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Title: Stakeholder contributions through transitions towards urban sustainability

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Stakeholder contributions through transitions towards urban sustainability

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Highlights

- Stakeholders increasingly contribute to urban sustainability
- Stakeholders have a role through transition towards food secure green and liveable cities
- Stakeholders can enhance accountable, legitimate, representative and transparent decisions
- Stakeholder initiatives can be stakeholder based, government based or science based

Abstract

The challenges for liveable, healthy and food secure cities worldwide are immense to future developments due to a worldwide increase in urban population, pressure on natural resources including water and biodiversity, climate change, as well as economic volatility. The quality of life in urban areas fully depends upon how people deal with each other and with their environment through transitions towards improved sustainability. The way in which stakeholder involvements occur through transition of marginalised urban areas is unclear. Against this background, the core challenge addressed in this article is: What stakeholder contributions are judged appropriate for transitions towards increased urban sustainability? Exploring recent literature (2013-2016), based on a total of 94 selected articles, it appears that stakeholder contributions have at least three different meanings in the urban sustainability literature; 1) stakeholder based initiatives, 2) government based initiatives and 3) science based initiatives. The three different approaches impact a stakeholder role in the society in different ways, within the scope of the core societal trends of increased use of ICT, globalization, and the changing roles of state and science.

Keywords Urban sustainability, stakeholder participation, literature review, transition, governance

1. Introduction

The worldwide challenges for liveable, healthy and food secure cities are immense to future developments due to a worldwide increase in urban population, pressure on natural resources including water and biodiversity, climate change, as well as economic volatility.

While an urban area is defined by its density of a human population, its future quality of life is fully dependent upon how people are able to deal with each other and with their environments through transitions towards improved sustainability. Such transitions are influenced by the global setting, which at present is prevailed by a total of four trends in late modernity. First, the accessibility of information and communication technology (ICT) ensures that information is widely available to urban populations and institutions, while new information is created and collected in processes of information exchange

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