

(Courtesy Translation)

Nature Conservation Action Programme 2020

Foreword

Dear Reader,

Nature awareness surveys indicate that around 90 percent of Germans value nature and its diversity. Nature is considered part of a good life, and nature conservation as an important political task. More than 80 percent of respondents are angry at the often careless handling of nature. These encouraging results indicate that nature and biological diversity are held in high esteem. On the other hand, here in Germany and worldwide, there are growing concerns over the threat to wild fauna and flora species, the ongoing decline in natural and semi-natural habitats, and associated with this, the loss of biodiversity. The deterioration happens silently, and only truly becomes apparent when species become extinct and indicators are calculated, showing time and again that progress is too slow and very limited; and in many cases, even regressing.

Evidently, we are still too careless in our handling of nature, even in Germany. Biodiversity is in silent decline, and only truly becomes apparent when species become extinct and indicators are calculated, showing time and again that progress is too slow; and even regressing.

There is no lack of ambitious goals for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biological diversity. On the contrary: The ambitious National Strategy on Biological Diversity, adopted in 2007, remains current, as do the targets set out by the EU and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The precarious situation vis-à-vis biodiversity is due to the failure to implement key policy changes. Quite simply, those responsible for the deterioration in biodiversity aren't doing enough to minimise the adverse impacts on nature. These deficits are unacceptable.

At German Nature Conservation Day in 2014, I made a promise that conserving and protecting nature and biological diversity would once again become one of the German Environment Ministry's top priorities. During my term in office, I am determined to make significant progress in this area. I am therefore proud to present the German Environment Ministry's ambitious action programme for the ongoing implementation of the National Strategy on Biodiversity. We have defined ten central action areas which we believe will finally reverse the current negative trend in biological diversity. We are also sending out clear signals with our own activities. Through dialogue, and by developing and trialling model solutions, we are translating our convictions into new initiatives and, where necessary, statutory regulations.

I want this programme to bring real progress in the conservation and restoration of nature in Germany, and invite all stakeholders to back the programme with their own initiatives and priorities. Together, we can improve our biodiversity status. The rich diversity of species and habitats is an invaluable resource and we must make every effort to conserve it!

Yours, Dr. Barbara Hendricks

Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

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Reasons for this Action Programme

Biological diversity is the very foundation of human life, and a key influence on our quality of life and health. Biodiversity comprises the wealth of flora, fauna, fungi and microorganisms, as well as the diversity of habitats and genetics. Protecting and using biological diversity in a sustainable way will safeguard the long-term needs of current and future generations. We must protect and conserve our natural resources if they are to provide vital ecosystem services for humans in future. The drastic global decline in species, habitats and genetic diversity demands resolute political action.

Germany is therefore committed to preserving biodiversity, both at an international level, particularly within the context of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and at European level with its European neighbours. At national level, the 2007 National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) is considered pivotal to this strategy, setting out ambitious targets for the conservation, development, improvement and sustainable use of biological diversity. Accountability and indicator reports are regularly published (2010, 2013, 2014) to gauge implementation of the National Strategy, the achievement of targets, and the realisation of measures.

The **2014 Indicator Report on the National Biodiversity Strategy**, adopted by the German Cabinet in February 2015, assessed the status and development of nature in Germany using 19 indicators. The results confirm that the targets set out in the National Biodiversity Strategy cannot be met with the measures implemented so far. Of the 13 indicators which define specific target values, 11 remain way outside the target range. Despite extensive efforts, we have clearly failed to achieve the essential trend reversal, and progress is very slow. One of the biggest deficits concerns the central indicator "Species diversity and landscape quality", where the gap between the current status and the target value is constantly widening. Since the indicator refers to the normal landscape (i.e. the land outside of protected areas), this is particularly worrying. Efforts must be scaled up significantly at national, Länder and municipal level, across as many policy-making areas as possible, if we are to achieve a positive trend for this indicator. Attention should focus on the agricultural landscape as well as the coastlines and marine waters.

The results of the NBS Indicator Report are confirmed by the **EU Birds and Habitats Report** published in 2014. For the first time, this report undertook a comprehensive, uniform nationwide inventory of species and habitats with European-wide significance. Since these species are representative for Germany and/or the habitats cover large areas of its territory, it represents an assessment of key components of our biological diversity. The outlook for nature in Germany is not good. In total, only 25% of species have achieved the favourable conservation status required by the EU, while 29% indicate a bad status, and 31% an inadequate conservation status. Among habitats, 28% indicate a favourable status, 39% an inadequate status and 31% a bad status. North-west Germany, with its dense population and flat, often intensively farmed land, has the least favourable status. Similar observations have been made across the EU.

Summary:

We have thus far failed to reduce the pressures on biological diversity in Germany to the extent necessary in order for it to regenerate. Individual success stories in species conservation and the designation of new protected areas cannot compensate for the pressures on biological diversity in the normal landscape associated with a wide range of uses and impacts.

Many of the targets set out in the National Strategy on Biological Diversity refer to the year 2020, and cannot be met unless additional efforts are made. We are calling in particular on those responsible for land use in the normal landscape to give significantly greater weighting to the needs of biological diversity by 2020.

The **new initiative by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)** highlights those areas with the biggest deficits, indicating which stakeholders must redouble their efforts by 2020 and in which areas in order to conserve biodiversity. The **BMUB "Nature Conservation Action Programme 2020"** sets out a total of 40 urgent measures, grouped into ten priority action areas.

The BMUB action programme consciously **focuses on Germany**. Reducing the impacts from Germany's trade on other countries' biological diversity, and reducing the ecological footprint of our lifestyle as a society, also pose a challenge for the German Environment Ministry's work, and we have therefore created an action area dedicated to Germany's responsibility for conserving biodiversity worldwide.

We realise that it will not be easy to implement the measures in this Action Programme by 2020. It requires political support at Federal, Länder and municipal level, as well as a concerted effort by all stakeholders. Only then will we be able to truly reverse the trend in the threat to Germany's biological diversity.

