

## Linkages in the Landscape: The Role of Corridors and Connectivity in Wildlife Conservation

A. F. Bennett, 1998.  
IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.  
x+254pp, 9 Chapters.  
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INCREASING demand for resources through a growing world population and the development of consumer led economies has led to large-scale habitat modification. One of the most disturbing aspects of these changes is the loss of biodiversity. Conservation biology as a discipline seeks to counteract or minimize the loss of biodiversity. Management is an important aspect in achieving this goal. One concept used in wildlife management and conservation is that of landscape linkages. Linkages are aimed at facilitating the connectivity for species, communities or ecological processes. There are many types of linkages in the landscape; both natural and human induced. Covered in this book are linkages such as greenways, dispersal corridors, riparian remnants, wildlife corridors, stepping stones, hedgerows and road underpasses. Linkages range in scale from small patches of old-growth forest in a forest mosaic to migratory routes for birds across and between continents.

Bennett has set out to review the importance of landscape linkages and corridors on a world scale. The book is divided into three sections: Defining the Issues, Values of Linkages, and Connectivity and Conservation Strategy. The first section deals primarily with the concept of linkages in wildlife management, habitat fragmentation, island biogeography and populations. The next section examines the value of various types of linkages. These include the scale of linkages, theoretical problems, and benefits beyond a purely wildlife perspective such as streamside protection from erosion. The final section deals with the issues of linkage design in management, politics and setting priorities in conservation. A series of case studies demonstrate the ways that linkages are incorporated into wildlife management around the world.

The book's structure and layout are good. Each chapter has a clear introduction and text is easy to read. Bennett uses figures and tables well to support his

points. In addition, the legends for figures and tables are informative. Summaries at the end of each chapter are concise providing a brief overview of the concepts. The reiteration of information was an aspect that I found useful as it allows the reader to target a topic without reading the entire book. Not all readers will appreciate this aspect of the book as some paragraphs do provide a feeling of *deja vous*.

I found the use of boxes to supplement and expand on examples effective. However, I prefer to read about the examples as part of the main body of text. When parts of the message are separated the reader needs to select places to stop and go back in the book. The text is comprehensive and the omissions small.

One type of linkage not mentioned was an overpass. I first became aware of these types of linkages while in England. The introduced Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* is displacing Red Squirrels *Sciurus vulgaris*. Their populations are declining and are compounded by road deaths. In an effort to reduce losses, conservationists have placed rope bridges 30 ft above roads, thus providing squirrel overpasses. Something comparable is done on the central coast of New South Wales where poles are positioned along roads to provide safe and convenient landing places for gliding possums crossing from the other side.

This book is aimed at scientists, planners, land managers, conservation agencies, students, community groups and individuals dealing with wildlife and landscape issues. Bennett has succeeded in providing a useful reference book to all of these target groups. I recommend this book to anyone involved with reserve management. Researchers will find it provides a comprehensive synthesis of where we are with this issue of landscape linkages. The 35 pages of references provide plenty of further reading. University lecturers would also find this book useful as further reading for students taking wildlife management units, as the examples are varied and recent. The book is of value to non-scientific and community groups that deal with issues such as revegetation (Greening Australia Ltd. or community landcare). The potential audience range of this book is greater than for scientific journals and is a significant addition to literature in conservation biology.

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