



Bern University  
of Applied Sciences



# Long-Term Partnerships and Equal Participation in Urban Forests

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Session: Governance Networks – Fit for the Future?

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# Urban Forest Governance

# Swiss Urban NeighbourWoods



- ▶ **Swiss:** Geographical and cultural perimeter
- ▶ **Urban:** Woodlands in proximity to urban regions and urban green that is highly influenced and shaped by urban developments
- ▶ **Neighbour:** spatial proximity, ‘woods on people’s doorstep’ and social coordination between actors
- ▶ **Woods:** Urban forests and woodlands, also trees and urban green in urban areas
- ▶ **SUNGroups:** Partnership and coordination that are concerned with urban forests

# Participation of Diverse Stakeholders in Urban Forest Management

# Traditional use of forests



## Multifunctionality of forests:

1. wood supply and productivity
2. protection function (from floods, landslides etc.)
3. social welfare

# Forests for People

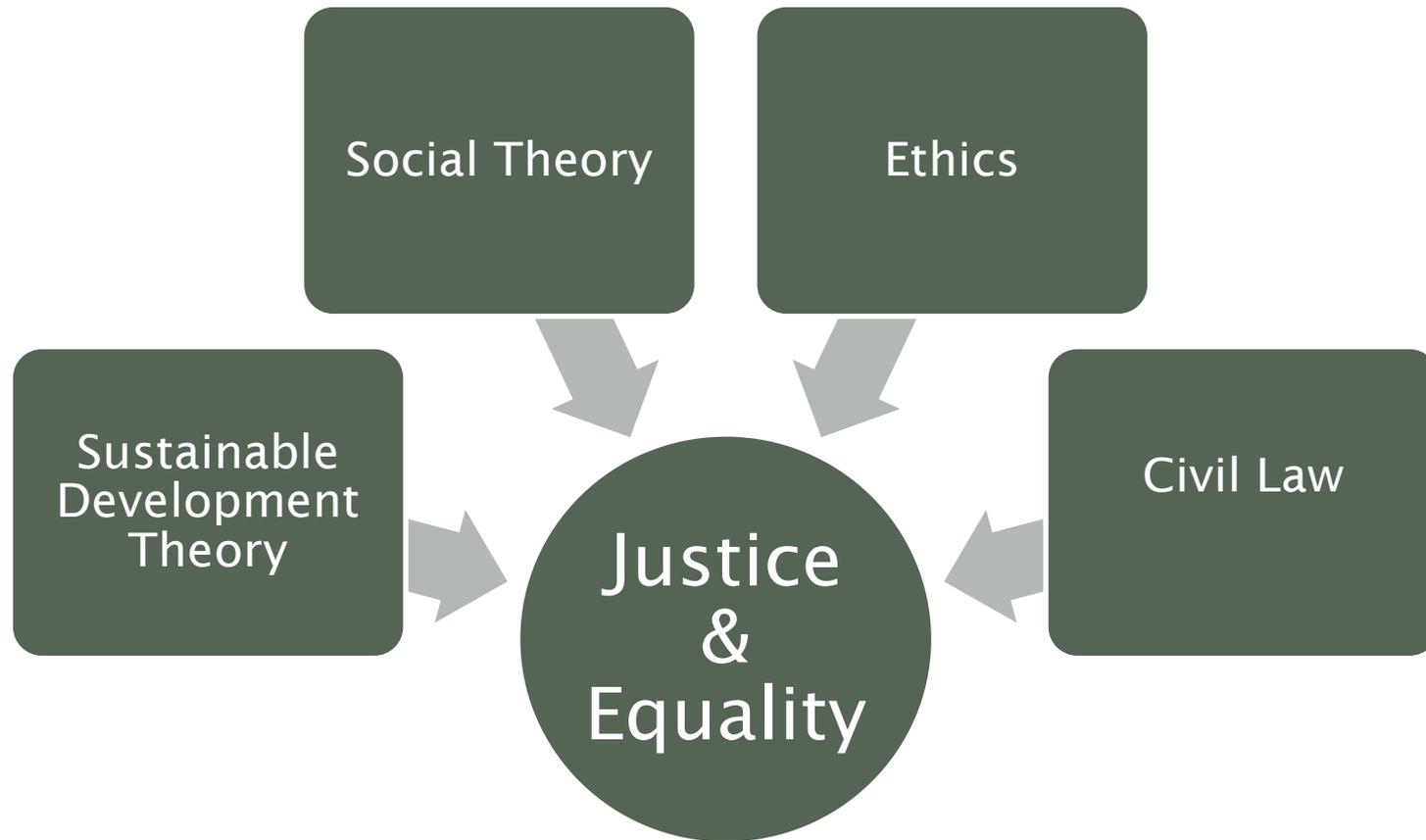


# Participation

- ▶ essential for good governance
- ▶ participation for ALL
  - ▶ why all?



# Theoretical and Normative Background





# Social Justice and Equality

- ▶ social justice and equality for ALL – today and tomorrow
- ▶ who is all? → social structural power relations
  - ▶ who has power, who does not?
  - ▶ who is excluded and why?
  - ▶ who goes missing?
  - ▶ who are the minorities and marginalized with regard to social diversity?

# Diversity in the Forest. Needs-orientated management in urban forests





# Diversity in the Urban Forest

- ▶ milestones of the project:
  - ▶ knowledge about the needs of the forest users and their activities broken down into diversity factors
  - ▶ characterisation of existing and potential conflicts between all stakeholders broken down into diversity factors
  - ▶ scientific contributions to more equality and justice in participation processes in forest management



# In Terms of Governance

- ▶ deliberative and emancipatory participation practice for all
  - ▶ having a voice → power to make decisions → active contribution
- ▶ establishing enabling structures



## e.g. Gender as a Diversity Factor

- ▶ Do women have a voice?
- ▶ Which women do have a voice?
- ▶ Where do they have a voice?
- ▶ What are the ways and possibilities to get a voice?
- ▶ What are the obstacles?
- ▶ Do they have decision-power?
- ▶ Are they able to contribute actively?



# Equal and Just Participation Processes

- ▶ what are the assumptions or premise in terms of polity, policy and politics in theory and practice?
  - ▶ broadened understanding of political action
  - ▶ radical democracy → new forms of cooperation between actors; better ways to solve problems and find solutions



# Equal and Just Participation in Urban Forestry Governance Processes

- ▶ next steps in the project:
  - ▶ knowledge about the needs of the forest users and their activities broken down into diversity factors
  - ▶ characterisation of existing and potential conflicts between all stakeholders broken down into diversity factors
  - ▶ → sustainable and just long-term partnerships

Thank you!

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