

J. Wu & R. J. Hobbs [Eds.]: KEY TOPICS IN LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY. – Cambridge University Press, Cambridge etc., 2007, 297 p., Price approx. \$51, ISBN 13 978-0-521-61644-7.

Team of authors invited by two editors includes 29 recognized contributors covering research institutions across several continents. They divided the book into three general parts (I. Introduction, II. Key topics and perspectives, III. Synthesis). The first part and the third one were written by both the editors and/or the book conceptual organizers (I – Perspectives and prospects of landscape ecology, III Landscape ecology: the state-of-the-science). Expansion of knowledge in young pluralistic field of science about landscapes is treated in the Introduction and dominance of previously analyzed concepts is consistently illustrated/summarized in the concluding part of the book – Synthesis.

A frame for the aim declared through the title headline – to prospect the set of ecological concepts relevant for landscape level - is constructed by all the chapters fulfilled within part II. Landscape as the main human space for interactions plays its specific role as multifunctional entity in living global society (Chapter 2) which needs adequate and sophisticated system of data collection and organization. Landscape pattern represents specific result of the factorial synergism and implies many questions and challenges

(Chapter 3). Ecosystem types projected into shaping of land surfaces with their determining processes/regimes as nature constituents acting in appropriate levels of complex hierarchy are analyzed in the following chapters (4, 5, 6). Landscape heterogeneity as the main subject of previous chapter is viewed through cross-disciplinary prism in Chapter 7. Optimal pattern for landscape space (Chapter 8) roots in the state-of-the-science reviewing four basic approaches to this aim. From detecting landscape changes demonstrated in some case studies (Chapter 9) we go to high generalization within integrative research derived from land use (Chapter 10). Regional models (chapters 11, 12) create a kind of bridge to outline of landscape design/landscape planning (Chapter 13). The last chapter (14) of the part II typically confronts facts (identified in previous chapters) and challenges for integrative landscape research.

The strengths of this book are that it is a very serious and eligible collection of texts which may have benefited from a more thematic approach to landscape. The coverage is varied, as is common in most multiauthored edited books. The monograph brings, however, together a large volume of substantial material of ideas. I believe that this book will be read by many people working in science, practice, planning and policy.

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