Ecocity 2021–2022, the 14th edition of the Ecocity World Summit

The Ecocity World Summit leadership converted the Onsite and Online Ecocity 2021 World Summit to a fully virtual conference. The conference to a fully virtual Summit on 22nd – 24th of February 2022. The Ecocity World Summit Series is structured to promote the rethinking and rebuilding of our human civilization to exist in balance with living systems. The conference is stewarded by California, USA based nonprofit, Ecocity Builders.

The GEO for Cities report set up an online booth in which the attendances could check key messages and download report there. This report aims to inform, engage and support dialogue among decision makers and other actors involved in urban issues.

Launch of the Russian version of the Sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) report

The Russian version of the sixth Global Environment Outlook report was launched in Moscow on 27 January 2022 jointly with support of TASS News Agency, UNEP Russia Office and UNEP European Regional Office. The Executive Director from UNEP Inger Andersen, His Excellency Dmitry Maksimychev, the Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary from Russian Federation to Kenya and a Representative of the Government of Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment gave the opening remarks. The UNEP Regional Office for Europe gave a presentation on key messages of this report and held discussions on water and land resources, food production and the pollution and biodiversity loss affected by them amongst other key discussions.

A panel discussion with Russian authors and experts followed the key messages and the discussion involved representatives from the government and scientific groups. The head of UNEP Russia Office Mr. Bruno Maggy G. Pozzi gave an introduction of UNEP’s policy responses to the triple planetary crisis after the panel discussion.

The Russian launch was quite successful, TASS News Agency had a live channel and reported this high-level event, which gathered more than 500 participants online for the interactive communication. To watch the launch of this report please click on this link.
The GEO-6 report identified urbanization as one of five main drivers of environmental change and also looked at the impact on cities and city residents of related challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The GEO for Cities looks at these issues but also presents the types of solutions that can lead to environmentally sustainable and just cities.

Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and UNEP @50

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) brings together representatives of the 193 Member States of the UN, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world’s most pressing environmental challenges.

The resumed Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) takes place online and in Nairobi on 28 February – 2 March 2022.

The overall theme for UNEA-5 is “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. This highlights the pivotal role nature plays in our lives and in social, economic and environmental sustainable development.

UNEA-5 is an opportunity for Member States to share best practices for sustainability. It will create momentum for governments build on and catalyze impact on multilateral environmental efforts to protect and restore the natural world on which our economies and societies depend.

Immediately after UNEA-5.2, the Assembly will hold a Special Session on 3-4 March 2022, which is devoted to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UN Environment Programme in 1972 (UNEP@50).

To watch UNEA5 Live sessions please click on this link: https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea-5.2/schedule

Development Corridors Partnership (DCP) Project Dissemination Workshop

One of the GEO for Business Brief Authors Dr. Jessica Thorn held a workshop on the 8-14th of February 2022 in collaboration with the York Institute of Tropical Ecosystems at the Department of Environment and Geography University of York, the Institute of Climate Change Adaptation at the University of Nairobi, African Conservation Centre, the Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology, the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) the School of Geography and Sustainable Development at the University of St Andrews, hosted a series of three workshops closely related to the GEO for Business brief on ‘Future Proofing Infrastructure to address the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises’ in Nairobi, Kenya. These were hosted at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies and the Four Points at Sheraton Conference venue.

The first was a two-day workshop on participatory scenario planning and a spatially explicit tool, and the second event was entitled “Horizon scanning using foresight tools for sustainable land use in Kenya” discussion day. Sixty stakeholders gained a better understanding of how to envision social-ecological change using land use scenarios and foresight tools, present insight from a land use scenario planning tool called “Kesho” develop an understanding of the on the utility of participatory scenario planning and the practical application and explore key opportunities in scaling scenario analysis to support future sustainable land use in Kenya. The third was a “Development Corridors Partnership dissemination event” involving 50 stakeholders. The hard copy brief was shared with all participants and highlighted in various presentations. Key stakeholders described it to be a useful reference source for research, planning and implementing agents in Kenya and the UK in the fields of infrastructure development (e.g., road, railway) and conservation- with opportunities for future development.