



European conference on innovative financing for creating green cities

26th – 27th March 2019

Manchester City Football Club, Manchester, UK

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Interactive training sessions

Training Session: New developments in decision-support tools for siting and valuing green infrastructure. Perrine Hamel, Livable Cities Program Lead, [Natural Capital Project](#)

Urban nature-based solutions have great potential to foster the transition to sustainable and resilient cities. Yet there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution and cities need tools to understand which solutions will bring the highest benefits at different scales. The goal of this session is to share new developments in decision-support tools for siting and valuing nature-based solutions, with a particular focus on the open-source InVEST software developed by the Natural Capital Project. The half-day session will include: i) learning exchange on existing decision-support tools and their application; ii) deep dive into InVEST tools (e.g. valuing stormwater retention, urban cooling, and recreation services) with applications in France and China; and iii) an interactive discussion on barriers and opportunities for municipalities to use such decision-support tools.

Training Session: Solving the Finance Puzzle? Designing new business models for urban nature based solutions. Laura Tozer, Postdoctoral Research Associate, [Durham University](#)

In the first part of this session we will hear from a range of speakers about their experience in solving the finance puzzle for nature-based solutions in order to identify promising examples of best practice and to share key lessons about the opportunities and challenges for creating business models and finance arrangements that work on the ground. In the second part of this session, we will explore how to find practical ways of designing and implementing the business models and financing required to realise the potential of nature-based solutions. In this interactive session, we will work with different business models that have shown the potential to support urban nature-based solutions and explore the different pieces of the puzzle needed to create the potential for securing investment. Small groups will experiment with diverse ways in which these could be bought together to find new approaches to enable cities to work with nature to address their sustainability goals.

Workshop sessions

Workshop Session: Shaping the business case on Nature-Based Solutions: From value to valorisation. Tom Kools, Project Lead Natural Capital and Biodiversity, [Nature^Squared](#)

Nature-based solutions can be vital for addressing many of the challenges that cities are currently facing in ways that benefit many stakeholders. However, there are very limited existing arrangements to channel funding toward (re-) greening. Municipalities are now often paying for implementation of nature-based solutions, while society at large benefits. A pivotal step for upscaling nature-based solutions is therefore to increase knowledge on how they can be economically valued, and how potential stakeholders can (co-) invest in the replenishment of these urban ecosystem services. This workshop aims to narrow this knowledge gap by training participants in the concepts of economic valuation methods, (paying for) urban ecosystem services, and an integrated landscape approach on how packaged multiple revenue streams can collectively shape a feasible business case. After the workshop, participants will:

- Be familiar with the concept of (paying for) urban ecosystem services and Green Urban Business Cases
- Be able to identify the most important ecosystem services relevant to re-greening initiatives
- Have a grasp of the latest scientific social, economic and ecological benefits related to relevant ecosystem services
- Recognise the most important economic valuation methods, their usage and translate these insights to monetise ecosystem services
- Have interactively practiced how to identify relevant stakeholders that might be willing to finance nature-based initiatives such as a city park or green roofs
- Have drawn conclusions from several (European) best-practices on how to finance nature-based solutions

Workshop Session: Creating a Water Safe and Attractive City. Wen Mei Dubbelaar, Director of Water Management, [Arcadis China](#)

The Chinese Sponge Cities programme aims to ensure that by 2030 80% of each Chinese city has 'sponge' functions to absorb and store rainwater, based on a pilot programme that requires that 20% of the built area of each pilot district in the 30 participating cities has sponge functions by 2020. In the city of Wuhan, several pilot projects have already been completed in the context of the Sponge Cities pilot phase. For example, the Yangtze River Embankment Rehabilitation Project has incorporated green spaces, including buffer strips, swales and rainwater gardens, into a 7.5 km stretch of the Yangtze River bank to reduce flooding, waterlogging and accumulation of pollutants. Based on the project experiences that Arcadis gained in China, including with the Sponge City Programme and its application in the city of Wuhan, and internationally, this session will explain how important urban water management is when planning and building a city. It will also discuss how to use green infrastructure to help make a city more water safe and at the same time more attractive.

