

# Global Green City Update

AIPH presents the power of plants for city resilience | April 2022

## We Can't Achieve Greener Cities Without Stronger Connections with the Horticulture Industry

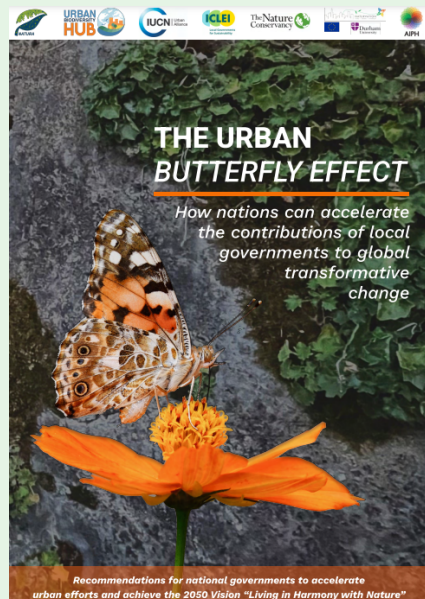


In a recent Roundtable brought to life by AIPH and TNOC, a multidisciplinary team of experts more than 20 strong were invited to respond to the question: “Can we enable better decision-making when it comes to urban plant selection and preparation and do urban ecology and the horticulture industry need to be better engaged with each other?” The roundtable led to an exciting discussion in a Seed Session hosted by AIPH at the TNOC Festival 2022, which revealed that careful plant selection and engagement with the horticulture industry are critical to the successful implementation of urban nature-based solutions.

[Read More](#)[Watch Seed Session](#)

## Policy

### Hot off the Press: The “Urban Butterfly Effect”



A policy brief titled “The Urban Butterfly Effect” has just been released with recommendations for national governments to accelerate urban efforts to help them achieve the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) 2030 Action Targets. This policy brief is a response to the call for a whole-of-government approach to be adopted. Local governments are key players that can engage with and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Action Targets. AIPH is proud to have contributed to the development of this brief.

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### Countries pledge record support for the GEF-8

GEF-8 funding will scale up efforts to tackle biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution. According to the GEF, much of the funding will be delivered through a set of 11 integrated programs that address multiple threats at once, such as environmental degradation linked to cities, food systems, plastics, water, and forest management. Acknowledging that cities are at the forefront of the fight against biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, the question is how city-led greening initiatives might be scaled up through this ambitious commitment?

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### Cities are Taking Action in Support of the Global Biodiversity Framework

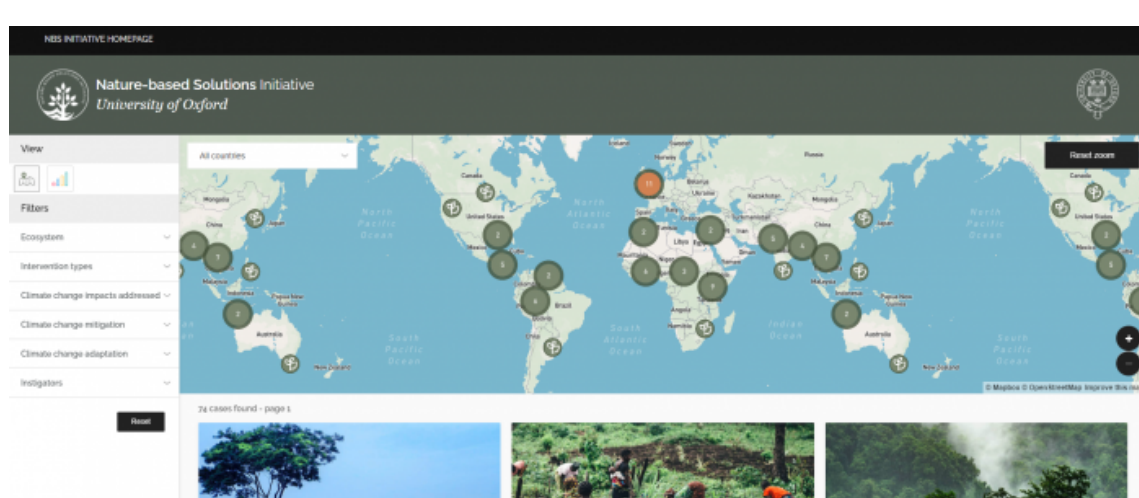


The phrase “You can’t manage or improve what you can’t measure” rings true in light of the increasingly recognised role of local governments in achieving global agendas. Luckily for cities, a number of tools to measure ecological performance, such as the [IUCN Urban Nature Index](#), the [Singapore Index for Cities' Biodiversity](#), are available to measure their ecological performance. CitiesWithNature has also recently launched their [Action Platform](#) which invites cities to share their ambitions, make commitments, set targets, and monitor and report on progress against the action areas in the Global Biodiversity Framework which will be adopted later this year at the UN CBD COP15. How is your city monitoring its ecological performance?

