

The Role of Urban Green Areas in the Conservation of Biological Diversity

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ABSTRACT

The materials that are involved in urban landscaping include plants and the associated animals, soil, water, and other environmental elements. And biodiversity is the substantial base for human beings. The conservation of biodiversity is of great importance in the sustainable development of the society and should not be neglected in the development of sustainable urban landscape. The conservation of biodiversity should be included in the urban landscape planning. The conservation of biodiversity should be emphasized in the construction of urban green space. Every possible opportunity should be used to conserve the species diversity, genetic diversity and ecological diversity. The assessment of biodiversity conservation should be introduced into modern landscape planning.

Key Wors : Biological diversity conservation, Urban landscape

I. INTRODUCTION

By the end of the twentieth century, about half of the world's population lived in cities. This was expected to rise to 75 percent in the near future. Predicted were nearly 60 mega-cities with over 5 million people, 42 of them in the third world. What makes these figures so disturbing is the lack of planning, overcrowding, and paucity of natural environment already characteristic of many urban areas.

It is not surprising that many wild plants have disappeared from urban areas. Loss of habitat have been a major factor as remnants of intact vegetation have been used for building sites and roads, or turned into parklands and gardens, in the relief that the indigenous vegetation is wasteland.

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II. WHAT IS BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY?

Biological diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. Biological resources include genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity. Biological diversity is the substantial base on which human kinds depend. The issue of biological diversity conservation is one of the most serious problems that we are going to meet with in the new century. In 1992, the world summit meeting in Rio de Janeiro reached the signing of Convention on Biological Diversity. In this historical convention, it was made clear that as the common world heritage, biological diversity should be conserved with efforts from all nations.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF BIO-DIVERSITY

Value of usage

It means the value of being used as resources. It is also divided into:

(a) Direct value of usage-the value of being used as resources by human kinds. For example, bio-diversity provides food, fiber, building, furniture, medicine and other industrial materials.

(b) Indirect value of usage-the function in the adjusting of the environment by indirectly supporting and protecting economic activities.

(c) Ethic value-the value of the potential choice by the future generation.

IV. THE CONDITION OF BIO-DIVERSITY IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Urban areas are characteristic of being crowded

and being strong in business, transportation, culture and education. In comparison to the original environment, the original ecosystem have disappeared to some extent, but due to the special role and function of cities, the conservation in cities can not be neglected.

The character of bio-diversity is as follows:

There are fewer numbers of species of flora and fauna in the city.

The number of exotic plants and animals has increased.

In some remnant urban areas, there are some semi-wild habitats with disturbance from the people.

There are some very old trees in the city.

Zoological gardens and botanic gardens have contributed much to the conservation of bio-diversity.

V. THE PRACTICE OF URBAN GREEN AREAS IN CONSERVATION

- Careful surveying of the environment
- Environmental impact assessment
Bio-diversity assessment should be conducted.
- Planning for the selection of plants
- Native plants conservation
- Habitat conservation
- Habitat restoration
- The planning of protected areas or nature reserves
- To design nature in the city
- The construction of Zoos and Botanic Gardens
- To raise the public awareness

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