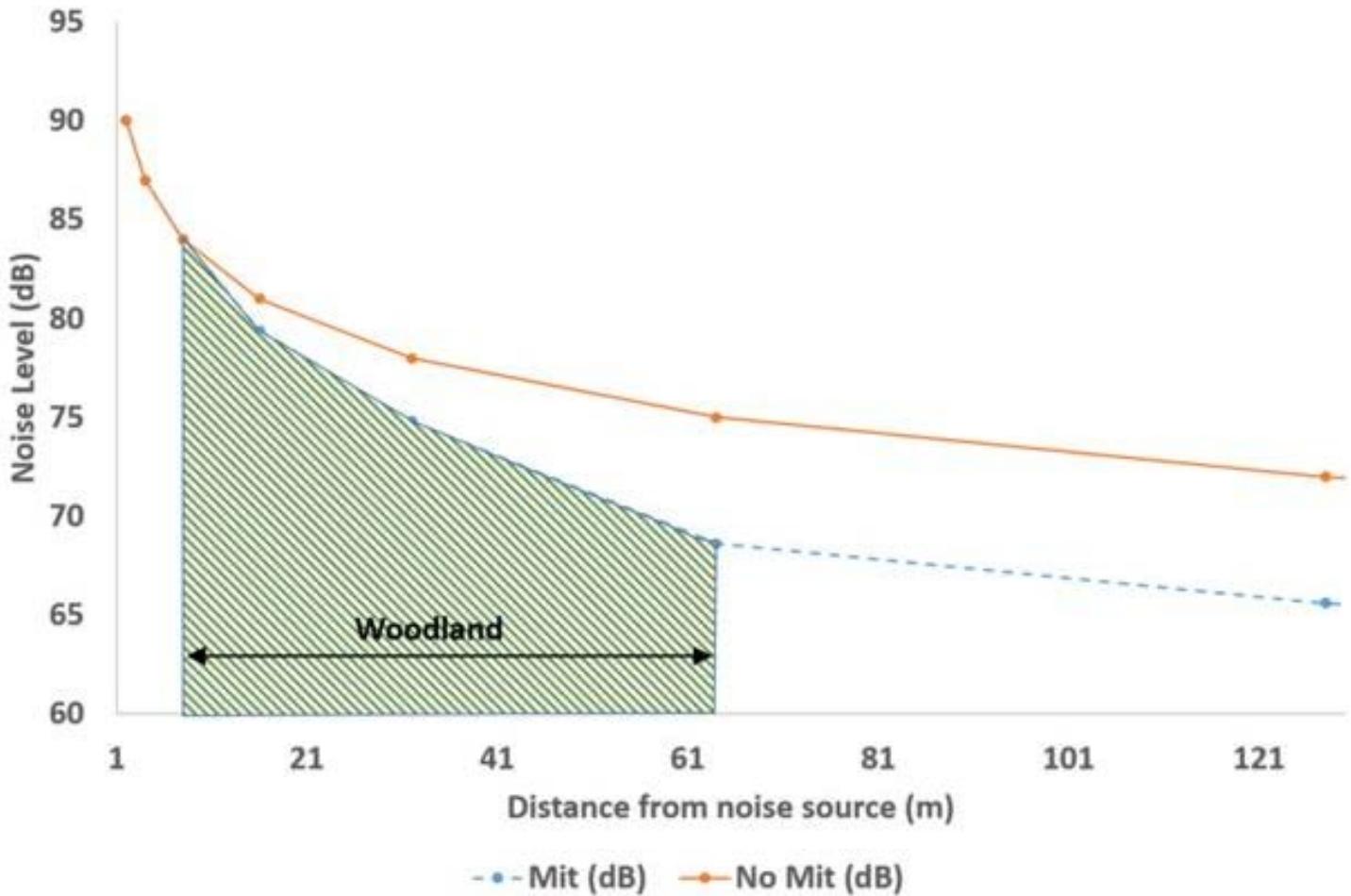
High resolution mapping for the city of Velika Gorica

By Julius Knopp, UFZ, Ellen Banzhaf, UFZ, Gordana Mikulcic Krnjaja, GVG, and Marko Ruzic, GVG.

