Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development Munich Re Foundation From Knowledge to Action

Nature-Based Solutions for Urban Resilience

by Julia Knollmann, Jenni Ottilie Keppler, Laila Heising, Ipek Genc, Alina Haenler, Felix Faller and Deira Linke

26 March 2021

#### Structure

#### A. Analysis

- 1. Global climate urban risks and their impacts
- 2. Defining (Urban) Nature-based Solutions
- 3. Nature-based solutions and their impacts on urban climate risks
- 4. Examples of mentioned NbS
- B. Case study Istanbul
  - 5. Case study: Urban climate risks and impacts on Istanbul
  - 6. NbS for Istanbul
  - 7. Evaluation of NbS



Why naturebased solutions for urban resilience?

## Global climate urban risk and impacts

- 55 % of the global population lives in urban areas
- To mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change is one of the greatest challenge's society faces today

#### Share of people living in urban areas, 2017





Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects (2018) OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.

Source: https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/share-of-population-urban, last access 24.03.2021

What are climate related drivers of impacts?

What are climate related drivers of impacts?









Extreme precipitation



Ocean acidification



Flooding

trend





Snow cover

Damaging cyclone

Sea level

# Urban agglomerations 2025 with projected climate change (RCP8.5)



Source: https://bit.ly/3lSz44Q, last access 24.03.2021

#### Urban Heat Island Effect

- Experience higher temperatures than the outlying areas and cool down slower
- Structures (buildings, roads, and other infrastructure) absorb and re-emit radiation more than natural landscapes (forests & water bodies)
- major problem of urbanization



#### Sea level rise

- Caused by the thermal expansion of ocean water and ocean mass gain induced by climate change
- Accelerating over time and will become more common by 2100 under all emission scenarios
- ➤ Severe flooding



### Coastal cities

#### Future risks for low-lying coastal cities



Defining (Urban) Nature-based Solutions



#### IUCN framework for NbS

#### **1. Definition by IUCN:**

Nature-based Solutions are defined as **"actions to** protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits."

Umbrella concept for ecosystem-related approaches —>



Figure 6. NbS as an umbrella term for ecosystem-related approaches

#### What or Who is Nature anyway?



#### What or Who is Nature anyway?



# Features specific to urban areas



Image: Melbourne Sprawl – https://bit.ly/39dlJyU

high population density

NbS are embedded in social system

environment dominated by built, non-living (infra)structures

living structures are highly fragmented

fews opportunities to observe and engage with natural processes



Urban

urban?

Source: IUCN (as part of 'WISE-UP to Climate' project). See http://www.iucn.org/theme/water/our-work/wise-climate

## Human or nature or humanure?



less than 2% of 2.8
 billion tons of organic
 waste from cities are
 looped!

— if we are part of nature, we need to fix that!



The Human Nutrient Cycle is an endless natural cycle. In order to keep the cycle intact, food for humans must be grown on soil that is enriched by the continuous addition of organic materials recycled by humans, such as humanure, food scraps and agricultural residues. By respecting this cycle of nature, humans can maintain the fertility of their agricultural soils indefinitely, instead of depleting them of nutrients, as is common today.

Images: https://bit.ly/31kAXxJ https://bit.ly/3w3WUiy

#### Our definition



Urban Nature-based Solutions (UNbS)

are actions based on **natural processes** to address societal challenges, providing benefits for both human well-being and biodiversity **resilience in highly fragmented and densely populated built environments.** 

They increase against impacts from extreme events, supporting and creating **regenerative and self-sustaining capacity** of the city.

Specifically, they involve the creation, protection, restoration or management of natural and semi-natural **ecosystems in and around the city.** 

Actions and interventions are based on **trans-disciplinary approaches** designed and implemented with the **participation** of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

## NbS and their impact on urban climate risk



Image: https://bit.ly/3w0qGF8

# 3.NbS on the watershed scale and their impact on urban climate risk



Land conservation



Wetland and floodplain restoration and protection

Greenways

Cooling effect Risk reduction of droughts Flood prevention Increases biodiversity

Linkage of habitats Precipitation uptake Treating floodwaters Improved water quality

Stormwater parks



# 3.NbS on the site scale and their impact on urban climate risk



Green roofs and rain gardens



Rainwater harvesting

Source: FEMA RiskMAP

Permeable Pavement

Tree Canopy and Tree Trenches

Extreme weather protection Procection to extrem temperatures

Cooling effect Rainfall uptake

Drought protection Extreme precipation

Precipitation uptake Reduced flood risk

# 3.NbS on costal areas and their impact on urban climate risk



Costal Wetlands and Mangroves

Storm protection

Increased biodiversity



Waterfront Parks

Flood protection

**Increases biodiversity** 

Dunes

Sea level rise protection Protection from extreme weather Living Shorelines and Oyster Reefs

