



*5th Healthy Cities: Working
Together to Achieve Liveable Cities*
Conference

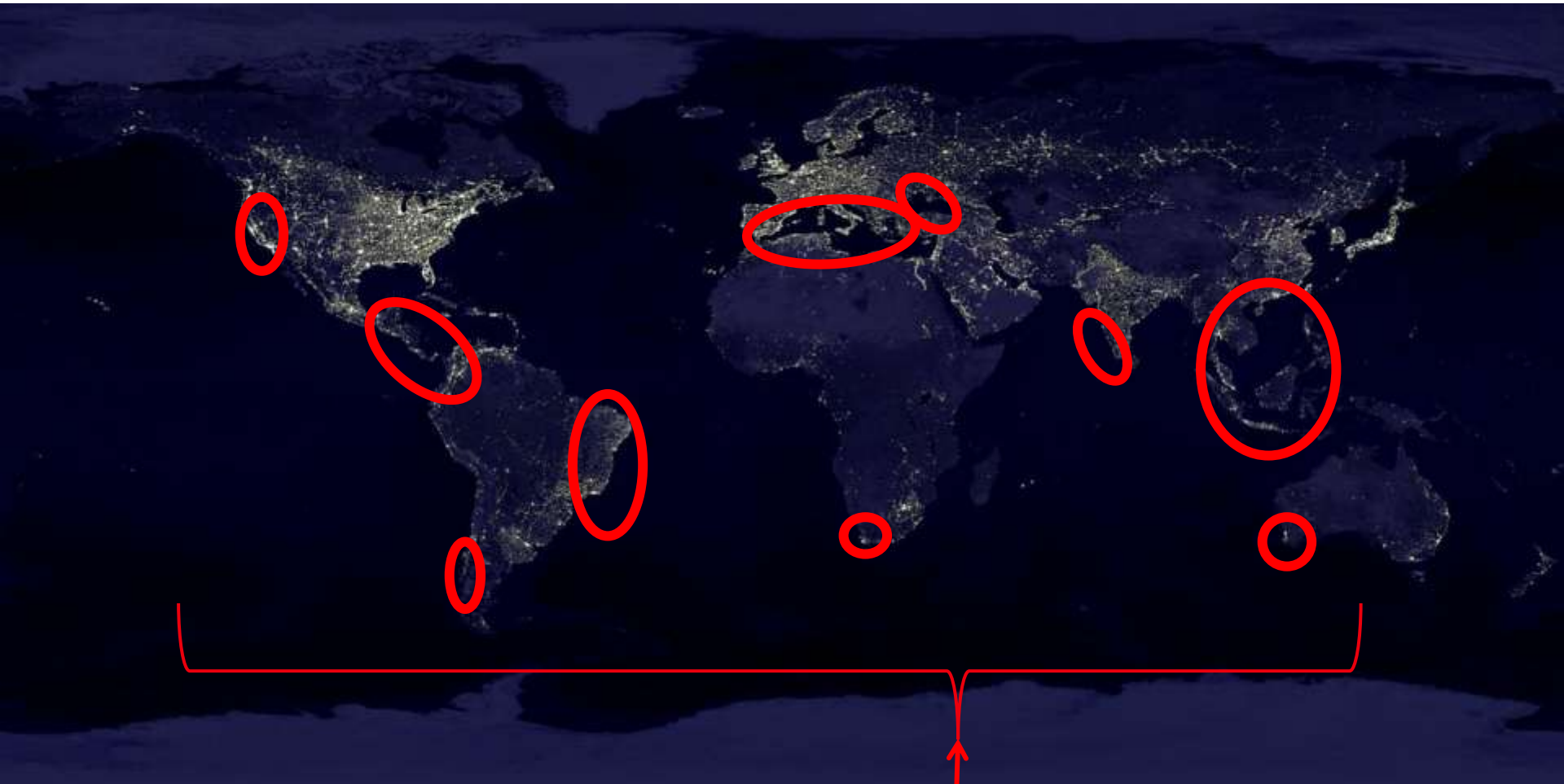
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*The role of biodiversity in creating
green, healthy cities and towns*

Urbanisation



Biodiversity hotspots



MELBOURNE IN 1837: FROM A SKETCH BY MR. R. RUSSELL

Melbourne, Australia 1837

173 years later

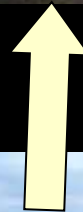


Melbourne, Australia

8,806 km²



Maintaining Ecologically & Socially Diverse Urban Ecosystems



What is biodiversity?

“The variety of all life forms - the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form part.”

*Australian State of the
Environment Report (1996)*

What is urban biodiversity?

The communities and individuals of plants, animals and micro-organisms that live in our cities and towns, now and in the future.



Where can urban biodiversity live?



What is the role of biodiversity in the creation of healthy cities?