The available remote sensing and spatial data for the different ULLs in REGREEN are far from consistent. Thus, the mapping routines for tasks drivers and pressures and mapping and modelling ecosystem services have to be adapted to each individual case. As for the ULL Velika Gorica, we solved the bottleneck by using high resolution satellite imagery acquired through ESA's third party programme in combination with a recent normalised digital surface model. This dataset represents Velika Gorica's surface with all its features, without any topographical information. This product gives the researchers and stakeholders an understanding of the different heights of objects such as houses or individual trees.

[more](#)





The location of NBS really matters – an example for noise mitigation

By Laurence Jones & David Fletcher, UKCEH.

Why does location matter ?

City authorities often set targets for nature based solutions, and this is also the case in our REGREEN urban living labs (ULLs). For example, Paris region has a defined target to support 100 projects to improve the quality of green spaces to increase biodiversity and their resilience to climate change, and the Seine-Saint-Denis department has a target to plant 30,000 new trees by 2030. In some cases, there are specific locations where an intervention is planned for a specific purpose.

[more](#)

Green Roofs: An Assessment of ecological benefits in the Paris Region

By Marc Barra & Hemminki Johan, IPR.

The Paris Region Institute and its biodiversity department ARB (Regional Biodiversity Agency) carried out a three-year study on 36 greenroofs. The study, called Grooves (for Green ROOfs Verified Ecosystem Services), ran from 2017 to 2019. The roofs concerned had varied typologies (extensive, semi-intensive, intensive and wildrof) and were spread over the dense urban territory of Paris and its region. The study was based on inventories of plants and invertebrates (including pollinators), and substrate samples to study soil pollution, micro-organisms and water retention capacity. The cooling effect of vegetation was also analyzed on 14 green roofs. The different axes of the study made it possible to show the ecological role of these new urban ecosystems, particularly in terms of floristic diversity – with 70% of native species -, faunistic and micro-organisms. These results made it possible to evoke recommendations to promote the reception of biodiversity in roofs and enhance ecosystem services.

[more](#)



BIODIVERSITY



Walkable floor maps

By Ellen Banzhof, UFZ, Sally Anderson, Jeppe Læssøe, Anne Jensen, AU, Signe Iversen, AAK.

Walkable floor maps consist of aerial photos / satellite images and, as such, present a static view of a study area. These maps become dynamic through the use of QR codes that tell stories about present and planned activities with respect to NBS. Such QR codes can be easily attached to the floor maps and renewed in an ongoing dynamic process. Combining static information on land cover or land surface at a detailed scale with dynamic QR codes on NBS projects supports the spatial understanding of scientists and other actors. By facilitating dialogue, walkable floor maps may serve as catalysts for various kinds of collaboration.

[more](#)

Educational activities and resources

By Sally Anderson/AU, Jeppe Læssøe/Jeplae, Gertrud Esbensen/AU, Stine C. Kondrup/Intugreen, Fredrika Mårtensson/SLU, Åsa Sang Ode/SLU, Simon Benateau/MNHN, Mara Sierra Jimenez/MNHN, Anne-Caroline Prevot, MNHN.

REGREEN works across a range of approaches on children's interaction with nature, with technology for nature-based learning and on citizen-science, participatory education and community planning. The following activities are ongoing.

[more](#)



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Greenopolis

By Stine Casparij Kondrup, INTUGREEN.

REGREEN will be launching the educational platform 'Greenopolis' in the beginning of 2022.

In Greenopolis, we follow the character e-Boti in its exploration of solutions to fight the consequences of climate challenges, like: loss of biodiversity, noise pollution, heat islands, flooding, and air pollution.

Greenopolis is an interactive educational material about sustainable urban development and nature-based solutions. Greenopolis is developed for school kids aged 8-12. The educational material includes a digital platform and a set of exercises to be used outside in urban nature.

The digital platform is playfully illustrated as an e-book, that pupils can read by themselves or teachers can show in the classroom.

The exercises are categorised in 4 different types:

- 1) Reflexions,

- 2) Movement & Senses,
- 3) Box of Creation, and
- 4) Exploration.

