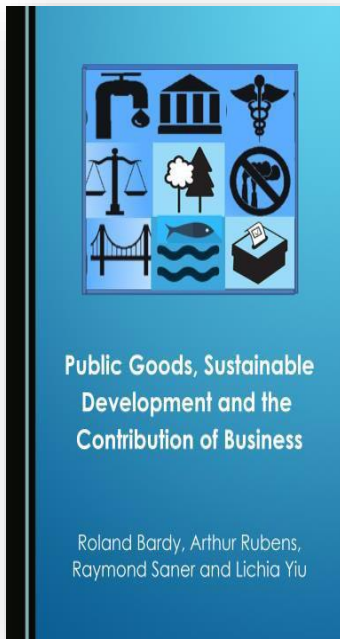


By Roland Bardy, Arthur Rubens, Raymond Saner, and Lichia Yiu



Hardback

ISBN-13
978-1-5275-6310-0

ISBN-10:
1-5275-6310-3

Date of Publication:

22/02/2021

Pages / Size:

332 / A5

Price:

£64.99

Bardy R, Rubens A, Saner R, & Yiu L (2021). Public Goods, Sustainable Development and the Contribution of Business. Munich/Zurich: Cambridge Scholar Publishing, 316 pages.

Prof. Markus Gmür, University of Fribourg, Switzerland, NPO-Management, Human Resource Management, Leadership, Associations and Co-operatives, Third Sector Research. (original text in German)

Public goods are indispensable elements of social interaction, and many of these goods play a central role in the ongoing discussion about sustainable development: clean air, pollution-free drinking water, accessible landscapes, public safety and many others. Providing and maintaining them is primarily a task for the state, but private actors are involved *nolens volens*: On the one hand, there are interest groups geared towards the common good and other private third-sector organizations that support or complement the state's efforts, especially when the state appears blind and deaf or too weak to carry out its mission. On the other hand, there are private individuals or private companies who use public goods to achieve their own goals and do so in an opportunistic and often ruthless manner, which the state and non-profit organizations in turn try to restrict.

This situation has somewhat changed, as it is increasingly recognized that private companies cannot only act as exploiters of collective goods, but also as partners for a resource-saving and sustainable development, and the present book provides to this discussion an intellectually demanding, but also a reflected practice based very valuable contribution. Its authors are experts with many years of research and consulting work in questions of sustainable development at regional and international level. Part 1 explains the nature of public goods in detail and from different perspectives. It becomes clear that their diversity is considerable, which has far-reaching consequences for politicians and interest groups committed to sustainable development. Part 2 is devoted to the available statistical data on the kinds of public goods and the methodological problems associated with assessing them. This is followed in part 3 by a detailed description of the role that private companies can and may want to play in the maintenance and development of public goods if they are encouraged or even motivated to do so by the appropriate institutional framework. The concluding part 4 is then dedicated to the design of partnership models in order to achieve a sustainable combination of public interests and private-sector action on a global as well as local level.

The reader is well served with the collective goods economy and the analysis of the opportunities and challenges of concerted efforts to conserve vital resources and readers interested in the current state of research on Public Goods will find what they are looking for in this book and can invest their available reading time in a worthwhile manner.