Workshop Session: System mapping demonstration session – tools for cities for financing nature-based solutions. Cristian Matti, Transitions Hubs Lead, [EIT Climate-KIC](#)

This workshop presents insights on how new practices and visual tools facilitate the application of participatory methods by combining science and practice for place-based system mapping processes. Participatory action research and knowledge management are jointly implemented on the elaboration of consensual systemic diagnostics and action plans from a system perspective within unstructured and complex urban contexts. The collective construction and consensus are key concepts applied to explore whether simple notions of system innovation can be collectively created to foster new practices in a multi-stakeholder setting. The method developed by the [Transitions Hub](#) has been widely applied in [EIT Climate-KIC](#) programs and projects as well as participatory process in several EU countries. This lab session will include a participatory exercise based on an adapted version of Ocean of Opportunities/[Empty Spaces](#) tool from [Visual Toolbox for System Innovation](#) that allow data gathering from concepts maps and further codification and analysis for creating dashboard posters, which will be shared with all the participants in one month's time.

Workshop Session: Blue-green infrastructure - Practical guidance for its design, construction and maintenance. Tony Williams, President, [International Federation of Landscape Architects Europe](#).

This workshop will focus on the theme of financing, resilience in cities, and the development of nature based solutions and opportunities in both rural and urban areas, ensuring interconnectivity between ecosystems and how we can respond as landscape architects in relation to climate change and will provide some positive examples of how we can:

- a) include Nature Based Solutions (NBS)/Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) in new infrastructure at all project scales and ensure the inclusion of citizen science along with the avid gardener to the benefit of all; and
- b) 'retrofit' urban and rural (and peri-urban) areas to include NBS/BGI and assist in ensuring resilience to climate change and to be a part of our public space networks and the greater landscape.

Workshop Session: Exploring nature-based solutions financing approaches and knowledge needs from a city perspective based on practical cases from Hamburg, London and Turin. Bettina Wilk, Project Officer Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure, [ICLEI](#)

Description of the workshop: In this session participants will explore different ways of financing nature-based solutions at local level. Social Finance and the City of Glasgow share approaches (e.g. NBS Business Model Canvas developed in the European project Connecting Nature) for capturing the value of benefits delivered by nature-based solutions. Knowing this information helps in identifying and blending funding sources from public funds, grants and earned income. Attendees will then explore the business and investment case for specific nature-based interventions under varying circumstances by applying these approaches to one of three practical cases of their choice from Hamburg, London or Turin. This session features work and local implementation activities from the European projects CLEVER Cities, proG!reg and Connecting Nature.

Workshop Session: Best practices for developing natural capital accounts for the London Boroughs – informing green space strategy and financing. Duncan Royle, Natural Capital Accountant, [Eftec](#)

Urban green spaces are facing increasing pressures from population growth, and a tightening of public funding. There is an urgent need to understand and quantify the benefits of urban greenspace and to whom these benefits flow. This case study of applying natural capital accounting within several London Boroughs, illustrates how accounting information can inform green space strategy – prioritising the right benefits in the right place, and informing approaches to looking for sources of innovative financing. Specific objectives include:

- Understanding the relationship between natural capital assets, the ecosystem services they provide and the evaluation of these benefits to end users,
- How accounting formats can enable effective presentation of natural capital benefits and costs to inform decision making,
- How greater understanding of benefit flows aids the strategy for exploring alternative sources of finance.

