

# REMINDER: Abstract submission still possible until Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015



## Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change in Urban Areas and their Rural Surroundings Linkages between science, policy and practice

17-19 November 2015, Bonn/Germany

Joint European Conference held by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the European Network of Heads of Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA) in co-operation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) / German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)

Climate change has significant impact on society and biodiversity in Europe. Urban inhabitants are most likely to experience climate change effects directly because currently 73 per cent of Europeans live in urban areas. Here, management of urban ecosystems offer sustainable and cost-effective solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation while contributing to human well-being.

This European conference will bring together experts from science, policy and practice to highlight and debate the importance of nature-based solutions to climate change in urban areas and their rural surroundings. Emphasis is given to the potential of nature-based approaches to create multiple-benefits.

The conference is divided into three main areas (day 1: science, day 2: practice and implementation, day 3: policy and business), each of which will be opened by **keynote speakers** including:

- **Hans Bruyninckx** (Executive Director European Environmental Agency, EEA)
- **Wilhelm Krull** (Chair of the H2020 expert group on nature-based solutions and re-naturing cities, Secretary General Volkswagen Foundation)
- **Georgina Mace** (University College London, Director of Centre for Biodiversity and Environment Research)
- **Christine Wamsler** (Lund University, Centre for Sustainability Studies)
- **Nataša Jazbinšek** (Head of Department for Environmental Protection City of Ljubljana and Head of working group for European Green Capital programme 2016)
- **Wolfgang Teubner** (ICLEI Regional Director for Europe)

- **Kurt Vandenberghe** (Director for Climate action and resource efficiency at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation)
- **Chantal van Ham** (IUCN – EU Programme Manager Nature Based Solutions)
- **Dirk Sijmons** (Delft University of Technology)
- **Luise Noring** (Programme Director at Copenhagen Business School)
- **Catharine Ward Thompson** (Professor of Landscape Architecture at University of Edinburgh and director of OPENspace - Research Centre)

Keynote speeches are complemented by **plenary presentations given by leading experts** in the fields of urban biodiversity, climate change, and socio-economic effects of nature-based solutions, **interactive sessions** and a **poster exhibition**.

**Interactive sessions** will take place on day 2 of the conference and address eight specific themes ranging from “The role of biodiversity conservation for nature-based solutions for climate change”, to “Integrating grey, blue and green solutions” and “Rural-urban linkages” as well as “The role of social cohesion”, “Nature-based solutions from a transitions’ perspective” and “Economic aspects”. In addition, “Urban gardening and urban agriculture” will be addressed. A special session is dedicated to “Municipalities adapt to climate change”, where emphasis is given to good practice examples and the sharing of experience among community level actors.

Results of conference discussions are supposed to feed **recommendations** for creating synergies between ongoing policy processes, scientific programmes and practical implementation of climate change and nature conservation measures in European urban areas.

Here, you will find information on the [conference programme](#), [keynote speakers/plenary presenters](#), and [interactive sessions](#).

Networking opportunities and social events include an **evening reception** and a **conference dinner**.

### Open abstract call for talks & posters

We welcome the submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations! Oral presentations will be held within the eight interactive sessions. We are particularly interested in contributions that demonstrate good practice in implementing nature-based solutions to climate change in urban areas from a scientific, policy and practical perspective. Please note that only a limited number of contributions can be accepted.

Deadline for [abstract submission](#) is **Thursday, 30 July 2015** ([abstract submission guidelines](#))

### Registration:

[Early bird registration](#) deadline: **18 September 2015**

[Final registration](#) deadline: **30 October 2015**

Please [register here](#) (Due to limited availability of places early registration is recommended.)

Please help us promote this event by downloading and distributing the **conference poster** (in DIN [A4](#) or [A3](#)) or sharing this invitation within your networks.

With best wishes

Horst Korn, Jutta Stadler, Aletta Bonn, Nadja Kabisch and Nicholas Macgregor

Conference organising team of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ / German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), and the European Network of Heads of Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA).

