

*Prof. Dr. Beate Jessel*

*President of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*

## A) *The relevance of biodiversity in an urban context*

*Cities and conurbations are continuing to grow everywhere in the world.*

*Their growth is one of the main factors jeopardising biodiversity.*



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## A) *The relevance of biodiversity in an urban context*

*On the other hand, the wide range of structures supplies habitat and refuge for many animal and plant species.*



*The provision of green structures is also an important factor in shaping the quality of urban life.*

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## A) The relevance of biodiversity in an urban context \*

**Urban ecosystems  
have their own distinct  
characteristics**



\* formulated in the  
Erfurt Declaration  
last week at the  
„Urbio 2008“-  
conference

**Urban biodiversity**

- o contributes significantly to the quality of life in an increasingly urban global society
- o is the only biodiversity that many people directly experience



**Urban areas are**

- o centres of evolution and adaption
- o are complex hotspots and melting pots for biodiversity



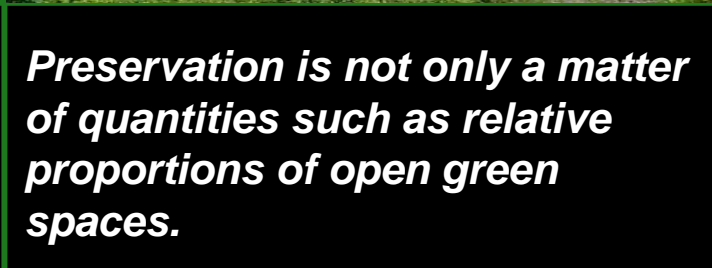
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## A) *The relevance of biodiversity in an urban context*



***This part of biodiversity also merits preservation.***



***Preservation is not only a matter of quantities such as relative proportions of open green spaces.***



***It is also a matter of qualities, of safeguarding and developing different types of sites important to species diversity.***



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## A) The relevance of biodiversity in an urban context



**Furthermore, societal, social and cultural qualities...**



**...also flow from the conservation of biodiversity in urban areas.**

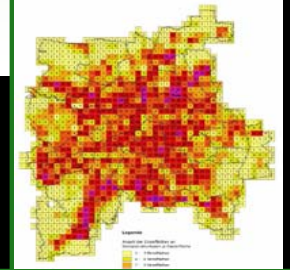
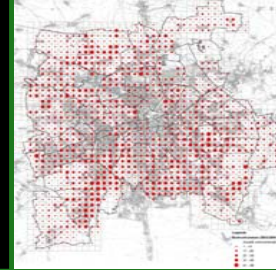


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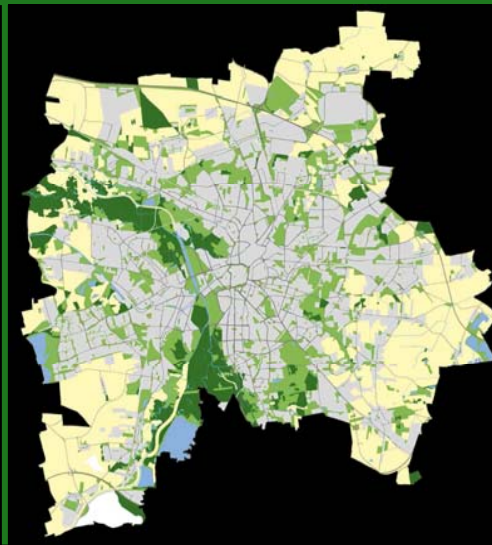
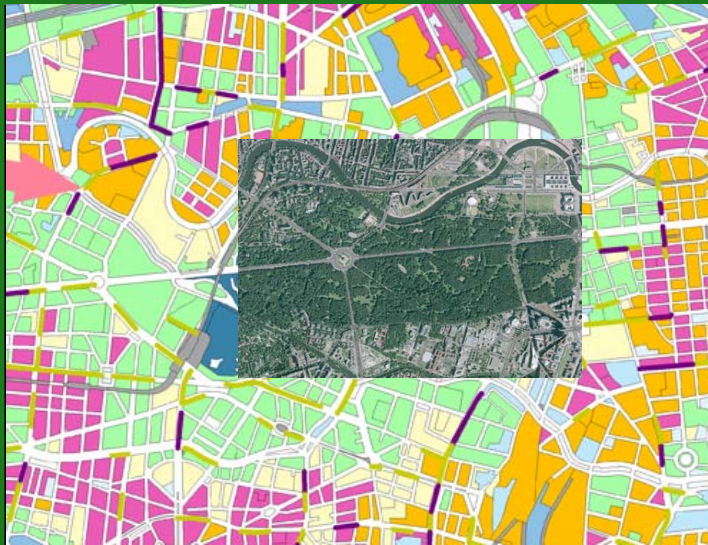
## B) Why science is a relevant partner for local governments

**For decision making,  
information and knowledge  
about biodiversity ...**



**...and ecosystem  
services in urban  
landscapes are  
necessary!**

**Science has to develop special  
methods and indicators to pinpoint  
the hot spots (natural science) and  
strategies to involve the people  
(social science).**



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## C) Reference to Erfurt Conference “Urbio 2008”

**Urban biodiversity professionals have pledged themselves in their Erfurt Declaration last week to support the CBD initiative “Cities and Biodiversity” through**

- o **sharing their knowledge and commitment through the Erfurt conference and in the future**

- o **establishing a global network for education and applied research**

- o **promoting urban biodiversity through continuing dialogue with the CBD and future COP meetings, linked with a future urban biodiversity network „urbio“**



**CBD**

Third Conference of the  
COmpetence NeTwork URban ECology



## Urban Biodiversity & Design

Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity in towns and cities

International Conference Erfurt, Germany, 21. - 24. May 2008

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## C) Reference to Erfurt Conference “Urbio 2008”

**Halting the global loss of biodiversity and ensuring our cities as pleasant places requires**

- o raising greater public awareness of biodiversity in urban areas,
- o fostering interdisciplinary long-term research into urban biodiversity for a better understanding of the interactions between humans, urban biodiversity and global biodiversity,
- o linking research on climate change and urban biodiversity,
- o intensifying dialogues and establishing bridge mechanisms between researchers, planners, policy makers and citizens



CBD

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Erfurt 2008  
Urban Biodiversity

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## Action now!

Also in the cities and urban landscapes!

