

## **Planning Sustainable Urban Communities through Nature-Based Solutions: Perspectives from the Global South**

**Authors :** Nike Jacobs, Elizelle Juane Cilliers

**Abstract :** In recent decades there has been an increasing strive towards broader sustainable planning practices. A wide range of literature suggests that nature-based solutions (including Green Infrastructure planning) may lead towards socio-economically and environmentally sustainable urban communities. Such research is however mainly based on practices from the Global North with very little reference to the Global South. This study argues that there is a need for Global North knowledge to be translated to Global South context, and interpreted within this unique environment, acknowledging historical and cultural differences between Global North and Global South, and ultimately providing unique solutions for the unique urban reality. This research primarily focuses on nature-based solutions for sustainable urban communities and considers a broad literature review on Global North knowledge regarding such, substantiated by an analysis of purposefully selected case studies. The investigation identifies best practices which could be translated and place such in the context of current Global South perspectives.

**Keywords :** global south, green infrastructure planning, nature-based solutions, sustainable urbanism, urban sustainability

**Conference Title :** ICSUEA 2017 : International Conference on Sustainable Urbanism and Engineering Applications

**Conference Location :** Copenhagen, Denmark

**Conference Dates :** October 02-03, 2017