



WELCOME TO JOIN A

European Green Capital Seminar

WHAT ABOUT URBAN NATURE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

First invitation

We invite you to the Conference *What about Urban Nature – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* in Stockholm, Sweden, October 14-15, 2010.

The City of Stockholm has been awarded the first EU Green Capital 2010 by the EU Commission. On account of this, the City of Stockholm invites city officials, decision makers, researchers and anyone interested to a conference on urban nature. Urban nature maintains biodiversity and ecosystem services which are essential to humans, not at least in urban areas. The conference will focus on opportunities and methods to combine urban development, biodiversity and access to ecosystem services that urban nature can provide. The aim is to present good practises, and to give a platform for an exchange of experiences and to discuss future collaborations.

The conference is arranged by the City of Stockholm in cooperation with the Environmental Management and Assessment research group, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm.

Please forward this invitation to others who may be interested!

Time: 14-15 October 2010.

Place: Central Stockholm.

Participation fee: 100-150 €.

For further information, please contact:

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Partners: The European Commission in Sweden, Office of Regional Planning, Stockholm County Council.



Thematic scope:

Urban nature is a key component of the urban system, providing ecosystem services such as micro climate regulation and stormwater retention but also beauty and inspiration. Accessible urban nature is of great importance for every-day recreation and health. Further, urban nature support biodiversity, which is of special interest at present since the United Nations has declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. Not only biodiversity as such, but the particular importance of biodiversity in urban areas has been recognized as a main priority for a sustainable development, e.g. in the work with the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the same time, urbanization is together with agriculture increasingly being recognised as the most important threat to biodiversity worldwide. Accordingly, cities can play an increasingly vital role in sustaining the world's species, since they can be considered main nodes for flows of knowledge and resources and thus have major influence on society. For instance, they can play a crucial role as informative test cases for understanding socio-ecological system dynamics and responses to change.

The city of Stockholm has developed decision support for ecological assessment and has also implemented measures to improve the conditions for biodiversity and to keep green areas available for the inhabitants. During the conference, we hope that good examples from Stockholm as well from other European cities can encourage fruitful discussions about how cities can work with biological diversity and ecosystem services.

Details on the agenda and arrangements will be circulated during the summer of 2010, together with instructions for registration. It will be possible to show good examples by posters or roll-ups. Please send an e-mail to the address above if you wish to do so.



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