**Urban Flood Risk Management in a Changing World**

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Flooding presents a significant and growing challenge to the United Kingdom and the wider world. Urbanisation coupled with climate change caused by anthropogenic activities is expected to increase the flood risk. This threat is likely to escalate. Traditionally, hard engineering measures (grey infrastructure) such as embankments, sewer system, flood walls, etc. are used in the cities to minimise the flood risk. However, grey infrastructure generally fails to accommodate other aspects of integrated water management such as water quality, ecological values and public perception. Although, grey infrastructure as flood protection measures are very beneficial during flood conditions they are much less useful in non-flood conditions. In the UK, there is a paradigm shift from grey to green imitative is a more promising concept for sustainable urban flood risk management. This paper outlines two UK EPSRC research projects on urban flood risk management.

The first project ‘Blue Green Cities’ is to recreate a naturally-oriented water cycle while contributing to the amenity of the city by bringing water management and green infrastructure together. This is achieved by combining and protecting the hydrological and ecological values of the urban landscape while providing resilient and adaptive measures to deal with flood events. Blue-Green Cities generate a multitude of environmental, ecological, socio-cultural and economic benefits. The innovative Blue-Green approach to water management in the city aims to satisfy the demands of urban drainage and planning via coherent and integrated strategies, and places value on the connection and interaction between blue and green assets. More information about the ‘Blue Green Cities’ project can be accessed through (<http://www.bluegreencities.ac.uk/>).

The second project ‘SESAME’ aims to develop tools that encourage Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to discover ways of becoming more resilient to floods and to appreciate how adaptation can help protect them from on-going flood risk. Many of the UK’s 4.5 million SMEs are exposed to the effects of flooding. As SMEs represent almost half of total business turnover in the country, their protection is a vital part of the country economy. However, few have measures in place to ensure the continuity of their activities during a flood and its aftermath. This project also assesses the impacts of flooding on economic systems both within and beyond the immediately affected urban area and explores how changed behaviours could influence these impacts. Further information on the ‘SESAME’ project can be accessed through (<http://sesame.uk.com/index.php>).

Key words: Blue Green Cities, Urbanisation, Climate change, SMEs, Flood resilience