

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Department of Human Dimensions of Global Change



► People in the Department

A BIG PHD SUCCESS YEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENT

Petr Krpec, David Stella, Lenka Suchá and Richard Kyere-Boateng have all graduated their PhDs this year. Congratulations to them!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcomed Barbora Nohlová into the department this year. She is working on the Just-Scapes project, and studying for a PhD in the Faculty of Humanities at Charles University. Her work explores themes of justice and the relationships between nature protection and human well-being.

We are sadly saying a temporary goodbye to Tomáš Baďura at the end of the month. He is heading to Amsterdam to do a 2-year Marie Curie International Fellowship on economic valuation of biodiversity.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Zuzana Harmáčková was awarded the Otto Wichterle prize this year. Here in the department we are thrilled for Zuzka. It is great to see interdisciplinary sustainability science represented in the prizes, and a fantastic way to recognize the huge contribution Zuzka makes to CzechGlobe and the research community at home and internationally.

Lenka Suchá was awarded the French Embassy's Make our Planet Great Again prize. The award is in recognition of her excellent PhD research on land tenure and urban agriculture in South Africa. As part of the prize, Lenka will be heading to France for a 1-month internship in 2022.

BLOG

We now have a department blog: <https://www.sustainablecz.org/>. The purpose is to provide regular, accessible updates on our activities and results. Posts are in Czech or English, and sometimes both. We aim to post weekly. Currently there is a great selection of thinking, plain-language summaries of papers, fieldwork reports... Do check it out and sign up for updates. You can also follow us on Twitter @[sustainablecz](https://twitter.com/sustainablecz).



► New Projects

JUST SCAPES

How are the effects of climate change distributed? How to make our response to climate change more just and sustainable? We look at these questions through the perspectives of people living and working in three rural European landscapes in a new project, Just-Scapes. [Find out more on our blog.](#)

COOP4WELLBEING

How can international development cooperation projects be strengthened through research of social-ecological linkages? Where does participatory research stand in such a relation? These and other questions will be addressed by the interdisciplinary research project Coop4Wellbeing. More [here in English](#) or [here in Czech](#).

► Research Highlights (Projects and Publications)

ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING OF CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN LANDSCAPE (CULTES)

The CultES project continued its efforts to map cultural ecosystem services by way of interdisciplinary research. Learn about how the project started, continued, and where it is going [on the blog here](#) (Czech).

modelling of ES values and the project workshops [here in Czech](#).

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CHANGE THE GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM?

The global food system is not flawless. Major transformations are unavoidable and necessary. A paper in the Nature Food journal co-authored by our very own Zuzana Harmáčková shows that these transformations must focus primarily on the most vulnerable regions threatened by climate change as well as violent conflict. Read more [in this blog post](#) (Czech) or [access the article directly here](#).

LIFE LOCAL ADAPT

The LLA project came to an end this year. It aimed to integrate climate change adaptation into the work of urban authorities on a local level. More [here on the blog](#).

SETTING AGENDAS IN SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATIONS RESEARCH

In the middle of the year, a special issue on Leverage Points for Sustainability Transformation was published, led by Julia Leventon. The issue is a first comprehensive collection of work that deals with systems complexity and how we create interventions that lead to fundamental shifts in the social, economic and political systems that drive unsustainability. Work draws on systems thinking from Donella Meadows, and is being picked up in a range of research disciplines and science-policy interfaces. The [editorial is available here](#) and the [associated blog post is available here](#).

ONE NATURE

Our activities in the LIFE project for the Natura 2000 network in the Czech Republic continued this year. One of the main contributions on our part this year are concluded workshops focused on raising awareness of ecosystem services among stakeholders, which also produced results that will serve as foundation for further research in the project. More on our activities [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

PARTICIPATIVE MODELLING OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES VALUES IN PROTECTED AREAS

This TAČR project also had its last workshop this year, signalling the end of the project as a whole. Learn more about the methods of participative



PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR URBAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION POLICY THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

The impacts of climate change on urban life require response in terms of adaptation planning. Tomáš Baďura et al. investigated perceptions of and economic preferences for urban climate adaptation through nature-based solutions (NBS) in Prague and found that: (i) increased use of NBS is likely to generate significant economic public value; (ii) [...] Read more [about the paper here on the blog](#) or [read the paper directly here](#).



Field trip: A [Just-Scapes project case study](#)

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND CLIMATE MITIGATION DO NOT UNDERMINE EACH OTHER

In a paper published this year in the Journal of Environmental Psychology, Jan Urban, Davina Vačkářová and Tomáš Baďura report results from an experimental cross-cultural study conducted in Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. They found that support for climate adaptation does not undermine people's commitment to climate mitigation and vice versa. To learn more about the results, [you can read the paper here](#).



Participatory mapping in Žďárské Vrchy



Participants of the One Nature Monitoring mission at the top of Brník

► Science to Policy

IPBES VALUES ASSESSMENT COMPLETE

From 2018, Zuzana Harmáčková has been contributing to the [IPBES Values assessment](#). This report, co-authored by more than 150 experts, looks at how people's values affect the way societies manage and exploit biodiversity and ecosystem services. The assessment has been

finalized this year and will be approved by more than 130 countries in summer 2022.

CLIMATE TRANSFORMATIONS

Julia represented the department's work on societal transformations for climate change adaptation and mitigation in two science-policy



platforms this year. This includes as a contributing author to IPCC WGII, and as a commissioner to the Cambridge Sustainability Commission on Scaling Behaviour Change. The IPCC WGII report is due for release in February 2022, and [the Cambridge Commission report is available to read here](#).

THE CLIMATE PANNEL

In October, in the run up to COP26, we hosted a series of 4 climate discussions. The focus was on the social and interdisciplinary science of climate change response, and we extended beyond CzechGlobe, into participants from across Czechia. We addressed topics such as what policies and measures could be put in place, the role of individual and societal/systems change, and the role of technologies. Our aim was to shift conversations towards responses to climate

► Scientific Networks

STEERING OF AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

Since 2019, Zuzana Harmáčková has been co-chairing the steering committee of the Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP), which is a global network of ecosystem services researchers and practitioners. In 2021, ESP has contributed to the ecosystem services community by organizing multiple regional conferences, convening webinars and workshops and acting as an observer in international platforms (e.g. IPBES). Members of the department were also involved in the 3rd ESP Europe Conference. Read about [our experience at the conference on the blog](#) (Czech).

change, and demonstrate the range of science and knowledge that can inform our societal, political and economic responses. The videos are still being viewed, and we are working on a shorter highlights video. You can [learn more and see all relevant links here](#).

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT ON NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

Davina Vačkářová served on the advisory board for the EEA report on 'Nature-based solutions in Europe: Policy, knowledge and practice for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction'. The report is an insight into how working within nature can prevent the worst impacts of climate change, and biodiversity and ecosystem loss. [It can be read here](#).

ESTABLISHED CZECHIA POLLEN NODE

POLLEN is a global political ecology network. A Czech node of the network was established this year and includes four members of our department. The umbrella themes of the node include societal transformations towards just and sustainable futures, interactions between environmental policies and societal movements, and the roles of environmental justice, protest and activism in shaping governance systems. The node aims to build on the rich interdisciplinary expertise of its members. You can learn more about the node [here in English](#) or [here in Czech](#).