

Enrich urban biodiversity for sustainable cities

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Writing on behalf of participants at a [recent workshop on urban biodiversity and conservation behaviours](#), we are concerned that in presenting the case for cities for a sustainable future, you overlook the crucial issue of urban biodiversity (Nature 620, 697–697; 2023 <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02597-3>).

To unlock the potential for cities to contribute to a more sustainable and biodiverse future, a holistic research agenda is needed that moves beyond understanding the impacts of urbanization on biodiversity towards positive interventions. This would link the direct effects (such as habitat heterogeneity) and indirect effects (such as reduced resource consumption) of intertwined social-ecological systems. It would support nature-based solutions that simultaneously provide habitat for local species, generate ecosystem services and foster opportunities for people to interact with nature to promote their health and wellbeing.

This agenda would result in a better understanding of the effects of nature conservation and restoration projects on local people and on populations of rare and threatened species, leading to improved outcomes for both. The data generated could form an evidence base to support urban planning, design and management that enhances biodiversity across cities.

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