

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786284203321
Titolo	The balance of nature and human impact / / edited by Klaus Rohde, University of New England, Armidale, Australia [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-30141-6 1-107-23554-5 1-107-30251-X 1-107-30562-4 1-107-30650-7 1-139-09507-2 1-107-30870-4 1-107-31205-1 1-299-00898-4 1-107-31425-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvi, 413 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	576.8
Soggetti	Population biology Biotic communities Nature - Effect of human beings on
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Nonequilibrium and equilibrium in populations and metapopulations. Reef fishes / Graham Forrester -- Population dynamics of ectoparasites of terrestrial hosts / Boris Krasnov -- Metapopulation dynamics in marine parasites / Ana Perez del Omo -- Nonequilibrium and equilibrium in communities. The paradox of the plankton / Klaus Rohde -- A burning issue:community stability and alternative stable states in relation to fire / Peter J. Clarke -- Community stability and instability in ectoparasites of marine and freshwater fish / Andrea Simkova -- Ectoparasites of small mammals / Boris Krasnov -- A macroecological approach to the equilibrial vs. nonequilibrial debate using bird populations and communities / Brian McGill -- Equilibrium

and nonequilibrium on geographical scales. Island flora and fauna / Lloyd Morrisn -- The turbulent past and future of arctic plants / Christian Brochmann -- Latitudinal gradients. Latitudinal diversity gradients / Klaus Rohde -- Effective evolutionary time and the latitudinal diversity gradient / Len Gillman -- Effects due to invading species, habitat loss and climate change. The physics of climate / Michael Box -- Episodic processes, invasion and faunal mosaics in evolutionary and ecological time / Eric Hoberg -- The emerging infectious diseases crisis and pathogen pollution / Daniel R. Brooks -- Establishment or vanishing:fate of an invasive species based on mathematical models / Yihong Du -- Anthropogenic footprints on biodiversity / Camilo Mora -- Worldwide decline and extinction of amphibians / Harold Heatwole -- Climatic change and reptiles / Harvey B. Lillywhite -- Equilibrium and non-equilibrium in Australian bird communities / Hugh Ford -- Population dynamics of insects / Nigel Andrew. -- The futures of coral reefs / Peter Sale -- Autecological studies. Autecology and the balance of nature / Gimme Walter -- The intricacy of structural and ecological adaptations / Klaus Rohde -- An overall view. The importance of interspecific competition in regulating communities, equilibrium vs. nonequilibrium / Klaus Rohde -- Evolutionarily stable strategies / Klaus Rohde -- How to conserve biodiversity in a nonequilibrium world / Klaus Rohde.

Sommario/riassunto

It is clear that nature is undergoing rapid changes as a result of human activities such as industry, agriculture, travel, fisheries and urbanisation. What effects do these activities have? Are they disturbing equilibria in ecological populations and communities, thus upsetting the balance of nature, or are they enhancing naturally occurring disequilibria, perhaps with even worse consequences? It is often argued that large-scale fluctuations in climate and sea-levels have occurred over and over again in the geological past, long before human activities could possibly have had any impact, and that human effects are very small compared to those that occur naturally. Should we conclude that human activity cannot significantly affect the environment, or are these naturally occurring fluctuations actually being dangerously enhanced by humans? This book examines these questions, first by providing evidence for equilibrium and non-equilibrium conditions in relatively undisturbed ecosystems, and second by examining human-induced effects.