

# Global Green City Update

AIPH presents the power of plants for city resilience | January 2023

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Welcome to 2023:  
A New Year, Same Important Mission



## YEAR IN REVIEW

### 2022



AIPH wishes all partners, cities, and affiliate organisations a very happy new year! We look forward to our ongoing collaboration in 2023 as we strive to build a greener, healthier, and more sustainable urban future. In case you missed it, we invite you to read the “Year in Review” article to learn more about how AIPH worked to advance the Global Green City agenda in 2022.

[Read the Year in Review](#)

## WORLD GREEN CITY AWARDS

### 2024

As we head into 2023 with raised ambition, AIPH and the growing network of partners invite all cities, large and small, to join in celebrating and showcasing the power of plants by demonstrating that they are taking ambitious action for nature. Building on the success of the inaugural edition in 2022, the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024 will soon open for entries. Register your city's interest today to ensure you are the first to find out when they do.

[Register your city's interest](#)

Join the AIPH Global Green City Forum and share  
your contributions

## AIPH Green City Forum

The forum is rich with resources to provide you with the latest information and research. This month has included the addition of research on civic perception of green climate gentrification and why biodiversity is important for health and wellbeing in our increasingly urban lives.

[Join the Forum](#)

## News & Events



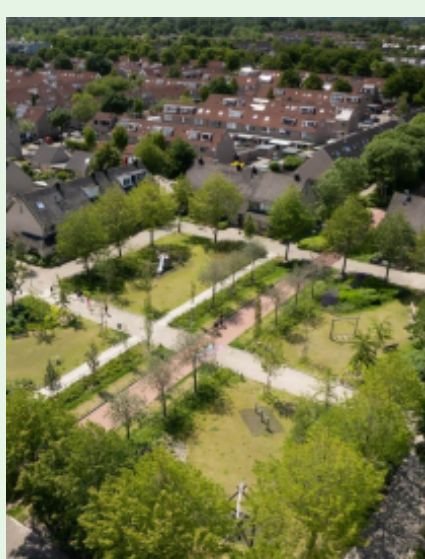
### AIPH Green City Briefings 2022/23

Following a brief interlude, the monthly AIPH Green City briefings are back! AIPH warmly invites you to join and participate in this exciting series as it returns in 2023. The next webinar in the series is set to take place on 14th February 2023, and features the City of Montréal, Canada, winner of the ‘Living Green for Water’ category of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022. The webinar will showcase the latest research in integrating green solutions into water management and will showcase an inspiring initiative in this regard: the creation of phytotechnology stations by the The Montréal Botanical Gardens. [Read the case study](#). The webinar also addresses the integration of blue nature-based-solutions with reference to the Natural England Green Infrastructure Guidelines which will be launched on 31st January 2023. You don’t want to miss this.

[Register now](#)

### Tallinn European Green Capital Year Opening Conference

On 19th January 2023, members of the European Green Capital and Global Goals for Cities networks met in Tallinn to celebrate the beginning of the Estonian capital's year as the European Green Capital. The opening conference inspired with the theme of “Fantastic Creatures: Making European Cities Safe, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable”.

[Read More](#)

### Cités Vertes Europe 2022 prize

Following in the footsteps of Beringen in Belgium in 2020 and Nantes in France in 2021, it is the City of Alkmaar in the Netherlands that was recently announced as the winner of the third Green Cities Europe prize with its original and exemplary program, Vegetation & Biodiversity, which showcases a quick-win method, simple and effective for rapidly transforming nearby urban spaces. Congratulations to the City of Alkmaar.

[Find out more](#)

### Greening Cities: Urban Nature and Biodiversity for Integrated Solutions to Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

The second Cities4Biodiversity (C4B) deep-



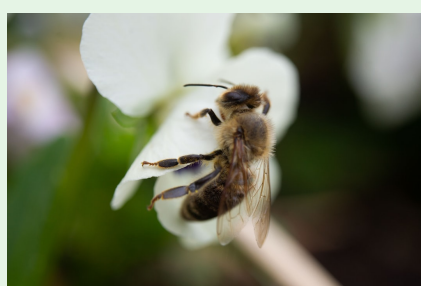
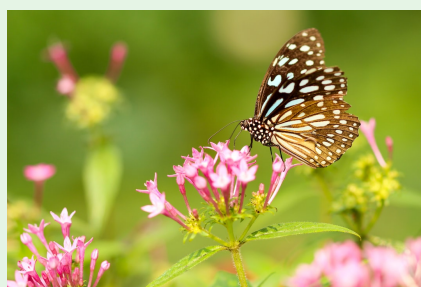
dive learning event took place recently in Paris and brought together over 350 participants comprising city representatives, urban practitioners from around 50 cities across 23 countries, as well as experts and senior officials from partner organisations. The event covered four thematic areas:

- What are urban nature and biodiversity?
- How to manage urban nature and biodiversity & How to manage "urban trees"?
- How to incorporate urban nature and biodiversity into spatial planning and urban form
- How to incorporate urban nature and biodiversity into project financing.

