

Internship report:

Urban ecology in Shanghai

Name of trainee	Eileen Saupe
Home university, department of trainee	TU Dresden, Environmental science
Studies of trainee	M.Sc. Spatial Development and Natural Resources
Supervisor:	Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste
Supervisor in Shanghai:	Prof. Dr. Junxiang Li
Duration:	9 weeks, 01.10.2014 – 09.12.2014
Institution of the internship:	East China University Shanghai, Department of Environmental Science
Title of research:	Vegetation structures as a part of biodiversity in urban green – the example of new and old parks in Shanghai
Aims of internship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis, comparison and documentation of green structures and biodiversity in six exemplary parks in Shanghai• Intercultural exchange

During my internship in Shanghai at the East China Normal University I was able to gain the necessary research data for my project part ‘biodiversity in urban spaces’ and furthermore interesting insights into the chinese culture, the work and life of chinese students, the academic work of the university. Moreover a large city such as Shanghai is a dynamic and diverse place which provides a lot of impressions and is an ideal place to investigate urban biodiversity.

Within the topic of research ‘urban biodiversity’ the focus of my research work was on vegetation structures as an indicator or part of biodiversity in urban spaces, especially in urban parks. Six exemplary parks, three old ones and three new ones, were part of the area under investigation and enabled me to compare vegetation structures in new and old parks. The field of activity for the research work mainly consisted of three stages and partly exceeded the duration of the internship:

- The development of an adequate method to analyze green structures within parks,
- Registration and documentation of the green structures,
- Comparison of structures in new and old parks (mainly after the internship).

These tasks demanded skills and knowledge of urban ecology, collection methods, international cooperation and the English language. I was able to gain even more information about urban ecology in big cities within an international focus, biodiversity and enhance my self-reliance towards academic work and adaptability. With regard to the scientific and personal achievement my internship was successful.

I would like to thank Professor Breuste for his constant support on organization and research matters. Additionally I would like to thank Liang Zhao, PhD student of Professor Breuste, who guided our research team in Shanghai and gave us a really interesting insight in the Chinese culture and helped us to understand typical behaviors and motivation.

Eileen Saupe