

## GEF BBL Series

Nature in the urban century: A global assessment of where and how to conserve nature for biodiversity and human wellbeing

---

Thursday, January 17th, 2019, 12:30 - 2:00 pm



**Speaker:** Rob McDonald – Lead Scientist at the Nature Conservancy (TNC)

**Discussant:** Mark Zimsky - Senior Environmental Specialist at the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

**Location:**

1899 Pennsylvania Ave (N building) – 8th Floor Conference Room  
RSVP by COB 15/01/2019  
GEF staff will wait in lobby to escort guests until 12:25pm

*A Light Lunch will be Served!*

### Join using WebEx:

Meeting number (access code): 737 607 216

Meeting password: SeQWPZ79

[Add to Calendar](#)

When it's time, [join the meeting](#).

### Join by phone

[1-650-479-3207](#) Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

[Global call-in numbers](#)

### BBL description:

Urban areas continue to grow at an unprecedented rate, and by 2050, 70 percent of the world's population will be urban. If unplanned, this rapid urban growth can degrade natural systems, imperiling a significant fraction of the world's biodiversity and decreasing human well-being. However, there has been a lack of a global and coordinated assessment of where natural systems are crucially important to protecting biodiversity or providing for human well-being. To close this knowledge gap, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Future Earth, the Natural Capital Project, and Stockholm Resilience Center (SRC), at the request of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), led the [Nature in the Urban Century Assessment](#), which was recently released at the CBD COP14 meeting.

In this talk, Rob McDonald, the coordinating lead author of the Assessment, will present its core findings, answering questions such as:

- How much global habitat will be impacted from urban growth and where will that impact occur?
- What fraction of the world's protected areas will be potentially impacted from urbanization?
- What are the carbon emissions that will occur from urban expansion?
- Where are natural habitats most essential for climate adaptation?
- What are solutions cities can use to plan their own growth?

**Dr. Robert McDonald's bio:** Rob is Lead Scientist for the Global Cities program at The Nature Conservancy. He researches the impact and dependences of cities on the natural world, and help direct the science behind much of the Conservancy's urban conservation work. He holds a PhD in Ecology from Duke University and has published more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, and a recent book, entitled CONSERVATION FOR CITIES. Prior to joining the Conservancy, he was a Smith Conservation Biology Fellow at Harvard University, studying the impact global urban growth will have on biodiversity and conservation. He also taught landscape ecology at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, helping architects and planners incorporate ecological principles into their projects.

