Regulating the thermal environment in cities through Nature Based Solutions in view of counteracting energy poverty

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Cities become warmer



Source: European Environment Agency (2015)

Why it is important to know the state of the thermal environment (in particular the spatial/temporal temperature distribution)?

The impact of air temperature (x axis) to the % increase of the normalized total daily electricity consumption (y axis) is more significant at temperatures > 32 deg Celsius (application for Athens)



Why it is important to know the spatial and temporal temperature distribution?

The impact of the state of the thermal environment to the electricity consumption (W/m2) for summer months (for Athens)



(Source: M. Santamouris, Univ. of Athens)

The impact of air temperature (x axis) to the % increase of the daily mortality rate (y axis) (application for Athens, for the age range > 65 years)



Source: Paravantis, J., Santamouris Mat, Cartalis C., Efthymiou Ch. and Kontoulis, N., 2017, Mortality impact associated to high ambient temperatures, heatwaves and the urban heat island in Athens, Greece, Sustainability – special issue on Urban Heat Island.3

RENATURING CITIES: not an easy task



tunner up: 'Eco Glazing', by Vladimir Druzhinin, Russia

Choose the best NBS

There is no one NBS which fits all.

On the contrary the selection of the most appropriate NBS depends on a number of critical parameters termed as NBS SELECTION INDICATORS (NSI).

NSI 1: What is the urban growth model?



Source: Sprawl beyond Growth : the Effect of Demographic Change on Infrastructure Costs, by St. Siedentop and S. Fina, FLUX (2010).



POPULATION CHANGE, ATTICA REGION 1991 - 2011

ΠΛΗΘΥΣΜΙΑΚΗ ΕΞΕΛΙΞΗ, ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ 1991 - 2011 Source / Πηγή: EL.STAT.





Source: http://www.athenssocialatlas.gr/



Average income in keuros

http://www.athenssocialatlas.gr/

Unemployment Rate 2011



http://www.athenssocialatlas.gr/

NSI 2. What is the Land Use-Land Cover (LULC) pattern for the city concerned

Copernicus Urban Atlas project 2012 → LULC

Basic classes:

- Continuous urban fabric: Housing. Mean impervious value> 80%.
- 2. Non continuous urban fabric: Housing over 20%, open space, private gardens, disperse vegetation. Mean impervious value: 10- 80%.
- **3.** Industrial-Commerical-Public Buildings: artificial surfaces (cement, asphalt, etc.).
- 4. Urban green: mostly parks



NSI 3. What is the built-up density per city area?



Sheng Zheng, Xueyuan Zhou, Ramesh P. Singh, Yuzhe Wu, Yanmei Ye and Cifang Wu (2017), The Spatiotemporal Distribution of Air Pollutants and Their Relationship with Land-Use Patterns in Hangzhou City, China, Atmosphere.

NSI 4. What is the state of the thermal environment? Are there any Hot spots (i.e. areas with systematically higher temperatures compared to neighboring ones)



Source: Cartalis, C., Santamouris M., Asimakopoulos, D., Polydoros A., Mavrakou Th, 2015. Identifying Hot Spots in Urban Areas in Support of Microclimatic Studies in the City of Athens, Including Its Historic Centre, ESA – DRAGON Symposium, Interlaken.





Source: Remote Sensing Unit, University of Athens (unpublished material)



Source: Remote Sensing Unit, University of Athens (unpublished material)

NSI 5. Age of the building environment and collateral characteristics

The age of buildings is related to their vulnerability in terms of the prevailing thermal conditions

Red: High vulnerability, 70% of the buildings have been constructed before the 1980s Orange: High vulnerability 50-70% of the buildings have been constructed before the 1980s Yellow: Medium; Green: Low and Blue: Very low







Change in electricity consumption (%)

Ίλιον Γαλάτσι Άνω Πατήσια Ψυχικό Περιστέρι - Φιλοθέη Σεπόλια Κυψέλη TESLOV ADEC Αμπελόκηποι Γουδί Ελαιώνας Μεταξουργείο ωκαβηττός Κολωνάκι Θησείο Ζωγράφου θνικός Ακρόπολη κήπος Παγκράτι Μοσχάτο Ζάτιπειο - Ταύρος Καισαριανή Νέος Κόσμος в Καλλιθέα Βύρωνας 0.5 χλμ. Δάφνη Υμηττός Ατλας καινωνικής γεωγραφίας της Αθήνας | Φ Φ. Βαταβάλη, Ε. Χατζηκωνσταντίνου (2016) από -44 έως -41 Χώροι πρασίνου, Αρχαιολογικοί χώροι, από -41 έως -25 Περιοχές ειδικών χρήσεων από -25 έως -17 Μεταβολή κατανάλωσης (%)* από -17 έως -12 Όρια ταχυδρομικών κώδικών από -12 έως -9 από -9 έως -2 από -2 έως 27 Όρια όμορων δήμων από 27 έως 61 *Thyn otogelwy: DEDDHE.A.E.

NSI 6. Critical infrastructures

The map denotes (with black bullets) the schools which are located in hot spot areas, I,e, in areas where temperatures are systematically higher.



Source: Cartalis C, Santamouris, M, Polydoros A, Mavrakou Th., 2016. Thermal Hot Spots in Cities as Hazards for Health Security: An Application for the Urban Agglomeration of Athens, Greece. Int J Natural Disaster Health Secur. 3(1), 13-16.

NSI 7. Urban planning geometric characteristics

If H/W>1, then air pollution is dispersed and heat is transferred. The opposite holds for H/W<1.

Wind speed (m/sec) at the top of buildings In yellow and at the street level in red.







Source: Remote Sensing Unit, University of Athens (unpublished results)

NSI 8. (in)Homogeneity of the thermal environment

A homogeneous thermal environment (that is when ΔT between neighboring areas tends to 0), restricts horizontal air mass motion.



NSI 9. Surface Park Cool Island (SPCI) (what kind of parks?)

Surface Park Cool Island- SPCI) SPCI is the difference $\Delta T = Tu - Tp$

Tp is the average Land Surface Temperature (LST) in the park,

Tu the average Land Surface Temperature of the urban fabric around the park at a radius of 500 meters (excluding other parks or areas with water).

The 500 meters zones are depicted in purple.



Remote Sensing Unit, Univ. of Athens (unpublished data)

Surface Park Cool Island (SPCI)

Impact of park area to SPCI: SPCI increases with increasing park size up to sizes around 20 correlated. ha and then becomes non DEVELOP MANY **IMPORTANT** TO SMALL PARKS **URBAN** ____ **ACUPUNCTURE**



Impact of the shape of an urban park to SPCI



- The higher P/A, that is the more complex the shape of the park, the lower the SPCI.
- Complex shape → intrusion of building materials and anthropogenic heat.

New comers to the city

Blue curve: Greek Red curve: Foreigners



ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ
 ΑΛΛΟΔΑΠΟΙ







MONITORING THE CITY

NSI 10. Combine environmental, social and economic data



Each variable data are standardized resulting to *z*-scores, which are in turn added or subtracted according to the variable characterization. In this way, quality of life scores are estimated at municipality level.



Slides 24-27: Source:Cartalis, C., Santamouris, M., Polydoros, A., Nyktarakis, G., and Mavrakou, Th., 2016, Assessing the interlinks between urbanization, the built environment and the thermal environment in view of smart and sustainable urban development: a demonstration application for Athens, International Journal of Earth and Environmental Sciences, 1: 107.













Urban use is defined as land cover reflecting industrial/commercial/transport units/mineral extraction sites/dump and construction sites.



