


# Chapter 8

## Urbanization Violence to Nature: Reconciliation With Nature

Aslı Güneş Gölbey

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1271-2032>

Architecture Faculty, Izmir Demokrasi University, Turkey

Ayşenur Kaylı

Izmir Demokrasi University, Turkey

### ABSTRACT

*With the uncontrollable population growth in the cities, the rising need for settlement has increased the needs of the cities, as well as making the cities consumption centres. The housing intensity of urbanization were damaged at first, then the farms and agricultural production areas in the city periphery, and then it directly affected the natural resources such as air, water, soil, flora, and fauna. However, nature did not remain unresponsive to these events and responded to human beings with various natural disasters. Eventually, the human violence on nature has turned into the abuse nature exerts on human beings, with disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, and fire as a kind of revenge of nature. The future of humanity becomes dependent on reconciliation with nature and adaptation to a sustainable lifestyle. This chapter examines the violence between human nature and urbanization with its causes and possible consequences and offers reconciliation suggestions for a sustainable life.*

### INTRODUCTION

Today, the world's most valuable forests are burning, floods cover cities, landslides and erosions continue to exacerbate across the globe. Could nature's violence cause all this against people? No! On the contrary, these disasters are the result of violent and aggressive behaviours that people apply to the environment. Humanity suffers the consequences of their mindless violence against nature with its hazards. So how did the world become this? How did this process begin?

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-4655-0.ch008

With the first appearance of intelligent people on the surface of the world, people thought to utilize natural resources for feeding, sheltering, developing. Thus they started to affect their environment and nature with these activities. In ancient history, people began to use the advantages of nature through passive actions such as sheltering in caves and began to dominate environment with hunting, gathering, and agricultural activities in the early periods with its developing intelligence and technological capabilities. Through continuous and rapid development, people have turned to activities aimed at increasing the comfort and well-being of life and continued to consume nature aggressively by increasing its dominance, primarily through industrial activities and conventional agriculture. Humanity, with its intelligence, memory, and the ability to transfer what it has learned from generation to generation, it has established tribes, villages and finally cities to take advantage of living together to bring human welfare and comfort to daily life. Today, as many as 70% of the population lives in cities. Cities have become organisms that constitute one of the habitats of humanity, have a particular character with their dynamics, grow in a limited and limitless way, and rapidly affect and transform their environment while improving. The cities, which continuously increase their attractiveness with the advantages they possess and offer, transform the natural structure into urban areas with their aggressive and distorted spread.

Every being on earth is part of an ecosystem and the energy-matter cycle. These cycles appear as highly sensitive loops, are affected very quickly by the positive and negative effects they receive and can react. As a result of this uncontrolled growth of cities, the depressed natural resources lose the abilities of the drain rainwater, protect the surface soil, and carry the effects of various human activities. Also, various solid and liquid wastes, toxic gases, from human activities, pollute the environment rapidly and directly damage the natural cycles and ecosystem. As a result of all this, global phenomena have emerged, affecting all living beings on the earth's surface, such as the greenhouse effect, global warming, and ozone depletion. Very recently, people have begun to understand the impact of what they have done to nature and have started to change the illusion of limitless natural resources, as a result of the lived disasters.

Natural resources are resources that have emerged at the end of specific processes, time, and conditions. Some of them can renew very quickly, while others can take thousands or even millions of years. This period varies depending on their abilities. Each system and source have a carrying capacity that forms their resistance to external influences and the renewal capacity, which can correct the deteriorated structure because of these negative interactions. Natural life is based on the factors that it is exposed for a certain period, subsidizing them, carrying them, and introducing new individuals to the environment to maintain this resistance as much as possible. However, when the negative factors continue to exist with their continuity and effect, the system starts to collapse, and the ecosystem loses its balance. By the decreasing renovation potential of the ecosystem, it is begun to exacerbate the negativity and react in various ways to correct the situation. The consequences of this situation can explain the occurrence of different adverse conditions and disasters.

On the other hand, people increase their pressure aggressively on nature and natural resources by increasing various domestic and industrial activities. As an example of this is the global warming caused by the greenhouse effect caused by gases blown into the air by human activities. Apart from all these, nature comes out of the city borders ultimately, and structural elements with harder and sharper lines cover the environment of humanity. Cities that develop without plan also disrupt the aesthetics of the town, and urban development harms not only the nature but also the urban people and all the assets in the urban texture. Ghettos, slums, which are the elements of distorted urbanization, can be given as an example of this distorted structure and unplanned growth of a ruined city

13 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:

[www.igi-global.com/chapter/urbanization-violence-to-nature/264688](http://www.igi-global.com/chapter/urbanization-violence-to-nature/264688)

## Related Content

---

### From Facebook to WhatsApp: The Changing Mood of Social Networking in India

Faizia Siddiqui, Mohammed Iftikhar Alamand Roshan Lal Raina (2014). *International Journal of Civic Engagement and Social Change* (pp. 23-36).

[www.irma-international.org/article/from-facebook-to-whatsapp/120712](http://www.irma-international.org/article/from-facebook-to-whatsapp/120712)

### Social Innovation and Cultural Tourism: A Review of Co-Creation Strategies for Sustainable Tourism

Maria D. Pitarch-Garrido (2022). *Handbook of Research on Cultural Tourism and Sustainability* (pp. 1-16).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/social-innovation-and-cultural-tourism/300561](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/social-innovation-and-cultural-tourism/300561)

### Two Decades After Katrina: Disaster Mental Health, Resilience, New Orleans

Sara Morgan Pickett, Stephanie Merrileesand Anne Schueler (2026). *International Journal of Public Sociology and Socioterapy* (pp. 1-20).

[www.irma-international.org/article/two-decades-after-katrina/403424](http://www.irma-international.org/article/two-decades-after-katrina/403424)

### Sustaining Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices

Michael D. Revell (2021). *Research Anthology on Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning* (pp. 499-520).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/sustaining-culturally-responsive-teaching-practices/284775](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/sustaining-culturally-responsive-teaching-practices/284775)

### Narratives and Metaphors Inspired by the COVID-19 Trauma

Vicent Salvadorand Diana Nastasescu (2022). *Handbook of Research on Historical Pandemic Analysis and the Social Implications of COVID-19* (pp. 225-236).

[www.irma-international.org/chapter/narratives-and-metaphors-inspired-by-the-covid-19-trauma/287721](http://www.irma-international.org/chapter/narratives-and-metaphors-inspired-by-the-covid-19-trauma/287721)