Workshop Session: Building the business case for nature-based solutions using economic valuation: A step-by-step guide based on the proposed Northern Gateway regeneration project in Manchester. Jurgen Vermeulen, Senior Consultant and Cluster Lead Environment, [Trinomics](#)

In this workshop, Trinomics will let the participants experience how to analyse nature-based solutions from an economic perspective. The workshop is based on the participants creating parts of the economic framework themselves and taking them step-by-step through an economic valuation process, to see how the valuation of economic benefits helps to design the business case for nature-based solutions. From there, the next step towards a financing strategy for that business case will be built together with the participants. This is being done on the basis of an actual nature-based regeneration project that is currently planned to be developed in Manchester (the site will be visited on Wednesday the 28th) – the [Northern Gateway Regeneration Project](#), which will be introduced by the Project Developer and Manchester City Council. At the end of the workshop you will have...

- Learnt how to view a green infrastructure project from an economic perspective
- Learnt how to strengthen the business case for urban green infrastructure projects
- Learnt how to build a strategy to attract financing on the basis of the economic valuation of the green infrastructure project
- Been busy thinking and discussing yourself together with your fellow participants for the most part of the 1.5h session!

Plenary sessions

Plenary Session: The Greater Manchester Natural Capital Investment Plan. Krista Patrick, Natural Capital Coordinator, [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)

Under the leadership of Mayor Andy Burnham, Greater Manchester is growing in its status as a leading green city region with an ambition to be one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old. This is supported by its designation as the 'Urban Pioneer' for the [Government's 25 Year Environment Plan](#) testing new tools and methods for investing in and managing the environment. This seminar will provide an overview of the [Greater Manchester Natural Capital Investment Plan](#) which has recently been developed and is the first of its type for a UK city region. Greater Manchester Combined Authority's natural capital lead, Krista Patrick, will outline the investment priorities and the actions to put this into practice, including the establishment of an Investment Readiness Fund and priority finance models. Key questions to consider as part of the session will include; what do we mean by investment, why investment in natural capital is needed, what are the barriers to investment, what are the solutions such as Investment Readiness Fund and what else is required?

Plenary Session: Closing the implementation gap: From demonstration pilots to an EU and international working market for nature-based solutions. Monica Altamirano, Specialist in Public-Private Partnerships, [Deltares](#)

Close to 200 million euro has to date been invested by the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation alone on projects that focus on nature-based solutions and sustainable urbanisation. These projects are advancing the evidence on the effectiveness of green infrastructure and hybrid strategies for the management of water, health and other risks faced by cities and are creating innovative ideas and business models that can potentially make nature-based solutions projects investable and even bankable. However, to speed up the process towards mainstreaming and upscaling of these pilot initiatives, it is key to facilitate a public-private dialogue to find common ground for the creation of a regional market and a steady pipeline of high quality nature-based solutions projects. The objective of this plenary session is to kickstart this dialogue with European leading actors in the public and private side of the equation: public procurement agencies, large dredging and construction contractors, real estate and infrastructure project developers, financiers and key beneficiaries such as water utilities. The session will start with a keynote to set the scene by introducing the key barriers for nature-based solutions implementation and key elements for market creation across sectors and will be followed by an interactive panel discussion. The outcome this session aims to achieve will be a decision on steps towards the development of a public-private engagement plan to accelerate nature-based solutions market creation.

Plenary Session: Measuring the impact of investments on urban natural capital. Russell Galt, IUCN Urban Alliance

“If you cannot measure it, you cannot improve it.” This old adage resonates through the soil, water, air and biodiversity of cities. Put simply, monitoring is essential to the effective management of urban natural capital. Indicators can convey valuable information on the status and trends of natural capital stocks, the flows of services they generate, and the impact of conservation measures. Such information can enhance the prioritization, evaluation and efficacy of green investments. This session will seek to engage participants in addressing the following questions:

1. To what extent is urban natural capital currently monitored and what tools, frameworks and indicators are used?
2. What data gaps impede the sustainable management of urban natural capital and how might they be remedied?
3. How can data be packaged so as to maximize influence on investment decisions?

A diverse panel of experts will be invited to share their views. The results of this session will inform the development of an IUCN Urban Nature Index to be launched at the World Conservation Congress in June, 2020.

