

SCBD and HUMI launch a new partnership at Sharm El Sheikh

Interconnected Global Challenges

The Healthy Urban Microbiome Initiative (HUMI) addresses interconnected global challenges. We are focusing on the role environmental microbiomes are now known to play in the causal pathway between biodiversity loss and the rise in immune-system related disease in humans that diminishes urban population health. These global challenges are made more urgent by drivers of change: environmental degradation, climate change and population driven urbanisation.

Goal

To integrate recent developments in microbiome science into a population health approach that delivers sustainable biodiverse urban green space for health improvement.

Objectives

1. To identify and measure local biodiversity and associated environmental microbiomes in local urban green spaces with civic and community participation (Research & Health service-led)
2. To design and restore (or create) biodiverse urban green spaces (BUGS) that improve population health and create innovative educational and employment opportunities (Community-led)
3. To foster and evolve local best practice implementation of BUGS that maximises population health improvement and associated educational and employment opportunities (Civic-led)

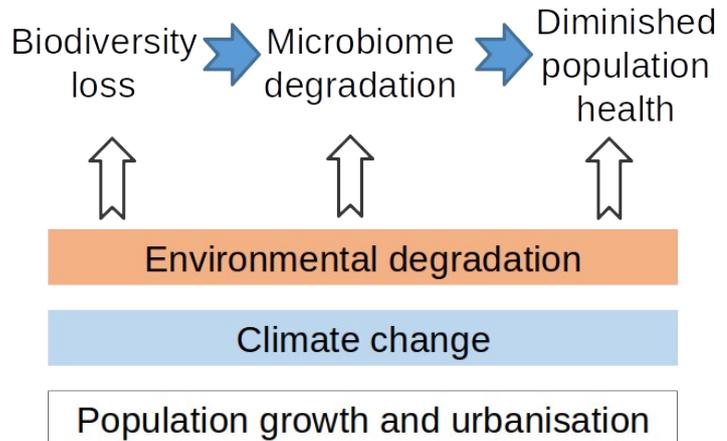


Illustration 1: Biodiversity loss in urban environments reduces human exposure to biodiverse microbiomes and ultimately diminishes population health. This is driven by increasing urban populations and made worse by pollution and climate change.

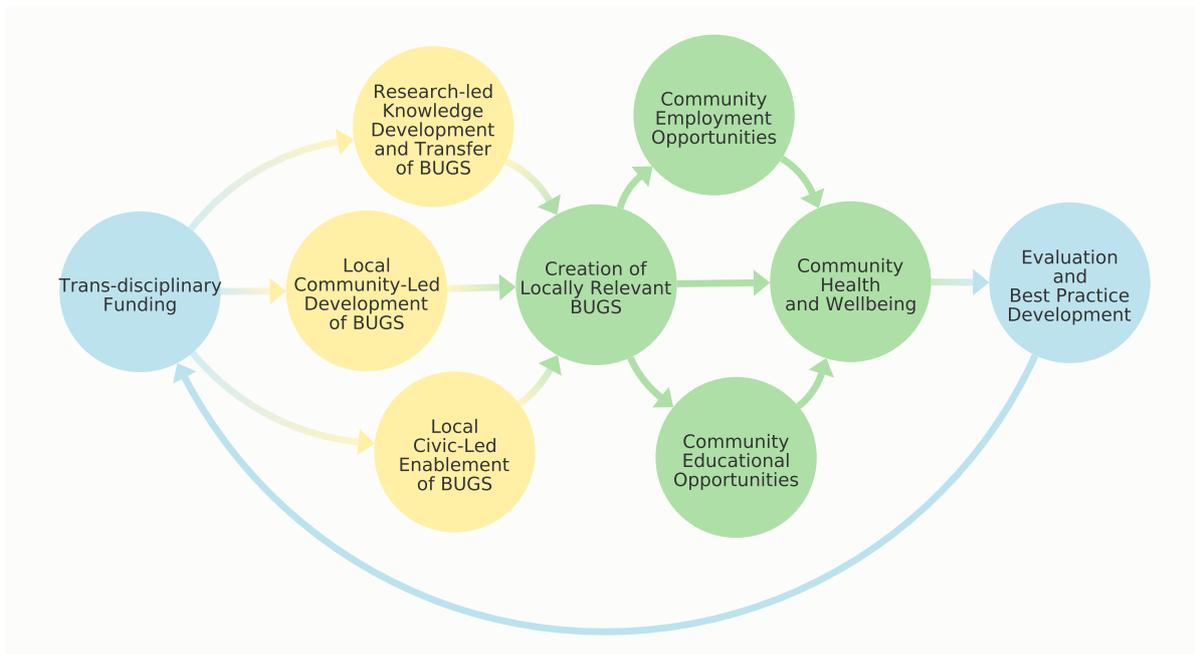


Illustration 2: HUMI approach to the restoration (or creation) of biodiverse urban green space (BUGS) to improve health and wellbeing of deprived urban communities.

The Science

The evidence-base for the HUMI approach is very strong. Our team have reviewed the science.

Biodiverse green spaces: a prescription for global urban health, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, Emily J Flies, Chris Skelly, Sagri Singh Negi, Poornima Prabhakaran, Qiyong Liu, Keke Liu, Fiona C Goldizen, Chris Lease, Philip Weinstein, 12 October 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.1630>

Cities, biodiversity, and health: We need healthy urban microbiome initiatives, *Cities and Health*, Flies, E.J., Skelly, C., Lovell, R., Breed, M.F., Phillips, D. and Weinstein, P. In Press.

