

# BERLIN URBAN NATURE PACT

**We, the cities, local and regional authorities, commit to a Pact for the future of humanity as well as urban nature and biodiversity, the basis of the well-being and health of our citizens.**

We acknowledge the **alarming loss of biodiversity** as an imminent threat to our urban environment, infrastructures, value chains, economies as well as to human health and well-being. Spurring the necessary transformational change globally requires **immediate, bold, and inspirational action at the local level**. Cities, as well as local and regional authorities, already play a key role in driving local action and are uniquely positioned to **strengthen actions to reverse biodiversity loss and promote urban nature**.

We further emphasise that the biodiversity and climate crises and their implications to human health are deeply interlinked and need to be addressed in an integrated manner as supported by this Pact. We nominate nature-based solutions that centre on biodiversity and human well-being as a key element to counter these challenges.

We acknowledge that cities represent a unique ecosystem that is fundamental to our health and well-being, and which we protect, shape, and enjoy. Functioning urban ecosystems help clean our air and water, cool urban heat islands, host biodiversity, and support our health and well-being (UNEP 2024<sup>1</sup>).

Acknowledging the significant challenge and urgency in addressing the interconnected biodiversity and climate crises, we understand that achieving harmony between actions to protect the well-being of humans, animals, and green spaces is not an easy task, but a necessary one.

We recognize that integrated approaches for biodiversity management offer major opportunities for people and nature to thrive together and exist in cohesion. We therefore welcome and embrace such approaches to nature and its conservation and restoration adapted to local and biogeographical conditions.

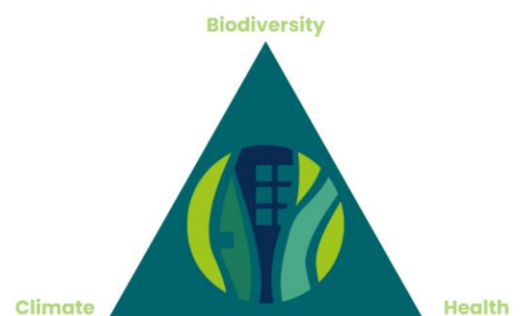
## Our commitment to global cooperation and the UN CBD

We are aware of the impact of cumulative local and subnational action, and we therefore assume responsibility to protect biodiversity and enhance urban nature through taking up leadership in transformative action to secure our liveable, healthy, biodiverse, climate-smart, and just cities.

We will thereby contribute with our collective efforts to the goals delineated by parties at the Fifteenth United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD COP 15) and accelerate their implementation towards a sustainable future for us and future generations. To this end, we will report our progress to the UN CBD process.



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unep.org/topics/cities/cities-nature/nature-cities>

The **Berlin Urban Nature Pact (hereinafter referred to as “Pact”)** seeks to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet in cities worldwide by 2030. It builds on the 2020 [Edinburgh Declaration](#) and the 2022 [Montreal Pledge](#), and focuses on the implementation of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#) and renewed [Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity \(2023-2030\)](#).

The key actions of the Pact carry forward the Edinburgh Declaration and the Montreal Pledge. We will vertically and horizontally integrate these actions in the national and/or regional goals applicable to our cities, local and regional authorities.

Respecting the numerous local, regional, and global networks and alliances as well as their associated self-commitments as a central path to success, we want to form a network for implementation, share good practice and experiences, discuss challenges and solutions to overcome those, and learn from each other in a multidirectional dialogue among cities.

The City of Berlin is committed to establish a Berlin-led Pact secretariat. Each Signatory City will assign a responsible person acting as focal point for Pact implementation.



# Implementation Principles

We, the Pact Signatories, will lead the path towards a nature-positive urban century and commit to the following principles for the implementation of inspirational key actions by 2030.

## (1) Commitment to action and ambition

We commit to protect, preserve, and restore biodiversity in our cities within the target areas of the Pact. To do so, we will **implement targeted and visible actions, projects, and processes until 2030, which aim to achieve the set targets or at least ensure that the conditions and measures to achieve them are established**. Actions to achieve the targets are new, innovative, and ambitious to improve biodiversity in the city area. Key focus is on the use of **nature-based solutions<sup>2</sup>**, which address biodiversity challenges, but also deliver synergistic benefits for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as for human health and well-being.

We will act as frontrunners and multipliers and will **commit to the highest possible level of ambition** for any given target **within our jurisdictions**. To signify and celebrate commitment to action, we will ensure the Pact is **signed by the Mayor** and create visibility of the Pact.

We consider the Pact an **implementation alliance** among committed cities worldwide.

