

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.

Where can I get more information?

IUCN Urban Alliance

<https://iucnurbanalliance.org/>

IUCN Urban Nature Indexes: methodological framework and key indicators (IUCN, 2023)

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/50782>

IUCN Urban Nature Indexes web-platform

<https://iucnurbannatureindexes.org/en>

IUCN Nature-based Solutions for cities

<https://www.iucn.org/our-work/topic/nature-based-solutions-cities>

PANORAMA Cities