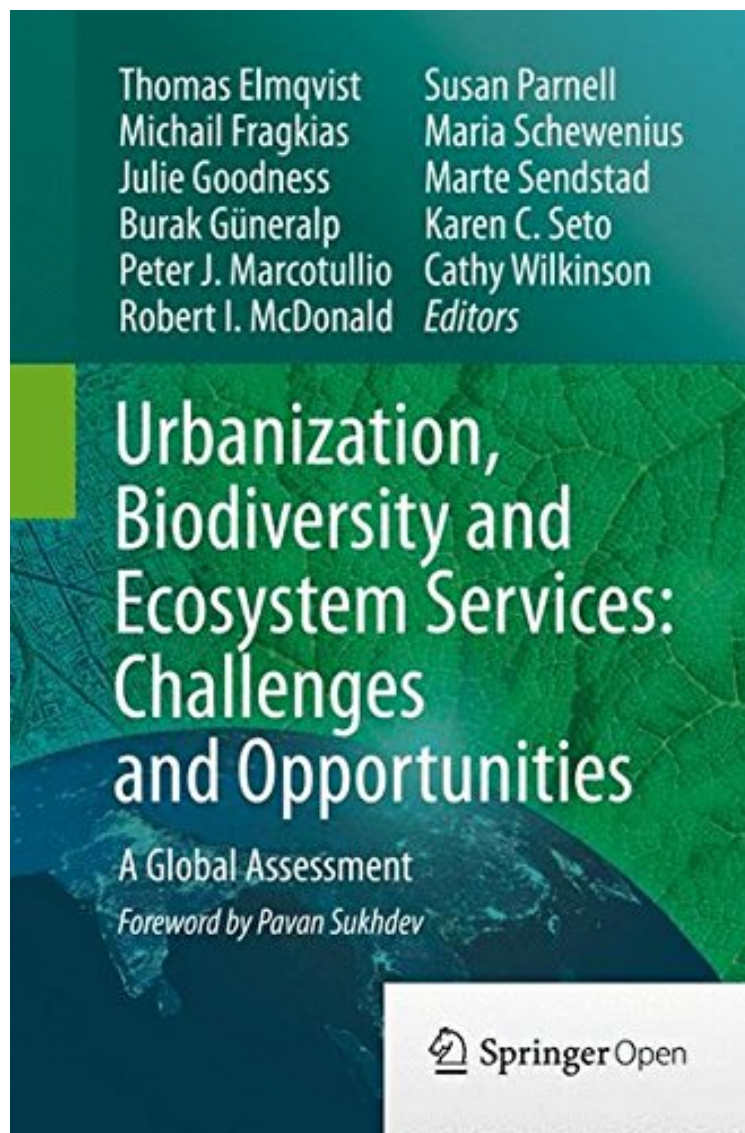


(Library ebook) Urbanization, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities: A Global Assessment

# Urbanization, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities: A Global Assessment

*From Springer*

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## Urbanization, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities: A Global Assessment:

Urbanization is a global phenomenon and the book emphasizes that this is not just a social-technological process. It is also a social-ecological process where cities are places for nature, and where cities also are dependent on, and have impacts on, the biosphere at different scales from local to global. The book is a global assessment and delivers four main conclusions: Urban areas are expanding faster than urban populations. Half the increase in urban land across the world over the next 20 years will occur in Asia, with the most extensive change expected to take place in India and China. Urban areas modify their local and regional climate through the urban heat island effect and by altering precipitation patterns, which together will have significant impacts on net primary production, ecosystem health, and biodiversity. Urban expansion will heavily draw on natural resources, including water, on a global scale, and will often consume prime agricultural land, with knock-on effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services elsewhere. Future urban expansion will often occur in areas where the capacity for formal governance is restricted, which will constrain the protection of biodiversity and management of ecosystem services.

From the reviews: This book explores how urbanization across global, regional, and local scales has multiple impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. A thorough, well-researched, and important compilation that delivers a valuable contribution to integrating knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban design and urban planning. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students, researchers/faculty, and professionals. (R. A. Delgado, Jr., *Choice*, Vol. 51 (10), June, 2014)

From the Back Cover: To understand how the world's ecosystems are changing we need to understand cities, and to create better cities we need to understand the ecosystems they depend on. The failure of most markets, government policies and even urban studies to take these relations into account has put cities, and increasingly the whole world, in a difficult position. Studies like *Urbanization, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* can help us to extricate ourselves, provided we act on the knowledge they provide. Gordon McGranahan, International Institute for Environment and Development. The challenges of urbanization are profound, but so too are the opportunities. Cities can reconcile human society and biodiversity by creating environments that are ecologically sustainable, economically productive, socially just, politically participatory and culturally vibrant. I commend this study to all who have a stake in creating ecologically sustainable urbanization for the benefit of humanity and the planet. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations.

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