

Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change in Urban Areas and their Rural Surroundings - Linkages between Science, Policy and Practice

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, BONN / GERMANY, 17-19 NOVEMBER 2015

Keynote Presenters, Plenary Presenters and Chairs



Aletta BONN

*Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ /
German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) – Germany*

Prof. Aletta Bonn is head of the UFZ Department Ecosystem Services and leads the Ecosystem Services research lab at the Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena within the German Centre of Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Leipzig-Halle-Jena. She heads the BfN project “Biodiversity and Climate Change” (BioClim) and is co-organiser of this ECBC conference. With a working background at the science-policy interface in UK and Germany her research focusses on Ecosystem Services, Participatory Conservation and Global Change with a special interest in Citizen Science.



Hans BRUYNINCKX

European Environment Agency (EEA) - Executive Director – Denmark

Dr. Hans Bruyninckx became the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency on 1 June 2013. In 1996 he completed a PhD in international environmental politics at Colorado State University and since 2010 headed the HIVA Research Institute in Leuven which specialises in policy research. Over the last 20 years, he has conducted research in more than a dozen countries, in areas including environmental politics, climate change, and sustainable development.



Simon DUFFIELD

Natural England – UK

Simon Duffield is a Climate Change Specialist working for Natural England. The role involves using an understanding of the likely direct and indirect impacts of climate change to devise appropriate adaptation and mitigation for the natural environment. He works with government bodies and NGOs, academics and practitioners, land owners and advisors to ensure that climate change adaptation is delivered on the ground through appropriate policy, designations, incentives and advice. He has an applied research background from work in the UK (Uni of Southampton, ADAS, UNEP), West Africa (Cibe-Geigy), India (ICRISAT) and Australia (CSIRO).



Vera ENZI

University of Life Sciences BOKU and Green4Cities – The Urban Green Infrastructure Competence Center, European Federation of Green Roof and Wall Associations EFB – Austria

Works in Urban Green Infrastructure Research and Training at the University of Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU) since 2010. Co- founded Green4Cities, the Urban Green Infrastructure Competence Center Startup in 2014, currently growing sectors R&D, Networks and Consulting. Supports Green Infrastructure through contributing to networks like the European Federation of Green Roofs and Walls or the EC Biodiversity and Business Platform. Expert Consultant for Green Roofs, outdoor and indoor Green Walls, Raingardens and Green Concrete.



Franz ESSL

Environment Agency Austria & University Vienna – Austria

Dr. Franz Essl is an ecologist at the Austrian Environment Agency and at the University of Vienna. He is interested in causes and patterns of biological invasions, in the processes governing diversity patterns of species and habitats, and in the impact of climate change on the distribution of biota and the resulting consequences for nature conservation and societies at large.



Niki FRANTZESKAKI

Sustainability Transitions Governance at DRIFT - Faculty of Social Sciences at Erasmus University Rotterdam- The Netherlands

Niki Frantzeskaki is an Associate Professor on Sustainability Transitions Governance at DRIFT, Faculty of Social Sciences at Erasmus University Rotterdam. She was born in Chania, Crete-Greece in 1980 and graduated Environmental Engineering at TU Crete (Greece) with honours in 2003. Her master studies were realized at TU Delft (The Netherlands) where she graduated a Master of Science on Engineering and Policy Analysis with honours in 2005 and graduated her PhD in November 2011 on the topic “Dynamics of transitions: Driving Forces and Feedback Loops” with TU Delft, Policy Analysis Section. She is working at DRIFT since 2010 where she researches contemporary sustainability transitions and their governance across Europe (UK, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands) and in developing countries like Vanuatu, Ghana, Honduras as well as in the USA.



Birgit GEORGI

European Environment Agency (EEA) - Project manager regional vulnerability and adaptation – Denmark

Birgit Georgi has been project manager in different environmental areas such as biodiversity, transport, spatial and urban planning, climate change adaptation, first at the German Federal Environment Agency and the last 8 years at the European Environment Agency. Here she has been responsible for the milestone reports Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe (2012, 2016) and Quality of life in Europe’s cities (2009) and the interactive map book on urban vulnerability (2015).



Erik GÓMEZ-BAGGETHUN

Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) – Norway

Erik Gómez-Baggethun is a Research Professor at NINA and Research Associate at the University of Oxford. He does research in ecological economics with a focus on ecosystem services and biodiversity. He is vice president of the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE), chapter coordinator for the Convention on Biological Diversity's report Cities and biodiversity Outlook (CBO-1), and he serves as expert in valuation for the International Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).



Dagmar HAASE

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ – Germany

Dagmar Haase is professor for Landscape Ecology and Land Use Modeling at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Department of Landscape Ecology. Her main interests are in land-use change modeling using cellular automata and agent-based models, investigating urban land teleconnections as well as the quantification and assessment of urban ecosystem services. Dagmar is also guest scientist at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Department of Computational Landscape Ecology.