Identification of action areas

The National Strategy on Biological Diversity lists some 330 targets. The BMUB Action Programme used an accountable and transparent process to prioritise all targets, so that action areas could be defined and significant progress achieved by 2020:

- The first stage was to assess the **status of target achievement** and the **trend in prior years**, either from data published in the NBS indicator report, by evaluating data published by other organisations, or by an assessment by BMUB experts and external research institutions. Reliable data and trends are available for the prioritised targets, clearly showing that action is needed.
- The relevance of the prioritised targets to the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan** (so-called Aichi Targets to be met by 2020) and the **European Union's Biodiversity Strategy** (targets which must likewise be met by 2020) was also important, given Germany's associated reporting obligations. The prioritised targets will be instrumental in meeting international and European targets.
- The **reasons** for failing to meet a prioritised NBS target are known and verifiable, thanks to reliable findings from scientific studies.

In its role as a Government department, the Federal Environment Ministry will carry out this programme as follows, within its sphere of competency:

- Where it is responsible for a measure, the BMUB will implement the necessary steps for its implementation without delay.
- Where other departments within the German Government are responsible, the BMUB will present specific proposed measures to those departments, and call for corresponding decisions.
- Where other levels of government, such as Länder and municipalities, are responsible, the BMUB will present new initiatives to bodies such as the Conference of Environmental Ministers and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, or use its own programmes to support model projects so as to drive the implementation of measures forward and achieve progress by 2020.
- Above and beyond this, the BMUB will take every opportunity to persuade decision-makers in other affected policy-making areas to make long-overdue changes to their policies and encourage them to give higher priority to the effects on biological diversity. Model projects supported by BMUB, together with BMUB dialogue processes with stakeholders, can provide active support in this regard.

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Action areas and measures until 2020

The German Environment Ministry's Action Programme defines ten key action areas and 40 measures which it is hoped will improve the poor biodiversity status in Germany and reduce the impacts of our lifestyle on biological diversity.

1. FIELDS AND MEADOWS - CULTIVATED LANDSCAPES FOR MAN AND NATURE

More than half of the land in Germany is used for agricultural purposes. Biological diversity is exceptionally dependent on land management methods, and farmers therefore have a very weighty responsibility. Over the last 10 years of monitoring (2001 - 2011), the NBS indicator "Species diversity and landscape quality" has indicated a particular deterioration for farmland, dropping to its lowest level ever, and is a long way from meeting its target value. This is a serious signal that urgent changes to our agricultural policy and agricultural subsidies are needed if we are to halt the loss of biodiversity in cultivated land.

With this in mind, the BMUB will be prioritising action in this area between now and 2020, and calling on the responsible stakeholders to take the necessary steps to halt the depletion of nature in rural regions.

Abolish agricultural subsidies after 2020 - Pay farmers for specific nature conservation services

Despite a greater emphasis on ecological aspects in the 2013 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform ("greening the first pillar"), farmers will still receive EUR 311 billion in EU tax revenues between 2014 and 2020 (known as the first pillar of the EU CAP). Overall, agriculture continues to account for almost 40 % of the total EU budget. Regrettably, the environmental objectives of "greening" and "cross compliance" can hardly be described as ambitious. No other industry receives so much support. The BMUB will be campaigning for this special privilege to be phased out in the next EU financial period from 2021, and for the funds thereby released to be channelled into specific nature conservation services.

Review the 2017 CAP - Strengthen greening

Even if fundamental changes to the EU's Common Agricultural Policy cannot be implemented until 2021, certain readjustments could be made as early as 2017. The BMUB wants more funds from the so-called first pillar to be re-allocated to support rural development in Germany from 2018. At EU level, it is calling for ecological priority areas to be increased from 5% to 7% of farmland as an eligibility criterion for agricultural subsidies under the first pillar.

In the process initiated by the EU Commission to simplify administration and debureaucratise the CAP, the BMUB wants to step up the ecologisation aspects adopted by the 2013 reform.

Joint Task of "Rural Development" with a focus on nature conservation

The German Government contributes financially to the Joint Task of Improving Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection (GAK), launched in 1970. Until now, this Joint Task was very restrictive in its financing of nature conservation. In order to provide more support for structurally weak rural areas affected by demographic change, the German Government is developing this Joint Task to give higher priority to rural development.

In rural regions, the diversity of nature and landscapes has a formative influence on people's identities and roots. Preserving and developing biological diversity is a key aspect of rural development. With this in mind, the BMUB wants nature and landscape to become a funding priority in the revised Joint Task, and is calling for agricultural investment subsidies to be linked to higher environmental, climate and resource conservation standards.

Grassland initiative to extensify fens

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More than half of all the flora species occurring in Germany are reliant on grassland habitats, but the outlook is far from encouraging: 44% of all species occurring in grassland are endangered or already extinct. Since 2003, the proportion of farmland allocated to permanent grassland has fallen by around 5 %. This affects a number of particularly important nature conservation areas, such as fens. Ploughing permanent grassland not only reduces the habitats of wild fauna and flora, but also releases greenhouse gases such as CO₂ and N₂O. Although some Federal Länder already have strict regulations on the ploughing of grassland, this is not true of all Länder, and extensive exemptions apply. With a Conference of Environmental Ministers initiative, the BMUB aims to enforce high standards of protection for grassland nationwide, with particular consideration for bird sanctuaries and fens. The BMUB is calling for the prompt adoption of the Federal-Länder target agreement on the protection and rewetting of peatlands as envisaged by the Federal Government's "Climate Action Programme 2020".

The BMUB would also like to initiate a long-term pilot project to revitalise Germany's intensively used and degraded moorland as part of the Federal biodiversity programme.

Ban the cultivation of genetically modified agricultural products

Most people in Germany are opposed to the planting of genetically modified seeds. The BMUB feels it would be appropriate for the German Government to prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified seeds, even if licensed at EU level. The BMUB is also calling for corresponding regulations to be adopted nationwide, rather than at Länder level. All licensing procedures must require the consent of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

Adopt a comprehensive strategy on nitrogen

Nitrogen discharges into nature are a key factor in the depletion of biological diversity, since many species of flora are reliant on low-nutrient conditions. If these flora species are wiped out by high nitrogen discharges, the fauna species which have adapted to them, such as butterflies, will also disappear.

