

**Book Review of AI and Environment by Cindy Mason
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**Reviewed By
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The book collects and summarizes the works presented at the first international workshop on AI and environment by scientists from many countries.

The data that emerges is the enormous amount of technology available and ready to be developed and applied to solve many environmental problems. As the curator observes, what is missing in many cases is political will and financial support: because often environmental problems are only roughly defined and there is a lack of possibilities and means to organize the enormous mass of data regarding specific geographical areas or the entire planet, provided by satellites, meteorological stations, water and ocean control systems. The first part of the book, *Boots on the Ground*, in eight chapters, collects the results of the application of AI to concretely solve various environmental problems.

The first two chapters, edited by Italian scientists, concern the use of AI to address forest fires in the summer months and to predict floods and inundations through simulations. Chapters follow on waste treatment and recycling, the development of models to predict algae invasions in coastal areas, and the planning of wood harvesting. At the end of each chapter there is a questionnaire to solicit reflections and discussions, with answers in the final pages of the volume.

The second part, *Data, Data Everywhere*, discusses existing data collection tools and methodologies for using them for environmental purposes, using AI. There are chapters on the collection and analysis of data provided by satellites, on the simulation of forest ecosystems and areas with high biodiversity, on an interactive method for connecting different weather forecasts.

Many of these AI-based technologies are now available to the general public. A striking example is the Argo Float project, based on nearly 4,000 robots that patrol the oceans and transmit data. From the site, you can view all the locations from which each robot has transmitted in the last few days.

The book is five years old, a very long time for AI, which is constantly being developed. But it is still the best reference text for applying AI tools to the environment.

About the Reviewer

Stefano Nespor is an Italian jurist and environmental law expert. A graduate in law from the University of Milan, he pursued further studies and research in Germany (Marburg), Australia (Canberra), and the United States (Harvard). He has taught at the Universities of Venice, Turin, Bergamo, and Siena. A founding member of the *Environmental Lawyers Network International (ELNI)*, he received the **Montefeltro Prize (2010)** for *Il Governo dell'Ambiente* (Garzanti).

Nespor served as a magistrate in Milan and Vigevano (1974–1977) before beginning private practice in Milan, specializing in environmental, IT, administrative, and labor law. He founded *Lavoro80* (1980), *Rivista legale dell'ambiente* (1986, with Achille Cutrera), and *rgaonline.it* (2019). He has participated in numerous international legal projects, including EU and Council of Europe missions to Kyrgyzstan and Albania. He also collaborates with *Scienza in rete* (www.scienzainrete.it).

