

Berlin's strategy to promote urban biodiversity

Sandra Naumann, Ecologic Institute (2 November 2022)

Drivers and motivation

Biodiversity Loss

Endangered Species in Berlin			
Example Group	Number of Species	Number of Species on the Red List	Percent of Endangered Species
Algae	27	24	89 %
Vascular Plants	1.393	665	48 %
Mammals	59	26	44 %
Birds	178	71	40 %
Amphibians and Reptiles	21	15	76 %
Beetles	2.622	992	36 %
Butterflies	983	567	58 %
Bees and Wasps	664	276	42 %
Dragonflies	58	30	52 %
Totals	9.237	4.064	44 %
as of 2005 (next update 2015)			

- 31% of endangered native plant and animal species
- 13% of species disappeared or are considered to be extinct
- Human activity that causes changes to habitats or habitat destruction
- Biodiversity loss and habitat destruction threatening livelihoods of people and their well-being
- Berlin to become a green and livable metropole

Source: Berlin, 2014, Business in Berlin Supports Biodiversity Recommendations for Action – A Guide.

Overall approach to promote biodiversity



- ▶ **Dedicated policies:** Biodiversity Strategy 2012 including a strategy for the protection and promotion of (wild) bees and other pollinators



- ▶ **Policy integration and synergies:** landscape and species protection programme, integrated urban development concept; climate change adaptation plan, compensation concept, urban green charta



- ▶ **Monitoring**



- ▶ **Environmental education and participation**
- ▶ **Business cooperation**



Photo: Christo Libuda (Lichtschwärmer) in Berlin (2022) Biodiversity Strategy

Examples of Berlin's biodiversity

Species and habitats

1. Birds and glass
2. Invasive species
3. Species assistance program bats
4. Protected areas
5. Biotope network
6. Mixed forest program
7. Forest management
8. Small water bodies
9. Water in the landscape!
10. "Climate protection levy" for peatlands
11. Near-natural water bodies

Genetic Diversity

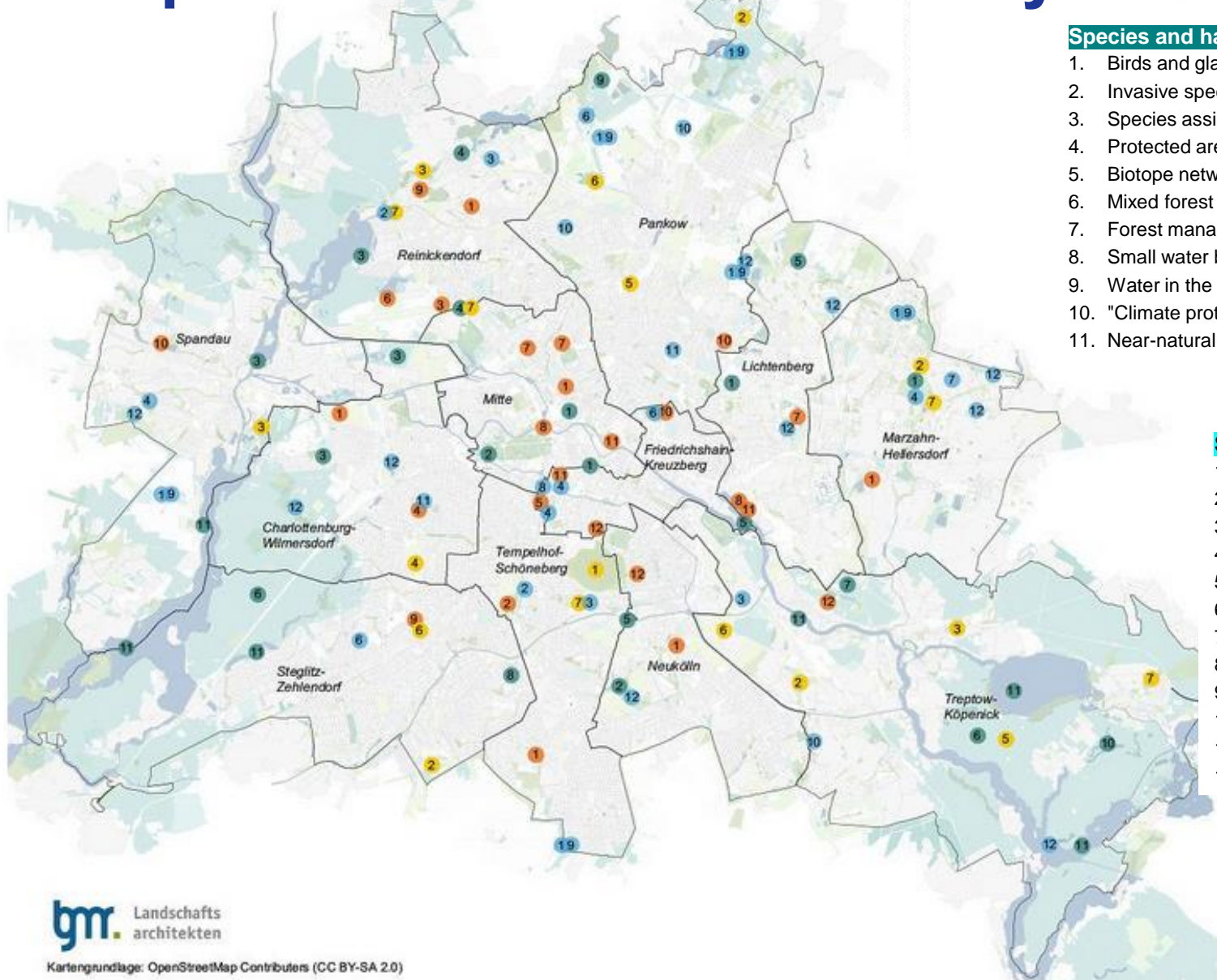
1. Tempelhof Field
2. Water buffaloes maintain wetlands
3. Livestock breeds maintain open landscapes
4. Native plants
5. Coordinating fauna and flora conservation
6. Botanical plants
7. Urbanity and diversity

