

# Nature, health and a new urban generation



Unlocking opportunities for nature-based solutions in a changing climate

*Luc Bas, Director, IUCN European Regional Office*



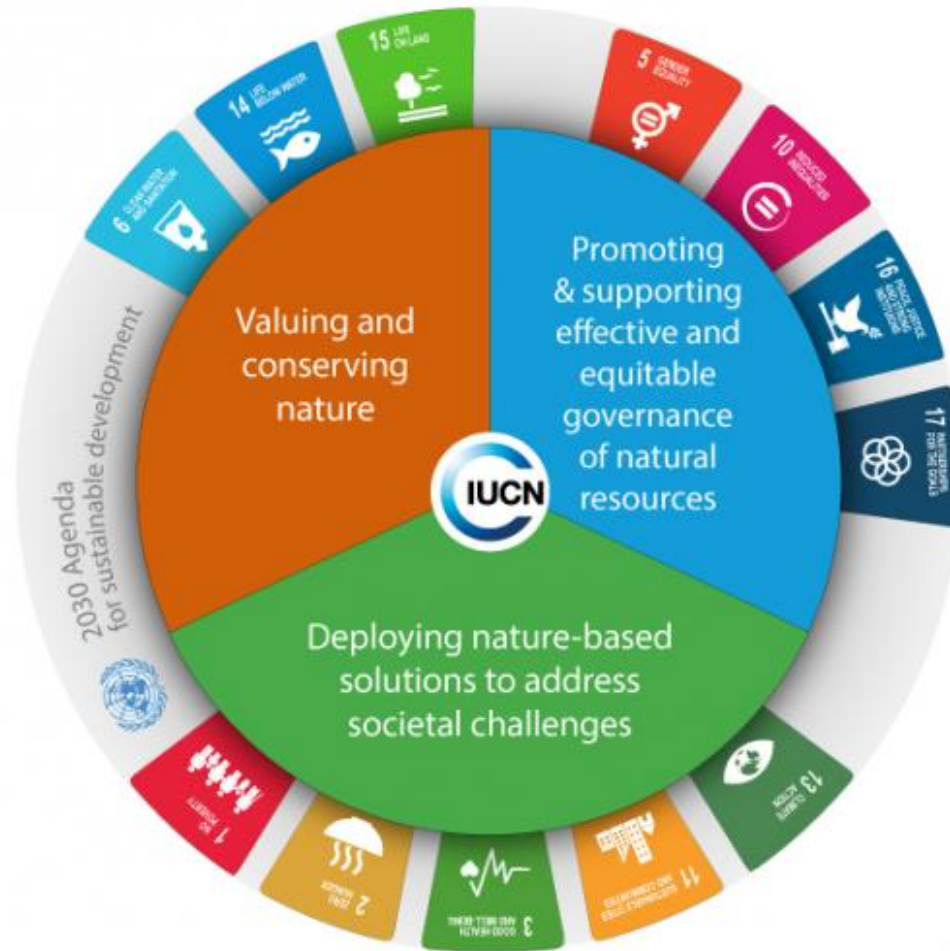
# IUCN – who we are



- 1948, World's largest global environmental network.
- Unique **democratic** Union with more than 1,300 Government and NGO Member organisations in 160 countries.
- Leading provider of the **latest** biodiversity **knowledge**, with around 1000 staff and 16,000 voluntary experts .
- Only environmental organisation with formal **Observer Status** at **United Nations** General Assembly.



# IUCN global programmatic areas 2017-2020





# THE IUCN EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE

# Responsibilities IUCN European Regional Office



## 1. Informing EU policy making

- Promote IUCN's mission and ensure that its knowledge and programmes are reflected in the decisions of the EU institutions
- Provide a policy exchange platform for IUCN Members

## 2. Representing IUCN in Brussels

- The European Regional Office formally represents IUCN to the EU institutions
- Engage in partnerships with other Brussels-based organizations and represent IUCN at relevant events

## 3. Supporting resource mobilisation

- Support IUCN's Members and Secretariat in resource mobilisation
- Identify EU funding opportunities and channel information to IUCN Secretariat and Members

## 4. Working with European Members and Commission experts to implement the IUCN programme



# NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

International Union for Conservation of Nature

# NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS)

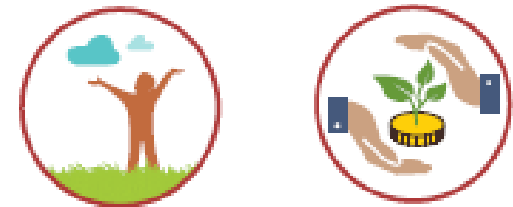


Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems....



which address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters)...

