

A photograph of a volcanic eruption. A large, billowing plume of white ash and grey smoke rises from a mountain peak, filling much of the sky. The foreground shows a dark, forested hillside with some orange-red lava flows visible on the slope. The overall scene is dramatic and powerful.

NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS: MORE THAN JUST GREENING THE CITY?

Unpacking nature-based solutions for more sustainable cities

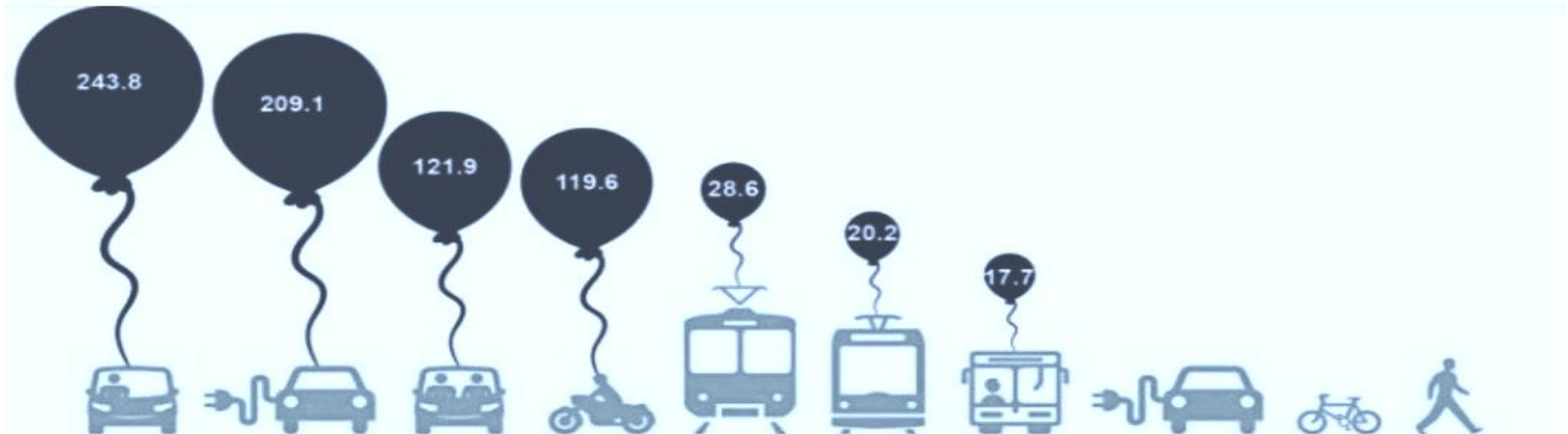
Judith Ryser & Teresa Franchini

CORP 2023

NATURE AND HUMANS

- **Humans: domination - exploitation of nature**

-> adverse climate change + biodiversity decline



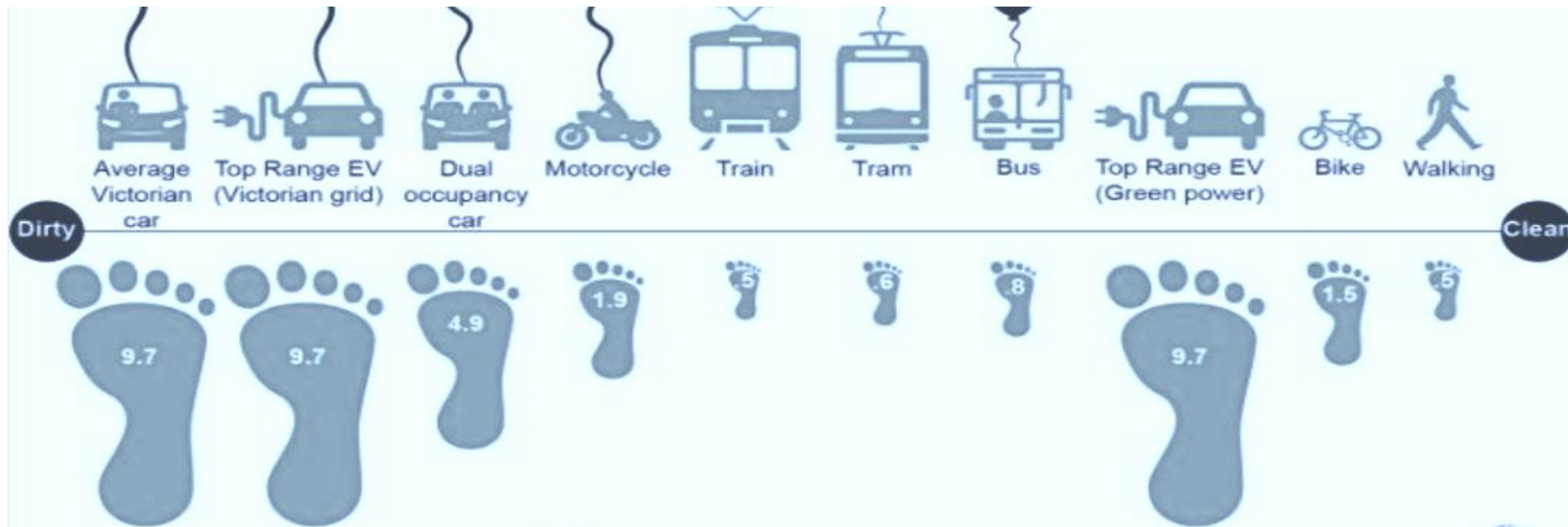
