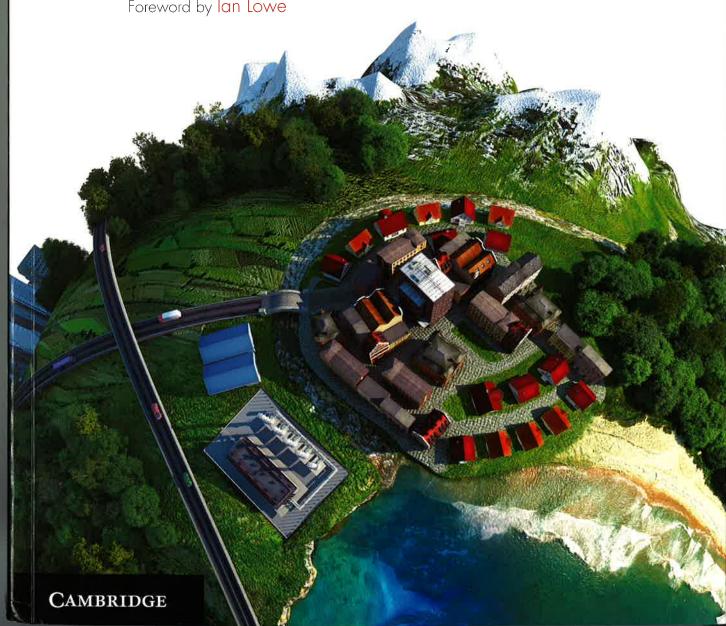
Reshaping Environments

An interdisciplinary approach to sustainability in a complex world

Edited by Helena Bender Foreword by lan Lowe



Reshaping Environments

Reshaping Environments: An interdisciplinary approach to sustainability in a complex world draws together a team of specialist authors from disciplines including urban planning, geography, engineering and environmental science to examine the diverse influences humans have upon the natural environment. This interdisciplinary approach presents multifaceted solutions for complex environmental problems.

The book explores current environmental science theories to provide a solid foundation of theoretical knowledge. Drawing on a range of case studies, it develops core analytical skills for application to real-world environmental issues.

Reshaping Environments gives environmental science students the tools and insight to comprehend the range of influences society imposes on the natural environment. It is essential reading for those interested in creating a mutually beneficial future for human society and the natural environment.

Additional resources are available at www.cambridge.edu.au/academic/reshaping.

Helena Bender is in the Melbourne School of Land and Environment at the University of Melbourne.

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To the earthlings of the 21st century

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demonstrate the crucial need for interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary thinking. As I learned in a decade working for the UK Open University, analysis of a complex problem inevitably requires the skills and knowledge of a range of traditional disciplines, while developing workable solutions. It demands systems thinking, understanding and appreciating the many linkages between the various different elements of the problem. Whether you are working on a very specific project like a straw-bale house or something as diverse as an entire region, the same principles apply. Farming, forestry and fire management demand a similar approach to school construction or Singaporean transport, irrigated agriculture or tropical grazing. The case studies in this book illustrate the general principles developed in the theory chapters. Together they comprise a wonderful resource that will help you, the reader, to make a difference.

Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe Griffith University

15 November 2011

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Contributors

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Michael Stewardson is a senior lecturer in the Environmental Hydrology and Water Resources Group at the Melbourne School of Engineering, University of Melbourne. Michael has worked as an academic and government adviser in the field of environmental water management since completing his PhD in 1999.

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