Bernd HANSJÜRGENS

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ – Germany

Dr. Bernd Hansjürgens is head of the Department of Economics at the UFZ, Professor for Economics, especially Environmental Economics at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, and Study Leader of the project "Naturkapital Deutschland – TEEB DE (Natural Capital Germany)". His major research interests include Environmental Economics and New Institutional Economics, with a focus on scope and limits of economic valuation of ecosystem services and environmental policy instruments.



Beate JESSEL

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation – Germany

Prof. Beate Jessel has been President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation since November 2007. She holds a master degree in landscape management and gained her doctorate in agriculture at the Technical University of Munich. In 1999, Beate Jessel was appointed Professor of Landscape Planning at the University of Potsdam (Institute of Geocology). In 2006, she moved to the Technical University of Munich, where she held the Chair of Strategy and Management in Landscape Development (Allianz Foundation Professorship).



Nadja KABISCH

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ / German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – Germany

Dr. Nadja Kabisch holds a PhD and a Diploma in Human Geography from the Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, and is a senior researcher at the UFZ Department Ecosystem Services and part of the Ecosystem Services research lab within the German Centre of Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Leipzig-Halle-Jena. Nadja is also a researcher at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in the Department of Landscape Ecology. Nadja works in the BfN project “Biodiversity and Climate Change” (BioClim) and is co-organiser of this ECBC conference. She has wide expertise in nature-based solutions, and ecosystem services of urban green spaces across European cities.



Sonja KNAPP

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ – Germany

Sonja Knapp studied Geoecology/Ecosystem Management at University of Tübingen. In her PhD, which she finished in 2009 at University of Frankfurt/ Main, she analysed effects of urbanisation on the functional composition, rarity and phylogenetic diversity of plant assemblages. Since then, she is a postdoc at Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, including a research stay at University of Minnesota. She focuses on relations of land use, biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Horst KORN

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation – Germany

Horst Korn holds two doctoral degrees. He has studied and worked in economy and ecology in Germany, the U.S., South Africa, Canada and taught Wildlife Management and Conservation at the National University of Costa Rica, before becoming the Head of the Biodiversity Unit and the Chair of the Centre of Competence for Biodiversity and Climate Change at the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. His special interest lies in the application of holistic approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the further development and application of science-policy interfaces.



Ingo KOWARIK

Department of Ecology, Technische Universität Berlin - Germany

Ingo Kowarik is an ecologist, with major research interests in the following fields: urban biodiversity patterns and underlying ecological and cultural mechanisms; people-biodiversity interface in regard to biodiversity conservation and urban development; impacts and mechanisms of biological invasions. Ingo also serves as a honorary State Commissioner for Nature Conservation and Landscape management of Berlin, Germany



Wilhelm KRULL

VolkswagenStiftung – Germany

Since 1996, Dr. Wilhelm Krull has been running the Volkswagen Foundation – following his studies in German, philosophy, education, and political science, an appointment as a DAAD lecturer at the University of Oxford, and leading positions at the German Science and Humanities Council and at the headquarters of the Max Planck Society. He was and still is a member of numerous national, foreign and international committees.



Werner LANG

Technische Universität München (TUM)

Institute of Energy Efficient and Sustainable Design and Building – Germany

Professor for Energy Efficient and Sustainable Design and Building at TUM

Director of the Centre for Sustainable Building at TUM

Director of the Oskar von Miller Forum, Munich

Director of Lang Hugger Rampp GmbH Architects, Munich

Expertise: Research and teaching in the fields of:

Energy-efficient and sustainable design and building

Use of renewable energies in building

Development of building components and building systems

Design and building realization

Conferences, trade shows and exhibitions

Publications, lectures and workshop



Stefan LEINER

Head of the Biodiversity Unit, Acting Director for Natural Capital, DG Environment, European Commission [1] - EU

Stefan Leiner graduated in Forest Sciences in the University of Munich, Germany. Since he joined the European Commission in 1999, he has been dealing with international and EU forest and biodiversity policy issues. He has been the Head of the Nature unit in charge of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and Natura 2000 and since 1 September 2015 he is heading the Biodiversity unit which is dealing with the implementation of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (including global biodiversity matters, the mapping, valuation and restoration of ecosystem services, green infrastructure and the new EU Regulation on invasive alien species).

[1] Situation on 1 September 2015



Georgina MACE

University College London

Centre for Biodiversity and Environment Research - United Kingdom

Georgina Mace is Professor of Biodiversity and Ecosystems and Director of the UCL Centre for Biodiversity and Environment Research. Her research interests are in measuring the trends and consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem change. She has worked on IUCN's Red List of threatened species, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the UK National Ecosystem Assessment and is currently a member of the UK Government Natural Capital Committee.



Luise NORING

Programme Director, Copenhagen Business School – Denmark

Luise runs CIEL, which is a cross-disciplinary, cross-institutional and cross-cultural educational programme. She is the founder of Green Innovation in Cities, which is part of the CIEL research and education portfolio. She holds a Ph.D. from CBS in supply chain partnerships. Since then, she has focused on urban governance and finance, partnerships, communities and social innovation and is working with a multitude of partners, primarily across Europe.



