

Green Spaces in Paris: Unveiling insights on heat-related mortality at the REGREEN-CLEARINGHOUSE Final Conference

By Jo Garrett, University of Exeter



Photo: Clearing House

Dr Jo Garrett, from the European Centre for Environment and Human Health, University of Exeter presented preliminary results at the REGREEN-CLEARINGHOUSE final conference, which took place in Brussels, 28th – 29th November 2023. Jo highlighted the critical role of public green spaces in mitigating heat-related mortality in Paris. This is part of Work Package 4, focused on different methods of valuing the health and well-being benefits of Nature Based Solutions. In this study, Jo has taken a monetary valuation approach.

Using high-resolution temperature maps for Paris in 2019, developed for REGREEN by Neil Bird at the REGREEN partner institution JOANNEUM RESEARCH in Austria, the researchers first calculated the cooling effect from a subset of public green spaces. Statistical analysis revealed that as the size of green spaces increased, so did the cooling effect. Similarly, as the green-ness of spaces increased, the cooling effect also increased.

Scaling up these findings to all green spaces in Paris >1,000m², the study estimated that 21.5 lives were saved due to the cooling effect in 2019. Notably, 57% of the population in the central departments of Paris, totalling 3,783,686 million people, lived within areas cooled by green spaces. These results have not yet been published and remain preliminary.

The economic valuation of these benefits indicated that larger green spaces had a greater impact on mortality and economic value, while smaller spaces could have higher value per unit area. The

total economic value for all 40 hot days varied, with some green spaces exceeding 50,000 euros in value.

In conclusion, the study underscored the tangible impact of public green spaces in reducing temperatures, saving lives, and contributing to economic value. These findings provide valuable insights for urban planning and public health strategies in the face of escalating heat risks.

[Here](#) the slides of the presentation at the final conference