The Teacher Guide gives the teacher some background knowledge about the topics, and a guide to how to use the material and exercises.

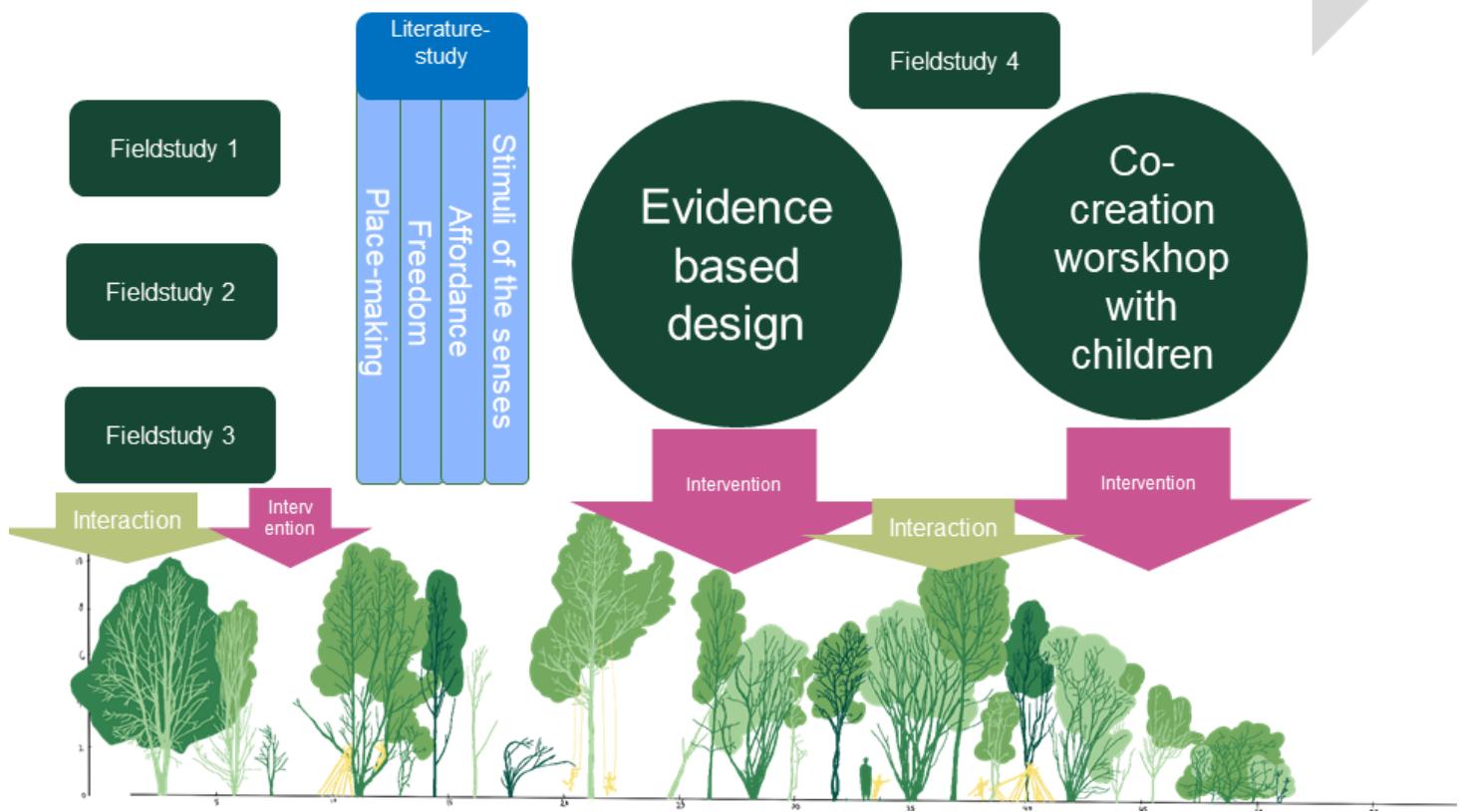
Greenopolis will be launched in English, Danish, and French.