In case you missed it, you are invited to refer to the links below to revisit these exciting deep-dive learning sessions.

[View Presentations](#)

[C4B Resource Library](#)



## AIPH Member's Green City Reports

AIPH requests its members from around the world to provide an annual Green City Report that presents an update on developments in the green city sector in their region. The reports describe industry-led initiatives, major green city projects, policy developments, community activities, and research publications. In this section, AIPH features projects and initiatives from our members



[AIPH Members](#)



**The Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) is the AIPH member representing the United Kingdom.**

HTA engages with Governments across the UK - through advocacy and campaigning - to represent the industry and keep members informed of policies that have the potential to impact industry growth - both positive and negative impacts. The UK Ornamental Horticulture industry is estimated to grow from £28.8 billion in 2019 to almost £42 billion by 2030. [Learn more.](#)

Supporting this industry growth is a guide for local authorities that highlights the strategic provision of green infrastructure as a key part of adaptation to climate change. The Climate Crisis – a guide for local authorities on planning for climate change The Town and Country Planning Association and the Royal Town Planning Institute have recently launched an up-to-date guide aimed at helping local authorities to improve their ability to plan for both the future impacts of climate change and to reduce carbon emissions.

[Read More](#)



**The Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association is one of the AIPH members from Canada.**

CNLA engages in lobbying activities on behalf of its members and the ornamental horticulture industry. The CNLA Government Relations Committee is focused on making connections so they are included in as many discussions as possible, to be relevant in change and to be considered a stakeholder in conversations and decisions at various government levels. Over the last two years, CNLA has positioned itself as an expert and valued resource in the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees Promise.

[Read More](#)

## Case Studies

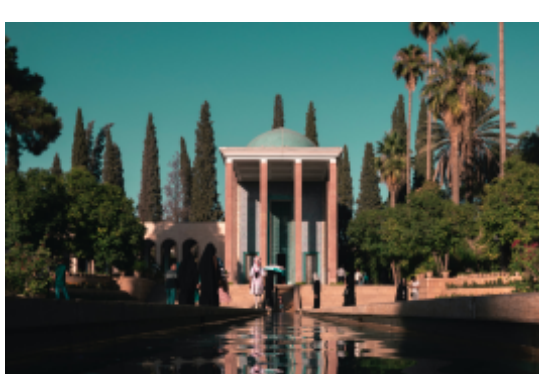
Climate adaptation through nature-based solutions  
*Copenhagen, Denmark*



The City of Copenhagen implemented a Cloudburst Management Plan based on the Copenhagen Climate Adaptation Plan approved by the City Council in 2011. The goal of the plan is to take a sustainable approach to urban development, nature conservation and community engagement, with a focus on surface solutions for rainwater management. The project includes approximately 300 surface projects, financed through water taxes and tax funds, which aim to improve the quality of life for citizens by creating green and blue recreational areas and increasing biodiversity.

[Read More](#)

Increasing green space and limiting unbridled development through reforestation  
*Shiraz, Iran*



Large scale urbanisation has occurred all over Iran. In the city of Shiraz, rapid population growth has led to uncontrolled construction causing poor living conditions, pollution, and high energy consumption. In response, the municipal government launched Shiraz – the Green City project. The main aim of this initiative is the reforestation of the city's periphery. The project encourages citizens to plant gardens on rooftops and urges the private sector to adhere to the City's development plan with all construction projects. Visit the [urban sustainability exchange \(use\) platform](#) to find out more and to access many more inspiring case studies from leading cities around the world.