Agriculture is the single largest source of nitrogen emissions. The share of total emissions attributable to agriculture versus other nitrogen compound-emitting sectors (such as transport) will increase unless progress is made. The BMUB is currently drafting a comprehensive nitrogen strategy for all areas.

The BMUB will campaign for ambitious national emission reduction commitments for ammonia and nitrogen oxides for Germany and other EU Member States in the ongoing EU clean air negotiations. At national level, the BMUB is calling for a tightening of the nitrogen fertiliser regulations up as part of the ongoing revision of the Fertilisers Ordinance, which must then be followed by further action.

Give appropriate consideration to biodiversity impacts when approving pesticides

Pesticides are designed to kill fauna and flora that farmers consider "undesirable". As such, they can have massive impacts, not only on selected fauna and flora species but also on biological diversity as a whole. Phytosanitary legislation requires the impacts on biological diversity to be taken into account when licensing pesticides, and approval may be refused or linked to certain conditions. Unfortunately, in practice, this has not happened. The BMUB is calling for a rapid change to approval practices.

No further arable land to be used for biomass cultivation once Germany has reached the 2.5 million hectare limit.

Biomass is cultivated on arable land and is therefore in direct competition with foodstuffs and animal feed. Cultivated biomass can only make a minimal contribution towards meeting our energy demands. In 2014, some 2.3 million hectares in Germany were set aside for the cultivation of crops for material and energy use. Back in 2009, the German Government's biomass action plan set a lower potential limit of 2.5 million hectares of arable land for the year 2020. This limit has almost been met already. Any expansion beyond this limit would lead to further agricultural extensification and considerable competition for land. The turning point in energy policy cannot be achieved at the expense of biological diversity. The generation of renewable energy from biomass should be confined primarily to waste and residues.

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Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

By 2020, biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems will have been increased significantly.

By 2015, the proportion of land used for agro-biotopes (high-grade grassland, orchard meadows) with a high nature conservation value will have increased by at least 10 % compared with 2005.

Conservation and recreation of endangered semi-natural habitats (grasslands, heaths, hedges, orchard meadows, wine-growing on slopes with drystone walls etc.) by means of adequate management, partly using government incentives

In future, there will continue to be no threat to biological diversity, particularly in nature conservation areas, from genetically modified organisms.

By the year 2020, the critical loads and levels for acidification, heavy metal and nutrient discharges (eutrophication) and for ozone will be complied with, so that even sensitive ecosystems will enjoy sustained protection.

Reduction in excess nitrogen in the overall balance sheet to 80 kg/ha by 2010, with the aim of a further reduction by 2015

By 2020, significant portions of intensively farmed lowland moors will have been extensified and only used as grassland. Typical biotic communities are able to develop once more.

The generation and use of renewable energies does not occur at the expense of biological diversity.

Continuation of the programme to reduce the use of chemical pesticides with the aim of further reducing the risks that may arise in conjunction with the use of chemical pesticides

II. COASTS AND MARINE WATERS – MORE THAN AN ECONOMIC ZONE

Around one-third of marine organisms in the North and Baltic Seas are endangered, and the outlook is grim unless all the players involved finally pull together. Destructive fishing practices and overfishing are the main culprits, alongside many other uses, both above and below water. The cumulative effects of such uses are becoming increasingly problematic for nature.

Adopt eco-friendly fishing policies

The EU's revised Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has created opportunities for more eco-friendly fishing practices. These opportunities must be utilised, and we must not allow them to become watered down in their specific implementation. The BMUB wants catch quotas for all fish species to be set at a level which will allow all fish populations to regenerate as quickly as possible. By-catch, particularly of endangered species, must be minimised, destructive fishing practices must be widely restricted, and multi-year fishery management plans must follow ecological principles. The BMUB will also call for and support the development of new, environmentally friendly fishing practices.

Manage Germany's marine protected areas in the North and Baltic Seas in line with best conservation practice, and enforce environmentally friendly fishing methods

In Germany's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the North and Baltic Sea beyond the 12 nautical mile limit, the German Government itself, rather than the individual *Länder*, is responsible for enforcing conservation legislation. The Ordinances defining the protected areas in this zone set out ambitious requirements, which the BMUB will implement on an area-specific basis, using management plans still to be developed.

Although the Federal Government is responsible for the Natura 2000 areas within its EEZ, fishing is regulated at European level. In the forthcoming negotiations, the BMUB will call for a widespread ban on destructive fishing practices in Natura 2000 areas, and the careful monitoring of compliance.

No-take zones (NTZ) in marine and coastal protected areas

Large-scale protected areas such as national parks and biosphere reserves on the North and Baltic Seas currently lack sufficient NTZs. This needs to change. We need more marine areas where fauna and flora can develop and regenerate undisturbed by human influences. With this in mind, the BMUB will urge the Conference of Environmental Ministers to call for a corresponding resolution by the Federal Government and Länder.

Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

By 2010, the decline in species and the degradation of habitats [of the coastlines and oceans] will have been halted.

By 2020, a significant improvement in the conservation status for all species and habitats [of the coastlines and oceans] will have been achieved.

Realisation of a joint OSPAR/HELCOM network of well-managed coastal and marine protected areas, including core zones of natural development, by 2010, and their integration into international networks

III. FLOODPLAINS – MORE SPACE TO SUPPORT LIFE BETWEEN WATER AND LAND

Near-natural floodplains have become rare in Germany. Nearly all rivers are now narrowly corseted, and the functions of the floodplains have been significantly restricted. Just 10% of floodplains remain ecologically intact. As a green infrastructure, floodplains play a vital role in flood prevention. Significantly more needs to be done to reclaim floodplains as natural retention spaces and habitats for many rare species of fauna and flora, as well as for riparian forests which can only exist here.

“National Blue Ribbon Programme” for eco-friendly river development

The German Government’s waterways and shipping management reforms will create a subsidiary network of almost 2,800 kilometres of waterways which are no longer needed for goods transportation. The next logical step is to use them for the renaturation of rivers and floodplains, and place new emphasis on flood prevention, nature conservation and recreational uses. The “National Blue Ribbon Programme”, a joint project by the BMVI and BMUB, will help to drive watercourse development in Germany forwards.