...while also providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits



# Flood Protection – Somerset, UK



- Public consultation on coastal defense strategy.
- UK coastal realignment scheme: project to create a 250-hectare (617-acre) salt marsh, to protect local communities and sea walls from erosion.
- Working with nature for reduced flood risk increased wildlife habitat and tourism.
- Multi-actor partnership, collaboration with business.





# “Eco-asset strategy” Gibsons, Canada



- North America’s first natural asset policy – “To bring the value of nature into the DNA of municipal decision making.”
- **Identify** existing natural assets that provide municipal services; **measure** the value of municipal services provided by these assets; **integrate** into municipal asset management.



# Importance of working in urban areas



- $\frac{3}{4}$  Europeans live in urban areas.
- Globally: 60% of the urban infrastructure of the future still needs to be built (Cities and Biodiversity Outlook).
- Subnational governments play decisive role in land planning and management and investment in protection and restoration of ecosystems.
- Connecting people with nature.



# Link between nature and health



- Ecosystems crucial for happier and healthier lives.
- Recognising the extensive service benefits provided by ecosystems (e.g. filter air, provide food and water).
- Helps to overcome many of the challenges linked to physical and mental well-being.





# IUCN's urban engagement

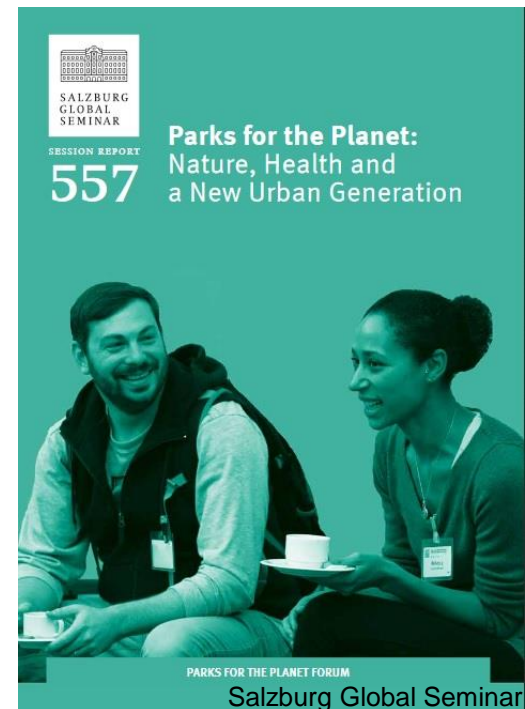


- Interdependence between cities and the surrounding ecosystems that provide multiple benefits to urban citizens.
- World Conservation Congress 2016 : 20 resolutions/ recommendations adopted that include reference to issues relating to urban systems.
- Global Programme 2017-2020 highlights need for concerted action at a massive scale and at all levels – emphasise local.

# World Parks Congress 2014 -> Salzburg Global Seminar



- Platform for transformative leadership and action .
- Parks for the Planet session: Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation. 37 leaders from 20 countries to share best practices, and develop practical actions.
- Recent session: The Child in the City - looking through the eyes of young children.



# Key outcomes session 1



- Increase awareness and use of NBS in urban development and public health;
- Collect and share success stories that demonstrate good practices;
- Make the case for investment;
- Include health information and experiences of nature throughout schooling;
- Promote knowledge exchange and cross-sectoral research.

# Key outcomes Child in the City



- Ensure children have equitable access to nature;
- Embed nature in everyday places used by children;
- Involve children in designing and planning natural spaces for recreation, education, inspiration and health.



