NUS National University of Singapore | Department of Biological Sciences
Faculty of Science

SEMINAR

Mon, 2 Nov 2020 | 9 am | Online Zoom Session

Hosted by Prof Koh Lian Pin

Using nature to solve the challenges of urbanisation



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By **Daniel RICHARDS**

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The process of urbanisation has widespread ecological impacts. Many cities face pressing environmental challenges, including elevated temperatures, increased flood risk, and few opportunities for residents to experience nature. Urban ecosystems have the potential to mitigate some of these urban challenges through providing ecosystem services; for example by cooling the air, retaining storm water, and providing recreational spaces for residents. There is increasing interest among planners and designers in better incorporating nature into cities, but we lack an understanding of which nature-based solutions have the greatest potential, and how this varies across climatic and economic contexts in different parts of the world.

The seminar will first summarise work to quantify the potential of urban nature-based solutions, and develop simulations tools for future scenarios, for the city of Singapore. Second, I will discuss how new remote sensing and artificial intelligence technologies hold the potential to scale up these approaches to quantify the role of urban ecosystem services in contributing to human well-being across thousands of cities. This work ultimately aims to give us a more global, joined-up perspective on the role that nature can play in future cities.

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