

NATURVATION
cities – nature – innovation

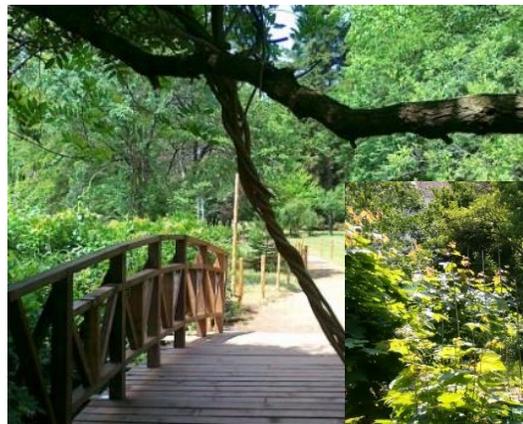
Accounting for Diversity in the assessment of social and cultural values of urban nature



Valuing Nature Conference, London, 28-29 October 2019, Kathrin Hörschelmann (presenting author), K_Hoerschelmann@ifl-leipzig.de
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NATURVATION (2016-2020, Horizon2020)





Naturvation Aims

- **Realise Potential of Nature-Based Solutions in European Cities**
 - Enable innovation
 - Advance assessment approaches
 - Generate momentum
- **Nature-Based Solutions:**
 - deliberate interventions that are inspired or supported by nature

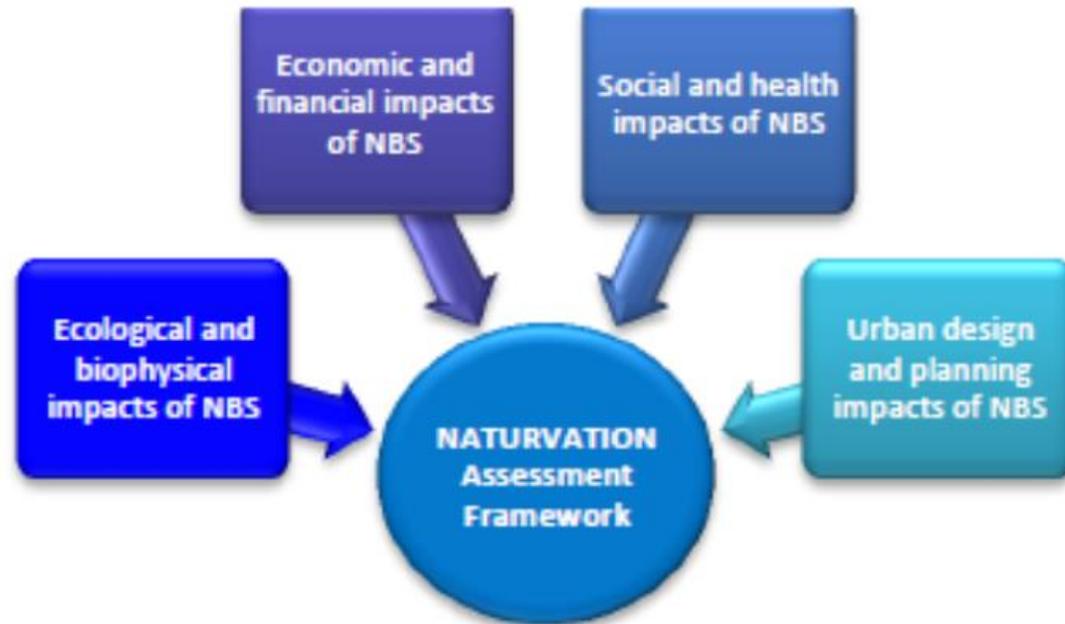




Assessing the Value of Urban Nature

Multi-criteria NBS Assessment Framework

- to capture their multi-faceted and systemic impacts as well as their diverse economic and cultural values
 - further information: www.naturvation.eu





Shared values?



- Kenter et al (2015):

“Societies as a whole share *cultural and societal values*, ... There may, of course, be multiple sets of cultural values within a society, but for simplicity here we use the terms cultural and societal values interchangeably. Cultural values are **grounded in the cultural heritage of a society** and pervasively reside within societal institutions (Frey, 1994).”



Shared values?



