



**IFLA EUROPE**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

## **Plan(e)Tscope**

### **IFLA Europe Resolution - Budapest, Hungary - October 2024**

Landscape is naturally resilient; it has the capacity to adapt to survive. Its resilience, natural processes going on in natural features, is represented mostly by individual plants, as well as complex plant communities, and their close association with climate, micro-climate, geology, landform, soils, and local biodiversity, even in urban and peri-urban environments. The most effective and long-term measures to mitigate or even prevent climate crisis-induced disasters – such as drought, desertification, heavy precipitation, floods, landslides, and the urban heat island effect – are nature-based solutions (NBS), especially vegetation.

Plants with their ecosystems represent essential elements of a brighter future contributing to the survival and rejuvenation of our Earth. They are genetically coded natural systems to transform, adapt, and regenerate, and represent the primary instrument of landscape architecture, offering a huge, often unexploited, potential.

We, the undersigned, representatives of the National Associations of the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects, having considered 'Plan(e)Tscope' as a theme for our General Assembly, in Budapest, Hungary from the 19-20 of October 2024, believe that landscape architecture is one of the key professions with the depth of knowledge and capacity to provide solutions to combat contemporary environmental challenges.

#### **We recognise:**

The importance of our ethical and responsible professional response by contributing positively through landscape practice to the health of the environment, mitigating the negative effects of climate change, combatting biodiversity loss and improving the quality of life.

Landscape architecture, a profession deeply rooted in nature, can draw attention to plants' ecosystem value and multifunctionality, their natural beauty and diverse applications to combat environmental challenges. We are convinced that innovative and conscious plant application in landscape design can contribute significantly to a sustainable, beautiful and healthy vision for our Plan)Tscope.

Plants and vegetations are very efficient tools in the hands of landscape architects to manage environmental disasters, to protect and increase biodiversity, to restore natural habitats, helping to stabilise changes favourably for the quality of life for urban and rural populations; mitigating global warming, floods, desertification, ecological destruction or reducing social conflicts, as well as responding to the diverse needs of urban development, agriculture, tourism and leisure.

Sharing teaching, research and practice perspectives on past, present and future plant use in professional experiences, discussing innovation capacities and system thinking for plant use in a climate change scenario contributes to the promotion and large-scale recognition of the landscape architecture profession. Theories, discourses, good practices, design ideas, studio works, prototypes, local, regional, and global projects, teaching methods, community involvements, legislations, strategies involving plants are promoters and key factors to turn to nature for salvation through nature-based solutions (NBS).

In times of increasing urbanisation, threats of climate change and biodiversity loss, a variety of landscape perspective – such as urban landscapes, historic landscapes, cultural landscapes, agricultural landscapes,

social landscapes, ecological landscapes – can be strongly supported by strategic, comprehensive and innovative plant use.

We believe landscape architecture is one of the key professions capable of providing NBS solutions for the growing global crisis. Our holistic approach responds to the need for multidisciplinary teams, where landscape architecture can contribute significantly towards to the “code red” defined by many specialists, highlighting creative, beautiful and inclusive solutions, countering the increasingly prevalent doomsday mood, and outlining an active, forward-looking, and optimistic vision of the future for not only the profession but the entire society.

We believe that, having the plants as central elements, an expanded collaboration between different architectural and natural disciplines is an important prerequisite for a transformative change.

### **We urge**

The European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Directorate General for the Environment, the European Directorate General for Agriculture, the Council of Europe, the New European Bauhaus Collective, IUCN, International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), IFLA Europe member states, monitoring and management bodies of the Ecological Transition-Recovery Funds, and other environmental parties:

- to promote the importance of a 'Governance of Change' in an evolutionary but identity-conscious sense, with Nature-based Solutions (NBS) and the ability to control complex transformations, typical of evolving landscapes that landscape architects govern with competence and experience as an essential element of their professional skills.
- to enhance the importance of strategic, responsible, sustainable, aesthetic and multifunctional plant use.
- to enrich our green and built-up areas; understanding that biodiversity is not simply a quantitative feature of a site but facilitates the re-connections and creation of green corridors between urban green areas and surrounding landscapes.
- to better recognise the landscape profession with clarity, to strengthen the relationship between spatial and urban planning, design, construction and maintenance, enabling active participation in change management, recognising the importance of expert landscape advice at all stages.
- to communicate on all platforms and forums that landscape architects can help to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and biodiversity emergency, and bring new functionality, resilience and beauty to our environment by mastering complex human-nature relationships;
- to provide an open-source platform as a forum for first degree information about the profession of landscape architecture.
- to highlight that only through natural features and processes provided by plants and landscape architecture the objective of creating healthy, liveable and resilient cities can be achieved embracing all of the inhabitants.
- to promote the importance of nature, and the quality of landscape planning and design, to restore a sustainable balance for an improved quality of life of all species.

**Following** other international and European texts on the matter such as:

- The Nature Restoration Law (2024)
- The European Soil Strategy (2023)
- The European Climate Law (2020)
- The EU Green Deal (2019)

- Farm to Fork Strategy (2019)
- UN Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the Enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (2018)
- European Heritage Strategy for the 21st century – Strategy 21 (2017)
- 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Paris, 2015)
- European Union framework for climate and energy 2020 – 2030 (EU 2014)
- Invasive Alien Species Regulation (2014)
- Environmental action programme 2020 (European Union, 2013)
- Convention on the Promotion and Diversity of Cultural Expressions (UNESCO, 2005)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, 2003)
- European Climate Change Programme (EU ECCP, 2000)
- European Landscape Convention (CoE, Florence, 2000)
- Århus Convention (UN Economic Commission for Europe, 1998)
- The Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development (UNESCO, Stockholm, 1998)
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992)
- The Recommendation on participation by the people at large in cultural life and their contribution to it (UNESCO, Nairobi, 1976)
- The World Heritage Convention (Paris, 1972), whose Operative Guidelines first expressed the Notion of Cultural Landscapes
- Charter of Burra (ICOMOS, Burra Australia, 1979)
- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat (CoE 1979)
- The European Social Charter (CoE, 1961)
- The New European Bauhaus (2020)