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NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS SUMMIT URBAN EDITION

MAY 23rd-24th 2024 - SUPER BOCK ARENA
PORTO - PORTUGAL

Book of abstracts of Nature Based Solutions Summit - Urban Edition 2024

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Book of Abstracts

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CONTENT

THE CONFERENCE	6
NBS SUMMIT ORGANIZATION	9
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PORTO CITY COUNCIL	11
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GREENROOFS® INNOVATED BY ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DE COBERTURAS VERDES	14
EVENT PARTNERS	17
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	19
ABSTRACTS	23
Microbial consortia selection for the development of an innovative Nature-based solution for air pollutants remediation.....	24
Using the WIEH Walkability Index to make a city greener and health-oriented: a case study in São Roque da Lameira, Porto	25
Antibiotic resistance and organic micropollutants monitoring in municipal full-scale constructed wetlands systems	26
Urban heat island mitigation: a computational approach for NBS modelling.....	27
Ectomycorrhizal fungi as a green solution to improve urban trees' health and preserve urban ecosystem biodiversity.....	28
Constructed wetland for the treatment of olive mill wastewater.....	29
Roof rainwater harvesting and aquifer recharge in an urban environment: Dry and wet infiltration wells comparison	30
Small-scale Ecological Sewage Treatment Plant: TEWetland, an innovative system.....	31
InsectScan: Preserving Nature's Architects in Urban Landscapes.....	32
Promoting sustainability in green facades with Cork-based panels and drought-tolerant Portuguese native species.....	33
Evaluating the Contribution of Green Roofs/Walls for cities' Biodiversity with the support of Citizen Science	34
Nature Based Solutions in the rehabilitation of the Leça River.....	35
Green walls for greywater treatment to increase water circularity in urban areas	36
Towards Climate-Ready Cities: Nature-Based Solutions in Peruvian Urban Drainage Reconstruction ..	37

ÍA.Porto: an environmental qualification instrument for urban operation	38
Singapore’s Jungle Of Glass: In The Search For A Certain Topia	39
Land Cover Classification and Change in Porto, Portugal: Spatial Analysis for Urban Vegetation and Green Roof Adoption	40
Nature-based solutions for sustainable marine antifouling applications.....	41
Nature-based Solutions in urban areas: how to fit into the New European Bauhaus framework	42
Benefits from Nature Based Solutions in Industrial Parks, evidences from the INDNATUR Project.....	43
Building-Integrated Greenery. Collaborative xeriscaping-based maintenance and monitoring in Mediterranean cities (BIG4LIFE)	44
Mangroves as a nature-based solution for a sustainable city: Macao SAR as a Case Study	45
Streambank Stabilization In River Póvoa, Loures, Portugal.....	46
The estimation of the ecosystem services in the urban forest of Vila Real - a tool to evaluate and monitor nature-based solutions in the city.....	47
Bio Ilhas Project: Blending Research with scientific and educational dissemination	48
Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) in Nature-based Solutions for resilient, sustainable and equitable cities	49
Assessment of green roofs ecosystem services: the Falcão School case study.....	50
GREENFUTURE Platform: A Portuguese website gathering technical and scientific knowledge on green roofs and facades	51
Rainwater harvesting with conventional or green roofs?	52
Electricity production in plant-microbial fuel cells – A new green infrastructure ecosystem service	53
Assessing Sustainable Urban Stormwater Management: A Comparative Study of Green Roofs and Detention Basins Strategies in Three U.S. Cities.....	54
Integrating Green and Purple Roofs into Smart Cities for Sustainable Urban Development	55
City Nature-based Solutions Integration to Local Urban Infrastructure Protection for a Climate Resilient Society – NBSINFRA	56
Treatment of organic compounds in floating plant root mat.....	57
Exploring Challenges and Opportunities of Nature-Based Solutions for Urban Agriculture within Buildings.....	58
Nature-Based Urban Planning: up-scaling NBS for sustainable urban transitions	59
A wildlife refuge and educational field laboratory in the city: a case study of the Granja stream in Porto	60

Bio Ilhas Project: Blending Research with scientific and educational dissemination

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Freshwater ecosystems provide humanity with a wide range of services, particularly water supply and purification. However, many of these ecosystems and their associated biodiversity are threatened significantly. Therefore, the introduction of nature-based solutions, such as floating wetland islands, in these ecosystems can contribute to the improvement of water quality and habitat provision and, when integrated with an environmental education context, can be used as powerful tools to engage students, tourists, and the general public in interactive experiences, allowing them to become more familiar with the function of freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity. Both the Fervença and Côa rivers are located in the Douro basin. The Fervença is an urban river, about 25 km long, which flows through Bragança. Along its course, it encounters non-point and point sources of pollution. In the urban core, the riverbed has been regulated, an artificial riverbank has been created, and the riparian forest has been partially removed. In this area, algal blooms occur, especially in summer, which negatively affect the water and visual quality of the area. The Côa is about 140 km long and flows through an agricultural and natural landscape. Nevertheless, the longitudinal connectivity of the river is reduced by several weirs, and the coffer dam has never been removed, even after a dam construction project was abandoned due to the discovery of important archaeological heritage. The Bio ilhas project, led by the Bragança Ciência Viva Science Center, aims to place floating islands in the urban core of Fervença and the lentic area influenced by the Côa coffer dam, the river areas affected by human activity at different levels. Therefore, the present communication aims to present the Bio ilhas project and the related activities conciliating research with scientific and educational dissemination to ultimately contribute to freshwater ecosystem conservation.

Keywords: Bio Ilhas Project; floating islands; Scientific and Educational dissemination; Freshwater ecosystems conservation.

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