- **NBS: making a difference?**

re existing planning tools: environmental, ecological, greening +

NATURE AND HUMANS

- **Planning: alternative response**

NBS => ecological, sustainable, liveable human made environment

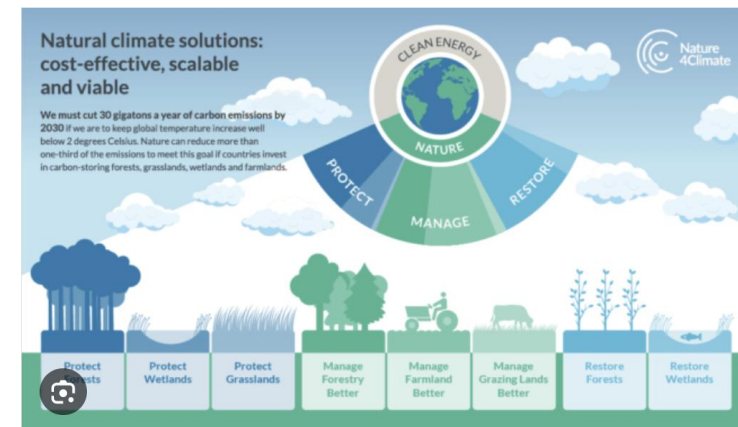
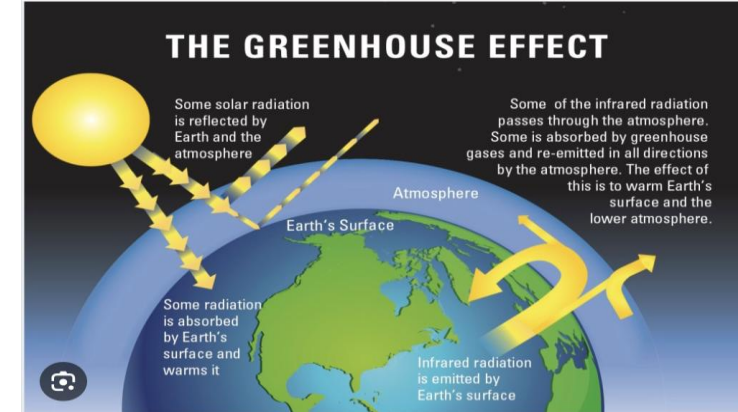


- **NBS effectiveness?**

re existing planning tools: environmental – ecological – greening +

CLIMATE CRISIS AND CITIES

- **Scientific evidence:** *accelerating global warming*
- **Urgent Actions:** *policies, measures, implementation*
at all levels of government
- **NBS - new tool:** linking *biodiversity and people*
adopted by UN (2005), defined by IUCN (2013)
=> relation with traditional approaches?