National flood protection programme: Giving back space to our rivers

Over the next few years, the German Government’s special framework programme on “Preventive Flood Protection” has set aside more than 300 million Euros for preventive flood protection. Funds from this programme will be used to support transregional measures to create more space for rivers. In line with the resolution by the Conference of Environmental Ministers, the BMUB and Länder will call for priority to be given to flood control measures which promise synergies between flood protection and nature conservation, provided they are equally effective. Examples could include dyke relocation, ecological flooding of polders, or the reconnection of oxbow lakes to create natural polders.

Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

By 2020, watercourses and their water meadows will be protected in their function as habitats to such an extent that a diversity typical of the natural area in Germany is guaranteed.

By 2020, the majority of watercourses once again have more natural flood plains.

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IV. FORESTS – WOODLAND MANAGEMENT IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Around one-third of Germany's territory is wooded. Forests are important to many people as areas for recreation and experiencing nature. Many species of flora and fauna rely on near-natural, structurally rich forests as their habitat. However, there are only a few forests with no or minimal human influence; the vast majority of forests are managed. Developing forests in line with nature conservation principles is a lengthy process! The current support programmes are not sufficiently long-term or reliable to be attractive. Financial support can only be given to projects which go above and beyond the legal minimum. In publicly-owned forests, there is an expectation that their importance for humans and for biological diversity is recognised and reflected to an exemplary degree.

Contract-based nature conservation programmes for forests

Unlike farmers, forest owners have very limited opportunities for financial remuneration for specific nature conservation services. This is because, until now, there were very few contract-based nature conservation programmes which could expediently be incorporated into everyday silvicultural practice.

The BMUB will urge the Länder to offer suitable programmes and funding, e.g. under the new Joint Task for Rural Development, for long-term contract-based nature conservation programmes on 10% of privately-owned forest land, with a special emphasis on dead wood and old growth.

The BMUB wants the Federal Government and Länder, together with all relevant stakeholders, to set out clear, comparable criteria for good forest management practice.

Best conservation practice in public forests

Around half of Germany's forests are publicly owned. The key legitimisation for public forest ownership and government management is that they provide services in the general public interest, explicitly including the conservation and development of biological diversity and nature conservation: The Federal Nature Conservation Act stipulates that the management of publicly owned land must give special consideration to the objectives of nature conservation and landscape management. In keeping with its ecological responsibilities, the BMUB is therefore urging public and municipal forestry operations to continue and intensify their commitment to biodiversity, while the Federal Government continues to set a good example on its own land.

10 percent of public woodland allowed to develop naturally

The Federal Government has already exceeded this target, since 20% of Federal Government-owned forests is unmanaged and allowed to develop naturally; this includes national heritage land under the custodianship of nature conservation organisations. If the 10% target can be met across all publicly-owned forests, we would meet our overall target of 5% of all woodland nationally being allowed to develop naturally. The BMUB is therefore calling on Länder and municipal forest owners to permanently set aside 10% of their forest land for natural development by 2020 in line with best conservation practice. This land would form part of a nationwide network of reference sites with natural forest development.

Practise fuel wood production on an eco-friendly scale

Half of the wood harvested in Germany is currently used for energy. Compared with wind power, photovoltaics, hydropower and agricultural biomass, solid biomass (particularly wood) is the most important source of renewable energy in Germany, and is currently used primarily for heating purposes. This impacts nature in various ways. Unmodified harvesting may endanger and impair biological diversity, and also restricts the forest's function as a CO₂ sink. The German Government's progress report on the Renewable Energies Heat Act (20 December 2012) identifies wood as the most important renewable energy resource in the heating market. This resource must be used as efficiently as possible, e.g. for heat or combined heat-and-power generation. The BMUB opposes an uncontrolled increase in the use of wood to meet energy demands, and wants energy efficiency aspects to play a more prominent role in Germany's future energy policy.

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Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

By 2020, the conditions for the typical biotic communities in forests (diversity in structure and momentum) have further improved. The trees and bushes of the natural forest community are rejuvenated completely, primarily via natural means. Semi-natural management forms use natural processes to strengthen the ecological functions. Old and dead wood is available in adequate quantities and quality.

By 2020, natural forest development accounts for 5% of woodland.

Natural development on 10% of publicly-owned forest land by 2020.

Promotion of contract-based nature conservation in 10% of private forests

v. WILDERNESS – FREEDOM FOR NATURAL ADVENTURES

Areas where nature is truly allowed to be natural are rare - far too rare - in Germany. Just 0.6 % of our country's territory can currently be described as extensive wildernesses or wilderness development areas where natural processes are left to unfold over long periods, entirely uninfluenced by human intervention, allowing humans to experience and research nature without any form of use, and providing habitats for large wild fauna species like the lynx. A wealthy land like Germany should do far more to protect its precious wilderness.

Initiative for more wilderness in Germany

The Federal Government and Länder must work together if they are to meet the national target of 2% extensive wilderness in Germany. They can be sure of widespread support from the general public: A nature awareness survey published by BMUB and BfN in 2013 found that two-thirds of respondents believe that the wilder, the better as far as nature is concerned. Based on the calculated potential wilderness areas in Germany from research published in 2015, the BMUB will now launch an initiative at the Conference of Environmental Ministers for more wilderness in Germany, and will encourage the Länder to incorporate wilderness areas into their future regional plans, whether in the highlands, in river meadows or on the coasts, in peatlands, forests, former military exercise zones, or post-mining landscapes.

Public relations work for more wilderness

Surveys indicate that people in Germany love the idea of wild nature. However, the very fact that it is wild and unknown means that there is a need for information. In its PR and communications work, the BMUB will devote particular attention to the topic of wilderness, and seek to underscore how valuable it is in a series of articles.

Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

By the year 2020, Mother Nature is once again able to develop according to her own laws on at least 2 % of Germany's national territory, for example in post-mining landscapes, in former military exercise zones, on watercourses, along coastlines, in peatlands and in the high altitude mountains.

