CITIES AND NATURE

- Cities are home to 4.4 billion people well over half of humanity. This figure is projected to reach 6.7 billion by 2050.
- Rapid and uncontrolled urbanisation brings dramatic environmental change, most often negative.
- Cities have ecological footprints that are orders of magnitude larger than their physical area, exerting heavy impacts also on distant peri-urban and rural ecosystems.
- Well-managed urban areas can support rich biodiversity, with many species rapidly adapting to the built environment. Green and blue infrastructure can also cost-effectively enhance the liveability, sustainability, and resilience of cities, but it suffers from chronic underinvestment.

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Where can I get more information?

IUCN Urban Alliance https://iucnurbanalliance.org/

IUCN Urban Nature Indexes: methodological framework and key indicators (IUCN, 2023) <u>https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/50782</u>

IUCN Urban Nature Indexes web-platform https://iucnurbannatureindexes.org/en

IUCN Nature-based Solutions for cities https://www.iucn.org/our-work/topic/nature-basedsolutions-cities

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