

Cities and the Global Politics of the Environment

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More than half of humanity lives in cities, and by 2050 this might extend to three quarters of the world's population. Cities now have an undeniable impact on world affairs: they constitute the hinges of the global economy, global information flows, and worldwide mobility of goods and people. Yet they also represent a formidable challenge for the 21st Century. Cities are core drivers not only of this momentous urbanisation, but also have a key impact on the environment, human security and the economy. Building on the Palgrave Pivot initiative, this series aims at capturing these pivotal implications with a particular attention to the impact of cities on global environmental politics, and with a distinctive cross-disciplinary appeal that seeks to bridge urban studies, international relations, and global governance. In particular, the series explores three themes: 1) What is the impact of cities on the global politics of the environment? 2) To what extent can there be talk of an emerging 'global urban' as a set of shared characteristics that link up cities worldwide? 3) How do new modes of thinking through the global environmental influence of cities help us to open up traditional frames for urban and international research?

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Timothy Beatley

Blue Biophilic Cities

Nature and Resilience Along the Urban Coast

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Blue Biophilic Cities builds upon and extends several earlier book projects, including *Blue Urbanism* (2014), which was an initial attempt at fleshing out some of the main ideas discussed here. The chapters that follow seek to integrate more clearly the concepts of blue urbanism and biophilic cities, and also build on my earlier work on biophilic city planning and design. I argue that coastal cities offer special opportunities to foster deep connections to the wondrous marine environment around them—indeed that we must begin to understand that “nature in the city” includes those organisms, habitats and natural processes that may less obvious but are no less important or worthy of wonder. As coastal cities take steps to reconnect to the marine realm, they will have chances to build, grow and design in ways that will make them more resilient in the face of rising sea levels and climate change.

A special impetus for this book arises from an ongoing documentary film project, which is nearing completion. With a tentative title similar to this book (*Ocean Cities*), this collaboration has led to interviews with key individuals, site visits to key blue cities, and much of the content in the pages that follow. Many thanks are due to Chuck Davis, my filmmaker-colleague, who has helped shape the ideas in the film and who has worked so creatively and diligently to make it a reality. It is hoped that this book will serve as an important supplement or companion to the film, which builds on an earlier documentary venture, *The Nature of Cities*, which aired on many Public Broadcasting System stations around the USA. We have similar high hopes for the new film. The latter relies heavily on

interviews with blue–urban leaders around the country and the world, and I thank these many people for their time and for sharing their considerable insights.

A number of interviewees who shared their knowledge are due thanks. These include Josh Byrne, James Cason, Carrie Chen, Calder Deyerly, Murray Fisher, Heidi Hughes, Roland Lewis, Adam Lindquist, Theodora Long, Alan Lovewell, Jane Lubchenco, Bruce Mabry, David McGuire, Peter Malinowski, Wallace J. Nichols, Kate Orff, Bob Partrite, Orrin Pilkey, Alexander Rose, Sandra St. Hilaire, Jason Scorse, Paul Sieswerda, Peter Singer, Lindsey Stover, Stena Troyer, Harold Wanless and Julien Zaragoza. Most of the interviews were in person, often in conjunction with on-camera filming, and some were by phone.

In several places I draw from a *Planning Magazine* column I write every other month called “Ever Green.” In Chap. 4, discussions of Ocearch’s efforts at tagging and monitoring sharks draws on an earlier longer draft of a column in *Planning Magazine*, as does a discussion of Baltimore’s Healthy Harbor Initiative in the same chapter. A great many stories and interviews are conveyed in the following pages to follow. I hope I have represented them accurately, but as usual I take full responsibility for any errors in fact or emphasis.

Some important ocean issues are not dealt with here, or only in passing. The problem of plastics and ocean garbage, and efforts to control and collect them, are not addressed, nor are the many promising efforts to generate power from the ocean. Readers specifically interested in these topics are referred to the earlier book, *Blue Urbanism*.

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