**vi. PROTECTED AREAS, NATURA 2000 AND INTERLINKED BIOTOPES –
HABITATS AND LIFELINES FOR FAUNA AND FLORA**

For many wild fauna and flora species, the living conditions in Germany are unfavourable. Less than one-third of habitat types exhibit the favourable conservation status the EU requires, while more than two-thirds have an unfavourable conservation status. We have long known that this is due to intensive land use which fails to give

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(adequate) consideration to nature's needs. Effective protection measures – extending beyond Länder boundaries – are as essential now as they ever were, and EU Nature Conservation Directives are even more vital.

“National Action Plan for Protected Areas”

The wealth of nature and the scope of financial opportunities for nature conservation are distributed very unevenly across Germany. There are still some gaps in the national network of protected areas. At the Conference of Environmental Ministers, the BMUB will therefore be launching an initiative for a “National Action Plan for Protected Areas” with the joint backing of the Federal Government and Länder.

Improve the conservation status of species and habitats

The BMUB finds it unacceptable that more than two-thirds of the species and habitat types of the European Natura 2000 network remain in an unfavourable conservation status.

It will step up collaboration between the Federal Government and Länder to initiate rapidly visible improvements in the conservation status of species and habitat types nationwide. The BMUB will lay the necessary foundations and adjust its existing support programmes to achieve this.

Cross-Länder network of interlinked biotopes

Germany's Federal Nature Conservation Act states that a network of interlinked biotopes must be created which should cover at least 10% of the area of each Land. However, the law has thus far failed to specify a date by which this must be achieved. The BMUB will launch an initiative to amend the Federal Nature Conservation Act and close this loophole.

“Green Infrastructure Concept”

The aim here is to devise an overarching concept which will allow existing specialist concepts and role models in nature conservation and landscape management, such as floodplain development, national transport route planning, defragmentation, and expanding the national network, to be given priority in the relevant national planning processes. For this reason, the BMUB is planning to draw up a “Green Infrastructure Concept” focusing on Federal Government projects until 2017. The national system of interlinked biotopes will be part of this Green Infrastructure Concept. From 2018 onwards, the federal concept will be implemented directly by the German Government.

“Land Protection Action Plan”

In Germany, the land used for settlements and the transport infrastructure is continuously expanding at the expense of undeveloped, unpopulated, undissected land. The consequences are a loss of natural soil functions from land sealing, a loss of fertile agricultural land, and a loss of near-natural land with its wealth of biodiversity. Although land use for settlements and the transport infrastructure (land use) has shown a slowdown in growth rates from more than 120 ha/day in the 1990s to 73ha/day by 2013 (average figures), the targets set out in the National Sustainability Strategy and in the National Strategy on Biodiversity of reducing land use to a maximum of 30 ha/day nationwide by 2020 cannot be met if we continue with “business as usual”. The BMUB will therefore be proposing further measures in a “Land Protection Action Plan” by 2017.

Careful, eco-friendly siting of renewable energy installations

The new direction in energy policy is transforming the landscape, and affects numerous habitats and fauna and flora species. In order to ensure more effective control over the expansion of renewable energies, the BMUB will insist on the more widespread use of regional planning instruments in the search for suitable eco-friendly sites for renewable and conventional energies, particularly with a view to priority areas such as national parks, core and maintenance areas for biosphere reserves, nature conservation areas, and Natura 2000 sites.

Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

By 2010, the decline in endangered habitat types has been halted. Thereafter, those biotope types which the Red Lists identify as currently under threat of complete destruction or severely endangered will increase again in terms of their area and number, degradations will have been halted, and regeneration will have begun.

By 2020 a functioning management system for all large nature reserves and Natura 2000 areas will have been established.

By 2020, Germany will possess a representative system of interlinked biotopes on 10 % of its territory. This network is suitable for permanently protecting the habitats of wild species and is an integral component of a European system of interlinked biotopes.

By the year 2020, the additional land use for human settlement and transport will be no more than 30 ha per day.

New transport routes (primarily road, waterways and rail) indicate an adequate level of ecological passability (e.g. fish ladders in watercourses, green bridges on transport routes).

By 2020, generally speaking, the existing transport routes will no longer cause any significant impairments to the system of interlinked biotopes. Ecological passability of dissected areas will have been achieved.

Development of cooperative concepts and strategies for the avoidance and minimisation of conflict between the various space demands in the extraction of renewable energies and renewable raw materials (competing uses) by 2010, and their implementation by 2015

VII. GREENING OUR CITIES – ENGAGING WITH NATURE AT HOME

Many species of fauna and flora are indigenous to the places we call home. Green and open spaces in human settlements provide habitats for a wide range of plants and animals, and enable people to experience nature at first hand. These experiences of nature are very important in the healthy development of children. Surveys indicate that particularly in the lower social strata, where living environments are often remote from nature, people tend to have a very limited relationship with nature, and their experiences of nature play a minimal role in day-to-day life.

We face a dual challenge: to limit development in populated areas and restrict land consumption, yet at the same time create more and better natural spaces in cities: in private gardens, urban parks, sports facilities, urban forests, agricultural land close to towns and cities, and brownfield sites with spontaneous vegetation. All these factors contribute to the urban quality of life, allow us to experience nature, and at the same time, ensure a better ecological balance.

Being responsible for both the environment and building, the BMUB is calling on all stakeholders to adopt a more integrated approach to improve the conservation and experience of biological diversity in cities and local communities, and is adopting best practices in its own work.

Use urban development funding to make cities greener

The BMUB wants greening measures, such as the creation or upgrading of green spaces, to be incorporated more extensively into urban development programmes as a cross-sectional task, so that more funding can be made available. The aim should be to create green spaces with a diverse range of functions (e.g. for climate change adaptation and for recreational pursuits), which in turn will help to create more nature in our cities. The BMUB will ensure that the content and concepts of urban development measures are more closely intermeshed with general city greening, which will also make an important contribution to the realisation of a green infrastructure in the urban environment.

Help municipalities to conserve local biological diversity

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The BMUB will provide municipalities with technical support for urban “green infrastructure” development and ecological green space management. In 2016, it will collaborate closely with the “Kommunen für biologische Vielfalt e.V.” biodiversity alliance. The BMUB will also work on persuading municipalities to desist from the use of pesticides in public green spaces.