[Read More](#)

## Policy

### Berlin Urban Nature Pact

The Berlin Urban Nature Pact is an initiative by a number of cities around the world that are ready to lead the transition towards implementation of bold biodiversity action. Once the consultation process is completed and the Pact finalised in 2023, signing cities will commit to and implement a small set of highly ambitious, SMART targets within the [CitiesWithNature Action Platform](#) as the next milestone after the [Edinburgh Declaration](#) and the [Montreal Pledge](#) focussing on the implementation of the post-2020 global



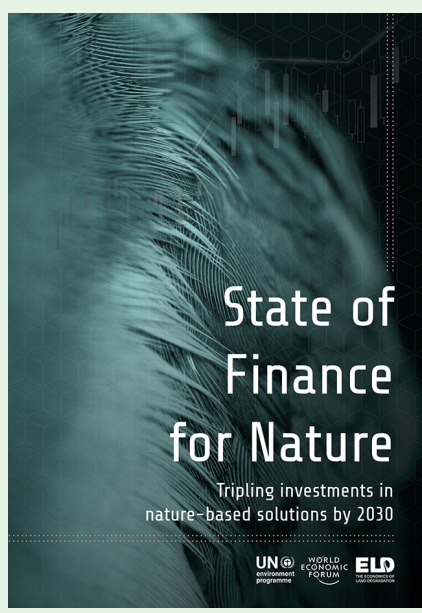


biodiversity framework (GBF) and renewed Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2021-2030).

[Read More](#)

## State of Finance for Nature

The second edition of the State of Finance for Nature report launched recently. This report calls for increased investment in urban nature, revealing that nature-based solutions are still significantly under-financed. If the world wants to halt biodiversity loss, limit climate change to below 1.5C and achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030, current finance flows to NbS must urgently double by 2025 and triple by 2030. Delayed action is not an option in the face of the devastating effects of climate change, the extinction crisis, and severe land degradation globally. [Read the Report](#).



A recent UrbanShift advocacy event focussed on this topic: 'Unlocking Investment in Nature for a Just Urban Transformation.' If you were unable to attend or would like to re-watch the event, the recording is now available.

[Watch the recording](#)

## Research Findings

How far do people *actually* travel to visit urban green spaces?



This study across three European cities identified the actual distance people regularly travelled to visit urban green spaces. Understanding how green spaces are used, desired and travelled to allows policymakers to integrate nature into the urban fabric more successfully.

[Read More](#)

New insights into the many benefits of ornamental plants in cities



Ornamental plants can be used to mitigate climate change, improve soil quality, provide biodiverse habitats and create aesthetically pleasing social spaces for urban residents. The selection of the correct plant species can provide several direct and indirect benefits to urban environments and inhabitants. This research summarises the extensive benefits and opportunities to integrate plants into more urban spaces.

[Read More](#)

## Best Practice

Climate-Future Plots: Helping nature help itself



In a world set to be transformed by a changing climate, what can we do to ensure the natural areas we value make it through? What practical steps can we take to help as many species as possible adapt? Climate Future Plots are areas of revegetated and restored land that incorporate a diverse mix of species and plant genetics, designed to create habitat that is better able to support species throughout uncertain and unpredictable climate impacts. The plots are areas of land that are revegetated or restored with a particular focus on including plant genetics from a mix of different climates for a range of different species. This means that, as the climate changes, whole plant communities will be better equipped to change with it.

[Read More](#)

[How can you set up a climate-future plot?](#)

Biodiversity in Cities:  
A tool for best practice in nature-based design



This technical guide aims to provide urban actors with a documented reference framework to "consciously" value biodiversity in urban projects and public policies financed by the French Development Agency (AFD), by providing objective and quantified data. Rather than offering a simple catalogue of "nature-based solutions" (NBS) to be developed in a generic manner, this tool promotes the contextualization of projects based on the climatic, topographical, socio cultural and economic characteristics of each territory, but also on the level of political support. The guide puts forward a transformational approach of "nature-based design" in order to meet the challenge of more frugal, fairer and more attractive cities.

[Read More](#)

## Green City Principles

Greening Streetscapes through Herbanisation





Herbanisation is an open access, medicinal street garden project in Cape Town, South Africa. The project aims to green streetscapes in economically marginalised areas while contributing to the livelihoods of local Rasta/Khoi herbalists and reconnecting community members with medicinal plants. Herbanisation gardens currently include thousands of plants in Seawinds, Cape Town, and this number continues to grow each year.

[Read More](#)

## Cities and Nature: Planning for the Future



In preparation for the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to adopt the Global Biodiversity Framework, UN-Habitat prepared a white paper which highlights new principles and actions to improve the quality of urbanisation, recognizing the importance of nature in cities and the preventative role of spatial planning. The white paper offers a novel methodology to prioritise interventions along a preserve- conserve-restore-create spectrum that responds to varying states of natural habitat around and within cities. The goal is to help cities to make educated decisions about where and how to develop with minimal impact on nature and people. Urbanists and ecologists in policy and practice alike will benefit from its action-based approaches and catalogue of preventative practices.

[Read More](#)



**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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