

Internship Report

Urban Ecosystem Services in Beijing

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| Name of trainee | Dirk Schmidt |
| Home university, department of trainee | TU Dresden, Environmental Sciences |
| Studies of trainee | M.Sc. Spatial Development and Natural Resource Management |
| Supervisor | Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste |
| Supervisor in Beijing | Prof. Rui Yang |
| Duration | 01.07.-15.09.2015, 11 weeks |
| Institution of the internship | Tsinghua University, Beijing, China Department of Landscape Architecture |
| Title of research | Urban Ecosystem Services, Urban Gardening in Hutongs |
| Aims of internship | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improvement of the Urban Ecosystem Services approach in China▪ Evaluation of opportunities for Urban Gardening in Beijing▪ Intercultural exchange |

Reviewing my internship in Beijing at the Tsinghua University I was able to gain a lot of experience not only at the scientific level but also in project management and cultural interaction. Through the main topic of urban ecosystem services, I got the opportunity to implement my personal subject of urban gardening. Therefore, ecological circumstances and social aspects in connection to four different open spaces were recorded using a variety of methods. The following tasks provided the frame of my internship:

- Preparing and conducting surveys to characterize the social setting and socio-ecological thinking at the research areas
- Synthesising and attempting a method to characterize the current vegetation structures in biodiversity and green volume at the sites
- Contemplate urban gardening incentives in Hutongs and evaluating its future perspectives

The connections among the tasks and the research fieldwork in Beijing gave me a deep insight into urban ecosystem services and their perspectives as well as their threats regarding rapid growing metropolitan areas. Using English in an international and scientific context was very good training for my skills in project management, self-reliance in academic work and adaption to reality. Beside the research perspective, I got a lot of new knowledge about the cultural behaviour, the social life and the operating cycles in China, which helped me to understand this country and its 1,3 Billion citizens.

Finally, I would like to thank Prof. Breuste for the opportunity to conduct this internship and his great support in general. Additionally, I like to thank Mr. Xue Fei, who were mainly supervising my work in Beijing, for his helpful supervision regarding organizational, scientifically and cultural matters. My last thanks go to all the Chinese students, who were supporting the project through the whole time voluntarily.