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The Role of Green Infrastructures in Urban Planning for Climate Change Adaptation

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Discussion Research ID	DPR-2026-1462
Year	2019
Field	Environmental Science
DOI	10.3390/cli7100119
Author ORCID	0000-0002-3838-2978
Licence	CC-BY
Original source	Climate
Permanent link	https://discussionpublishers.com/research/6b8478c6-68d3-4c3e-b8d8-3d48f2aef071
Publisher	Discussion Publishers discussionpublishers.com

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Cite as: Luisa Sturiale, Alessandro Scuderi (2019). The Role of Green Infrastructures in Urban Plannin. Discussion Publishers, DPR

Abstract

The population that lives in cities has surpassed the one that lives in the countryside. Cities are recognized as apriority source of pollution. The degradation of air quality and the phenomenon of Urban Heat Island (UHI) are some of the most well-known consequences of urban development. The adaptation of the cities is emerging as one of the greatest challenges that urban planners will face in this century. Urban Green Infrastructures (GIs) could help cities adapt to climate change, and the strategy of expansion of greening in urban planning could play an important role in enhancing the sustainability and resilience of cities and communities. Many studies have shown the benefits of GIs to climate change mitigation and adaptation in urban areas and their role as an important urban planning tool to satisfy environmental, social, and economic needs of urban areas. The objective of this article is to propose a methodological approach to evaluate the social perception of citizens regarding urban green areas. The proposed methodology, applied to the reality of the urban green system of Catania, is based on an integrated approach between participatory planning and the methods social multi criteria evaluation to guiding the citys government to realize a new urban resilient development.

Keywords: urban green infrastructure, climate change adaptation, urban planning, urban heat island, air qualit

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Original record: https://doi.org/10.3390/cli7100119
DOI: https://doi.org/10.3390/cli7100119