Co-creation with children in the Alnarp Landscape Laboratory

By Frederika Mårtenson & Åsa Sang Ode, SLU.

The Alnarp Landscape Laboratory is a 1:1 experimental woodland at the SLU Alnarp campus in Sweden (partner in REGREEN). It is open and accessible for the general public and is often visited by schools and nurseries in the vicinity. Within an MSc thesis Josefina Ågren and Linnea Herngren explored how landscape architects can create places that contribute to children's contact with nature through the use of co-creation processes, see figure below. The process involved a school class with children aged 6 and took place over 3 months during October 2020 – January 2021. The co-creation process used as a starting point theories in environmental sciences about how children play and explore nature, where play is seen as a mean for children to understand their surroundings. Design for nature contact, therefore, means designing playscapes. Based on a literature study four factors was identified and that formed the basis for development of design principles and the co-creation process: i) stimuli of the senses, ii) freedom, iii) affordances and iv) place attachment. These factors are based on the interplay between children's nature experiences. During three different field studies, observations of the children's play in different parts of the landscape laboratory took place, identifying specific qualities and elements supporting each factor. Based on the observation evidence based design guidelines were identified and applied to the Lunden area. During a final workshop in the Alnarp Landscape Laboratory, observations of the children's interaction with the redesigned space took place, followed with a co-creation workshop with the children where the four factors were further enhanced through playful place making.

Design for nature connectedness





Using causal loop diagrams to develop complexity-informed hypotheses on the link between street trees and mental health

By Dr. Cornelia Guell, Senior Lecturer, University of Exeter, European Center for Environment and Human Health.

Many cities have ambitions to significantly increase the number of street trees. Paris, for example, plans to plant trees on a number of key sites across the city. The English government has a new Urban Tree Challenge Fund and Barcelona has a comprehensive plan for its network of street trees that aims for a ‘tree population that forms a real green infrastructure, achieving the maximum value and connectivity...’

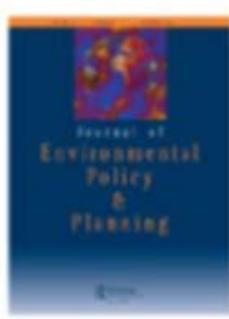
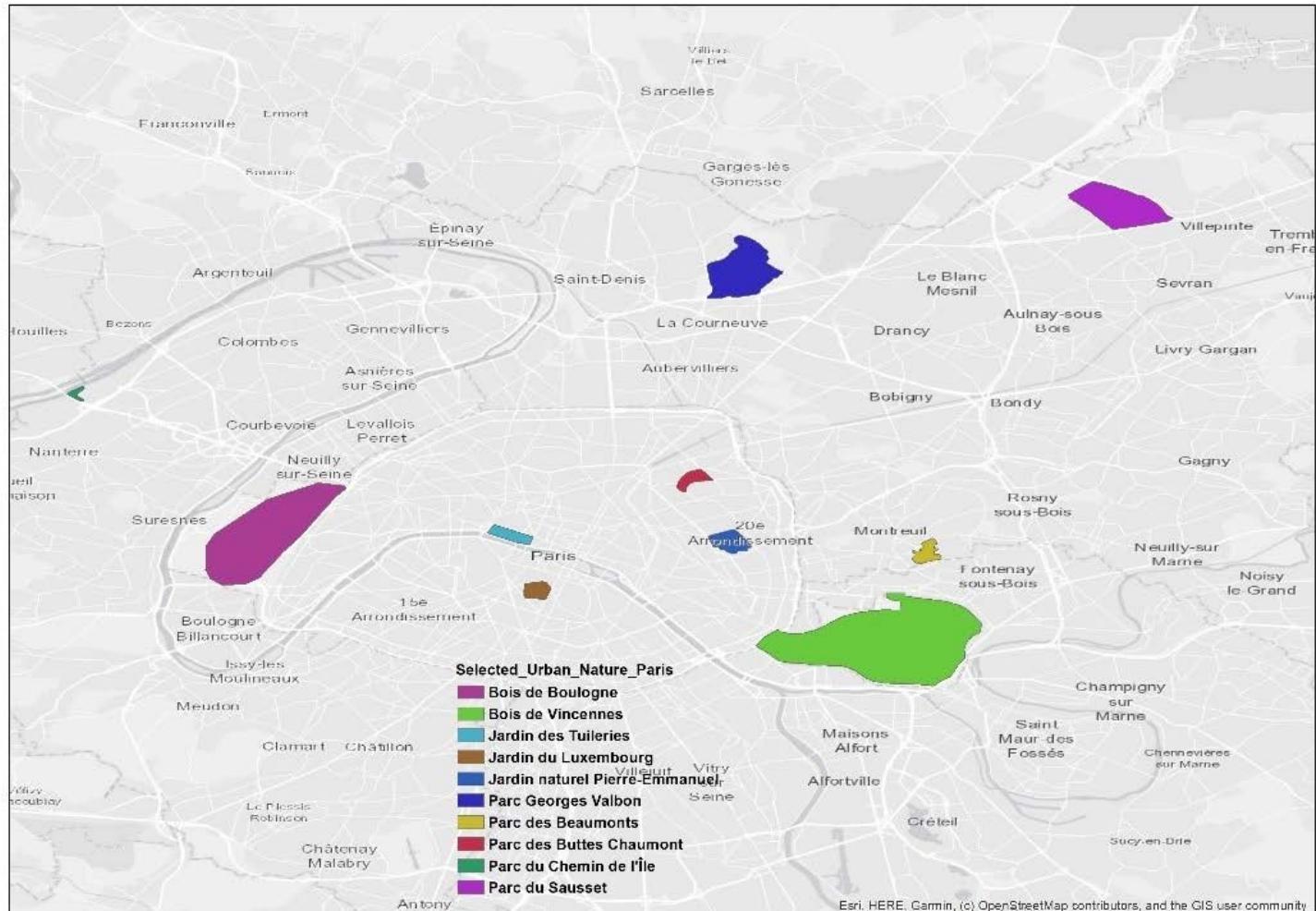
[more](#)