# Nature for All



- A coalition of partners representing different sectors — health, urban, protected areas, communications, technology, education, arts, tourism, science, youth,..
- To raise **AWARENESS** and motivate people from all walks of life to embrace nature and its values.
- To facilitate opportunities for all to **EXPERIENCE** and **CONNECT** with nature.



# NATURE  
FOR ALL





# THE WAY FORWARD

International Union for Conservation of Nature

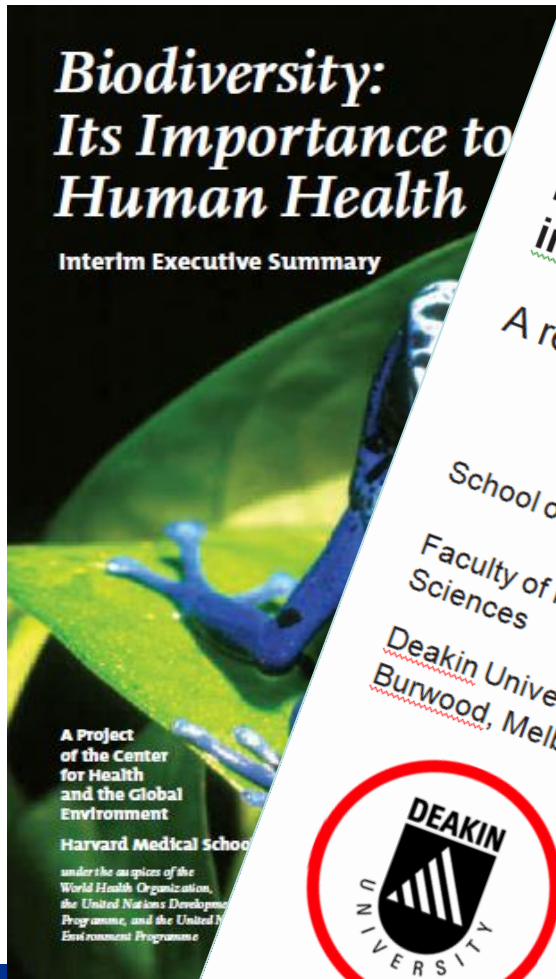
# World Urban Population



<b>1900</b>	<b>200 MILLION</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>3.5 BILLION</b>
<b>2050</b>	<b>7.0 BILLION</b>

Acknowledgement to Trevor Sandwith for slide

# Medical research provides evidence for role of nature



**Healthy parks, healthy people**  
The health benefits of contact with nature in a park context  
A review of relevant literature

School of Health and Social Development  
Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences  
Deakin University  
Burwood, Melbourne

The Deakin University logo, a red circle containing a black shield with white diagonal stripes and the text 'DEAKIN UNIVERSITY' around the perimeter.

## Vital Sites



The contribution of protected areas to human health

A research report by WWF and Equilibrium

# The value of investing in nature



- Investing just \$4 per resident in tree planting efforts could improve health of millions of people - The Planting Healthy Air report by The Nature Conservancy.
- €101.3 = The annual cost of air pollution in France.
- TRAFFIC estimated 50,000 to 70,000 medicinal and aromatic species harvested in 2011 had an annual global export value of pharmaceutical plants worth over US\$ 2.2 billion.
- Health care spending on respiratory diseases in the EU represents approx. 6% of the total health care budgets of Member States.



# Recognising nature's health benefits



- Alnarp Rehabilitation Garden, Sweden: helps individuals recovering from stress-related mental disorders, strokes and war neuroses through nature-based rehabilitation.
- Forestry Commission, Scotland: piloting projects focusing on bringing early-stage dementia patients into contact with woodlands.
- Singapore: created green wards and corridors designed to help patients in the healing process.



# Finding the critical intersection of issues



- What are the optimal planning approaches both at sectoral and spatial levels to integrate nature, health and urban well-being?
- What are the optimal institutional conditions for integration and implementation?
- What are the critical entry points in urban planning, health promotion, education and nature conservation to achieve a win-win outcome? What are the trade-offs?

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# Thank you!