More funding for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

In Germany, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011–2020) aims to get as many people as possible involved in protecting and conserving biodiversity. At the end of this decade, we want more people to understand what biodiversity is, why we need it, and how each and every one of us can help to preserve it. We particularly want to reach out to individuals who feel disconnected from nature, for example because their low social status offers few opportunities to experience and appreciate it, and win their support for new concepts. The BMUB feels that enabling these socially disadvantaged groups to participate in nature and the dialogue on biological diversity is a matter of social justice.

For this reason, the BMUB wants to earmark increased levels of reliable funding for the UN Decade on Biodiversity until 2020. From 2016, it will also be pressing for links with the new UN “Education for Sustainable Development” programme.

“Cultural and religious diversity and nature conservation” alliance

In Germany, urban areas in particular are home to large numbers of people from different cultural backgrounds (migrants) and religions. Working together in the interests of nature forges links which transcend all cultural and religious boundaries, and with people whose ancestors have lived in Germany for generations. Working together on biodiversity projects can help to promote a sense of community and enhance the quality of life in Germany.

The dialogue process initiated by the BMUB and BfN in 2014 with nine religious communities is being continued and extended into a comprehensive intercultural and inter-religious action alliance, which the BMUB has asked the Abrahamic Forum at the Intercultural Council to coordinate and develop. In this way, Germany is also contributing to the inter-religious international dialogue on sustainable development and peace (led by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development).

Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

By the year 2020, the greening of human habitations, including the green spaces close to residential environments (such as courtyard plantings, small areas of lawn, roof and façade planting), will have been significantly increased. Publicly accessible green spaces with a diverse range of qualities and functions are generally available within walking distance.

The significance of biological diversity is firmly anchored in the social consciousness. Human activity is increasingly geared towards this, leading to a significant decline in the pressures on biological diversity.

Promote the appropriate participation and involvement of migrants in innovations, knowledge and dialogue on the conservation of biological diversity

VIII. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY – NATURE KNOWS NO BORDERS

The BMUB Action Programme consciously focuses on Germany. However, biological diversity worldwide is also diminishing at a growing rate. In some countries, the situation is far more drastic than in Central Europe. We in Germany have a shared responsibility for this development, not only for moral reasons, but primarily because our lifestyles and production methods are helping to destroy nature in other countries. For this reason, the BMUB and the German Government as a whole are involved in a range of bilateral, European and international processes for biodiversity, such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Washington CITES Convention. Reducing the impacts of Germany’s imports and consumption on biological diversity in remote countries, and reducing the ecological footprint of our lifestyle, pose a challenge for the BMUB’s work.

More funding for biological diversity worldwide

Based on a commitment by the German Chancellor as part of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, since 2013 Germany has contributed around EUR 500 million per annum towards conserving biological diversity worldwide. This includes development cooperation funding as well as money from the BMUB budget. The funded projects are very successful, but they are not enough, given the ongoing loss of biodiversity. The BMUB wants the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity to be more extensively integrated into all relevant cooperation areas and sectors, and is therefore calling for an increase in the funding of international biodiversity activities to coincide with the forthcoming increase in international cooperation funding.

Consumer behaviour and biological diversity initiative

During the course of implementing the planned "National Programme for Sustainable Consumption", the BMUB will scale up its efforts to educate the general public about the negative impacts of our consumption and lifestyle on biological diversity worldwide, and how we can lessen these impacts. Within the framework of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011 – 2020), communications on the theme of "Consumption" will target specific groups and encourage them to modify their behaviour. The BMUB also wants biological diversity to be more strongly anchored in eco-labels such as the "Blue Angel". As resolved in the German Government's Sustainability Action Programme, the BMUB will propose specific biodiversity criteria as integral components of sustainable procurement and construction.

Make the international trade in wild species sustainable

Germany is a sales market for many exotic fauna and flora, particularly birds and reptiles. At national level, the BMUB will be initiating an inter-departmental animal welfare ordinance. At European and international level, the BMUB will campaign to halt the trade in animals which is restricted in their country of origin, but not at international level. The BMUB will also continue to play a leading role in the global war on poaching, particularly of the rhinoceros and African elephant.

Economic dialogue on biodiversity

Since 2013, under the "Companies for Biological Diversity 2020" platform, the BMUB has been holding constructive talks with industry and nature conservation organisations on implementing the National Strategy on Biological Diversity in the business world. One of the key aims of this platform is to anchor biodiversity aspects in corporate management, and in particular, consider the effects of commercial trade on biodiversity across the entire (often international) supply chain, alongside the environmentally friendly design of company premises and nature sponsoring. The BMUB will be driving the development, trialling and broad-based introduction of effective management tools in collaboration with industry and nature conservation associations, and will build on the experiences of the flagship companies in the "Biodiversity in Good Company" initiative.

Strengthen global forest protection and reforestation

The German Government is committed to halting to the loss of woodland worldwide, and campaigns for the protection, conservation and restoration of forests and forest structures, together with the requisite funding. This is a reflection of the German Government's policies on forests, biodiversity and climate, both internationally and bilaterally. It firmly believes that better coordination and the use of synergies between the various UN Conventions, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), are the way forward, alongside supporting new partnerships, networks and action platforms. For this reason, the BMUB will be backing the regional initiatives in Central America, Central Africa and South-East Asia created by the "Bonn Challenge".

Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

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A 50 % increase in the share of funding for development projects aimed at the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity and the equitable distribution of benefits among Germany's total development aid by 2015.

The protection and sustainable use of biodiversity will be more closely integrated into bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Campaign for greater use of synergies between the UN environment conventions. Mobilise private capital for the protection and sustainable use of nature in developing countries.

Improve target group-specific consumer education and raising awareness of eco-friendly, sustainable consumption.