Ecological Momentary Assessment

By Prince Michael Amegbor & Clive Sabel, Aarhus University.

You may have heard green and blues spaces in urban areas have the capacity to improve mental health and wellbeing. Is that true for all urban residents – irrespective of their sociodemographic background – and do all types of NBS provide this perceived benefit? In REGREEN, we are designing a smartphone App to capture the momentary restorative (mental health) benefits of different types of urban natural environments on urban residents in the three EU and three Chinese ULLs. Up to 10 NBS environments per ULL in Europe have been selected to reflect a range of diverse purposes.

[more](#)



Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loj/joe20>

Urban governance and policy mixes for nature-based solutions and integrated water policy

Nick Kirsop-Taylor, Duncan Russel & Anne Jensen

Urban governance and policy mixes for nature-based solutions and integrated water policy

By Nick Kirsop-Taylor, UNEXE, Duncan Russel, UNEXE, Anne Jensen, AU.

Throughout the REGREEN project we have been learning that different approaches to governance and governing at the city-level produce different configurations or mixes of policies for promoting or operationalising urban nature-based solutions (NBS) to a range of policy problems.

The WP6 on governance in REGREEN explores these and other governance dynamics that take place in specific urban governing contexts and affect the success of urban NBS across the urban living laboratories participating in REGREEN. In a recent paper published Open Access in the [Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning](#) we explored how different mixes of policy for supporting and operationalising urban NBS in Europe are influenced by unique placed-based governance, culture, administrative dynamics. To address this, we systematically reviewed over hundred papers and whittled them down to around twenty to help us understand these dynamics. We analysed the systematically reviewed literatures through analytical frames centering on ‘institutional logics of operation’ and ‘administrative approaches’ and found that urban NBS policy and project experiments are shaped by logics of operation and administrative processes – and critically, that these political science-orientated dimensions of policy experiments might be playing a key role in influencing the success of urban NBS experiments. They also offered tantalising insights into the role of governance more broadly in promoting urban NBS – a subject that WP6 will be talking more about in the coming months and years.

The article is free to all to [download](#). Happy reading.

