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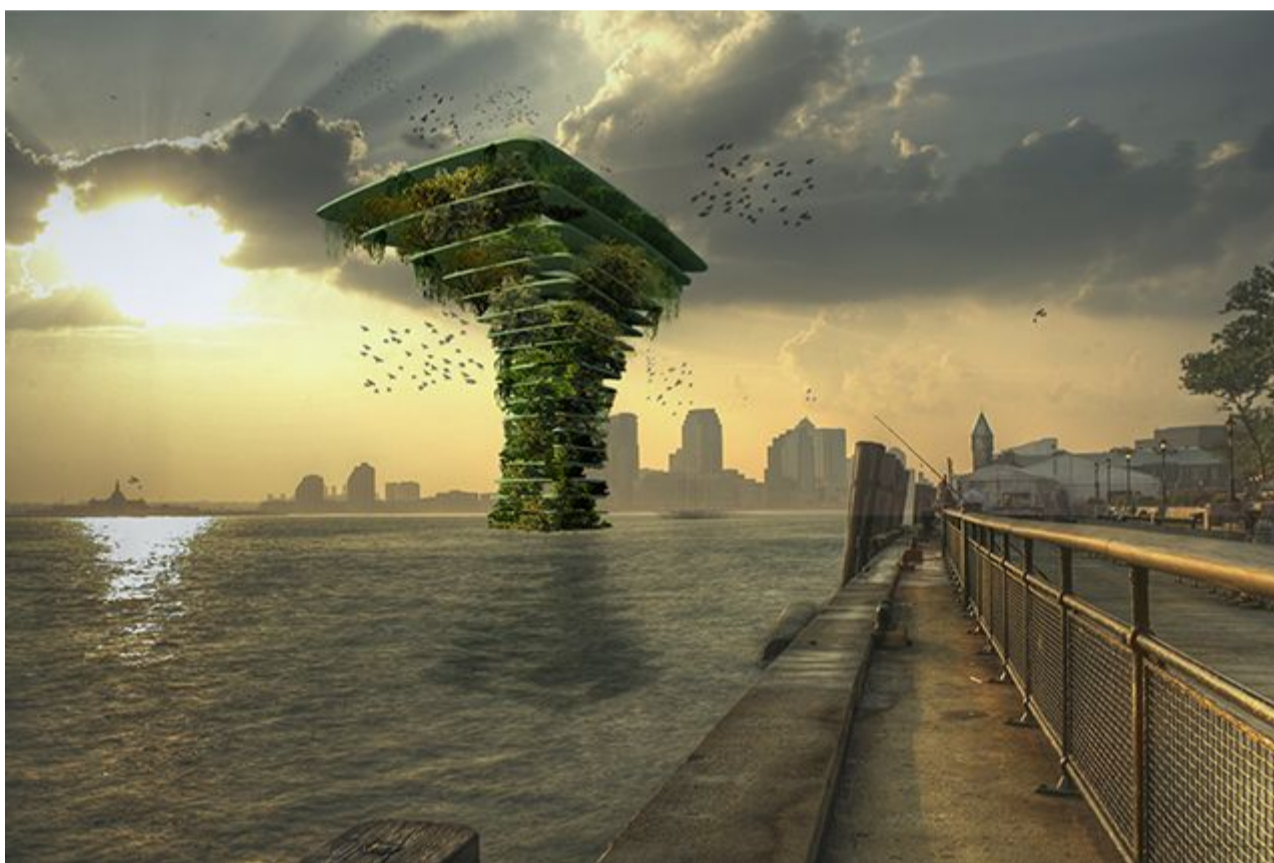
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## These Floating Sea Trees Could Bring Wildlife Back to Big Cities

The offshore structures would provide habitat for animals, birds, and fish.



(Illustration: Koen Olthuis—Waterstudio.NL)

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Taylor Hill is an associate editor at TakePart covering environment and wildlife.

Bio

In the world's biggest cities, it's hard enough for humans to find a little elbow room—now think about carving out habitat for wildlife in places like Manhattan.

Dutch architect Koen Olthuis thinks he has the design that can extend urban sprawl into city waterways—but instead of floating high-rises offshore, he envisions wildlife oases within city limits.

