



Planning and biodiversity

Co-chairs

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In a context of loss of biodiversity, a new attention to the issue has been noticed in planning practices in the last decades.

Given the observed inadequacy of the previous nature conservation strategies focused on protecting isolated patches of outstanding nature, there has emerged a need for securing ordinary nature and a wider range of areas considered essential for the functioning of ecosystems. Consequently, ecological connectivity has become a key issue in a context of accelerated landscape fragmentation. Spatial planning has often been considered as a particularly relevant field to address this challenge, especially because of its comprehensive approach to develop strategies through different spatial scales and in regards to other land-use related issues.

This new mission questions the planning discipline itself because it implies an interest in less anthropocentric spatial functions while the practice essentially used to satisfy human needs.

This special session aims at investigating, with a comparative and multidisciplinary perspective, how this consideration for biodiversity, ecological connectivity and ecosystems has progressively diffused in the spatial planning systems and practices in the various countries.

Papers and presentations referring to the following sub-themes will be particularly appreciated:

- consideration for biodiversity, ecosystems and ecological connectivity in the spatial planning systems; development of an ecological expertise and inclusion of ecological skills in the planning governance;
- production, lack and use of habitat-species data in planning processes; scientific and pragmatic methodologies for designing ecological networks;
- planning and land-use requirements included in the plans with the aim of protection/restoring ecological connectivity/functions;
- consideration for mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, minimisation and compensation) within planning processes;
- implementation monitoring and plan assessment regarding aspects related to biodiversity, ecosystems and ecological connectivity.

This session is intended for planners as well as for life/social scientists and every contributor interested in the issue. A specific attention will be given to transdisciplinary contributions.