

# 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