Give greater weighting to biological diversity in eco-management and certification systems and improve the communication thereof

IX. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING - PRESERVING AND SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF NATURE

Germany has around 9,500 species of flora, 14,400 species of fungi and 48,000 species of fauna. The ongoing threat to biological diversity means that many species are now rare, and it is important to track their further development. New, unfamiliar species are migrating to and becoming established in Germany, and they too must be monitored. Nature conservation measures must be carefully monitored to gauge their effectiveness and success. All this requires a monitoring system which transcends individual Länder, and relies on taxonomic experts. Both pose certain difficulties: Comprehensive monitoring of biological diversity requires uniform standards to facilitate data comparability; and the number of taxonomists is dwindling.

Introduce comprehensive, nationwide biodiversity monitoring

The BMUB firmly believes in the need for comprehensive biodiversity monitoring based on nationwide, representative sampling areas, to allow representative conclusions to be drawn with regard to status and changes in biological diversity in the normal landscape. These sampling areas have already been defined by the Federal Statistical Office, and are used for the nationwide monitoring of breeding birds and agricultural land with high conservation value. The BMUB will extend, harmonize and coordinate the existing monitoring system in collaboration with the Länder, to obtain reliable answers to current questions about the status and development of biological diversity in Germany.

Central, publicly accessible information system on flora and fauna

Extensive data is available on the natural environment in Germany which was collated within the context of academic research and planning-related projects, but which is not yet publicly available. At the same time, the number of specialists in these fields is decreasing. The BMUB is therefore committed to eliminating legal and administrative obstacles to the creation of a central database.

Taxonomy training initiative by the Federal Government and Länder

The BMUB will petition the Federal Ministry for Education, Science, Research and Technology (BMBF) for the creation of a new funding priority "Taxonomy and biodiversity monitoring" to improve university training for taxonomists. The BMUB will propose a joint resolution at the Conference of Environmental Ministers and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs to improve taxonomy degree course offerings.

Establishment of a "Red List Centre"

Alongside academic expertise, it is also vital to encourage species knowledge among laypersons and inspire interest in the status of nature. Nature watch campaigns e.g. by nature conservation organisations often attract impressive participation levels among knowledgeable laypersons. Many dedicated individuals volunteer their time to work on the Red Lists, providing information on the threat to nature. The BMUB is hoping to set up a

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“Red List Centre” at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), which will support the work of these volunteer species identifiers.

Prioritised objectives of the NBS:

Improve the database on the status and development of biological diversity in Germany

x. FINANCING – NATURE IS A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT

In recent years, government and municipal expenditure on the conservation and development of nature and landscape has decreased sharply, and the nature conservation authorities have been scaled down to such an extent that they are only able to accomplish the bare minimum of tasks. Upholding fundamental nature conservation requirements, as regulated by law, should not and cannot be funded from tax revenues. Additional nature services which we as a society consider important are a different matter: Individuals, particularly farmers and forest owners, cannot be expected to provide them free of charge, but must be remunerated by society.

The BMUB is therefore calling on all tiers of government to consciously invest in conserving and developing nature, instead of taking the beauty of nature, the diversity of fauna and flora and the many services nature provides for humans for granted.

New EU funding programme for nature conservation

Until now, the majority of nature conservation measures at EU level have been funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the industry and fishing budgets. Nature conservation and biodiversity interests tend to play only a subordinate role in such funds.

With this in mind, the BMUB would like to campaign for at least one-third of the EU funds released by the elimination of agricultural subsidies to be allocated to a new programme for nature conservation and related environmental measures, of an adequate scale and design to enable implementation of the Natura 2000 guidelines and achieve a favourable conservation status of species and habitat types, and establish trans-European green infrastructure networks. The programmes should also extend to the financing of services in other areas of environmental and nature conservation, such as water protection. As well as agriculture, the programme will also reward other stakeholders (such as forestry, fishing, nature conservation organisations, municipalities) for specific services to environmental and nature conservation.

Develop and strengthen the National Biological Diversity and “chance.natur” nature conservation programmes

The National Biological Diversity Programme introduced in 2011 to implement the National Strategy on Biological Diversity has now received far more applications than it can possibly approve. The need for high-end model projects to implement this strategy is greater than ever, in the light of the ongoing loss of biodiversity. The BMUB wants to gradually increase funding for the National Biological Diversity Programme between 2017 and 2020 to double its current level, and to increase the Federal Government’s share. The funding guidelines must be updated to promote projects in areas where the NBS 2014 indicator report has identified particular deficits. The BMUB will also campaign for a medium-term increase to the “chance.natur” Federal funding scheme for nature conservation, whose guidelines have recently been revised.

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Overview of the Programme's action areas and political demands

The following table summarises the measures and assigns them to action areas.

Action area	Measure
FIELDS AND MEADOWS - CULTIVATED LANDSCAPE FOR MAN AND NATURE	Abolish agricultural subsidies after 2020 - pay farmers for specific nature conservation services
	Review the EU's 2017 Common Agricultural Policy - Strengthen greening
	Joint Task on "Rural development" with a focus on nature conservation
	Grassland initiative to extensify fens
	Ban the cultivation of genetically modified agricultural products
	Adopt a comprehensive strategy on nitrogen
	Give appropriate consideration to biodiversity impacts when approving pesticides
	No further arable land to be used for biomass cultivation once Germany has reached the 2.5 million hectare limit
COASTS AND MARINE WATERS – MORE THAN AN ECONOMIC ZONE	Adopt eco-friendly fishing policies
	Manage Germany's marine protected areas in the North and Baltic Seas in line with best conservation practice, and enforce environmentally friendly fishing methods
	No-take zones (NTZ) in marine and coastal protected areas
FLOODPLAINS – MORE SPACE TO SUPPORT LIFE BETWEEN WATER AND LAND	"National Blue Ribbon Programme" for eco-friendly river development
	National flood protection programme: Giving back space to our rivers
FORESTS – WOODLAND MANAGEMENT IN HARMONY WITH NATURE	Contract-based nature conservation programmes for forests
	Best nature conservation practice in public forests
	10 percent of public woodland allowed to develop naturally
	Practise fuel wood production on an eco-friendly scale
WILDERNESS – FREEDOM FOR NATURAL ADVENTURES	Initiative for more wilderness in Germany
	Public relations work for more wilderness
PROTECTED AREAS, NATURA 2000 AND INTERLINKED BIOTOPES – HABITATS AND LIFELINES FOR FAUNA AND FLORA	"National Action Plan for Protected Areas"
	Improve the conservation status of species and habitats
	Cross-Länder network of interlinked biotopes
	"Green Infrastructure Concept"
	"Land Protection Action Plan"
	Careful, eco-friendly siting of renewable energy installations
GREENING OUR CITIES – ENGAGING WITH NATURE AT HOME	Use urban development funding to make cities greener
	Help municipalities to conserve local biological diversity
	More funding for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity
	"Cultural and religious diversity and nature conservation" alliance
INTERNATIONAL	More funding for biological diversity worldwide

