

ASSESSING GI DIFFERENCES IN THE UK AND MEXICO

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1

- **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- Environmental Assessment and Management (EAM) Research Centre participation in UrbanGreenUp Project (www.urbangreenup.eu)
- Visit of Dr. Hayes to Colima for an exchange in October 2017.
- Grant Award from The British Academy (Sep 2018 – Sep 2019).



- **RESEARCH CONTEXT**

- The concept of Green Infrastructure (GI) has experienced an increase in interest in the past 10 years.
- Mexico has a new Land Use, Urban Development and Human Settlements General Act, developed in 2016 but with no full implementation in the country (many states still lacking a Land Use State Law).
- Building from the UK experience, we intend to critically evaluate Mexico's initial development of GI planning.
- *Who's influencing GI development in Mexico and how it is linked GI with planning instruments?*

A **strategically planned network** of high quality natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to **deliver** a wide range of **ecosystem services** and **protect biodiversity** in both rural and urban settings.

European Union, 2013

Is the **network** of open space, airsheds, watersheds, woodlands, wildlife habitat, parks, and other natural areas that **provides** many **vital services that sustain life** and **enrich the quality of life**.

The President's Council on Sustainable Development, 1999

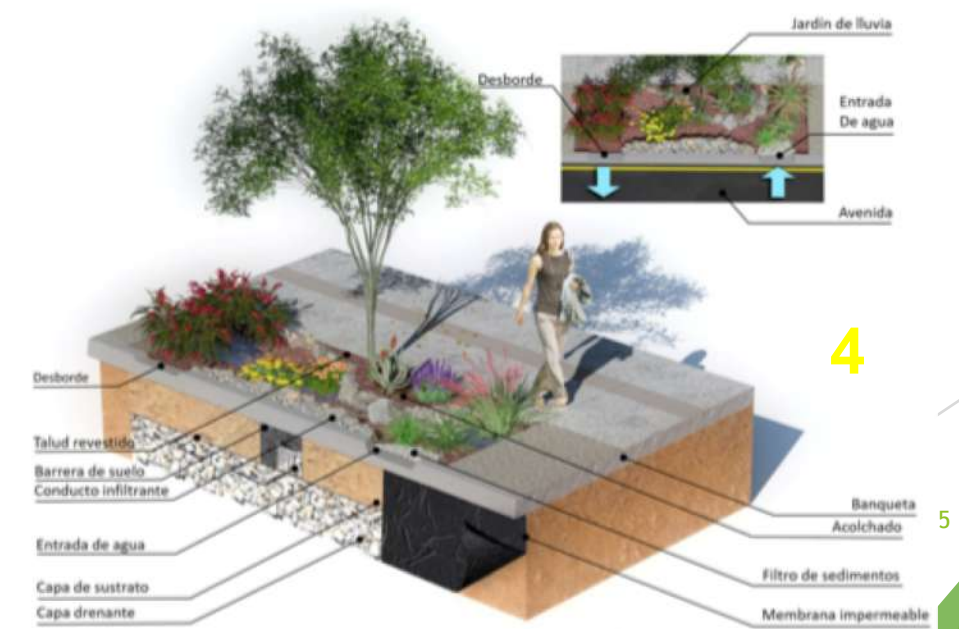
Is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that **provides many community benefits**.

US EPA, 2018

WHAT IS GI?

An **interconnected network** of natural areas and other open spaces that **conserves natural ecosystem values and functions, sustains clean air and water**, and **provides** a wide array of **benefits to people and wildlife**.

Benedict and McMahon, 2006



1. <https://greeninfrastructureontario.org/spotlight-research-green-infrastructure-market-urban-forest-management-guide/>
2. <http://arribaelcampo.com.mx/aprueba-congreso-de-chihuahua-pasos-de-fauna-en-carreteras/>
3. Samuel Hayes' potos
4. IMPLAN Hermosillo, 2017

