

6th ESP Europe Conference

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SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T20b

Nature-Based Interventions; striving for fair transitions or even making things fairer than they were

Hosts:

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Abstract:

Nature-Based Interventions (NBI) aim to solve societal problems and at the same time contribute to halting biodiversity loss. They do the first by way of the ecosystem services that nature offers. The main problem that an NBI tries to address is usually not to correct environmental injustices in the access to such services. However, if only for reasons of social support and sustainability, it is important that environmental justice issues are adequately taken into account. At the very least, it is desirable that the NBI itself can be considered a fair transition, not creating new injustices. But the ambition may go beyond that: the NBI may try to address pre-existing environmental injustices. To begin with, environmental justice is about a fair distribution of environmental goods and bads. However, it is usually unclear what precisely constitutes a fair distribution in a specific context. Besides distributive justice, this brings the issues of procedural and recognitional justice to the table. Related to recognitional justice issues are those of intergenerational, retrospective, and multi-species justice, complicating things even further. How can researchers help policymakers with incorporating justice considerations in developing and implementing a NBI in an adequate way?

Goals and objectives of the session:

- To bring researchers and policymakers interested in environmental justice issues together.
- To provide policymakers with state-of-the-art insights regarding how best to incorporate environmental justice considerations in developing and implementing Nature-Based Interventions in an adequate and effective way.
- To develop ideas on how best to advance the research field of integrating environmental justice considerations in Nature-based Interventions in a way that addresses the needs of policymakers.

Planned output / Deliverables:

The main output of this session will be a positioning paper that synthesises insights from the three perspectives — analysis, strategic design, and policy integration — and translates them into clear recommendations. The paper will set out how ES assessments and NbS can be mainstreamed in urban planning instruments to deliver net gain, resilience, and social justice.

Session format:

The session will run for 90 minutes and combine concise inputs with interactive dialogue. It will open with a series of impulse talks (3–5 minutes each), in which contributors present case-based examples of tools,

approaches, or policy innovations. Each input will end with one or two key insights to frame the subsequent discussions.

Participants will then divide into three thematic groups, each reflecting one of the session's core perspectives: analysis, strategic creation, and policy integration. In these groups, contributors will facilitate discussions that bring participants into the co-creation of ideas, exploring challenges, opportunities, and recommendations for mainstreaming ES and NbS into urban planning practice. If participation is limited, groups may be merged to ensure a dynamic exchange.

The session will close with a plenary synthesis, where each group reports back three key messages. These messages will be clustered into a set of shared priorities, which will form the basis of the main session output: a positioning paper that distils actionable recommendations for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

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