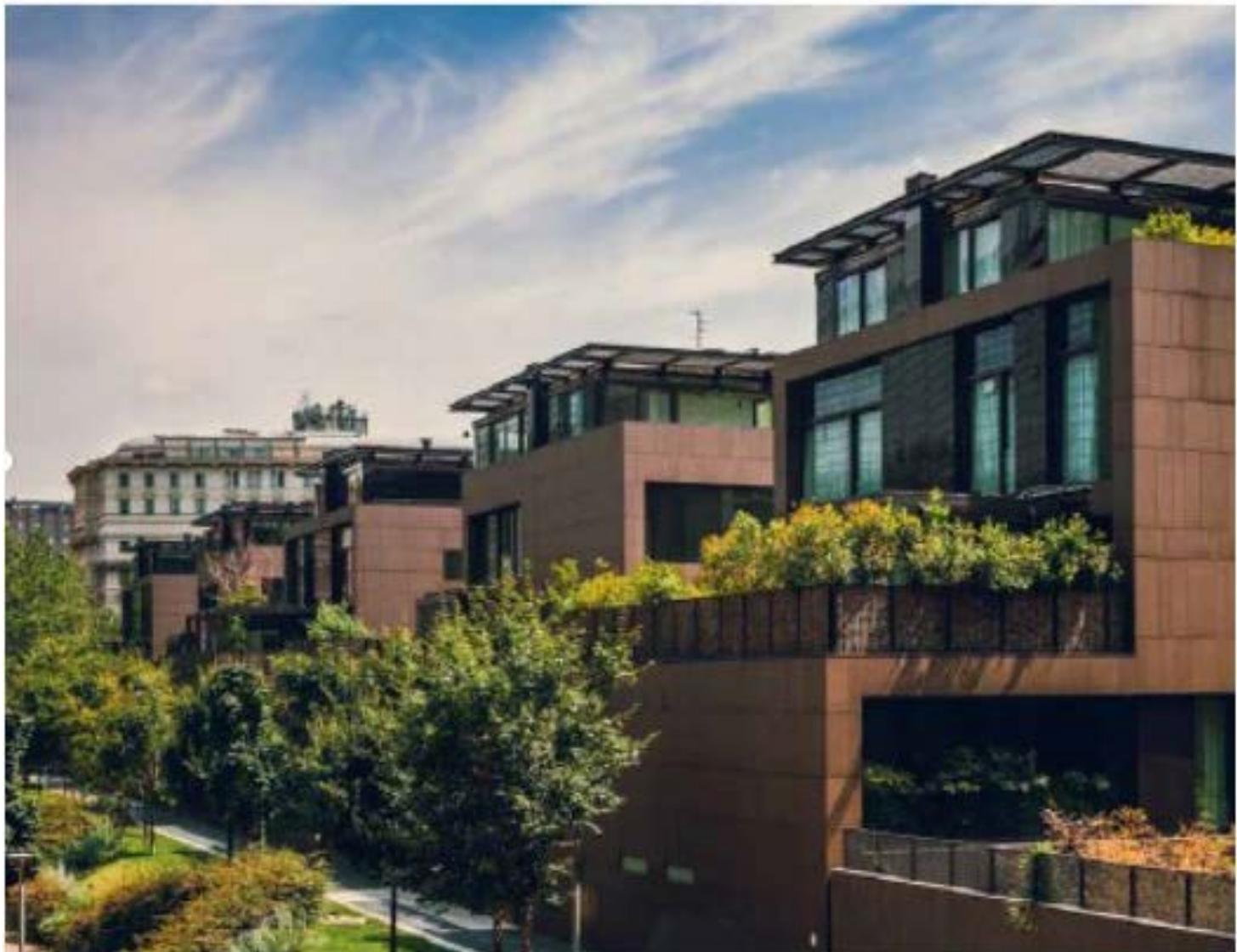
[The EEA Nature-based Solutions in Europe Report No 1/2021](#)

By Marianne Zandersen, Aarhus University.