## (2) Align with and enhance policy, governance, financing & funding frameworks

We will **align** Pact targets **with local, regional, and national policy frameworks** and create supporting policy, governance, financing and funding structures to implement Pact targets and protect, promote, and restore biodiversity in our cities. We will commit to work with the relevant level of local government in our urban area, from the greater metropolis to the regional governments, to reach the targets of the Pact at the most relevant scale, considering our local conditions and constraints.

More specifically, we will develop or update **relevant policies, which support urban biodiversity and green infrastructure** that integrate and effectively mainstream nature-based solutions as a key priority across municipal departments, urban planning, the private sector, and businesses to increase economic resilience in our cities and regions.

We will intensify the **exchange and coordination** across departments and sectors **within the city administration** to mainstream and implement the targets. We will commit to provide **effective incentives** to ensure positive outcomes, such as public funding programmes for local initiatives or public-private partnerships. In addition, **public procurement** will be used to promote and implement targets where useful.

## (3) Stepwise implementation of the Pact Action Plan with SMART targets

We will select at least 15 of the 28 SMART [targets](#) in accordance with our respective circumstances, priorities and capabilities, and outline a pathway on how to reach the targets by 2030. We will identify how to operationalize the Pact commitments, accounting for local conditions and frameworks by defining specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) implementation steps with a practical **Action Plan**. The Action Plan will clearly delineate the status quo (baseline: 2020) and selected targets. It will identify **relevant actions, technical implementation, responsible actors, time-bound milestones, and allocated resources**, including monitoring of effectiveness, to achieve the set targets **by 2030**. We will develop our Action Plan as agreed **within one year of signing**.

At the end of 2030, we will take stock of our progress in achieving the Pact's targets with a view to potentially increasing the number of targets in each city and jointly discuss how to move forward with the Pact after 2030 to ensure that biodiversity actions continue and remain a priority.

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<sup>2</sup> We apply the United Nations Environment Assembly's definition to Nature-based Solutions (March 2022): Nature-based Solutions are 'actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.' Further information: [UNEP IUCN](#)

#### (4) Equal and just co-creation with local initiatives and stakeholders

The implementation of the Pact targets shall foster **environment equality and justice** by paying particular attention to the needs of disadvantaged, vulnerable, and marginalised groups and communities, including indigenous and local groups. Environmental equality and justice shall entail equal access to urban green spaces and biodiversity as well as education, information, and engagement opportunities.

We will foster **collaboration, co-creation, and proactive partnerships for implementation of the Pact targets**. We will work with relevant stakeholders, such as local communities, indigenous people, women, youth, civil society, and NGOs as well as partners from the business, education, policy, and science sectors. Active co-creation **focuses on proactive, speedy implementation** of the Pact targets in a **timely and practical** manner until 2030.

#### (5) Capacity building and collaboration of cities

We consider cities as valuable knowledge hubs regarding opportunities and challenges for the protection, promotion, and restoration of urban biodiversity. To benefit from this knowledge and inspire each other, we will **share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned, initiate and implement process-oriented actions and pilot projects**, and make this knowledge accessible to all interested cities. The Pact Secretariat will support and facilitate this process.

We will **meet once a year (online or in-person)**. The meetings will be hosted by different Pact Signatories and contribute to achieve our goals on capacity building and collaboration. Building on our demands and interests, we will organise webinars and dialogues and prepare guidance documents to allow for exchanges and discussions on challenges and solutions, as well as build capacity between the cities and within each city.

#### (6) Monitoring and report progress

We will report **on our progress** towards the respective Pact targets at the annual Pact meetings (for example, on [CitiesWithNature Action Platform](#) as a contribution to UN CBD. This process will be facilitated by a joint reporting protocol. Reporting will encompass, for example, links to reports on progress on the Pact implementation; overview of biodiversity and biodiversity action in cities; and information on engagement activities.

# Pact Targets

We, the Pact Signatories, will lead the path towards a nature-positive urban century and commit to the following targets by 2030. As indicated above, to become a signatory, the intent shall be to commit to a minimum of 15 out of the 28 targets.

## (1) Education and nature experience

1.1. We will actively promote collaboration with schools, universities, and other educational institutions (e.g., museums, botanical or zoological gardens, NGOs) to develop and implement a public biodiversity programme for education and capacity building.

1.2 We will facilitate in-depth nature experiences for all children. For this, we commit to provide pedagogically supported, free, and fully accessible in-depth-experiences in nature at least 1 day a year, for every child up to the age of 15.

1.3 We strive for on-site educational presence in forests, parks, and other biodiverse public green and blue spaces by rangers or supervisors that provide nature-based environmental education.

## (2) Species and habitats

2.1 We will improve the conservation status of endangered species. We will protect, restore, and sustainably manage habitats within our jurisdiction so that at least 30% of the species and habitats with a bad ecological condition will reach a good ecological condition or at least show a positive and improving trend. We will ensure that the condition of these habitats do not deteriorate.

