

natural habitats and biodiversity, which play an important part in our common future and heritage. Cities, in particular, need to become “more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, as stated in the title of SDG 11 [17], if they are to become “greener” and supportive of current mass urbanisation. Partial solutions to this phenomenon will be the widespread use of urban green technologies via ecosystem service-based features [16].

A number of studies demonstrate linkages between urban ecosystems and public health through a range of benefits such as the mitigation of heat hazards, improvement of mental health and wellbeing through contact with nature, and stormwater management. [18,19]. In particular, green and blue infrastructures provide several ecosystem services, such as pollution removal, carbon storage and sequestration, food production, noise reduction, and recreational and cultural values [15,20,21] (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Ecosystem services provided by green and blue infrastructure: (a) regulation of microclimate, (b) noise reduction, (c) food production, (d) carbon storage and sequestration, (e) habitat provision, (f) run-off retention and water filtration, (g) recreational and cultural values, and (h) air purification (image modified from Macrovector/FreePik).

However, changes in ecological conditions resulting from human actions in urban environments ultimately impact human health and wellbeing [22]. Sustainability needs complete understanding at all levels of direct and indirect human interventions affecting ecological processes and ecosystem states [23]. According to Gómez-Baggethun and Barton [24], “urban ecosystems are still an open frontier in ecosystem service research”, and the interface between economic costs and sociocultural impacts must be taken into account to “enhance resilience and quality of life in cities”.

This Special Issue contains 12 peer-reviewed papers. The contributions are written by authors from several countries, including Australia, Chile, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Brzoska and Spägle [25] reviewed urban ecosystem services of different types of green infrastructure. The review identified 40 different ecosystem service classes assessed in relation to different types of green infrastructure. The results show that the majority of the studies focused on assessing regulation ecosystem services classes such as filtration, sequestration, storage, and accumulation by “microorganisms, algae, plants, and animals” and “regulation of temperature and humidity, including ventilation and transpiration” in “urban green spaces” at the city dimension [25]. The results also show that the number of assessments of provisioning ecosystem services has been increasing over the