Working with nature can help prevent the worst impacts of climate change, and biodiversity and ecosystem loss. The EEA report #1/2021 gathers and analyses policy, knowledge and practice from Europe in relation to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. It outlines i.a. the different concepts and terms developed in policy and sectoral discourses and in the scientific literature to describe approaches that work with nature and use nature as a tool to help address diverse societal challenges. It examines whether and how global and EU policy frameworks address the various nature-based solution options as tools for climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR). The report provides an overview of the scientific knowledge base on relevant extreme weather- and climate-related hazards, options for NbS for CCA and DRR, their multiple benefits, opportunities and limitations for implementation.

[more](#)

Nature-based solutions in Europe: Policy, knowledge and practice for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction



EVENTS



EVENT

ProgiReg MOOC Nature-based urban regeneration

1st November- 18th December 2021

How can we use nature to improve life in our cities? This course shares knowledge generated in urban Living Labs in Europe and China and will introduce you to co-designing, co-implementing and evaluating nature-based solutions for urban renewal with local communities. Learn how to set up your own nature-based regeneration strategy!.

[more](#)

Source: <https://www.edx.org/course/nature-based-urban-regeneration?index=product&queryID=d7fbe042162fb51f2c54f2ea582f19bc&position=1>

UrbanByNature Events - Chinese Stream



EVENT

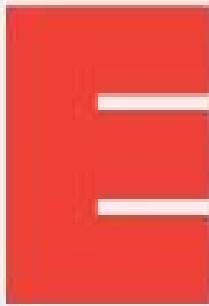
Urban By Nature Webinars China Stream

ongoing

The UrbanByNature programme is being brought to the four regional hubs via webinars and face-to-face workshops. The UrbanByNature streams for Brazil and the Caucasus regions are now completed, you can view past webinars for these streams on our [YouTube channel!](#)

[more](#)

Source: <https://connectingnature.eu/urbanbynature-events-chinese-stream>



**BRITISH
ECOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

12 - 15 December 2021

Liverpool ACC
Liverpool, UK

Ecology Across Borders 2021

Join us at our joint Annual Meeting with the French Society for Ecology and Evolution (SFE²).

EVENT

Ecology Across Borders 2021

10th - 15th December 2021, Liverpool, UK

Join us at our joint Annual Meeting with the French Society for Ecology and Evolution (SFE²).

[more](#)

Source: <https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/events/ecology-across-borders-2021/>



EVENT

From use case to business case: Lessons from TreeTracker

15th December 2021, Brussels, Belgium

Technologies are cool and all, but is there a business case for monitoring and managing nature-based solutions?

Join Dr. Nadina Galle, Ambassador of the Smart Tech for NBS Community, and Dirk van Riel, CEO of TreeTracker, as they discuss the use of mobile mapping data and deep learning algorithms to automatically detect trees and "smarten up" urban tree maintenance, enabling the calculation of the ecological and economic value of trees.

[more](#)

Source: <https://networknature.eu/use-case-business-case-lessons-treetracker>



EVENT

We Value Nature Dialogue II: Making valuing nature the new normal in business – What more needs to be done?

20th January 2022, Brussels, Belgium, Webinar

This is the second in a series of two virtual Dialogues designed to bring together the valuing nature community.

We will be looking towards the future and considering what future work and action is required to make valuing nature the new normal for business.

[more](#)

Source: <https://networknature.eu/we-value-nature-dialogue-ii-making-valuing-nature-new-normal-business-%E2%80%93-what-more-needs-be-done>



EVENT

2022 NATURA All-Hands Meeting (AHM)

15th - 18th February 2022, Malta, Malta

Join the Nature-based solutions for Urban Resilience in the Anthropocene (NATURA) network of networks for the 2022 All-Hands Meeting in Malta. The meeting will provide an opportunity for members to connect, share knowledge and present research.

[more](#)

Source: <https://natura-net.org/events/vahm2022>



Ecocity World Summit

2022 FULLY ONLINE, 22-24 February

EVENT

Ecocity World Summit

22nd - 24th February 2022, online

The Ecocity World Summit leadership has made the difficult decision **to convert the Onsite and Online Ecocity 2021 World Summit to a fully virtual conference**. Based on careful monitoring of conditions in The Netherlands, the neighboring countries of our participants, and in discussions with local health authorities, we have concluded that COVID-19 infections are not likely to abate before the conference's original dates.