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RESPONSIBILITY – NATURE KNOWS NO BORDERS	Consumer behaviour and biological diversity initiative
	Make the international trade in wild species sustainable
	Economic dialogue on biodiversity
	Strengthen global forest protection and reforestation
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING - PRESERVING AND SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF NATURE	Introduce comprehensive, nationwide biodiversity monitoring
	Central, publicly accessible information system on flora and fauna
	Taxonomy training initiative by the Federal Government and Länder
	Establishment of a “Red List Centre”
FINANCING – NATURE IS A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT	New EU funding programme for nature conservation
	Develop and strengthen the National Biological Diversity and “chance.natur” nature conservation programmes

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Links

GENERAL LINKS

- National Strategy on Biological Diversity 2007:
http://www.biologischiervielfalt.de/fileadmin/NBS/documents/broschuere_biolog_vielfalt_strategie_bf.pdf (GERMAN) <http://www.bmub.bund.de/english/nature/downloads/publ/41253.php> (ENGLISH)
- Working together for biological diversity - accountability report 2013
http://www.biologischiervielfalt.de/fileadmin/NBS/documents/Indikatoren/rechenschaftsbericht_2013_biolog_vielfalt_broschuere_bf.pdf
- Indicator Report 2014 to the National Strategy on Biological Diversity:
http://www.bmub.bund.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Naturschutz/indikatorenbericht_2014_biolog_vielfalt_bf.pdf
- Federal Biological Diversity Programme:
http://www.biologischiervielfalt.de/bundesprogramm_ueberblick.html
- chance.natur – Federal funding for nature conservation: https://www.bfn.de/0203_grossprojekte.html
- United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011 – 2020: <http://www.undekade-biologischiervielfalt.de/> (GERMAN) <https://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/> (ENGLISH)
- Red Lists of endangered biotope types, fauna and flora species and plant communities
https://www.bfn.de/0322_rote_liste.html
- EU: Biodiversity objectives and biodiversity strategy until 2020:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Global biodiversity targets until 2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the CBD Strategic Plan):
http://www.bmub.bund.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Naturschutz/cbd_vsk_12_flyer.pdf (GERMAN) <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/> (ENGLISH)

LINKS TO INDIVIDUAL ACTION AREAS

FIELDS AND MEADOWS - CULTIVATED LANDSCAPES FOR MAN AND NATURE

- Grassland Report (2014) by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/presse/2014/PK_Gruenlandpapier_30.06.2014_final_layout_barrierefrei.pdf

COASTS AND MARINE WATERS – MORE THAN AN ECONOMIC ZONE

- Marine nature conservation: https://www.bfn.de/0314_meeres-kuesten_naturschutz.html

FLOODPLAINS – MORE SPACE TO SUPPORT LIFE BETWEEN WATER AND LAND

- Status Report on German Floodplains:
<https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/wasser/Auenzustandsbericht.pdf>
- Publication on “Waterbodies and floodplains – Benefits for society”:
https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/BfN/wasser/Dokumente/BR-gepr-Gesell_Nutz_Gewaes_Auen_barrierefrei.pdf

FORESTS – WOODLAND MANAGEMENT IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

- Data on natural forest development: <http://www.nw-fva.de/nwe5/>

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- Information on forests in Germany: <http://www.sdw.de/waldwissen/wald-in-deutschland/waldanteil/>

WILDERNESS – FREEDOM FOR NATURAL ADVENTURES

- Information on wilderness areas: https://www.bfn.de/0311_wildnis.html

PROTECTED AREAS, NATURA 2000 AND INTERLINKED BIOTOPES – HABITATS AND LIFELINES FOR FAUNA AND FLORA

- National Report on the Habitats and Birds Directives (2007 – 2013): https://www.bfn.de/0316_bericht2013.html
- EU-wide report on the Habitats and Birds Directives (2007 – 2013): http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/pdf/state_of_nature_en.pdf

GREENING OUR CITIES – ENGAGING WITH NATURE AT HOME

- Information on nature conservation in human settlements: https://www.bfn.de/0321_siedlung.html
- Municipal alliance for biological diversity: <http://www.kommunen-fuer-biologische-vielfalt.de/home/>
- 2013 Nature Awareness Study – Population survey on nature and biological diversity: http://www.bfn.de/0309_naturbewusstsein2013.html (GERMAN)
<https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/themen/gesellschaft/nature-awareness-study-2013.pdf> (ENGLISH)
- Religious communities and nature conservation: Working together for biological diversity: <http://www.biologischevielfalt.de/22226.html> and http://www.bfn.de/religionen_und_natur.html

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY – NATURE KNOWS NO BORDERS

- Information on international nature conservation: <http://www.bmub.bund.de/themen/natur-arten/naturschutz-biologische-vielfalt/internationaler-naturschutz/> and https://www.bfn.de/0310_int_naturschutz.html

KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING - PRESERVING AND SHARING BIOLOGICAL EXPERTISE

- Information by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation on nationwide monitoring: https://www.bfn.de/0315_monitoring.html

FINANCING – NATURE IS A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT

- Germany's natural resources: Economic arguments for preserving biological diversity from an economic viewpoint: <http://www.naturkapitalteeb.de/>
- Information by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation on financing: https://www.bfn.de/0318_kosten-finanzierung.html
- Information by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation on nature conservation funding programmes: https://www.bfn.de/02_foerderung.html
- National Biological Diversity Programme: http://www.biologischevielfalt.de/bundesprogramm_ueberblick.html

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