Natural Heritage



Intrinsic value



Physical Environment

Climate amelioration



Water-sensitive urban design



Human health and well-being

Nature-based play



Sensory experience



Pull-factor for physical activity



Restorative effect



Healthier immune systems



Food production



Sense of Community







Habitat: A Floating Garden by Tania Kovats



"Vogelstad" (Bird City), Dutch designer Eveline Visser



London - Spontaneous City in the Tree of Heaven



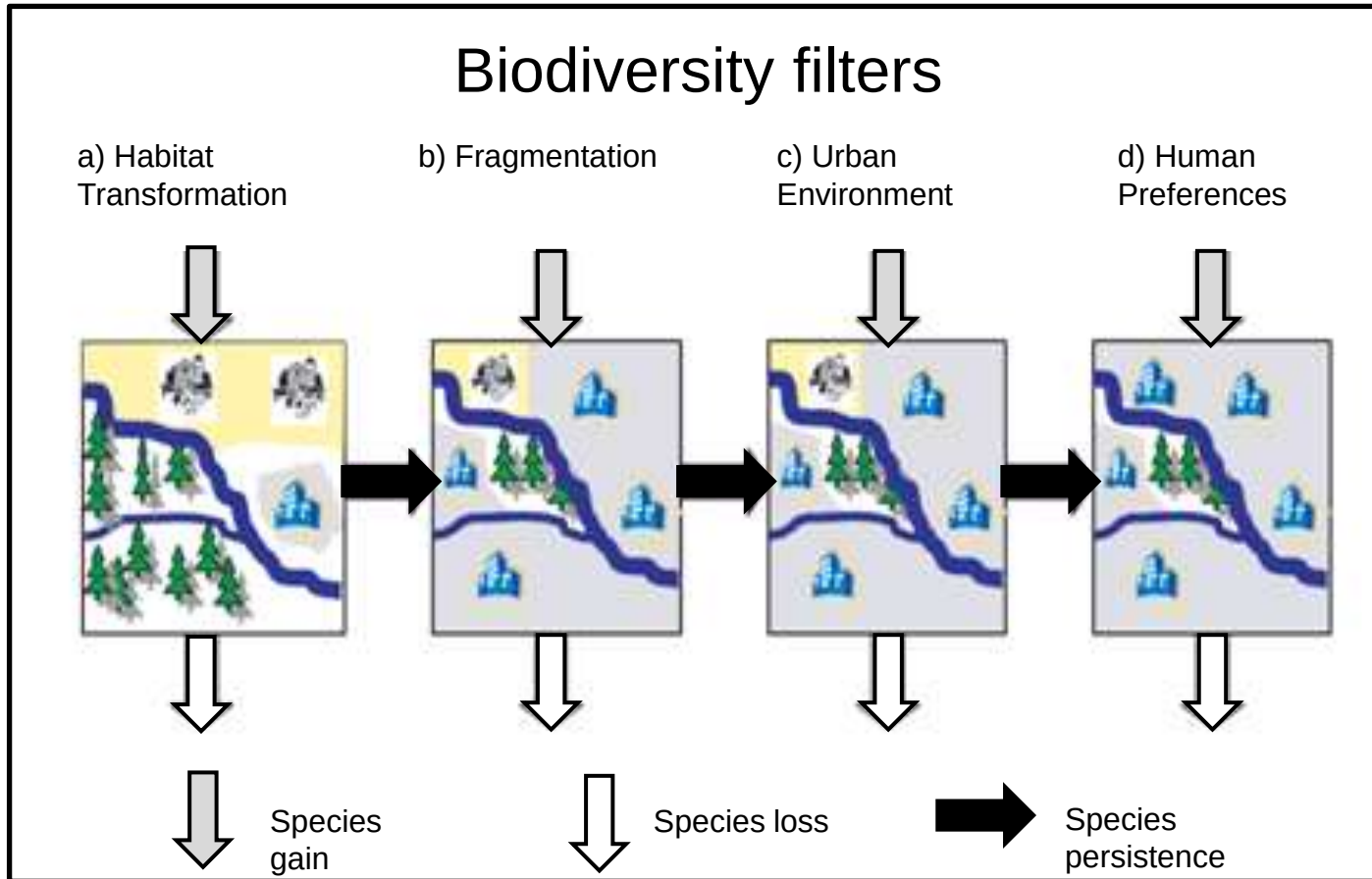
High-Rise Bat Habitat Sculpture in NY

Resilience

1. Persistence
2. Adaptation
3. Transformation

C. Folke

Threats to urban biodiversity



Williams et al. 2009

Resilient Biodiversity

1. Persistence

- Provide spaces for biodiversity to exist
- Reduce impacts of urbanisation
- Innovative, adaptive management

2. Adaptation

- Facilitate movement across landscapes
 - Movement in response to altered conditions
 - Genetic diversity for population viability

3. Transformation

- Recognise that ecosystems are dynamic
 - decisions based on current and future conditions

Healthy habitats for biodiversity are healthy habitats for people



Urbanisation

“If cities create environmental problems, they also contain the solutions. The potential benefits of urbanization far outweigh the disadvantages: The challenge is in learning how to exploit its possibilities.”

UNFPA State of World Population 2007.
Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth

Acknowledgements

- The Baker Foundation
- School of Botany, The University of Melbourne
- Mark McDonnell and Margaret Grose
- Staff, Students and Associates of ARCUE

