



# CALL FOR PAPERS

## First annual event of the project “Nature in the City” Nature-Based Strategies for Urban Climate Adaptation: Insights from Cities in the Global South and North

**11-12 December 2024**  
**Sciences Po Paris Campus**

On the 11th and 12th of December 2024 the Urban School will host the first annual event of the project "Nature in the City" focusing on nature-based solutions (NBS) and climate adaptation in cities. The event will bring together leading scholars, practitioners, and stakeholders from various disciplines to explore the complex relationship between cities and nature in the context of climate change.

The event is organized by [the Urban School](#) in collaboration with the [Atelier interdisciplinaire de recherches sur l'environnement \(AIRE\)](#) and the [Maison des Art et Creation](#) at Sciences Po. The conference is funded by the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation.

Cities worldwide are adopting nature-based solutions (NBS) and green infrastructure to tackle unsustainable development and climate risks, aligning with SDGs 11, 13, and 15. While NBS offer a promising approach to restore ecosystem services and address environmental challenges, the concept of "solving" urban issues through NBS may perpetuate exploitative notions of nature and be vulnerable to greenwashing by powerful interests. To ensure NBS contribute to long-term sustainability and address structural social-environmental injustices, a relational and reciprocal understanding of human-nature connections is necessary. Despite progress in specific cases, the full integration of NBS into urban governance and municipal agendas is lacking. The conference aims to address these gaps by examining governance dynamics, using a socio-material framework to understand how diverse actors can enable equitable and sustainable NBS implementation. Additionally, while much attention has been given to urban resilience, green infrastructure, and climate adaptation, the socio-spatial implications of these strategies on marginalized groups, particularly in the Global South, require further consideration.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars working on both the drivers and outcomes of nature based solutions and climate adaptation in cities. We welcome papers from disciplines such as urban planning, urban design, sociology, political science, geography, environmental science, history, economics and law that clearly articulate research questions, theoretical framework, methodology, and preliminary findings.

We aim at a broad range of contributions dealing with the varieties, drivers and impacts of nature based solutions for climate adaptation in cities. The event will feature as keynote speakers Vanesa Castán Broto, Charles Karangwa, Julie Greenwalt, Thomas Elmqvist among others.

The main key questions we aim to address are:

1. As cities face increasing climate change impacts and vulnerabilities, can nature-based solutions effectively address issues like urban heat islands, cooling needs, air quality, and water resource management? What are the key advantages and disadvantages of implementing nature-based solutions in urban areas?
2. Despite the potential benefits of nature-based solutions, cities often struggle to implement them at a large scale. What are the primary obstacles hindering the widespread adoption of nature-based solutions in urban environments, and what strategies can be employed to overcome these challenges?
3. Cities have tackled environmental planning and nature-based strategies in various ways throughout history. What valuable lessons can they learn from these different adaptation pathways?
4. In what ways can the implementation of nature-based solutions in cities contribute to achieving climate justice and promoting equitable urban development?

Particularly, we propose the following topics for submissions:

1. Session 1: Exploring the diverse perspectives on nature-based solutions: A cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural analysis
2. Session 2: Bridging the gap: Integrating nature-based solutions in global climate governance and local adaptation strategies
3. Session 3: From theory to practice: Case studies of the governance of daily implementation of urban greening policies and nature-based solutions for climate adaptation in cities across the globe
4. Session 4: Nature-based solutions as a tool for disaster risk reduction, post-disaster risk recovery and humanitarian crisis
5. Session 5: Inclusive nature-based solutions: planning for climate resilience with marginalized communities and informal settlements in the Global South

6. Session 6: Nature future frameworks and imaginaries : harnessing data innovation for climate change risk assessment and preparedness in the face of uncertainty and building alternative visions and scenarios for the management of nature in cities

We are envisioning that the papers presented at the workshop and the results of the workshop discussions may potentially be published in a special issue of a top-tier journal. Specifically, we are targeting npj Urban Sustainability, an online-only and open access publication that focuses on inter- and cross-disciplinary research exploring how cities are reshaping and being reshaped to address major economic, social, and environmental challenges, including the growing role of digital tools and big data in this process. However, the final decision on the target journal and the publication of the special issue will depend on various factors, including the quality and relevance of the submissions, as well as the interest and availability of the journal.

Mark your calendars for the 11 and 12 December 2024, and join us for this exciting event that promises to shape a critical discussion on the potential and challenges of nature-based solutions and climate adaptation in cities. More details about the event program, speakers, and registration will be shared in the coming months.

### **Guidelines for Submission:**

→ Submissions should include:

- o A **500-word abstract** including research questions, theoretical framework, methodology and findings. Please indicate the number of the session you want to contribute to (by 1 September 2024)
- o A **5000 words** paper including research questions, theory, methods and research findings. We are seeking a balance of perspective papers, empirical papers and case studies from the Global North and Global South across the following six themes (by 1 december 2024)

→ All abstracts must be submitted and presented in English

→ Abstracts should be sent to: **[naturecityconference@gmail.com](mailto:naturecityconference@gmail.com)**

### **Important dates:**

- **Deadline for abstract submissions: 20 September**
- **Decision on abstracts: 15 September 2024**
- **Deadline for full papers: 1 December 2024**

- Registration for presenters: The conference is free of charge and includes meals. Presenters need to arrange their own travel and accommodation. Registration is required by October 1st 2024
- **Conference: 11th-12th December 2024**

### **Registration & enquiries:**

Francesca Ferlicca, Rachel L. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow

**francesca.ferlicca@sciencespo.fr**

### **Scientific committee:**

- **Francesca Ferlicca**, Rachel L. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow, Urban School, Sciences Po
- **Manisha Anantharaman**, Assistant Professor at the , Sciences Po's Center for the Sociology of Organisations
- **Tommaso Vitale**, Dean of Sciences Po's Urban School
- **Marco Cremaschi**, Assistant Professor in Urban Planning at Sciences Po's Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics (CEE)
- **Joost de Moor**, Assistant Professor in Political Science at Sciences Po's Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics (CEE)

### **Local organizing committee:**

- **Francesca Ferlicca**, Rachel L. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow, Urban School, Sciences Po
- **Manisha Anantharaman**, Assistant Professor at the Center for the Sociology of Organisations, Sciences Po.
- **Alvaro Artigas Pereira**, associate researcher, Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po
- **Cassandre Rey-Thibault**, Bruno Latour Postdoctoral fellow, Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po

### **Local partners:**

- Urban School, Sciences Po
- Institute for the Arts and Creation, Sciences Po
- Atelier interdisciplinaire de recherches sur l'environnement (AIRE), Sciences Po
- Cities are Back in Town, Urban School of Sciences Po

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