NBS IN PRACTICE

- **Regional level**

focus:

landscape conservation,
nature restoration, rewilding

human impacts:

social, economic, cultural,
institutional



NBS IN PRACTICE

- **Urban level**

- *focus:* eco-districts, green and blue infrastructure, unsealing soil
- *impacts:* heat island reduction, flood prevention, improved air quality



LIMITS AND RISKS OF NBS

- **definition:** no consensus
- **scope:** environment above social and economic benefits
- **evaluation:** no agreed indicators and metrics
- **financing:** lack of coordination between government levels & with stakeholders
- **collateral effects:** may maintain status quo & economic elite; inadequate public participation & community consent

-> *prone to greenwashing & "green gentrification"?*

-> *not different from existing "green" technologies?*



REDUCING UNCERTAINTY

IUCN Global Standard

- C1: transparent, inclusive consultation processes
- C2: local context based design
- C3: net nature gains
- C4: equitable distribution of costs and benefits
- C5: inclusive, transparent governance processes
- C6: equitable trade-offs between objectives, benefits and economic rewards
- C7: managing uncertainties through continuous monitoring
- C8: integration into appropriate policy context

more regulation?

or more creative action?



NBS, PLANNING AND PLANNERS

- **current NBS experiences:** punctual, sectoral, with diverse spatial coverage, implemented ad hoc, scarcely included in traditional planning instruments
- **opportunities for regulatory structures:** making NBS, public participation and budget availability mandatory; devising monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for long-term performance (*IUCN Global Standard?*)
- **opportunities for planners:** transposing the NBS concept into new tools to innovate development plans and planning regulations
- **opportunities for planning science:** research towards NBS, educating NBS specialists

BY WAY OF CONCLUSION

- **facts:** studies show that NBS contribute to alleviating climate change and improving urban and regional sustainability.
- **planning instruments:** incorporating NBS into planning policies could foster their long-term viability.
- **planning:** the vertical and horizontal linkages of NBS policies could bring cohesion to a fragmented planning system, subjected to multiple uncoordinated and often contradictory policies and governance.



NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS:

MORE THAN JUST GREENING THE CITY?

**Unpacking nature-based solutions for more sustainable cities
and regions**

Thanks for your attention

Judith Ryser & Teresa Franchini

CORP 2023



ANNEX: IUCN Global Standards (2020)

for national, municipal and local governments, planners, businesses, donors, financial institutions and NGOs

C1: oriented to the challenges of affected societies, including transparent and inclusive consultation processes

C2: design adapted to the complexity and uncertainty of local contexts

C3: net gain in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem protection, functional integrity and connectivity

C4: economic viability that distributes costs and benefits equitably in the short and long term

C5: inclusive, transparent and empowering governance processes

C6: equitable trade-offs between objectives, benefits and economic rewards

C7: adaptive management of uncertainties through continuous monitoring and regular assessments

C8: integration into an appropriate jurisdictional, sectoral and national policy context

CORP23 Keynote Judith Ryser

picture web references

1 & 17

photo Judith Ryser (free)

3 Enlightenment protagonists

4 Enlightenment protagonists (cont)

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Image: UNSPLASH/AsiaCultureCentre

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Saltaire

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Seeds of good anthropocenes

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Coastal megacities with green-blue infrastructure

Water online

www.infopress.com

14a

https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/still-life-dollar-coins-scattered_66069126.htm#page=2&query=canadian%20money&position=6&from_view=keyword&track=ais

freepik, free photo: still life of dollar coins scattered

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(sponsored results by shutterstock)

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EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

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