

# ENVIRONMENT:

## WHAT'S UP THIS WEEK IN #GENEVA

### Weekly News Edited by the Geneva Environment Network

MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Geneva Environment Network website is temporarily unavailable. We apologize for any inconvenience. The weekly newsletter announces meetings and events planned around Geneva and the latest job opportunities in the region.

#### MEETINGS & EVENTS



**39th Session of the Human Rights Council**  
10–28 September 2018  
[Read more](#)



**Semaine du Goût 2018**  
13–23 September 2018  
[Read more](#)



**Workshop: Green Forest Jobs**  
17–18 September 2018  
[Read more](#)



**Festival Alternatiba Léman 2018**  
17–22 September 2018  
[Read more](#)



**MINT Environmental track Welcome Event**  
18 September 2018 - 13:30  
[Read more](#)



**Film Screening - A Quest for Meaning**  
19 September 2018 - 19:00  
[Read more](#)



**70th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee Briefing**  
21 September 2018 - 10:00  
[Read more](#)



**Films for the Earth Festival 2018**  
21 September 2018 - 19:00  
[Read more](#)

#### LAST GEN EVENTS



**Infrastructure Innovations as Solutions to Environmental Challenges**  
5 September 2018  
[Read more](#)

#### VACANCIES

**Programme Management Officer, P4**  
*Minamata Convention on Mercury*  
Closing: 20 September [Read more](#)

**Deputy Secretary General**  
*Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*  
Closing: 28 September [Read more](#)

**Director – Global Marine and Polar Programme**  
*International Union for Conservation of Nature*  
Closing: 30 September [Read more](#)

**Media and Communications Manager**  
*International Union for Conservation of Nature*  
Closing: 23 September [Read more](#)

**Chef(fe) de projets (adjoint(e) scientifique 3)**  
*Etat de Genève*  
Closing: 20 September [Read more](#)

**Communications Intern**  
*UN Environment Finance Initiative*  
Closing: 17 September [Read more](#)

**Environment Affairs Intern**  
*UN Environment Chemicals & Health Branch*  
Closing: 26 September [Read more](#)

**Environment Affairs Intern**  
*UN Environment Chemicals & Health Branch*  
Closing: 28 September [Read more](#)

## **39th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**10–28 September 2018**

The 39th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council will be held on 10–28 September 2018, at the Palais des Nations. The Human Rights Council holds three regular sessions a year, for a total of at least ten weeks.

The Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substance examining the situation of workers implicated and affected by occupational exposure to toxic and otherwise hazardous substances worldwide was presented at this session (12 September).

Find out more on this report on the Special Rapporteur website at <http://www.srtoxics.org/resources/thematic-reports/workers-rights-and-toxic-exposures-hrc-2018/>

Other interesting event taking place this week in the margins of this session are

**18 September - 09:00-10:00**

### **HRC39 Side - Event: Climate Change & Human Rights**

Maat for Peace, Dev & HR Assoc  
Room XV

**18 September - 13:00-14:00**

### **HRC39 Side - Climate Change & External Debt**

Franciscans International  
Room XV

**18 September - 14:00-15:30**

### **HRC39 Side - Land & self-determination**

Habitat International Coalition  
Room XXIV

## **Briefing on the 70th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee**

**21 September 2018 - 10:15**

A briefing on issues that will be addressed by the 183 Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at the 70th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC70), organized within the framework of the Geneva Environment Network, will take place at the International Environment House II, on Friday 21 September 2018.

SC70 will be held in Rosa Khutor, Sochi, Russian Federation, from 1 to 5 October 2018 and will consider a wide array of issues concerning the international trade in, and conservation and sustainable use of, CITES-listed wild animals and plants.

This briefing will bring the Geneva missions and local stakeholders up-to-date with the key issues to be discussed as CITES Parties prepare for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Colombo, Sri Lanka, May-June 2019).

### **Welcome and Introduction**

David MORGAN, Officer-in-Charge, CITES Secretariat

### **Legal and compliance issues**

Juan Carlos VASQUEZ, Chief, Legal Affairs & Compliance, CITES Secretariat

### **National legislation for the implementation of CITES**

Sofie FLENSBORG, Legal Officer, CITES Secretariat

### **Synthetic DNA, demand reduction and the electronic management of CITES permits**

Yuan LIU, Programme and Communications Officer, CITES Secretariat

### **Enforcement matters: combating illegal trade in wildlife**

Ben Janse VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Support, CITES Secretariat

### **Species issues: elephants, rosewood, marine species and more.**

Tom DE MEULENAER, Chief, Scientific Services, CITES Secretariat

### **Preparations for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

**Registration: [gensecretary@un.org](mailto:gensecretary@un.org)**

*Please note that the list of events and vacancies provided in our weekly newsletter is non-exhaustive. Stay tuned and follow us also on twitter, Facebook and other social network for additional updates.*

# Infrastructure Innovations as Solutions to Environmental Challenges

## Lecture with Professor Spiro Pollalis, Harvard Design School

5 September 2018

On 5 September 2018, UN Environment and the University of Geneva, through the Geneva Environment Network, hosted an insightful lecture by visiting Harvard Professor Spiro Pollalis. The lecture explored the multiple dimensions of innovation in connection to sustainable infrastructure by highlighting five infrastructure innovations as key enablers for delivering the global sustainability goals.

- Tools for Measuring Sustainability
- Synergies for Sustainable Cities
- Disruptive Technologies in Redefining Infrastructure
- Digital Design and Simulation Tools
- Enabling Innovation through Procurement

Key messages from the lecture and Q&A session include:

- The finite resources on Earth are not enough to sustain the exponentially increasing population. At the same time, there is a misalignment in investment in infrastructure and soaring demand. Efficient and effective innovation is key in addressing these challenges.
- Sustainability rating **tools** are vital in ensuring the sustainability of infrastructure through measurement, quantification and subsequent comparison and improvement. The **Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure** at Harvard has developed two methodologies, the Envision® Rating System and the **Zofnass Sustainable Planning Guidelines**, which focus on the project and city levels, respectively.
- Essential **synergies** must be identified between the sub-sectors of infrastructure and such sub-sectors should be integrated in order to reduce demand for resources and formulate closed circuit and self-sufficient city systems. **Hellinikon former**

**airport of Athens, Greece and DHA City Karachi in Pakistan** are illustrative case studies of a systems-thinking approach to infrastructure.

- Performance-orientated, disruptive **technologies** are a game changer and key component in the restructuring of infrastructure implementation. New technologies offer new possibilities and planners and designers should step away from a reliance on historical and prescriptive approaches.
- **Digitalization** offers a unique opportunity in infrastructure planning and design through 'digital twin' models, which through simulation and big data improve performance and predict potential vulnerabilities.
- The entire **procurement process** from project planning to completion must incorporate core sustainability principles at each component of the cycle. Early participation of professionals and consultation to the client allow the selection of the right project and were cited as crucial to the success of both the **US 84 Mississippi River Bridge** and the **AlexRenew Nutrient Management Facility** in Alexandria, Virginia.
- The presentation inspired a fruitful discussion covering strategies on the prioritization of sub-sectors of infrastructure and the capacity to scale-up to the regional level. There was also an exploration of the role of negotiated contracts in the procurement process, along with the importance of clearly identified economic benefits to sustainable infrastructure.

To download the presentation, please [click here](#).