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5.16 Risk to critical urban infrastructure

Project Name: CONNECTING Nature (Grant Agreement no. 730222)

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Reduction of inundation risk for critical urban infrastructures (probability-economic) (Applied and EO/RS combined)	Natural and Climate Hazards
<p>Description and justification</p>	<p>Metrics are based on the quantification of infrastructure that has a reduced risk of flooding due to NBS implementation. Ultimately, this relates to a reduced economic cost of flooding, or increased health & wellbeing of communities due to reduced stress levels associated with flooding or risk of flooding. It should be noted that, if NBS is poorly designed or well-designed but poorly constructed, it has the potential to lead to increased local flooding risk for some areas. Advances in remote sensing technology and new satellite platforms such as ALOS sensors have widened the application of satellite data, for instance to validate flood inundation models. Flood modelling based on remote sensing rainfall data will be useful for developing regional flood early-warning and flood mitigation systems in flood hazardous areas.</p> <p>Reduction in flood-risk by nature-based solutions simulation can be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of strategic plans for NBS implementation to reduce flood risk and comply with Flood Risk Management; • Predict the impact of individual NBS projects;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantify the predicted impact of implemented NBS; • Promote stakeholder engagement in NBS planning; • Support the leveraging of finances necessary for delivering NBS projects.
Definition	Probability of a reduction of inundation risk for critical urban infrastructures based on more applied and participatory hydraulic modelling and GIS assessment.
Strengths and weaknesses	<p>Applied methods: Robustness of evidence depends upon the level of precision of the simulation software and the data analysed. Typically, simulations requiring the most basic data input are associated with the least precise results. This is not always the case, however, and model validation (either through real-world testing or validation against other models) is recommended.</p> <p>EO/RS methods: There are some limitations/barriers to the reliability of the evidence generated. This includes the expense associated with the most high-resolution satellite images when financial resources are scarce, or when images are not available on the study area. In addition, some areas can be covered with clouds causing a partial loss of information. The presence of dense urban areas and forests also affect both SAR and multispectral based flood mapping and requires a more-complex data processing which is not straightforward to accomplish with a user-friendly approach.</p> <p>High spatial resolution is a key factor when mapping floods in dense urban areas, and it is one of the limitations of the free of charge satellite data approach. These services provide rapid mapping products that can be affected by uncertainty and are not always validated. Maps of flooded areas produced by official authorities and based on bespoke aerial photos and field surveys are more accurate, although they are time-consuming and require higher costs to be generated. Based on experience, however, on-demand high costs, high resolution data and field surveys are often necessary to ensure reliability of evidence.</p>
Measurement procedure and tool	A variety of methods exist from applied/public participation techniques through to earth observation/remote sensing approaches. For further details on measurement tools and metrics, including those adopted by past and current EU research and innovation projects, refer to Connecting Nature Indicator Metrics Reviews Env19_Applied and Env19_RS.
Scale of measurement	Applied methods: Simulations are typically carried out on catchment scales identifying flood risk areas under different climate scenarios. Local impacts can also be modelled to

	<p>assess impacts on storm sewer systems and local flood risk areas.</p> <p>EO/RS methods: Can be applied at various geographical scales, but is most commonly applied at a catchment scale.</p>
Data source	
Required data	<p>Required data will depend on selected methods, for further details on applied and earth observation/remote sensing metrics refer to Connecting Nature Indicator Metrics Reviews Env19_Applied and Env19_RS.</p>
Data input type	<p>Data input types will be depend on selected methods, for further details on applied or earth observation/remote sensing metrics refer to Connecting Nature Indicator Metrics Reviews Env19_Applied and Env19_RS.</p>
Data collection frequency	<p>Data collection frequency will be depend on selected methods, for further details on applied or earth observation/remote sensing metrics refer to Connecting Nature Indicator Metrics Reviews Env19_Applied and Env19_RS.</p>
Level of expertise required	<p>Applied methods: Expertise required is very much based on the complexity of the data requirements of the model. Very basic models exist that require very low levels of expertise and are ideal for use as community engagement tools. To maximise the value of participatory approaches, experience of managing such projects is beneficial.</p> <p>EO/RS methods: There a semi-automatic method for flood mapping, based only on free satellite images and open-source software. The proposed method is suitable to be applied by the community involved in flood hazard management, not necessarily experts in remote sensing processing. Much of the freely available data is available with the first level of atmospheric or radiometric calibration, allowing their use by different types of users and not only experts in remote sensing processing. In addition, free GIS plugins allow the downloading and processing of free multispectral satellite images. The availability of these resources is useful for the management of natural hazard effects. However, expertise will be needed in order to improve and manually refine the automatic mapping using free ancillary data such as the digital elevation model-based water depth model and available ground truth data.</p>
Synergies with other indicators	<p>Applied methods: Simulation software often characterises multiple benefits of NBS implementation, often including impacts on water quality. Flood risk prediction also has synergies with the economic cost of such flooding, particularly in relation to insurance values. Flood risk</p>

	<p>reduction can also be related to health & wellbeing indicators associated with the stress caused by flood risk to properties, business and other infrastructure.</p> <p>EO/RS methods: Synergies exist between floods, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Synergies between managing flood risk, reaching or maintaining a good ecological status, promoting of ecosystem services and safeguarding the nature or ecosystem services in floodplains can be very complex.</p>
Connection with SDGs	<p>All except SDG2, SDG5 and SDG12: Decreasing costs associated with insurance risk; Decreased stress, health risk and physical risk; Links to environmental education; Possible cleaner water co-benefit; Decrease risk to energy infrastructure; Job creation; Reduced infrastructure risk; Green infrastructure development; Social equality in relation to flood risk; Sustainable urban development; Climate change adaptation; More sustainable water management; Habitat enhancement/creation; Environmental Justice; Opportunities for collaborative working.</p>
Opportunities for participatory data collection	<p>Applied methods Opportunities are available for a participatory process, particularly in relation to stakeholder decision-making (Voinov and Gaddis 2008; Voinov et al. 2016; Gray et al. 2018) and or data-gathering through ICT-enabled citizen observatories (When et al. 2015). Involving stakeholders through active participation can increase the legitimacy of risk processes, public acceptance, commitment, and support with respect to decision-making processes (Inam et al. 2017).</p> <p>EO/RS methods: To assess flood risk at a neighbourhood level, accurate data on flood extent, exposure and vulnerability is required. One of the possible and useful ways to obtain these data is a combination of remote sensing data and local knowledge through participatory processes. Further detail can be found on participatory processes in Env19_Applied.</p>
Additional information	
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5.17 Mean number of people adversely affected by natural disasters each year

Project Name: RECONNECT (Grant Agreement no. 776866)

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Mean number of people adversely affected by natural disasters each year	Natural and Climate Hazards
Description and justification	This indicator is closely related to the previous indicator on the costing of natural hazards / disasters, but specifically addresses the problem that while intangible costs are important in relation to assessing impacts of natural disasters they may be difficult to assign an