

Ecosystem services: their contributions and relevances in urban environments

Tours – 24 au 26 mai 2016



Ecosystem services provided by soils of urban, industrial, traffic, mining and military areas (SUITMAs)

Jean Louis Morel¹, <u>Geoffroy Séré¹</u> Claire Chenu²

¹Laboratoire Sols et Environnement, Université de Lorraine-INRA ²ECOSYS, AgroParisTech

1. Challenges for urban ecosystems



Artificialization of soils at the surface...

• 50% de la population mondiale vit dans des centres urbains (70% en 2050) + croissance démographique



JN Population Division. World Population Prospects the 2008 revision. New York, 2009.



Percentage of total population living in urban areas, 1960–2010

Artificialization of soils at the surface...

- 50% de la population mondiale vit dans des centres urbains (70% en 2050) + croissance démographique
- Etalement urbain



Artificialization of soils at the surface...

- 50% de la population mondiale vit dans des centres urbains (70% en 2050) + croissance démographique
- Etalement urbain
- Scellement

(UE = 1.000.000 km² sols scellés soit 2,3 % du territoire)



Source EEA-FTSP, EUSTAT, 2010

... but also in depths

- Construction de la ville (industrie) sur la ville (industrie)
- Cohabitation avec les réseaux/infrastructures enterrées
- Contamination diffuse ou concentrée



Soil scientists have long considered the urban environment as a « forbidden area »



Traditional soil map

Questions are now being addressed to Soil Science

- What are the functions of soils in the urban environment?
- How to build sustainable cities suitable for human well-being and preserve our soil capital?
- How to get more ecosystem services from the same surface area?





Diversity of SUITMA

Soils of Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Mining and Military Areas

• Strong variability and heterogeneity (result of the history of the city)



photos Florentin, Huot, Morel, Nehls, Schwartz, Séré

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SUITMA characteristics

- Strong variability and heterogeneity (result of the history of the city)
- Original physic-chemical properties







Fig. 9. Distribution of total lead in French topsoils according to land use: forest (n = 582), grassland (n = 623), cultivated (n = 820), orchard and vineyard (n = 48), urban vegetable garden (n = 104) and SUITMA (n = 221). Band inside the box represent the median.

vegetable

garden

and

vineyard

SUITMA characteristics

- Strong variability and heterogeneity (result of the history of the city)
- **Original physic-chemical properties**
- **Biodiversity reservoir**

2015



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3. Ecosystem services provided by SUITMA

• Sealed SUITMA:

- Biomass provisionning = none to low
- *Climate regulation* = very low

Pourquoi l'effet îlot de chaleur urbain





- Sealed SUITMA:
 - Biomass provisionning = none to low
 - Climate regulation = very low
 - Flood control = low







- Sealed SUITMA:
 - Biomass provisionning = none to low
 - Climate regulation = very low
 - Flood control = low
 - Biodiversity reservoir = very low
 - Human activities & infrastructure = very high



- Urban/industrial brownfield SUITMA
 - Biomass provisionning = none to low
 - Climate regulation = medium
 - Flood control = low to medium
 - Biodiversity reservoir = medium to high
 - Human activities & infrastructure = none to low



Green roof SUITMA

- Biomass provisionning = medium to high
- Climate regulation = medium to high
- Flood control = high
- Biodiversity reservoir = medium to high
- Human activities & infrastructure = low to medium





Ecosystem Services		Vegetated pseudo-natural	Vegetated constructed	Dumping	Sealed
Provisionning	Food	++	++	(+)	0
	Fiber/raw materials	++	++(+)	++	0
	Reservoir of minerals	+	+	+++	0
	Fresh index	0	+	0	+++
Regulation	Water storage	++	+++	++	+
	Runoff and flood control	+++	++(+)	+	+(+)
	Pollution attenuation	++	+++	++	+++
	Global climate	+++	++	++	+
	Local climate	+++	++	+	0
	Biodiversity	+++	+++	++	0
	Invasive species	0	++	0	0
	Air purification	+++	++	+	0
Cultural	Noise control	++	+++	++	+
	Recreation/tourism	+++	++	0	0
	Archives of human history	+	+	+++	++
	Landscape	++	+++	+	+
	Education	+++	+++	++	+

Morel *et al.,* 2015



4. Soil engineering for urban areas

Designing soils to develop ecosystem services



Brevet VDR/INRA/UL Séré *et al.*, 2008, JSS

Reclamation of an industrial brownfield

- Landscaping + ecological restoration on a 1 ha former coking plant
- Soil construction process: 8000t papermill sludge, 8000t thermally treated soil, 400t green waste compost



Grassland installation





Grassland installation

- **Biomass yield similar to natural grasslands**
- Good roots development

2014



Progressive colonisation by fauna

• Biodiversity similar to natural grasslands



Long lasting carbon storage

Stock of C_{org} > natural grassland



Rees *et al.,* 2016, ISMC

Long lasting carbon storage

- Stock of C_{org} > natural grassland
- Long lasting storage (RothC simulation)



Rees *et al.,* 2016, ISMC



5. Conclusion

Conclusion

• SUITMA...

- are diverse, complex, and distributed heterogeneously
- are valuable providers of ecosystem services
- are manageable and designable
- ... to face the major environmental issues of the urban environments



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