CORE FEATURES OF GI

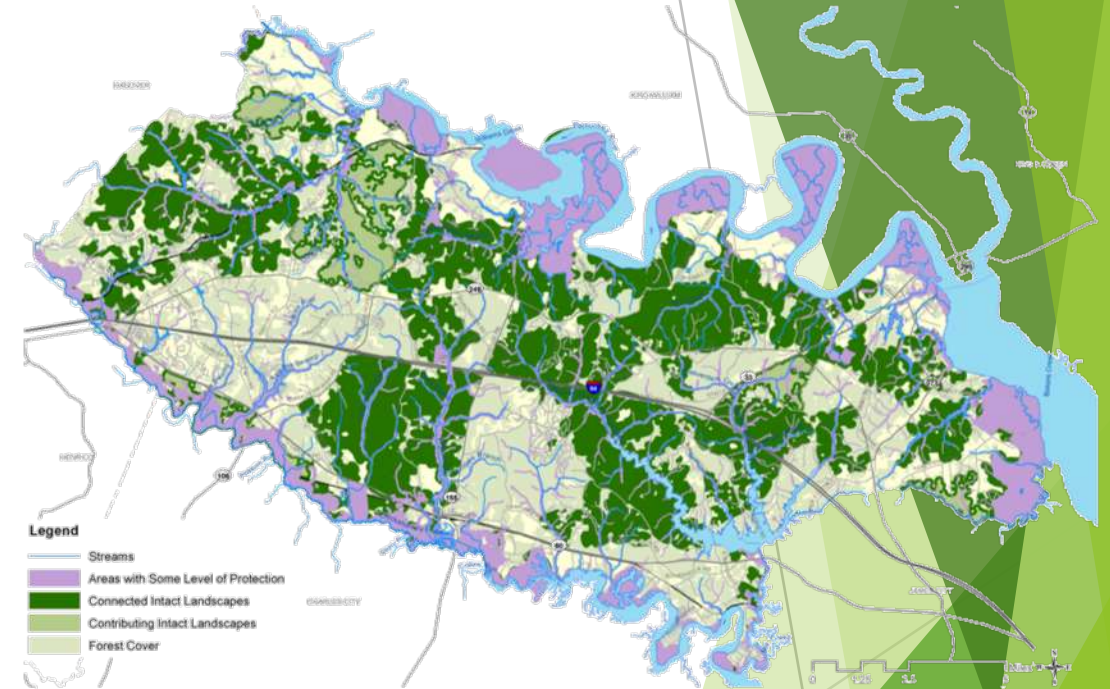
- CONNECTIVITY
- MULTIFUNCTIONALITY
- GREEN

Table 2: Green infrastructure system development trajectory

General development	Social and ecological production units making progress, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiring new means of production • Developing their operations • Increasing their economic size and income
Unequal	Some units making progress more quickly than others
Contradictory	Some units progressing while others are regressing
In-crisis	Every type of production unit is in regression and tending toward disappearance

(Source: Young et al., 2014, p.2575)

Hayes, Tejada & Fischer (2019) in progress



- **PRELIMINARY RESULTS**



3 TYPES OF GI DEVELOPMENTS

- NATIONAL (GIZ-AMEXCID)
- REGIONAL (NADB)
- LOCAL (MERIDA, YUCATAN - GIZ)

- MEXICAN PLANNING FRAMEWORK VS UK PLANNING FRAMEWORK - GI RELATED**

URBAN LAND USE

ECOLOGICAL ZONING

NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

- Land Use, Urban Development and Human Settlements General Act, 2016

- Ecological Equilibrium and Environment Protection General Act, 1988

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ENGLAND

SCOTLAND

WALES

NORTHERN IRELAND

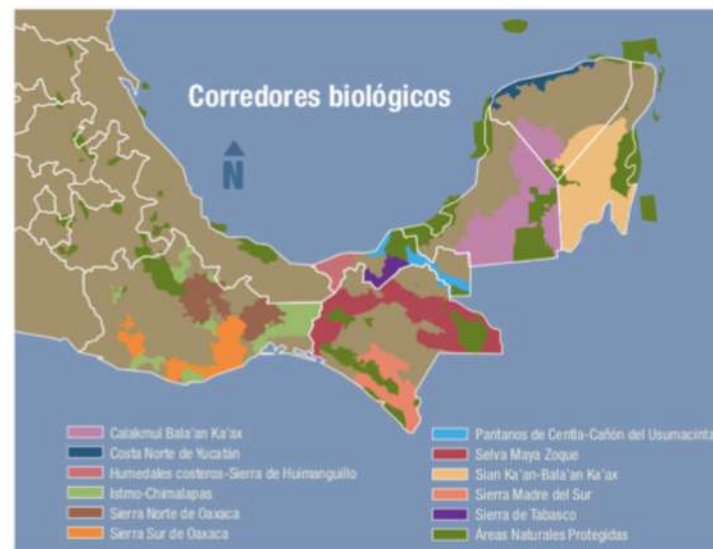
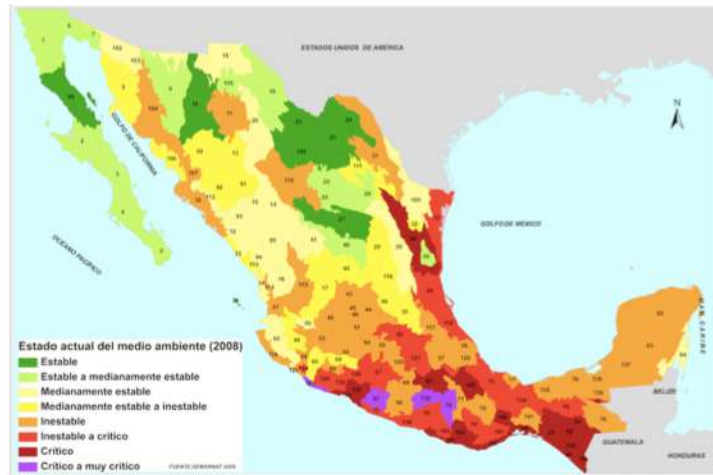
- National Planning Policy Framework, 2012
- Local Plans

