

CLEARING HOUSE

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Urban forests and trees for climate





Urban Trees and Forests

- 1. Historically trees and forests in urban areas have been undervalued in respect of the ecosystem services they deliver to urban societies.
- 2. In urban areas, existing policies and practice for the governance, management and conservation of trees and forests will need to change to deliver the **new role for urban trees**
 - enhancing specific ecosystem services (incl. biodiversity and climate)
 - meeting new societal demands.

Air pollutant reduction O₃, NO₂, SO₂, PM₁₀ CO₂ sequestration Energy savings & avoided emissions due to shading

Stormwater runoff reduction

Credit: iTreetools.org

Aesthetic value (increased market value)



Urban Forests as Nature-based Solutions (UF-NBS)



 Nature-based solutions are "solutions that are <u>inspired</u> and <u>supported by nature</u>, which are cost-effective, simultaneously <u>provide environmental</u>, <u>social and</u> <u>economic benefits</u> and help <u>build resilience</u>."

• <u>UF-NBS</u> includes peri-urban and urban forests, forested parks, small woods in urban areas, and trees in public and private spaces.



CLEARING HOUSE Project



Collaborative Learning in Research,
Information-sharing and Governance on
How Urban forests as nature-based
solutions support Sino-European urban
futures.

 Coordinators: European Forest Institute (EFI) & Chinese Academy of Forestry – Research Institute for Forestry (CAF-RIF)



48 MONTHS

26 PARTNERS

11 COUNTRIES

> 10 CITIES & URBAN REGIONS

5.5 MIO EUR BUDGET



CLEARING HOUSE - Main objectives

- Mapping how urban forests are used/managed as NBS (typology)
- Surveying societal perceptions and demands towards UF-NBS in Europe and China
- Analysing the respective policy frameworks in Europe and China
- Comparative case study analysis in 10 paired cities/city clusters between China & Europe
- Experiment with elements of citizen science, co-design and co-learning with stakeholders and decision makers in Europe and China
- Poveloping user-friendly UF-NBS tools (e.g., guidelines for practitioners)











Ongoing activity:

Europe & China collaboration – 'CLEARING HOUSE' - Urban forestry as a nature-based solution (UF-NBS)



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