



Framework for city planning including nature-based solutions (NBS)

Johanna Alkan Olsson (1), Johanna Sörensen (2), and Anna Persson (1)

(1) Centre for Climate and Environmental Research, Lund University, Sweden (johanna.alkan_olsson@cec.lu.se), (2) Water Resource Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Lund University, Sweden

A common strategy to lower the demand for intense land use and energy consumption is the densification of urban areas. While this might be a fruitful strategy for its main objectives, one concern is that space for green areas and surface water will be decreased. Therefore, densification increases the need of strategies to develop and increase the quality of nature-based solutions (NBS) in urban areas. Smarter city planning strategies are needed, both for maintenance of existing NBS and for implementation of NBS in new developments. City planning must be based on well-evaluated solutions, which in turn must be based on a decent data material for each city. Today there is however several type of difficulties related to adequate provision of data to ensure a better implementation of NBS. The challenges arise from issues such as lack of information about for example costs of maintenance of existing NBS, citizens' perceptions and preferred use of NBS to difficulties of a more technical character such as the format of available GIS information. This study focuses on this information gap regarding NBS that persists in most cities today. The project aims to develop a framework that can help city planners to overcome the gaps and facilitate the inclusion of high quality nature-based solutions where developed or maintained. The framework, which is detailed by identifying information gaps through a literature review and selected interviews with urban planners and experts in the area of NBS, is based on the idea that well-structured and user-friendly data supporting city-planning strategies are essential to facilitate the implementation of NBS. What can be understood as well structured and user-friendly data depends on the goals and needs expressed in the strategic plans, which mean that there is a need for a close interaction between the development data and the strategic political goals expressed in the plans.