Society

1. Eco-account
2. Corporate Responsibility
3. Biodiverse living environment
4. Nature experience spaces
5. Long day of urban nature
6. Urban nature rangers
7. Environmental education
8. Species protection concept
9. Lighting
10. Landscape conservation
11. Green makes school
12. Rich environmental education

Urban Diversity

1. Good Management handbook
2. Barrier-free nature experience
3. Schumacher Quarter
4. Building breeders
5. Gleisdreieck Park
6. Tegel city heath
7. Community gardens
8. Focus on pollinators
9. Butterflies, beetles and co
10. More diversity in the urban green
11. Street greenery
12. Cemeteries



Tempelhofer Feld



Meadows on Tempelhofer Feld. Photo: Grün Berlin / Konstantin Börner

- ▶ Former airport area (approx. 300 ha) combining biodiversity protection and recreation:
- ▶ Inner meadow ring (202 ha):
 - Large-scale dry grasslands with rare and species-rich composition (bird, insect and amphibian species: wild bees, lizards, skylark)
 - Small flock of skudde (landscape maintainers)
- ▶ Outer meadow ring (101 ha):
 - Picnic areas, barbecue sites, community gardens, sports fields, restaurants, sanitary facilities, rental stations for sports equipment and citizens projects
- ▶ Development and Maintenance Plan and ongoing cooperation with citizens

Revitalized river banks and small water bodies



New river bank in Alt-Gatow. Photo: Doron Wohlfeld/SenUVK

- ▶ **Reed** protection programme (1986):
 - Old reed beds were protected from the waves of shipping traffic with palisades
 - New reed beds were created
 - Reducing hard shoreline edges and recreate a sequence of different habitats
- ▶ Rising biodiversity and proportion of reeds >30%
- ▶ Programme for **small bodies** of water: revitalizing 30 ponds, pools, ditches (Berlin rainwater agency and district administrations)
- ▶ Benefits for: biodiversity, climate regulation, rainwater management, nature experiences