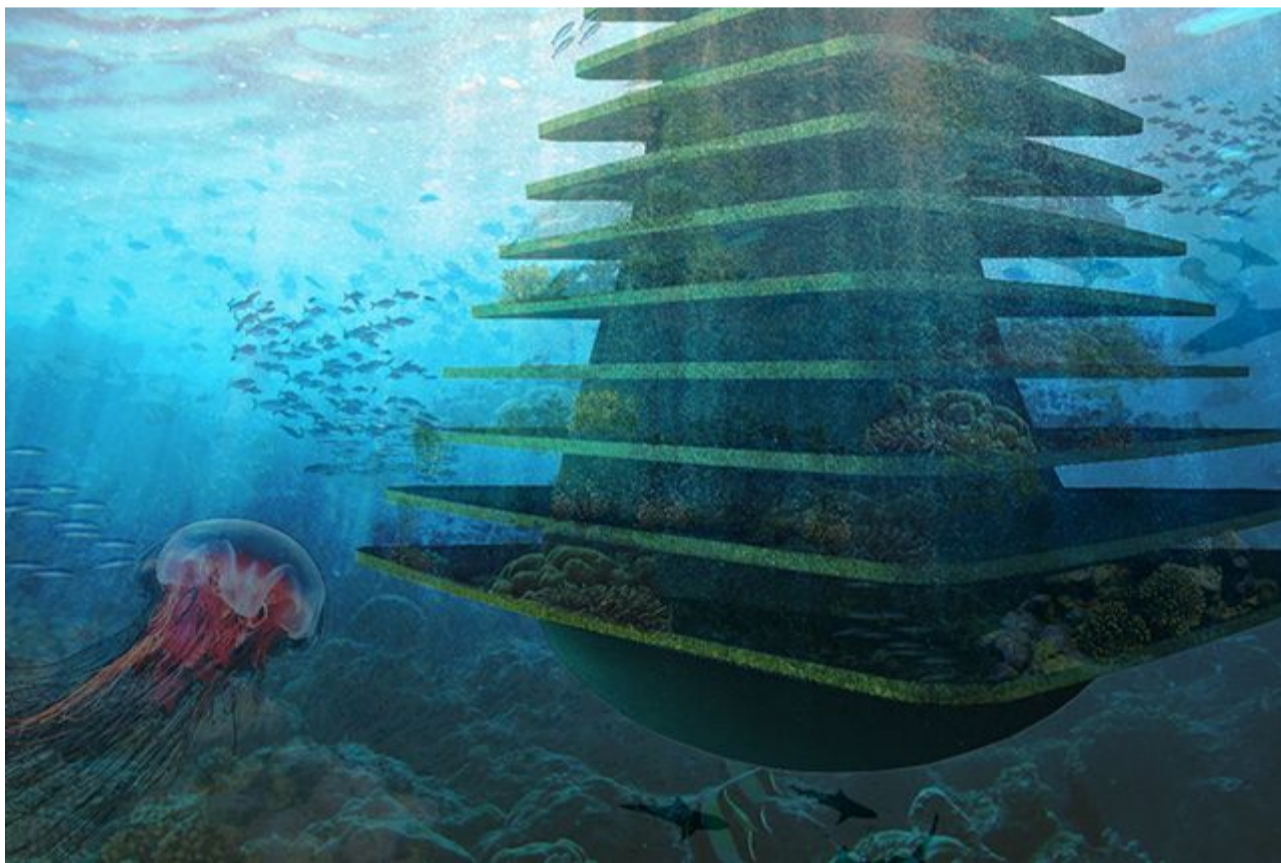
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Called Sea Trees, the steel structures are based on existing [offshore oil platforms](#). Anchored to the ocean or river floor, Sea Tree pillars would extend above and below the water surface, providing “layered” habitats—almost like the floors of a skyscraper—for flora and fauna.

“Oil companies have used these floating storage towers for years, we only gave them a new shape

and function,” Olthuis said in a statement.

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(Illustration: Koen Olthuis—Waterstudio.NL)

Olthuis, head architect at Waterstudio, thinks Sea Trees could bring animals back to areas taken over by humans, helping to stem [falling wildlife populations](#).

“It is becoming evermore difficult to allot an appropriate amount of land for the conservation of wildlife habitats within city limits,” said Olthuis. “Sea Tree would provide the ideal environment for a multitude of species, not to mention a significant reduction in CO2 emissions.”

Rivers, oceans, lakes, and harbors could all be potential locations for Sea Trees, giving a home to birds, bats, and bees above the waterline while providing habitat for fish, crustaceans, and even coral reefs below the surface.

[Waterstudio](#) imagines a forest of Sea Trees built off the Manhattan and Brooklyn waterfront; it could provide living spaces for wildlife along some of the most expensive stretches of real estate in the United States.

Olthuis designed Sea Trees that are inaccessible to humans.

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“Water is, of course, a perfect away,” Olthuis said. “In the vertical hangout for wildlife

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While the concept is still in Waterstudio thinks Sea Trees because much of the technical architecture firm estimates the water depth and construction



“Large oil companies will have intellectual property and resources showing their concern and



to keep people has become a



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development phase, should be built today exists. The

Sea Tree would cost about \$1.2 million, depending on materials used.

“Large oil companies will have the opportunity to give back by using their own resources to donate Sea Trees to a community in need, instead in preserving the distressed wildlife,” Olthuis said.

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