

URBAN TREES ARE KEY TO GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

Sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry contributes to ecosystem restoration and helps halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity.

Urban trees also support local resilience and sustainable development, while contributing to climate action and the SDGs.

Cities are on the frontline of our greatest global challenges. Urban and peri-urban trees must be a part of the plan to sustain and rebuild biodiversity.



Covering only 2% of land globally, **cities are home to one-sixth of the world's tree diversity with urban forests** composed of **up to 10 billion trees**, and more than 100 genera.



When planned and managed as interconnected networks reaching from dense **urban areas to rural surroundings, urban forests can help sustain more healthy urban ecological systems** that provide critical habitat for urban biodiversity.



Competing for space and resources while threatened by a changing climate, **the long-term capacity of urban and peri-urban trees to provide critical habitats for life in our cities is under threat.**



Commitments and investments in planning and long-term management are urgently needed to sustain and expand the many benefits urban trees provide.

More than 20% of world's avian biodiversity resides in cities and their trees.



Source: World Economic Forum

A SINGLE TREE...



Can produce thousands of flowers providing sustenance to populations of pollinating insects maintaining our food production.



Can be home to hundreds of species of insects, fungi, moss, mammals, and plants.



Intercept more than 15,000 litres of water a year, mitigating floods and storing water for local ecosystems.

Tree-shaded urban surfaces can be **cooler than unshaded ones by 11-25°C in summer.**

– protecting all urban dwellers, and biodiversity in urban forest ecosystems and soils, from **overheating**

Source: USEPA



The sustainable planning and management of urban and peri-urban trees and forests must be a part of a participatory and inclusive whole-of-society approach to the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework!



LET'S GROW WHAT WORKS

LEARN MORE ABOUT UNECE'S URBAN FORESTRY INITIATIVES & PLEDGE TO THE TREES IN CITIES CHALLENGE TODAY