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Urban resilience and sustainability, two sides of the same coin?

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Many cities have started using the ideas of urban resilience and sustainability in the context of specific locations. However, urban resilience and sustainability are not linked to any particular location but apply to entire systems – open systems consisting of a wide range of resource, waste, capital, and knowledge flows. The links can be very complex and the feedback mechanisms indirect. A narrow definition and too local

an application of sustainability can result in unintended consequences such as the 'lock-in' of undesirable urban development trajectories and degradation of sustainability elsewhere. However, new models which place a value on the services that nature can provide in urban settings are emerging and in combination with increased global collaboration across cities they can help produce sustainable resource chains.

How nature contributes to urban resilience and sustainability

Cities consist of much more than their citizens and human-made structures, such as houses, roads, bridges, parks, harbours or airports. They are also home to the natural and social foundations for human well-being and a sustainable future. To understand and enhance these city functions, particularly in light of challenges such as climate change, food, water and energy security, it is important to acknowledge and value the relationship between society and ecological systems and the solutions that nature can offer.

is disaster resilience, which is a strong determinant of urban sustainability. Many of the world's cities are located in coastal regions which are prone to flooding and erosion. Even with extensive investments in flood prevention technologies such as dikes and dams, flood occurrence is increasing globally due to a combination of climate change, construction practices and changes in land use. Nature can be a source of resilience; the

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To achieve a transition to a sustainable and resilient urban future, resource use and environmental impacts need to be addressed not only within the urban boundaries, but also by accounting for the dependence of cities on ecosystems, natural resources and people in surrounding areas and other parts of the world. Today, a major challenge for many cities

