



Informal Expert Network on Urban Nature

Strategic and Technical Approaches to Tree Health Protection

Tuesday, 26 September 2023, 15h00 – 16h15 CEST

Concept Note

Urban planners and city administrators face daily challenges in maintaining healthy, sustainable, livable, and resilient urban environments capable of contributing to a good quality of life for city dwellers. Urban trees and forests, both in and around cities, are crucial to respond to these challenges while providing vital benefits to our health and wellbeing, sustainable development, climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, and disaster risk reduction.

However, the ability of urban trees and forests to make these contributions is continuously threatened by numerous factors from development to pests and diseases. If not protected and maintained in a healthy state, trees can turn from assets to liabilities that can damage infrastructure and injure people.

Strategic and technical tree protection approaches must be part of a long-term vision to ensure that urban trees and forests grow to maturity and the benefits they provide are optimized over time. Engaging the community and private owners is critical to effective tree protection efforts and ensuring the health and safety of the population.

Careful spatial consideration and selection of tree species as well as consistent development on choices for pest treatments are crucial aspects of plant health care. These key factors can help to overcome the challenges posed by weather variability, new diseases, pests, and other stressors.

The meeting will provide a space for more in-depth discussion and exchange among experts on the challenges and potential approaches to tree protection for resilience and well-managed urban forests, including a case study of Denver, Colorado, USA, and discussion of practical examples and recommendations that cities may use for tree protection, which may be replicated and scaled.

About the Informal Expert Network on Urban Nature

The [Informal Expert Network on Urban Nature](#) provides a forum for knowledge exchange, capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning to advance sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry. This includes both horizontal engagement across disciplines and sectors, as well as vertical engagement with various levels of government to provide support to practitioners to identify, share, and adopt best practices and replicable solutions. By engaging a diverse group of stakeholders, it will also facilitate the identification of needed policy actions to enhance the enabling environment for sustainable urban forestry at the local, national, and regional levels.

The UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge

UNECE recognizes that sustainable urban forestry is a cost-effective approach to make cities greener, healthier and happier, contributing to a green economy that advances sustainable development in cities, and advancing national development and global goals including the SDGs and Paris Agreement. More detailed information about the Trees in Cities Challenge is at <https://treesincities.unece.org/>.

Meeting Agenda (ENG | MS Teams)

15h00	Opening, UNECE
15h05	Presentation: Denver City Case study Mr. Cole Agenbroad, Forestry Staff Assistant, Denver Parks and Recreation, City and Country of Denver
15h25	Q&A session
15h40	Pest management and plant health care: good practice for cities Dr. Robert G. Haight, Research Forester (Emeritus), USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, St. Paul, MN, USA
16h00	Q&A session
16h15	Closing, UNECE

Connection Instructions

The meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams in English only.

Please register for the meeting using the following link or QR code: <https://forms.office.com/e/d5r8JE6wZM>

Registration Form "Strategic and Technical Approaches to Tree Health Protection"

