

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

Dear REGREEN followers!

This newsletter is the first of its kind out of a series of newsletter issues of the project REGREEN addressed to a bigger audience for both experts and non-experts and the general public to provide updates on the project progress. This first issue introduces the project, the project's objectives, the consortium partners and provides contact points to obtain further information of the project.

More details on our project can be found on our webpage.



### REGREEN accelerates transition towards green, healthy and equitable cities! Get to know REGREEN project!

*By Pia Frederiksen & Marianne Zandersen, January 2020*

The European project REGREEN, entitled "Fostering nature-based solutions for equitable, green and healthy urban transitions in Europe and China" is funded by the European Horizon 2020 programme. The project focusses on the present and near-future challenges that cities are faced with, such as climate change impacts (flooding, heat islands), air pollution, and biodiversity decline, and how Nature-based solutions (NBS) can address these challenges in new ways.

NBS involve approaches to planning and management of the urban land area, buildings and other urban elements that bring more nature into the cities. NBS actions and interventions comprise new, restored or managed ecosystems that alleviate and mitigate urban challenges.

### Field trip #1 - visiting Aarhus' neighbourhood applying NBS

*Photos by Mira Rindsig Jensen, October 2019*



Our REGREEN partner, Aarhus Municipality had planned an excellent excursion for the consortium. Thursday 24. October, we set off in a bus, where we were informed about the sites to visit – all demonstrating how the municipality, together with Aarhus Water and Sewage Supply met the challenges identified for the city.



### About REGREEN Urban Living Labs

The three European Urban Living Labs (ULLs) -Aarhus, Paris region and Velika Gorica – form the basis for many of the activities that are taking place within REGREEN, serving as testbeds for developed methods and tools. During the REGREEN kick-off meeting in Aarhus, the three ULL coordinators met with all other partners to discuss the activities that will be taking place within REGREEN and to see how that could be aligned with the focus and interest of each urban administration.

### REGREEN 2nd project meeting to be held virtually and save some CO2 emissions

After the kick-off meeting in Aarhus in October 2019, REGREEN project partners will meet virtually on 21-22/4 2020 in lieu of an in-person meeting in Paris due to the COVID-19 situation. The 'real meeting' in Paris, the 3rd project meeting, is planned from 15-16 of September 2020.



### REGREEN attending sister projects' events

*Photo by Vasileios Latinos, ICLEI; Urban EU-China Final Event, Brussels, December 2019*

December was a busy month for REGREEN team! Right before the start of holidays season, 2 must attend events being of high relevance for REGREEN, took place in Brussels. Nature4Cities, one of H2020 NBS focused projects operating for 3 years now, organised an interactive event wait aim to reveal and share its "Tools, methods and guides to renature cities" with broader group of interested stakeholders outside their consortium and affiliated cities.

### ULLs facing severe challenges and starting to take actions

**PARIS** - Although urbanization has slowed down over the last few year, the mean land take is still high (840 hectares per year) and occurs mostly on agricultural land. Moreover, half of wetlands and aquatic environments have shut down over the 20th century, grasslands and heathlands have decreased substantially, hedges and copses have almost disappeared in agriculture landscapes.



### Bring back the nature to where the people are, re-green our cities

*By Sandra Vlašić, Green Energy Cooperative, November 2019*

It is crystal clear, we must adapt to climate change. It is not the question anymore can we do it, but how to do it? One way, so dear to me as a biologist is to learn from nature and bring it back closer to where we live, where the heart is - to our cities. To clean air. To drainage heavy rain waters.

### China and Nature-based solutions

*By Richard Hardiman, January 2020*

China is co-lead, together with New Zealand, of the Climate Action Summit's Nature-based Solutions (NBS) action area and Mr. Xie Zhenhua, former head of China's climate change office announced nine action areas at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit held in New York, 23 September 2019.



### 2020 and beyond, a decisive decade for biodiversity

*By Vasileios Latinos, ICLEI, January 2020*

A new report exploring the future of cities released by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre states that public space makes up 2-15 percent of land in European city centres. Their 'greenness' has increased over the last 25 years – by a total of 38 percent - with an average of 18 square metres of publicly-accessible green space now available per inhabitant.

### EVENT ADAPTATION FUTURES New Delhi, India 27-30 April 2020

TERI will co-host Adaptation Futures 2020 with the World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP) in Delhi from April 27-30, 2020. As a premier event in the global adaptation spectrum, Adaptation Futures is a unique platform to facilitate a dialogue towards action oriented solutions from a diverse range of stakeholders that includes academics, practitioners, scientists and policy makers across the world.