2.2 We will increase the share of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)<sup>3</sup> to 30%.

2.3 We will incorporate measures for habitat connectivity as a key element in our land-planning processes to increase species and habitat structure richness and resilience.

2.4 We will improve the ecological conditions for insects. Therefore, we will reduce the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilisers in public urban agricultural areas by 50% and the use of herbicides and insecticides on all public urban green spaces by 100%<sup>4</sup>.

2.5 We will identify priority alien invasive species against which measures are to be taken in order to reduce the rate of establishment of these species and their impacts on native species and habitats. We will implement actions for at least 50% of those invasive species to manage their populations and achieve a non-harming status.

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<sup>3</sup> The CBD has defined 'other effective area-based conservation measures', in these terms: "A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values. (CBD Decision 14/8)

<sup>4</sup> Except for emergency situations (e.g., invasive species, plague outbreaks).

### (3) Co-habitation

3.1 We will support the healthy co-existence of humans and nature in urban development. When new buildings and infrastructure are built for people, they should also consider including biodiversity-friendly design elements that encourage use by native fauna.

3.2 We will develop and adopt regulations for public buildings to include the protection of species breeding at buildings (imitation of ecological niches for birds, insects, bats, etc.) and protection against bird strikes on glass surfaces.

3.3 We will develop building standards for biodiverse green roofs and/or green facades and implement it on at least 50% of all new private and public developments.

3.4 We will minimise damage to insects, bats, birds, amphibians and plants by reducing 50% of city nightglow caused by public buildings and street illumination.<sup>5</sup>

### (4) Green infrastructure and ecosystems

4.1 We will strive for one tree for every six residents in public spaces (including streets).

4.2 We will achieve 10% or more in tree canopy cover, striving to deploy a district-by-district approach to find the best solution for each respective area.

4.3 Regarding tree, shrub and other plant species selection, we will consider climate resilience and species diversity with a preference for native species whenever feasible. The same applies to further green habitats (such as shrublands, grasslands, steppe, etc.) and their respective land-covering vegetation.

4.4 We will achieve that every citizen is able to reach a public accessible green space within 500 metres (walkable distance) of their home.

4.5 We commit to establish a biodiversity-oriented green space maintenance standard on at least 25% of our public urban green spaces.

4.6 For our managed forests, we will attain the certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or equivalent. We will strongly decrease forest maintenance regimes on 10% of the forest area in our jurisdiction to allow wilderness or natural forest regeneration processes (with the exception of land management to prevent wildfires). We will also prevent forest clear-cutting regimes.

### (5) Blue infrastructure and water management

5.1 We will implement restoration and rehabilitation action for at least 25% of our municipal area of all degraded freshwater, coastal/marine ecosystems, and wetlands/peatlands areas within our jurisdiction.

5.2 Sponge City<sup>6</sup> rainwater management combined with measures promoting biodiversity as a nature-based solution will be our standard urban planning paradigm for new development projects and urban regeneration.

### (6) Soil health

6.1 We will set and implement ambitious targets on the remediation of contaminated soils connected to groundwater within our jurisdictions.

6.2 We aim to halt soil sealing and achieve no net loss of urban green biodiverse spaces.

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<sup>5</sup> To achieve this, we will strive for insect-friendly lighting, demand-based control, and targeted illumination. We will therefore optimise the intensity and orientation of illumination as well as the switch-off times of indoor and outdoor lighting and switch to long-wave light for outdoor lighting of our facilities as well as in public green and blue areas.

<sup>6</sup> A sponge city is designed so that rain- and stormwater is kept and absorbed where it falls. Stormwater is managed through increased infiltration, detention, storage, treatment, and drainage using nature-based solutions. Those can entail, for example, parks, drainage pavements, rain gardens, infiltration and retention wells, urban gardens and plantations, green walls and roofs.

6.3 We will mitigate soil compaction around urban trees to prevent slow tree decay caused by construction works. We will also introduce measures of good technical practice to reduce compaction on agricultural soils.

6.4 We will use nature-based solutions on open soils to mitigate adverse erosion effects caused by wind or water.

## (7) Food and agriculture

7.1 We will ensure that at least 10% of the agricultural land will have high-diversity landscape features with high biological diversity.

7.2 We will implement agro-ecological practices<sup>7</sup> on at least 25% of agricultural land.

7.3 We will reduce the use of synthetic fertilisers by at least 20% on agricultural land.

7.4 We will maintain and aim to increase the net area of allotments and community gardens and establish programmes to foster biodiverse management thereof.

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<sup>7</sup> Agro-ecological practices include for example cover/catch crops, retaining crop residues on the field, extending perennial phase of crop rotations, using perennial crops, permaculture, reduced tillage and zero tillage as well as agroforestry, woody landscape features or food forests.

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