More Bees for Berlin



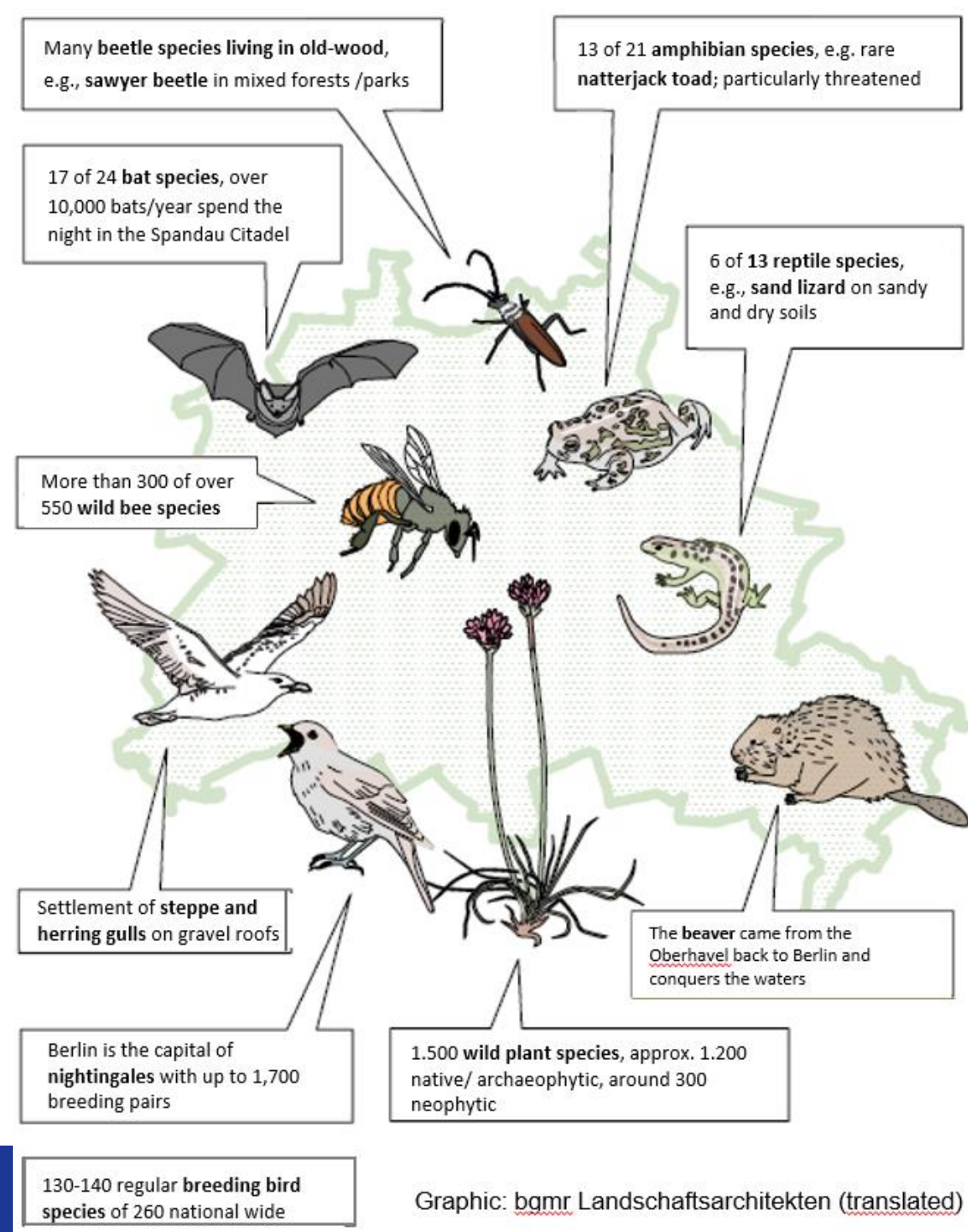
Wildflower meadow in Spreebogen Park. Photo: Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung / Stella Weweler

- ▶ Campaign "More Bees for Berlin - Berlin is Blooming" (German Wildlife Foundation and Berlin Senate), 2018-2022;
- ▶ 50 sites in 12 districts:
 - creation of species-rich flower meadows and nesting habitats for pollinating insects: dry stone walls, sandy areas and wild bee hotel
 - promoting wild shrubs
- ▶ 103 wild bee species could be detected
- ▶ Advice and provision of seeds and wild bee information boards for interested public and non-profit institutions
- ▶ Actions integrated into "Management Standards for Berlin's Green and Open Spaces".

Berlin: Hotspot of biodiversity

- ▶ ca. 20,000 plant and animal species
- ▶ more than 300 of over 550 wild bee species
- ▶ 185 of 260 breeding bird species
- ▶ Berlin is the “capital” of:
 - Nightingales
 - Bats
 - Wild boars
- ▶ Beaver resides in the Havel and Spree rivers
- ▶

There are follow-up initiatives such as the Biodiversity Strategy Campus West/ Tegel ([Link](#)), but further biodiversity efforts are still needed.





Ecologic Institute

Science and Policy
for a Sustainable World

Thank you for listening!

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