

Title of the symposium:

Planning with nature for sustainable landscape development: lessons-learned from around the world

Detail of organizer(s):

Responsible

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Co-organizer

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Symposium abstract

Planning with nature for sustainable landscape development can be understood as developing integrated strategies that consider nature-based solutions (NBS). Such solutions are actions which are inspired by, supported by, or copied from nature to address societal challenges such as the prominent sustainable development goals (SDGs). By harnessing ecosystem processes, NbS shall not only alleviate challenges and contribute to the SDGs, but also induce several co-benefits to human well-being. In addition, NbS are claimed to often be more cost-effective than technical alternatives.

For many NBS, a successful implementation requires transdisciplinary planning and design at the landscape scale, integrating information from various disciplines and involving diverse actors. Supported by initiatives from IUCN, the European Commission, the US Army Corps of Engineers and others, an increasing number of projects are currently underway around the world which take up and apply the idea of identifying, planning and implementing nature-based solutions.

The objective of this symposium is to synthesize the emerging knowledge and experiences in planning with nature and NBS at the landscape scale. In particular, we are interested in empirical studies focusing on theoretical categorization and synthesis of NBS, on provision of spatial information relevant for planning, on approaches for identifying and integrating relevant actors in the planning process, on the creation, assessment and valuation of nature-based and technical solution options regarding their contribution to the alleviation of challenges and the attainment of SDGs. Finally, we are interested in potential impacts the planning processes had in practice and on the governance structure ensuring the implementation of NBS.

How your symposia will improve landscape ecology science?

The symposium will improve landscape ecology science by advancing scientific understanding of approaches for and effects of landscape planning to identify, design and implement NBS at the landscape scale in Asia, Europe, America, and beyond. Nature-based solutions are a topical theme in the nature conservation and sustainable development discourses, and landscape ecology and landscape planning can arguably play a key role in

helping to identifying and designing such solutions. The symposium will lead to an improved understanding of nature-based solutions from a landscape ecological perspective as well as the requirements and opportunities of planning them in different governance contexts around the world.

Broad thematic areas

Broad thematic areas 1st choice: Landscape planning

Broad thematic areas 2st choice: Ecosystem services

Free Keywords

Landscape planning; Nature-based solutions; Sustainable development goals; Governance; International comparison

Outcomes of symposium

Special issue in a scientific journal (to be negotiated)

Notes

Additional outcome - a joint perspective paper (if sufficient interest and support exist among participants)