We celebrate today by reflecting on the key role of cities and regions in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). ICLEI's report showcases critical interventions and milestones of subnational governments and cities at COP15, and includes the announcement of the upcoming ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center webinar series.

Did you know that there is a category dedicated to biodiversity in the AIPH World Green City Awards? For the 2024 edition, which is currently open for entries, all cities, large and small, are invited to showcase the action they are taking #fornature by entering the “Living Green for Biodiversity and Urban Ecosystem Restoration” category.

AIPH Joins the World Urban Campaign

AIPH is proud to announce their partnership with the World Urban Campaign, a catalytic engagement and action platform led by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to improve 1,000 Cities and 1 Billion Lives by 2030. Together, we will showcase solutions and take action for cities and communities to accelerate the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

News & Events

AIPH Green City Briefings 2022/2023

In case you missed it, the May webinar in the AIPH Green City Briefings series explored how plants and nature result in improved health and wellbeing in cities. Proudly featuring the City of Fortaleza’s Urban Micro Parks initiative, winner of the “Living Green for Health and Wellbeing” category of the AIPH World Green City Awards 2022, the Briefing is available for on-demand viewing.

Call for Proposals for Cities

As part of the new UNEP-led global project, Generation Restoration, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has issued a call for proposals for cities interested in starting or scaling up ecosystem restoration efforts, offering up to $700,000 in catalytic grants to 8 selected cities.

WWF One Planet Cities Challenge (OPCC)

The One Planet City Challenge is an invitation to cities to stand up and be counted in the global action against climate change. Share the world what you do to help the cities do it. To join the 2023-24 OPCC, either log into the CDP-ICLEI Track and click to join the OPCC or contact WWF at opcc@wwf.se.

AIPH Member’s Green City Reports

AIPH requests its members around the world to provide an annual Green City Report. The reports describe industry-led initiatives, major green city projects, policy developments, community activities, and research publications.

Hellenic Plant Material Exporters and Importers Association (HEPEXIA), Greece

The 68th Kifissia Flower Show (May 2022) featured 11 inspirational wellness gardens built by well-known landscape architects to promote plants and garden structures for people in Urban Places. Their purpose was to show how important greenery is for humans and how it provides physical, mental and spiritual benefits.
AIPH member in France, VALHOR, is supporting a survey to better understand the decline of urban trees. In an environmental and climatic context that leaves no room for error, we must learn from past and current difficulties. Quantifying and qualifying the mortality of urban trees will provide valuable lessons for improving planting practices and strategies.

Case Studies

Open Space Strategy Glasgow, Scotland
Nature in the City Strategy Hamilton, New Zealand

The declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019 placed an emphasis on using open space effectively to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. The City's Open Space Strategy recognizes the water benefits that open space can bring to the City and its residents and demonstrates that well managed, designed and located open space can help enhance community cohesion, health & wellbeing, and biodiversity.

Green City Principles

Urban Natural Assets (UNA) for Africa: Handbook series

The ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, a global centre hosted by ICLEI Africa, developed a handbook series to showcase lessons gathered through the implementation of the UNA programme, which was designed to support local governments in integrating urban natural assets into city planning.

Open Space Strategy

Glasgow, Scotland

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Research Findings

A decade of nature in the City of Melbourne

This research examines the evolution of urban nature management at the City of Melbourne over the last 10 years, including identifying the lessons learned that can be applied by other urban land managers.

The Symbiotic City

Living in a symbiotic city is nothing like living in cities as we know them in 2022. This article written by Marian Stuiver and posted by the International Federation of Municipal Engineering provides interesting facts and thoughts about the benefit of merging nature with our way of living and suggests that we can live in cities where birds, insects, mammals, and plants partner the people who live there. The full brochure provides strategic and practical guidelines for making the symbiotic city a success.

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Drought tolerance of shrubs suitable for future climates

Shrubs and hedges provide a unique provision in the implementation of green infrastructure in cities. This novel study identified species specific drought tolerance to assess their suitability for future climates in urban areas.

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A Guide to Ecosystem Restoration

UN Decade's partners offered ten principles for ecosystem restoration to increase the likelihood of achieving the highest level of recovery possible. The document provides key recommendations for the entire restoration process, which are applicable to all cities and across the breadth of ecosystem restoration activities under the UN Decade.

Policy

Greening the grey: A ‘rewilding’ Guide for Cities

During a recent roundtable in London, three leading mayors launched a report on "urban rewilding" authored by C40 and Arup. The report argues that transformational change in urban areas is needed to reverse biodiversity loss and tackle climate change. Restoring natural habitat in our cities can help to reduce impacts of climate change and improve the mental health and well-being of city dwellers.
PodParks Brings Urban Parks to Life

This educational podcast by World Urban Parks combines interviews and narrative-driven episodes to create compelling stories about parks, the people who create them and their role in the past, present and future of our communities. We invite you to listen and be inspired.

Find Out More

Nature-based solutions: How cities can use nature to manage climate risks

With climate hazards threatening cities, urban environmental planners are working to create or revive urban nature to manage climate impacts and improving people’s quality of life around the world. This article explains how your city can design and implement nature-based solutions (NbS) to climate risk.

Read More

Best Practice

Find inspirational case studies and evidence lead research that shows the incredible impact of bringing nature into urban areas. The forum contains a range of tools, talks and resources on how to create resilient green cities.

Join the Forum

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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