There is a significant need for international cooperation in meeting

the global goal of adaptation with an aim of enhancing adaptive strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability under the Paris Climate Agreement. In this context, Adaptation Futures 2020 will be an ideal opportunity for India to give visibility to the adaptation requirements of developing countries, and generate a significant dialogue around actionable solutions.

source: <https://www.teriin.org/event/adaptation-futures-2020>



#### EVENT

### EUROPEAN URBAN RESILIENCE FORUM Malmö, Sweden 27-28 May 2020

Since 2013 **European Urban Resilience Forum** - a European initiative driven by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the European Environment Agency offers a unique exchange platform where city representatives and stakeholders from various local and regional institutions come together to discuss strategies and actions for adapting to climate change and building urban resilience. In 2020, all those seeking to shape a climate-resilient future for our cities and regions are once again invited to take part in the discussion and meet in Malmö on the 27th and 28th of May 2020. The Forum will keep its informative, open and interactive character and 'Powerpoint-free' format. Participants are encouraged to share experiences and points of view on diverse topics, tackling existing challenges in local urban adaptation, while exploring potential solutions and opportunities for future collaboration.

source: <https://urbanresilienceforum.eu/>

#### EVENT

### CBD COP 15 Kunming, China 15-28 October 2020

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will host the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China, on 15-28 October 2020.



The conference will consist of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Cartagena Protocol COP/MOP10), and the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol COP/MOP4).

CBD COP15 will review the achievement and delivery of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It is also anticipated that the final decision on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be taken, together with decisions on related topics such as capacity building and resource mobilization.

As part of the process to develop the post-2020 framework, negotiations will be held in the context of an open-ended intersessional working group. The first working group meeting met in Nairobi, Kenya, on 27-30 August 2019. The second meeting will be held in Kunming, China, on 24-28 February 2020 and the third meeting is expected to convene on 27-31 July 2020 in Colombia.

Additionally, the Convention's other intersessional and subsidiary bodies, including the Working Group on Article 8(j), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) will address aspects of the post-2020 framework of relevance to their mandates.

source: <http://sdg.iisd.org/events/2020-un-biodiversity-conference>



#### EVENT

### EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES Brussels, Belgium 5-9, October 2020

The European Week of Regions and Cities is an annual four-day event during which cities and regions showcase their capacity to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local and regional level for good

European governance.

source: [https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/home\\_en](https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/home_en)

#### EVENT\_

### 9th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TOWNS Mannheim, Germany 30 September – 2 October 2020



Local transformation needs to be brought to the next level in all aspects of society. Europe needs solutions for major environmental, economic and social challenges!

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the City of Mannheim will bring together local and regional leaders, European and international institutions and some of the brightest minds working on cutting edge research, businesses and the civil society to forge a more sustainable Europe.

source: <https://conferences.sustainablecities.eu/mannheim2020>



#### EVENT\_

### CONNECTING NATURE ENTERPRISE SUMMIT Poznan, Poland 8-9 July

The organizers call to join the inaugural edition of the Connecting Nature Summit Series as they host the first Connecting Nature Enterprise Summit in Poznań. The organizers want you and your nature-based enterprise to be a part of it. Connect, learn and share your ideas about the challenges and opportunities facing this fast-growing sector.

source: <https://connectingnature.eu/enterprise-summit>

#### EVENT\_

### IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS Marseille, France 11-19 June 2020



The **IUCN World Conservation Congress** is where the world comes together to set priorities and drive conservation and sustainable development action. The event has three main components: The Members' Assembly, where IUCN Members vote on priority actions; the Forum, a global marketplace of conservation science and innovation; and the Exhibition, where exhibitors can showcase their work to Congress participants and the public.

source: <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/>



#### EVENT\_

### EU GREEN WEEK Brussels, Belgium 1-5 June 2020

**The EU Green Week** will put the spotlight on biodiversity, in the context of this broader ecological crisis. It will call for urgent action, explore possible pathways for change, and examine how a range of EU policies like the European Green Deal can help protect, restore and sustainably manage nature, leaving room for it to recover and thrive.

The programme of the EU Green Week conference in Brussels will include a series of sessions dedicated to the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Emerging findings from the evaluation support study will be shared, giving the stakeholder community an opportunity to react, share views and experiences, and to discuss the achievements, factors of success, barriers to implementation as well as progress towards the targets. This input will be taken into consideration in the finalisation of the evaluation support study.

This year's EU Green Week will also act as a milestone on the path to the COP 15 conference in Kunming, China, in October 2020,

where world leaders will adopt a new 10-year action plan for biodiversity – a new global deal for people and nature.

source: <https://www.eugreenweek.eu>

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## DISCLAIMER



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The REGREEN Newsletter is published periodically to inform about the project progress and engage the 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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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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