- Scottish Planning Policy, 2014
- Scottish National Planning Framework (NPF3), 2014
 - Central Scotland Green Network
- Open Space Plans, Council's level

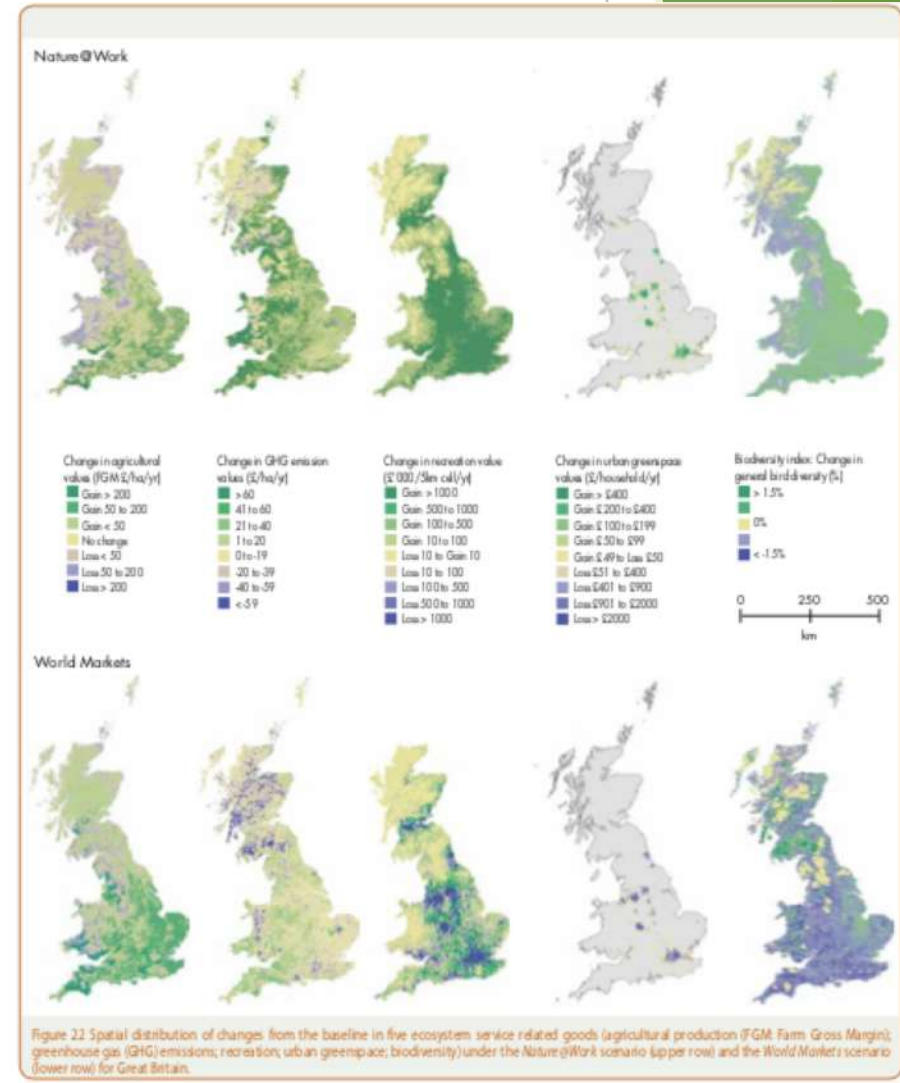
- Environmental Act
- Planning Act
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

- Regional Development Strategy 2035, 2012
- 2015 Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)
- Councils must take account SPPS in Local Development Plans

MEXICO'S STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, 2008



UK NATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS ASSESSMENT, 2012



- **PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS**

- MEXICO DOESN'T HAVE A DEVELOPED GI FRAMEWORK WITHIN ITS LEGAL AND PLANNING FRAMEWORKS, AT ANY LEVEL.
- THE MOST LIKELY GI FRAMEWORKS BETWEEN MEXICO AND UK COULD BE THOSE FROM WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND. WHILE ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND HAVE GREATER DIFFERENCES.
- ACCORDING TO THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA BY YOUNG ET AL (2014), MEXICO'S GI SYSTEM PROPOSALS TENDS TO BE UNEQUAL AND CONTRADICTORY, MAINLY BECAUSE THE EXTERNAL GI STAKEHOLDER INFLUENCE.
- IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO INTEGRATE WITHIN MEXICAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK A CLEAR GI CONCEPT TO GET A MORE WIDESPREAD AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN THE PLANNING INSTRUMENTS.

THANKS TO:

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