

3rd ESP Asia Conference

14-17 December 2021 | Nagasaki, Japan

Eco-health and ecosystem services in Asia:
Bottom-up aspects for planetary health

ONLINE

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Session ID: B10b

Session title Sustainable urban planning and policy in the Global South:
endorsing and mainstreaming ecosystem services from blue-green
infrastructure

Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:(1)	Dr.	Dhanya Bhaskar	Centre for Policy Studies, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, India	dhanyab@iifmbhopal.edu.in
Co-host(s):	Dr.	Shalini Dhayani	Water Technology and Management Division, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, India and IUCN Commission on Ecosystems Management	shalinidhyanineeri@gmail.com

Abstract:

With rampant urbanization currently observed and predicted in the Global South, creating and maintaining blue-green infrastructure (BGI) has emerged as a critical pathway for sustainable urban development. Diverse BGI elements such as urban green spaces, constructed wetlands, sponge gardens, permeable pavements, biopores, rooftop gardens, wetlands, lakes, streams and rainwater harvesting are increasingly recognized for their multifunctional roles in ensuring diverse ecosystem services ranging from mitigation of urban floods, pollution, heat islands, disaster risks, climate impacts, to provisioning and cultural benefits. The potential of urban BGI in enhancing human physical and mental wellbeing along with fostering social cohesion and stewardship are being widely appreciated, following the pandemic induced lock down across the globe.

BGI has gained immense attention worldwide in the last few years as an urban planning strategy for enhancing green and blue spaces. Most success stories in this regard are however confined to the Global North. In the Global South where BGI serves not only regulatory and cultural functions, but more importantly sustains livelihoods of marginalized urban residents, a distinct approach is imperative for its planning and implementation. This session proposes to unpack the centrality of ecosystem services from BGI in ensuring urban sustainability and resilience in the Global South from diverse cases and examples. The proposed session aims to bring to the fore the promise in leveraging BGI for urban resilience with a view to inform sustainable and inclusive urban planning processes in the Global South. We invite abstracts that share the contributions of multiple services of BGI in urban sustainability transitions and analyze the opportunities and challenges in maintaining ecosystem service flows and uses from BGI through city appropriate policy and planning measures.

Goals and objectives of the session:

- a. To synthesize evidences of ecosystem services from diverse BGI contributing to urban resilience and sustainability in the Global South
- b. To provide inputs for reorienting urban planning processes in the Global South by incorporating ecosystem services from BGI to address local concerns
- c. To recommend mechanisms to incentivize institutions and programmes that preserve and augment ecosystem service flows from BGI

Planned output / Deliverables:

Depending on the session outcomes, any two among the following outputs will be planned:

1. A policy brief on integrating ecosystem services from BGI in urban planning and policy in the global South
2. A synthesis paper
3. A blogpost in IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management's official blog i.e. Harnessing Nature
4. A newspaper article

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes

Related to ESP Working Group/National Network: BWG 10 – Urban systems