[more](#)

Source: <https://ecocity-summit.com/>



EVENT

The Nature of Cities Festival 2022

29th - 31st March 2022, online

TNOF Festival pushes boundaries to radically imagine our cities for the future. A virtual festival that spans 3 full days with programming across all regional time zones and is provided in multiple languages. A core philosophy of the festival is to foster inclusivity and lower barriers to participation. The festival focuses on facilitating transdisciplinary dialogue, small group workshops, arts engagement, and fostering a collaborative spirit around solutions for how to build cities that are better for nature and all people.

[more](#)

Source: <https://tnoc-festival.com/wp/>



UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

COP 15 - CP/MOP 10 - NP/MOP 4

Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
KUNMING · CHINA

EVENT

UN CBD Biodiversity Conference COP 15 Main Segment

25th April - 8th May 2022, Kunming, China

The first part of the meetings will take place virtually from 11 to 15 October 2021, with the second part reconvening in face-to-face meetings in Kunming, China from 25 April to 8 May 2022.

The Secretariat remains committed to ensuring the successful and timely preparation of COP-15 and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols. As such, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has considered and approved revised dates for the following meetings:

- [Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
- Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#)
- Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the [Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization](#)

After extensive consultations, and with the view to provide political momentum for the preparations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, a decision has been made to convene the meetings in two parts. This will allow time for continued negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

[more](#)

Source: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022>



EVENT

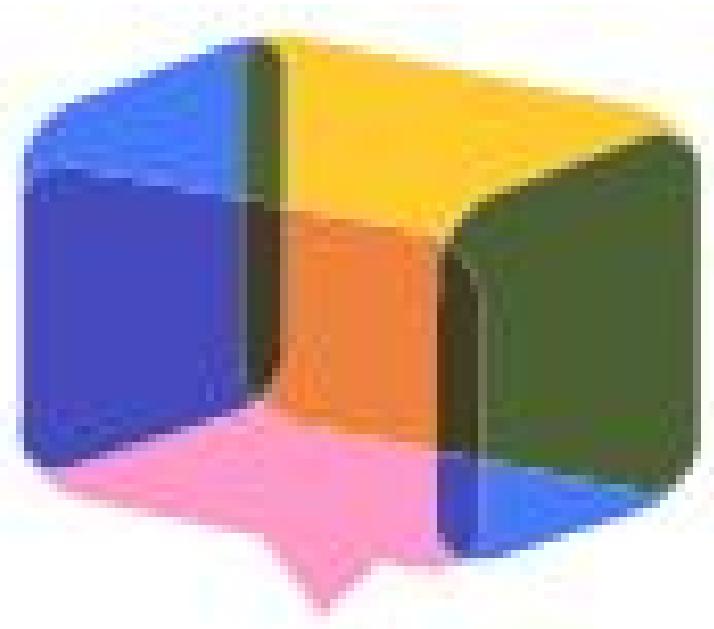
7th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities & Subnational Governments

Postponed – new date TBC, Kunming, China

[more](#)

Source: https://cbc.iclei.org/cool_timeline/7th-global-biodiversity-summit-of-local-and-subnational-governments/

WORLD URBAN FORUM



EVENT

World Urban Forum

26th - 30th June 2022, Katowice, Poland

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization. WUF11 will be held in the Polish city of Katowice from 26-30 June 2022.

[more](#)

Source: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org/>

REGREEN 3rd project meeting will be held in Velika Gorica, Croatia on 16-18 May 2022.

DISCLAIMER

The REGREEN Newsletter is published periodically to inform about the project progress and engage community interested in nature-based solutions. You are welcome to send in any topics you are interested in or have questions about.

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Contact:

REGREEN Project Coordinator
Marianne Zandersen, Aarhus University
mz@envs.au.dk

REGREEN Dissemination Manager
Andreas Türk, JOANNEUM RESEARCH Forschungsgesellschaft MbH
andreas.tuerk@joanneum.at

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the grant agreement [No 821016](#)



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