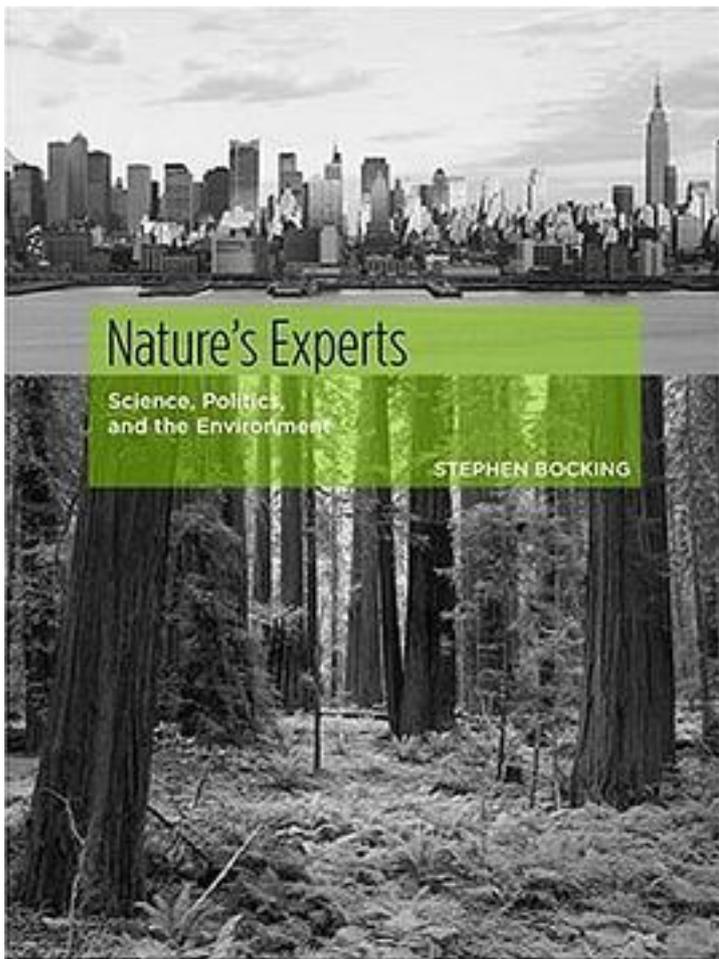


Nature's Experts



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It seems self-evident that science plays a central role in environmental affairs. Regulatory agencies, businesses, and public interest groups all draw on scientific

research to support their claims. However, some critics describe science not as the solution to environmental problems, but as their source. Moreover, the science itself is often a basis of controversy, as debates over global warming and environmental health risks have shown. *Nature's Experts* explores the contributions and challenges presented when scientific authority enters the realm of environmental affairs. Stephen Bocking focuses on four major areas of environmental politics: the formation of environmental values and attitudes, management of natural resources such as forests and fish, efforts to address international environmental issues such as climate change, and decisions relating to environmental and health risks. In each area, practical examples and case studies illustrate that science must fulfill two functions if it is to contribute to resolving environmental controversies. First, science must be relevant and credible, and second, it must be democratic, where everyone has equal access to the information they need to present and defend their views on given issues. Bridging perspectives from science studies, history, and environmental science, *Nature's Experts* not only illuminates the complex and increasingly problematic relationship between science and environmental politics, it offers guidance as to how this relationship can be improved.

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