

ESP 11 World Conference

“From global to local ecosystem services: pathways to Nature-based Solutions inspired from Down Under”

23-27 June 2025 | Darwin, Australia

SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T2b

Urban Nature in the Global South: Exploring challenges and opportunities in shaping sustainable pathways

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Noah Chongo	Climate Protection Zambia	ncnoahchongo@gmail.com

Abstract:

Urban areas are human–environment systems that depend fundamentally on ecosystems, and thus require an understanding of the management of urban ecosystem services to ensure sustainable urban planning. Nature–based solutions can provide a range of ecological, social and economic benefits and are increasingly positioned as practical solutions for addressing urban sustainability challenges. Despite the promise and growing evidence that Nature–based solutions can reduce urban vulnerability to climate change, to date the understanding and uptake of Nature–based solutions pathways particularly in the global south is limited. ESP 11 represents a unique opportunity to harness the collective power of a global network of ecosystem services partnership researchers, practitioners and policy makers to explore on the challenges and opportunities in shaping sustainable pathways for mainstreaming Nature–based solutions in the global south. The session will take into consideration of the perspectives from the global audience, as well as a horizon scan forward of desirable key nature–based solutions stepping stones and pathways for addressing both climate and biodiversity challenges. Through The Solutions Room session format of 60–90 minute’s duration, participants will be facilitated to engage and connect together to discuss on the five (05) thematic topics on challenges, opportunities, urban ecosystem services, urban biodiversity and pathways. The workshop will set the tone for a peer collective paper publication, highlighting cross–sectoral understanding of challenges and opportunities of nature–based solutions uptake in urban ecosystems in the global south with perspectives from the global audience, as well as a horizon scan forward of desirable key nature–based solutions pathways for mainstreaming Nature–based solution for urban sustainability challenges. The session will further result into an in–depth related research information needed to communicate to a wider community of practice working in ecosystem services partnership.

Key Words: Urban Nature, Global South, Challenges, Opportunities, Nature–based solutions, Biodiversity, Sustainable pathways.

Goals and objectives of the session:

The aim of the workshop session is to foster publication of a scientific journal paper highlighting cross–sectional understanding of challenges and opportunities of nature–based solutions uptake in urban ecosystems in the global south with perspectives from the global audience, as well as a horizon scan forward of desirable key stepping stones and pathways for mainstreaming Nature–based solutions for addressing urban sustainability challenges. The session will also highlight the potential of urban ecosystem services and urban

biodiversity. The session will further explore on an in-depth related research information needed to communicate to a wider community of users.

Planned output / Deliverables:

- The session will result in the publication roadmap/framing of a scientific journal paper on “Urban Nature in the Global South: Exploring Challenges and Opportunities in shaping sustainable pathways”.
- The session will result in realisation and broader understanding of the key stepping stones and pathways for mainstreaming nature-based solutions in the global south.
- The session will avail an in-depth related research information among global participants engaged in real time and that will be needed to be communicated to a wider community of users.
- The session will result in enhanced understanding among participants of practical application of the ecosystem services and urban biodiversity concepts in relation to nature-based solutions for better informed decision making towards a more sustainable urban futures in the global south.

Session format:

The workshop will be conducted in the format of The Solutions Room Session that will take a period of 60–90 minutes. This format will not only engage and connect participants together but will also provide peer-supported advisory lived and professional experiences from participants on the proposed session thematic topics. The workshop will begin with an introduction by Mr Noah Chongo (Climate Protection Zambia)/by any agreed co-host to give an highlight on proposed thematic areas, key working concepts and domain focus. This will be followed by mapping a human spectrogram that will demonstrate the amount of professional and lived experiences available in the room. Next, the participants will be divided into four (4–5) small peer discussion groups of 6–20 people who together will mindmap, evaluate and make a synthesis basing on the proposed thematic topics as outline below.

1. Challenges (Facilitated by any interested host).
2. Opportunities (Facilitated by any interested host).
3. Urban Ecosystem Services (Facilitated by any interested host).
4. Urban biodiversity (Facilitated by any interested host).
5. Desirable key stepping stones and Pathways (Facilitated by any interested host).

The group discussions will focus on urban sustainability challenges, opportunities, the potential of urban ecosystem services and urban biodiversity. The session groups will break, before resuming to discuss on desirable key stepping stones and Pathways for mainstreaming Nature-based solution and addressing urban sustainability challenges. Finally, after the group discussions, the evaluated and synthesised feedback will be collected from each group and reported to the main session.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

Related to ESP Working Group:

[TWG 2 – Biodiversity & Ecosystem services](#)