Source: FEMA RiskMAP

Reduced erosion Improved water quality

#### 3.NbS and their co-benefits



Impact on urban climate risk

Flood prevention Cooling effect Increase biodiversity Increased air quality

Co-benefits

New recreational site Health benefits for citizens Increased social cohesion Increase life quality



Gorla Maggiore Water Park (Source: ResearchGate, 2021)

- Project duration: 2008 2013
- Project cost: 500 000 2 000 000 EUR
- Financing sources: Public regional budget, Private Foundation



Pond in Gorla Maggiore Water Park (Source: Fabio Masi, 2018 in Naturvation, 2020)

Constructed Wetland in Gorla Maggiore Water Park

Source: Fabio Masi, 2018 in Naturvation, 2020





Potentional components of Green Infrastructure (Source: European Union, 2013)



Green design for Londons Roofs

Source: Arup in Enzi et al., 2017

Zero-emission Boutique Hotel Stadthalle, Vienna



Source: Michaela Reitterer in Enzi et al., 2017

Living Wall, Vienna



Source: Enzi et al., 2017

Sengkang Floating Wetland



Source: PUB Singapore's National Water Agency, 2021



#### ABC Waters Programme in Singapore

- Completion Date: 2010
- Site Area: 2500 m<sup>2</sup>
- Project cost: SGD 8.000.000 SGD
   --> 5.044.340 €
- Financing: the national water agency Singapore (PUB)

Sengkang Floating Wetland (Source: PUB Singapore's National Water Agency, 2021)

Sengkang Floating Wetland





#### **B.** Implementation

5. Case study: Urban climate risks and impacts on Istanbul

6. NbS for Istanbul

7. Evaluation of NbS

#### 5. Case study: Urban climate risks and impacts on Istanbul



a

### 5. Case study: Urban climate risks and impacts on Istanbul



Source: Krellenberg, Kerstin; Turhan, Ethemcan (2017) : How to respond to climate change at the local level: A guideline for Turkish cities, UFZ-Bericht, No. 03/2017, HelmholtzZentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ), Leipzig, http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:gbv:3:2-80144



temperature increase due

to dense urbanization Source: Istanbul Climate Change Action Plan Due to urbanization along East-West axis, prevalent winds along North-South axis to be affected, thus reducing air quality which exacerbates climatic threats

# 5. Case study: Urban climate risks and impacts on Istanbul, **Drought**

#### Reasons

Rising temperatures Changes in precipitation Population growth Rapid urbanization The impact of industrial activities



# 5. Case study: Urban climate risks and impacts on Istanbul, **Drought**



https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311103486 Hydrology and Water Resources DROUGHT HAZARD AND WATER SHORTAGES IN ISTANBUL TURKEY

### 5. Case study: Urban climate risks and impacts on Istanbul, Flooding

Reasons



Source: Fatma Aycim Turer Baskaya (February 2nd 2018). Revealing Landscape Planning Strategies for Disaster-Prone Coastal Urban Environments: The Case of Istanbul Megacity, Sea Level Rise and Coastal Infrastructure, Yuanzhi Zhang, Yijun Hou and Xiaomei Yang, IntechOpen, DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.73567. Available from: https://www.intechopen.com/books/sea-level-rise-and-coastal-infrastructure/revealing-landscape-planning-strategies-for-disaster-prone-coastal-urban-environments-the-case-of-is

# 5. Case study: Urban climate risks and impacts on Istanbul, **Flooding**

Impacts Loss of life Loss of property Damage to historical areas Interruption of life Financial loss





# 6. NbS-Solutions for Istanbul

view of Levent business district by Derrick Brutel via Wikimedia Commons, Istanbul Rooftops by Josiah Mackenzie CC BY, Street Scene in Istanbul by CCo, via Pxhere



### Option 1: Green Roofs

Picture from ZinCo https://www.zinco.de/systeme/schraegdach\_bis\_35\_grad

#### 6.1 Solutions for Istanbul: Green Roofs









capture



pollutant insulation stepping stones rainwater capture Heat protection and carbon cooling evapotranspiration

for biodiversity

Illustrations from ZinCo (2020)