- **Burgess (2000):**

“To what extent **is there consensus** about the value of nature in any particular place? ... Who is to decide, and on what grounds? Will the decisions be equitable between different interests?”

- acknowledge existence of many different ‘stakeholders’ which may include future generations and nature



Intangible benefits of urban nature

- **E.g. Community Gardens in Leipzig, Germany:**
 - promote social interaction between different groups of residents
 - provide safe spaces for marginalised members of urban society
 - activities also include cultural events enabled by the gardens
 - engagement beyond the garden gates

“As a community garden, of course, our statute also includes the aspect of supporting refugees ... to offer migrants or rather refugees a safe space, where there is a low threshold for them to arrive and to participate. Or where they can simply find someone to talk to, perhaps someone who has been here for longer. And that’s the aim ... we also spend time sitting down together, drinking coffee and chatting. And that’s when people also bring up their wishes and problems, where we might be able to help.” (Community Gardener, Leipzig 2017)





Engaging Citizens in the Assessment of NBS Values

- Why?

- fair distribution of sustainability benefits and in decision making processes
- account for diversity of values
- include intangible values in assessment through deliberation



indicator-based framework as orientation and **starting point** for citizen engagement – **not as endpoint**





Engaging Citizens in the Development of NBS

- **Possible benefits:**

- NBS become more attuned to their context
- conflicts can be identified and compromise sought
- empower local communities
- enhance belonging to city
- help to tackle social exclusion
- build trust and networks
 - inclusion experienced as a reality
- create greater senses of ownership & stewardship
- improve wellbeing through active engagement in projects
- increasing the legitimacy of planning decisions
- enhancing understanding and acceptance



Engaging Citizens in the Development of NBS

- **Possible obstacles:**

- Tokenistic inclusion
- Exploitation
- Loss of trust – need to see tangible results
- Exclusionary processes and hierarchies
 - too consensus driven?
 - not cognizant of power relations?
 - ensure citizens can participate effectively, as equal partners
- Lack of resources:
 - funding for citizens' work and for bottom-up initiatives
 - limited public or communal space
 - insufficient expertise and access to information
- Dependence on predetermined funding requirements
- Insufficient valuation of, and support for, volunteer contributions
- Unrealistic expectations of citizens' time budgets and mismatched timescales; time pressures - tied to unrealistic expectations



How?

Handbook for
citizen
engagement





What does the handbook offer?



- **What works?**
 - What can municipalities and civil society organisations do to promote **citizen engagement in and through NBS**
- **Participation methods**
 - for municipalities
 - for civil society organisations
 - to promote the inclusion of marginalised groups
- **Examples from NBS projects around the world**



What works?

Methods:

- Future Workshops
- Round Tables
- Participatory Planning Workshops
- Citizen Panels
- District Forums
- Appreciative Inquiry & Public Spirit Workshops
- District Based Community Work
- Environmental Education
- Advocacy Planning
- Community Organizing



Example

- **Appreciative Inquiry & Public Spirit Workshops**
 - Water Forest, Mexico City





Example

- **Community Organizing**
 - Indigenous NBS, Winnipeg (Canada)





What works?

- Further measures:
 - Invest plenty of time in relationship and trust building. This is time consuming but lays a sound foundation to build upon.
 - Engage at eye level and value the skills and knowledge that people bring, using methods of engagement that are respectful and appreciative of different contributions.
 - Be wary of biases in the organisers' team.
 - Spot and be aware of hierarchies and self-interested groups amongst participants.
 - Offer non-conditional opportunities to participate and ensure continued, ongoing support.
 - Accept and be prepared for fluctuating levels of engagement.
 - Have projects and interventions overseen by a combination of professionals and volunteers from different sectors.



What works?

- Get trained in conflict management and counteract the marginalisation of dissenting voices.
- Mix social groups rather than isolating the disadvantaged and most vulnerable, while keeping in mind cultural differences.
- Provide and/or offer support with access to funding (private, public and crowd funded) and comprehensive information, including legal expertise.
- Secure long-term access to communal spaces and publically owned land.
- Provide opportunities for hands-on participation and direct engagement, e.g. in green space development and maintenance or via plant donation and adoption schemes.



Thank you
for
your attention!





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