

## Dear Nature Group

Welcome to the first newsletter for Ecsite Nature group. With this newsletter, we wish to keep you informed of activities, initiatives, and actions, events within the field of nature and biodiversity.

We hope to hear your feedback, and if you have ideas for topics, please feel free to contact Henrik Sell on [sell@nathist.dk](mailto:sell@nathist.dk)

The Nature Group brings together professionals and institutions who engage audiences with nature.

Public engagement on nature-related topics is a growing scientific and societal priority as it covers issues of pressing interest like biodiversity, evolution, climate change and sustainability.

The Nature Group aims to inspire across science centers, science museums, natural history museums, research institutions, universities, aquariums and zoos. All these organizations tackle nature related issues in many different ways, but there is a growing need for strengthening the connection between them and creating a more coordinated exchanging of expertise, knowledge and collaborations.



You can read more about the Ecsite Nature Group at Ecsite homepage:

<http://www.ecsite.eu/activities-and-services/thematic-groups/nature-group>

## Pre-conference June 14, 2017 in Porto

The theme for next year's pre-conference will be "Nature is back in town" and will address science centers and museums role in the dissemination of urban nature and biodiversity in cities.

Urban nature focuses on the city as a habitat - for humans, animals and plants. The majority of Europe's population now live in cities, and this is where many get their first great nature

experiences. Cities have a huge potential for species that would otherwise have a hard time. Nature and biodiversity can be promoted in cities and towns by rethinking the way cities operate with respect to the rest of the living world. In this way, cities can contribute to stop the decline of biodiversity by 2020.

Science museums and science centers can produce relevant research outputs directly and through an open participation of citizen aiming at the co-creation of a common and expanded language and consciousness on the importance of biodiversity in the urban environment. This endeavor fit perfectly the larger scope of the recent United Nation Sustainable Development Goals and the Culture for Sustainable Urban Development Report.



City and nature is like a book. There are stories about buildings, and urban development, there are stories about life and recreation, stories about bees, butterflies, birds and wildflowers. Urban nature can help us exploring the much bigger united potential, the city's nature offers and expand the creative sector's horizon.

During the morning sessions at the pre-conference, you can hear interesting speakers talking about their vision of how to make room for nature to develop alongside the metropolitic pulse. The sessions will also address how ethics and philosophy can help us when communicating this topic to policy makers and the general public. In the afternoon, two workshops will deal with the role, NHM/ SC can play in urban planning and how to address the ethical dilemmas that may arise. We will create small and big ideas together to take home to influence politicians, civil servants and citizens.



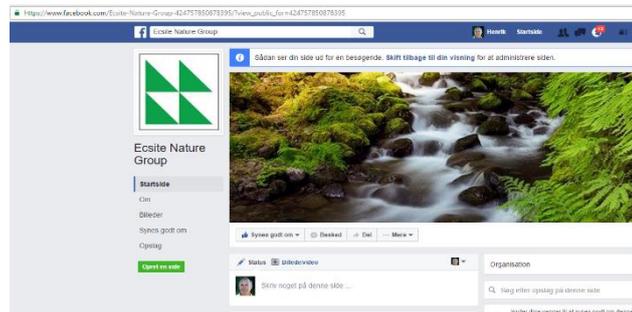
*Ecsite Nature Group pre-conference in Graz 2016*

We would also like to hear what is happening at your science centre or museum connected to the team Urban Nature.

If you have any experiences or ideas that you want to share with your colleges in a brief 5-minute-talk in a session we call “the floor is yours”, please send us an email with 5 to 10 lines about the topic. Send it to [sell@nathist.dk](mailto:sell@nathist.dk)

## Facebook

The Ecsite Nature Group has an open Facebook group where you can write your comments, good ideas, thoughts and more. The Ecsite Nature Group Steering Committee will also post relevant posts, comments, events, conferences etc.. on the Facebook site:



<https://www.facebook.com/Ecsite-Nature-Group-424757850878395/>

## Let it Grow-Campaign

Let it Grow is a joint campaign by three of Europe's largest science engagement associations – the European network of science centers and museums (Ecsite), the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), and the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). Together they aim to help make our communities into havens for native species of animals, plants and all other forms of life – working ecosystems that will help protect our continent from biodiversity loss and invasive alien species.

Ecsite, EAZA and BGCI unite some of the most progressive science engagement, conservation and research institutions in the world. They have decided to work together towards a common target, to enhance the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's AICHI Target 1, namely that "By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably."

The Let It Grow-campaign aims to help turn the fortunes of nature around across the continent, through three levels of activity:

1. Raising awareness within citizens on what biodiversity and why having a full range of native species can help keep ecosystems healthy for all forms of life including humans.
2. Helping people to set up "left-over spaces" such as balconies, terraces, gardens and community spaces to give native species the chance to recover and thrive.
3. Measuring biodiversity across the continent, so that we have a clear picture of how native species are doing, and can provide evidence to support everyone working to secure a future for nature in Europe.



If you want to join the network or just is curious about the project, please go to the website:

<http://www.letitgrow.eu/>

## EvoKE 2017, in Porto

Do you believe it is important to promote the public literacy on evolution? Are you concerned about how evolution is reported in the news? Are you an evolutionary biologist, museum professional or science communicator passionate about evolution?

If the answer is YES, then join EvoKE 2017, in Porto, Portugal from the 5th-8th of February 2017. This meeting, funded by ESEB, the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, aims to initiate the first European-wide discussion on evolution education and outreach and pave the way towards new collaborative projects that will improve the European public's literacy in evolution biology.

For more information see: <https://evokeproject.org/>

Registration link [http://bit.ly/EvoKE2017\\_registration](http://bit.ly/EvoKE2017_registration)

For questions, please contact: [registration@evokeproject.org](mailto:registration@evokeproject.org)

## The Ecsite Nature Group Steering Committee

Henrik Sell, Natural History Museum (Aarhus, Denmark). Chairperson

Thomas Berg, Naturama (Svendborg, Denmark)

Michele Lanzinger, MUSE (Trento, Italy)

Anna Omedes, Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain)

Camille Pisani, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Brussels, Belgium)

Ilse van Zeeland, Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Leiden, Nederland)



*The Ecsite Nature Group Steering Committee meeting in Graz 2016*