

Has Climate Change Transformed Cultural Policy?
A review of contemporary approaches
READING GUIDE

Routledge Handbook of Climate Change and Society

The Routledge Handbook of Climate Change and Society (Brechtin and Lee, 2025) provides an extensive, interdisciplinary exploration of the social aspects of climate change. Bringing together leading scholars, it addresses critical issues such as climate justice, governance, adaptation and public engagement. It emphasises the impact of societal structures, cultural values, and political institutions on the causes and responses to climate change. This handbook is an essential resource for researchers, policymakers and students seeking to understand the complex relationship between climate science and social systems. Its global perspective and theoretical diversity make it a vital resource in the field of climate scholarship.

Brechtin, S., & Lee, S. (Eds.). (2025). Routledge Handbook of Climate Change and Society. London and New York: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003291206>

Cultural ecosystem services and opportunities for inclusive and effective nature-based solutions

Panaro, Delabre and Marshall (2025) examine how cultural ecosystem services (CES) can improve the inclusivity and effectiveness of nature-based solutions (NbS). The paper emphasises the social and cultural values of nature that are often overlooked, and argues for the greater integration of CES in environmental decision-making. It demonstrates how acknowledging diverse cultural perspectives can lead to more equitable, context-sensitive, and locally grounded NbS. This work is particularly relevant for policymakers and researchers seeking to align ecological objectives with social justice and community engagement in sustainability planning.

Panaro, S., Delabre, I., & Marshall, F. (2025). Cultural ecosystem services and opportunities for inclusive and effective nature-based solutions. *Ecological Economics*, 230, 108525. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2025.108525>

Interconnected nature and people: Biosphere reserves and the power of memory and oral histories as biocultural heritage for a sustainable future.

In his paper, Rollo (2025) examines the vital role of memory and oral histories in fostering sustainable futures within biosphere reserves. The paper emphasises how lived experiences and cultural narratives influence human – nature relationships, providing valuable insights for conservation and sustainability initiatives. By centring local knowledge and intergenerational memory, Rollo emphasises the importance of inclusive, culture-based approaches to environmental stewardship. This research is highly relevant for sustainability scholars, policymakers and practitioners who are looking to integrate intangible cultural heritage into nature conservation and socio-ecological resilience strategies.

Rollo, M. F. (2025). Interconnected nature and people: Biosphere reserves and the power of memory and oral histories as biocultural heritage for a sustainable future. *Sustainability*, 17(9), 4030. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su17094030>

Towards an ecosystemic approach to culture and sustainability.

Pekkarinen (2025) argues in favour of an ecosystemic approach to culture and sustainability, emphasising the interdependence of cultural and ecological systems. In the paper, she challenges linear and compartmentalised frameworks, instead proposing a holistic model that recognises culture as both a driver of and an outcome of sustainable development. By integrating ecological thinking into cultural policy, Pekkarinen highlights the potential for more adaptive, resilient and context-sensitive responses to sustainability challenges.

Pekkarinen, J. (2025). Towards an ecosystemic approach to culture and sustainability. *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2025.2455017>

What role for culture in the age of sustainable development? UNESCO's advocacy in the 2030 Agenda negotiations

In his 2018 paper, Wiktor-Mach critically examines UNESCO's efforts to embed culture within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite UNESCO's strong advocacy, the paper highlights that culture remained marginal in the final Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), lacking explicit recognition as a pillar of sustainability. Through an analysis of the political dynamics of the negotiation process, Dobrosława Wiktor-Mach reveals the challenges that cultural stakeholders encounter in the realm of global policymaking. This study is significant in terms of understanding the limitations of international cultural policy, and it emphasises the need for stronger institutional frameworks to meaningfully integrate culture into sustainable development agendas.

Wiktor-Mach, D. (2018). What role for culture in the age of sustainable development? UNESCO's advocacy in the 2030 Agenda negotiations. *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 26(3), 312–327. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2018.1534841>