HUMI addresses UN SDGs

Improving the health of urban populations through the restoration of biodiverse environments supports many sustainable development goals:

- 3 – Good health and wellbeing
- 10 – Reduced inequalities
- 11 – Sustainable cities and communities
- 13 – Climate action
- 15 – Life on land
- 17 – Partnerships for the goals

Call to Action

Since 2007, the majority of the world's population live in cities. Developed nations are the most urban, while developing nations are the most rapidly urbanising. Humans are losing contact with biodiversity and the natural world. At the same time, immune-related health disorders such as allergies, auto-immune and chronic inflammatory diseases are multiplying. Medical researchers now believe these important trends are linked.

HUMI hopes to be a movement to create, share and transfer knowledge of microbiome science, biodiversity, urban green space design and public health improvement – we welcome new participants.

Get involved

Develop your own place-based biodiverse urban green space interventions and join HUMI to evaluate our collective progress.

The Healthy Urban Microbiome Initiative (HUMI) is modelled on a place-based population health approach and is science-led,

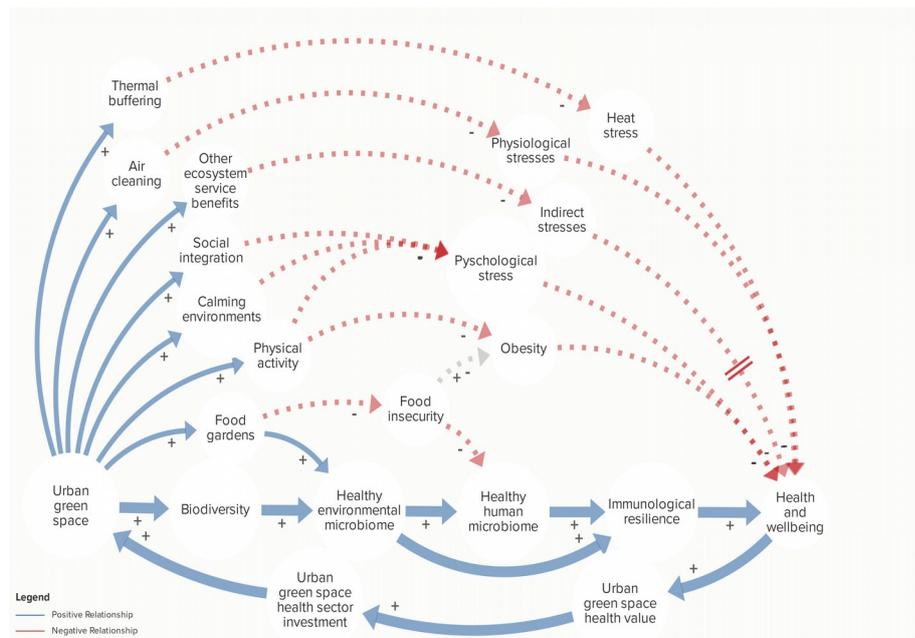


Illustration 3: The HUMI approach, shown within a causal-loop diagram, has many co-benefits.

community-focused and enabled by civic-leadership. We are scientists, local government and public health professionals working in partnership with community-led groups to improve the health of our populations and environment, concurrently.

SCBD-HUMI Partnership

The Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Healthy Urban Microbiome Initiative are forming

an official partnership to improve population health through the restoration and creation of biodiverse urban green space around the global.

2020 HUMI CHALLENGE

Our challenge for “Global Biodiversity for Health”: 20 cities in 20 countries developing HUMI Partnership Projects before the 2020 COP15 in China

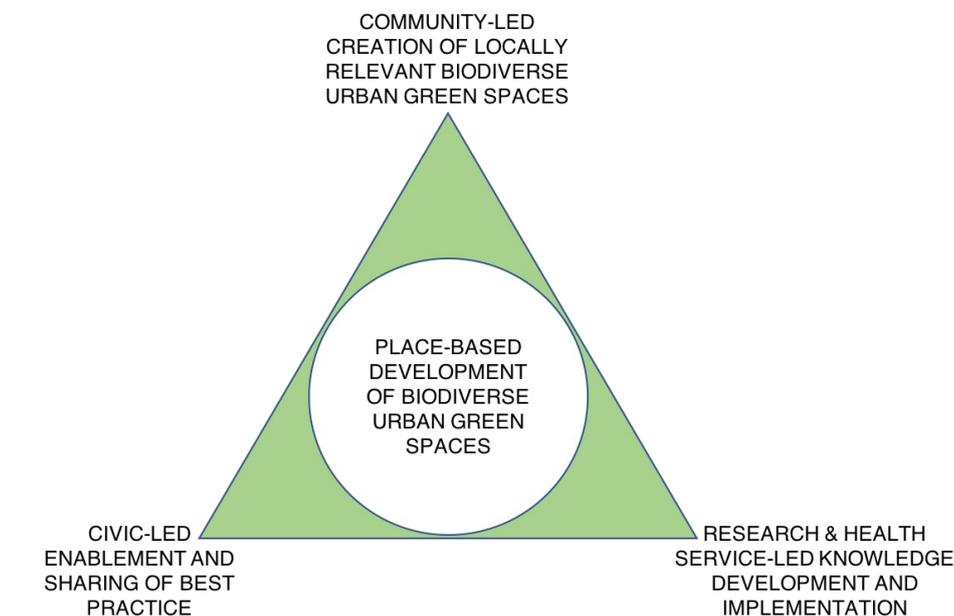


Illustration 4: HUMI is a place-based partnership to improve population health.

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