



CITIES & REGIONS

FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Local and regional partnerships for sustainable urban development

BRUSSELS, 4-5 FEBRUARY 2019



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL

Wetlands International Side Event

Title: Blue-green infrastructures for urban resilience

Subtitle: Partnerships to turn policy into urban resilience practice

Related Topics: Climate, cities, green infrastructure, development cooperation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, water, policy, partnerships, urban planning

Leading Organisation: Wetlands International

Date: 5 February 2019, 14.00 – 16.30 hrs.

Location: Tactic Room 2, Aloft Schuman Brussels, Place Jean Rey (270m walk from the Forum)

Session description

This side event aims to show-case the importance of blue-green infrastructure measures for urban resilience to climate change and the role of partnerships behind it. Building strong partnerships of local governments, civil society and international development bodies can contribute to turning policy into local urban resilience action on the ground.

Local authorities can engage in multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary resilience approaches to maximize urban benefits for people and nature. As national regulations or siloed governance and budgeting structure can obstruct multi-purpose projects that include blue and green infrastructure, development cooperation has a key role to play in piloting and catalyzing the mainstreaming of transformative resilience building in cities.

Outcomes

- Policy recommendations
- Partnership building opportunities for urban resilience
- Awareness on blue-green infrastructure for urban resilience

Program – moderated by Wetlands International

1) Speakers

- A short introduction to Blue-Green Infrastructure
Sander Carpay, Urban Resilience Coordinator of Wetlands International
- Key recommendations to incorporate Blue-Green Infrastructure to implement the Sendai Framework for DRR
Andrew Bower, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in Brussels
- Panama Dutch Water Dialogues to Reduce Flood Risk in Panama City
Raisa Banfield, Vice-Mayor of Panama City
- Blue-green infrastructure in the International Water Ambition of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Water As Leverage for Resilient Cities: Asia program.
Sandra Schoof, Program Manager, Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Government of the Netherlands
- EU Policy Framework on work on blue and green infrastructure projects
Stefan Leiner, Head of the Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment of the European Commission
- EU R&I agenda on Nature-based Solutions
Sofie Vandewoestijne, , Project Adviser EASME/EC, H2020 Environment and Resources, Natural Resources & Ecosystems
- Planning Hybrid Grey Green Infrastructures
Frans van de Ven - expert advisor Urban Land & Water Management, WssTP/ Deltares
- The Development, Extension and Beautification of the City (PAEEV) project in Jérémie, Haiti
Claude Harry Milord, Mayor of Jérémie, Haiti

2) Panel discussion with the speakers

3) Questions from the audience

About the Forum

The Forum “Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation” aims to strengthen the policy dialogue and the 2019 edition will focus on partnerships supporting sustainable urban development and helping deliver the UN's Sustainable Development Goals at local and regional levels.

Our event demonstrates through examples from e.g. Panama, Indonesia and Philippines that partnerships, including local authorities and CSOs, are key for the promotion of blue-green infrastructure for urban resilience. For attending the side event, it is not necessary to register at the forum.



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About Wetlands International

Wetlands International is the only global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands. We are deeply concerned about the loss and deterioration of wetlands such as lakes, marshes and rivers.

In rural and peri-urban situations in many developing countries, the pollution or degradation of wetlands can endanger the sustainability of water supplies and the health of people that depend on them. We create resilience along heavily degraded and urbanising coasts that are subject to erosion and land subsidence. We achieve this by promoting and demonstrating a Building with Nature approach: several large scale demonstrations will show how ecosystem-based and engineered solutions can go hand in hand to create a safe and productive coastline

Our vision is a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide.

Wetlands International is dedicated to maintaining and restoring wetlands— for their environmental values as well as for the services they provide to people. We work through our network of offices, our partners and experts to achieve our goals.

www.wetlands.org

References

Landscape scale Disaster Risk Reduction: Urban Water Dialogues, Panama City

<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/landscape-scale-disaster-risk-reduction-urban-water-dialogues-panama-city/>

Position paper 'Building with Nature – exploring Nature Based Solutions for water challenges'

<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/position-paper-building-nature-exploring-nature-based-solutions-water-challenges/>

Water as Leverage for Resilient Cities: Asia [https://www.dutchwatersector.com/news-](https://www.dutchwatersector.com/news-events/news/34778-water-as-leverage-city-designs-gather-momentum-with-presentations-to-financial-sector.html)

[events/news/34778-water-as-leverage-city-designs-gather-momentum-with-presentations-to-financial-sector.html](https://www.dutchwatersector.com/news-events/news/34778-water-as-leverage-city-designs-gather-momentum-with-presentations-to-financial-sector.html)