#### 6.1 Solutions for Istanbul: Green Roofs



#### 6.1 Solutions for Istanbul: Green Roofs



modified from Copernicus Sentinel-2, ESA via Wikimedia Commons



modified from Selda Yildiz and Erol Gülsen via Wikimedia Commons

### Option 2: Atatürk Climate Park

Picture by Ercan Karakaş via Wikimedia Commons

#### 6.2 Solutions for Istanbul: Atatürk Climate Park





modified from Ercan Karakaş via Wikimedia Commons



### 7. Evaluation of the NBS

## Option 1: Green Roofs

Kagithane Gardens in Istanbul by JDS Architects. Source: https://bit.ly/3sqYXLo



### **Challenges** – Option 1: Green Roofs



Any pointed roofs in old city center



Variable Precipitation

Only selected plants can withstand the arid climate



Hybrid solutions necessary to implement water storing mechanisms



Kapali Carsi (Grand Bazaar), Istanbul. Rooftops. Source: ©iharsten, flickr.

### Benefits – Option 1: Green Roofs

## Implementation in existing infrastructure

Severe urban risks are being adressed: droughts and flooding



Many other co-benefits



More appealing cityscape



Zorlu Center in Istanbul. Source: https://zinco-greenroof.com/references/zorlu-center-istanbul



### Option 2: Recreation of Istanbul Atatürk Airport



## Challenges – Option 2: Atatürk Airport

Conflict of interest between different stakeholders



Fight for space – need for housing, medical infrastructure etc.



Gentrification of neighborhood



Habitat creates risk for invasive species



Narrow streets in Instanbul. Copyright © 2016-2017 Corneliu Cazacu.

## **Benefits** – Option 2: Ataturk Airport

![](_page_53_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_2.jpeg)

Cooling effect of vast space (946ha)

Located next to the sea – Reduction of Floodings

![](_page_53_Picture_5.jpeg)

6 Recreational space for citizens

![](_page_53_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_8.jpeg)

Increase of property value

![](_page_53_Picture_10.jpeg)

Istanbul Ataturk Airport from Above. Source: https://bit.ly/3lPtWym

#### OUR CHOSEN NBS ARE ...

![](_page_54_Picture_1.jpeg)

### FEASIBLE AFFORDABLE SUSTAINABLE

![](_page_55_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_5.jpeg)

### Together for a sustainable future!

#### Sources

Bodur, A. (2018) Sel ve İstanbul: Sel Riskine Karşı Yapılan Dere Islah Çalışmaları ile İlgili Bir Değerlendirme. Retrieved from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327722562 Sel ve Istanbul Sel Riskine Karsi Yapilan Dere Islah Calismalari ile Ilgili Bir Degerlendirme (March 25, 2021)

Anand, C.K., Apul, D.S. (2014) Composting toilets as a sustainable alternative to urban sanitation – A review, Waste Management, Volume 34, Issue 2, Pages 329-343, http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0956053X13004923

Aygün, A. (2015). Climate Change and Urban Resilience: Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Istanbul. Retrieved from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340105274 CLIMATE CHANGE AND URBAN RESILIENCE VULNERABILITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ISTANBUL (March 26, 2021)

Baskaya, F. A. T. (2018) Revealing Landscape Planning Strategies for Disaster-Prone Coastal Urban Environments: The Case of Istanbul Megacity. Sea Level Rise and Coastal Infrastructure. https://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.73567

Cohen-Shacham, G Walters, C Janzen, S Maginnis (2016) Nature-based Solutions to address global societal challenges, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

Department of Environmental Protection and Developmen IBB Beyoğlu Ek Hizmet Binas (2017) Istanbul Climate Change Action Plan. Retrieved from: https://www.iklim.istanbul/wp-content/uploads/%C3%96zetRapor%C4%BOngilizce.pdf

Barragán, J. M., de Andrés, M. (2015) Analysis and trends of the world's coastal cities and agglomerations. Ocean & Coastal Management, 114, 11-20.

Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2019) Cities and Circular Economy for Food. Retrieved from: https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/CCEFF Full-report-pages May-2019 Web.pdf (April 30, 2020)

Enzi, V., Cameron, B., Dezsényi, P., Gedge, D., Mann, G., Pitha, U. (2017) Nature-Based Solutions and Buildings – The Power of Surfaces to Help Cities Adapt to Climate Change and to Deliver Biodiversity. In: Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Areas. pp.159-183.

EP (2021). Heat Island Effect. Retrieved from https://www.epa.gov/heatislands. (Ap2021)

Erkens, G., Bucx, T., Dam, R., Lange, G., & Lambert, J. (2015). Sinking coastal cities. Proceedings of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences, 372, 189-198.