Kristina-Ina NOVAK

City of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Kristina Ina Novak earned her Bachelor of Arts in journalism, marketing and marketing communications from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana, has gained a Diploma in Public Relations from the London School of Public Relations and has received a certificate from the William Glasser Institute, which also covers lead-management. Since 2012, she has been actively participating in the project Ljubljana - European Green Capital. Presently she is a member of the working group, which is responsible for the preparation and organisation of the program for 2016 when Ljubljana holds the title of the European Green Capital. For the last nine years, she has been working as a public relations advisor at the Mayor’s Office of the City of Ljubljana.



Stephan PAULEIT

Technical University of Munich – Germany

Stephan Pauleit is a professor for Strategic Landscape Planning and Management. He has developed a special interest in urban ecology and landscape planning for city regions. Current research concentrates on urban green infrastructure planning, rural-urban interactions and climate change adaptation. Stephan Pauleit is a co-leader of the newly established “Centre for Urban Ecology and Climate Change Adaptation”.



Dieter RINK

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ – Germany

1981 – 1986 Study of Cultural Sciences, Karl-Marx-University Leipzig
1986 –1990 PhD in Philosophy
1989 - 1991 Assistant at the University of Leipzig
1991 – 1994 Researcher, Berlin Social Science Center
since 1994 Researcher at the UFZ
2013 Honorary Professor at the University of Leipzig



Ania ROK

ICLEI European Secretariat – Germany

Ania Rok works as Coordinator for Social Innovation and Governance at ICLEI European Secretariat. With ICLEI since 2008, Ania focuses on building partnerships between local governments, research community and bottom-up initiatives in order to promote mutual understanding and accelerate urban sustainability transitions. Currently knowledge brokerage and social learning expert in the FP7 ARTS project (www.acceleratingtransitions.eu) and conference designer (Informed Cities Forum series).



Dirk SIJMONS

TU-Delft – Netherlands

Professor Landscape Architecture
Curator of the IABR—2014 Urban-by-Nature
Founding principal of H+N+S Landscape Architects, Amersfoort, Netherlands
Former State Advisor on Landscape (2004-2008)



Wolfgang TEUBNER

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability – Germany

Wolfgang Teubner is the ICLEI Regional Director for Europe and also the Managing Director (CEO) of the ICLEI European Secretariat. He is responsible for the strategic and economic development of ICLEI in Europe. He has more than 20 years of professional experience working with local governments on sustainable urban development and has been involved in more than 100 European and international projects, including several research activities.



Chantal VAN HAM

EU Programme Manager Nature Based Solutions, IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature, European Union Representative Office – Belgium

Chantal van Ham represents IUCN at the European and global level to raise awareness of the value of nature-based solutions to improve quality of life, as well as economic prosperity. She develops and coordinates projects for biodiversity and ecosystems services conservation, restoration and valuation that help policy-makers, cities, local and regional governments find nature-based solutions for sustainable development, by mobilising IUCN knowledge and best practices. Before joining IUCN, Chantal worked as Finance Specialist with PricewaterhouseCoopers in the Netherlands. She has a degree in International Business and an MSc in Forest and Nature Conservation Policy.



Kurt VANDENBERGHE

*European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
Directorate Climate action and resource efficiency – Belgium*

Kurt Vandenberghe is Director for Climate action and resource efficiency at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation since July 2013. He previously worked as head of the cabinet of European Commissioner Janez Potočnik, first in charge of science and research (2008-2009) and subsequently in charge of environment policy (from 2010).



Christine WAMSLER

Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS) – Sweden

Christine Wamsler is Associate Professor at Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), Sweden; Co-director of the Centre for Societal Resilience, Sweden; Honorary Fellow at the Global Urban Research Centre and the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) of the University of Manchester, UK; and International Consultant. She is an expert in sustainable city development with focus on climate change adaptation, risk reduction, urban resilience and transformation.



Catharine WARD THOMPSON

OPENspace Research Centre, University of Edinburgh – UK

Professor of Landscape Architecture at Edinburgh and director of OPENspace the research centre for inclusive access to outdoor environments. Her research has investigated relationships between environment and health, including access outdoors, mobility and quality of life for older people. She was a member of the Scottish Government’s Good Place, Better Health Evaluation Group. Current research includes study of local woodlands and mental wellbeing in deprived urban communities.



Dr. Tanja WOLF

Technical Officer for Climate Change and Health in the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany

As Technical Officer for Climate Change and Health in the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany, Tanja Wolf engages in bridging science and policy in the area of health and environment. In the context of the WHO Regional Framework for Action “Protecting health in an environment challenged by climate change” she is currently developing a scientific network to enhance exchange of evidence and extracting climate-health outcome functions for a European Assessment of the Burden of Disease of climate change.