



Landscape and Health: Effects, Potential and Strategies

2nd International Conference

1st Call

January 24 and 25, 2012, WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland

www.wsl.ch/landscapeandhealth





Introduction

Urbanisation is leading to densification of cities in many European countries, which in turn leads to changes in landscapes and in landscape qualities, as well as to the loss of near natural landscapes with high recreational value. The lifestyle in our urban society is defined by its hectic pace and lack of exercise, which results in typical lifestyle related diseases. Furthermore the urban lifestyle is known to increase the need for peace, nature and restoration.

Preventive medicine and health promotion actions are actively undertaken to prevent illness and to encourage public health. Furthermore current studies analyse the way in which near natural landscapes, with forests and/or watercourses, provide opportunities for improving the quality of life of large parts of society and for reducing the negative consequences of urban densification on public health.

Aims of the Conference

This conference is intended to be a follow up to the "Recreation and Health in Landscape and Forest" Conference that took place at the Research Institute for Forest Snow and Landscape (WSL) in Birmensdorf in April 2009 and will build on the conclusions of that conference. The aims are:

- (a) To develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between landscape and health.
- (b) To determine the relevance/meaning of the landscape for health from the perspectives of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, and medical sciences.
- (c) To establish the basis for interdisciplinary communication and policy concerning landscape and health.

Topics

You are invited to submit proposals for oral presentations or posters on the following (or similar) topics and themes.

(a) Developing an interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between landscape and health: Common interdisciplinary perspectives on landscape and health; analysis and assessment of the starting point; perspectives on landscape and health in the context of sustainable development; risks and threats perceived by society.

(b) Determining the relevance of the landscape for health from the perspectives of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, and medical sciences (including environmental medicine): Empirical knowledge on the effects of landscape and landscape qualities on human health and the relevance of landscape for the physical, psychological and social health of the society; methods for capturing the health impact of landscapes (health impact assessment, fMRI, cortisol, etc.); effects of participation on the health impact of landscapes; the effects of landscape on place identity, the relevance of ecosystem services for health; landscape as a health resource, economic aspects of the health impact of landscapes etc.

(c) Establishing the basis for interdisciplinary communication and policy concerning landscape and health: Identification and characterisation of action fields and key players in the domain; relevance and demands of communication in light of the sensitising of the relationship between health and landscape; relevance and requirements of interventions in relation to behavioral change, Implementation of findings; discussion of values in connection with landscapes and the demands concerning the health effects of landscapes; Institutional anchoring of landscape and health.



Program

The two day program includes keynote addresses, paper sessions, and poster sessions.

Keynote addresses

Plenary sessions will feature the following internationally renowned keynote speakers (confirmed):

- 1) Richard Mitchell, Professor of Health and Environment, University of Glasgow
- 2) Ludwig Trepl, em. Professor für Landschaftsökologie, Technische Universität München

Negotiations with further keynote speakers are in progress.

Who should attend?

Researchers and practitioners from different disciplines (e.g. health sciences, health promotion, landscape planning, forestry, natural sciences, psychology, sociology, etc.) who are interested in the relationship between landscape and health, and the dialogue between science and practice.

Submission of proposals for presentations and posters

We welcome proposals for scientific contributions, i.e. oral presentations as well as poster presentations, that address any of the conference themes. Proposals for presentations and posters can be submitted from the **1st of August** under <http://www.wsl.ch/landscapeandhealth>. A preliminary registration is possible per e-mail: landschaft.gesundheit@wsl.ch. See <http://www.wsl.ch/landscapeandhealth> for instructions for the presentation and poster proposals.

Deadline for presentation-submissions: **23. September 2011**.

The organising committee and the steering committee will decide on the acceptance of submissions and the final program.

Conference languages

The official languages of this international Conference are English and German. In order to facilitate communication with the international guests, the main language of the conference will be English. The keynote lectures will be simultaneously translated into English and/or German. Parallel sessions (paper sessions, etc.) will be either in English or German.

Conference proceedings

All accepted summaries will be published in the conference proceedings, provided at least one author is registered at the conference and the fee has been paid.



Registration and accommodation

Registration will be possible from the 1st of August at our conference website:

<http://www.wsl.ch/landscapeandhealth>.

The deadline for conference registration is **December 15, 2011**.

Booking of accommodation must be made directly with the hotels. Suggestions for accommodation are provided on the conference website. <http://www.wsl.ch/landscapeandhealth>.

Fees

Normal: 250 CHF / 210 Euro

Reduced: 150 CHF / 125 Euro (for students and PhD students, with proof of status)

Conference Dinner: 80 CHF/ 65 Euro (not included in Conference fee)

Contact und information

Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL),

Event-Organisation, Zürcherstr. 111, 8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland

For organisational questions: events@wsl.ch +41 (0)44 739 24 75;

For other questions: landschaft.gesundheit@wsl.ch.

Organizing committee

Nicole Bauer, Social Sciences in Landscape Research, WSL

Jean-Bernard Bächtiger, ZHAW, Institut of Natural Resource Sciences

Andreas Bernasconi, Pan Bern AG

Susanne Raschle, Event-Organisation, WSL

Martin Rösli, Swiss TPH Basel

Cornel Wick, Ärztinnen und Ärzte für Umweltschutz

Steering Committee

Until now, the following experts have agreed to serve on the steering committee. Negotiations with further experts are in progress:

Pia Kläy, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Silvio Schmid, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Raimund Rodewald, Swiss Foundation for Landscape Conservation

Brigitte Wolf, Head of the Working Committee for Forests

Sponsors and Partners

Until now, the following organizations/institutes have agreed to sponsor the conference. Negotiations with further organizations/institutes are in progress.

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL)

Zurich University of Applied Sciences – Institut of Natural Resource Sciences (ZHAW IUNR)

Ärztinnen und Ärzte für Umweltschutz (Doctors for the Environment)

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel

Swiss Foundation for Landscape Conservation

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für den Wald (Working Committee for Forests) AfW: Arbeitsgruppe Erholung im Wald (Working Group for Recovery in Forests)