FEMA (2020): Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities.

Güneralp, B., Tezer, A., & Albayrak, İ. (2013) Local Assessment of İstanbul: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities, 291–311. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-7088-116">https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-7088-116</a>

Turoğlu, H. (2011) Flashfloods and Floods in Istanbul. Retrieved from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265682972 Flashfloods and Floods in Istanbul (March 26, 2021)

Turoğlu, H. (2013) Possible Effects of Climate Change on Water Management in Istanbul. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290805169">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290805169</a> Possible Effects of Climate Change on Water Management in Istanbul. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290805169">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290805169</a> Possible Effects of Climate Change on Water Management in Istanbul. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290805169">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290805169</a> Possible Effects of Climate Change on Water Management in Istanbul (March 26, 2021)

Turoğlu. H. (2016) Hydrology and Water Resources DROUGHT HAZARD AND WATER SHORTAGES IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY. Retrieved from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311103486 Hydrology and Water Resources DROUGHT HAZARD AND WATER SHORTAGES IN ISTANBUL TURKEY (March 25, 2021)

#### Sources

Jenkins, J. (2005) The Humanure Handbook – A guide to composting, 2005, http://skrconline.net/content/images/stories/documents/Humanure Handbook all.pdf (April 30, 2020)

Kabisch, N., Korn, H., Stadler, J., & Bonn, A. (2017): Nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation in urban areas linkages between science, policy and practice. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

Kurnaz, L. (2014) DROUGHT IN TURKEY IPC-MERCATOR POLICY BRIEF. Retrieved from: https://ipc.sabanciuniv.edu/Content/Images/CKeditorImages/20200323-16034017.pdf MGM. (2021). Kuraklık Analizi- Meteoroloji Genel Müdürlüğü. Retrieved March 25, 2021, from Mgm.gov.tr website: https://mgm.gov.tr/veridegerlendirme/kuraklik-analizi.aspx.

Naturvation (2021) Gorla Maggiore Water Park. https://naturvation.eu/nbs/milano/gorla-maggiore-water-park. (March 25, 2021).

Oppenheimer, M., B.C. Glavovic, J. Hinkel, R. van de Wal, A.K. Magnan, A. Abd-Elgawad, R. Cai, M. Cifuentes-Jara, R.M. DeConto, T. Ghosh, J. Hay, F. Isla, B. Marzeion, B. Meyssignac, and Z. Sebesvari (2019): Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low-Lying Islands, Coasts and Communities. In: *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, M. Tignor, E. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Nicolai, A. Okem, J. Petzold, B. Rama, N.M. Weyer (eds.)]. In press.

ResearchGate (2021) Going green? Ex-post valuation of a multipurpose water infrastructure in Northern Italy- Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Location-and-characteristics-of-the-Gorla-Maggiore-water-park">https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Location-and-characteristics-of-the-Gorla-Maggiore-water-park</a> fig1 320358119.(25.03.21).

Revi, A., D.E. Satterthwaite, F. Aragón-Durand, J. Corfee-Morlot, R.B.R. Kiunsi, M. Pelling, D.C. Roberts, and W. Solecki (2014) Urban areas. In: Climate Change (2014) Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 535-612.

PUB Singapore's National Water Agency (2021) Sengkang Floating Wetland. https://www.pub.gov.sg/Pages/album.aspx?24PW07of9GVLHNefpqvi+FVCjcfBEN2iPMSSzTs6q/J/vLW4QFZh+pNM3uCWYHkGuJzh88TAaUFrYsRJBFEFAg==.(25.03.2021).

Sara Favargiotti (2018) Renewed landscapes: Obsolete airfields as landscape reserves for adaptive reuse, Journal of Landscape Architecture, 13:3, 90-100, DOI:10.1080/18626033.2018.1589147

Seddon, N. (2018) Evidence Brief—How effective are Nature-based Solutions to climate change adaptation? Nature Based Solutions Initiative. University of Oxford.

Soz, S. A., Kryspin-Watson, J., Stanton-Geddes, Z. (2016) The Role of Green Infrastructure Solutions in Urban Flood Risk Management. World Bank, Washington, DC. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25112 License: CC BY 3.0 IGO."

ZinCo (2020) Planungshilfe: Systeme für begrünte Schrägdächer. Retrieved from: https://www.zinco.de/sites/default/files/2020-08/ZinCo\_Schraegdachbegruenung.pdf (March 26, 2020)