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## Best Practice

### Mapping Nature-Based Solutions



Are you looking to be inspired by best practice in the implementation of nature-based solutions? The Nature-Based Solutions Initiative at the University of Oxford, with funding from the British Academy, recently launched a new [interactive global map](#) of best practice examples of nature-based solutions across the world. As announced in a press release from the [British Academy](#), the map is released alongside a second platform presenting nature-based solutions in cities. The [Urban Nature Atlas](#), developed in 2017 as an output of the [Naturvation](#) project, profiles in detail over 1,000 projects from European cities and beyond. Together, these platforms comprise the most comprehensive database of urban nature-based solutions to date.

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## Green City Principles

Support urban biodiversity

A marriage of art, plants and movement





**Let the Wild Flowers Bloom this May.** When it comes to growing greener cities, there is debate as to what urban greening should look like. Some practitioners favour beautifully landscaped green areas where there is a sense of comfort and obvious maintenance, while others prefer a more natural, and wilder approach. While there are benefits and advantages to both approaches, Plantlife is calling for us all to live on the wild side and put our mowers away for no-mow May in order to let nature take its course and let the wild flowers bloom. Plantlife's annual campaign, #NoMowMay launches this year on 29 April 2022. Join legions of gardeners and say "no" to the mow this May to help our bees, butterflies, wildlife and us!

[Find out what you can do](#)



**30,000 bulbs, 57 trees and 350 shrubs - described as a marriage of art, plants and movement.** What's behind the beautiful blooms? The transformation of inner-city streets has seen businesses, commuters and residents return to previously congested streets in Sheffield (UK) city centre. Phase One of the Grey to Green scheme lead the way for new office and residential developments to support economic regeneration in the area. Phase Two of this innovative infrastructure scheme sees the continued implementation of plants to create new green solutions for the city. Prompted by the need to reduce flooding caused by impermeable surfaces, the people behind Sheffield's Grey to Green have created a nature-based solution with wide reaching impact.

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## AIPH Events & Activities



**WORLD GREEN CITY AWARDS 2022**

### AIPH Reveals Technical Panel for judging of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022

Following the 14th March deadline, entries have closed for the inaugural 2022 edition of the AIPH World Green City Awards. Having received an impressive number of entries from cities across the globe, the judging process is now underway. AIPH is proud to announce the technical panel which will score each entry and deliver a shortlist to the world-renowned jury for selection of a winner for each of the six categories, as well as an overall AIPH green City winner.

[Meet the Tech Panel](#)

### International Day of Plant Health

Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat and produce 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe. AIPH welcomes the recent UN decision to observe the International Day of Plant Health annually on the 12th May, a legacy of the International Year of Plant Health. As the world's champion for the power of plants, AIPH promotes the notion that healthy plants constitute the foundation for all life on Earth, as well as ecosystem functions, food security, and nutrition. As the world's champion for the power of plants, AIPH is uniquely positioned to support FAO and other partners in this global observance. Cities have a significant role to play. Plants are worth protecting. The future of our increasingly urban lives relies on their health.



[Get Involved](#)

## Case Studies

**Floriade Expo 2022 showcases "Growing Green Cities" and is set to leave a lasting green legacy for the city of Almere**



In a world where nature often has to make way for concrete, glass and steel, horticulture is the key to a liveable world. Experts from all over the world come together at Floriade to present green solutions that make our cities more enjoyable, beautiful and sustainable. Within the theme 'Growing Green Cities', more than 400 national and international participants showcase their latest green innovations, solutions and applications. Following the success of the 2012 edition of Floriade, which boasted 100+ gardens and pavilions; 1.8 million bulbs; 18,000 shrubs; 190,000 perennials; 15,000 hedge plants; 5,000 rose bushes; and 4,000 trees, this AIPH-approved World Horticultural Exhibition Floriade Expo 2022 provides Almere with much more than a unique, international event. After the Expo, Floriade 2022 site will be redeveloped into [Hortus: a green, healthy urban district for the future.](#)

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## Research Findings

**The challenges of choosing the right nature-based solution**



The use of NbS can provide multi-dimensional benefits to urban areas. These include but are not limited to, improved air and water quality, urban regeneration and improved public health. However, making the right decision on where to implement what type of NbS can be a challenge. Croeser et al., (2021) trialled a decision tool that supports practitioners and policymakers to form a consensus and shared understanding in relation to choosing the right NbS for the urban context.

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**Distributing nature-based solutions equitably**



Pallathadka et al. (2022) USA study found historic and modern disparities in the implementation of green infrastructure for flood mitigation. Their creation of a classification framework could assist urban planners and city managers to distribute green infrastructure more equitably according to vulnerability.

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**AIPH**



**GREEN  
CITY**

**International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)**

Since 1948, AIPH has united horticultural producers in an international community that thrives to this day. Much has changed in that time. Technologies advanced, cities rose from the ground, and we have become more connected than ever. As a result, our essential bond with nature has been weakened. AIPH strives to reignite and uphold an appreciation of plants that we believe is a basic human instinct. We support the work of grower associations globally and together we champion a prosperous industry, growing plants that enhance lives, advance societies, and sustain our planet, for this generation and the next.

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